Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church

Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024

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

Be at Peace.
WELCOME

PREFLUE

played by Liz Mun

Please stand as you are able.

EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, 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!

GATHERING SONG “That Easter day with Joy Was Bright” (ELW 384) Verses 1, 2, and 4
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: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 4: 32—35
Marcia Dursi
While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

PSALM  133  (Prayed responsively by whole verse.)

1How good and how pleasant it is,
    when kindred live together in unity!
2It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
    upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.
3It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
    For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Please stand as you are able.
The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.  

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.
HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” (ELW 386)
Verse 1, 2, 4, 7-8

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

1. O sons and daughters, let us sing today the grave has lost its sting! Al-le-lu-ia!
2. That Easter morn, at break of day, to seek the tomb where Jesus lay. Al-le-lu-ia!
3. An angel clad in white they see; “Your Lord will go to Galilee.” Al-le-lu-ia!
4. That night the apostles met in fear; and said, “My peace be with you here.” Al-le-lu-ia!
5. When Thomas first the tidings heard, to God your hearts and voices raise. Al-le-lu-ia!
6. “My pierced side, O Thomas, see, Alleluia!
7. No longer Thomas then denied; and look upon my hands, my feet; “You are my Lord and God!” he cried. Alleluia!
8. He doubted the disciples’ word. not faithless, but believing be.” Alleluia!
9. With heav’nly hosts to Christ our king; How blest are they who have not seen, Alleluia!
10. The faithful women went their way for they eternal life shall win. Alleluia!
11. Who sits and speaks unto the three, Alleluia!
12. Among them came their master dear, Alleluia!
13. Be laud and jubilee and praise: Alleluia!
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  Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

C  hear our prayer.

A  Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace

C  hear our prayer.

A  Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

C  hear our prayer.

A  Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain. God of grace,

C  hear our prayer.

A  Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. 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  Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you (especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel). Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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.
OFFERTORY HYMN

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (ELW 367)

Verses 1 & 2

1. Now all the vault of heav’n resounds
   in praise of love that still abounds:
   Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
   “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
   Repeat their song of glory here: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Strife, “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Say: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

2. Eternal is the gift he brings,
   therefore our heart with rapture sings:
   “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Now still he conquers through your triumph;
   Grant grace sufficient for life’s day that by our lives we truly serve.
   Our Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy
   here: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Strife, “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Say: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

3. Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
   and with the heav’nly blessed sing:
   “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Now still he conquers through your triumph;
   Grant grace sufficient for life’s day that by our lives we truly serve.
   Our Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy
   here: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Strife, “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
   Say: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

4. Adoring praises now we bring
   tri umphed! He is liv ing!”
   Con quer through your tri umph;
   Al - le - lu ia!”
   Be to the
   "Christ has tri umphed! He is liv ing!”
   Strife, “Christ has tri umphed! He is liv ing!”
   Say: “Christ has tri umphed! He is liv ing!”
   God, all the glo ry, never end ing!

Al - le - lu ia, al - le - lu ia, al - le - lu ia!
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.

C 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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION 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 Shepherd 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.

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.
1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son; endless is the
vic’ry thou o’er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy bodily lay. death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glory, risen, conqu’ring
Son; endless is the vic’ry thou o’er death hast won!

2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he
greets thee, scatters fear and gloom; let his church with gladness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors,
hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now livest;
through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above.

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught with—

"Thine Is the Glory" (ELW 376)
Verses 1 & 3
**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.

**Wounded Resurrection Power Restores Community**

Jesus’ resurrection confronts the sadness and loneliness of Thomas’s doubt. Many people in congregations left last Sunday’s celebration of the resurrection with feelings similar to those of Thomas. Somehow, Thomas was not in the right place at the right time to see Jesus show up in the flesh. No doubt, people in the pews can relate to Thomas’s missed opportunity. Perhaps they were unable to attend a family Easter gathering. Maybe a bunch of friends had box seats to the hottest game in town, and they were not able to afford one. Maybe a chemo treatment interrupted an opportunity for career advancement. Human beings are endlessly plagued with feelings of not fully belonging to the group, and they desire a savior to use magical power to restore perfection.

Time and again, the disciples seek a messiah who overwhelms them and the world with crushing military might and magical cures. Today, the power of the resurrection is most realized in the real, deep wounds of Jesus’ own body. Without those wounds and the real sacrifice that God made on the cross, Thomas’s faith would always be hobbled by his overwhelming doubt. Yet people still ask: how can God’s reality of overflowing love and life confront and transform our parched world and wounded bodies?

Jesus makes faith happen today by breathing the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and blessing them with peace. He shows Thomas and all God’s people that the life-changing resurrection embraces the wounds all people carry. God the Creator’s peace, Jesus’ wounds, and the breath of the Holy Spirit lead Thomas to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Then, Thomas trusts God to care for his body and his life. Just like Jesus’ ministry prior to the cross, Jesus reaches for the outsider and restores Thomas to his place in the community.
Call Committee Update: The Call Committee has resumed its work and is 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.

New Weekly Office Hours: With the addition of Logan to our staff, the Peace administrative office is not open M-F from 10AM to 2PM. These are the times you can expect the office to be staffed for addressing phone calls, emails, reports, and other such needs. Logan will be present for the work at other times in the week, but we hope to give him those times for dedicated project work that need to be completed.

Pastoral Perspectives: Join Pastor Krista for a 6 week 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, April 7 to May 12, from 9:15-10:15AM in the fellowship hall.

Faithful Families: Join the fun! Faithful Families will offer the following events this spring for families with children and/or teens: April 21 – Family Game Night and June 9 – Get Ready for Summer!! Each event will run from 4:00 – 6:00PM and will include a potluck supper, devotions, and activities to strengthen our relationships with one another. If you would like to help facilitate one of these events, please contact Pastor Krista at pastor@sharingpeace.org.

Spring Concert May 19: Our musicians are already preparing for another beautiful community concert this spring. Save the date for Sunday, May 19 at 4:00PM. Plan to enjoy a musical proclamation of the Gospel, “Sharing the Love.”

Porch Sitting
With the good weather settling in, you are invited to some real “Porch Sittings with the Pastor.” Porch sittings are intended to create the old feeling of sitting on the porch in a rocking chair and just enjoying each other’s company and the beauty of God’s creation. We can talk about the weather or we can talk about what’s going on in someone’s life. We can be silent or we can sing. We can pray and read Scripture or you can tell us about the book you’re reading. There are no agendas. All porch sittings will gather on the patio outside the columbarium. Bring your own travel chair and something to drink.
Well done and Thank you! : It really does take a community coming together to make weeks and seasons like we've just experienced happen here at Peace. Lent was meaningful with the RJT testimonials of faith and learning. Holy Week was powerful and full of depth with people caring for the kids in our community, gathering around the table of Jesus and sitting at the foot of His cross. Easter was a joyous celebration of hope and new possibilities, filled with incredible music and the wonder and beauty of God's creation in the flowers and animals which decorated our sanctuary. Well done, Peace and thank you to the following for going above and beyond to make these days so rich for everyone else

- Liz Mun, Paul Sticha, Jim Nice, Becca Sticha, Voices of Peace, Bells of Peace, Singing Angels and our guest musicians Henry Lin and AJ Rios for inspiring music
- Rose Stillwell, Tammy Heppner, Ardell Hoveskeland, Becky Milton, and Stu Whitehead for coordinating an amazing group of ushers, assisting ministers, lectors, tech crews and acolytes
- Andrew Tlusty for being there every time so we can truly hear the Gospel
- Sue Clark, Sue Sticha and the church decorating mice for beautifying our sanctuary and coordinating Easter flowers
- Jim Nice, Paul Sticha, Kathleen Wage and Rose Stillwell for cleaning up and setting up each Holy Week worship service and taking care of the raredos
- Logan Wescott for diligently crafting and editing multiple bulletins in a short period of time
- Martha Munoz-Siles and all who helped to stuff and distribute Easter Eggs for our hunt
- Autumn Kendrick for the faithful social media posts and advertisements inviting the community to join us with such inspiring graphics and for keeping track of the moving parts of multiple event communications with grace
- Anna and Don Hartmayer for ensuring the building was cleaned and ready and for organizing, setting up, facilitating and cleaning up such a wonderful Easter breakfast
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 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 D’Andrade Danner family as they grieve the loss of their beloved father and Granddad, Eddie...
- 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 justice, and for the protection of those suffering human rights violations and being executed at the hands of the current Iranian regime - both those who are already refugees in Albania as well as those citizens who are standing up within Iran's own borders.
- 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 Travelling 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 meditation. 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.

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.

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

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<td>Ardell Hoveskland, Rose Stillwell</td>
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<td>Tellers</td>
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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.

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The Rev. Krista Vingelis, Interim Pastor
pastor@sharingpeace.org

Logan Wescott, Church Administrator
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Liz E. Mun, Music Director and Organist
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