



**PASTOR DENNIS BECKER**  
10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

**May 2026**

www.peacelutheranchurch.ca  
E: peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com  
Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church  
(Pickering, ON)

## Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges

928 Liverpool Road, Pickering, ON L1W 1S6 ♦ Tel: (905) 839-3521

**Inside this issue:**

- Food For Thought (cont)** 2
- In Memory Al Fingler & Upcoming Events** 3
- TOBFC—May 10th** 4
- PLC Spring Cleaning, WOP, M's BS & WA list for May** 5
- Congrat's Gord & Evelyn & Bible Fun Time** 6
- P. Adam B-Day/Anniversary** 7
- Maundy Thurs & Good Fri.** 8-9
- Easter & Council Installation, PLC Outreach Lunch** 10-12
- Worship Services—April** 13
- Niagara Retreat & PLC Congregational lunch** 14
- Unified Cutlery, Care Ministry & Red Dress Awareness** 15-16
- Peace Care Team & PLC Volunteers** 17
- God's Creation** 18
- CBS in May & Jokes** 19
- Children's Messages** 20
- Coffee Hour & Next Month** 20

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
Celebrating and Sharing God's Love for All

**VISION STATEMENT:**  
Peace Lutheran Church is a welcoming, worshipping and witnessing community in Jesus Christ through whom healing, wellness, love and peace are offered unconditionally to all.

### Food For Thought

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

2 It was a wonderful day on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. I  
3 really learned a lot at the Care Ministry and  
4 Training, which Peace hosted. I want to say a  
5 special thank you to Elizabeth and Lena, for all  
6 the planning and hard work you both did. It was  
7 very informative what Rev. Joanna Miller talked  
8 about together with the PowerPoint display and  
9 our group sessions. Our theme was “Caring for  
10 Ourselves and Others. Elizabeth will be writing more about part of this topic,  
11 which is also included in this newsletter.

12 What I wish to focus on is the Hymn we sang, “**Blessed be the Tie that  
13 binds**” (ELW 656). The first verse is:

14 “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
15 the unity of heart and mind is like to that above”.

16 In Colossians 3:14-15 (NRSV): *“<sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love,  
17 which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of  
18 Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.  
19 And be thankful”.*

20 The hymn itself was written by John Fawcett as an expression of love that  
21 binds believers to Christ and to each other. The Love of Christ, binds us togeth-  
22 er in perfect unity emphasizing love as the supreme virtue that holds all other  
23 Christian virtues together. It is the perfect bond of unity creating harmony  
24 within a community.

When we sing “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love”, we express two aspects of our life in Christ. First, it is a life of love for God and neighbor. The love of Christ shapes our minds and hearts. This leads to love for sisters and brothers in the Lord. The second aspect is the binding nature of our unity in the body of Christ. It is Christ’s prayer that followers of Jesus should be one. Paul says, *“for we being many are one body in Christ Jesus, and everyone members one of the other”.*

This song highlights a “fellowship of kindred minds” – we have shared spiritual beliefs, communal fellowship, and agape love for each other. These bonds are reinforced through shared worship and service. In practice, this is applied through pastoral care, mutual encouragement, and standing together in times of sorrow or conflict.



**Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church!**

As a community in Christ, we gather together in service and fellowship to discern the call of our Christian faith. Strengthened by Word and Sacrament, we are always seeking creative ways to enrich our community, both locally and globally.

Our congregation is defined largely by its warm and friendly people, a vibrant intergenerational mix of young families, youth and adults. Come as you are!

We invite you to be part of our community. We hope that you will find your time here nourishing and energizing. We look forward to learning from you as well. We listen! We care!

**Our church is open!** We are offering in-person worship services, livestream worship services at 10:30 a.m. or you can watch the services anytime through YouTube. Please join us! Coffee Hour is available after our worship services.

May the love of God and the Peace of Christ find you here and wherever you are! May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn in your heart always!

**Office Hours:**

Someone will answer the phone on a part time basis through the week (Mon - Wed and Fri, 9 to noon) to assist with calls and drop-in's. Please leave a message or email and someone will respond:

Office Tel: (905) 839-3521, or:  
peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com

There is a Care Team visiting shut-in's on Wednesdays and Fridays, please contact the office if you would like to receive a visit from the team.

Our Interim Pastor Dennis Becker will be doing 2 Communion Services on the first and 3rd Sunday each month. He will be available for emergency situations only.

**Food For Thought (cont.)**

Have you noticed how different individual members of the same family can be? One child may be gifted in music and the other may excel in sports. They may look and behave different from each other or even their parents. Yet the members of a family share a bond of love that is stronger than their differences. The instant bond of fellowship between Christians ... it's such a testimony to the life changing power of the gospel. Truly, God empowers each of us with the ability to refresh one another. Just as the ties of family bind us together, so too, the ties within the family of God – strengthens our bonds as we **“grow in grace and knowledge”**. There is unity in diversity.

These ties are understood to connect believers across different backgrounds, congregations and cultural divides – binding them together in shared grace. The grace of God is given freely to all, encompassing the world in love. The grace that binds us together as one mind in spite of our many differences.

When we attend church together, it's about much more than just sitting in the same building week after week, it's about the joy of unity in Christ, our fellowship and the strength and bond we form by worshiping God alongside each other. We laugh, cry, pray and sing together. We have fun, share our faith, joys and sorrows with each other, we praise, uplift, lean on and comfort each other – all of which brings us closer together in Christ. This “love-for-the-other” is the tie that binds. It's like an invisible thread that holds us together in one humanity. As Christians, we are called upon to share this grace-filled love with our neighbors, not through coercion but through the example of Christ. We need to realize that Christ must be a central place to the family and church life. He is the true center in our lives – one that truly binds us together.

**Let us pray:** Thank you, Lord God for your eternal Love, and the love that you have planted within the heart of every believer. Open our eyes to see that the ground between us and our neighbor is holy ground.

When we visit the weary, remind us that it is your face we look upon. When we serve alongside one another, remind us that the tie that binds is your Spirit weaving us together. And when we find our own strength fading, lead us back to the table of your grace, where we are nourished not for what we do, but for who we are—your beloved children.

May our hearts continue to burn within us as we go, knowing that you walk beside us always. Watch us safely home. May the “ties that bind”, draw us ever closer to you today and every day.

**Amen.**



# IN MEMORY— AL FINGLER



Seven years ago on May 7<sup>th</sup>, I lost the love of my life.  
Still miss him very much. RIP love!

### I Heard Your Voice

I heard your voice in the wind today  
And I turned to see your face.  
The warmth of the wind caressed me as I stood silently in place.  
I felt your touch in the sun today as it's warmth filled the sky.  
I closed my eyes for your embrace and my spirit soared high.  
I saw your eyes in the window pane as I watched the falling rain.  
It seemed as each raindrop fell it quietly said your name.  
I held you close in my heart today it made me feel complete.  
You may have died...but you are not gone - you will always be a part of me.  
As long as the sun shines..  
As long as the wind blows..  
As long as the rain falls...  
You will live on inside me forever for that is all my heart knows.  
(Author unknown)



## Upcoming Events

- Sat., May 2, 2026, 8:30-11:30 am - PLC SPRING CLEANING  
(Rain Date: Sat., May 9th)
- Sun., May 3, 2026, 10:30 am - Pastor Dennis (Communion) Name Tag Sunday
- Sun., May 10, 2026, 10:30 am - Rosie/Deborah McCracken (Olive Branch)  
Potluck Lunch
- Sun., May 17, 2026, 10:30 am - Pastor Dennis (Communion)
- Sun., May 24, 2026, 10:30 am - Pastor Rasma (Communion) Pentecost
- Wed., May 27, 2026, at noon - Congregational Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- Sun., May 31, 2026, 10:30 am - Rosie/Arnold (Holy Trinity)
- Sun., June 7, 2026, 10:30 am - Pastor Dennis (Communion) Name Tag Sunday

## The Olive Branch for Children—May 10th



Please join us **on Mother's Day, May 10th** at 10:30 am for a special service with Deborah and for a Potluck Lunch afterwards with Deborah and her family! Please make your favorite dish, salad or dessert for us to share with our favorite Sister and family in Christ!

"Life is like a puzzle: each piece has a reason, a place, and a purpose." This is the theme for this year's fundraising for the Olive Branch for Children. I will give out a piece of a jigsaw puzzle to the congregation which represents 20 years of memories, milestones, hopes and dreams of our girls and TOBFC! Please write on the back of each puzzle piece a word or two of what you see on your puzzle piece and what you have learned about Mlombwa, Laudia and TOBFC in their life's journey so far. For instance, you could write: love, family, mother, sister, faith, hope, dreams, education, learning, building, hard work, exercise, fun, etc. Then when we assemble the scattered pieces linking their experiences, love, faith and growth including momentous occasions, relationships and more together, you will see the BIGGER picture. Each piece is part of a bigger picture that we can't see yet. We are often building it as we go through life and with each passing year it brings more clarity. Every piece has a purpose, even the difficult times, mistakes or losses that contribute to our growth and strength. Like a puzzle, it is a life-long journey linking each part together. Let us build and put together 20 years of our daughters life and TOBFC together to see the bigger picture of their life so far!

We have known Deborah for 21 years and have gone through the growth of the Olive Branch, shared joys and sorrows with them, and we especially watched Mlombwa and Laudia grow and thrive and helped them realize and achieve some of their dreams and ambitions. We met Deborah when she was in her early 20's with a dream that we helped her realize!! It really is a "full circle of life"!

Look at Mlombwa now — she is in her early 20's (just like Deborah was), she is married to Gaudence on Dec. 14, 2025, she is a teacher, the Head of TOBFC Montessori Academy and is being groomed by Deborah to take over TOBFC. Laudia is currently studying hard for her Bachelor's Degree in Food Science. We wish her success in all she strives to achieve!

Like in previous years, our goal is to raise \$5,000 for Laudia and TOBFC and the many ways they help over 200,000 individuals in over 52 communities. Unlike any other charity, 100 % of the monies raised goes directly to TOBFC. You can make a donation in addition to what you normally give to Peace in whatever option you choose—through your offering envelopes, e-transfer, Tithe.ly, PAR or Canada Helps. You will be given a tax receipt for your contribution.

Thank you for your generosity, love, support and commitment!



# PLC Spring Cleaning



**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
SPRING CEAN-UP ON SATURDAY**

**ON: MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**TIME: 8:30 TO 11:30 AM**

**RAIN-DATE: MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**PLEASE SIGN UP AND BRING CLEANING SUPPLIES IF YOU CAN!**

## Women of Prayer

Please join or drop in to the “Women of Prayer”, which meets on the first and third Sundays of the month, after the service – with refreshments in either the old Narthex or the Jim Hern room. The duration is 30-40 minutes. Fellowship is warm and sincere. I hope to see you there! Elizabeth Johns



## PLC Men’s Bible Study

The PLC Men's Bible Study continues to meet on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month.

Any men who are interested in joining should reach out to Jens Ehlers at: [jensehlers@sympatico.ca](mailto:jensehlers@sympatico.ca) or 416-951-0177, or contact the church office.



## Worship Assistants for May 2026

MAY 2026	A/M	READER	GREETERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS	SERVERS	SERMON/ SERVICE	COFFEE HOUR
3	Sirkka	Shari N	Janet V	Rosie/Claire	--	Sirkka/Shakura	Pastor Dennis	Tabatha
10 Mom's Day	Karen	Fiona	Gene H.	--	Rainer/Tapio	--	Rosie/Deborah	Shakura & Giselle ?
17	Liz	Paige	Tapio	Fiona/Sirkka	--	Liz/Fiona	Pastor Dennis	Sirkka & ?
24 Pentecost	Rosie	Jemina	Wayne	Joan/Janet	--	Rosie/Janet	Pastor Rasma	Steven & Kavita
31 Holy Trinity	Giselle	Ruth H.	Lynne H.	--	Janet/Rosie	--	Rosie/Arnold	Colleen & Rainer



# Congratulations Gord & Evelyn!



**CONGRATULATIONS  
GORD & EVELYN BUSKE**

**ON YOUR 59TH  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!**

**on May 13th, 2026**

**We wish you all the best, good health,  
happiness and many blessings always!**

## Bible Fun Time





# Happy Anniversary & Happy Birthday, Pastor Adam

**Pastor Adam is celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in May! Please wish him all the best, good health and God's blessings!**



**Pastor Adam is also celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination on June 19th!**



Ordination — June 19th, 1966!





# Maundy Thursday



# Good Friday





# Good Friday (cont)



**ELW 348 Stay With Me**  
*Stay with me,  
remain here with me,  
watch and pray.  
Watch and pray.*

**Food/Clothes for  
PLC Pantry**





# Easter Breakfast & Bonnet Procession





# Easter Service





## Council Installation & Deborah



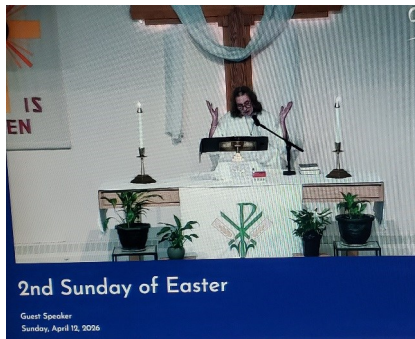
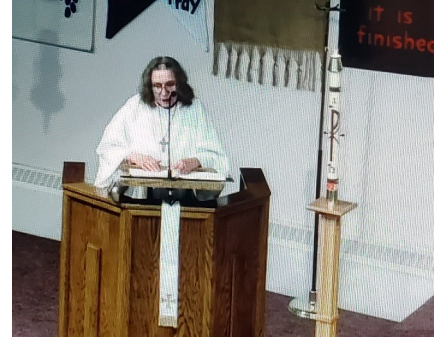
## PLC Outreach Lunch in April



A special thank you to Sirkka, Lena, Elizabeth and Riya for organizing the PLC Outreach Lunch program every Saturday and to all the volunteers who help with food preparation, cooking, set up and clean up! This is growing as the need is growing in the Durham region! In the past month an average of 18 to 20 guests and 10-12 volunteers were served each week. On April 22nd, there were 21 guests and 10 volunteers and 5 of the guests were there for the first time. Any help is greatly appreciated from the smallest to largest task. Please contact Lena or Sirkka.



# Worship Services—April 2026





## Niagara Retreat (Apr. 10-12)



What another wonderful experience at this year's Niagara Retreat! There were 8 members of Peace who attended and it was rejuvenating, informative and they connected with others who participated. Please consider coming along next year.

## PLC Congregational Lunch - Apr. 22nd



What another wonderful turnout at our PLC Congregational Lunch! There were 20 in attendance. The food was wonderful and the fellowship was great.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with providing the food, for setting up and cleaning up!

Pastor Marilyn's discussion was very meaningful about prayer, meditation and how to connect with peaceful moments in our day to refresh us.

Thank you Sirkka and Ruth for inviting her, it was very informative.



# Unified Cutlery Theory (presented at the Care Ministry Workshop—Apr. 25th



## What does your cutlery drawer look like?

My cutlery drawer—surprisingly, given my hectic nature—is neatly organized. I can find what I need quickly, and everything matches when it’s time to set the table. But I’ve begun to wonder: does this reflect my energy, stressors, and boundaries in daily life?

After hearing Reverend Joanna Miller explain “Unified Cutlery Theory,” I realized my drawer and my mind are similar—sometimes messy, but mostly functional.

The idea is simple:

**Spoons = energy**

**Forks = stressors**

**Knives = boundaries** (what helps cut things down to size)

Applying this theory to my busy existence becomes a gentle self-check:

Do I have too many forks?

Am I using my knives well?

Am I holding onto my spoons—or giving them away too easily?

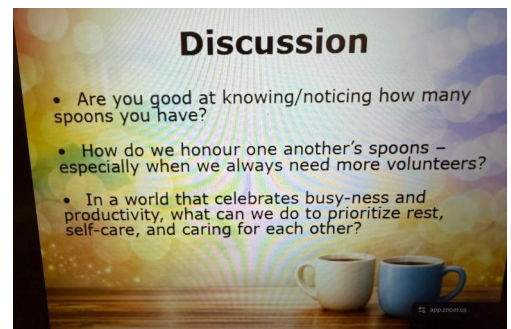
When the drawer is disorganized, everything feels harder, and overwhelm creeps in. But when we pay attention—when we “sort the drawer”—we make better choices about energy, stress, and limits.

For me, the reset comes with a commandment: *Honour the Sabbath day.*

Sabbath is when I step back and let my mind clean and sort the cutlery. My Sabbath time can look like a walk with my dog, a drive with Jeremy, a quiet coffee, or simply resting in a pleasant setting.

What does your cutlery drawer look like? What does your Sabbath time look like?

Submitted by Elizabeth Johns



## Pictures of Care Workshop





# Lunch pictures & Conclusion (cont)



# Red Dress Awareness Month of May



Thank you Elizabeth & all volunteers. There will be more awareness in the month of May!





# Peace Care Team

Congratulations to Tara!!!

Tara wanted to share good news of her college graduation with her Peace friends. She has written a powerful faith testimony for us. Although she seldom attends worship services, Tara has been involved with programs at Peace since early 2023. She writes:

Hello, my name is Tara.

In the year of 2018, my life changed. I was brought back to life. I was saved by GOD. I got a second chance at life.

I decided to pay it forward by making changes in my life which included, me getting clean and sober. I completed my grade 12 education, following through with college and completing a college diploma.

I am forever grateful for all the support I had and have from Peace Lutheran Church, Pastor Ronnie and my loved ones.

When you have faith, anything is possible. Never give up.

As my mom always tells me

"Never Ever Stop Believing"

Thank you

**Mission: The Peace Care Team is called to share Christ's love through compassionate presence, prayerful support, and practical assistance for members of our congregation and community.**

Please join this wonderful and heart-warming ministry! If interested, please see Elizabeth, Ruth or Lena.



Lena & Elizabeth visiting Annie in her new home.

# PLC Volunteers



Jeremy made these signs to go in our Peace gardens (Memorial and Butterfly) so that people will not think we are messy. We do not want to disturb our bees!



# God's Creation



By: Rosie—windy day



By: Rosie L



By: Fiona (bird in nest)



By: Rosie (bird in nest)



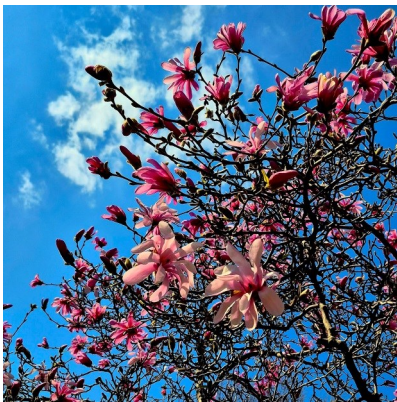
By: Tabatha W.



By Fiona H.



By Fiona H.



By: RL FB friend.



Pickerings new waterfall!

By Jeremy W



By: RL FB friend



By: Jeremy W.



By: Cameron Y.



By: Carol W.

# Canadian Blood Services in May



## Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada. Because it's something we can do today to help others wake up healthier tomorrow.

### Upcoming blood donation events

**Ajax Community Centre  
HMS Ajax Banquet Hall  
75 Centennial Road**

**Saturday, May 9  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Join **Canada's Lifeline**  
Book now at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) or call **1 888 2 DONATE**



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### Upcoming blood donation events

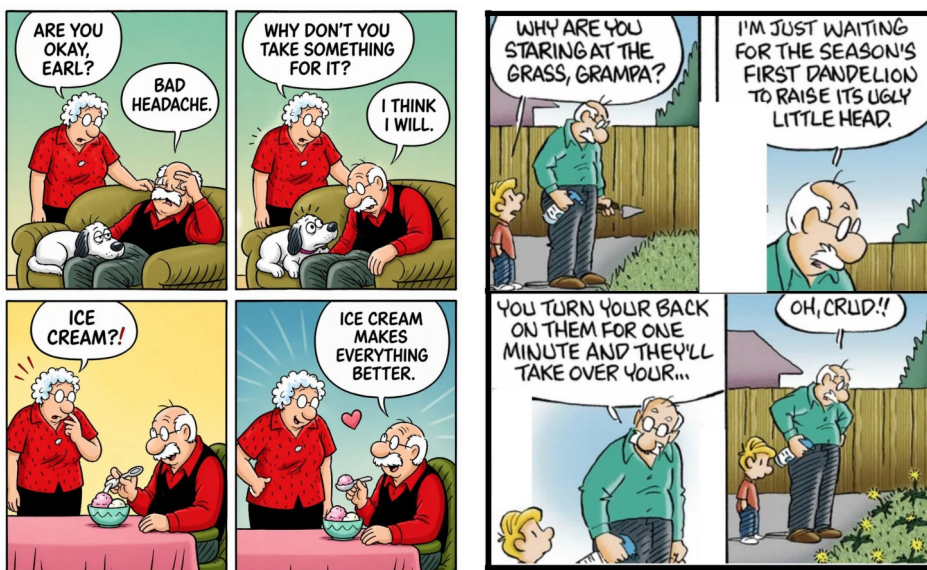
**Forest Brook  
Community Church  
60 Kearney Dr. Ajax**

**Monday, May 18  
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

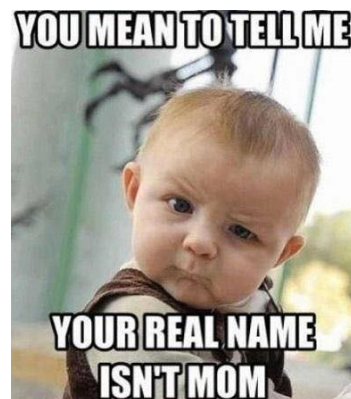
Join **Canada's Lifeline**  
Book now at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) or call **1 888 2 DONATE**



## COMEDY CORNER



**Little sister sees her brother with his head bowed and on his knees at his bed. She yells "Mom! Billy is telling on me to God."**

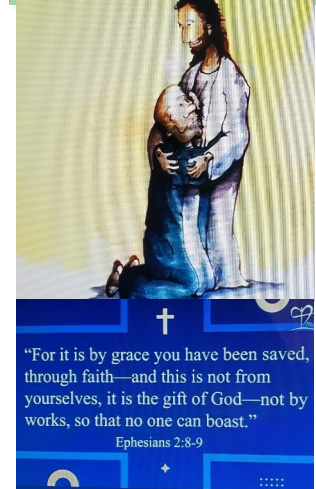


# Children's Message - April 2026

**Children's Message**  
Christ is risen!  
Easter  
April 5, 2026



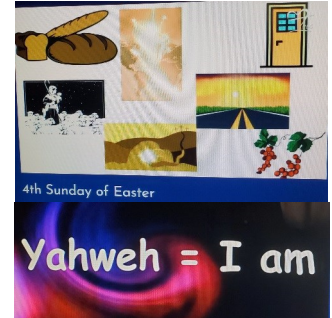
**Children's Message**  
Doubting Thomas... or Hopeful Thomas?  
2nd Sunday of Easter  
April 12, 2026



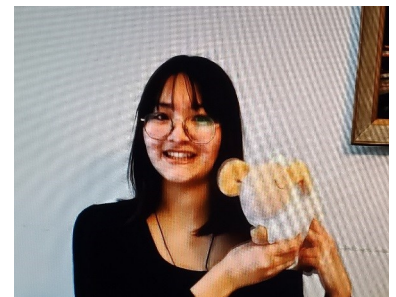
**Children's Message**  
We're never alone...  
3rd Sunday of Easter  
April 19, 2026



**Children's Message**  
He'll find me...  
4th Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 2026



This is the day  
(this is the day)  
That the Lord has made  
(that the Lord has made)  
I will rejoice  
(I will rejoice)  
And be glad in it (and be glad in it)



## Coffee Hour

Thank you to all who volunteer to make coffee after service on Sundays. Just a reminder, please come at 10 am to set up, make the coffee and set out your "treats". Remember to bring the cream and milk.

Again, thank you for your faithful service!

Lena, Sirkka and Colleen

## Next Month:

If you have any articles, upcoming church events, pictures, jokes, poems, inspirational messages, Peace History, special events or a personal celebration that you would like included in our PLC newsletter for the month of **June 2026**, please submit them to Rosie (rosielanch@hotmail.com) by Tuesday, **May 26th**.

Springtime blessings, Rosie

