

partners

Peace Lutheran Church

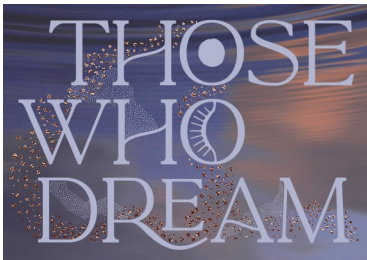
Winter, 2022



Growing a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

As Those Who Dream

Psalm 126 opens with the line, “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.” What



does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God’s dreams for the world.

This year, Advent and Christmas come to us at a particularly needful time. We’re emerging from a couple of years of pandemic exile and a divisive election season. The war in Ukraine continues and the environment is begging for our attention. Then there are, of course, the struggles of life within and around each of our lives.

So this is an opportune time for us to dream. There’s a reason dreams come to us in our sleep. Rest recharges us and opens us to receive God’s grace again. In these first seasons of the

church year, we recall God’s dreams again. We look outside ourselves to the Good News of God’s dream come true for us and for the world in Jesus Christ.

This Advent and Christmas season is for the dreamers in all of us, it is for *you*—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It’s for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It’s for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time.

We will bring all those dreams to Christmas and hear in a new way the angel say: “Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). We will dream our way back to the manger and forward into the new year in the words of Guyana poet, Claire Smith:

*I dream
Of a loving world
Where we see each other
With God’s eyes:
I dream of a resourceful world
Where we cherish the unique
gift
Of each other.*

*I dream
Of a hopeful world
Where we recognize the power
of God’s grace
To transform and make new;
I dream of peace.*

Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us this Advent and Christmas season as we seek and sow God’s dreams for our world. Advent begins Sunday, November 27th!

—Pastor Mark Nelson



Seasonal Worship Guide

November/December

Nov. 27	4	11	14	18
First Sunday of Advent, 9:30am	Second Sunday of Advent, 9:30am	Third Sunday of Advent, 9:30am	Advent Wednesday Evening Worship, 6:30pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Joe Orner	
Message: "Those Who Dream...Are Watchful"	Message: Those Who Dream...Give Light	Message: "Those Who Dream... Sow Joy"	Message: "Those Who Dream....Are Not Alone"	Children's Christmas Program
Lighting of the Advent Wreath; Holy Communion	Lighting of the Advent Wreath, Scarlett Sasse Baptism; Holy Communion	Lighting of the Advent Wreath; Holy Communion		Lighting of the Advent Wreath; Peace Choir; Sunday School Singers; Alleluia Singers
Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School		Cookie reception after worship

Christmas Worship

December 24	December 25
Christmas Eve 4:00pm and 5:30pm	Christmas Day 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner
Message: Those Who Dream...	Message: A Dream Fulfilled
4:00 and 5:30pm—Stephanie Claussen, harp 5:30pm—Holy Communion	Holy Communion
	Christmas fellowship after worship

January

1	8	15	22	29
First Sunday of Christmas, 9:30am	Baptism of Our Lord, 9:30am	Second Sunday of Epiphany, 9:30am	Third Sunday of Epiphany, 9:30am	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
Message: Dreaming Into God's Future	Message: Rediscovering Jesus: Friend	Message: Rediscovering Jesus: Teacher	Message: Rediscovering Jesus: Savior	Message: Rediscovering Jesus: Lord
Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion; Communion Education Recognition	Holy Communion; Alleluia Singers
Extended fellowship time	Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School, Middle School Discussion Group	Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School

February

5	12	19	22	26
Fifth Sunday of Epiphany, 9:30am	Sixth Sunday of Epiphany, 9:30am	Transfiguration of Our Lord, 9:30am	Ash Wednesday, 6:30pm	First Sunday in Lent, 9:30am
Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Joe Orner	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson	Preacher: Pastor Mark Nelson
Message: Rediscovering Jesus: Way	Message: Rediscovering Jesus: Presence	Message: Rediscovering Jesus: Why Jesus?		
Holy Communion	Holy Communion; Sunday School Singers	Holy Communion	Confession of Sin; Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Sunday Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School, Middle School Discussion Group	Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School

Sunday Adult Education

Sunday, November 27

The First Advent in Palestine

On this first Sunday of Advent, we'll take a look at the first Advent in ancient Palestine. What kind of world did God in Jesus Christ enter into? According to Matthew and Luke, the first Advent was about the arrival of God into a complicated world of culture, economics, and politics. We'll take a look at the place and people and what Mary and Joseph were up against as they tried to survive in a difficult time. Then, in light of the Gospels, we'll discuss how we understand Advent now.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

Sunday, December 4

What's Going on with the Economy?



Tim Taylor, the managing editor of the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, will join us (in-person) for two consecutive Sundays. His first presentation will be a look at the current state of the economy since the pandemic: growth, employment, inflation.

He will lay out the big-picture patterns and describe some of what's happening behind the headlines.

At Stanford University, Tim was the winner of the award for excellence in teaching and at the University of Minnesota he was named a Distinguished Lecturer by the Department of Economics and voted Teacher of the Year by the master's degree students at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Tim is also the author of *The Instant Economist: Everything You Need to Know About How the Economy Works*.

Sunday, December 11

What is the relationship between economics and morality?

Tim Taylor will return to discuss with us questions like, "Does ordinary economic life hold a capacity for virtue, or is virtue something that happens outside economic life? Does the study of economics itself discourage less moral behavior?"

Sundays, December 18, 25, January 1

No Adult Education—extended fellowship time!

Sundays, January 8 and 15

What is "Christian nationalism?"

Part 1 and Part 2. Maybe you've heard the term; maybe you have not. Either way, this movement influences the public perception of Christians and the Church. Join us for this important discussion!--Pastor Mark Nelson

Sunday, January 22

Pre-Congregational Meeting
Information Gathering

Sunday, January 29

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 5, 12 and 19

"On Faith and Justice with 'A Peace of My Mind'"



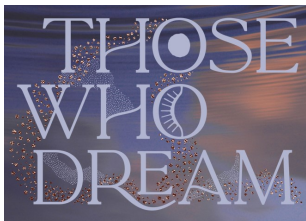
Through videos and stories, *A Peace of My Mind* founder, John Noltner, helps us rediscover what connects us, bridge divides, and build community.

As Those Who Dream: Advent and Christmas

“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.” Psalm 126

No matter who we are, we have dreams. All of us do. There are times when we dream our way to an insight so surprising it shakes us awake. Sometimes in our dreams we meet people that we have forgotten long ago. There are many theories about what dreams mean and some say dreams don't mean a thing.

Whatever the case, the Bible is full of dreams and dreamers. The Christmas story is full of them; the prophets, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth,



Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers.

This Advent and Christmas, we step into their dreams and God's dreams for them—and us.

Advent 1, Sunday, November 27: “Those Who Dream...Are Watchful”—Luke 21:25-36

Advent 2, Sunday, December 4: “Those Who Dream...Give Light”—Luke 1:66-67, 76-80

Advent 3, Sunday, December 11: “Those Who Dream...Sow Joy”—Isaiah 12:1-6

Advent Midweek/“Blue Christmas”, Wednesday, December 14: “Those Who Dream...Are Not Alone”

Advent 4, Sunday, December 18: Sunday School Christmas Program

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24: “Those Who Dream...”—Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25: “A Dream Fulfilled”—John 1:1-18

Christmas 1/New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1: “Dreaming Into God's Future”

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark Nelson

“Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas” Card Packs

“Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas” is a colorful card deck filled with prayers, reflections, and other simple faith practices for families. It's flexible for busy schedules—you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go. Explore the entire season from Advent through Christmas and Epiphany.

Each Peace family will receive a card pack. Card packs will be available for pick up on either Sunday, November 20 or Sunday, November 27.

—*Pastor Joe Orner*



Congregational Advent Event

Lefse-Making and Norwegian Treats

Who doesn't love lefse? We'll meet in the Parish Hall for some good old fashioned lefse-making on **Saturday, December 10 starting at 9:00am** until the dough is gone! If you have your own



rolling pins, pastry cloths, lefse grill, lefse turner, or another lefse-making equipment, please bring those items.

We'll divide up the lefse so that each participant will go home

with some fresh lefse for their own enjoyment. Norwegian heritage is not required!

Sign up at the information kiosk!

Help Peace Decorate for Advent and Christmas

You can honor or memorialize someone close to your heart by donating toward the Advent and Christmas decorations of poinsettias, wreaths and Christmas trees. Decorations will begin in Advent and continue through the early

Epiphany season. Any donations are welcomed and appreciated.

Look for an insert in the Sunday bulletin on November 27, December 4 and 11. Place the completed form in the offering basket or drop it off in the

church office. Make your check payable to Peace Lutheran Church with "Christmas Decorations" in the memo line.

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Sunday, December 18, 10:30am-1:00pm



Let us relieve some stress of the season by beautifully wrapping your gifts.

Peace's Women and Finance small group will wrap your gifts with coordinating ribbon and embellishment for a

suggested donation. The gift wrapping fundraiser will be held Sunday, December 18 from 10:30am – 1:00pm.

Proceeds aid the group's mission to give back in support of others on a global, regional and local level. Funds raised will support scholarships for local teens to attend Minnesota Business Venture, a weeklong

summer camp focused on business, leadership and financial literacy skills.

Look for our gift wrapping station in the lower level!

“Rediscovering Jesus” - The Season of Epiphany, 2023

*Who do you say that I am?
—Matthew 16:15*

“Whoever feels attracted to Jesus cannot adequately explain why. We must be prepared to be always correcting our image of Jesus for we will never exhaust what there is to know. Jesus is full of surprises.”

—Adolph Holl

It’s Epiphany, that church season we continue to celebrate and live into the Good News of Christmas; that God has come, in the flesh, in Jesus Christ.

But who is Jesus? Nine out of ten Americans (not just Christians, but Americans) believe that Jesus was a real person, and six of ten say they have made some sort of personal commitment to Jesus. 2000 years after he lived, “Jesus” may still be one of the most recognized names on the planet

But we still have questions. She said to me, quietly, “I don’t really know what to say about Jesus. He’s important, the center of everything. But I don’t know how to think about him, how to explain him. Who is he,

really?” Yes, who is he? Really?

This Epiphany, we take a closer look at Jesus; for the first time or umpteenth time. And I have no doubt, along with Adolph Holl, that Jesus will, once again, be full of surprises!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

January 8 – “Friend”

January 15 – “Teacher”

January 22 – “Savior”

January 29 – “Lord”

February 5 – “Way”

February 12 – “Presence”

February 19 – “Why Jesus?”

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

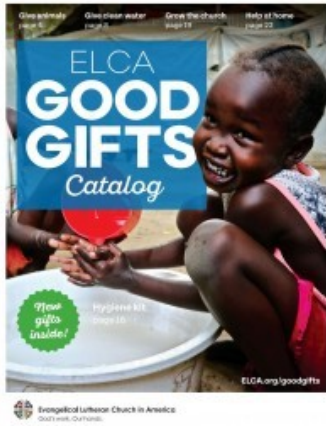
January 4-February 19, 2023 - “Rediscovering Jesus”

In connection with the Epiphany sermon series by the same name, we’ll take a deeper dive into the same themes and Gospel texts that we’ll be hearing on Sundays.

Join us Wednesday nights, 6:00-7:00pm! All are welcome any time!

- **January 4**--"Jesus.....as Friend"
- **January 11**--"Jesus....as Teacher"
- **January 18**--"Jesus.....the Savior"
- **January 25**--"Jesus.....is Lord" and "Jesus.....is the Way"
- **February 1**--No Bible study
- **February 8**--No Bible study
- **February 15**--"Jesus.....as Presence" and "Why Jesus?"

ELCA Good Gifts



ELCA Good Gifts provides over 50 gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

Copies of the 2022 catalog will

be available at Peace starting Sunday, December 4 allowing you and your family to say “goodbye” to traditional gift-giving and “hello” to meaningful gifts that save lives and really make a difference in the world.

Once you have selected a gift, there are several ways to make a purchase:

- Make a check out to Peace Lutheran Church for the Good Gift amount and write “Good Gifts” on the memo line.
- Make a check directly to “ELCA Good Gifts” and Peace will mail it in for you.
- Make a check out directly to “ELCA Good Gifts” and

using the envelope provided with the catalog, mail it directly to ELCA Good Gifts, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

- Purchase your gift online at goodgifts.elca.org/all-gifts

Whatever means you use to make your purchase, please find a corresponding ornament in the narthex to hang on the Good Gifts Christmas tree.

The program will end on Christmas Eve.

Together, we can celebrate Christmas and watch our Peace “Good Gifts” grow.

Christmas Dinner for St. Andrew’s United Church of Cairo

Your congregational benevolence has allowed us to give a gift of \$5,000 towards meals and ministry at Christmas for the members, staff, and friends of St. Andrew’s United Church of Cairo. The gift is facilitated through the

ELCA Global Mission.

The ELCA Global Mission writes, “As a church, we believe that God’s grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through

your gifts to ELCA Global Mission, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God’s love.”

Other Service & Mission Committee Christmas Benevolence Initiatives:

- \$1,000 for the Peace Quilters for quilting supplies.
- \$2,000 for the annual Mom’s Stocking Project.
- \$2,000 for gifts for Queen Louise residents.

Pack-a-Thon Recap



For 80 minutes of packing plus set up and clean up time, **you** were the hands and feet of Christ. **Over 80 Peace members** of all ages rolled up their sleeves on Sunday, November 13 to pack oatmeal breakfast packs for Harvest Pack. Tables were set up in the Parish Hall and narthex and the work was fast and lively.

Once the oatmeal dust settled, we had packed **3,750 packs** representing **15,000 meals!** These meals will be distributed locally to children through Every Meal (formerly The Sheridan Story).

A **resounding “thank you”** to each and every one of you who set up tables and equipment beforehand, packed meals, affixed labels, set up boxes, replenished ingredients, stacked filled boxes, packed the truck, and stayed to help clean up!

Cornerstone Thanks Peace

Peace received two letters of thanks from Cornerstone—for our gift of gardening tools which were on Cornerstone’s wish list and our gift of \$1,000.

VEAP Donations, An Ongoing Initiative



We have an ongoing donation box in the Narthex beside the information kiosk for collecting “most wanted items” namely laundry detergent, toothpaste and toothbrushes, dish soap, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues), diapers in sizes 5-7, baby wipes, formula., shampoo, liquid hand soap, personal care items, and dog or cat food. Or, make a check out to Peace Lutheran Church and write “VEAP” in the memo line.

Items are brought to VEAP as soon as the bin is filled and they are grateful for every item they receive.

Bring your donations to Peace on Sunday morning, Wednesday evenings, or drop them off during the work week between 9:00am-3:00pm.

**“We are truly grateful
for all the ways you
support our work and
the families we serve!”**

*—Courtney Poja, Senior
Director of Advancement*

Children, Youth and Family News

As we enter into these winter months, we do so with great hope and great expectation of what is to come. It's a time of wonder, it's a time when our imaginations can run wild, it's a time to dream.

When I was a child, I remember driving home from my grandma's house on Christmas Eve, looking up at the stars, hoping to see Santa's sleigh flying through the air, while also wondering about the wise men who, centuries earlier, had also followed the stars to find their way.



Today I notice that many people are more gracious during the holiday season. Adults give more of their finances to churches and organizations they care about. Children think about what gifts they might give to their parents and siblings. Families

join together to host potlucks and gatherings. Strangers seem to be more willing to help others they see in need. And I imagine what our world might be like if we all acted this way the other 11 months of the year.

But one thing that always fills

me with that great hope is simple—it's all of the Christmas trees that shine brightly through neighbors' windows, and all of the Christmas lights that adorn their houses. Because as our days get shorter and darkness begins earlier, we still find ways to let the light shine—a constant reminder of the light of Christ.

So this holiday season, embrace the wonder and imagination that comes with it as we celebrate Christ's light, joining with all those who dream—of a world where God's love is shared graciously, where hope is abundant.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joe Orner

Communion Education Class

Sunday, January 15, 12:00pm

Peace offers communion to everyone, just as Jesus freely gives his grace to all. And yet there is so much to learn about the holy sacrament of communion and what it means for us.

Students in 2nd grade and above are invited to take part in our Communion Education class on Sunday, January 15, 2023 from 12:00-1:30pm. All students who participate will be recognized in worship on Sunday, January 22.

Please plan to have a parent attend with your child.

Register by sending an email to Pastor Joe at pastor.joe@peacebloomington.org.

The 2022 Christmas Program, *Follow The Star*



We are proud to announce this year's Christmas program, "Follow The Star," which will be presented on Sunday, December 18 during worship. The program will feature the

Sunday School Singers, the Alleluia Singers, the Peace Choir, and you—the congregation!

Following the service, we will celebrate the season with a cookie reception, pictures, and a time for extended fellowship. We hope all are able to attend to support the children's hard work and this festive time in the church year.

Christmas Program rehearsals will take place during Sunday School. There will also be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 17, from 10:00-11:30am.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare costumes, assist with rehearsals, and help the children on the day of. Register at church or online!

—Pastor Joe Orner

Children's Ministry: Trunk or Treat Thanks

Thank you to everyone who attended our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat! We had record amounts of kids who came, and of people who hosted trunks. We estimate there were at least 250 kids—many from the greater neighborhood and community—in addition to the many more parents, grandparents, and family members.

Multiple families said how much fun their kids had, and how thankful they were as parents to enjoy it with their kids. It was meaningful and engaging for all, and the love of God was most certainly shared!

This is just one of the many ways that we are a church without walls, and it served as a beautiful example of how we continue *growing a community that*

nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ—sometimes one piece of candy at a time!

If you did not participate this year, no matter what your age, I strongly encourage you to take part next year—there's still plenty of room for more trunks—I promise you'll be glad you did!

—Pastor Joe Orner



Confirmation: World Religions Retreat

In October, our Confirmation students went on a World Religions Retreat, where we visited a Hindu temple, a Buddhist meditation center, and an Islamic mosque. We also ate lunch at the Holy Land Deli. The retreat was an opportunity for our students to gain a richer understanding of who our neighbors are and what they believe. This is important because learning about other faiths helps us to better understand what we do and do not believe ourselves.

Our students learned that the other religions shared some commonalities with Christianity, while also having some significant differences. Muslims also worship the God

of Abraham and believe in Jesus, but they view Jesus as only a prophet and not as a Savior. Buddhists have many centering practices like meditation and yoga, which can be important spiritual and prayer practices for Christians too. However, Buddhists believe in a philosophical path to enlightenment rather than a theological embrace of salvation. Hindus have 10 *Yamas*, that express similar values to our 10 Commandments; it includes things like truthfulness, non-injury, not stealing. But Hindus also believe in reincarnation, whereas we believe in resurrection. These are important similarities that can

help us to build bridges across faiths. They are also meaningful differences that steer us away from the all-too-common thought that “all religions are basically the same”—because they’re not!

One of our biggest takeaways was an immense feeling of gratitude. Our hosts were so gracious and kind to us, each willing to share personal stories from their lives and important beliefs they hold dear. It was a beautiful sharing of hospitality, and a reminder that life is better when it’s lived together, and that diversity is something to celebrate.

—Pastor Joe Orner

High School Youth: A Brief Interview with Bianca Gehant, Nursery Attendant



Did you know that many of our high school and middle school students serve our community

by teaching Sunday School? We caught up with Bianca Gehant, a junior at Jefferson High School, who serves at Peace by taking care of young children in the nursery during our Sunday worship services.

What’s something you’re grateful for this year?

BG: “I’m so grateful for my best friends, my family, and my good grades!”

What inspires you to serve others?

BG: “Something that inspires me to serve others is seeing other people happy because I’ve helped them.”

What do you find most meaningful in leading Peace’s nursery?

BG: “I like working in the nursery because of all the cute kiddos and babies that come to spend time with me during Sunday worship.”

What’s something you appreciate about Peace?

BG: “Something I appreciate about Peace is how accepting and welcoming they are to me and the community.”

—Pastor Joe Orner

Winter Fellowship

For Everyone

Date/Time	Event	Description
Fridays, 6:30-8:00pm	Indoor Pickleball	Join us Friday nights 6:30-8:00pm at Bloomington Jefferson High School in the Activity Center on Court #3. Every Friday night through March 31, 2023 except on November 25, December 23, 30, March 17. All skill levels welcome!
Saturday, December 10, 9:00am	Lefse-Making and Norwegian Treats	Who doesn't love fresh lefse?! Sign up to make lefse at Peace and enjoy some Norwegian holiday treats. (See page 6 for more information.) Sign up at the information kiosk to help us know how much lefse dough to make.
Saturday, January 28, 6:00pm	Adult Caribbean Fellowship Dinner	Itching to get away this winter? Don your brightest, loudest tropical clothes and join us for a Caribbean-themed fellowship dinner at Peace. We'll provide easy-to-make recipes and assign each household to bring an appetizer, salad, entrée, or dessert. Look for the sign up at the information kiosk.

For 20 & 30 Somethings

Date/Time	Event	Description
Sunday, December 4, 4:00pm	Christmas Party	20 & 30 Somethings, join us at Peace in the Parish Hall for a Christmas Party 20 & 30 Somethings-style! RSVP to Pastor Joe.
Tuesday, January 10, 7:00pm	Bowling at Pinstripes	Join us at Pinstripes (3849 Gallagher Drive, Edina) for bowling and a brew. RSVP to Pastor Joe.
Sunday, February 5, 4:00pm	Happy Hour	We'll meet at 9 Mile Creek Brewing (9555 James Ave. S., Suite 290, Bloomington) for a brew or hard seltzer. Please RSVP to Pastor Joe.

For Adults 40+

Adults 40+ plan to meet for coffee at 10:00am one Saturday per month. Please check the Sunday bulletin, Friday e-Note, or Peace's website for upcoming dates and other events. Questions? Please contact Cynthia Fossan at cindikf@gmail.com.

For Families and Young Children

Date/Time	Event	Description
Friday, December 9, 6:00-8:00pm	Parent's Night Out	Parents! Need some time to shop for Christmas gifts or enjoy a much-needed date night? Bring your kids to Peace for an evening of Christmas crafts and movies. \$5/kid donation suggested, and all proceeds will go to ELCA Good Gifts. Limit of 20 children. Volunteers needed! Please sign up online. Please email Pastor Joe with any questions.
Friday, January 20, 6:30-8:00pm	White Elephant Bingo	Join in the fun—and surprise—of a White Elephant Bingo. Bring an unwrapped White Elephant prize for bingo winners. Be creative - a box of chocolates, a gently-used item that someone may love, etc. Regifting encouraged. Look for a sign-up sheet at the information kiosk.
Sunday, February 26, 2:00-3:00pm, at Brookside Park	Winter Outdoor Fun	Let's get outside for some fresh air and fun at Brookside Park (10000 Xerxes Ave. S., Bloomington). Bring your skates and sleds! When it gets closer, look for a sign up sheet at the information kiosk.

Annual Peace Congregational Meeting

Our annual meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 10:45am**. We will review our year as a congregation, rejoicing in God's blessings to us. We will also look forward to 2023 and pray for God's Spirit to guide us for ministry in this place.

We will have a **preview and discussion** of the meeting during the Adult Education hour on **Sunday, January 22, 2023**.

New Members

On Sunday, October 16, 2022 we welcomed the following new members: Julie Kranig; Joe, Leela, and Parker Krummel; Randy and Cynthia Olson; Reilly Orner; Brian and Heidi Rich; Jason Vander Stelt and Toni Davidson. Children, Jackson and Madeline Krummel, Lucas Orner, and Mason Vander Stelt became members of Peace at their baptisms! We welcome you and we look forward to life and ministry together!



Julie Kranig



Joe, Leela,
Parker, Jackson,
and Madeline
Krummel



Randy and Cynthia Olson



Reilly and Lucas Orner



Brian and Heidi Rich



Jason and Toni Davidson
Stelt and Toni Davidson

A Revamped Peace Website!

In November Peace will debut a new website coinciding with the upcoming season of Advent and the new church year.

With this website, we've added new features such as recordings of all Sunday sermons, livestream Sunday worship

every week, a blog that captures Pastor Mark's and Pastor Joe's weekly insights from their e-notes, new calendars, events for you to see what's happening at Peace, and much more!

Our thanks to Lori Thomson for

undertaking this endeavor! We welcome your feedback. If there are features that you would like included in the website, please contact Lori.

Church Life

Births

- **Scarlett Jean Sasse** born on August 24, 2022 to Chris and Maggie Sasse. Scarlett is also welcomed by sister, Sadie.

Baptisms

- **Madeline Rose Krummel** baptized on September 25, 2022. Madeline is the daughter of Joe and Leela Krummel. Madeline's sponsors are Omeed Rahimi and Ashley Boggs.
- **Maevi Jo Connelly** baptized on October 9, 2022. Maevi Jo is the daughter of Brian and Emily Connelly. Maevi Jo's sponsors are Travis and Kim Olmscheid.
- **Mason Lee Vander Stelt** baptized on October 9, 2022. Mason is the son of Jason Vander Stelt and Toni Davidson. Mason's sponsors are Jermy and Melissa Martin and Aaron and Brenda Vander Stelt.
- **Nolan Wells Meyer** baptized on November 11, 2022. Nolan is the son of Matthew and Sarah Meyer.

Grieving

- **Joni Murphy** upon the death of her father, LaVern Lenius.
- **Mary Ann White** upon the death of her husband, Jim White.
- **Ken and Kris Kokkinen and Alex Kokkinen** upon the death of Ken's mother, Denice Maciej.
- **Dimitri, Daina, and Teo Sivanich** upon the death of Dimitri's mother, Arlene Sivanich.
- **Linda Wallace** upon the death of her brother, Bart Christiansen.
- The family and friends of **Donnis Olson**.
- **Steve Solfest, Joy Kjeldahl and Kari Solfest** upon the death of Joy's father, Harold Kjeldahl.

Introducing... Text to Give

You asked for it...a simpler way to give for those who don't carry checks or credit cards. We have enrolled in Text-To-Give through Vanco. Please contact Lori Thomson if you have any questions.

The church name is Peace Lutheran Church and the 10-digit GivePlus Text Number is: 844-422-1219. Here are the steps:

- Enter the 10-digit GivePlus Text number in a text message and the amount you wish to give then press send.
- You will receive a registration link. Click the link and enter your contact and payment information and tap "Process."
- After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text, as well as a receipt via email.
- For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will

Time, Talents, and Interest Surveys

On Sunday, November 13 as part of Stewardship, we distributed Time, Talents, and Interest Surveys. If you did not have a chance to complete it, printed copies can be found at the information kiosk or click on the link to a PDF on Peace's website. Place your completed form in the staff office area.

An Interview with Bob Wig



In October we spent a nice morning with Peace member, Bob Wig.

Bob and his wife, Marilyn, joined Peace in 2010 soon after moving from Milaca, MN to Friendship Village where their daughter works.

Bob grew up in Montevideo where days were spent playing outdoors until sunset, attending Friday night band concerts and softball league games. At age 10, Bob started picking out chords on the family piano. Bob's parents, spotting his natural ability, bought him a trumpet, thus beginning Bob's lifelong love of music.

Bob attended St. Cloud Teacher's College majoring in music. He student-taught band in Richfield. At the Teacher's College he met a spunky girl named Marilyn who allowed him to carry her tenor sax. Bob and Marilyn were married in 1960 and both embarked on teaching careers.

Bob's longest tenure was teaching music in the Milaca School District for 30 years at the high school, middle school, and elementary levels. Later he completed his Master's Degree in Music Education from St. Cloud State.

Faith and an active church life were always part of Bob and Marilyn's life. The two of them belonged to their previous church for 46 years where Bob was the chairman of the annual Lutefisk Supper for 24 years.

Bob also is a tuba-playing member of Windjammers, a circus music historical society that plays music from the Golden Age of Circus Music (1890 to 1930). Windjammers, and Bob, gather annually in January in Florida to perform music as they accompany circus acts.

How has music contributed to your faith?

BW: I feel closer to God when I am singing.

What is your favorite hymn?

BW: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

What is God doing in your life right now?

BW: If I can make other people feel good, it makes me feel good.

What advice would you give a teen?

BW: Ignore the "junk" and choose good friends.

What are your favorite things about Peace?

BW: The friendliness and care for one another. Pastors that care and even visit you when you're sick.

—Daina Sivanich

partners

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On The Cover
"Advent Triptych—Shepherds, Nativity, Epiphany"
Serigraphs by John August Swanson

Submissions

Do you have an idea for a story or would love to write? Contact our Managing Editor with your submission, but please keep in mind the following guidelines: (a) Your article will be reviewed by the editorial staff for suitability and may be edited for length and content. (b) Articles must fit the overall theme of the issue and reflect the mission of Peace Lutheran Church.

Devotion: A Life-Giving Practice

What if I told you that you had the power to help solve one of the greatest challenges we're facing today?

First, the challenge: we are experiencing what Harvard social scientist Arthur Brooks has described as "*an epidemic of loneliness*" with two main sources.

Our time on social media is the first. MIT Professor Sherry Turkle, author of *Alone Together* and *Reclaiming Conversation*, has documented that the amount of time we spend on social media has left people feeling, at the same time, "*more connected and lonelier.*" Why this apparent contradiction? Because the connections made online—"friends," "followers," etc.—are relatively superficial. There is a connection made but it's typically followed by a sense of isolation.

Why does this matter? It matters, Turkle says, because we're setting ourselves up for trouble—trouble certainly in how we relate to each other, but also trouble in how we relate to ourselves and our capacity for self-reflection. We're getting used to a new way of being alone together. And so an 18-year-old boy who used texting for almost everything said to Turkle, wistfully, "*Someday, someday, but certainly not now, I'd like to learn how to have a conversation.*"

Second, this trend toward isolation has been greatly worsened by the pandemic. Practices that reduced the spread of the coronavirus—limiting in-

person interactions, sheltering in place, working and going to school remotely—also compounded our sense of isolation. While some people have rebounded easily as pandemic restrictions have eased, others are still reluctant to venture out to be with others.

So what is one way we can address this epidemic? By coming to church for worship, fellowship, learning, and service and inviting others to do the same! Think about it: at church you see and greet other people, renew established friendships and make new ones, are encouraged in your faith, and are reminded of all we have for which to be grateful. You also have the chance to learn something new or contribute to the wellbeing of your community—two activities regularly linked to more resilient mental health—in the company of others.

If you're back in the habit of being at church regularly, fantastic! If you have not been making regular participation at church, I encourage you to do so. What better time to return to worship than Advent and Christmas? You will feel better, and so will all those who get to see and interact with you. Our shared life together as a congregation is one of the most important antidotes to the current epidemic.

See you at Church!

—Pastor Mark Nelson

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Sunday Worship: 9:30am



Growing a community that
nurtures a deeper relationship
with Jesus Christ.

Christmas Worship at Peace

Saturday, December 24

4:00pm Lessons & Carols and a
Children's Message

5:30pm Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25

9:30am Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, January 1

9:30am Worship

A graphic with the text "THOSE WHO DREAM" in a stylized, serif font. The text is white and set against a dark, textured background that looks like water with light reflecting off it. The letters are surrounded by small, glowing particles.