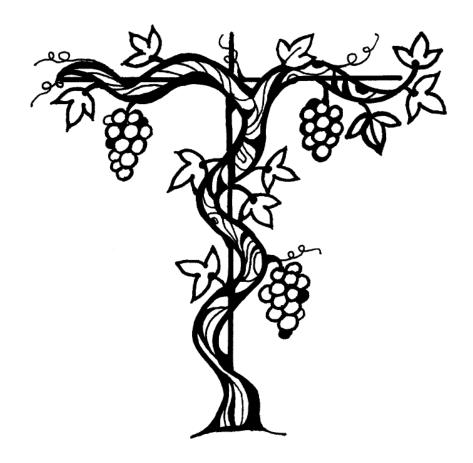
# Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

Sharing God's love, growing in faith, and creating community...



# In Person and Online Worship Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

PRELUDE played by Liz Mun

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

#### **EASTER GREETING**

- P Alleluial Christ is risen.
- C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
- C Amen.
- P Look, here is water!
- C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!
- P Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!
- C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!
- P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- P Look, here is water!
- C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!



## **GREETING**

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# C Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Diane Yeager

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the

region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

# **PSALM 22:25—31** (Prayed responsively by whole verse.)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

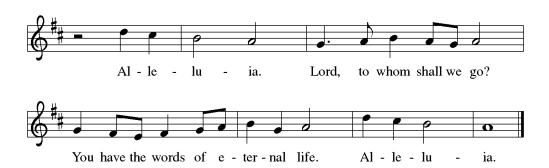
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

- <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>1</sup> to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- <sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.
- <sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
- <sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
- <sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

#### TIME FOR CHILDREN

Please stand as you are able.

# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

# GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

**SERMON** Pastor Krista Vingelis

Please stand as you are able.



## **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYERS**

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

# A brief silence.

A We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

# C hear our prayer.

A For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

# C hear our prayer.

A For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

# C hear our prayer.

A For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace,

# C hear our prayer.

A For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace

# C hear our prayer.

A We now offer our own petitions either silently or aloud. (A brief silence.) Lord, in your mercy,

# C hear our prayer.

A With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

# C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

# C Amen.

## SHARING PEACE

- P The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

Please be seated.

## **OFFERING**



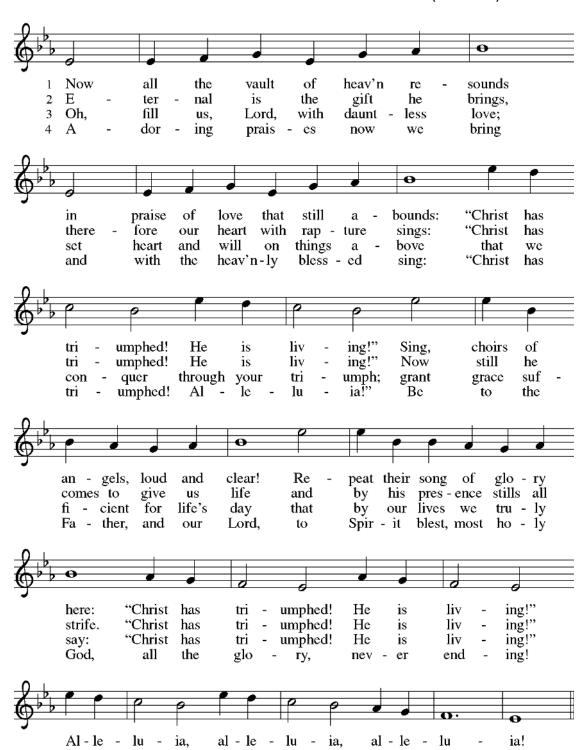
Thank you to everyone who faithfully continues to support Peace's ministries. To give online, please use the online giving portal. If you wish to give by cash or check, please put your offering in the plate.

**Special Offering.** Each month, Peace designates a recipient of our special offering. Individuals may choose to give a special gift - over and above their usual offering to Peace - in support of a particular ministry.



April's Special Offering is Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) was formed to create opportunities for people to act together effectively from their values, moral, spiritual, and religious beliefs. The faith community's ability to organize large numbers of people who might not otherwise engage in advocacy makes it a critical asset to advancing climate justice solutions. Many people aren't aware of decisions made at the local level that impact climate policies, yet that is where effects of climate change are felt most keenly. Persistent, local advocacy grounded in morality is how FACS makes an impact.

Please stand as you are able.



#### OFFERING PRAYER

- A Let us pray together
- C Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

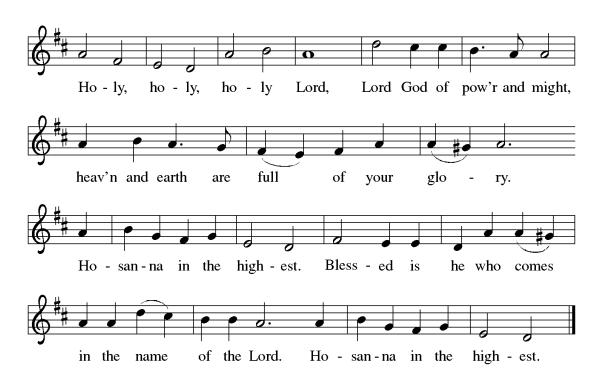
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

  And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

## LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
  - Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy name,
    thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done,
    on earth as it is in heaven.
    Give us this day our daily bread;
    and forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive those
    who trespass against us;
    and lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
    For thine is the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory,
    forever and ever. Amen

# INVITATION TO COMMUNION

For those worshiping in person: We will commune using continuous distribution in one station. The ushers will indicate when it is your turn. You will come forward and receive bread. Then you will dip it in the cup. One cup has red wine; the other has white grape juice. All bread is gluten free.

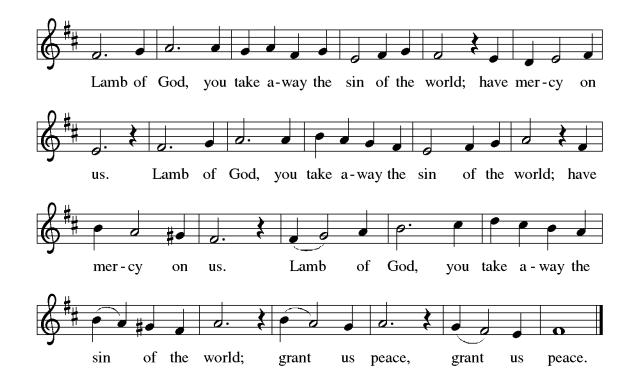
For those worshiping online: The Pastor will invite you to partake of communion at the beginning of the meal before all are served in person. If you are with someone, please serve one another. If you are physically alone, you may serve yourself trusting these words: The Body of Christ given for you and The Blood of Christ shed for you.

- P This is God's table. All are welcome here.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

# **COMMUNION HYMN**

"Lamb of God"



**COMMUNION SONG** 

Played by Liz Mun

Please stand as you are able.

# **COMMUNION BLESSING**

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
- C Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P Let us pray,
- C Shepherding God,
  you have prepared a table before us
  and nourished us with your love.
  Send us forth from this banquet
  to proclaim your goodness
  and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
  our redeemer and friend.
  Amen.

Please be seated.

## MISSION MOMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

## **BLESSING**

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

  → bless you now and always.
- C Amen.



## DISMISSAL

- A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
- C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE** played by Liz Mun

The Worship has ended. The Service begins.



# **Connected for Life**

A parent stands at the bus stop on the first day of school with a kindergarten student. Another parent lingers in the doorway of a first-year dorm after unloading the final box from the car. These parents are entering new times they will not be present to help their children make some important life choices, and words of advice slip from their lips—eat your sandwich before your dessert, share with others, don't drink and drive, remember who you are. After years of preparation, their children step toward greater independence.

Jesus lingers with the disciples before his death and prepares them for the time when he will no longer be present day to day to help them make their way in the world. Words slip from his mouth: "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). These are difficult words as the disciples try to make sense of Jesus' impending death and the promise of his continued presence.

"Apart from me you can do nothing" may also be a difficult word for a self-reliant, individualistic culture such as our own, focused on personal achievement and success. God is the vine grower, Jesus the vine, and we the branches, who, separated from the life-giving vine, can do nothing.

Yet, these are gracious, gospel words from Jesus. He's been preparing his disciples for years to take this step. These are words that point not toward individualistic, self-reliant independence but toward dependence on the one whose life defies death and whose perfect love casts out all fear. Connected to the vine, these branches are given a death-defying life free from fear. These are gracious, gospel words from Jesus that point to a community nourished by this life-giving vine and bearing fruit for the sake of the world.

## **PEACE NOTES**

**Call Committee Update:** The Call Committee has resumed its work and its awaiting the next slate of candidates to interview. Thanks to all for agreeing to continue their service to this committee and its work for discernment.

**Pastoral Perspectives:** Join Pastor Krista for an exploration of the dangerous impacts of current evangelical theologies on women, children, political ideologies, and more. Using clips from *Shiny, Happy People* and *The Program: Cons, Cults and Kidnapping*, we will discuss the theological underpinnings behind these events and compare them with Lutheran theological understandings. Sunday mornings, through May from 9:15-10:15AM in the fellowship hall.

**Spring Concert**: Join us on May 19 at 4pm for our annual spring concert. Music will include an array of genres including love songs from the Beatles and our favorite Disney movies, performed by Bells of Peace, Voices of Peace, Singing Angels, and Messengers. Guest Artists include Hana and Hamin Kim from the Kim Quartet. The concert is FREE to attend, love offerings will support Belvedere Elementary through our food bag ministry.

**Porch Sitting**: Come visit with Pastor Krista and fellow Peace members. There is no agenda but we together and talk about whatever comes up. Join us on the courtyard Monday, Tuesday, and/or Thursdays or Wednesdays via Zoom. Bring a chair and something to drink! Mondays @ 4PM, Tuesdays @ 11AM, Wednesdays @ 6:30PM (Zoom), Thursdays @ 2PM

**2024 Budget Update:** As of mid-April, Peace has a budget deficit of \$5,500. The Council continues to work to be good stewards of your generous financial gifts. We are grateful for all of your time and talents, for it is only with your gifts that the mission of Peace can be accomplished.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 12TH:** The Peace Council is calling for a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 9:15am, between both services. The meeting will be held in the fellowship hall. Its purpose is to present and vote on a proposal from the Property Committee on replacing the flooring in the fellowship hall. There will be no other business discussed at this time.

**Handbell Concert:** Join King of King's Lutheran Church on then evening of May 5th for a handbell concert. Music selection and themes come from movies and musicals. The concert is free and open to the community.

# **Our Prayers:**

- For the Call Committee, Church Council, and all volunteers as they continue to put in hard work discerning Peace's pastoral future...
- For Peace church and everyone who is in any time of transition...
- Prayers for those impacted by the historic flooding in Dubai...
- Prayers of healing for Michael Loisel, father of Erik Loisel, after a car accident...
- Prayers of healing for Emily Como, a friend of the Marquardt family...
- Prayers for the Flinner family as they grieve the death of Chuck Flinner...
- Prayers of peace for Sue Buchanan...
- Prayers for the family of Stephanie Running in the death of her mother, Barbara Olsen...
- Prayers for all those suffering loss in the wake of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse...
- Prayers for our presiding bishop Elizabeth Eaton as the returns from her leave of absence...
- Prayers for comfort for all mourning the death of Nehemiah Shiferaw...
- Prayers of recovery and strength for those injured, stranded, or mourning loss after the earthquake in Taiwan...
- For creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed...
- For all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer...
- For our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love...

#### METRO DC SYNOD EVENTS

#### **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES**

# 2024 Synod Assembly - June 1

You are invited to become empowered at the 2024 Metro D.C. Synod Assembly! This year's assembly will be held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax, VA. Find all the details at metrodcelca.org/2024assembly. Registration & Leader Nominations due by May 1.

# 2024 Traveling Prayer Nights

Traveling prayer nights now include a potluck dinner at 6:30 PM, followed by the prayer service at 7:00 PM. Come and open yourself to the Holy Spirit through prayer, music, and mediation. All are welcome!

Christ Lutheran in Washington, DC – April 11 St. Luke's Lutheran in Derwood, MD – May 9

# Reconciling in Christ Potluck & Conversation – April 7

The Reconciling in Christ team invites you to a potluck and conversation at Lutheran Church of the Reformation in D.C. at 5:30 PM. Come and spend time with others as well as discuss shared planning for future RIC events. Please RSVP. There may be a surprise door prize too!

# Global Missions: Invitation to Explore – April 20

The Global Mission's Committee invites you to explore our Washington-area relationships with Lutherans around the world, especially in El Salvador, Namibia, Slovakia, and the Middle East. Both experienced and new perspectives are welcome at 2:00 PM at Lutheran Church of the Reformation in D.C. as we consider how we will walk together in the coming year.

# Unlikely Leaders Retreat for 6-8 Graders – April 12-14

Each congregation is invited to bring four youth and one adult advisor to this weekend event where we will explore how water shows up in the Bible and what we can learn about ourselves, our faith, and our role as leaders in the church and the world. More details & register at www.youngfaithmatters.com

# Faith Day at Nats Park – August 31

Save the date for Faith Day at Nats Park as the Nationals take on the Chicago Cubs. Tickets are available in a reserved section for only \$15.



MARCH 2024



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
METRODCELCA.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

#### PEACE WARMLY WELCOMES ALL PEOPLE, NO EXCEPTIONS!

**WORSHIPPING WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME?** We receive you as a gift from God. Please email info@sharingpeace.org to be added to the weekly e-news. Also, look for a yellow welcome folder by the entrance.

**THIS SERVICE IS LIVE-STREAMED.** If you prefer never to appear on camera, let an usher know and they will seat you in an off-camera area.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** We have a staffed nursery available as well; please ask an usher to direct you. The nursery attendants will bring kids to the sanctuary for the Time for Children.

# Thanks to all who help lead worship. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact info@sharingpeace.org

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP	TODAY	May 5, 2024
Tech and Sound	Bret Howard, Andrew Tlusty	Matt Mills, Andrew Tlusty
Lector	Diane Yeager	Judy Hughs
Acolyte		
Assisting Minister	Joe Riffe	Judy Hughs
Altar Care	Karen Olmsted	Rose Stillwell
Ushers	Bill Penoyer, Ardell Hoveskeland	
Tellers	Ray Marquardt	Ray Marquardt

#### **Peace Lutheran Church**

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Email: info@sharingpeace.org
Web: www.sharingpeace.org
facebook.com/PeaceLutheranAlexandriaVa
instagram.com/pelcalexandria
Twitter.com/PELCAlexandria

To make an online gift, please scan the code or text (703) 215-1412

Office hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm
Please send announcements to
info@sharingpeace.org by 9am Wednesday.



Liz E. Mun, Music Director and Organist liz@sharingpeace.org

Paul Sticha, Director, Bell Choirs psticha@cox.net

Jim Nice, Creative Worship Leader jnice116@gmail.com

Kathleen Wage, Council President kathleenwage@yahoo.com

