

# Peace Notes

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## December 2018



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### Past-or Present

Growing up did you have a sibling or other family member that seemed to get most or all of the attention, either from parents, family members, neighbors, or friends? If so, did you feel as if you were always living in their shadow? Did you feel that even though you had much to offer to those around you, they still didn't realize it?

The church season of Advent is like that overlooked child. Its well-known and much-loved sibling Christmas seems to get all the attention, with its sentiment, songs, sweets, shopping, and sales. Has anyone seen an "Advent Doorbuster?"

Yes, I will indeed be giving much attention to our upcoming Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, as every pastor does at this time of the year. However, over the years Advent has become

my favorite church year season for the very reason that it is often forgotten in the shadow of Christmas itself. Advent is the season of waiting and preparing—and waiting and preparing is something that we all (even pastors) need to be taught and reminded of.

Advent has been observed by Christians for centuries (dating back to at least the 400's AD.) as a period expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christmas itself. The season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day (December 2nd this year) and continues right up until Christmas Eve.

The word *Advent* is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming." During this season, we celebrate the "coming" of Jesus into our world and into our lives: He *came* to us in the past and was born in Bethlehem. He *comes* to us presently in His

Word and His Sacraments of Baptism and communion. He *will come again* on the Last Day “to judge the living and the dead.”

As we prepare for and celebrate Jesus’s coming, we will make our Advent journey at Peace using two themes during the season’s worship services. On **Sunday mornings** during Advent our theme will be “*Who Is Jesus?*” Since the dawn of time, about 60 billion people have walked on Planet Earth. Of those 60 billion people, only a handful have made any real, lasting impression. In that handful of people, one stands far above all of the others. His name is Jesus. In this series we will explore the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew to discover who Jesus is and why He really matters.

At our **Wednesday Advent services** we will come together to explore the ways in which God is with us through our coming Savior Jesus Christ. Each Wednesday we will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. We will celebrate how Christ continues to come and be present with us even now. The theme verse for the entire series is: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)” (Matthew 1:23).

We will have two options for our Wednesday Advent services (December 5, 12, and 19):

- Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. we will have a traditional service in the sanctuary, followed by a light soup lunch in Founders Hall.
- For our evening services, we will gather for supper in Founders Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. and then remain there for our 6:30 p.m. service, which will take a more informal, conversational format and conclude no later than 7:15. We highly encourage families to attend!

Peace and joy in Jesus—our coming Savior,

Pastor  
*Galatians 2:20*



## *Holiday Flowers*



Poinsettias for Christmas!

Our Altar Guild will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas, and flowers are an integral part of that. The sign-up sheet for poinsettias is now available on the information

desk and the cost for poinsettias will be \$16.

Please show your holiday spirit by signing up for these festive flowers. If you have any questions about ordering holiday flowers, please contact the church office. Let's make this a holiday season to remember!

## *Fellowship Corner*

Sunday, October 21, 2018, the Fellowship helpers hosted the Taco Sunday for Little Lambs Academy. The parents and children were treated to a wonderful taco bar, desserts, nachos, and beverages. Approximately 150 people were served a delicious meal with seconds being readily available. The helpers who provided all their expert service were Gretchen Barg, Bonnie Schopf, Stefanie Montano, Bridget Stackiewicz, Mary Lewandowski and Joan Weber. I would like to give these ladies a huge thank you. We were happy to give the teachers the opportunity to mingle with the parents and children and not be tied down to kitchen duties. It was a fun time had by all.

Advent season is upon us and Fellowship is organizing the Advent luncheons and dinners.

Advent services are on December 5, 12, and 19. Soup luncheon will immediately follow the 11:00 am service. Soup & sandwich dinners will be at 5:30pm with the evening service beginning at 6:30.

Hosting the evening dinners are:

December 5 – Ladies that Lunch and Women of the Word Bible Study

December 12 – Men's Monday Bible Study and Men's Breakfast at Kat's

December 19 – Ministry Council and Staff

We look forward to a beautiful Advent season and fellowshiping with one another as we dine and worship together.

Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

*Joan Weber*



## Men's Monday Morning Bible Study (& Breakfast)

Hey guys... The Men's Morning Bible Study meets Monday mornings at 6:00 a.m. in the Gathering Place. Breakfast is included with our study each week, and we typically end around 7:15.

A new study begins Monday, November 26 entitled ***Joseph: Carpenter of Steel***. This four-week study examines in rich and absorbing detail the fascinating life and times of Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus whom we encounter each year in the Christmas story. Video segments feature the Rev. Gregory Seltz—former speaker for *The Lutheran Hour*—as he sheds light on one of the New Testament's unsung heroes. Adding historical perspective to this study is LCMS scholar and best-selling author Dr. Paul L. Maier. Join us for this fascinating study—just in time for Advent & Christmas. Contact Pastor Michel if you have any questions.

## News from Our President

This month I would like to focus on the members of our Ministry Council (MC) and their responsibilities.

First, below is a list of the current members of the MC. Each member can serve a maximum of two terms of two years each.

- Jim Dumke – Chairman
- Tom Hetrick – Vice Chairman
- Sue Slottke – Treasurer
- Laura Jean Dolezar – Recording Secretary
- Griff Grundersen – Member at Large
- Sherry Grundersen - Member at Large
- Courtney Korselt - Member at Large
- Gary Barg - Member at Large
- Greg Matz - Member at Large
- Pastor Michel – Non-voting member

Several years ago, PLC chose to move to a Policy Governance Model. In this model the MC functions much like a Board of Directors would for a business. All staff, committees, and volunteers report to the Senior Pastor (who functions like a CEO) and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the church. The Senior Pastor reports to the MC, and the MC is responsible to the congregation (think shareholders in a business.)

The MC must understand the goals and vision of the congregation and then craft those values into the policies of the church. The Pastor and staff are then empowered to operate within the policy limits set by the MC to perform the day-to-day operations of the church to achieve the goals of the congregation. Note the following diagram which illustrates how this process works.

The congregation's participation is very important in this model. It is critical that the MC understand the wishes and needs of the congregation—what is going well, what needs to be evaluated or addressed, etc. I ask that you actively seek out MC members and engage them conversationally to express what you enjoy most about Peace Lutheran and any items that may be of concern to you. This

information will be helpful to the MC as we meet to set goals and create/amend policies.

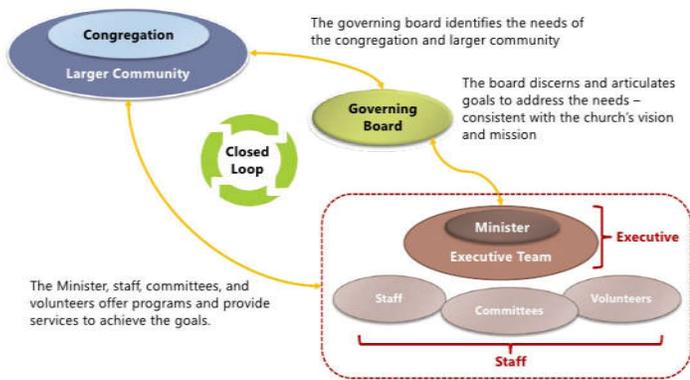
This is a proven model that works well but requires full participation by everyone to be most successful.

In Christ,

*Jim Dumke*



### An Integrated Governance System



## A Report from the Field

By Mike Paddock, PE, PS

As I was in Ghana, I took note of a billboard. It read “He that is almost saved, is totally lost”.

I was struck as it made me reflect on the bridge project that we recently completed. The story was the same one I had heard so many times before – a bridge was needed for the community to cross the river and access health care facilities, education and markets. Ingrid, the community leader, braved the river crossing each week to obtain the medicine needed by those who would not cross the river for fear of being swept away. Each day, parents had to make the decision if they would send their children to school at the risk that an afternoon thunderstorm might leave them stranded on the other side of the river for the night away from their homes.

This project also had a bit of a twist, as the bridge had a major community on one end and small taxis were available to shuttle people, especially the most vulnerable to their destination – if they had a bridge. The elderly and pregnant women were especially

looking forward to crossing the bridge in a taxi instead of trying to brave the river crossing or suffering at home.

As the project was completed and the first taxi approached, everyone kept asking me if I was sure that the bridge was strong enough for the taxi's weight. The taxi driver even refused to drive across the bridge, saying that he trusted me – but...

After some negotiations, the taxi owner allowed me to drive the first taxi across the bridge by myself. Of course, after the first successful crossing, others quickly followed. As one grandmother rode across in her taxi, she asked it to stop in the middle of the bridge and remarked how the river now looked different. It no longer was an ugly, dangerous barrier for her. It was now a beautiful gift from God that she could enjoy safely from the bridge.

The full benefits of the bridge could not be realized until the community truly believed that it would support them and the taxi. They trusted me, but still had some doubt that held them back from realizing the full benefits of the project. It was not until someone showed them the way and drove the taxi across that they enjoyed the full benefits.

I then realized that was our job as Christians. We need to help those who are “almost saved” or have some doubt in their belief. We do this in many ways – sometimes we encourage each other in our time of doubt; sometimes we pray together; and sometimes we may need to lead the way by example and encourage others to follow us as we walk our path as Christians.

*Mike Paddock*



## Missional Living

## Guatemala Trip a Great Success

Peace Lutheran sent a team of five people to Guatemala November 3-10 and it was a great success. The team members were Andrew Cordy, Joanne Webb, Jill Hubert, Suzanne Nievinski and Marilyn Thompson. We taught in 4 different locations in Guatemala; El Rincon, Buena Vista, Gonzales Park and at the mission house in Guatemala City. We also made home visits that were very special, as we got to know many Guatemalans a little better and received a unique perspective into their lives.

Our team hopes to make a presentation to the congregation in January. The date and time are not yet set, but we will announce it as soon as possible and hopefully many people can come. We can't wait to share many photos and stories with you of our wonderful experience!

We would also like to thank the many people who contributed lots of prayers, much donated supplies and many dollars, that made this trip such a success. We brought about 400 pounds of donated hygiene and school supplies, vitamins and medicines which will help many people in Guatemala. And we raised nearly \$1200 that will help keep children in school by providing uniforms, shoes, and school supplies that their families could not afford.

God bless you all! Thanks!!

*Marilyn Thompson*

## Women Connected in Prayer

**Think Big! Ask Boldly!**

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*  
(Ephesians 3:20-21)

Consider Elizabeth, who was barren and too old to conceive a child. Yet her husband Zechariah prayed **boldly**, and an angel visited him, saying

*“Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of this birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.”*  
(Luke 1:13-15) Their child was John the Baptist, and God used him in a **big** way.

Also consider Mary. Although a virgin, Mary was given the great privilege of being the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Luke 1:38, we read how she responded to this news from the angel Gabriel and how she showed her faith in God: *“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered, “May your word to me be fulfilled.”* When Mary visited Elizabeth, both women praised the Lord for His mercy in fulfilling His promise to send a Savior to his people. Mary’s response is called *The Magnificat*. You can read her **bold** words of prayer in Luke 1:46-55.

God does a lot of pretty **big** and **bold** things for us, too. He sent His Son to earth as baby Jesus, the Christ, who would redeem us from our sins through His death and resurrection. The next time you think your prayers are small or not worth the time or if you can't find the right words, think again. The apostle Paul reminds us that God *“is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us”* (Eph. 3:20) That *“power at work within us”* is the Holy Spirit. God himself will guide our thoughts and words and actions if we let him. **Think big! Ask boldly!**

If the Holy Spirit moves you to ask for a prayer partner, please consider **Women Connected in Prayer**. To be matched with a prayer partner, fill out an information card & envelope, located on the bulletin board.



Place it in the WCiP mailbox, and you will soon be contacted with the name of your prayer partner and to answer any questions you may have.

*Sue Getzel*



Angel Tree Christmas is one of the national programs of Prison Fellowship. Each year prison chaplains work with prisoners to help them provide Christmas gifts for their children. They pass on these applications to area churches like ours and we contact the families and confirm the gift requests. This is the 18th year that Peace Lutheran is taking part in Angel Tree Christmas!

The program is designed to help keep a bond between the parent in prison and the children who are missing them, and it is also a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the families. This year we received applications for 40 children representing 17 families. These families live in the surrounding communities of Waukesha, Franklin, Southwest Milwaukee, Muskego and Greendale.

Angel tags are created and hung on the tree after each Church service until they are all gone. Each child in the program receives one gift. It can be a clothing gift or a fun gift such as a toy. Each gift should be valued between \$15 and \$25 dollars. If you would like to purchase a gift, you should select an angel tag and buy a gift close to the request on the tag. If you are buying a clothing gift, please include a gift receipt in case it needs to be exchanged. The gift is then wrapped and returned to Peace with the angel tag attached. Gifts need to be returned by Friday, December 7.

The Gifts are then delivered to the families before Christmas. The children who receive the gifts are so happy to know that they were not forgotten by their parent who is in prison. Both the prisoner and the

custodial parent are always very grateful. As one prisoner wrote, "Thank you so much for the Christmas Angel Tree gifts for my children, it's very gracious and appreciated! May the Lord bless you as you have blessed us."

## *Delivery Angels Needed*

Please sign up by the Angel Tree if you would be interested in delivering Angel Tree gifts to a family in the area. It is wonderful to deliver gifts as a family, or if you are a confirmation mentor, consider taking your student along. It really is a very meaningful yet easy task to do at Christmas time.

If you sign up to deliver gifts, you will be given the gifts and contact information for a family on Sunday December 9. Then you will be able to arrange a time that works for both you and the family to deliver the gifts before Christmas. This year we have been assigned families in Greendale, Franklin, Muskego, Southwest Milwaukee, and Waukesha. Thanks for considering this wonderful way to help a local family at Christmas, and to help the children know they are not forgotten.

*Marilyn Thompson*

## *January Blood Drive*

We are trying something new in 2019! Instead of our usual Monday blood drive date we'll be giving Saturday a try. Please mark your calendar for Saturday January 26 from 8 am to noon for our next blood drive at Peace Lutheran. Remember you can save a life by donating blood! Thanks!



## Lutheran Women in Mission



Your Mites at Work: Sharing Jesus  
with People with Disabilities

*I praise you because I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made; your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.  
(Psalm 139:14)*

If you had the opportunity to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ with over 1,900 people with disabilities at 300 program sites in 13 states—would you do it?

Well, that's a no-brainer, isn't it? Delegates at the June 2017 LWML Convention thought so, too. And they joyfully approved a Grant Proposal applied for by Bethesda Lutheran Communities, a nationally recognized organization that provides homes, support, and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. Bethesda has had a mission to provide services like this for over 110 years! One of their goals is to break down barriers for people with intellectual disabilities so that they can become part of their church body and are welcomed in the Word and Sacrament.

Travel is an essential part of Bethesda's faith-based support services. The LWML Grant will provide \$100,000 for transportation costs associated with the travel expenses of the Bethesda ministry consultants who visit the individuals they support, as well as assist with visits to congregations and other faith partners. By remembering to drop a few coins into your mite box each week, you CAN have the opportunity to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ with over 1,900 people with disabilities at 300 program sites in 13 states. *Praise the Lord*—we are all fearfully and wonderfully made!

If you would like to see photos of this mission at work and read more, please visit  
<http://www.lwml.org/posts/featured-mission-grant-resources/november-2018>.

## Lutheran Women's Quarterly Magazine

Hot off the Press!

Four times a year, several copies of *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* magazine are received at Peace.

Each issue contains featured articles based on Scripture and Prayer, updates on Mission Grant activity, info on LWML Resources, and usually two Bible Studies (one translated into Spanish!) which can be done individually or as a group. Issues can be found on the bookcase to the left of the mailboxes, near the large cardboard mite box. *Please take one!*



The current issue of *Lutheran Women's Quarterly*, as well as back-issues, can also be accessed online at: <http://www.lwml.org/lwq-fall-2018>.

Sue Getzel

## Food Pack Returns

Save the dates for Friday and Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2019, for our next Have A Heart for Hungry Children Food Pack at Peace! This has been a popular event since 2012 when we held our first of 6 food packs. It is also a wonderful opportunity to invite your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to Peace to help with the pack. Nearly everyone loves to pack food to help hungry children! So, start thinking about who you will invite to this next food pack, and start saving those pennies too. At only 17 cents a meal, the cost is such a bargain.

Last year we packed 90,288 meals that ended up going to help feed children in El Salvador and Somalia. Our total for 6 food packs is 577,728 meals which has gone to feed children in Haiti, Liberia, El Salvador and Somalia. Our goal is 100,000 meals this year!! Please help us make that a reality!!! Thanks!

*Marilyn Thompson*



## December Birthdays



## Christmas Worship Schedule

### Wednesday Advent Worship

December 5, 12 & 19

Worship service at 11:00 am

Soup Lunch at Noon

Soup & Sandwich Supper at 5:30 pm

Worship Service at 6:30 pm

### Children's Christmas Program

December 16 at 10:45 am

### Christmas Eve Live Nativity

December 24, 3:00 pm

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 6:30 pm

### Christmas Day Festival Service

December 25, 9:30 am

### New Year's Eve Worship

December 31, 9:30 am

Norm Thays	December 1
Roy Isaksen	December 2
Dan Kritter	December 3
Austin Cushman Dolan Plautz	December 4
Jon Allerheiligen Donna Eurick Steve Hart Janet Loppnow Joan Simeone	December 5
Gail Brunn	December 7
Doug Lewandowski	December 8
Mary Beth Borda	December 12
Leah Kritter	December 13
Stephanie Montano	December 15
Pam Besch	December 16
Samantha Peterson	December 17
Tom Welden	December 18
Lisa Groth Ben Kenyon Lisa Mansfield	December 20
Mike Treptow	December 23
Liz Gersonde Nick Wright	December 24
Christopher Plautz	December 26
Trinity Barry	December 27
Jessica Doerflinger	December 28
Jerry Anderson	December 29
Peter Sapienza	December 30
Mark Crom James Dinneen	December 31



## Coffee Sip

Those serving coffee sip for the month of December are listed below. Thank you all for your assistance in this fellowship function.

### December 2, 2018

<b>Hutter, Rob &amp; Amy</b>	<b>262-993-5217</b>
Isaksen, Roy	262-679-7671
Jaeger, Sharon	414-526-2306
Jakubowski, Phillip & Kim	262-679-2352
Javens, Cindy & Jeff	262-679-3686
Kaschak, Matt	414-234-0719
Kleinhans, Eric & Patty	920-246-8203
Klepatz, Paul & Lani	414-425-6858
Klose, Jerry & Robin	262-679-0430
Korselt, Anthony & Courtney	262-436-0053
Kritter, Dan & Lynn	262-679-2631
Kust, Jeep & Vickie	262-782-0060

### December 9, 2018

Langbauer, Steve & Jennifer	262-662-1665
<b>Lewandowski, Doug &amp; Mary</b>	<b>262-679-8110</b>
Loppnow, Janet	262-544-1539
Loppnow, Tom & Dori	262-392-4142
Luling, Mark & Darcy	262-896-7779
Malinauskas, Joe & LaRae	414-704-2532
Mansfield, Jason	262-853-7612
Mansfield, Lisa	414-759-7797
Maris, Charles Sr & Linda	262-821-1957
Matz, Greg & Kris	262-524-5542
Matz, Paige	262-662-2240
McArthur, Brian & Laurie	262-662-0497

### December 16, 2018

Merk, Jim & Linda	262-364-9550
Mike, Wayne & Diane	414-313-0914
Miller, Mike & Heather	414-328-0738
Montano, Linda	414-339-8001
<b>Montano, Shirley</b>	<b>262-679-1072</b>
Montano, Stephanie	262-893-3439
Morrell, John & Julie	414-628-1047
Neidert, Ken & Barbara	262-794-3102
Nelson, Bob & Nikki	414-476-8190
Nelson, Deb	262-789-9049
Nelson, Delaine	262-853-0752
Nievinski, Todd & Pamela	414-750-2980

### December 23, 2018

Nowak, Roman & Diane	414-418-4749
Paque, Scott & Jill	262-710-4325
Paulus, Matthew & Lori	414-587-1047
Peterson, James & Carrie	262-825-6688
<b>Pitcel, Jon &amp; Sara</b>	<b>262-682-4336</b>
Plagge, Phil & Jodi	414-940-5634
Plautz, Christopher	414-467-7964
Puetz, Daun	414-425-4597
Rewolinski, Tim & Kim	414-331-2463
Roberson, Tom & Kim	414-815-6680
Roller, Bruce & Chris	262-547-3120
Rosandich, Brad & Janet	262-794-3133

### December 30, 2018

<b>Sapienza, Peter &amp; Laurie</b>	<b>262-662-5203</b>
Scalzo, Dave & Cathy	414-427-7756
Schmidt, Bruce & Vickie	262-547-1758
Schneider, Matt & Arlene	262-662-4747
Schneider, Matthew & Chelsea	262-744-4155
Schopf, Bonnie	262-679-3235
Schopf, David & Lori	414-385-9003
Schopf, Richard	262-679-3235
Schulz, Clair	414-427-3946
Sholty, Amy	414-526-6165
Shuler, Greg & Sara	262-679-2073
Simeone, Bob & Joan	414-858-9570

The highlighted names will be the leader for the respective Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact Lynette Gerke 414-529-0207 or [mdglag@yahoo.com](mailto:mdglag@yahoo.com). Thank you,

*Lynette Gerke*

## Holiday Reading

The library is too quiet! We have a ton of new books in the Peace library-lots of great fiction, excellent authors, every topic you could imagine-family, teens, wellness, devotions, Bible history, maps and atlas...Not to mention DVD's-great movies, documentaries and a bunch of new Veggie Tales! Come on in and check some things out!

*Lynette Gerke*