

Peace Lutheran Church Statements of Mission, Values, Vision, Welcome, Anti-racism, and Land Acknowledgement

Mission Statement

Compelled by the love of God and our faith in Jesus Christ, Peace Lutheran Church, a diverse people of faith, in partnership with Peace Community Center, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

Core Values and Guiding Principles

We seek to realize God's dream for the world by living out these values:

1. (Serve with) **Courage**: We respond to God's call with boldness, creativity, and honesty, and engage the realities of life with perseverance and joy. (Joshua 1:9)
2. (Embrace) **Diversity**: We invite and welcome, honor and respect people of all ages, cultures, and walks of life, and encourage people to use their unique God-given gifts and abilities. (Romans 12:4-6)
3. (Cultivate) **Community**: We listen, build relationships, grow in faith, and experience God's grace, as we work together in our urban Hilltop neighborhood and larger community. (Colossians 3:12-17)
4. (Seek) **Justice**: We advocate for the dignity of all people by addressing basic needs, empowering through education, and working toward a socially just world. (Micah 6:8-9)

Vision Statement

We believe God's vision for Peace is to be a diverse community of faith in the Hilltop where all are welcome - a community that is Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled, and just.

Welcome Statement

All are welcome at Peace! We are a diverse community of welcome for people of all ethnic and cultural heritages, ages and generations, educational and financial backgrounds, gender identities and sexual orientations, spiritual and religious preferences, gifts and abilities! Centered in Jesus and his love, we believe that every human being is created in the image of God, whose Spirit gathers us into one community of faith in our Hilltop neighborhood. You are a blessing to Peace! We welcome your presence, your voice, your gifts, your service, your leadership, and our shared life together in community!

Foundational Commitment to Anti-racism

As followers of Jesus, we believe that God created all people in God's image (Genesis 1:27), Jesus breaks down all dividing walls (Ephesians 2:14), and the Holy Spirit connects and unites all people. The whole church looks forward to God's future when people will be gathered from all cultures and peoples in the reign of God (Revelation 7). This church names racism (individual and systemic) as sin. We affirm that the diversity of cultures is a God-given gift, and we seek to extend God's love to all our neighbors. We believe Jesus calls us to understand, address, and dismantle racism in individuals, communities, systems, and structures, joining God in bringing about justice for the oppressed and transformation of all society (Luke 4).

Land Acknowledgement

Peace Lutheran Church is located on the traditional homelands of a living people, the Puyallup people of the coast Salish nation. This is a statement of honoring as well as a confession of the deep injustices our country and the church have perpetuated against Native American people and a call to stand in solidarity and seek God's justice.