



# The Clarion

December  
2017

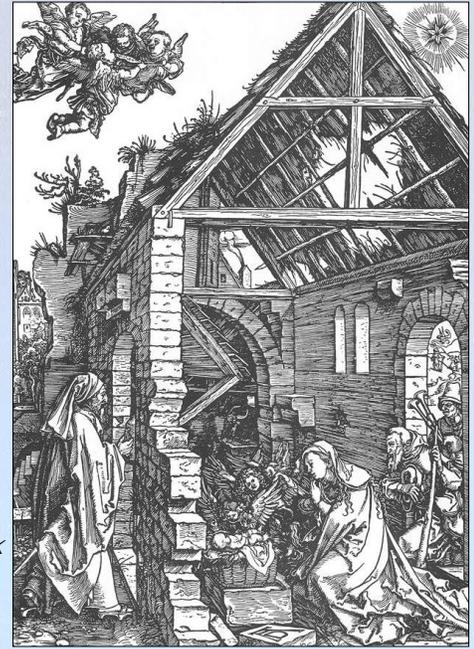


## The Shepherds and Us

*"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."*

*This is wrong. We should correct this passage to read, 'They went and shaved their heads, fasted, told their rosaries, and put on cowls.' Instead we read, 'The shepherds returned.' Where to? To their sheep. Oh, that can't be right! Did they not leave everything and follow Christ? Must not one forsake father and mother, wife and child, to be saved? But the scripture says plainly that they returned and did exactly the same work as before. They did not despise their service, but took it up again where they left off with all fidelity and I tell you no bishop on earth ever had so fine a crook as those shepherds."*

- Martin Luther's Christmas Book



"The Adoration of the Shepherds," Albrecht Dürer, 1502-1503

Mary and Joseph had the privilege of advance notice, but the shepherds were blindsided by the announcement of the Messiah's arrival. News of Jesus' birth came to them right in the middle of an average night shift. Tending sheep was humble work, and the shepherds had no reason to expect that their run-of-the-mill lives would be interrupted by a proclamation that God's dream for the world was coming true.

Nevertheless, the heavenly choir appeared to them on the job and sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on Earth peace among those whom God favors." This peasant baby, as common as they were, was in fact extraordinary, the one on whom they could pin their highest hopes. And, God favored the shepherds enough to break the news to them.

For a moment, Christmas removed them from the daily grind and gave them a reason to celebrate the bigger picture.

Then they returned to their lives. Christmas ended, and although the world had changed overnight, the shepherds went back to their work, their families, and their communities, ordinary as they were.

And in this way, the shepherds exemplify the rest of us. The good news reaches us in the thick of our own lives, more or less wearisome, to inspire our hope. We take time out to celebrate, yet we eventually return to our responsibilities and relationships, ostensibly unchanged by the arrival of a baby. But, *this* baby sets our ordinary lives in a new context, dignifying each new day with the promise that in our work and our rest, in our duties and routines, yes, in every aspect of our day-to-day lives, God is with us.

Peace,





# Council Nominations

The congregation's Council plays a critical role in the leadership of Peace Lutheran Church.

Can you think of a member whose gifts and perspective would benefit Council? Please consider nominating him or her for a position beginning **January 2018**. 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 refuse 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 **seven** members to Council this year.

- Outgoing members of Council who are **not eligible for reelection** include:  
Janet Culpepper, Pat Moore, Paula Schulz, and Trish Siltala.  
Please do not nominate them.
- Members currently serving who will remain on Council and **do not need to be reelected** include:  
Leo Armstrong, Mary Boben, Crystal Cunningham, Diane Dean, Karen Ekse, Becca Johnstone, Pippa Simpson-Younger, and Becky VonWahlde.  
Please do not nominate them.
- Members of Council whose terms are ending but who **are eligible for reelection** this year include:  
Carole Lee, Linda Tilman, and Ben Woodbury.  
*All other baptized and confirmed members are also eligible. Please do nominate them!*

Council Nominations are due **Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**.



## Sunday School Calendar

December 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Children's Christmas Program

December 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday School Classes cancelled.

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Sunday School will resume at the same time around 9:40 am

### DONATION BASKETS & SERVICES FOR THE YOUTH AUCTION

If you would like to donate a themed basket or you have a service (examples Time share cabin, professional skills, boat rides, specialty meals) please fill out a procurement form available in the gathering space or church office. Please have them turned in by Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>.



### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 2nd - 8:30 a.m.

## Senior Retirees Potluck



Wednesday, December 6th

12:00 p.m.

Please join us for a festive meal and conversation. All are invited! We look forward to seeing you!

### Why We Give...

Often it is said that "of those to whom much is given, much is expected." And many of us have much and should give accordingly – *not because it's expected but because we want to do so*. Returning to the Lord through Peace is a privilege. It is also said that "giving is a joy" – people who give are truly happier.

-Anonymous

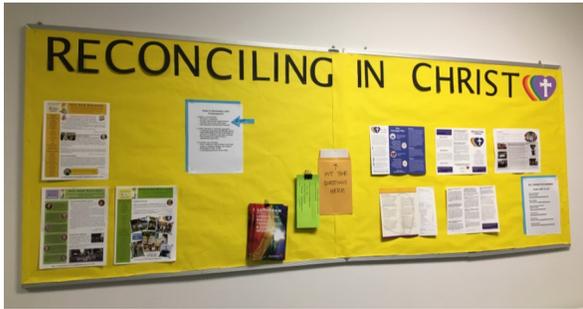


**WELCOME**  
New Members

Have you joined Peace since June? Are you interested in joining the congregation as a member? Do you know someone who is interested in joining?

**Be recognized in worship on Sunday, December 10th!**

Please contact the office in November to indicate your interest. 253.845.8819 or [office@peacepuyallup.org](mailto:office@peacepuyallup.org).



Please take a moment to notice our **Reconciling In Christ** bulletin board in the hallway between the sanctuary and gathering area. Posted is information on what an RIC congregation is, the steps to becoming an RIC congregation (with an arrow showing where we are in the process), and a list of your RIC Committee members with contact information. Also posted are bright green comment/question cards that you are encouraged to fill out and place in the envelope hanging on the bulletin board. We will also be including these cards in your bulletin over the next few weeks so you can also fill them out during the service and place them in the offering plate.

## Why We Give...

*We are constantly aware that all we have has come from God. He has given us a blessed life and supported us during health and other problems. It's important in our overall giving that we reflect such. Peace, to us, is a place to gather with Christian friends for worship, fellowship and sharing in important outreach programs to the community. We give to help in all that Peace represents.*

-Anonymous

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



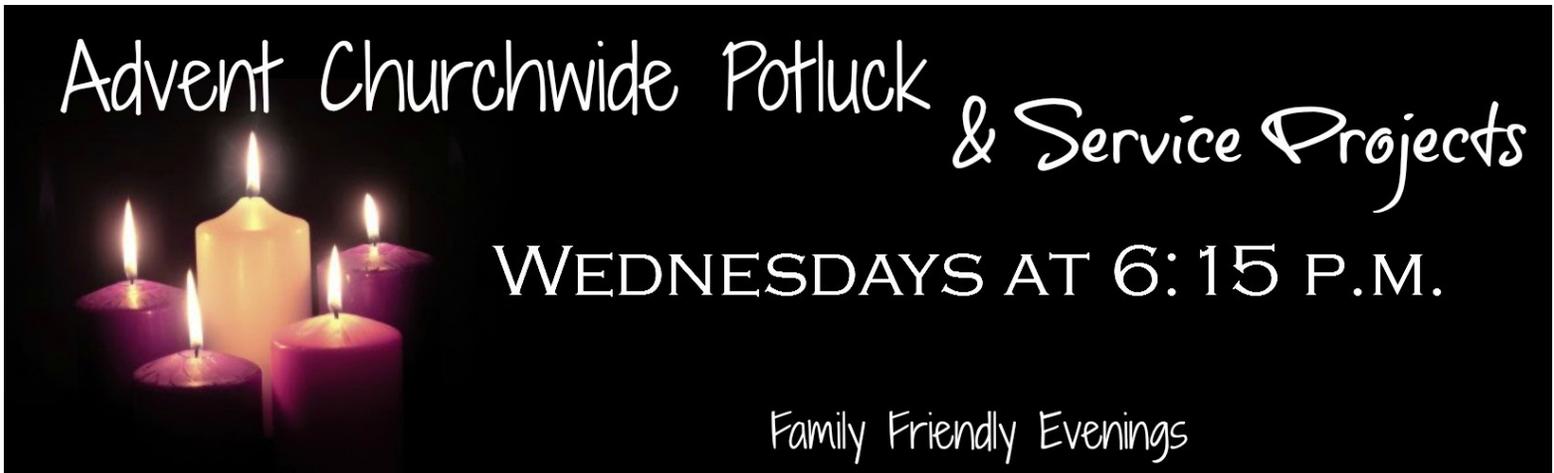
**December 10th - in-between services**

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

# Advent Churchwide Potluck & Service Projects

## WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15 P.M.

Family Friendly Evenings





**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

Thank you Thrivent

Our congregation has been blessed by Thrivent with \$2,500.00 as a supplement to 10 projects. NONE of this money is in our budget. If it wasn't for this gift our projects would not be able to go the extra mile.

Thank you to the project leaders for giving the information needed to apply. Thank you also to the Thrivent members who sent in the applications.

If you are going to have a project in 2018 please let me know. We have to have a 3 week window to apply. I will help you with the paperwork needed. It takes about 10 minutes to give me that information. You can call me at 253-307-2656.

Praise God for the abundance of generosity.

Thank you, Diane Dean



*thank  
you*

- WELCA for the food and cake on confirmation weekend.
- Nancy Jo and Leo Armstrong for organizing, decorating, serving and cleaning up after the dinner for the confirmands and their families.
- The entire Andrews Clan for cooking, serving and cleaning up afterwards at the confirmation dinner.
- Charlene Cook who has been the leader and very hard worker in keeping the gardens looking so nice.



Christmas Cookie Sunday needs your help! Bring a dozen or so of your favorite Christmas sweets to church (homemade or store bought) for sharing Sunday, December 17 between services. Questions? Contact Jenny Moore 253-229-0816,

[moorejennysue@gmail.com](mailto:moorejennysue@gmail.com)



## DIGITAL GIVING IS HERE!

Members have asked for digital giving options and we have provided them through Tithe.ly. On the website there is a link on the navigation bar to `Give`. Here you will find the option `Give Online`. Clicking on that will take you to the giving page. There is also a button in the bottom right of the homepage that you can click on. Once at the giving page you can give either through bank to bank or by credit card. If you wanted to, you can create a Tithe.ly account to store your data and to track your giving. It's as simple as that.

### Mobile users

If you prefer to give on your phone, you can do that, even in the service! You can download the Tithe.ly app and use it to give.

### Are there any fees involved?

There are fees for processing. You can choose to pay them yourself so that the church does not have to. Your own bank may have additional fees for bank-to-bank transfer; you should always check those out.

### Can I set up automated giving or give to specific funds?

Yes! To both. You can set up monthly, twice monthly or weekly payments. These will happen even if you miss church. That way you can still give when you're on vacation. You can also do one time donations. You can choose your gift to be a regular offering or you can choose to give to a specific fund (i.e. youth).

Why not give it a try...





# Pastor's Public Hours

Tuesday, December 5th  
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

# THREE



# Pastor's Public Hours

South Hill Mall Food Court

Tuesday, December 19th  
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Join Pastor Nate in the food court for a holiday version of Public Hours. Christmas sweaters, hats and socks are highly recommended (but not necessary).

## Trim the Tree

All are welcome to help decorate the church for Christmas! We will have treats and drinks as we trim the tree!!

Saturday, December 16th 10:00 - 12:00



### HYMN OF THE MONTH

#261 - *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn*

## Why We Give...

My parents constantly taught and reminded us that if we tithed we would want for nothing- God would provide us all we needed. Since Andy and I committed to tithing, this has most certainly been true, and *many times the provision has been beyond our understanding.*

-Jill Burch

- Monday, December 25  
*Merry Christmas!*
- Tuesday, December 26
- Wednesday, December 27





# PROGRESSIVE DINNER

& Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10th

3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Bring a gift to share - \$5.00 range for  
gift exchange

Elementary

## KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Sunday, December 17th

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

- Games
- Gingerbread Houses
- Movie w/Popcorn

Parents - This is a great opportunity to do some  
Christmas shopping while we have fun with your kids!

Hosted by Peace Lutheran High School Youth



## Christmas Swag Making & Decorating

Saturday, December 2nd

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

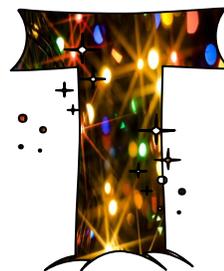
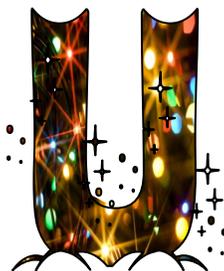
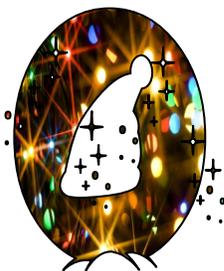
(lunch provided)

Selling dates: December 3rd & 10th

SPONSORED BY PEACE LUTHERAN YOUTH

## Spaghetti Dinner

& AUCTION





Mike Smith	1	Matthew VonWahlde	10	Ashley Carrigan	22
Amanda McMahon	2	Bianca Bucher	11	Sara Fowler	22
Amy Randall-Vradenburg	2	Andy Casillas	11	Kyrah Carlson	23
Denise Mace	3	Carol Johnson	12	Davie Runkle Jr	24
Cooper Mahaffie	3	Quinn Denton	15	Darla Anderson	26
Darlene Olson	5	Traci Lange	15	Nathaniel Mace	26
Zackary Fellenstein	8	Jackie Pifer	15	Danise Alvord	27
Mike Lange	8	Hannah VonWahlde	15	Elaine Mahaffie	28
Werner Boettcher	9	Michelle VonWahlde	17	Troy Culpepper	30
Jakob Steinberg	10	Becky Henson	18	Mark Smith	30



Jan Johnson	Paula Schulz	Kristen Albenesius	Rachel Gordon	Ron Butler
Rae Carbone	Janet Storm	Jennifer Alfano	Donna Richardson	Konner Alfano
Barb Hamry	Larry Glaser	Tom Alvord	Emily Cook	Eralow Kropelnicki
Leonard Barrett	Paul Cheek	Matthew Smith	Lily Mace	
Charlene Cook	Eric Anderson	Lauren Storm	Matthew Mace	

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> YOUTH Swag Sale 8:15 - Worship (Jill w/PC) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - Sunday School 10:45 - Worship (Joan)	<b>4</b> <b>Council Nominations Due</b> 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>5</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 12:00 - PPH @ THR3e 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 5:30 - Finance 6:30 - Executive 7:00 - Boy Scouts / 4-H	<b>6</b> 9:30 - Sr./Ret. Potluck 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club 6:15 - Advent Potluck 7:00 - Choir	<b>7</b> 9:30 - Quilting 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club 7:00 - A.A. Meeting 7:00 - Rowland & Assoc.	<b>1</b> 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club	<b>2</b> 8:30 - Men's Breakfast 10:00 - Youth Swag Making
<b>10</b> YOUTH Swag Sale NEW MEMBER WELCOME 8:15 - Worship (Joan) 9:40 - Congregational Meeting 9:40 - Sunday School 10:45 - Worship (Jill w/PC) 3:00 - Youth Prog. Dinner	<b>11</b> 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>12</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 6:30 - Council 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> 10:30 - Ladies Aid 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club 6:15 - Advent Potluck 7:00 - Choir	<b>14</b> 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>15</b> 2:30 - Mt. View Kids Club	<b>16</b> 10:00 - Church Decorating
<b>17</b> 8:15 - Worship (CS) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - Sunday School 10:45 - Worship (Joan) 1:00 - Kids Christmas Party	<b>18</b> 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>19</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 12:00 - PPH @ SH Mall 3:00 - PC Juv. Court 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 6:15 - Advent Potluck 7:00 - Choir	<b>21</b> 9:30 - Quilting 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 - Worship (Jill) 9:30 - Kids Program 4:30 - Worship (CS) 10:00 - Worship (Jill w/PC)	<b>25</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 - Worship (Joan) 	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b> 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 - Worship (Joan)						

# Luminaria Fundraiser

Light up your spirit for Christmas!!

Purchase a bag in honor of, in memory of, for a family or for an individual. All luminaries will be lit and displayed throughout the church on Christmas Eve. After service, you can find the bag with your loved ones name and take it home as a Christmas memory.



Each bag is a minimum donation of \$5. There is no limit to the number of bags you can purchase.

All donations are to support the youth of Peace Lutheran Church.

Order forms can be found attached to the flyer in the Gathering Area. Or you may contact Sara directly via email or phone!

As we near the end of 2017, its time for reminder and some thank yous.

All women of the congregation at Peace Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. And it naturally follows that we are members of the Southwestern Washington Syn-  
dical Women's Organization and the Mr. Rainier Cluster. For churchwide to consider us an active "unit" we must meet several criteria regarding activities, leadership, finances and learning opportunities. In 2017 WELCA sponsored several traditional events.

In the spring for Peace's Anniversary and the Reformation Celebration we had an old-fashioned bake sale. Many thanks to those who donated goodies and those who were buyers. Money raised and matched by our WELCA enabled us to donate \$500 to the Women of the ELCA "Katie's Fund" which honors Kathryn Luther.

Several events took place this fall. The Fall Festival in October raised almost \$1,000. We will make donations, as we do annually, to several local and national agencies. Thanks to all who participated by donating auction items, jars, books and enjoying the brunch. Special thanks to:

- Thrivent Insurance for a donation with which we purchased all the supplies for the brunch.
- Lynn, Nancy, Leo and Barb for Saturday morning set up of the 2 rooms.
- All who helped on Sunday morning and the clean up.
- The Smiths who brought in all the pumpkins as a surprise part of the festival.

Peace Women purchased bibles for the confirmands and served a special dinner for the five young people and their families on November 4th.

On November 12th, the annual Thankoffering was part of both worship services. This is a mission project of long standing at Peace. Total offering goes to Churchwide for special programs for women and children.

We will be doing some special things for the Christmas season. A complete list of how we give support in many areas will be in the annual report of the congregation.

Remember you are all part of WELCA! Thank you for your support!

Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA** 



# OUTREACH

## Puyallup Food Bank Collection

We will be continuing our collection for the Puyallup Food Bank through the month of December! The Puyallup Food Bank relies on donations to feed those that do not have the means to feed themselves. On average, **the Puyallup Food Bank disburses nearly two and a half tons of food every time they open their doors to serve.** Without food donations, there is nothing to give.

### ESPECIALLY NEEDED ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meat
- Canned Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Gift Cards for local grocery stores so that we can purchase perishable items such as eggs, butter, and milk



## Wednesday Advent Service Projects!

Let's serve our neighbors together while we wait for the coming of Christ!

Each Wednesday during advent we will have the opportunity to eat together and serve together.

Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> we will package cookies and treats. These cookies will be delivered to our homebound members. Please bring a dozen cookies or a favorite holiday treat to contribute to our packages of treats. Any extras will be shared with our church community during the next fellowship hour!

Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> we will be assembling the Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to Thrivent for the Action Team Dollars! We will use these funds to purchase additional items for the care kits.

Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup> we will be packaging food for Communities in Schools. This will help us get prepared for delivering in January. We are now serving 40 kids per week at Spinning Elementary. That translates to lots of opportunities to help package food!



## Christmas Dinner Baskets

Ham dinners have been generously given by Dick Shipman in memory of Carol Shipman. Thrivent Action Dollars will supplement the meals with some additional items like dessert!

If you know a family who would enjoy one of these meal baskets, please fill out a form and place it in the box marked "Christmas Dinner Baskets" in the gathering area or contact the outreach ministry team at [outreach@peacepuyallup.org](mailto:outreach@peacepuyallup.org).

Feel free to nominate members of our congregation or to nominate relatives, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or community members. All are welcome to the meals. We have limited meals available so please sign up as soon as possible. All nominations are needed by Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## An Abundance of Generosity!

This year, thanks to the generosity of Dick Shipman, who provided a gift in honor of his wife Carol, the Outreach Ministry Team was able to distribute Thanksgiving Dinners to 20 Families, 10 families from the local community and 10 families that have recently moved from the Family Housing Network shelter system into permanent housing. We supported these families with turkeys, potatoes, pies, and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner given with love and generosity!



## Spinning Elementary School Giving Tree

If you, extended family or friends are looking for an additional way to support children in need this holiday season, Spinning Elementary would love the help! Spinning is experiencing more students in need this year, and they welcome community support to make the holidays brighter for these children. Please stop by the office at Spinning (1306 E. Pioneer) or pass the word on to anyone you know who may wish to help!

With gratitude, Peace Outreach Team

## Communities in Schools Update!

We are blessed to be a blessing! Thanks to the generosity of our community here at Peace, we have reached out in support of two of our local elementary schools this year!

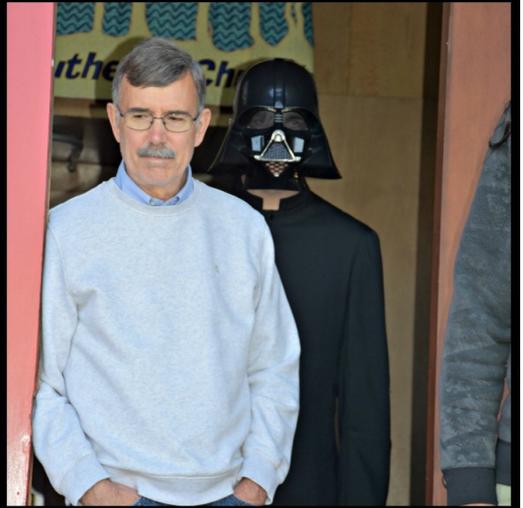
We are currently serving 40 children at Spinning Elementary by providing supplemental weekend food through the Weekend Backpack Program. Be on the look-out for additional packaging projects!

At Stewart Elementary, we provided prizes for the attendance prize box to help encourage better school attendance, we wrote personalized thank-you notes to the teaching staff for all they do for the children, and we are currently providing supplemental "family" style food each week for a single mom and her two children. Our newly adopted family currently resides in a living room space of another family's home and has no access to transportation.

The Outreach Ministry Team continues to be grateful for the abundance of donations of time, talents and resources that allows us to reach out and serve our neighbors at our local schools!



# BooAllup 2017





# Christmas Eve

S E R V I C E

9:30 a.m. with Children's Christmas Program

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



Christmas Day Worship

9:30 a.m.



New Year's Eve Worship

9:30 a.m.

# TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

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

Hope to see you there!



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**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

Visit our website—[www.peacepuyallup.org](http://www.peacepuyallup.org)



## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

214 East Pioneer

Puyallup, WA 98372

Merry  
Christmas