



Journeys

The cloud rested upon the Tabernacle during the daytime, and at night there was fire in the cloud so that all the people of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys. Exodus 40:38

As I look at February's outline of The Bigger Story, the mega-theme is *Journey* and it includes the weekly themes of Freedom, Law, Wandering, Kings and ends with Exile.

We will launch out with Moses and the people of Israel out of Egypt, liberated from over four centuries of bondage and cruel oppression. God gives us His commands, the way of life with God in community with others. We wind up wandering because — again — rather than a life trusting God and being with God we make our own gods. Throughout, faithful or wandering, God journeys with them, a cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night. For a brief time Israel does enter the promised land, only again, to fall short of trusting God fully and ending up in an almost predictable cycle of bondage and deliverance through a succession of judges until they finally demand to have a king to rule over them instead of God.

This portion of the Bigger Story runs from Exodus into the prophets who begin to give us God's glimpses of the coming Messiah — the Deliverer of all deliverers — who will come to rule and reign in the hearts of God's people. Who will come to take away the sin of the world!

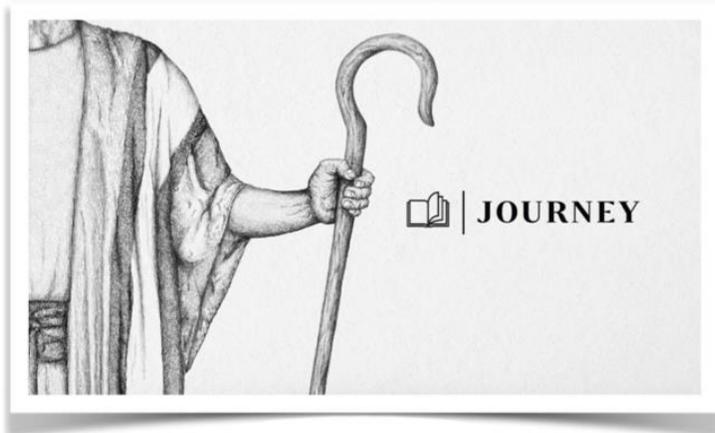
It would be easy to look at this story and think, "How could the people of God be so slow to learn, so lacking of faith and trust in God who time and again rescued and provided for them?" And yet are we much different? This Bigger Story is not just something taking place in the past, it remains the story of God for the 'now and here' of our lives as well. For we too, journey; going through periods of trust and freedom only to wander off on our own, chasing after things other than God. The Bigger Story is an honest story of who we are — sinners and saints. Yet, it far better, it is also the Truth of who God is (the Bigger Story): faithful and determined for us to be His people.

God does not wander from us. God hears our cries and sees our affliction — much of which we have brought upon ourselves, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). And yet, God of the Bigger Story, saves us by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24).

The *Journey* leads us into the beginning of the season of Lent (starting Ash Wednesday, February 22) where we will consider the prophecies of our salvation in Jesus Christ. The Word of God from the *Beginning* becomes flesh, moving into the neighborhood of our winding and wandering journey to make the way straight and the path level. For Christ, the journey brings Him into the midst of our mess. Jesus with humble determination will put on display and demonstrate the love of God, while we are yet sinners (Romans 5:6-8).

While we meander, wanders, reject, return, repeat... Christ's journey is faithful and fixed. With joy set before Him, Jesus endures all with and for us. He is our cloud and pillar of fire, He continues with us through all our journeys the author and finisher of our faith.

Pastor Jon



For God so loved the world

the bigger story

FEBRUARY is about the JOURNEY as the people of God. After entering the promised land they continue a cycle of following and falling away. They demand a king, rather than trusting God until finally being sent into exile because of their stubborn hearts. Nevertheless God remains faithful, keeping covenant with His people. God sends prophets to warn and to encourage waiting for just the right time for sending His promised Messiah.

Along with the Sunday message, there are resources on a dedicated page on our website (<https://www.peace-lutheran.church/thebiggerstory>). Continue to pray, gather a small group, and encourage others to join in Bigger Story of God who so loves the world!

JOURNEY

February 5 Wandering

Joshua 1:1-9 | Psalm 1 | Romans 3:1-4 | Matthew 15:21-28

February 12 Judges

Judges 2:6-19 | Psalm 46 | Roman 3:9-20 | John 12:27-50

February 19 Kings

1 Samuel 8:4-22 | Psalm 103:6-22 | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 | John 19:1-15

***February 22 Exile (Ash Wednesday)**

Jeremiah 6:9-19 | Psalm 78:21-43 | Philippians 3:14-21 | Luke 19:41-44

FULFILLED

February 26 Messiah

Jeremiah 23:1-8 | Psalm 19:7-14 | Romans 3:21-26 | Matthew 5:17-18



Steve Hagler Ordination: Saturday, February 11, at 2 pm

Join in the ordination celebration of our own Steve Hagler. Steve is a longtime member of Peace Lutheran. He has been serving as interim pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran for the past 18 months and recently completed his pastoral studies with Beyond the River Academy. All are invited to celebrate with worship and a time fellowship following.

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2511 S. Pines Road, Spokane Valley, WA

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Welcome New Members!

On Jan 22, Peace warmly welcomed new members Marvin & Helen Long, Duane & Kristin Howland, Austin Howland & Sarah, Tammi Jenkins, David & Cathleen Kast, and Kent & Charlene Somerville.

Annual Meeting Recap

Kudos to you! That was probably the most well-attended annual meeting in recent memory – thanks to all who could make it and voted on several items. Special thanks to Ken Birge, Council VP, for conducting the meeting as we pray for Dave's recovery. We pray also for continuing and incoming council members as they begin their work for Peace Lutheran. Your church staff is really feeling the love, humbled by generous year-end bonuses, and appreciative of salary increases.

In case you didn't hear, the Resurrection Path project passed 64 yes to 16 no. This already fully funded project will get underway this year. Stay tuned for details to come! The anonymous gift we received was distributed to assist our ministry partners and the PLC Capital Fund. The net carryover was divided for Worship & P&M/facility needs, an increase to the Emergency Fund, and generous staff bonuses (thank you again) with the balance retained for operating. A lot of business was conducted in only an hour! Kudos to Pastor Jon for putting together that opening slide show of "us" – *awesome!!*

Thanks to those who served and donated to the Ecumenical Food Kitchen at First Presbyterian on Jan 26.

A hot luncheon was served to about 25 people. Thanks to Marge Freligh for her continuing coordination of the EFK.

FIRST FRIDAY: Friday, February 3rd at 6:00 pm

All are welcome to a Family Friendly First Friday Event in which we will read aloud [1 Corinthians Chapter 13](#) and enjoy a few Valentine-themed crafts. Of course, you are welcome to bring your favorite snacks and games and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship together!

Book Club

Interested in good books, friends and discussion? We have started a Book Club!

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, February 4th at 10:00 am**, meeting in the fellowship hall at the church. We will be finishing our discussion on [Another Gospel?](#) by Alisa Childers. All are welcome – feel free to invite guests too! The next book is [The Screwtape Letters](#) by CS Lewis. After that, we are thinking [Mama Bear Apologetics](#) by Hillary Morgan Ferrer.

The books selected will be encouraging and will help us gain discernment, sharpen our faith and build relationships and community with one other. This group is currently meeting twice a month, two meetings per book. Discussion questions and resources sent via email to group participants. Please contact Karen with questions, comments, suggestions, etc. and think about joining this reading group...all are welcome and invited!

Family Promise Week

We welcome Family Promise guests for our first hosting week this year **Feb 5-12**. Please use our MealTrain Plus site to see where you can volunteer to serve or donate needed food, host a few hours or stay overnight, by clicking here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/w7ezqe>. Ever spent the night at the church? It's blissfully QUIET out here on the prairie and the sleeping is PEACEful! Your own private bathroom as well! Maren Snyders is our wonderful overall coordinator. Contact her with any questions – thank you!

The Lenten Season at Peace

Our Lenten observance begins this month on **Feb 22**, with the Ash Wednesday service, at 7 pm. It will be a traditional service with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. On following Weds through March (Mar 1,8,15,22,29), we'll meet at 6 pm for soup suppers and a time of study together. We look forward to traveling these 40 days together.

Dear Peace Lutheran Congregation,

Thank you for your ongoing support and your steadfast commitment to Peace Lutheran. We find ourselves strengthened by your giving, renewed in faith, blessed by all God has provided, and energized for the coming year. Together we are grounded in faith, Growing in Service, and your gifts help us continue the work God has given us to do.

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven." Matt 5:16

Thank you from your Stewardship Team,
Chris Clark and Mike Hill

Financial Summary for Dec 2022 Submitted by Lynn Affeldt, Jan 10, 2023

Dec Balance Sheet

Ministry & Facility Fund	\$ 75,649
All Designated Funds	<u>\$ 84,922</u>
Total Mt West Checking	\$160,571

Thrivent Mortgage Balance	\$276,144	\$277,414 (Nov)
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Dec Income & Expense

Actual Giving	\$ 24,844	(Plan for Giving \$19,577)
Actual Expense	\$ 18,932	

YTD Income & Expense: (Jan-Dec 2022)

Actual Giving	\$303,925	(Plan for Giving \$236,910)
Actual Expense	\$234,370	(adjusted)

Dec Designated Funds:

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Memorial Fund	0	0	\$ 2,853
Emergency Fund	0	0	\$10,000
Refresh Team	0	0	\$ 276
Good Samaritan Fund	0	0	\$ 1,847
Sabbatical Fund (accrual)	100	0	\$ 4,800
Reception/Kitchen Fund	0	0	\$ 1,426
Campership Fund	0	0	\$ 1,947
Dorcas Fund	380	500	\$ 1,519
Youth Fund	90	0	\$ 5,401 (Calendars)
Uganda Fund (\$300 accrual)	300	0	\$11,771
Other Misc Designated	0	0	\$ 2,434
Anonymous Gift	0	0	\$20,200
Scholarship Fund	0	0	\$ 50
Internship Fund	0	0	\$ 243
Capital Fund	0	0	\$10,350 (aka Building Fund)
Signage	0	0	\$ 7,500
Safety Team	0	0	\$ 1,004



Ongoing Kitchen Needs: Cases of bottled water, large-size refill bottles of sanitizer, small paper plates, sugar packets and artificial sweetener packets, coffee supplies like Torani syrups, powdered creamers (regular, vanilla & mocha), and/or **non-dairy** mini-moos. Gift-in-kind donation receipts are available in the church office. *Thank you always for your donations!*

Food Bank: All donations must be new, factory sealed, and within date. Thank you to Ardella & Mona for delivering **90 lbs** to the Post Falls food bank in Jan. Also, personal care products, pet food, diapers, etc. are always very welcome!



Check Engine!

A few weeks ago, the check engine light in my truck came on. An abrupt orange alert in the shape of an exclamation mark.

Due to the low outside air temperatures, it declared I needed to check the pressure of my tires. I did. They were a little low, but within normal limits and safely drivable. And still the light glared on. I was tempted to put a sticker over the dashboard, covering up the angry exclamation mark which demanded my attention and action. What else am I tempted to cover up? To ignore? To delay addressing?

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, reaching up in defiance to be like Him, they hid themselves from His presence. [Genesis 3:9](#), "But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'" This question from God is one that He has asked/is asking each one of us. We have continued to run and hide from God, ignoring blatantly obvious warnings and signs. Our merciful and righteous God, knowing the answer before posing the question, continues to seek and save the lost ([Luke 19:10](#)).

How would you respond if God asked you; "Where are you?" Where are you in relation to God? What are you hiding from? Just like with Adam and Eve, God wants us to take responsibility for our sin and to confess, so that we can be in right relationship with Him. To, instead of loose knitted fig leaves, cover ourselves in Christ, our perfect Savior ([Isaiah 61:10](#), [Romans 13:14](#), [Galatians 3:27](#), [Revelation 3:5, 18](#)). Our righteous, all-knowing God is continually seeking us, drawing us back to Himself.

Author and evangelist DL Moody was once asked why he urged Christians to be filled constantly with the Holy Spirit. "Well, I need a continual infilling because I leak!" He then pointed to a water tank which had sprung a leak and said, "I'm like that!" Living in this cold, dark and sinful world, like my tires, like a water tank with a hole, we leak! We need to be aware of signs and dangers and continually replenished by the Spirit.

My prayer for you this month is that you are consistently filled with the Spirit, immersed in the Word, inspired in joy-filled and God glorifying worship, aware and reactive to warning signs and walking boldly with our loving Lord.

Karen Robison, Minister of Word & Service

Men's Group Continues

Mondays @ 6:00pm

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

We continue to participate in the BiGGER Story event at PLC. We will be sharing, discussing, and praying about the Sunday messages as we *take a sweeping look*

at the major themes in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and see how they all point to Jesus! As we continue to encounter Jesus in His Word and Bring your Bible, your appetite on Monday nights as we gather in Fellowship Hall. Looking forward to what God has in store of us as we gather around His Word, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer!

For God
so loved
the world
the bigger story

Winter Bible Study Groups

Sun Adult Study: Please join us at 9 am as we journey through the Bible together this year

KidZone: Biblical activities, good music, and fun crafts for children during the service with the KidZone team

Mon Men's Group: A gathering of guys for dinner and study with Pastor Jon at 6 pm

Wed Bible Study: Pastor Gail continues an overall study of the Gospels at 10 am, currently in Matthew. You may arrive early at 9:45 to share prayer concerns and pray together before the study begins – *drop in any time!*

Wed Youth: We gather at 5 pm for an hour to explore The Bigger Story with Pastor Jon & Beckie Jenicek

Thu Bible Study: The study continues at 11 am with Jim Wardlow leading a topical book study of John

YOUTH GROUP:

For God so loved the world

*that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him
will not perish but have eternal life.*

(6th grade - 12th grade)

Continues on Wednesday nights at 5:00pm!

We continue to gather, worship, discover & discuss God's Word, share, pray, and bless. We will be a part of **The Bigger Story** during 2023. AND... we will be heading to Winter Camp @ Lutherhaven in February - *details coming very soon!*

**For God
so loved
the world
the bigger story**

Please make plans to join Beckie & Jon
in the Youth Room every Wednesday!



PLC Weekly Calendar & Events

Mon: Staff Meeting, 10 am, Men's Group, 6 pm

Tue: Chorale CDA, 5-9 pm; various meetings

Wed: Bible Study, 10 am | Youth 5 pm | Music, 6 pm

Thu: TOPS, 8 am | Bible Study, 11 am

Dorcas Quilting 1st & 3rd Mon 9 am-12 pm | Button Club 2nd Wed 12-3 pm | 4-H Group 4th Thu 6 pm

Jan 29: Two Services: Heritage 8:30 am & Regular 10 am (*no adult study*)

Feb 3: Fellowship Team, 1 pm; Fun First Fri Valentines, 6 pm

Feb 4: Book Club meeting here, 10 am

Feb 5-12: Family Promise Week

Feb 8: Button Club, 12-3 pm

Feb 16: Security Team, 6 pm

Feb 20: Church Office Closed – *Lent Respite*

Feb 21: Special Council meeting & orientation, 6 pm

Feb 22: Ash Wed service, 7 pm – *Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion*

Feb 23: 4-H Group, 6 pm

Feb 27: Chorale Board, 6:30 pm

Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Lent Weds, 6 pm, soup/study

Pastor Jon takes Fri & Sat off each week.

The Church Office is open Mon-Fri, 9 am – 4 pm (**closed the noon lunch hour**)

For God
so loved the world
that He gave His
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Son so
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©BrandiRae.com John 3:16

Feb Ministry Servants

	Ushers	Acolyte	Reader	Communion
Feb 5	Marge F & Mary C	Landry A	Beverly R	Darryl & Tanya F, Amy B
Feb 12	Jim & Carolyn U	Leo P	Jennifer M	Karen R, Jerry B, Barb H
Feb 19	Glen & Missy N	Kira N	Mike H	Ed & Catherine R, Rick S
Ash Wed – 7 pm				
Feb 22	Jon & Georgiann D	--	Chris C	Tom & Paula C, Chris A
Feb 26	Mike & Margie H	Colt K	Kevin S	Ken & Rita B, Maren S

Scripture readings are provided to our readers for review on Wednesday for the coming Sunday.
Thanks to Barb Nimke for scheduling assistants. Please let the office know of any changes – *thank you!*

	Counters	Safety Team
Feb 5	Julie J & Lisa F	Doyle & Rick
Feb 12	Amy B & Candy V	John & Rick
Feb 19	Amy B & Candy V	Colby & Gordon
Feb 22	Ash Wed – 7 pm	Rick
Feb 26	Maren S & Chris C	Darrell & Ken

Let's Pray for...

Brett Kirking in the passing of his dad, Marvin; The family of Dot Herting in her passing; Gail Schoonmaker, healing, hip replacement; Jan Somers, fall; Mary Button, cancer; Scott Ovnicek in the passing of his dad, Bob; Marge Freligh in the passing of husband, Rod; Debbie Wardlow, ALS; Dave Pollard, chemo; Sharon Alexander, kidney cancer; Nadia Bruno, Mina Mittelstaedt, and Ivan Pilyayev, healing.

Beckie Jenicek's mother, stoke; Scott Birge (Ken Birge's brother) cancer; Charlotte VonSprecken (Heidi Ely) healing; Warren Murray (Jennifer's husband) back injections; Terry McNabb (Heidi Ely's brother) heart ablation, recovering; Judy Halone, healing, lumpectomy; The Moss & Marion families in the passing of infant Logan (Joann Carlson); Dustin Shafer (Baillie's SIL) severe pneumonia, home recovering; Becky Cooper in the passing of husband, Lewie (Ken Birge's brother-in-law); Matt Hanks (Pam Kirking) heart transplant list; Bill Ware, health issues (Pr Jon & Chris Anderson); Jerry Gibson (Carol Wos) prostate cancer, failing health; Luke Hohenstreet (Lynn Affeldt) healing, kidney transplant; Larry Sauer (Shelly Matthews' father) health issues; Jutta Thorsness (Amy Birge) breast cancer; Max Cahoon (Somer's grandson) leukemia.

Praying for Our Ministry Partners:

Safe Passage, Family Promise, Orchard Ridge, Open Arms, Juvenile Justice Outreach, Lutherhaven Ministries, Ecumenical Food Kitchen, Champ's Heart, Summit Christian Academy, Good Samaritan Rehab, Food Banks, Voice of the Martyrs, Union Gospel Mission, Uganda Medical Mission, OCC Shoebox Gifts, and LCMC.

Have a **Prayer Tree** request? Please **email** the Church Office at office@peace-lutheran.church

Prayer requests will be revised periodically. Kindly keep the church office informed of changes. Thank you.



This Winter at Lutherhaven

BYG Youth Winter Weekend Feb 10-12: It's a fun-filled weekend designed to help our youth group grow together in community and faith. BYG (Building Youth Groups) is just right for building faith that will stick with our crew. This weekend is designed especially for Middle School & High School youth groups (6th-12th grade) to dream, plan, talk, learn, grow, reflect, and have fun together! Ask Pastor Jon about our plan to go!

Join Our Summer Team! Summer Staff 2023 Applications are now open!

Spend an unforgettable summer serving with Lutherhaven Ministries in beautiful North Idaho! Camp counselors, lifeguards, cooks, kitchen assistants, wranglers... there are all sorts of jobs open at summer camp! Summer jobs are available at Camp Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d'Alene and at Shoshone Mountain Retreat in the Bitterroot Mountains. Camp staff positions are tremendously rewarding, incredibly challenging, and almost always life-changing. Most of all, kids today need you! We look forward to serving alongside you!

Women's Retreat: Mar 17-19

At our annual Women's Retreat, all the choices are yours, whether that's screaming down the zip-line, taking a walk by the lake, spending time with friends new and old, or simply doing some much needed (and well deserved) relaxing.

Please register for all events at <https://www.lutherhaven.com/>



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Post Falls, ID 83854

Phone: (208) 765-0727

Website: www.peace-lutheran.church

Email: office@peace-lutheran.church

Sun Adult Study 9 AM

Sun Worship at 10 AM

Wed Bible Study 10 AM

Thu Bible Study 11 AM

Pastor Jon Anderson

Pastor Emeritus, Gail Gutterud