

# partners

Peace Lutheran Church

Winter, 2024



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

from the senior pastor

# The Weary World Rejoices

*"The days are coming," declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord Our Righteous Savior.'"*

—Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The Advent/Christmas season begins soon—December 1<sup>st</sup> to be exact. And this year may find you emotionally or mentally or spiritually running on empty. We are tired. Tired of the us-versus-them. Tired of the distrust and line drawing. Tired of the political nastiness. Tired of waiting for prayers to be answered. Tired of our all-too-familiar personal struggles. We come to Advent and Christmas weary for a world and ourselves that will one day be made right.

So it seems to me it's fitting that Advent and the preparations for Christmas, have a certain tone. We don't cruise into Christmas with triumph and a rah-rah certainty

that all is well. We begin by waiting. This feeling I know you know too well. Waiting for the test results. Waiting for the phone call. Waiting for your kid to come back or the job offer to come through. Waiting for your parents to get better or finally apologize. Waiting for the family you longed for or that financial relief you desperately need. Waiting for prayers to be answered or some belonging to be found. We are very familiar with weary waiting; waiting for something or someone we cannot make happen ourselves.

Yet, throughout Advent, we are encouraged by God's promise; that God in Jesus Christ has come, is coming, and will come again. We can live in the promise of God present with us and live into the promise of his coming once again; a return, a restoration of all things to their true purpose, a goodness which we long for.

And as Christmas will remind us once again, we don't wait in vain. Something that took place over 2000 years ago still resounds through us today. Christ's birth is hope realized. Now we have someone; a

reality, the truth, a way of living, a purpose for life! It's hope for all of us. For the anxious. For the afraid. For the vulnerable. For the not-feeling-so-joyful. For the overwhelmed and at-the-end-of-their-rope. For the least of these. For the left-out and the lonely.....for the weary.

I invite you to Advent and Christmas at Peace. To join together in worship on Sundays and Wednesdays; joining in learning and serving and celebrating together throughout these weeks. For Christ has come—"a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices." We rejoice for Christ has been born, the Emmanuel, God with us. Thanks be to God!

—Pastor Mark Nelson





# Advent Worship Opportunities

## Advent Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22

### “Whose House for Christmas?”

For me, the season of Advent begins when I hear us sing in worship, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Listening to this hymn, it dawns on me; we are inviting God to step into our lives. And, if you’re the church, we make preparations. We decorate. We put up a tree. We ask: “What do we need to do to get ready to receive God’s chosen one?”

To answer, Christians turn, during Advent, to prophets like Isaiah and Mary, Elizabeth and

Malachi. They’ve done this whole “prepare for the arrival of the Lord” business before. They have wisdom for us. They are ready to advise us on how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah to us any time in any place.

This year, during the four weeks of Advent, we’re going to visit four of these experts, Malachi, Isaiah, Elizabeth, and Mary.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

#### Advent Sundays

First Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 1, 9:30am  
“Christmas at Malachi’s House”

Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 8, 9:30am  
“Christmas at Elizabeth’s House”

Third Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 15, 9:30am  
“Christmas at Mary’s House”

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 22, 9:30am  
Children’s Christmas Program  
with the Peace Choir

## Advent Midweek Worship

### Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18

### “What Are We Going to Call This Baby?”

*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

—Isaiah 9: 6

Christians have claimed from our beginnings that Jesus was the Messiah foretold in the Scriptures. His reign began a new witness of the relationship between God and humanity. Jesus did not replace the

expectations of what the Messiah would do; he fulfilled them. What were these expectations? The prophet Isaiah uses four royal titles to describe the Messiah: “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” In Advent midweek worship, we will ponder each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and what these titles mean for us today.

—Pastor Mark Nelson

#### Advent Midweek Worship 6:30pm-7:15pm

*An Advent Wednesday evening supper will proceed worship. Supper will be served from 5:30-6:15pm; \$5/person with a cap of \$20/household*

Wednesday, December 4,  
“Wonderful Counselor”

Wednesday, December 11  
“Mighty God”

Wednesday, December 18  
“Everlasting Father” and “Prince of Peace”



# Seasonal Worship Guide

## December

1	8	15	22	29
First Sunday of Advent, 9:30am	Second Sunday of Advent, 9:30am	Third Sunday of Advent, 9:30am	Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30am	First Sunday of Christmas, 9:30am
The Gospel of Luke				
Luke 21:25-36	Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18	Old and New Testament Readings	Luke 2:41-52
Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Holy Communion, Peace Choir	Children's Christmas Program, Peace Choir, Sunday School Singers	Holy Communion
Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School	Adult Education, Sunday School	Cookie Reception and Extended Christmas Fellowship	Fellowship

## Christmas

24	25
Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve, 4:00pm and 5:30pm	Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day, 9:30am
Old and New Testament Readings	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
Special Music—Stephanie Claussen, harp (both services)	Holy Communion
—	Christmas Fellowship

## January

5		12		19		26	
Epiphany of Our Lord, Second Sunday of Christmas, 9:30am		Baptism of Our Lord, 9:30am		Second after Epiphany, 9:30am		Third Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30am	
The Gospel of Luke							
Matthew 2:1-12		Luke 3:15-17, 21-22		John 2:1-11		Luke 4:14-21	
Holy Communion, Peace Choir		Holy Communion, Peace Choir		Holy Communion, Peace Choir		Holy Communion, Peace Choir, Communion Education Recognition (2nd Grade +)	
Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School	

## February

2		9		16		23	
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30am		Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30am		Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30am		Seventh Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30am	
The Gospel of Luke							
Luke 4:21-30		Luke 5:1-11		Luke 6:17-26		Luke 6:27-38	
Holy Communion; Peace Choir, Sunday School Singers		Holy Communion, Peace Choir		Holy Communion, Peace Choir		Holy Communion, Peace Choir	
Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School		Adult Education, Sunday School	

*Subject to change.*



# Sunday Adult Education

Why Adult Education at Peace? The very crabby early church father, Tertullian (2 c.) said, “*Christians are made, not born.*” Because Jesus and his kingdom fundamentally challenge everything we thought we knew for sure, learning—letting go of old ways of thinking and doing—is part of what it means to “*grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ* (Ephesians 4:15).” Why? Being new “*in Christ*” is not necessarily synonymous with being born in the right place at the right time with the right parents; we don’t get Christ-like from merely living.

Rather, we worship, we pray, we serve, we love....and we also learn. Anselm, the 12<sup>th</sup> century Archbishop of Canterbury, coined a phrase: “*Faith seeking understanding.*” What does that mean? It means that faith in God revealed in Jesus Christ prompts a questioning search for deeper understanding in order to grow and grow in our love for God, just as God has loved us, and love our neighbors.

That’s the purpose of Adult Education at Peace.

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

## **Sunday, December 1**

### **“Preventing Becoming a Victim of Fraud and Scams”**

We welcome guest speaker, Denice Gibson from START Community Services.

## **Sunday, December 8**

### **“Lutheran World Relief”**

Learn more about LWR and their initiatives. Guest presenter, Jamie Lennon, Senior Advisor, Congregational Engagement, LWR.

## **Sunday, December 15**

### **“Advent and Christmas”**

Join us for a deeper look at the well-known Advent and Christmas story. Presented by Pastor Mark Nelson.

## **Sunday, December 22**

Join us for a cookie reception and a time of extended fellowship!

## **December 29**

Join us for extended fellowship.

## **January 5**

Join us for extended fellowship.

## **January 12 and 19**

### **“Vocation”**

What is “vocation”? Definition: “a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation. A person’s employment or main occupation, especially regarded as particularly worthy and requiring great dedication. A trade or profession. Origin is late Middle English: from Old French, or from Latin *vocatio*, from *vocare* ‘to call.’

People still assume some jobs or lifestyles are automatically better in God’s eyes, and those who are soldiers or police officers or firefighters or preachers have higher purpose

and value to God (and to the rest of us).

Not so. Our Lutheran understanding of vocation is that meaning and purpose can be found by trusting that God is working through our daily lives and that meaning is found in serving God by serving the neighbor, being a good spouse, child, parent, employee, employer, and citizen.

On these two Sundays we’ll hear four Peace members talk about their vocation and how their faith connects to their daily work.

## **January 26**

### **Annual Congregational Meeting Preview**

## **February 2**

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

*Sunday Adult Education is subject to change.*



## Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

Following Advent and Christmas, Wednesday evening Bible study will resume on January 8, 2025 and continue weekly through February 5th from 6:00-6:55pm.

Our weekly studies will follow the readings and Gospel assigned for the following Sunday; from scenes of Jesus' early life (his baptism, his first miracle at the wedding in Cana, his inaugural

sermon in Nazareth, his hometown), to Paul's firm but graceful letter to a community at odds with itself (1 Corinthians), to what it all means for walk with the living Lord.

A lively time is had by all and all are welcome any or all Wednesdays!

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

## Grief Support

### January 2-February 20, 4:30-6:00pm at Peace

Churches in Bloomington and Richfield provide education and support for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one.

The winter series will meet on **Thursdays, January 2-February 20, 4:30-6:00pm** right here at Peace.

The meeting starts with a 30-minute educational topic presented by guest speakers who share their own experience and professional knowledge on grief and loss.

The next 60 minutes are spent in small group conversation with the opportunity to share feelings and concerns with others who are also working through the grief process.

The information kiosk has brochures with the winter topics or visit Peace's website for more information. There is no cost to participate and no pre-registration needed.

## Annual Peace Congregational Meeting

### Sunday, February 2, 2025 (Preview Sunday, January 26, 2025)

The annual congregational meeting of Peace Lutheran Church will take place on **Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 10:45am**. We will review our year of ministry; staff, Committee, and financial reports will be presented. A 2025 budget will be recommended for approval, new Council members elected,

and any other new business will be presented to the congregation for consideration.

We will have a preview and discussion of the annual meeting during the Adult Education Hour on **Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 10:45am**. Written annual reports will be available, the 2024 finances will

be reviewed, and the 2025 budget will be first presented.

If you have, at any time, comments, questions, and/or concerns about ministry at Peace, don't hesitate to contact pastors and/or staff. We like to hear from you!

—*Pastor Mark Nelson*

## Service with Intention and Joy

As we enter into winter and the holiday season, there are a few particular things on my mind (along with many other pastors!): gratitude, stewardship, and Advent. Thanksgiving brings out a spirit of gratitude. Gratitude is also the foundation for stewardship—because we have been blessed, we steward our resources to be a blessing to others. And in Advent, we wait with hopeful expectation for the greatest blessing the world has ever known.

Those three things also came together as our Sunday School and Confirmation students recently made care packages filled with handmade cards to send to Peace’s college students across the country. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for each of those students; we steward our resources to bless them in the

midst of their papers, exams, and finals; and they wait with hope for the end of their semester and their return home right before Christmas.

During the process, I noticed how intentional the students were while making their cards. Each student wrote kind and encouraging notes inside and drew pictures filled with joy. And they thought it was really cool to be able to do something uplifting for our young adults, many of whom they know as former Sunday School teachers, VBS leaders, or simply from being around Peace.

We’ve done this intergenerational service project several years now, and every year the college students reach back out to say how much they appreciate the cards and goodies—but also that they really appreciate being thought of. In the midst of a stressful

season, those packages serve as a reminder of God’s love, of Peace’s care and support, and of the hope they have in Jesus.

Thank you to all our Sunday School and Confirmation students who wrote notes, and to all our amazing leaders who helped out. Your kindness and generosity made this act of service possible, and it brought joy and made a positive impact on everyone involved.

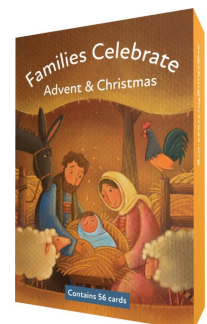
Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Joe Orner*



## “Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas” Card Packs

“Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas” is a colorful card deck filled with prayers, reflections, crafts, service project ideas, and family activities—great 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. The card pack covers the entire season from Advent through Christmas up to the Day of Epiphany.

Peace families with children up age 12 can pick up a card pack in the narthex starting Sunday, November 17.—*Pastor Joe Orner*





## “Great Joy for All”

### Sunday, December 22 During Worship

We are very excited to announce that on Sunday, December 22, during worship, the Sunday School Singers and Peace Choir will join with you, the congregation, to present “Great Joy for All.”

On Sundays, students will rehearse in the sanctuary

during the first half of the education hour, then enjoy lessons in their classrooms for the second half.

There will be a dress rehearsal for all youth participants on Saturday, December 21, from 10:00-11:30am.

—*Pastor Joe Orner*

#### Christmas Program Volunteers Needed

Volunteers of all ages are needed! We need help with costume preparation and staging coordination among other things.

Please sign up at the information kiosk in the narthex.

## Interview with Sofia Oman, Nursery Attendant

Did you know that Peace provides a staffed nursery on Sunday mornings? Every Sunday from 9:30-10:40am, kids under age 5 can spend time with our new Nursery Attendant, Sofia Oman. Here’s a little bit more about Sofia:

**Thanksgiving is coming up. What’s something you’re grateful for?**

SO: I am very grateful to be a part of a very supportive family. They are always by my side, no matter what I’m doing.

**What inspires you to serve**

**others?**

SO: I’m inspired to help others because others help me. I am blessed with amazing people all around me, so I want to spread the love that I receive.

**What’s your favorite part about working in the Peace nursery?**

SO: I get to meet the little kids and work with them. They are very fun to play with, and I love seeing how smart they can be.

**What previous experience do you have working with kids?**

SO: I babysit throughout the year and love doing it. I also have little cousins, and it’s very fun when I get to hang out with them!

**What’s something you appreciate about Peace?**

SO: There is such a great community here, and I love being a part of it!

—*Pastor Joe Orner*

*Editor’s Note: Sofia has served as a Sunday School Teacher and a VBS Leader in addition to working with children on various Peace youth trips.*

## Communion Education Class Offered in January

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 19,**

**2025 from 12:00-1:30pm.** All students who participate will be recognized in worship on Sunday, January 26, 2025.

—*Pastor Joe Orner*

## High School Hangout

Mark your calendar for the following winter High School Hangout dates:

### December

**Saturday, December 7, 10:00-11:00am**

Decorate gingerbread houses!

### January

**Sunday, January 5, 2:00-3:00pm**

Bowling at Pinstripes (3849 Gallagher Drive, Edina).

### February

**Sunday, February 9, 1:00-2:00pm**

Ice skating at Centennial Lakes Park (7499 France Ave S, Edina). Skating is free. Ice skate rental is available.

## Summer 2025 Camp Registration

Get ready to register in January—Summer 2025 is going to be one to remember!

Registration will run January 15 -February 15, 2025 for Camp Wapo Seeds, Camp Wapo Youth Camp, Camp Wapo Family Camp, and the youth trip to Wilderness Canoe Base.

VBS registration occur in the spring.

- June 23-26, 2025. Vacation Bible School will be held at Peace this coming summer! For children from age 4

## Trunk or Treat Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who answered the invitation to participate in our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Trunk or Treat event! Whether you hosted a trunk and gave out candy, attended as a trick-or-treater, or just came to take in all the smiles and laughter, your presence helped make the afternoon special. Thank you!



In reflection, events like these are just one of the many ways that we, as a congregation, put

our faith into action. By extending radical hospitality and unconditional welcome to our fellow community members, it served as a beautiful example of how we continue in our mission of *growing a community that nurtures a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ*—one piece of candy at a time!

—Pastor Joe Orner

through those entering 5th Grade in the fall. Registration will open in April, 2025.

- July 27-31, 2025. Wilderness Canoe Base for High School Youth—current 8th-12th Graders.
- July 27-August 1, 2025. Camp Wapogasset Youth Camp, Amery, WI. For youth who will be completing 4th-8th Grades this spring.
- August 1-3, 2025. Camp Wapogasset Seeds weekend

in Amery, WI. For children who will be completing 1st-3rd Grades this spring. Children are invited to a weekend camp experience at Camp Wapogasset in Amery, WI.

- August 8-10, 2025. Family Camp at Camp Wapogasset. An intergenerational camp opportunity for *all* ages.



# Service & Mission

## Harvest Pack Recap



Wow!!! In 60-minutes, over 75 Peace members packed 15,000

meals for Harvest Pack. The gong rang every a box was delivered to the front doors! Set up and cleanup were done in record time also. We're

getting good at this!

**Thank you, thank you, thank you** to each and every one of you who showed up early to set up tables and equipment, and to all who packed meals, loaded them on the truck and cleaned up afterwards. Special thanks to our church Administrator, Lori Thomson for organizing the event and directing our

activities.

The meals we packed will be distributed locally to hungry children in our area.

For us it was a fun event and one in which we could put our "faith and stewardship into action." Thanks be to God for this congregation and for the opportunity to serve.

## Two VEAP Giving Opportunities

### Children's Books for VEAP

Did you know that VEAP collects and distributes children's books!

The Service & Mission committee discovered during a VEAP tour that over 200 children's books are needed **every month** at the food shelf.

It's simple: gently-used or new books; from baby board books

to young adult books are selected by shoppers to enhance their children's educational life at home.

The Service & Mission Committee decided that the people of Peace are up to the challenge! As a celebration of Thanksgiving for all of the gifts that we are blessed to have received, please bring your

donation—gently-used or new, English or Spanish language books to church until **Sunday, December 1**. (VEAP specifies no religious books.) The books will be brought to VEAP on Monday, December 2.

Thanks for all that you do for the ministries of Peace!

—*Marcia Craig*

### VEAP Winter Challenges

VEAP has been celebrating **50 Years** with monthly challenges throughout 2024. The final challenges of 2024 will be:

- November: Gluten-free pantry items.
- December: Winter

Wonderland. Gift cards, hand & foot warmers, and wool socks for Street Kits. (VEAP supports unhoused people in our community with to-go street kits. Each kit is crafted to meet an

individual's basic needs.)

Please drop off your donations on Sundays, Wednesday evenings, or anytime during the work week. Donations are delivered weekly to VEAP.



## ELCA Good Gifts

### December 1-29, 2024

#### Make a Difference

Every project in every community starts with listening. ELCA believes that their congregations, companion churches and partners know their communities best.

That's why they identify the needs and priorities in their communities, as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact. The items in the ELCA Good Gifts catalog are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by ELCA partners — meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support it needs and none of what it doesn't.

Your donation will be used where needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows our greater Church to stay



adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that it does. Because the ELCA seeks to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, they do not track individual financial gifts

to specific families or locations in the United States or abroad.

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.

#### How To Give

Copies of the 2024 catalog will be available at Peace starting Sunday, December 1 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](http://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 Sunday, December 29.

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

# Winter Fellowship



**Age 80+ Winter Luncheon** is planned for **Thursday, December 5, 11:30am**. After lunch, around 12:15pm, the congregation is invited to a Christmas sing-a-long in the sanctuary led by Peace member, Bob Stuckey! Invite your family and friends to raise your voices in joyful praise!



**Gingerbread House & Cookie Decorating** will be on **Saturday, December 7, 10:00am** at Peace. Join in this intergenerational fun activity and bring home a cute "gingerbread" house!



Three great winter fellowship events!  
**December 8, 1:00pm**, 20-30 Christmas Party at Peace  
**January 5, 1:00-2:00pm**, bowling at Pinstripes (3849 Gallagher Drive, Edina)  
**February 3, 7:30pm**, conversation and a brew at Unmapped Brewing (14625 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka)



Peace Adults, save the date for **Saturday, January 11, 2025, 6:00pm** for a winter warm up fellowship dinner! It'll be a great way to meet some new people and visit with one another during the long days of winter. Look for more information in December.



**White Elephant Bingo:** Bingo with fun and surprising prizes! Join us on **Friday, January 24, 6:30-8:00pm**. This intergenerational event is hosted by the CYF Committee.



**Winter Fun:** Join us for sledding and ice skating at Brookside Park in Bloomington. We'll meet up on **Sunday, February 9, 2:00-3:00m**.

## Ongoing Fellowship

### Tuesday Mornings at Peace

On the **1st, 3rd, and occasional 5th Tuesday of the month, the quilters** meet to stitch and sew. The Quilters will take a break during January and resume meeting on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025** at 10:00am.

### Book Group

A book group has formed at Peace. We meet **monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:45pm**. Contact Lori Thomson for more information.

### Indoor Pickleball

**Fridays, 6:00-7:30pm** at Jefferson Activity Center, Court #4. Upcoming dates are November 22, December 6, 13, 20.

### Yoga

**Monday nights, 5:30pm**. The group meets in Peace's front meeting room.

### Single Adults 65+ Group

This casual group for older singles enjoys getting out and going places! Contact Gary Vig at garyvig@yahoo.com or (952) 941-3877 for more information.

*Look for more information about each of these events on Peace's website, in the Sunday bulletin, or in the Friday e-Note and/or in the CYF Blast.*

*Sign up at the information kiosk or online this winter.*



## In Memoriam: Rick Glasgow, 1946-2024

Pastor Alvin Rogness was once President of Luther Seminary in St. Paul. And Rogness had a favorite story that he told over and over again. It involved a man named Hans. Hans spent a lifetime working as a railroad section hand. One day he died. They had a funeral. After the service, they went to the cemetery for the committal. As they were leaving the cemetery, a man who worked with Hans for a number of years turned to a friend and said, *"Hans had a great God."* That was it. *"Hans had a great God."*

Much like Hans, I think Alvin Rogness had a great God. And, more to the point, I think Rick had a great God, too. Rick's belief and trust in this God in Christ was at the center of his life. Out of that center, flowed his love for youth, his love of music, and his heart full of love for one particular person.

Rick Alan Glasgow was born on October 29, 1946 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Rick graduated from Juneau High School in 1964 and enrolled at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Throughout his academic life, Rick was always



curious about the how things worked. So naturally he took up chemistry, physics, math. Rick was fascinated by technology and new gadgets all his life. He loved college and for his whole life loved a good academic argument. Rick always liked lawyer shows. Because he could play with both sides of an argument!

In his life and work, Rick Glasgow loved spreadsheets. Rick could simplify and convert anything to a spreadsheet, chart, or graph. He even did a spreadsheet for his own funeral. In it he said, summing up his life, *"I love kids. I love music. I love Christ."* And left unwritten, but utterly clear was also, *"I love Linda."*

Rick loved Jesus Christ. On his spreadsheet he wrote, *"I was educated as a scientist, and lived my life is a flawed but faithful follower of Jesus Christ."* Rick looked out at the beautiful and complex creation and could only infer that this beauty had to be created for us. There was nothing random about creation and God and Christ.

Rick loved kids. Kids became *"family"* for Rick. At Peace, Rick

was proud of leading Confirmation small-groups and high school groups. He liked to say that even though he had no children of his own, he has a large extended family of many people—young and old—who he loved dearly and, in return, loved him deeply, too.

Rick loved music. His favorite instrument? *"The human voice."* More than any other kind, he loved choral music; done individually, by small groups, or by the largest choirs. He and Linda supported music of all kinds here at Peace and far and wide.

And, most of all, Rick loved his wife, Linda. For almost 40 years it was Rick and Linda. Linda and Rick. Summing up his love for Linda, Rick said: *"Linda saw and illuminated what was good in me. I love you. My perfect wife."*

Rick's love for Linda, his love for music and for youth, was all borne out of his love for Christ. And because of Rick and those loves, we all know, in a deeper way, that Rick, that all of us, have a great God. Blessed be his memory.

--Pastor Mark Nelson

## An Interview with Alethe Schlaefer

Alethe Schlaefer is a new member to Peace having joined in October, 2024. She has an incredible story about life as an FBI wife in Mississippi in the 1960s.



Alethe met Don Schlaefer at the University of North Dakota. After Don completed law school, he applied to the FBI and was accepted to a new agent's class training in Washington, D.C. and Quantico in 1958. The two were married that summer.

As Alethe writes, "the hero of this story is not me, but my husband, Don." But, as the saying goes, behind every great man is a great woman, so we share their joint story. Following are excerpts from Alethe's memoir written to her children:

On June 21, 1964, three civil rights workers disappeared in Neshoba County, Mississippi—Michael Schwerner (age 24), Andrew Goodman (age 20), and James Chaney (age 21). All three of them were in Oxford, Ohio when the Mount Zion Methodist Church (MS) with an all-black congregation was torched and destroyed by the Ku Klux Klan. Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney left

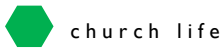
Ohio and drove to Mississippi to investigate. When the three men arrived in Neshoba County they were arrested for speeding, were held in the county jail for several hours, and then escorted out of town at 10:30pm. They drove off into the darkness and were not seen alive again. Their disappearance brought the national news media to the state and the Federal government soon was also on the scene.

J. Edgar Hoover, the head of the FBI, announced the opening of a new field office in Jackson, Mississippi staffed with agents from all over the country. In 1964. Alethe, her husband, Don, and their two young children were just settling down to life in Whittier, California where Don, now an FBI agent, was posted to his third office in six years. They had joined a church and begun to make friends when they were reassigned to Laurel, Mississippi. It was devastating news. However, looking back, Alethe is proud of Don's service there.

When Don arrived in

Mississippi, the bodies of the three civil rights workers had been found buried in an earth-filled dam. President Johnson, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and others in the federal government were exerting enormous pressure to solve this crime. The FBI was ordered to do whatever it took in this regard. The reign of terror perpetuated by the KKK had to be stopped. Don was one of several hundred FBI agents sent to Mississippi to investigate violations of federal law and to find the persons responsible for the murders of the three men. The bodies were recovered because of a large sum of money paid to an informant. Too many people knew where the bodies had been buried; someone would talk.

Though the crime had taken place in Neshoba County and its perpetrators were thought to come from that area, the investigation centered around Sam Bowers the leader of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi and Laurel, MS resident. Klan membership numbered approximately 10,000 in 1964. Klan members were white Protestants whose hatred extended to Catholics, Jews, blacks, and Asians. They believed their terroristic acts



were necessary to further Christian causes to preserve the Southern way of life (segregation).

In the mid '60s, Mississippi was completely segregated. White people lived in one part of town, blacks in another. There were separate facilities for everything from schools, to drinking fountains to restrooms. Black people could not eat with white people in public restaurants, could not stay in the same hotels, nor sit together in a movie theater or courthouse. There was very little interaction between the races except that it was acceptable to take a black dollar in a business transaction and acceptable to hire a black person as a domestic servant.

Alethe had grown up with black families in Fergus Falls and learned inclusiveness at home; singing in Sunday School "*Jesus loves the little children*". Alethe and Don (and other FBI wives) did not have black maids. Alethe and Don decided that *if* they were to hire someone, they would pay a fair wage, but they couldn't afford to do that.

Southerners would ask Alethe, "What church do you go to?" That was Alethe's opportunity to tell people that they did not believe churches should be segregated and therefore, they did not intend to go to church in Mississippi. (Later, Alethe

says, that the Methodist church denounced segregation and, so the Schlaefer family did join a Methodist church.)

The Schlaefer family lived in Laurel for 2½ years. By the time they left, the reign of terror by the Klan had been broken, some of its members in prison, and the schools had been integrated. The long hours and dangerous work by the FBI had paid off.

When recently visiting the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, Alethe overheard a black woman telling her grandchildren, "This is how it used to be." Alethe writes, "I loved hearing that!" It used to be, but no longer is.

Alethe, and her late husband, Don's favorite hymn is, *On Our Way Rejoicing* particularly the second verse from an older version of this hymn,

"If with honest hearted  
Love for God and man,  
Day by day you'll find us  
Doing what we can."

Alethe's advice: Don't discriminate, stick to your principles, and be open to new experiences. Do what you can.

--*Daina Sivanich and Alethe Schlaefer*



## New Members

Welcome new members! On Sunday, October 20, 2024, six new members joined Peace. Please welcome AJ Burton, Martha Greiner, Jacquie Gruben, Virginia Olson, Diane Pederson, and Alethe Schlaefer. We look forward to life and ministry together!



AJ Burton



Martha Greiner



Jacquie Gruben



Virginia Olson



Diane Pederson



Alethe Schlaefer

## Spring New Member Orientation Meeting

Peace welcomes new members! On Sunday, March 16, 2025 we will host an orientation session. It's a great way to learn more about Peace, its resources, and meet other new members. New members will be received in worship on Sunday, March 23, 2025. We strongly encourage you to attend both the orientation and the worship service. Please call the Church Office at 952-944-6510 to register for orientation.



# Life Passages

## Births

- **Brynn Weeks Talbott** born on October 24, 2024. Brynn is the daughter of Sam and Sarah Talbott and she is also welcomed by sister, Emilia, and grandparents John and Kim Barnett.
- **Christian John Alexander Thompson** born on October 29, 2024. Christian is the son of John and Katie Thompson and he is also welcomed by sister, Taylor, and grandparents John and Kim Barnett.

## Baptisms

- **Maren Josephine Winkelman** baptized on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at Peace. Maren is the daughter of Trevor and Ashley Winkelman. Maren's sponsors are Tyler Winkelman and Austin Younger.
- **Mira Skye Pladson** baptized on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at Peace. Mira is the daughter of Zachary and London Pladson, and granddaughter of Mark and Janet Pladson. Mira's sponsors are Matt and Nicole Tschider.

## Weddings

- **Kari Solfest and Connor Birkholz** were married on Sunday, September 1, 2024 in Rochester, MN. Kari is the daughter of Steve Solfest and Joy Kjeldahl.
- **Natalie Hamley and Michael Coulson** were married on Saturday, September 21, 2024 in Cannon Falls, MN.
- **Tanner Jacobsen and Zachary Meyer** were married at Peace on Saturday, October 26, 2024.

## Grieving

- Scott Augustine, family, and friends upon the death of **Sue Augustine** on September 17, 2024.
- **Ryan and Cecelia Byers and family** upon the death of Cecelia's grandfather, Omar Johnson on September 27, 2024.

# partners

Winter 2024

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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: Peeking

By the time Christmas morning arrived, I usually knew which presents under the tree were mine. I would have already reached through the pine needles protecting the gifts from young, curious children like me, found the ones that had tags with my name on them, and made a quick shake of each one of them, hoping it would give me a clue of what was inside. I would have studied the size and shape of each one trying to calculate its value based on size. A couple of times, a gap in the wrapping between the little strips of scotch tape allowed me to lift the edge up just a *little* bit and peek.

But one year—when I was maybe 9 or 10—my investigative skills boomeranged. Digging through the pile under the tree, I was looking for the model aircraft carrier I coveted; not only the present I wanted but also the one I had expected. But much to my surprise there was no aircraft carrier and no model to be glued together after Christmas.

I was thinking about the shepherds this week. I wonder what they expected when they went to work that day long ago, they had no idea what was going to happen. No clue. They were just standing there, minding their own business,

drinking a little more coffee out of their metal thermoses, telling another story, as if the other shepherds hadn't heard it a million times before. Trying to keep awake another night so they would start the next morning with the same number of sheep as they had the morning before. There is no way they expected an angel. Or a multitude of heavenly hosts to burst out in song. Or that all of it was about ... a baby, of all things!

I don't know what Advent and Christmas will be like for you this year. But I do know that whatever God delivers, you will be surprised. Thank God. Because we may think we know what we want but God knows what we most need and gives it to us.

So here is a peek at your best Christmas present of all. It's not what you expect. It's what you most need. It was unwrapped for the shepherds and for us all on that first Christmas: *"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:10)."* A blessed Christmas to you all!

—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



**GOD WITH US**

## Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00pm, Worship

- Children's Message

5:30pm, Worship

- Children's Message

## Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:30am, Worship

- Holy Communion

- Fellowship following worship

## Sunday, December 29,

## First Sunday of Christmas

9:30am, Worship

- Holy Communion

- Fellowship following worship

**Make plans to worship with your  
family at Peace! All are welcome!**