



Peace United Methodist Church
 Pastor Lisa Vick
 303 Ninth Avenue South
 Virginia MN 55792

Mediacom channel 5TV	
Peace Church Service	
Weekly Airtimes	
Sunday	9:00 am, 8:00 pm
Monday	2:00 am
Tuesday	10:00 am
Wednesday	none
Thursday	10:00 am
Friday	5:30 pm
Saturday	10:00 am

Moonlighters
 Feb 25, Tues. at 6:00pm at the Rink, Eveleth
 "Share an inspirational message"
 Bring your spouse or a friend this month.

Dungeons and Dragons February schedule
 We'll continue meeting in the youth room every
 Sunday (weather permitting) @ 12 noon.

Our Mission at Peace United Methodist Church
Peace in our Communities, offering healing and wholeness to all in life's journey

The Methodist Messenger

February 2026

Church Office
 Hours: Monday – Thursday
 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Phone: (218) 741-7739 or (218) 741-7738

Website: www.werpeaceumc.com

Email:
 Pastor Lisa pastor@werpeaceumc.com

Office office@werpeaceumc.com

Worship Schedule

10:30 AM Peace UMC
 303 South 9th Avenue
 Virginia, MN 55792

Note: 1st Sunday of each month is
 Communion Sunday

Find our online worship service at
www.werpeaceumc.com or on our Facebook page
 We R Peace UMC.

Our Staff

Pastor	Rev. Lisa Vick
Administrative Assistant	Rachel Bodas
Custodian	Neil Strong Sr.

PASTORAL CARE

Please notify the church office (218-741-7739) if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care for illness, hospitalization, surgery or emergency.

Pastoral Calls: 612-558-5316
 Email: pastor@werpeaceumc.com

The Light Is Growing—And So Are the Shadows

The light really is a little brighter now.

Each day stretches just a little longer, the sun lingers a little more, and here on the Iron Range we can almost feel winter loosening its grip. That growing light is not just something we notice with our eyes—it mirrors a deeper truth we proclaim all year long: the light of Christ is alive in us.

And yet. Just as the days grow brighter, Lent quietly lurks in the shadows.

I'll be honest—worship leaders (myself included) tend to love Advent. Candles. Anticipation. Hope. Lent? Eh, not so much. Lent doesn't exactly feel fun. There are no twinkling lights or cozy buildup. It's quieter, heavier, more honest—and maybe that's why we sometimes resist it.

This year, Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on February 18**.

As your pastor, I want you to know that I carry many of the same concerns you do. I hold worry for family and friends, for our community, and for the wider world. In conversations, meetings, and quiet moments, I hear the weight many of you are carrying. The brokenness feels close to home. Lent doesn't ask us to ignore that or push it aside. Instead, it invites us to bring it—gently and honestly—before God.

So we ask the familiar question: **Why do we do this?**

Why ashes? Why mark our foreheads at all?

The ashes are a sign of our brokenness and our sin—but they are also a sign of truth. On Ash Wednesday, we remember our humanity and our mortality. We remember that we are fragile, finite, and deeply in need of grace. The ashes give us permission to stop pretending we have it all together.

And here is the quiet comfort Lent offers: **we do not walk through this season alone**.

Jesus does not shy away from the shadows. He enters them fully—into suffering, injustice, grief, and fear—and brings God's presence there. Lent becomes a time not of gloom, but of honesty and hope. A season that may not be “fun,” but is deeply faithful—because it reminds us that even in the darkest places, God is already there.

The days are growing brighter.

And even as we walk through the shadows, the light of Christ goes with us—steady, faithful, and alive in us.

Blessing Pastor Lisa

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

New e-giving platform at PUMC!

We want to express our gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

We are pleased to share that other local churches (Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Church) are also utilizing Vanco as their e-giving platform, demonstrating its reliability and ease of use. This widespread adoption highlights Vanco's effectiveness in supporting faith communities with secure and convenient donation options.

You can give now at the Peace UMC website link: <https://werpeaceumc.com>. In addition, the Vanco app is also available for e-giving, allowing you to make donations easily from your mobile device. This added flexibility ensures you can support our church whenever and wherever is most convenient for you.

You will also find a QR code on the worship bulletins that you can scan for easy e-giving.

This makes it simple to contribute during services using your smartphone, providing another convenient option to support our church. If you need any assistance in using the Vanco e-giving platform, Betsy Nelson and Holly Lundgren are available to help. Please feel free to reach out to them with any questions or for guidance on getting started.

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all that you do –
Finance Committee

Lenten Table Devotions W/Soup

We will be having soup lunches every Wednesday @ 12 noon during lent.

Starting on Wednesday, February 25th.

We are asking for people to volunteer to bring a pot of soup to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the library for volunteers.

We will also need help with setup and cleanup. All help will be welcome.

Thank you! Rachel

Sunday School: February Reminds Us Of Love and Generosity

As we enter February, the Sunday School children are reminded of how God and Jesus want us to love and do for others. The children have been promoting their mission project, the "Souper Bowl" food collection, with weekly promotions and reminders for the congregation. It's a great opportunity for the children to understand that they are helping and showing love for others in need with their enthusiastic and encouraging "Children's Moment" presentations. The climax of their project will occur on February 8th, when it is hoped they will "score big" and "cross the finish line" with the donations congregation members have made. Go Peace!!!

Coffee & Fellowship

Wednesday Coffee and Fellowship continues!

We meet at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

There is coffee and hot water for tea.

Usually, there is a tasty treat.

Everyone is welcome!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 – Jim Kellner | 15 – Mary Bratt |
| 3 – Mary Jo Smith | 15 – John Malovrh |
| 6 – Judy Venaas | 18 – James Murray |
| 7 – Susan Carle | 19 – Ellen Hedlund |
| 10 – Drew Roen | 19 – Celia Roen |
| 13 – Shannon Gunderson | 21 – Marilyn Nelson |
| | 25 – Chris Johnson |

Did we miss a birthday?
Please let Rachel in the
office know.

February Worship Helpers

Date	Coffee 'AN	Friday Reader	Sunday Reader	Ushers	Counters	Power Point
<u>2/1/26</u>	Paul & Val Wier	1/30 Val Wier	Lois Lackner	Betsy Erickson Gail Switzer	Tom & Gail Johnson	Rachel Bodas
<u>2/8/26</u>	Holly Lundgren Switzer/Vosburgh	2/6 Pam Omersa	Becky Crain	Diane Hawley Gail Smith	J. Martinson C. Thomas	Gary Picek
<u>2/15/26</u>	Kathy Oliver Judy Venaas	2/13 Sue Carle	Kathy Rice	J. Malovrh Tom Johnson	Gail Switzer Kathy Rice	Joan Schriber
<u>2/22/26</u>	Sheila Colosimo Kathy Rice	2/20 Val Wier	Sheila Colosimo	Jerry & Paulette Pfremmer	Pam Omersa Kathy Oliver	Holly Lundgren

Communion Steward

- February –
March –
April –
May -

COFFEE AN' HOSTS

****Donuts for Coffee an' are to be picked up at Super One SOUTH.
You will need to pick up the Peace UMC account card from the office before going
to Super One South. The church has an account set up for payment; you must go
through the checkout line and show the clerk the account card. If you have any
questions, please call the Office.

Did You Know . .

Peace UMC has a Prayer Chain

How does our Prayer Chain work? Our Prayer Chain is made up of small groups of individuals; when a prayer request is made, the leader of each group is called to be in prayer; the leader then calls the next person in her group, who then calls the next person in the group and so forth, thus the Chain.

How can I become part of the Prayer Chain? Contact Gail Johnson (218) 741-0972 or Mary Bratt (218) 744-2754

How do I make a prayer request? Contact (Rachel) the Office or Gail Johnson or Mary Bratt

Peace UMC Prayer Chain

Lord Jesus: You are the Great Physician. _____ needs your healing touch. Be present with him/her in this time of struggle and challenge. Give to him/her what You know he/she needs. Place him/her in Your loving hands. Amen

O, God: May the power of Your presence be with _____ and heal him/her of all illness. I pray for him/her to be made whole in body, mind, spirit, and relationships. Strengthen him/her to continue serving You with a loving heart. Amen

Loving God: I ask Your Spirit to be on the doctors and nurses as they care and provide services to _____. Give them Your wisdom and knowledge so that they may be guided by You in treatment of his/her illness. Work through them to provide comfort to _____. Amen

Almighty God: I pray that _____ be comforted in his/her suffering and made whole. When he/she is afraid, give him/her courage,
When he/she is weak, grant him/her your strength.
When he/she is afflicted, give him/her patience.
When he/she is lost, offer him/her hope.
When he/she is alone, move others and me to his/her side. In Your name we pray. Amen

Eternal God: You have known us before we were here on earth and will continue to know us after we are gone. Touch _____ with Your grace and presence. As You give your abiding care, assure him/her of my love and presence. Assure _____ that Your communion with him/her as a caring Christian remains secure, and that Your love for him/her is unfailing. In Christ, who came to us we pray, Amen.

Most Merciful God: You hold each of us close to Your heart. Hold _____ in Your loving arms and tenderly draw him/her into Your love, together with all who are living with suffering this day. Assure him/her that he/she is not alone and give him/her courage and faith for all that is to come. I pray this in the name of Jesus, who suffered, died, and then rose from the dead to lead us into new life, now and forever. Amen