

Peace Notes

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Christmas Worship Schedule

Join us for Advent Dinner & Worship...
Wednesdays...

December 3: *Pizza & Garlic Bread*

December 10: *Soup & Sandwiches*

December 17: *Pot Pies & Salad*

5:30p.m. Dinner / 6:30p.m. Worship

Kidz Jam Christmas Program

December 14 at 9:00am

LLA Christmas Program

December 18 at 10:30am

December 19 at 10:00am

Everyone is Welcome.

Christmas Eve

Live Nativity 3:00pm

Candlelight 6:30pm

Christmas Day

Festival 9:00am

From Pastor's Pen

The book of Hebrews addresses Christians in Rome undergoing persecution sometime close to 64 AD when Christians began dying for their faith under Nero. The book is a clarion call to not return to Judaism, which was a legal religion while Christianity had become an illegal religion.

The author urges people to remain faithful to their Christian confession (Heb 3:1; 4:14; 10:23), warns against drifting away and neglecting salvation (Heb 2:1, 3), points out the danger of losing confidence in God's promises (Heb 3:6) and falling away from the faith (Heb 3:12). People were tempted to become rebellious and unbelieving like Israel (Heb 3:16–19) for they had not progressed into Christian adulthood (Heb 5:11–6:2). They had experienced God's saving gifts in Christ but may end up rejecting him (Heb 6:4–6; 10:29; 12:25). Sluggishness (Heb 6:12) could lead to something far worse—apostasy (Heb 10:26). Thus, repeatedly the author reminds people that in Christ, they have something better.

I'm therefore calling our Advent and Christmas emphasis *Something Better*. Hebrews repeatedly explains the gifts God gives Israel through Moses and then promises that we have something much better! My preaching plans are as follows:

Advent 1 “**A Better Word**” (Hebrews 1:1–2)
Advent 2 “**A Better Glory**” (Hebrews 1:3a)
Advent 3 “**A Better Absolution**” (Hebrews 1:3b)
Christmas Eve “**A Better Name**” (Hebrews 1:4–14)

A supplement that we are purchasing for Peace members is an Advent Devotional written by one of our members, Kyle Jones. We will only have 75 copies available, due to cost, so only one per family please. It will really prepare your heart in Advent for the Christmas celebration of Christ's birth!

Pastor Kruse



Poinsettia Orders

Time to order your poinsettias for the Christmas season here at Peace. Please see the sign-up sheet on the information desk or contact the church office.

Plants are \$19.50 and need to be ordered by Sunday, December 14.

Also, the flower chart for 2026 is now up on the bulletin board. The arrangement cost remains at \$50. Please consider signing up to purchase flowers to brighten the altar and to take home to enjoy.

Mona Vasholz

Ministry Council Notes

What a blessing-filled season for Peace! We recently welcomed 28 new members on November 16, and worship attendance totaled 185 people that day. It is truly uplifting to see our sanctuary full and to feel the energy and joy growing in our church family. With this growth comes an exciting opportunity to think about how God is leading us forward—both in our ministry and in caring for our building.

The Ministry Council and Pastor Kruse deeply value your voice. We can only move confidently into the future when we do it *together*. Your ideas, your participation, and your willingness to serve are essential as we shape our mission and discover how Peace can continue sharing the love of Christ in meaningful ways. Questions about outreach, discipleship, and using the gifts the Holy Spirit has given each of us are best answered as a community—and we're grateful to walk this journey with you.

To support this work, we invite you to a **special Voters' Meeting on Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m.** During this meeting, we'll introduce a Christian ministry that partners with LCMS congregations to help uncover strengths, clarify vision, and create a clear, hope-filled path for the future. We warmly encourage you to join us—come learn, ask questions, and imagine with us what God may be preparing for Peace.

As you prayerfully consider this partnership, please know how important *you* are to the life and future of our congregation. We will take a formal vote at our winter voters' meeting in mid-January.

We look forward to growing, serving, and celebrating God's work—side by side with you.

Blessings to all!

Carol Fontanez

Little Lambs Academy News

Our Preschool and Child Care Classes will be learning about Christmas, Advent and the story of Jesus' birth during the month of December.

The 3K students will get to make their own Advent candle to take home along with a calendar to anticipate the days until Christmas! We also read many stories about Christmas during December, both Jesus-filled and fun holiday traditions. We'll make ornaments for them to take home each week and a special baby Jesus gift for their families.

We spend much of the month preparing for our 3K Christmas program, an adorable retelling of the Nativity story based upon the Gospel of Luke. Each child has a part in the play complete with costumes and props. We invite you to join us in the church on Thursday, December 18 at 10:30 for the short program!

The 4K classes make a milk jug stable and each day add a character while they read *The Nativity*. They will make some fun Christmas crafts and learn the real meaning of the candy cane. Their alphabet study continues with letters Hh, Ii, and Jj. They'll get to wear a favorite hat during Hh week, do ice painting during Ii week and celebrate Jesus' birthday for letter Jj. They continue to work on math skills with addition, subtraction and number ordering practice.

The 4K Christmas program is called "The ABC's of Christmas" and they tell the story of Jesus' birth through all the letters of the alphabet. You are welcome to join us on Friday, December 19 at 10:00 in the church.

We hope you have a Blessed and Safe Christmas and a Happy New Year too! Thank you for your support of our Preschool and families.

Stacy Abraham, 3K and 4K Lead Teacher

Changes to the Peace Library!

Did you know Peace Lutheran has its own library? Yes, we do! The library committee has been busy this last month putting the library back in shape. We have removed some older books and duplicates to make more room.

We will have a Book, DVD and Puzzle Fair on December 7 at Coffee Sip where you may acquire the removed items, for free, or a nominal donation to the Library Fund.

And, just in time, there are a number of **Christmas books** and **Christmas puzzles** ready for your enjoyment. A few examples:

For Adults:

- The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel. *A journalist investigates the identity of the Child in the manger.*
- Christmas is... *A treasury of meditations, stories and quotes.*

For Children:

- N is for Nativity *Christmas from A-Z.*
- Oh, Come Little Children
- The Names of Jesus
- The First Christmas *A Lift-the-flap book.*

The Peace Library is actually in two locations. The Children's Library, including CD's and DVD's, are located in the cabinet just outside Founder's Hall near the back entrance. There is a pencil cup inside the cabinet. Sign the card and leave it in the pencil cup. Please return items in 3 weeks.

The Adult and Teen Library is in the Gathering Room next to the Church Office and front door. There are various categories from Fiction, Young Adult & Teens, Christian Inspiration, Finance, Grief, Marriage, Religious and more. We even have puzzles! There is a pencil cup under the library sign to check out books and leave the cards. After 3 weeks, please return books to the Return Basket located on the book shelf near check out area.

Many thanks to Sam Graubner, Sue Eggold, Linda Dukow, Maye Penas, Shirley Montano, Wendy Tyler, and Mike & Heather Miller, with special help from Pastor Kruse and Jennifer Langbauer.

Thanks also to our outgoing librarian, Clair Schulz, who maintained the library for many years.

Heather Miller, Librarian



Angel Tree Christmas

Can you believe that this is our 25th year helping incarcerated moms and dads get Christmas gifts to their children through Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Program? For newer members who may not be aware, Angel Tree Christmas is a program run through Prison Fellowship, which is a national organization. Chaplains in the prison system obtain gift requests from parents who are incarcerated. Area churches, like Peace, purchase gifts and deliver them to the children's home on behalf of the parents in prison. This helps each child to know that they are not forgotten and fosters that parent child bond while they are separated.

This year we were assigned 30 local children (14 families) that we will be serving in person and we will also have access to an online portal where we can provide gifts to children in rural places that are not being served by an area church. Those children will have a gift card mailed to them along with Gospel material and a card they can send in to get a free Bible mailed to their house. There will be envelopes on the tree if you would like to donate \$30 to purchase one of these online gifts. The children that we serve in person will receive an age-appropriate Bible, Devotional or Bible story book that is a gift from our church. They will also receive one gift valued around \$30 that their

caregivers recommended. That gift is presented as coming from the parent in prison even though it is purchased and wrapped by one of the many Peace Volunteers.

If you would like to purchase a gift, please see Marilyn at the Angel Tree! Angel tags will be on the tree after each service until they are gone. Gifts need to be wrapped and returned to church by Friday December 12.

Thanks, and God Bless!

Delivery Angels Needed

We will be delivering Angel Tree Christmas gifts to as many as 14 families this year. It would be great if we can get 14 volunteers so that everyone only delivers to one family. Delivery Angels would get their assigned family's bag on Sunday December 14th. The contact information is included so you can call the family directly and set up an appointment to deliver the gifts that works for both you and the family. We hope to have all the gifts delivered before Christmas. Our Angel Tree families this year live in Muskego, Franklin, Hales Corners and Greenfield.

This is a great opportunity for you to serve your neighbor. It can be done as a family service project or it is also fun if two friends want to get together to deliver to an Angel Tree family. If you would like to be a Delivery Angel, please sign up at the Angel Tree or let Marilyn Thompson know.

Thanks so very much!

Marilyn Thompson



Ysleta Mission Trip Recap

The Ysleta Lutheran Mission team had a wonderful time down on the border serving a young family in need. It was a pleasure to get to know Josue & Raquel and their two children, Miranda and Randy. Josue worked with our team every day and Raquel would stop by after she was done with work. She is a teacher at the school which is practically next door to their new home. The kids were fun and loved to greet us with a hug. They even sang for some of us when we were on a water break!

With the team of 12 (Sara & Greg Shuler, Mark & Darcy Luling, Tom Roberson, Gary & Gretchen Barg, Carole Hetrick, Pastor Kruse, Art & Marilyn Thompson and Eric Thompson) the house went up fast and we were even able to put two coats of mud on the drywall seams and sand them too. This year we were able to provide the family with two ceiling fans courtesy of a Thrivent grant.

In the end it became a beautiful little beige house with champagne colored trim and a home that Josue and Raquel felt happy and blessed to call theirs. They both had tears in their eyes at the house blessing that took place on the last afternoon as soon as the job was done.

Typically, one of the local Lutheran pastors would come and do the house blessing but this year since we came with our own pastor, Pastor Kruse did the blessing using a translator app on his phone. It worked out quite well and we even sang Alabare to praise God for providing this wonderful Christian family with a new little home!

Since we had such a big team this year, we also decided to do a three-day VBS at the community center that is owned by Josue's mom Corinna. Sara and I taught the Birth of Christ on the first day and we taught the kids the song Alabare which means, I will praise. Day 2 was the raising of Lazarus from the dead and we taught them the song Cristo es el Fundamento or Christ is the

Foundation, which is about Jesus and Martha outside Lazarus' tomb. On the last day we taught the death and resurrection of Jesus and the song Resucito (He has risen).

All three songs were on Mariachi San Pablo's first CD and we were blessed with a wonderful translator named Aaron who just so happened to be one of Mariachi San Pablo's guitar players! He brought his guitar and helped to teach the songs to the children. Aaron is also studying to be a Pastor. He was a great blessing to us and had such a heart for the people, especially the children. He is going to be a wonderful pastor someday. We thanked God for him!

We also taught them John 3:16 as a memory verse in Spanish of course. We emphasized to the children the importance of memorizing God's word and holding it in your heart. We worked on it the first 2 days and on the third day I asked if anyone remembered the verse and to our astonishment several children raised their hands and then recited the verse. What a blessing that was to us and them!

Since we had such a good time building the home and doing the VBS, I'm pretty sure, Lord willing, we will do it again. Maybe next November since the weather was so nice. Maybe you should pray about it and see if you would like to go with us next time!

Marilyn Thompson





December Birthdays

Norm Thays	December 1
Dan Kritter	December 3
Dolan Plautz	December 4
Donna Eurick	
Steve Hart	
Max McVoy	December 5
Gail Brunn	December 7
Doug Lewandowski	
Ilene Wadkins	December 8
Joshua Shaffer	December 9
Marilyn Westendorf	December 10
Mary Beth Borda	December 12
Linda Halverson	December 13
Brian Cieslak	December 14
Stephanie Montano	December 15
Pam Besch	December 16
Samantha Peterson	December 17
Tom Welden	December 18
Laura Kohrs	
Trina Schoner	December 19
Lucas Gnirk	
Lisa Groth Colloton	
Ben Kenyon	
Lisa Mansfield	December 20
Liz Gersonde	December 24
Christopher Plautz	December 26
Jerry Anderson	December 29
Linda Stanton	December 30
Myla Boesel	December 31



December Anniversaries

Griff & Sherry Gunderson
December 9, 1972
Phil & Jodi Plagge
December 10, 1978
Bruce & Chris Roller
December 10, 1978
Mike & Heather Miller
December 20, 1997
Jerry & Robin Klose
December 27, 1980
Bill & Chris Fulcer
December 28, 1965
Steve & Pam Hart
December 28, 1974

