

*Peace Lutheran Church
Linton, ND*

Message from Pastor Sean...

After the time change in early November, I thought it would be interesting to look at when sunset would be that evening. I was dismayed to see that the sun would set at 5:17 PM. Nothing says winter like an early night time. Looking further, I discovered that on the darkest day of the year (December 21st), the sun will set at 4:57 PM. Since sunrise on that morning will be 8:21 AM, this means we will only have 8 hours and 36 minutes of daylight on December 21st!

The dark of winter can sure be depressing, which is why Christmas comes at just the right time. Just as the days begin to turn longer Christmas comes with all sorts of declarations of Christ as our light.

Isaiah prophecies, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." (Isaiah 9:2). From the Gospel of John, instead of the birth story of Christ, John describes the light Isaiah prophesied, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5). Later in the Gospel Jesus will proclaim flat out, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12).

Christmas is all about who our hope is in the darkness. The nights may be dark, but the light of Christ fills us and casts away the darkness. At the end of all things, when Christ returns and all the faithful are gathered together under the throne of God, John tells us that the, "night will be no more." He goes on to say that the servants of God will worship the Lord and in so doing, "They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever." (Revelation 22:5).

The deep dark of winter reminds us of our own spiritual darkness, but Christmas is God's answer to that darkness. Thanks be to God for the birth of the Messiah, the Light of the World!

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Sean

December 2021 Newsletter

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Daily Readings for December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Dec. 1st Jeremiah 31:1-14	Jeremiah 31:31-40	Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:1-10	Ezekiel 3:1-11
Dec. 5th Ezekiel 37:1-14	Ezekiel 39:25-29	Ezra 1:1-11	Ezra 3:1-7	Ezra 3:8-13	Isaiah 52:3-10	Isaiah 54:1-10
Dec. 12th Isaiah 55:1-11	Proverbs 8:1; 22-26	Proverbs 8:27-31	Psalm 8:1-9	Isaiah 11:1-9	Luke 1:26-38	Luke 1:46-55
Dec. 19th John 1:1-18	Luke 2:21-38	Luke 2:41-52	Luke 1:5-25	Luke 1:57-66	Luke 1:67-80	Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 26th John 1:19-34	2 Kings 1:7-8	Malachi 4:5-6	Luke 3:1-18	Matthew 3:13-17	Matthew 4:1-11	

The Church Council, Meeting of November 10, 2021:

- Pastor Sean reported 2 visits with Holy Communion in October; Baptism for Bear Bauman on Oct. 17th; MAP for 23 kids on Oct. 18th; Youth Group for 18 on Oct. 27th; Strasburg Care Center Service on Oct. 21st; 6 Confirmed on Oct. 31st.
- Property: Did a 6 mo. review on Custodian's cleaning job, and the church looks great. Christmas decorating will take place on Nov. 21st after worship.
- Stewardship: 1/1/21 – 8/31/21 we received \$3698 in Thrivent Choice \$.
- Worship: There will be an ECMA Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist Church on Nov. 21st at 7:00 PM. Our Congregation will be encouraged to attend in lieu of having our own Thanksgiving Service. Dec. Communion Services will be the 5th and the 25th. We will be having 1 Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 PM on the 24th. Christmas Day Communion Service will be at 10:00 AM. Sunday, the 26th will be regular service at 10:45 AM.
- Education: Sunday School is practicing Recital programs.
- Old Business: Have not received any bids for snow removal. Edgar will be speaking to people regarding this task.

*If you have any questions or concerns please contact a church council member...Wade Huber, Edgar Ohlhauser, Denise Martin, Lisa Hendrickson, Rachal Peterson, Mark Heidrich, Heather Rossow, Lyle Wohl, and Terry Serr. ☩



The Gospel Alphabet – Study God's Word!

Scripture of the Month ~

“**6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV



† Memorials †

During November gifts were given in memory of Leo Schiermeister to the "Mission of the Month" The Cystic Fibrosis Association of North Dakota from Terry & Shirlene Serr.



Please think about serving on the Church Council. Three will go off the council the end of 2021 after their 3 - year terms, and we need to be thinking about finding replacements. Many of you have talents and great ideas that would be of wonderful service to God and our church! Please consider serving or encouraging others to serve. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Sean or one of the Council Members.



🔔 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. †



† DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE †

Sunday School the 5th, 12th, & 19th at 9:30 a.m.

No Sunday School the 26th

Adult Bible Study the 5th & 12th @ 9:30 a.m.

No Adult Bible Study the 19th or 26th



Dec. 5 – Traditional Worship/Holy Communion

10:45 AM

Dec. 12 – Celebrate Worship **10:45 AM**

Dec. 19 – Sunday School Christmas Program

10:45 AM

Dec. 24 – Candle Light Service **6:00 PM**

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion **10:00 AM**

Dec. 26 - First Sunday of Christmas – Worship

10:45 AM

🚗 **Need a Ride??**

If you need a ride to church.....please call:
Elwin Nieuwsma.....254-0167

Please remember that these schedules are dependent on where we are with the Covid Pandemic in our county. Social distancing in the Sanctuary is encouraged. If you would like to wear a mask, please do.



Watch Via Facebook Live!

Can't make it to in-person worship? Join us live each

Sunday via Facebook from wherever you are. If you can't tune in live, you can find past recordings on Facebook simply by scrolling through our Facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlinton/>.

Or you can visit our website at

<http://ndpeacelutheran.com/> and find all the links you need there.

Please Volunteer

Please take a moment to check the white board set up in the narthex and see which Sunday works for you to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, or Acolyte. You can sign up for a whole month or just a Sunday. 😊

**Volunteers are needed each Sunday for Worship
in December.**

Greeters:

Ushers:

Reader: Mark Heidrich

Acolyte:



Adult Bible Study

Join Pastor Sean on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM for Adult Bible Study. This year we are exploring the Gospel of John. Feel free to simply attend and listen in or take the opportunity to engage in discussion, ask, and answer questions. Coffee is not required, but always provided and recommended!



Download the Tithe.ly app from the Apple or Google Play Stores or give online at ndpeacelutheran.com

Give using Tithe.ly

Tithe.ly makes it easy to give either with their app or by clicking the green "Give" button on our church website (ndpeacelutheran.com). You can give using your credit/debit card or you can give directly from your bank account. You can choose to give a onetime gift ("I forgot my checkbook!") or set your gift up to be recurring ("I never want to carry my checkbook again!") You can even designate which fund your gift will go to and leave a memo to indicate an honorarium or memorial.



Connecting faith & finances for good.®

We received \$5,768.00 from **Thrivent Donations** in November. Thank you to those who direct their Thrivent Choice \$ to our congregation and who give special donations from their accounts!

If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please keep Peace Lutheran Church in mind. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call **800-847-4836** and say "Thrivent Choice" or log on to <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>



Quilting will resume in January.



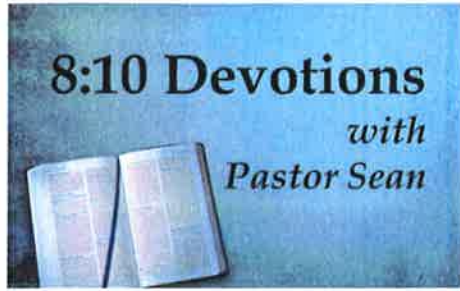
~PLCW News~

🕯 Women of Peace meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. All confirmed ladies of Peace Lutheran are welcome to attend. The next meeting would be scheduled for Dec. 1, but will be announced as time gets closer.

🕯 Thank you to all who took part and donated on the Thank Offering Sunday, November 21st! Our donations went to the Salvation Army.



"The Christmas spirit is a spirit of giving and forgiving." J.C. Penney



8:10 Devotions

Join Pastor Sean each morning at 8:10 Monday through Friday for a five-minute devotion to start your day!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The kids have started practicing for the Christmas program. It has been fun listening to them sing familiar and new songs! The program this year is called "Twas the Night Before: The Christmas Story for Kids" and will take place December 19th during the 10:45 worship service. We look forward to presenting the story of Jesus' birth.

After the New Year, SS will resume January 9th. Thank you to all who have helped Sunday School continue. We've had very consistent attendance and are thankful for the teachers who show up week after week!



Confirmation and Youth Group Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 1 – Confirmation Class @ 3:45 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 8 – Confirmation Class @ 3:45 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 15 – Youth Group/Confirmation Class
Christmas Party 6:30 PM at Pastor Sean's & Anne's home.



Pastor Sean and Anne invite youth grades 7 to 12 to their house for a Christmas party with excellent food, games, and Bible study on **Wednesday, December 15th**. Supper is served at 6:30 PM and is followed by a short Bible study and some games. The night usually ends around 8:00 PM. Confirmation students are required to attend since it takes the place of class for that evening.



Thank you to those who have donated toward our Harvest Festival fundraiser! The total we have received is \$4,615.



A Prayer for December

Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

--Martin Luther (1483-1546)



The Magic of *Christmas* is not in the presents

But in *His* presence!

*Merry Christmas
And
Blessings to you
in the New Year!*



Our October "Mission of the Month" was **Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund**, and our offerings for that Fund totaled \$485.00. Our November Mission was **Cystic Fibrosis of North Dakota**, and offerings in memory of *Sonia Balliet* as of November 21st totaled \$306. Our December Mission is **Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch**.

Peace Lutheran Church "Mission of the Month" for December is Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.



Mission Statement: To help at risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

Vision Statement: That all children and families achieve greater success in life.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Christian ministry that provides a place to heal for children, ages 10-18, who have psychiatric, behavioral, and trauma issues. Children who come to the Ranch have a structured and safe environment in which to live, learn, and heal. They also have 24-hour access to highly trained and qualified staff who provide structure, direction, and modeling--teaching them the skills they need to lead productive and satisfying lives

At the Ranch, children have access to resources they can't get anywhere else. The on-site clinical staff includes therapists, nurses, psychologists, addiction counselors, occupational therapists, and a psychiatrist. They also work with primary medical providers at each location to provide medical care for the children. In addition to prescribed therapy services, children can participate in the Horse Program, a National Youth

Project Using Minibikes (NYPUM), and a greenhouse technology program.

While at the Ranch, children receive a quality education through Dakota Memorial School, the on-campus school that specializes in creating a successful learning environment for children with special psychiatric and behavioral needs. Dakota Memorial School also accepts Day Students, students who live at home but benefit from the smaller classroom sizes and a learning environment focused on their special needs.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), an Affiliated Social Ministry Organization of the Evangelical Church in America (ELCA), a Mission Partner of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), and a founding member of Lutheran Services in America (LSA).



Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School children will tell their Christmas story **December 19th** during the **10:45 worship** at Peace Lutheran Church.

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6 PM

Christmas Day Worship/Holy
Communion **10 AM**



If we keep Christ in our heart

Christmas has no end.

Three Days of Prayer January 4-6, 2022

From the LCMC Website: Every congregation, member and pastor is being invited to set aside some time each day of January 4, 5, and 6, 2022 for 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.

No matter how you structure this time of prayer, let’s come together as an association of congregations across the U.S. and around the world to pray! I believe that the church will never rise up until we first get down on our knees!

Day One: January 4

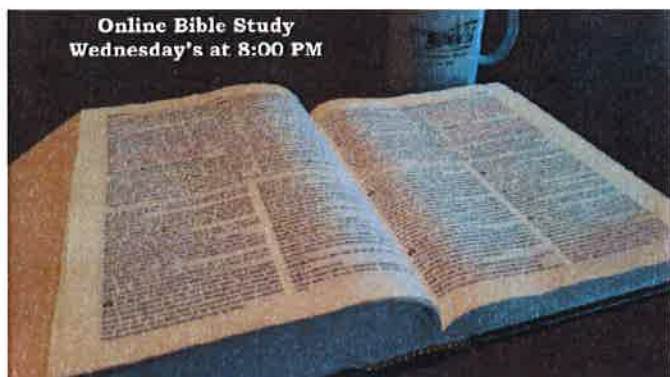
This is a day focused on **confession**. We have made our lives, our relationships—and even the church—in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. We gather to lay down our pride, our sin and our agenda and ask the Lord of the church for forgiveness, which He gives freely and with mercy.

Day Two: January 5

This is a day of **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 to your church that they might know God’s redeeming love for all in Christ.

Day Three: January 6

This is a day 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.



<https://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlinton>

Online Bible Study

Each Wednesday night at 8:00 PM, join Pastor Sean on Facebook Live for a “deep dive” Bible Study on the preaching passage for the upcoming Sunday.



December Baptismal Dates

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

1 – Travis Humann	12 – Doris Heer	24 – Shannon Krogstad
2 – Eva Heyne	14 – Margie Vossler	Jeanette Winterberg
Corey Hoff-Wald	16 – Ramona Humann	26 – Amanda Grossman
Gracelyn Johnson	Jen Vetter	Lilli Wohl
3 – Rodney Heitz	17 – Vicki Schwab	29 – Nicole Nieuwsma
6 – Brandon Rossow	20 – Vanessa Fisher	Duane Ohlhauser
7 – Megan Ohlhauser	21 – Keith Petrick	30 – Richard Backhaus
9 – Ben Huber	22 – Benjamin Schwab	31 – John DeBoer
11 – Kevin Krogstad	Josie Schwab	Matthew Jasper
Cynthia Kurtz	Tristan Grossman	Janelle Schlosser
Keaton Peterson		

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	12 – Larry Humann	17 – Larry UMBER Jr.
Twyla Schiermeister	Irene Fisher	19 – Mackenzie Hendrickson
Brynn Huber	13 – June Alderin	20 – Mary Maier
3 – Shannon Krogstad	Westin Grossman	29 – Darcy Rindelaub
4 – Jon Ptacek	14 – Keith Humann	Noah Nieuwsma
5 – Tad Larson	Rafe Kalama	30 – Laurie Humann Murphy
5 – Kaisley Masset	15 – Peyton Masset	
6 – Doris Heer	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 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	MERRY CHRISTMAS		1 3:45 PM Confirmation Class / 8 PM Online Bible Study	2	3	4
5 2nd Sunday in Advent Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion 10:45	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 Confirmation Class 3:45 PM / Church Council 7:00 PM / Online Bible Study 8:00 PM	9	10	11
12 3rd Sunday in Advent Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Celebrate Worship 10:45 AM	13	14	15 Pop-Up Perishables, Sr Commodities 1-2:30 / Youth Group Christmas Party 6:30 PM / Online Bible Study 8:00 PM	16	17	18
19 4th Sunday in Advent ~Sunday School 9:30 AM No Adult Bible Study Sunday School Program 10:45 AM	20	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 PM	25 Christmas Day Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM
26 1st Sunday After Christmas ~No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study Worship 10:45 AM	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	