

**"Where the Word of God is preached and people come to know the Lord"**

***THE TIDINGS OF PEACE***  
***Peace Lutheran Church***  
***Ashland, Ohio***

***DECEMBER***  
***2019***

**VOLUME 19 ISSUE 12**

***From Pastor Karen***

Special Points of Interest:

- Pastor Karen's Article
- Shut In List

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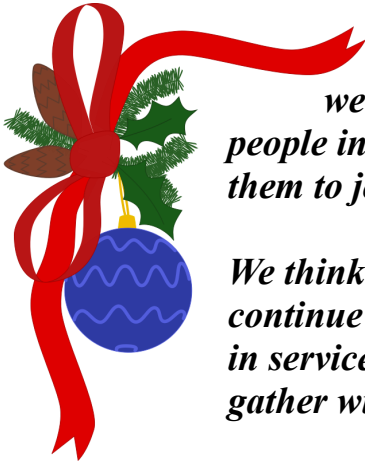
"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." -Matthew 25:40

I read an article from the Charity Institute the other week regarding the subject of volunteering during the holidays. It was written by a man named Nathan who works for a shelter and food kitchen. In the article he recounted how they are often so in need of help, and then the holidays roll around and their phone starts ringing off the hook with people wanting to come in and volunteer. This, at first, sounds like a good thing. But this particular shelter finally has decided to set a policy that you can only volunteer there over the holidays if you are already a regular volunteer there. While this may seem strange, as most would probably assume they'd just be grateful for the extra help, they feel this new policy is in the best interest of the people they serve. You see, Nathan was fielding too many calls from people saying things like, "I want my kids to learn to be thankful for what they have. I figured if they saw all these people without, they might learn their lesson," and "My wife and I have been very blessed and we need a reminder of how bad things can be."

These are not uncommon sentiments. And while I very much understand people's desire to teach their kids a lesson about gratitude or be reminded themselves about how blessed they are, those who are struggling in life should not be seen or used as object lessons for those who are not. These men and women and children aren't less than. They aren't spectacles or cautionary tales. They are people. They are beloved children of God. This was the entire article's main point. We don't serve others in order to benefit ourselves. We serve others to benefit others. We serve others because it is what we are called to do. I get the extra push we feel to give back at the holidays. But as people and as Christians, especially, serving others is not some holiday decoration brought out for the festivities and then packed away again for the rest of the year. Serving others is what we are called to do every day. We are called to lives of service to God and one another. So as we enter this holiday season, and we give thanks for all the blessings we have in our lives, it is right and good that we should seek out ways to serve others, but not just for the season. Let's make serving others a part of our whole lives.

In Christ,  
Pastor Karen

## *Remember our Shut Ins on your Christmas Card Mailings!*



*We give thanks for our Christian community as we gather together for worship each week. There are faithful people in our congregation, however, whose health no longer allows them to join us on Sunday mornings.*

*We think of our shut-ins and keep them in our prayers, but as we continue reflecting how we, at Peace, are gathered in grace and sent in service, I would like us to remember those who are not able to gather with us.*



**Bonnie Wuthrich**  
*1715 Richard Drive Apt#212  
Ashland, Ohio 44805*

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**Diana Kowalka**  
*433 Buena Vista  
Ashland, Oh 44805*

## UPCOMING DATES

*December 1st—Advent 1*

*December 4th—Mid Advent Service, 7pm*

*December 8th—Advent 2*

*December 11th—Mid Advent Service, 7pm*

*December 15th—Advent 3*

*December 18th—Mid Advent Service, 7pm*

*December 22nd—Advent 4, A Cantata*

*December 24th—Christmas Eve Service,*

*Pre-service music is at 7:00pm*

*Worship is at 7:30pm*

*December 25th—Christmas Day*



## Welcome to Advent!

It has become increasingly evident that Advent is becoming a lost season in our society. I would dare say the majority of the general public has no clue as to the meaning of this season of waiting, of excited anticipation.

Maybe I'm reflecting my age, but when I watch television or listen to radio, I notice that Christmas commercials have begun to appear much earlier and more frequently. I listen to satellite radio in my car, and I heard an announcement recently that there are 12 - count 'em, TWELVE - satellite radio channels that are programming Christmas music...and we haven't even gotten to Thanksgiving yet!

What the Church knows as the season of Advent has become society's season of consumerism. A few years ago, we were introduced to Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, designed to lure bargain hunters into retail businesses with the promise of drastic markdowns in prices. But in a stunningly rapid turn of events, the scenes of shoppers stampeding through the aisles of stores has given way to online shopping as the order of the day. People no longer have to leave their homes to take part in the mayhem. We even have pre-Black Friday sales that begin weeks in advance of Thanksgiving.

My thoughts on this madness can be summed up in a comment I heard years ago by late-night talk show host, Stephen Colbert, "We are once again spending money we don't have on things we don't need to give to people we don't like."

This year, like every year it seems, Advent comes as the world is in the midst of war: conflicts and struggles flare and threaten to flare all over the world, in Syria, Turkey, Hong Kong, Bolivia, Venezuela, not to mention in our own cities and neighborhoods, our homes and workplaces, and our relationships with one another.

Consumerism acts as a balm to protect us from having to think about such things. It's like the saying on an old bumper sticker: "When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping!" The consumer cult has its theology of supply and demand.

But God calls us to look forward and see a different reality: a kingdom of God that is ruled by a babe in a manger.

Advent is the expectant waiting, the hopeful anticipation, and cheerful preparation of God breaking into our lives. Advent is preparing for Christ's return and welcoming God into our lives every day. It can be compared somewhat to getting your house ready for an honored guest. There is much to do; everything must be made ready. Advent prepares us for these events and reminds us that there is joy in waiting.

In our Gospel reading for this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus warns his disciples to, "*Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*" [Matthew 24:42] To live in hopeful anticipation of the future coming of Christ does not mean that we give up on the present world, filled as it is with sickness and starvation, pollution and poverty, warfare and waywardness.

On the contrary, the reason Christians work so hard to rid the world of such things is because we know that the same One who will finally defeat the powers of darkness at the end of time is already moving with mighty power against them even now.

We may feel cynical and see the world as a material and spiritual wasteland around us. But if we believe that our risen Lord will come again, then we - the Church - far from lifting ourselves out of the world, ought to go back into the world with renewed confidence and conviction.

And as we pray daily in the prayer that Jesus taught us: thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

That is our hope on this first Sunday of Advent. That is our expectation. No one can be sure exactly when the Second Coming will occur. But in the meantime, we keep moving. We keep working, and praying, and serving, and loving one another. Because who knows? Maybe the more we do, the greater the possibilities that God is able to do something through us.



God is at work in the world even now and will bring to pass that day when the Son of Man comes. We may not know when that hour is coming, as Jesus says, but we know how it is we are supposed to wait: living out the reality that we expect to be fulfilled among us. Living lives of peace, not of violence and division. Lives that transform division into unity, destruction into hope for prosperity and plenty.

+Bishop Abraham Allende

**DECEMBER MINISTRY STEWARDS**  
*(January schedules not out yet)*

<p align="center"><b><u>USHERS</u></b></p> <p>December Bob Fulmer, Skip Hamler, Dan Williams, Dan Bishop</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>LECTORS</u></b></p> <p>12/01—Lisa Blackley 12/08—John Wanamaker 12/15—Natalie Anderson 12/22—Dave Kowalka 12/24—Marcy Myers 12/29—Ron &amp; Karla Pagano</p>		<p align="center"><b><u>ACOLYTES</u></b></p> <p>12/01—Connor 12/08—Cassian 12/15—Will H. 12/22—Mason 12/24—Audrey &amp; Niamh 12/29—Bethanee</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>ALTAR CARE</u></b></p> <p><b><u>COMMUNION PREPARER</u></b></p> <p>December Freda Cook Barb Dreher</p> <p><b><u>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</u></b></p> <p>December Lillian White Freda Cook</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>GREETERS</u></b></p> <p>12/01—Chris Swanson/Sheryl Budd 12/08—Dave &amp; Diana Kowalka 12/15—Jill &amp; Skip Hamler 12/22—Jim &amp; Natalie Anderson 12/24—Al &amp; Marjorie Poorman 12/29—Sharon Johnson/Karla Pagano</p>		<p align="center"><b><u>Nursery Attendant</u></b></p> <p>12/01—Lillian White 12/08—Wendy Wasnich 12/15—Kim Hovey 12/22—Chris Swanson 12/29—Breaults</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>CHANCEL FLOWERS</u></b></p> <p>12/01—Cathy King 12/08—Open 12/15—Open 12/22—Open 12/29—Poorman</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>FLOWER ARRANGER</u></b></p> <p>December Jen Filbrun</p> <p align="center"><b><u>FLOWER DELIVERER</u></b></p> <p>December Lucille Vaas</p>		

## Nativity Set Display

Rev. John and Doris Wanamaker invite everyone to view their extensive **ETHNIC NATIVITY COLLECTION** on Sundays, Dec. 1, 8 + 15, 2-4 p.m.

Over 150 nativities from 45 countries will be on display in the fellowship hall of Southside Christian Church. This is only part of the huge display of hundreds of nativities throughout the facility, located at 2055 Middle Bellville Rd, Mansfield.

For more information call the Wanamakers at 419-281-9012.





## ***WOMEN'S & MENS MINISTRY***

### **DORCAS CIRCLE**

Dorcas Circle meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m.  
We will meet on December 11th.

We continue to appreciate donations of fabric & flat sheets to continue our project.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Saturday, December 7, 7:00 a.m. at Buehler's Mill Restaurant. Following breakfast and conversation we will go to church and put up the outdoor nativity barn and figures. If you can't make it for breakfast, join us at church at 8:30 a.m. There will be no Peacemakers work day on Dec. 21.

## ***ADOPT A FAMILY***

We will once again be adopting a family for Christmas through associated charities. We will be accepting cash and food donations through December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Once the donations have been gathered, following service on the 15<sup>th</sup>, our youth group will go shopping for the gifts. They had a great time with this last year and are very much looking forward to it again.

If you are able to come please let Pastor Karen know so that we can make sure we have enough travel space .

If you have any questions about this ministry please contact Pastor Karen.

## ***DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES***

12/13- Art & Rosemary Littleton  
12/14-James & Natalie Anderson  
12/27-Cindi & Ron Twining  
12/31-Chris & Linda Swanson  
-Al & Marjorie Poorman

### **ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS:**

Dec 13 Art & Rosemary Littleton **62nd**  
2450 St. Rt. 96 E Ashland



## ***DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS***

### **Birthday Highlight:**

12/05-John Cook	12/18-Faith Huffman
12/07-Carter Riley	Amy Wade
12/10-Amberlyn Maar	12/20-Jeni Filbrun
12/12-Connie Armstrong	12/21-Rusty Cook
12/15-Marcy Myers	12/26-Tyler Kramer
12/17-Brenda Marker	

**★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!**



# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Advent 1</b> 10-Worship/Comm.	2	3	4	5 11am Bible Study	6 Pastor Karen's Day Off	7 7am Men's Breakfast at Buehler's
8 <b>Advent 2</b> 10-Worship <i>Cong. Mtg. after service</i>	9	10	11 1pm Dorcas Circle  7pm Mid Advent	12 11am Bible Study	13 Pastor Karen's Day Off	14 9-2pm RedCross
15 <b>Advent 3</b> 10-Worship/Comm. Youth Adopt a Family following service	16	17	18  7pm Mid Advent	19 11am Bible Study	20 Pastor Karen's Day Off	21
22 <b>Advent 4-Cantata</b> 10am Worship	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> 7pm Prelude 7:30 Christmas Eve Service		26	27	28
29 <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> 10am Worship	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>				

THANKS to all who helped in any way with the SOAP FOR SOUP Cook-Off on Nov. 17. Thanks to soup makers and servers, dessert makers, those who made donations, those who ate soup and had a good time doing that, and those who helped clean up afterward. We received \$80 in cash plus over 300 soaps, paper goods and other cleanliness items. These were all given to Ashland Associated Charities. Bethany Bishop won the prize for best soup with a wonderful noodle and mushroom soup. She donated the turkey and fixing's back to us and we gave them to Associated Charities.

## ***CONGREGATION MEETING***

Our annual congregation meeting will be held **December 8th**, following service. Please attend on attending to vote on council members and the 2020 annual budget.

## ***HAT AND MITTEN TREE***

We are accepting hats/mittens/scarves for those in need. Used or new is fine. Also, any other warm weather outerwear is accepted. You may decorate the tree in the Narthex with the items.

***Beer and Bible Study will resume in January.***

***FINAL DATE FOR 2019 GIVING IS DECEMBER 31st***

## ***IN OUR PRAYERS***

George Miller, Curt Hall, Andrew, Louise Winger, Dick Armstrong, Jackie Austen, Diana Kowalka.

The family and friends of Ken Rinehart and Barb Schmidt-Rinehart as they mourn the loss of her mother.

***In Our Continued Prayers:*** *Bonnie Wuthrich, JoAnne Offhaus, Sandy Moherman, Herb Heyl, Lyn Sorensen, Jonathan Baltes, David Winger, Barb Colbow, Taryn Wolfe, Natalie Anderson, Pat Hamler.*

## ***Staff Phone Numbers***

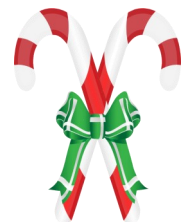
Pastor Karen Liddy  
216-559-3545(Cell)

Ron Blackley, Director of Music  
Cell-419-606-0696

Freda Cook, Council President  
419-368-4007

Tabatha Wagner, Office Manager  
419-281-1469 (church phone)

Stan Crist, Property Manager  
419-606-1430



\*\*\*We now have online giving options. You can make a one-time gift or set up regular giving through our website or by downloading the GivePlus app on your smart phone.\*\*\*

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