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# CLARION

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2016

*From Pastor's Desk...*

## Weary Christmas

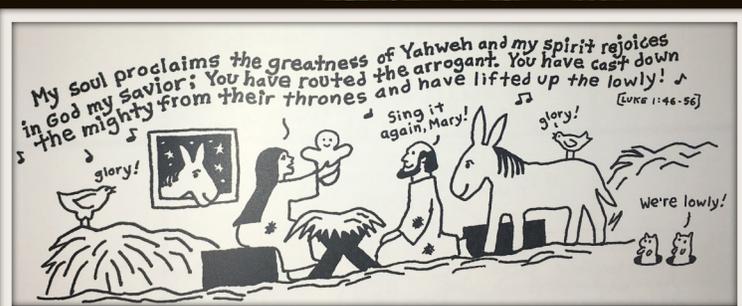
"The LORD is my light and my  
salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
... Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take  
courage;  
wait for the LORD!"

- Psalm 27:1, 14

"It is precisely because we are weary, and poor in spirit, that God can touch us with hope. This is not an easy truth. It means that we accept our common lot, and take up our share of the cross. It means that we do not gloss over the evils we confront every day, both within ourselves and without. Our sacrifices may be great. But as the martyred archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar Romero, once said, it is only the poor and hungry, those who know they need someone to come on their behalf, who can celebrate Christmas." - Kathleen Norris <sup>1</sup>

Jesus was born into persecution. According to Matthew's Christmas account, the tyrant, Herod, interpreted Jesus' birth as a threat to his own supremacy and pursued the baby with a murderous single-mindedness (Matthew 2). In desperation, the Holy Family fled for an unspecified time into Egypt, taking the return trip that their ancestors had taken generations before to escape from Pharaoh, another tyrant. So, at the risk of dulling the magical glow of our Christmas celebrations a bit, at Christmas we recall that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were refugees.

But we also take note that the first Christmas was not so far removed from our own context. The story of a poor family displaced by violence in their homeland could be torn from today's headlines. As much as we might like to domesticate



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Christmas – to depoliticize it – we cannot ignore that the baby Jesus resembles any one of the millions of vulnerable people throughout the world who still endure violent conflict and persecution and poverty. And, even as their circumstances are dire by comparison to many of ours, we, too, are beset by our own struggles and anxieties.

So, Christmas is not a fantasy escape. It's not a dream world where we light candles and imagine life as it could be – silent and holy. No, Jesus is born in the darkest, most terrible night. Emmanuel's arrival in Bethlehem takes place in the thick of human violence and suffering – "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." <sup>2</sup>

So, if you are feeling weary, apprehensive, disheartened – Christmas is for you. Take courage in the notion that God does not meet us in the glitter of "Christmas spirit" but in the humility of a fragile life – a life that God shares with us even unto death on a cross. This truly is God-with-us.

<sup>1</sup> God With Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas, 122.

<sup>2</sup> "O Little Town of Bethlehem," *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, #279.

*Pastor Nate*

## Worship Teams

Team meeting for teams four and five will be December 14<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m. followed by Potluck supper.

Christmas Services Christmas Eve: 4:30 p.m. and 10:30p.m. Christmas Day: 10:00a.m.

Still openings for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS DAY HOSPITALITY! I will not be recruiting for this position, however, if someone would like to be leader of hospitality great, otherwise no coffee or snacks.

An orientation meeting for new members will be scheduled in January, new team rosters available beginning February 2017.

Thanks for another great year of service.

Merry Christmas!

Virginia

## Thankoffering

Women of Peace, as you each came forward November 13th with your offerings for blessings received, I was reminded of what a blessing you are to me and to Peace Lutheran Church. Your money will be used many, many ways by Church wide (WELCA) to help others. We will be sending our Thankoffering of \$294.32 to Women of the ELCA at the national office in Chicago. Thank you! And God Bless You All!!!!

Barb King

**December 4th**, between services - Reading our year-long devotional, Searching for Sunday, by Rachel Held Evans? Looking for an opportunity to discuss your thoughts and air your questions? Bring your book to church on December 4th and join with Pastor Nate and other members for a book discussion between services in Koinonia.

Peace Lutheran Kids Present

## “ABC CHRISTMAS POEM”

**December 18th** (during normal Sunday School hour.)

The poem will be read by our Sunday School students and helpers and will feature favorite Christmas music for all to join in.

Rehearsals are December 4th and 11th during Sunday School hour.



## Pajamas in the Pews

Bring your kiddos, dressed in their pajamas, for a movie night in the church sanctuary on

**Sunday, December 11th - 6:00 p.m.**

We will watch "The Story of Christmas" and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies together.

This is an event for the whole family.



## Congregational Meeting

December 11th, between services

Let your voice be heard on matters relating to congregational leadership, budget, and other concerns!

# Council Nominations

The congregational Council is privileged to serve in leadership on behalf of Peace Lutheran Church.

Do you have a member in mind whose gifts and perspective you admire? Please consider nominating him or her for a position on Council beginning January 2017. The election will take place at the congregational meeting in December. Nominees will be contacted prior to the election in order to provide insight into the work of the Council and an opportunity to accept or deny the nomination.

Per the Constitution, Council members serve a two-year term, at which point they are eligible for reelection once. We would like to elect **eight** members to Council this year.

- Outgoing members of Council who are **not eligible for reelection** include: Kyle Aronson, Andy Casillas, Les Gerstmann, and Steve Smith. *Please do not nominate them.*
- Members currently serving who will remain on Council and **do not need to be reelected** include: Janet Culpepper, Carole Lee, Pat Moore, Paula Schulz, Trish Siltala, Linda Tilman, and Ben Woodbury. *Please do not nominate them.*
- Members of Council whose terms are ending but who **are eligible for reelection** this year include: Leo Armstrong, Crystal Cunningham, and Becky VonWahlde. All other baptized and confirmed members are also eligible. Please do nominate them!

Council Nominations are due **Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**.

## Racism and the Call to Discipleship

Recent events around our nation have repeatedly shed light on the pervasiveness of racial inequality in the United States, especially in the realm of criminal justice. Conversation around this topic can be uncomfortable as it forces us to confront a reality we would prefer not to acknowledge, a reality Christian author Jim Wallis calls "America's original sin."

Nevertheless, as Jesus calls us into solidarity with all who suffer, including those who suffer disproportionately on account of the color of their skin, we bear a responsibility to face up to the sin of racism, collectively repent of it, and take steps to overcome it. Abundant life for God's people is at stake.

Is the Spirit stirring your heart to explore this work further? Are you willing to make a commitment to dismantling racism in our time? Pastor Nate is seeking a group of seven members or friends of the congregation to partner in learning, prayer, and action. Please contact him at [pastor@peacepuyallup.org](mailto:pastor@peacepuyallup.org) or 253.845.8819.

# Thank You from the Quilters

Thank you to the people of Peace for supporting our quilting ministry. We completed 133 quilts: 83 were shipped to Lutheran World Relief, 28 delivered to Exodus House, 11 to Step by Step, (for which we have already received a thank you note), and 11 to St. Francis House. Thank you to Leo Armstrong and Glenn Wilson for taking the quilts to Seattle for shipping to LWR; to Steve and Jane Smith, Becky Henson, and Charlene Cook for delivering them locally; and to Lynn Coleman, Charlene Cook, Donna Richardson, Steve and Jane Smith, Randall and Marlys Tron, and Joan Siburg for packing them.

We also thank all who cut fabric, sew, and put them together and would welcome anyone who would like to participate.



## Thank You



You helped make Christmas merrier for 50 children! The Helping Hands Committee extends a big thank you to all of you who participated in this outreach with the purchase of gifts.

Pastor will bless the gift bags on December 4th.

## Substitute Servers for Armory Dinners

Outreach Ministry is forming a team of servers to fill in at the Armory. This team will jump in to help when there are short notice cancellations. Servers will need to be able to arrive at the Armory location by 5:45pm and serve until 6:30pm. We are compiling a list of volunteers who are interested in this opportunity to serve our neighbors. When a serving opportunity comes up we will contact you to see if you are available to help. If you are interested in this opportunity to serve, there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

# Senior / Retirees Potluck



**Wednesday, December 7th - 12:00**

Please join us for a festive meal and conversation.

We look forward to seeing you!

The next meeting will be the first Wednesday of February.

Monday, December 26th

Tuesday, December 27th

Wednesday, December 28th

Merry Christmas!

OFFICE  
CLOSED



Property Committee will meet after  
Men's Breakfast:

**Saturday, December 3rd**



## Men's Breakfast

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 - 8:30 AM.

## Care Team

Plans are being made for Christmas for out shut-ins. If you would like to help, please contact Nancy or Barb.

## Sunday School News

Dates to remember:

December 18<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Program

December 25<sup>th</sup> - No Sunday School

January 1<sup>st</sup> - No Sunday School

## Women of the ELCA

### Ladies Aid

Wednesday, December 14th

10:30 a.m.

Bible Study:

"What Wants to be Born in You Today?"

Advent Study:

December Gather Magazine

Study Leader:

Everyone!

Hostess:

We will be sharing a holiday brunch. Need to know what to bring? Call Nancy.



WESTERN STATES YOUTH GATHERING 2017

**June 26 - July 2, 2017**

California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, California

The Western States Youth Gathering happens every 3 years for high school youth. It takes place on the campus of California Lutheran University. It will feature mass gatherings with great speakers and musicians, learning and small group experiences. It will also include an immersion experience in LA and a Southern California beach party and much more! In addition to the gathering, we will go down early and spend a day at Disneyland.

Cost - \$450.00

Sign up by Sunday, December 11th. (\$250 due at time of sign up. The remaining \$200 will be due by June 4th)

## PROGRESSIVE DINNER & CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Sunday, December 11th**

**3:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

We will be going around to 4 of our youths homes for:

- Appetizers
- Soup & Salad
- Main Course
- Dessert

We will also be having a gift exchange.

Sign up by Sunday, December 3rd.

# Youth



## CHRISTMAS SWAGS

Swag Making & Decorating Party

Saturday, December 3rd

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

\*lunch provided

Sell Dates: Sunday, December 4th and 11th

SPONSORED BY PEACE LUTHERAN YOUTH

## SPAGHETTI DINNER & Auction

- 3:30 pm - Doors open
- 4:00 pm - Dinner
- 5:00 pm - Dessert & Theme Basket Auction

sunday  
JANUARY  
**29**  
2017

SUGGESTED DONATION

\$12.00 - Adult  
\$6.00 - Child (12 & under)

Tickets can be purchased Sunday mornings between services on January 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> or at the door



Thank you!

To the People of Peace ~

Thank you so much for all of your prayers you have said for my son, Mark Parker. His cancer levels are down and he has finished his chemotherapy. He is now taking radiation treatments and is feeling pretty sick. Which is normal I believe from what I hear. Your continued support is appreciated.

Thank you again,

Blessings -

Rae Carbone

## Christmas Raffle

### December 18th

There were several wonderful items given to WELCA for the Fall Festival auction. These items will be put in to a raffle for Christmas

Tickets will be sold Sunday, **December 11th** and **December 18th** with the drawing being on **December 18th**. Tickets are \$2 for one or 3 for \$5.

Some of the items include:

Christmas Quilt (Peace Quilters)

Large Red Bowl

Christmas motif pillow and towels

& more!

All would be wonderful gifts, or you can enjoy them for your own holiday!

Profits from tickets will be donated to Step by Step (local organization), bringing hope and health to vulnerable at risk mothers and their children.

WELCA will match the funds raised.

## PUYALLUP FOOD BANK COLLECTION CONTINUES

Baby items are always in need. Other helpful items include peanut butter and cereal!



*"The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." -Psalm 24:1*

*"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." -Sir Winston Churchill*

Dear people of Peace,

As a part of our offering on **Sunday, December 11th**, we will make pledges of financial support to the congregation for the year 2017. Look for pledge cards in your mailbox and at the entrances to the sanctuary beginning this week.

Contrary to popular belief, collecting pledges is not a strategy for establishing a church budget. The financial gifts you offer are, in one sense, distinct from the ongoing cost of sustaining a congregation. Pledging, in other words, is not so much about "paying the bills" as it is about making a covenant promise to God. It's a spiritual discipline, a concrete plan for putting your treasure where you want your heart to be (Matthew 6:21). So ultimately, your pledge is *for you*, even as your financial gifts will multiply the blessings our congregation can bestow on both our members and our community.

Lastly, our budget is growing in the coming year to reflect the actual cost of our vision for ministry. So, the success of our ministry will depend entirely on the congregation's bold support. To that end, if you are able, **would you consider increasing your pledge this year?** Peace is making a commitment to increase *our* financial support for the church's wider ministries, and we're hoping to inspire members to follow suit.

Thank you, thank you for your faithfulness in giving, and for all the ways you contribute to the work of God's kingdom in this place!

# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> 8:15 - Worship (CS) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:45 - Program Rehearsal 10:45 - Worship (Jill w/PC) 12:00 - Youth Decorate Church	<b>5</b> 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>6</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 12:00 - PPH @ Panera 5:30 - Finance 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 12:00 - Sr/Ret. Potluck 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 7:00 - Choir	<b>1</b> 9:30 - Quilting 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>2</b> 3:00 - PC Juv. Court	<b>3</b> 8:30 - Men's Breakfast 9:30 - Prop. Committee 10:00 - Youth Swag Making
<b>11</b> 8:15 - Worship (Jill w/PC) 9:40 - Congregational Meeting 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:45 - Program Rehearsal 10:45 - Worship (Joan) 3:30 - Youth Progressive Dinner 6:00 - PJ's in the Pews	<b>12</b> 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>13</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 6:30 - Council Meeting 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 10:30 - WELCA 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 5:30 - Teams 4 & 5 Sign Up 6:00 - Church Potluck 6:30 - Advent Prayer 7:00 - Choir	<b>15</b> 9:30 - Quilting 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>16</b> 3:00 - PC Juv. Court	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> ** Raffle ** 8:15 - Worship (Joan) 9:40 - Children's Program 10:45 - Worship (CS)	<b>19</b> 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>20</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 12:00 - PPH @ SH Mall 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 7:00 - Choir	<b>22</b> 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>23</b> 3:00 - PC Juv. Court	<b>24</b> 4:30 - Christmas Eve Service 10:00 - Christmas Eve Service
<b>25</b> 10:00 - Christmas Day Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 - Bible Study 5:30 - Finance 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED 3:00 - PC Juv. Court	<b>29</b> 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>30</b> 3:00 - PC Juv. Court	<b>31</b>

# Happy Birthday

Mike Smith	1	Werner Boettcher	9	Hannah VonWahlde	15	Darla Anderson	26
Amanda McMahon	2	Jakob Steinberg	10	Linda Lambertson	16	Nathaniel Mace	26
Amy Randall-Vradenburg	2	Matthew VonWahlde	10	Michelle VonWahlde	17	Denise Alvord	27
Denise Mace	3	Bianca Bucher	11	Becky Henson	18	Elaine Mahaffie	28
Cooper Mahaffie	3	Andy Casillas	11	Brayden Richie	20	Shannon Faria	29
Darlene Olson	5	Carol Johnson	12	Jonathan Kempe	21	Aden Neideigh	29
Gene Kempe	6	Anna Grimm	14	Ashley Carrigan	22	Troy Culpepper	30
Robert Gordon	7	Quinn Denton	15	Sara Fowler	22	Mark Smith	30
Zackary Fellenstein	8	Traci Lange	15	William Barrett	23	Irie Tait	30
Mike Lange	8	Jackie Pifer	15	Dave Runkel Jr.	24	Janeen Smith	31



# Happy Baptismal Anniversary

Jan Johnson	Larry Glaser	Tom Alvord	Donna Richardson	Konner Alfano
Barb Hamry	Paul Cheek	Matthew Smith	Emily Cook	Sue Corak
Charlene Cook	Eric Anderson	Thomas Alvord	Matthew Mace	Eralow Kropelnicki
Paula Schulz	Kristen Albenesius	Lauren Storm	Lily Mace	Rae Carbone
Janet Storm	Jennifer Alfano	Marc Lewis	Ron Butler	Sandy Boettcher

# Advent Evening Prayer

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM



A quiet time of contemplative prayer by candlelight



**Saturday, December 3rd, at 5:00pm  
Downtown Puyallup**



Bring the kids down to welcome Santa! See the jolly old elf arrive on one of Puyallup's finest fire engines! Included in the festivities is the Holiday Market (12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) in the Pioneer Park Pavilion and the lighting of the Community Tree in the Park! This wonderful community tradition is a great way to kick off the holiday season! Nibble on cookies and sip on hot cocoa as you watch the lighted delights pass by.

## Holiday Market

**FaRMERS  
MaRKETS  
Holiday  
Market**

**Saturday, December 3rd, 2016**

This year our Holiday Market will coincide with our Ligh+ed Santa Parade. The Holiday Market will be located in Pioneer Park Pavilion and will be open from 12 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. for one day only. The Holiday Market will feature unique holiday gift items, holiday home decor, and specialty food items.

Come down early and shop and stay late to enjoy the holiday festivities!

Santa Parade begins at 5:00pm followed by the lighting of the Community Tree in the Park!

Christmas Eve  
Candle Light Service  
4:30 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.



Christmas Day  
10:00 a.m.



# TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sink your teeth into the weekly Bible texts with Pastor Nate, 10:00-11:00 am on Tuesdays in the gathering area.

See you there!



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*Love, Learn, Pray, Serve*