



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 686

OFFICE: 254-5395

LINTON, NORTH DAKOTA

December 2017



Three Days of Prayer

I like what the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) says about prayer.

“Our attitude toward prayer has often been characterized by saying, ‘well, all we can do now is pray!’ Prayer is not the hopeless act of desperation. Prayer is a gift that God has given to us as a means to approach the throne of grace with confidence—like that of a child coming to her parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats and every part of life. It is an opportunity to express the deepest heartache and the greatest joy. Prayer is a conversation between the Creator and the created...and the conversation began with God, for us, in Christ Jesus.”

Let's start the new year with prayer! On January 2, 3, and 4 churches throughout the LCMC will be taking part in the LCMC's Annual Three Days of Prayer.

Each of the three days has a different prayer focus. Day one is focused on confession, day two is focused on petition (praying for our needs and the needs of others), and day three is focused on vision (praying for the Spirit's guidance). Though for most of the three days of prayer, we will participate as individuals, on day two (Wednesday, January 3rd), everyone is invited to attend a simple evening prayer service at Peace Lutheran at 7:00 PM.

Prayer is important. I hope that you will take part in the three days of prayer. Included in this newsletter is a guide for you to use during the three days of prayer.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sean



Church Council

The Church Council is in need of three people for a three year term. Please consider serving or encouraging others to serve. Elwin Nieuwsma, Edgar Ohlhauser, and John Ptacek are the members going off the council in January.

Endowment Update

Since the endowment fund reached (and surpassed) the goal of \$25,000, the Endowment Committee has been able to make distributions to ministries and needs around the community out of the interest earned from your generous contributions to the fund! A few months ago money was distributed to the PLCW to supply health kits to children in Haiti. Just recently the fund was able to provide \$500 to the Emmons County Ministerial for Thanksgiving Baskets and \$500 to a new Emmons County chapter of an organization called BIO Girls. BIO Girls is a program for girls in grades 2-6 that builds self-confidence and life skills through positive mentoring, physical fitness and Christian-based curriculum. May the Endowment Fund continue to bless the community and give witness to the generosity of our Lord!

✝ Memorials ✝

Gifts were given in memory of Wayne Kiemele to the Celebrate Fund by Keith & Evelyn Petrick; in memory of Bob Tschritter to the Endowment Fund from Duane & Janice Baer, and to the General Fund from Mike & Lil Kunz; and in memory of Gert Rau to the Parsonage Fund from Keith & Evelyn Petrick, and to the Endowment Fund from Duane & Janice Baer. ✝



From Purple to Blue

This year you'll notice a different color in the church during Advent. In the past, the paraments (the cloths that hang from the altar, lectern, and pulpit) have been purple during Advent. Purple, which also shows up during Lent, is the color of repentance as well and royalty. Purple has often been displayed during Lent and Advent in order to encourage us to reflect on the kingship of Christ and also on our own sin and need. So why the switch to blue?

Certainly the kingship of Christ is important during Advent. Also important is the reminder that we are sinful human beings. But Advent is also the season of hope. During Advent we look forward not just to the birth of Christ, we also look forward to the return of Christ. At Christ's return this world will finally be done with sin and corruption and all will be made new. This is when "the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings." (Malachi 4:2). And so, just as the sky is a deep shade of blue in the last hours before the sunrise, so now are our Advent paraments. The color is to remind us of the long awaited break of day – the promised of return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(For more read the article "Blue or Purple" found at <https://lutheranzephyr.com/2010/11/29/advent-blue-or-purple/>)



The Church Council, Meeting of November 8, 2017:

- Pastor Sean reported on Confirmation/Bible Study. He took 3 boys to Camp of the Cross for an overnight camp for 4th – 6th Graders. Made 5 visits with Communion. New Paraments for Advent and Christmas.
- Endowment Fund Report: Two dispersals of \$500 each to ECMA (Thanksgiving Baskets), and to BIOGirls.
- "Men of Integrity" has been discontinued, and we should be getting a refund.
- Discussion on receiving quotes for a kitchen remodel at the parsonage (new cabinets, dishwasher, and possibly flooring).
- Heard quotes from Advanced Business Methods on upgrading the printer. The current printer is getting more expensive and difficult to service. Motion, second, carried to enter into a 48 month lease on a printer.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact a church council member..... Jon Ptacek, Elwin Nieuwsma, Edgar Ohlhauser, Julie Umber, Lyle Hanson, Erin Huber, Aaron Stuckle, Jason Rossow, and Debbie Jahner.✝



A Reminder...Thrivent Choice \$ may be directed to Peace Lutheran Church.
Their phone # is 1-800-847-4836.

We have not received Thrivent Choice \$ since June.

Thank you to those who direct their Choice \$ to our congregation!



Upcoming Workshop in Linton...

***"Design Your Succession Plan"** is a workshop that helps families understand the succession planning process, get started on a plan, communicate with family, and work with professionals to create a succession plan that accomplishes the owner's vision for their business and family.*

This two-night workshop is for farm or ranch families who want to navigate the discussions and decisions that will shape the future ownership of their farm or ranch, and prepare documents that will allow them to work efficiently and productively with professionals to put their vision into action.

The workshop will be held at the Emmons County Courthouse Auditorium in Linton, starting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6. It will continue and conclude on December 13.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Contact the NDSU Extension Service in Emmons County at 254-4811 for more information.



A Food Pantry donation of 300 pounds was made by the family of Emma Bitz shortly before Thanksgiving. "This is the 18th year we have been making this donation in memory of our mother! Happy Thanksgiving to all!"

Karen Bitz Ibach

Mike Bitz



CARILLON "SPECIAL" MUSIC



Would you like to honor or remember someone or some event with a song played on the carillons? If so, let the church office know the date and song (if available) you would like played. It will be played on that date at 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. (your choice) and it will be acknowledged in the bulletin. Cost is a donation.✝

✿ *Honor Someone With Chancel Flowers!* ✿

The Flower Committee listed below along with the Linton Floral N' More has set up a system for members to provide flowers for Sunday worship services. For **\$30**, the Linton Floral N' More will provide 2 arrangements of flowers for the 2 vases behind the altar or a larger single arrangement for **\$25** for the top of the piano. This includes tax.

If you would like to supply flowers for a certain Sunday:

- 1) make sure that Sunday is not taken. 2) give your money to one of the ladies on the Flower Committee.
- 3) tell her the date you want. 4) let her know if it is for a special occasion. The ladies will make sure the flowers are there and the information will be listed in the bulletin on that Sunday. **We do ask that you pay the appropriate amount when making your request even if it is several weeks or months in advance.**

Flower Committee members are: Leola Dietz and Janice Baer.✝



It's almost Christmas!

Advent and Christmas

Let yourselves be taken up into this season of hope by attending worship during Advent (Sunday December 3rd-24th.) It really will make Christmas that much more meaningful to reflect not just on his birth but on his long awaited return to this earth. I would especially highlight our **Advent Vesper's service on December 17th** at 7:00 PM. It is a beautiful and almost entirely musical service that features the Peace Light which comes all the way over to us from Israel. Plus the service will be followed by treats!

And once Christmas does come, please make the most of the season by attending our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. On **Christmas Eve we worship not only at 10:00 AM but also at 6:00 PM.** While the morning service will be a regular service for the fourth Sunday in Advent, the evening service will be our Candlelight Service which will feature many of your favorite Christmas hymns. On **Christmas Day at 10:00 AM** we will continue the celebration with Holy Communion and more beloved Christmas songs.

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School children will tell their Christmas story
December 10th during the 10:45 worship at Peace Lutheran Church.
Fellowship and Bake Sale will follow the program. Everyone is welcome!✝

Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time. ~Laura Ingalls Wilder



There will be a **Bake Sale** following the Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 10th**. This is to support the PLCW. Our funds this year have been rather depleted and we have a few things we need to accomplish before our annual fund-raiser. We thank all who help by donating items for this and all who purchase the items.



When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things — not the great occasions — give off the greatest glow of happiness. ~Bob Hope



Sharing Christmas...

✝ The **PLCW** will be packing baskets for the shut-ins before our board meeting on **December 6** and delivering them following the meeting for anyone who would either like to help pack or help deliver. Packing at 1:30, delivery at approximately 3-3:30. ✝



The Peace Light of Bethlehem will be coming to Peace Lutheran Church again this year. The Peace Light comes from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Israel. A flame that has burned for 1,000 years, the Peace Light represents the prayers of many around the world who have prayed for peace in the name of Jesus Christ.

On **December 17th at 7:00 PM** we will be having a Vespers Service of Light celebrating Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. If you would like to bring the Peace Light home with you to have during your holiday celebration, please bring a lantern to bring it home in. There will also be 7-day candles for you to burn it at home. Some people have even used the peace light in their gas water heaters or anything with a pilot light that burns continuously throughout the year. The only thing we would like for purchase of a candle is a donation to the food pantry. After the Service, bars and coffee will be served.

A sign-up sheet to either help serve or bake bars for this will be on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office. Thank you.



Youth Group

Happy Holidays to all of our church families. The youth were busy decorating cookies for the shut-ins and will be delivering in December. If you would like them to stop by and sing a Christmas Carol please contact Lisa Ptacek at 701-254-4179.

Youth grades 7-12 are welcome to sing with us. Look for a day and time on Facebook!

Enjoy your holiday season with the ones we love.

Lisa Ptacek



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Christmas program preparations are underway! In all the hustle and bustle of the business of the upcoming holiday season, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas and it's not about the presents under the tree but being present that means the most. ❄️

We will have Sunday School on December 3 and 10 starting at **9:00 AM** and program practice with pizza on December 6 starting at 5:30. We anticipate being done between 7 and 7:30.

This year we are working with the PLCW for the free will bake sale with cider and coffee following the Christmas Program. Please sign up to bring goodies in one dozen increments to support the PLCW as they are very generous in supporting our children's ministry with purchasing bibles and camp registration fees to name a few.

There will not be Sunday School on December 17, 24 and 31st. Please enjoy the holidays with your family. Sunday school will resume on January 7.

Merry Christmas,

Lisa H. and Lisa P.



Quilting Ladies... We will not be quilting in December, but will begin again January 8th, and will meet Mondays and Tuesdays. ✝️



Men's Bible Study meets Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.



He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. ~Roy L. Smith



A Christmas candle is a lovely thing
It makes no noise at all,
But softly gives itself away.
~Eva Logue



Ushers and Acolytes for Dec.

Chris Brueckner Darren Tveito
Jackson Tveito Rico Caruso

Noah Nieuwsma



Dec. Greeter Schedule

10:45 a.m. Worship Service, 3, 10, & 17
10:00 a.m. Worship 24th, 25th, and 31st
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship, 24th

Dec. 3 Duane & Janice Baer
Dec. 10
Dec. 17
Dec. 24
Dec. 25
Jan. 7

Sunday Scripture Reader's Schedule

Dec. 3 – Janice Baer
Dec. 10 – Debbie Jahner
Dec. 17 – Linda Tschritter
Dec. 24 – AM – Debbie Jahner
Dec. 25 – Laura Hirvela
Dec. 31 -
Jan. 7 – Debbie Jahner

December Sunday School Schedule

Dec. 3 – Sunday School Program Practice **9:00 a.m.**
Dec. 6 – Pizza Supper and program practice **5:30 p.m.**
Dec. 10 – Sunday School **9:00 a.m.**
Program during Worship @ **10:45**
Dec. 17, 24, & 31 – No Sunday School
Sunday School resumes **Jan. 7th**.

*Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen. ~Author unknown,
attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby*





~PLCW Board News~

✝ We will be having a Bake Sale after the Sunday School's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10th. Any donations are welcome.

✝ We will be packing and delivering Christmas Baskets for the shut-ins in December. If you know of someone who would like to receive one, please let Pastor Sean or Marilyn Malmedal know.

✝ The Peace Light Service will be in the evening of Sunday, December 17th. Refreshments will be served in the Narthex after the service.

✝ A Thank You was received from "Empowering Lives Together" for the health kits and school kits that are going to Haiti.

Thank you to all who took part and donated on the Thank Offering Sunday, November 19th! Our donations went to "**Lutheran Disaster Assistance – Hurricane Victims**".

Women of Peace Bible Study at church

Christmas Treat Potluck

Wed., Dec. 20th at 7 p.m.

Mary Maier will lead the Bible Study.

All confirmed Women of the Church are welcome!



✝ DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✝

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Dec. 3 & 10

Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Dec 3, 10, & 17

Confirmation Instruction Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Dec. 6

Dec. 3 – Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

Service at Strasburg Care Center 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 10 – Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship 10:45 a.m.

Fellowship & Bake Sale to follow.

Dec. 17 – Praise! Worship with Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

Advent Vesper's Service 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 24 - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 31 – Worship 10:00 a.m.



! 🚌 **Need a Ride??**

If you need a ride to church.....please call:

Elwin Nieuwsma.....254-0167



We received a *Thank You* from *ELCA Global Church Sponsorship* for a \$100 donation given to our church designated for Anne & Willie Langdji.





Our October "Mission of the Month" was **Youthworks** in Bismarck, and a check for \$240.50 was sent to them.

In November, our "Mission" was "**Great Plains Food Bank**". As of Nov. 20, \$460.50 has been collected for them.

Our December "Mission" is "**PLC Youth Group**".

Mission of the Month

On Sunday, November 19th, we chose for our mission of the month of December the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. While DBGR is a great ministry, we supported them in January as our mission. Since the practice has been to have twelve different missions each year, Pastor Sean has decided that our mission for the month of December will be the **Peace Lutheran Church Youth Group**. Many of our youth will be going to Des Moines, Iowa in the summer of 2018 for the LCMC's Second National Gathering. Let's help fund this trip and other events for the youth!



Christmas Schedule

Sunday Morning, December 24th **10 AM**
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship **6 PM.**
Christmas Day Worship **10 AM.**



Thank you to Jean Rudy and Lil & Mike Kunz for the help sorting, folding, and stuffing the newsletter envelopes! Your help is very much appreciated!



The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other. ~Burton Hillis

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessings all year through! ~Author Unknown



December Baptismal Dates

Baptismal dates for **December** according to church records are:

1 – Travis Humann	16 – Ramona Humann	26 – Amanda Grossman
2 – Eva Heyne	17 – Vicki Schwab	29 – Nicole Nieuwsma
Corey Hoff-Wald	20 – Vanessa Fisher	Duane Ohlhauser
Gracelyn Johnson	21 – Keith Petrick	30 – Richard Backhaus
6 – Brandon Rossow	22 – Benjamin Schwab	31 – John DeBoer
7 – Megan Ohlhauser	Josie Schwab	Matthew Jasper
9 – Ben Huber	23 – Sarah Henkelmann	Janell Schlosser
11 – Kevin Krogstad	24 – Shannon Krogstad	
Cynthia Kurtz	Lynn McCulley	
12 – Doris Heer	Jeanette Winterberg	

If your baptism date is missing and you know the date, please call the church office (254-5395) so it can be included.✝

These birthdates of our members are according to the church records. Some birthdates were not on record. If your birthdate is missed, or if there is a mistake, please contact the church office.



December birthdays are:

1 – Carson Lawler	6 – Doris Heer	17 – Larry Umber Jr.
Twyla Schiermeister	12 – Larry Humann	19 – Mackenzie Hendrickson
Brynn Huber	Irene Fisher	20 – Mary Maier
3 – Shannon Krogstad	13 – June Alderin	29 – Darcy Rindelaub
4 – Jon Ptacek	14 – Keith Humann	Noah Nieuwsma
Dez Kiefer	Rafe Kalama	30 – Laurie Humann Murphy
5 – Tad Larson	15 – Peyton Masset	
Kaisley Masset	16 – Jacob Conroy	

May each of you have a very **Happy Birthday** and may we keep you in our prayers for the day of your birth, praying that you shall remain faithful followers of Jesus until He comes again!✝



Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Welcome people in

Help them grow

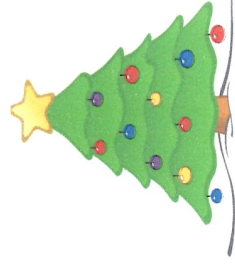
Send them out to care




Welcome ~ Grow ~ Care



December 2017

USHERS: Darren Tvelto, Jackson Tvelto,
Chris Brueckner, and Rico Caruso
ACOLYTE: Noah Nieuwsma



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						
3 1st Sunday in Advent Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship/Holy Communion 10:45 AM	4	5 Great Plains Food Bank 1:15 PM	6 2:30 PM PLCW Board 5:30 PM Pizza & SS program practice 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	7	8	9
10 2nd Sunday in Advent Sunday School 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Sunday School Program & Worship 10:45 AM Bake Sale	11	12	13 7:00 PM Church Council	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday in Advent Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Praise! Worship/Holy Communion 10:45 AM	18	19	20 6:30 PM Youth Group Christmas Party 7:00 PM Women of Peace	21 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study	22	23
24 4th Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 AM Candlelight Service 6:00 PM	25 Christmas Day Worship/Holy Communion 10:00 AM	26 Stephen, Deacon and Martyr	27 John, Apostle and Evangelist	28	29	30 Umber –Weber Wedding 5:00 
31 1st Sunday of Christmas ~ New Year's Eve Worship 10:00 AM						

Three Days of Prayer – A Guide

Lutherans throughout the LCMC will be beginning their new year in prayer. You are invited to join your fellow Lutherans on January 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Each day has its own focus. Below is a description of each day along with passages from Scripture pertaining to each day's focus. As you read the passages, ask God to help you understand them and bring your prayers of confession, your prayers of petition, and your prayers for vision to the Lord.

The focus of January 2nd is CONFESSION.

"We have made our lives, our relationships—and even the church—in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. We gather to lay down our pride, our sin and our agenda and ask the Lord of the church for forgiveness, which He gives freely and mercifully."

Suggested Readings: Psalm 51; 1 John 1:1-10; Colossians 1:11-14; Luther's Small Catechism on Confession

The focus on January 3rd is PETITION.

"Pray for your congregation, for the pastor, for the leaders, for those who carry out ministries, for the Sunday School teachers, for the Confirmation leaders, for those leading adult Bible studies and for those leading small groups. Pray for those in hospital and nursing home ministries. Pray for all those connected and not connected to your church that they might know God's redeeming love for all in Christ."

Suggested Readings: Philipians 4:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer (and explanation) from Luther's Small Catechism

Guide continues on the back →

On January 4th we pray for VISION.

"Pray that the Holy Spirit will again move through the hearts and minds of leaders and pastors that God's vision for His church might be revealed and fulfilled. This is a time of prayer for renewal, revival and encouragement. Pray for God's vision."

Suggested Readings: Jeremiah, 18:1-6; Ephesians 1:15-23; Hebrews 10:23-25; The First, Second, and Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer (and explanations) from Luther's Small Catechism

On each of the three days of prayer, everyone is encouraged to take some time out of their day and pray using the structure above.

On January 3rd, we will be having a prayer service at 7:00 PM at Peace Lutheran to come together as a church family to confess our sins, pray for our needs and the needs of others, and to ask God to give us a vision for the ministry he has in mind for PLC in 2018.