



This article continues our focus on John 3:16.

# ...that He gave His only Son

Love gives. So different from the world is God's love, true love. In the world love is much about what we can get. Worldly loves grasps and reaches and expects a return for its efforts. God's love is patient, long-suffering, given with no expectation of a return. God's love is complete in itself – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – agape love continually seeks the welfare of the other.

God from before all time, foreknew what it would mean to create and subsequently save humanity. God giving Himself for the sake of the world through the action of the Son is something the Trinity willingly contrived long before there was any "world" that needed saving. The cross of Christ is the reconciling event undertaken by the Trinity out of love for and the salvation of the world: God in Christ reconciling the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19). God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are elaborately involved from before the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8 reminds us that Jesus is, "... the lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world." Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have chosen to adopt us as sons and daughters before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-6) in love, and according to the kind intention of God's will bestowed on us through the Beloved.

God does not give Jesus without giving Himself. Christ was not merely God's reaction to human sin but an inherent, original aspect of God's very being. It is the nature of God to be self-sacrificial.

It is out of this Trinity of love which foreknew the need of our salvation long before the foundations of the world, that God creates this world. With a love that is given even when it knows it will be rejected and forsaken. God in Christ reconciling the world, not counting men's trespasses against them (2 Corinthians 5:19). While we were dead in our sin Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). And even greater yet, "God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ..." (Ephesians 2:4-5). Circling back to 2 Corinthians 5, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is passed away; behold new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

All things made new... made right. Jesus does not only forgive sin He overcomes the power of Sin and Death and redeems all who have been held in their power to make all things (you and me and God's entire creation) new.

May we take time to fully consider the love of the Trinity at work in Christ as described by Paul in Romans 5:5-8, "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."



**VBS** "Yee-Haw Roundup!"



Music, crafts with Pardner Paul, **Bible Study and good** grub from the Canteen!







Thanks to all volunteers that decorated, leaders that sang, taught, played games, shared art skills, cooks in the kitchen, and coordinators for this three-day event serving 22 children!









### Christ Lutheran Mission Team

Pastor Matt Davis, youth & leaders from Whitefish, MT, spent a night at Peace before departing from the Spokane airport onto their mission to help rebuild a church destroyed by fire on Maui. They were model quests, and we hope they visit us again sometime or vice versa! We're praying all went well as they served the wider church!

# **Resurrection Path Project Complete!**

Our final phase and renewal project is complete! Thanks to the Resurrection Path Team for their vision, all who donated toward this extensive project, and for providing more paver orders to visit and reflect. PLEASE take a walk out to the Path and view the improvements of curbing containment, river rock strategically placed for flow, basalt rock for contrast, crushed rock on the level pathway, six new deciduous trees and over 50 plants new and old along the winding pathway. Sit on the benches and listen to the soothing flow of water from the waterfall fountain and birds sweetly singing out on the prairie!

#### Men's Dinner

What an incredible dinner the Fellowship Team put on for the men of the church! About 40 guys enjoyed brisket, homemade beans and brownies while the tunes of Butch and The Banshee played on. Sappy-Q provided that smoked brisket - yum!

# **Aug 3-10: Family Promise Week**

Thank you for being prepared to serve at a moment's notice during our hosting week Aug 3-10. We have now been alerted it's a go with one family consisting of parents and two teenage girls. Maren Snyders has populated MealTrain for hosting positions and donations. Please click here: Meal Train Plus for Peace Lutheran Church Family Promise August 3-10

## Two Services at Peace

Many thanks to those who filled out a ministry servant survey to help at the 8 & 10 am services. We're hopeful each service will populate itself with cheery volunteers! Holy Communion will be will be served as usual and both services will follow the same order. We could use extra hands at the AV Desk for 10 am - all you need to do is push a button to advance to the next slide. Easy! Thanks to Maren & Andrew Snyders for stepping up. Please speak with Lee or Gail!!

## Summer Bible Study Groups

Sun Adult Study: We're on pause during August and look forward to returning this fall on Rally Day!

KidZone: Kids will remain in the sanctuary with parents during Aug as our teachers enjoy a bit of respite. Please ask the ushers for a special "Sermon Notes" page from the cart!

Mon Men's Group: The guys are on summer break but continue to be actively involved with different ministry events.

Tue Prayer: Prayer Studio will regroup this fall with Pastor Jon as we learn how to listen and speak with God.

Wed Bible Study: The group continues the study of Acts this summer led by Pastors Gail and Steve at 10 am. Prayer concerns are shared at 9:45 am. Please drop by any time as we dig deep into the scriptures.

Kid Zone: Sunday Kids Sermons continue though there is no Kid Zone class offered in August. Children get to stay with their parents throughout the full church service, utilizing the busy bags (toys and activities) and the Kids Sermon Note Page. Both are located by the Ushers at the Sanctuary entrance.

Would you like to help lead Kid Zone Classes in September? Contact Karen today! We strive to give the children a creative activity or action while reviewing the Bible Lessons, sharing prayers and answering questions about God. Come teach the little ones with us!

### Did you know?

A group of ladies from PLC (plus other friends) are reading the Bible, chronologically, throughout the year, following The Bible Recap. We meet once a month to discuss what we are learning about God... He is where the joy is! Read along with us! New Testament coming soon! Contact Karen for more information.

Peace Bible Studies: What questions do you have about the Bible? About church? Culture? Theology? Do you prefer Bible studies which focus on one subject matter or on one book? As we continue to navigate through what two Sunday Services means for Peace Lutheran Church, what would you like a Sunday Morning Bible Study to look like? Send in your thoughts, comments, questions and ideas to Pastor Jon and Karen!

## Christ's Commandments or Celebrities' Culture?

By Karen Robison

**Culture** says: the most important thing Christians are called to do is to love people. The **Bible** says: the first thing Christians are called to do is love **God** (Matthew 22:37).

But how do we do that? Jesus tells us: If you love me, you will keep my commandments (John 14:15).

What does it mean to keep His commandments?

First: It means to know them, to know that they didn't expire, to know that they are God's and they are Jesus' commandments. Because God is good (Psalm 100:5) and gives good gifts (James 1:17), we trust that these commandments are for our good. Second: keeping God's commandments means we agree with them and subject ourselves to His command, over every aspect of our lives. It means we obey (1 John 5:3). It means we follow Him (John 21:21-22).

**Culture** defines love to mean blanket affirmation and acceptance.

The **Bible** says: **God** is love (1 John 4:8).

Since our Creator God is love, He gets to define love (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

Since God is love, when He said love never rejoices in wrongdoing, it means we never celebrate, promote or normalize what God calls sin (1 Corinthians 13:6). Doing so is unloving and harmful and isn't loving God or people.

Since God is love, everything He says, does and commands, He says, does and commands in love.

We cannot be more loving than God. We should not ignore His definitions or distort them. Doing so assumes we know better and that we are more loving than He is. This is foolish self-idolatry. Lying is not loving. Yet many allow relationships and reputations to shape theology when it should be the reverse.

Culture constantly changes, but God does not (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8). He is everlasting (Isaiah 40:28, Psalm 90:2, Revelation 22:13). God's Word does not change (Matthew 24:35). His way is everlasting (Psalm 139:24, Titus 1:2). From His true love, seen perfectly in Jesus, believers will not be separated (Romans 8:35, 38-39).

The most loving thing we can do is to agree with our infinite Creator God's definitions and commands and follow Him, telling others of Him and His true, good, life-giving love. We love, because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). May our love reflect Him, in truth, in mercy, in selflessness...in all our words and deeds.

Father, help us to love You. Help us to love others as You have loved us. Help us to love Your truth, Your Word. Embolden us to stand firm in Your Ways against the shifting sands of the times. Help us to spread Your love, Your light and Your truth. Help us to deny ourselves and be aligned more closely with You, Your Word and Your plan. Amen.

#### For further reading:

"Toxic Empathy" by Allie Beth Stuckey "When Culture Hates You" by Natasha Craine "Brave by Faith" by Allister Begg



# **Chorale CDA Auditions**

Chorale CDA is preparing for their upcoming 2025-2026 season by holding auditions and a retreat split over two days. We're excited to have them return for their 10th year rehearsing each Tue evening in our sanctuary. The Chorale is excited to welcome new singers to join in their song! They particularly welcome more Tenor and Bass auditions and can accept very limited Sopranos and Altos. Auditions will be held Aug 12, 5-8 pm, are informal, short, and far less intimidating than you'd expect. Retreat days this year are Aug 22, 6-9 pm and Aug 23, 9am-1pm for Chorale members. The new season begins Tue, Aug 26 with first performances on Oct 10 & 11, then Christmas concerts Dec 8 & 9, both at Trinity Lutheran, CDA.

# Financial Summary June 2025 Submitted by Lynn Affeldt, Jul 8, 2025

(Plan for Giving \$142,567)

Jun E	Balan	ce S	heet
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Ministry & Facility Fund	\$ 32,461	
All Designated Funds	<u>\$142,023</u>	
Total Mt West Checking	\$174,484	
Thrivent Mortgage Balance	\$235,756	\$237,353 (May)
Jun Income & Expense		
Actual Giving	\$ 23,789	(Plan for Giving \$23,761)
Actual Expense	\$ 23,979	



### YTD Income & Expense (Jan-Jun)

Actual Giving \$145,364 Actual Expense \$135,408

Jun Designated Funds	Income	Expense	<b>Fund Balance</b>
Memorial Fund	500	690	\$ 4,000
Emergency Fund	0	0	\$15,000
Property Fund	0	0	\$ 6,012
Refresh Team	0	159	\$ 0
Good Samaritan Fund	0	0	\$ 3,991
Sabbatical Fund (accrual)	100	0	\$ 7,800

0 \$ 1,749 Reception/Kitchen Fund 10 Campership Fund 0 \$ 1,947 0 **Dorcas Fund** 40 0 \$ 1,328 0 Youth Fund 0 \$ 5,226 Uganda Fund (\$300 accrual) 300 0 900 \$ 5,689 Other Misc Funds 0 150 Scholarship Fund 0 \$ 125 0 Audio/Visual Fund 0 212 \$ 7,496 **Snow Plowing Fund** 0 0 \$ 5,400 Capital Fund 0 0 \$22,375 Signage 0 0 \$ 7,500 Safety Team 0 228 \$ 1,330 Resurrection Path 27,450 \* 68 \$39,726

Seminary Fund

Behind the Scenes: We are grateful to Cathleen Kast & Duane Howland for stepping up to help set communion for the 8 & 10 am service, for our regularly scheduled setup folks, and bread bakers for flexibility as we move through two services.

\$ 4,200

0

Our food bank contributions for the month totaled 118 lbs. Thank you, Teresa Baillie, for delivering our donations! A kind reminder that we cannot accept expired or opened food – thank you!

### **NEEDED:** More cheerful volunteers in these areas:

New Family Promise Coordinator – Contact Maren Snyders

Complete & Thank You! Communion Setup for Aug & Oct

Ministry Servants for 8 & 10 am Services – Touch base with Barb Nimke

AV Desk for 10 am Service – Lee or Gail can explain this very easy, unintimidating task. Thanks to those volunteering! Health Ministry Team would like to welcome more caring hands (no medical exp. Needed) – Call Rita Birge for details

<sup>\*</sup>Path Project gifts and paver orders



# God gives the growth... update!

In August we begin our first full month with our additional 8:00 am worship service. With three weeks in July "in the books" I thought it may be helpful to reflect on how things are going during this summer of growth.

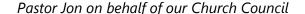
One type of growth God gives is Depth. Depth is a measure of maturity in the body, how the body is showing evidence of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in relation to one

another and to those who do not yet know Christ. Depth also involves one's personal relationship with Christ and how that relationship is being lived out among others. Depth is essential, yet a bit complicated to measure. Many in this body attend Bible study gatherings during the week both on site and in homes. Many are involved in sharing Christ with their neighbors and coworkers. And many more of you regularly spend time in prayer for others. Again, measuring this kind of growth is complicated.

Another type of growth is breadth, and a bit more straightforward: how many gather for weekly worship and fellowship. This is a fairly simple thing to measure. In 2024, our July average worship attendance was 118 per Sunday. For the three weeks in July since beginning the additional service we are averaging 151 per Sunday. It has been wonderful to see many more of this body attending regularly. It has also been encouraging to see many new people visiting Peace.

While breadth is to be celebrated, we must keep our hearts and minds fixed on going deeper with God, going from milk to meat, using Paul's analogy (1 Corinthians 3, Hebrews 5). There is the growth that is perhaps the most joyfully experienced when someone comes to Christ, when the Holy Spirit works faith into the life of another person. We do pray for God to give this type of growth among us as we are faithful to plant and water: to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to equip one another to share Christ in our daily lives with others. God alone gives the growth as He meets us in His Word (John 1:14), inhabits the praise of His people (Psalm 22:3), and is in the midst of where and whenever two or more are gathered in His name (Matthew 18:20).

May God's Word permeate our worship, and prayer as we plant and water... and wait upon the Lord to give the growth.





Summer passes all too quickly in our beautiful part of the country. After Family Promise week, we anticipate a relatively quiet month. Your church staff may be in and out a bit in August and using some PTO. Please give us a call if you plan to come over during the week (Mon-Thu) to make sure someone is here to welcome you!

Later this month on Aug 31, we'll have our annual Backpack Blessing for students beginning or returning to school. Make sure kids bring their backpacks that morning for a special blessing and treat during KidZone at 10 am!

#### TWO HELPING CAPTIVES FUNDRAISERS

Helping Captives is a benevolent mission of PLC. We have great August & September opportunities to serve and support Helping Captives.

#### **HC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

This is a great way to enjoy a day of golf. All proceeds from the golf tournament support trafficking survivors. This year's tournament: Thursday, **August 7**, at Prairie Falls Golf Club in Post Falls. More information and registration go to: helpingcaptives.org Golf Tournament

#### **HELPING CAPTIVES COFFEE SAMPLING & SALES FUNDRAISER**

# Sunday, September 14th at Peace!

Save the date for this is PLC's 2nd annual COFFEE SAMPLING & SALES day! Support HELPING CAPTIVES in their fight against sex trafficking while enjoying a great cup of coffee. Includes Rescue Blend, Freedom Blend, Justice Blend, and the Fall "Pumpkin Spice" Blend.

Experience samples of these delicious flavors at the Sunday Sep 14th Fellowship time to "Cash & Carry" your purchases or support HC with any cash offering.

Another way to support HC is through their ongoing Helping Captives Thrift Store Go thrift shopping that will help trafficking survivors and/or donate your goods to change lives at: 14415 E Sprague Spokane Valley, Washington 99216 Store Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

#### HELPING CAPTIVES

...is a Christian anti-trafficking and support organization serving the Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho regions. We exist to honor God by providing opportunities for freedom and safety to those exploited by sex trafficking through prevention, intervention, and recovery services. helpingcaptives.org

Questions, comments or concerns call/text 208-818-6286 Jolene Pooley – thank you!

### **Lutherhaven Boots & Pearls**

On August 23, Lutherhaven invites you to another Boots & Pearls Hootenanny for their 10<sup>th</sup> annual celebration. Peace has purchased tickets (part of our benevolence plan) for 10 folks to go out to camp and enjoy a wondrous evening with a cruise boat ride, a delicious catered meal, custom wines and beer, live fiddle music, meaningful program, and paddle raise. It's the signature event of the year! We're keeping a list in the office of those that would like to attend and there are still FIVE tickets available, so please call or email us to reserve your place soon. Western wear encouraged! - Lynn Affeldt



Save-the-Date: Another ministry we support through benevolence and extra giving is Open Arms. They are holding their annual fundraising event on Friday, Nov 14, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort with special guest speaker, Seth Gruber, founder of the White Rose Resistance, podcast host of the UnAborted, and nationally renowned human rights activist and author of the 1916 Project. At their July meeting, our council directed benevolence to support a table of 10 to attend this wondrous event. Open Arms is ready to get you registered! Please call the church office to get your name on the list TODAY!

Hurry! Would you like to attend? We have one ticket left! Please call the church office!



# **PLC Weekly Calendar & Events**

Mon: Dorcas, 9 am; Staff, 10 am Tue: Pausing Prayer Studio

Thu: TOPS, 8 am weigh in; 9 am meeting Wed: Bible Study, 10 am; Music, 6 pm Chorale Board 4<sup>th</sup> Mon, 6:30 pm | Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue, 6 pm | Button Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed, 12 pm

# \* The church office is open Mon-Thu from 9am - 4 pm \*

Aug 3-10: Family Promise Week

Aug 5: P&M Team, 6 pm | Aug 6: Fellowship Team, 11 am

Aug 12: Chorale Auditions, 5-8 pm Aug 13: Historical Button Club, 12-3 pm

Aug 19-23: Pastor Jon away

Aug 22: Chorale Retreat, 5-8 pm | Aug 23: Chorale Retreat, 9-1

Aug 26: Chorale Season Begins, 6-9 pm

Aug 31: Heritage Service, 8 am & Backpack Blessing, 10 am

**Sep 1:** Office Closed for Labor Day **Sep 4:** Ecumenical Food Kitchen

Sep 7: RALLY DAY!



# **August Sunday Ministry Servants**

		Ushers	Acolyte	Reader	Communion
Aug 3 8	am	Mary C		Karen R	Lisa F, Karen R
10	am	Nancy C, Karen J	Brandon B	Samantha P	Lynn A, Jerry B, Bernita C
Aug 10 8	am	Lisa S		Michelle V	Paul S, David K
10	am	Ken & Rita B	Barb H	Roy V	Bill & Becky E, Barb H
Aug 17 8	am	Kevin S	Gail S	Kevin S	Susan S, Gail S
10	am	Juli L, Marge F	Amy B	lain F	Darryl & Tanya F, Darlene B
Aug 24 8	am	Heidi E		Tom C	Lee & Gaynell C
10	am	Larry F, Patti S	Colt K	Becky F	Bill & Connie A, Steve H
Aug 31 8	am	Jolene P	David K	Maren S	Randy P, Maren S
10	am	Karle & Barb N	Sam R	Tammi J	Mike & Margie H, Tammi J

Thank you to Patty Stills & Carolyn Beard for setting up communion and baking the bread in July. Scripture readings are provided to our readers for review on Wednesday for the coming Sunday. Many thanks to Barb Nimke for scheduling assistants. Kindly let the office know of any changes – thank you!

	Counters	Safety Team
Aug 3	Amy & Cat	John   Colby
Aug 10	Amy & Peggy	Doyle   Karle
Aug 17	Amy & Julie	Gordon   Doyle
Aug 24	Amy & Peggy	Allyson   Rick
Aug 31	Amy & Julie	Jim   John

# Save the Dates:

Sep 4: EFK | Sep 7: Rally Day!

Sep 14: Helping Captive Coffee Fundraiser

Oct 5-8: LCMC Gathering Oct 5-12: Family Promise Week Oct 12: Stewardship Emphasis Oct 19: OCC Shoebox Kick-off Oct 26: Reformation Chili Cookoff



# We're Praying For...

Gaynell Coppess, lumpectomy; The family of June Goecke in her passing; Helen Burge, heart issue; Ken Carlson, health issues; Charlotte Newman, Becky Fagge, Connie Arthur, Candy Dyson, Gail & Myron Gutterud, Dave Pollard, healing for all.

Sheryl Anita Max (Cindy Magnus) uterine & cervical cancer; The family of Chris Schell in his passing (Lynn Affeldt); Ed Wandrey (Diann) treatment; Gary Robbins (Jolene Pooley) squamous cancer; Jon Lang in the passing of his wife Cheryl; Adam Larson (Joyce Beghtel's nephew) parathyroid cancer, radiation; David Keener (Paula Carlson's son) improving, esophageal cancer; Debra Cummins (Helen Burge's DIL) cancer; Victoria (Brittner's friend) Hodgkins Lymphoma; Sara Fisher (Shari Fisher) healing, ACL surgery; Darryl (Jennifer Murray) rare cancer; Raleigh Turley (Turley's son) pancreatic cancer; Sheila Jones (Andy Anders) recovering; Rene Viviani (Jim Cady's cousin) health issues; Lorna LaCelle (Arthur's friend) stroke, recovery; Beth Stire (Gordon Schoonmaker's daughter) cervical cancer; Renee Hoffert (Mitch & Amber Dow's cousin) cancer; Karen Dane (Charlotte Newman's daughter) upcoming heart surgery; Teresa Parker, breast cancer & Cindy Heitt, brain cancer (Ann Wylie).

## **Please Pray for Our Ministry Partners:**

Samaritan's Purse & Mercy Chefs (CA fire relief), Family Promise, Orchard Ridge, Open Arms, Helping Captives, Lutherhaven Ministries, St Paul Lutheran, Kodiak, AK, Samaritan's Purse TX Flood, Union Gospel Mission, Ecumenical Food Kitchen, Food Banks, Uganda Medical Mission, OCC Shoebox Gifts, Northwest District, and LCMC.

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



Lake Coeur d'Alene, Photo Credit: HuggyBear Photos

### **Lutherhaven Ministries**

# 2025 Summer Camp - Go spend a week!

<u>Click here</u> to see 2025 dates at a glance and register your child for the ultimate camp experience this summer communing with Christ and Creation! Peace Lutheran also offers a \$100 per camper scholarship toward the cost. Please note that on your camp registration and please contact us in the church office!

# **Support Camp Summer Staff**

We're so grateful for these amazing leaders who have chosen to dedicate their summer to growing in faith and servant leadership as they serve campers with joyful hearts while they truly - TRULY spread so much camp joy wherever they go. Will you join us in praying for these selfless leaders as they serve guests this summer? We are so grateful for this bunch! Want to thank them by gifting them a cup of coffee? Filling their fridge with Costco goodies? Sending a prayer card of encouragement or sponsoring their end-ofsummer staff banquet? You can Say Thanks today via the Summer Staff Renewal Fund: https://givebutter.com/Summerstaff25

Questions? Please email us at volunteer@lutherhaven.com



(Our own Owen DeWitt is sitting atop the rock on the left serving his FIFTH summer!)

Please register for all events at <a href="https://www.lutherhaven.com/">https://www.lutherhaven.com/</a>



8134 N Meyer Rd Post Falls, ID 83854 Phone: (208) 765-0727

Website: www.peace-lutheran.church Email: office@peace-lutheran.church

Sun Worship at 8 & 10 AM Wed Bible Study, 10 AM

Pastor Jon Anderson

Pastor Emeritus, Gail Gutterud