



PASTOR DENNIS BECKER

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

August 2026

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(Pickering, ON)

Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges

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Food For Thought

A Life of Faith: Reflecting on Pastor Henry's Final Witness

I recently attended the deeply moving funeral service of Pastor Henry Fischer at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Kitchener.

Pastor Henry had designed his own funeral service, and as I listened to the readings and hymns, I found myself wondering about the meaning behind each choice. Knowing Pastor Henry's deep faith, his love of Scripture, and his thoughtful approach to ministry, I felt that these selections were not simply familiar funeral readings and hymns. Each one seemed to carry a message—a reflection of the faith that had guided his long life—and I wanted to spend some time exploring what that message might have been.

The first reading was the story of Samuel's call from God in 1 Samuel 3:1–10. Samuel hears God calling him, but at first does not recognize the voice. When he finally understands, he responds:

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

For a pastor, this is a profound passage. A life of ministry begins with listening: listening for God's call, listening to Scripture, and listening to the people God places along the way. Pastor Henry's life reflected this calling. Throughout his ministry, he listened, served, and responded—whether through pastoral care, counselling, building congregations, or his work connecting faith and health ministries.

The reading from Psalm 37: 3-9, 22-31 continued this theme of faithful living:

“Trust in the Lord and do good.”

These words seem to capture the spirit of a lifetime of Christian service. Psalm 37 is not a promise that life will always be easy or that every path will be clear. Rather, it is an invitation to trust God through all circumstances.

Another verse says:

“The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him.”

For someone who spent decades walking alongside others in faith, this image is especially meaningful. Pastor Henry's physical steps may have become more difficult in his later years, but his faith remained steady. The psalm reminds us that even when our own steps falter, God continues to hold us.



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 uncondi-
tionally to all.

Inside this issue:

Food For Thought (cont)

In Memory Of Henry Fischer & Upcoming Events

Pastor “Uncle” Henry by Arnold

Bag Meal Mondays & Care Collaboration at it's Best

Company of Saints by Liz

Care Team at VIVA

Worship Services

PLC Sunday Sunday & Watermelon announcement

PLC Volunteers

God's Creation

Jokes & Inspirational

Thank You

Coffee Hour & Next Month

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)

The reading from Galatians 2:15–21 brought the focus to the heart of Lutheran theology:

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

After a lifetime of ministry and service, Pastor Henry's final message was not about personal accomplishments. It was about grace. It was a reminder that our hope does not rest in what we achieve, but in what God has done for us through Christ.

The Gospel reading from John 15:5–7 brought all of these themes together:

“I am the vine; you are the branches.”

Jesus reminds us that our life comes from remaining connected to him. Like branches receiving life from the vine, we are sustained by Christ's love and grace. The fruit we bear comes from that connection.

The hymns Pastor Henry chose echoed the same message. “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” reflects the trust of Psalm 37. “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” reminds us that we come before God not because of our own worthiness, but because of Christ's mercy. “Beautiful Saviour” turns our eyes toward the One who is the source of our hope. And “I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me” brings a joyful celebration of the resurrection promise.

Taken together, these readings and hymns tell a beautiful story:

God calls us.

God guides us.

God gives us grace.

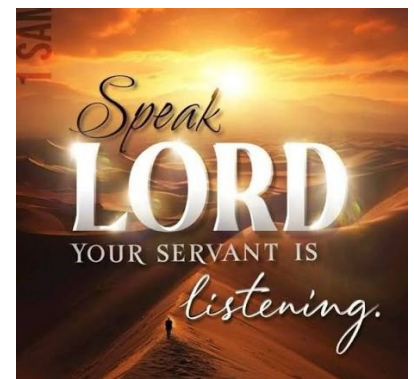
God remains with us.

Pastor Henry's funeral was not simply a farewell. It was a final sermon—a testimony that the God who called him, guided him, and sustained him throughout his life was faithful to the very end.

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

May we all continue to listen for God's voice, trust in God's guidance, and abide in Christ.

Submitted by Kirsten Boucher

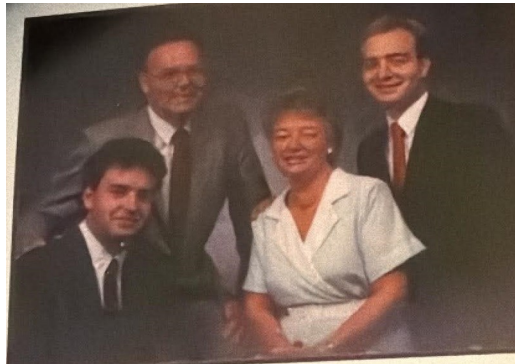
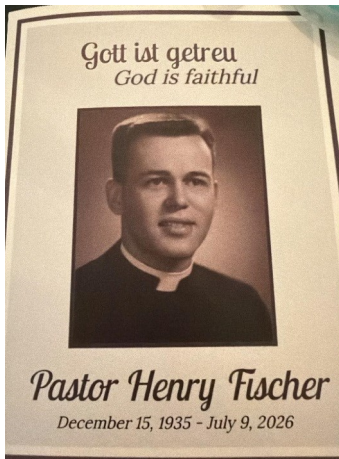
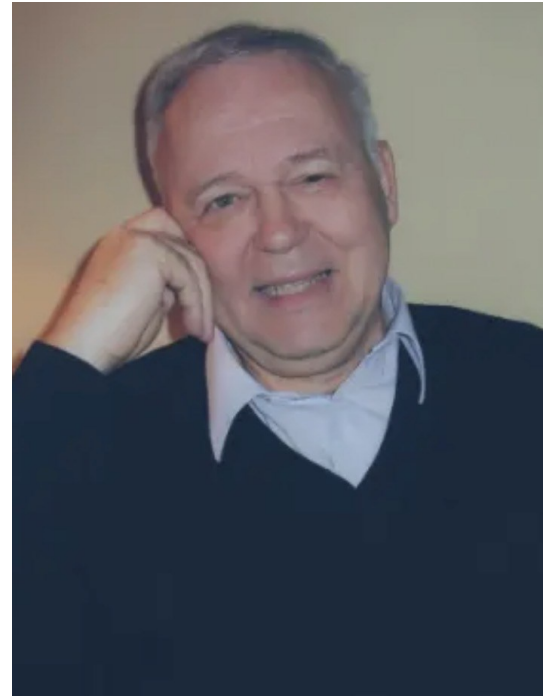


IN LOVING MEMORY HENRY ADAM FISCHER

"God called you Home"

December 15, 1935 - July 9, 2026

**Funeral Service held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
On Friday, July 24th**



PLC Directory 2006



50th PLC Directory 2012

Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Sun., Aug. 2, 2026, 10:30 am | - | Pastor Lowell (Communion)
Name Tag Sunday |
| Sun., Aug. 9, 2026, 10:30 am | - | Elizabeth Johns/Summer Sermon |
| Sun., Aug. 16, 2026, 10:30 am | - | Pastor Dennis (Communion) |
| Sun., Aug., 23, 2026, 10:30 am | - | Rosie?/Summer Sermon |
| Sun., Aug.30, 2026, 10:30 am | - | Pastor Lowell (Communion)
Watermelon/Coffee Hour |

Pastor Henry Fischer “Uncle Henry”

Pastor Henry Fischer was a dear friend to us, my wife Shakura and myself, and everyone present here I’m sure.

He was a trusted and trusting friend, who shared everything including family, and over the years indeed, we became like family, and this is why I nicknamed him Uncle Henry, out of love and respect, a love that he shared with everyone, the love that our Lord Jesus taught us to share.

I learnt a lot from him over the years and I will miss his wisdom and knowledge gained from experience in life, and his faith in the Lord, a faith that inspired me to serve the Lord in ways that I couldn’t imagine possible.

He was my mentor and most honest critic and I was happy to have the chance to share my last two sermons with him on our last visit at the nursing home.

I promised to return and share communion with him, and he said to me: No you won’t.

And I insisted that I would keep my promise, but he just smiled at me.

The Lord called him home the following week. Now I understand, that he knew that he was going home very soon and I would not be able to visit with him again.

I am happy to know that he is with the Lord now where he can enjoy the Peace that passes all understanding.

Jesus said as is recorded in John 14:2-3;

“My Father’s house has many rooms, if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

After several attempts at retirement Henry became the author of many books, of which I really enjoyed reading the first series relating the travels of his ancestors down the Danube, escaping religious persecution.

A part of that story that I like to share, is about a little prayer book that some of the people were able to save from being confiscated and destroyed, as happened to bibles and other religious books.

There’s an exert from this book that I would like to share with you that was read at funerals and I feel that it’s only fitting that I include it here as a tribute to the life of our beloved friend Henry.

I don’t know if I’m saying this right as my German is not very good, actually I don’t know any German, but I think it’s called Starks Gebetbuch, the little prayer book, and this is what it says:

‘You are the Life, and therefore I shall not die, although my life must come to an end, because I live in you and you live in me.

You are the way.

Oh lead me through the valley of the shadow of death into eternal life.

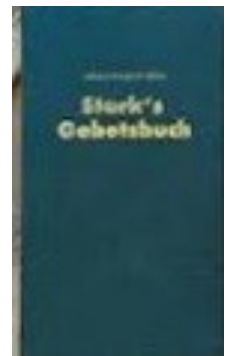
You are the Truth, you have fulfilled in me all the promises of Your Grace.

You have promised that where You are, there Your servant will be as well and when You are lifted up from the earth, You will also draw us up after You.

Now take me to where You are.



Pastor Henry’s 90th



Pastor Henry Fischer (cont.)

Death cannot harm me, because Jesus Christ has overcome death and my death is but a gentle sleep, just a passing to the Father.

For the resurrection of Jesus is my own resurrection.'

Henry, beloved friend, we give thanks for the time we were privileged to have you in our lives.

Return now to the Father, and may the Eternal Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen

In loving memory,

Arnold Persaud

"Bag Meal Monday's"



Thank you to all volunteers who are contributing their time and service to feed those in need!

Care Collaboration at It's Best

The Peace Care Team extends sincere thanks to Rainer for helping our blind care recipient, Andrea, move boxes to her new home, and to Jeremy for providing his truck to transport the final load.

Andrea's journey has been a wonderful example of collaborative care. DARS advocates provided home visits, Uber transportation, and timely connections to government services—just enough support to enable Andrea to maintain her independence and dignity while securing her new home. Throughout the process, the Peace Care Team was only a phone call away, ready to assist whenever needed.

A special thank you as well to Anna, a volunteer with the Peace Outreach Luncheon, for faithfully providing Andrea with eggs each month.

Submitted by: Elizabeth

Company of Saints

Since Henry Fischer's passing to our Lord, almost every conversation I have had with church friends, old and new, has related to Henry or his teachings in some way. Like Heddi Gregor, Herda Gerlach, Carol Vanker, Vil and Maria Lasinskas, and Dorothy and Ed Sills, Henry was one of my "saints" in the church.

He taught me to seek out saints in the pews, on the streets, among family and friends, and from the far reaches of my past. *Who has been a saint, or a formative teacher, in your life?* was one of the thought-provoking questions he would ask at workshops and Bible studies.

At his Celebration of Life reception last Friday, members and former members of Peace gathered in St. Matthew's Hall around one table—the miraculously expanding round table—which brought to mind the song, *Build a Longer Table, Not a Higher Wall*. Normally, and most appropriately, associated with social justice—with profound resonance for our outreach and community ministries at Peace—on Friday it struck me that we were also gathered around the glorious feast table stretching from the Last Supper to the present day, bridging heaven and earth and uniting the ever-growing company of saints.

The company of saints is multigenerational—a deeply rooted family whose faith continues to inspire ministry at Peace today.

At VIVA last Thursday, the Care Team visited the "Four Omas" (as I explained to my grandson Archer, who came with me). Some of those Oma's have been my saints for three decades. Two had been my Advent prayer sisters when the ELW paired women together each Advent to encourage one another throughout the year. One had been my grandmother role model, and years ago I had delighted in her grandchildren just as she was now delighting in mine.

Now, one of those grandchildren—still a member of Peace—along with his wife, is expecting **her** first great-grandchild, calling for yet another longer table.

Ellie Sievers, whom I remember as a beautiful and gifted child, cherished by these Omas when they were able to attend worship, was now visiting them, chatting with them, and soothing them with the music of her violin. Ellie's music awakened the hearts of other VIVA residents gathered in the common area. When she played *Edelweiss*, we all burst into song. Two Peace members accompanied an older and a younger saint on a beautiful summer walk outdoors, while others sat inside sharing conversation with residents.

In that moment, my three decades at Peace seemed to converge into a single heartbeat, keeping time with the eternal rhythm from the host of heaven here was the communion of saints—a fellowship of love spanning generations, rooted in the Word of God and bearing witness to the living Gospel. I caught a glimpse of heaven, of the long table, and remembered Henry, Ed and Dorothy Sills, Heddi, Herda, Vil and Maria Lasinskas, and Bishop Marsh from my childhood, and so many others.

I invite you to reflect upon the company of saints. Know that you are among them—in the pews, in the hearts of your church family, and in the lives of those who will one day remember **you** as one of the saints who shaped their faith.

Written by: Elizabeth Johns

(Pictures provided by Elizabeth and Lena)

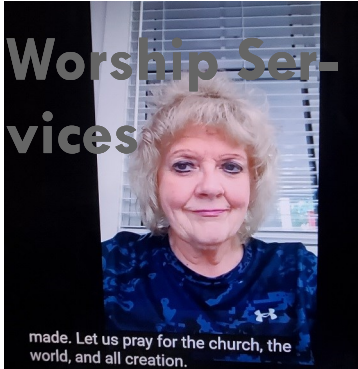
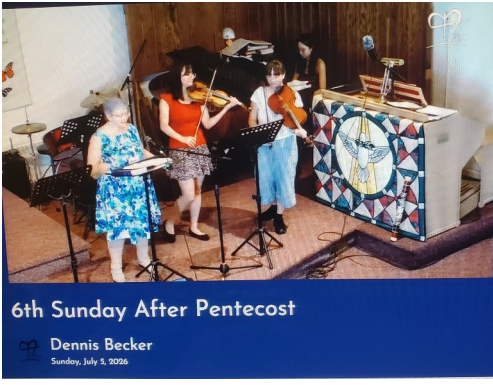




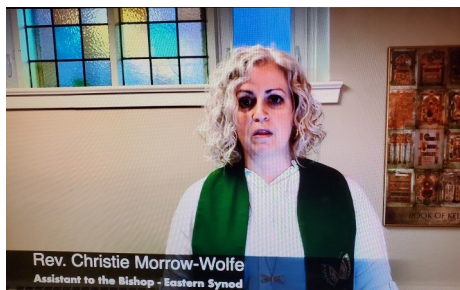
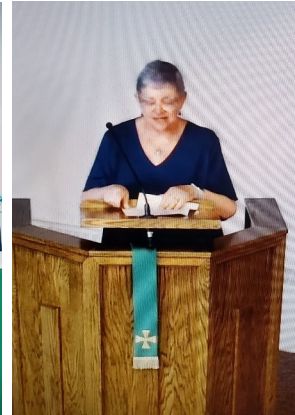
Care Team at VIVA—July 23 2026



Worship Services—June 2026



Worship Services— cont.



Thank you to all who volunteered and served as Worship Assistants, in the Tech Booth, our Music Team, our Greeters, A.M.'s, Coffee Hour & more



PLC Sunday Sundae Treat!



On Sunday, July 26th, we had our Sunday Sunday and approximately 25 enjoyed the refreshing treat. Thank you to everyone who helped with setting up and cleaning up. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER!!**

PLC Sunday Watermelon Treat!

Please join us on Sunday, August 30th for a refreshing Watermelon treat! We sincerely thank Congregational Life for all they do in making each event a HIT at our Coffee Hours! We are so grateful that all donations given at each event will support The Olive Branch For Children! Thanks and Blessings!



PLC Volunteers

WE ARE BLESSED! Peace has many members that “don’t have to be asked”! We collectively are “stepping up to the plate” to fix up our church home. We have shared common values and purpose and we have people willing to be involved. Thanks to all volunteers who take pride in the church’s upkeep and do things on their own or in consultation with others. Bless you, thank you!

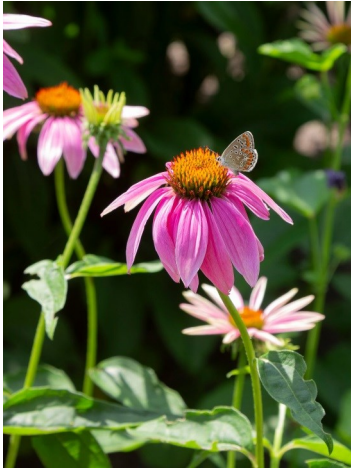


Thankyou all for beautifying our church home — from watering to weeding, from taking out the garbage and putting away chairs. From making music for others or watching little ones to free up time for God’s work! Replacing candles on the altar and last but not least — a HUGE thank you to the Property Team and others for the enormous clean up of the storage room after the major leak, for finding it and fixing it!!!





God's Creation



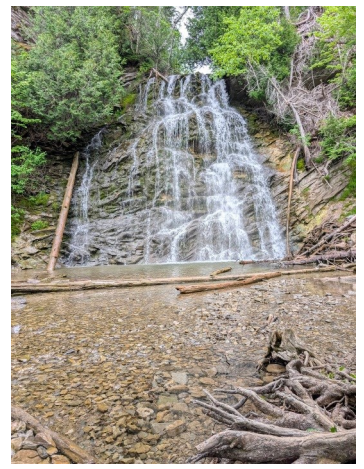
By: Pastor Dennis



By: Rosie L FB friend



By: Cameron Y



By: Cameron Y



By: Pastor Dennis



By Cameron Y



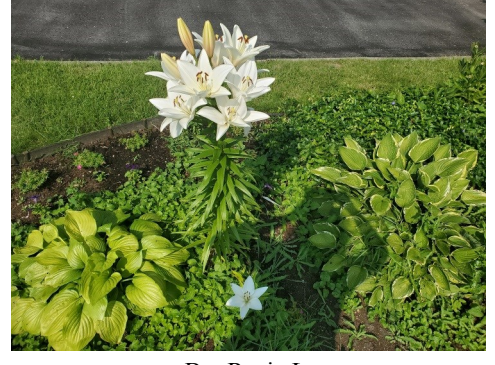
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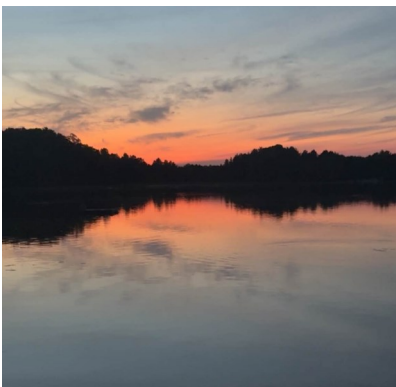
By Rosie FB friend



By: Fiona H.—Cheeta h in tree



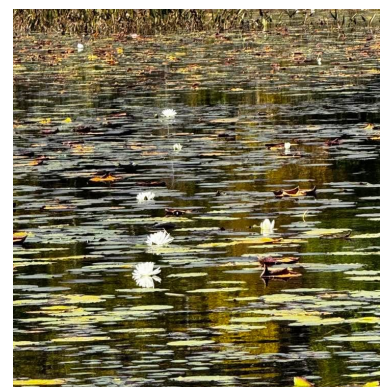
By: Rosie L



By: Rosie FB friend

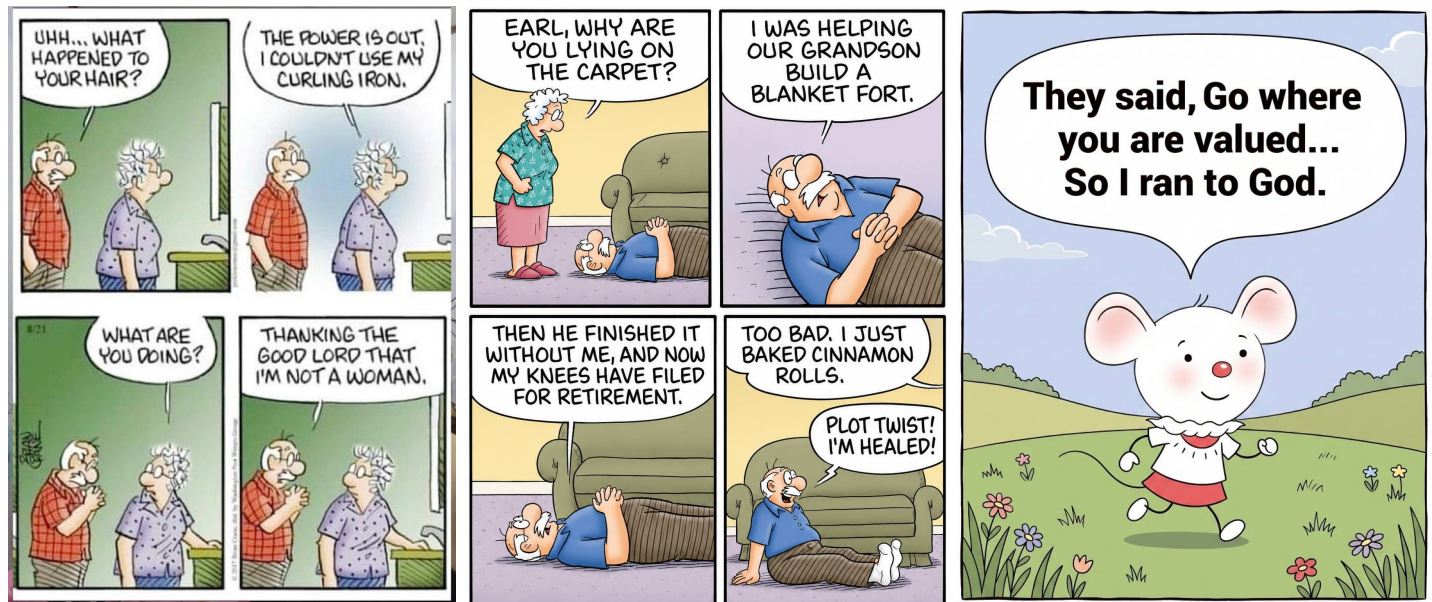


By: Rosie FB friend



By: Elizabeth J

COMEDY CORNER



Inspirational Quotes

I've carried a lot of things over my life.

Boxes of grief, I tried to hide.
Oceans that grew from the inside.
I've carried blame that wasn't mine.
And words I heard that were unkind.

I've carried mountains piled with dirt
that made me think I had no worth.
I've carried seasons full of pain.
And clouds that felt like heavy rain.

I've carried thoughts I shouldn't bear.
The weight of shame I couldn't share.
I've carried bottles full of tears that
stayed closed up for many years.

Until one day,
I told the Lord,
"I cannot do this anymore."
He answered me
like He would you -
"You never had to."

ullie-kaye

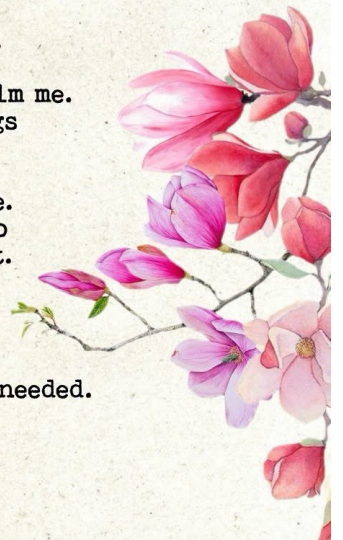


Dear God,
In the week ahead,
please give me:

COURAGE for the days
where I feel small.
WISDOM for the choices
I will have to make.
STRENGTH for the pain
that will try to crush me.
HOPE for the moments
that will seem impossible.
PEACE for the storms
that will come to overwhelm me.
KINDNESS for the mornings
where I am struggling.
PATIENCE for the lessons
that will come to teach me.
LOVE for all the souls who
are just trying their best.

Help me to hold on.
To walk with intention.
To give with a big heart.
And to shine wherever I'm needed.
Amen.

ullie-kaye



Thank You!!



Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, emails, messages, calls and continuous support that I have received from all of you over the years, but especially since my car accident. Thank you to all who have stepped up and volunteered doing many duties so that I could rest. A big thank you to Lena & Phil for being Worship Leaders — you did amazing! Thank you Fiona and Jens for all your help and support with Council matters.. Thank you Elizabeth, Arnold and Kirsten for providing the heartfelt and meaningful messages in this newsletter. Thank you to all Worship Assistants for switching duties to cover my duties, it made it easier on me.

Dealing with the reality of a concussion and whiplash has been an incredibly difficult and draining journey dealing with dizziness, headaches, brain fog and more. In the moments when I felt overwhelmed, your kind words, prayers and thoughtful gestures completely lifted my spirits. I am so incredibly grateful to all that you do and your care and support has been a vital part of my slow recovery. I think I'm better and then I relapse again. God is teaching me to rest, which is not easy for me. It was very meaningful to have a visit from the Care Team, Elizabeth and Lena. We prayed together and anointed each other. Thank you also to Ruth for the wonderful card and to the beautiful flowers from the Care Team. I hope to gradually come back to church but not to the full capacity. I have been watching the services online but it is not the same. I totally miss being there in person with all of you. Please continue to pray for me and my ongoing recovery.

Hugs and blessings to all, Rosie

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 **September, 2026**, please submit them to Rosie (rosielanch@hotmail.com) by **August 25th**.

Peace and blessings, Rosie

