

*Peace Lutheran Church
Linton, ND*



Message from Pastor Sean...

There is an old British movie where several characters are enjoying a dinner party together. However, an unexpected guest shows up: the Grim Reaper. The guests are understandably mystified as to why he is there and become quite upset when he announces that they have all suddenly died. The salmon pate was apparently "off."

With a wave of his scythe, they all collapse at the table and are then ushered into heaven. However, instead of entering by way of pearly gates, they exit from an elevator into a hotel-like lobby and are greeted by the receptionist. "Merry Christmas," she says. When they ask, "oh, is it Christmas?" She responds, "it's always Christmas in heaven."

In a sense the movie gets it right. It is always Christmas in heaven.

In Revelation 21, St. John records his amazing vision of the new heaven and the new earth.

"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.**'" (Revelation 21:2-4)

The new Jerusalem prepared as a bride is the Church. It is you and I. And where does John see God? Dwelling with man. Literally, the text says that God "tabernacles" amongst them. To say it more roughly, God intends to pitch his tent in and amongst his people. This is the epitome of the Christmas wonder St. Matthew shares with us as he quotes the prophet Isaiah:

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and **they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us).**" (Matthew 1:21-23)

At Christmas we celebrate the incarnation of God (God the Son taking on human flesh) we celebrate the birth of our Savior, come to forgive sin. We also celebrate the fulfilment of God's Word which is also his desire; to dwell with his people; to live and be present in and amongst them. ☞

December 2023 Newsletter

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In this Church age that stands between the first Christmas and the scene in Revelation 21, we still know that God is with Us, but we look forward to that day when Christmas is comes in full and is magnified in such a way that to dwell with God means there is no more tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain. As we celebrate Christmas this year, know that it is a glorious glimpse of Christmas to come because it is always Christmas in heaven.

In Peace, Pastor Sean



Daily Readings for *December*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Dec. 1st 2 Kings 25:1-7	2 Kings 25:8-17
Dec. 3rd Jeremiah 33:14-18	Daniel 1:1-7	Daniel 1:8-17	Daniel 1:18-21	Daniel 3:1-7	Daniel 3:8-18	Daniel 3:19-30
Dec. 10th Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 40:25-31	Isaiah 49:1-6	Isaiah 50:4-9	Isaiah 53:1-9	Isaiah 55:1-5	Isaiah 55:6-13
Dec. 17th Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4, 10-13	Ezra 6:1-12	Ezra 6:13-18	Ezra 6:19-22	Zechariah 8:1-8	Zechariah 8:14-23	Zechariah 9:9-17
Dec. 24th Luke 1:5-25	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:21-24	Luke 2:25-40	Luke 2:41-52	Mark 1:1-8	Mark 1:9-13
Dec. 31st Mark 1:14-20						

The Church Council, Meeting of November 8, 2023:

- Pastor's Report: Hosted funeral for Hunter Mattheis Oct 7; Held first Caregiver's Connection Oct 12; Took part in Community Health Needs Assessment Oct 17; ECMA meeting Oct 19, SCC Service Oct 19; Youth Group (21 kids) Oct 25; Confirmation Oct 29; One visit with Holy Communion.
- Property: Al Hulm was contacted to do snow removal of parking lot; Water was run down the floor drains in the bathrooms which made them smell better; Screwdrivers were purchased to have on hand in the maintenance room; A few pews have been taken, but more are available.
- Worship: Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year. Will have service at the normal time (10:45 AM) that day, as well as Candlelight Service at 6:00 PM. Will not have Holy Communion on the 3rd Sunday, Dec 17, as that is the SS Christmas Program. Will have Holy Communion at Christmas Eve morning service instead. There will be Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion @ 10 AM.
- Education: The Sunday School Christmas Program is being planned. Date is Dec 17. Costumes are being updated or replaced.
- Evangelism: All are welcome to participate in Christmas Caroling on Sun, Dec 10 @ 2:00 PM. Plan is to go to Nodak Apts, Prairie Rose Apts, and the hospital if allowed. Afterwards will come back to the church to watch 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' with snacks & beverages.
- Old Business: Secretary position was discussed. Decisions to be made soon.
- New Business: Had discussion regarding taking money from checking and putting it in a CD as interest rates are up. Will look into interest rates before a decision is made. ☞

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a church council member....Heather Rossow, Terry Serr, Lyle Wohl, Lori Bechtold, Stan Naumann, Elwin Nieuwsma, Tim Dockter, Kevin Hendrickson, and Erica Hoff-Wald.✝



Scripture of the Month ~ **Study God's Word!**

"He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of His birth."

Luke 1:14 NIV

Christmas Caroling And a Movie

WHEN: 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 10th

WHO: All ages are invited!

WHERE: We'll start at the church and then head to the Prairie Rose Assisted Living and NoDak Apartments for caroling Afterwards, we'll have refreshments at the church and enjoy "A Charlie Brown Christmas".



Youth Group Christmas Party!

On Wednesday, December 20th all 7th-12th grade students are invited to Pastor Sean and Anne's house for supper and Bible study! Supper is served at 6:30 followed by a short Bible study and some games and our white elephant gift exchange. Watch FB for info on the menu as the date draws nearer.



Next Meeting Dec. 14th

Caregivers Connections

**Presented by the Alzheimer's Association
Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter**

Second Thursday of each month from 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Linton City Hall

All caregivers of those living with Alzheimer's or other dementia related diseases are invited.

This caregiver group, conducted by trained facilitators, is a safe place for caregivers, family and friends who care for individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementia related diseases. Join us to:

Connect with other caregivers | Discuss caregiving challenges and possible solutions | Identify ways of coping | Share needs and concerns | Learn about community resources

Celebrating Christmas

Family Caroling and a Movie
Dec. 10th at 2:00 PM
Sunday School Christmas Program
Dec. 17th at 10:45 AM
Youth Group Christmas Party
Dec. 20th at 6:30 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Dec. 24th at 6:00 PM
Christmas Day Service
Dec. 25th at 10:00 AM



Celebration of the birth of Christ

He who is the Savior

Resting in a manger, in a bed of hay

In the light of the Christmas star shining above, showing the way

Shepherds and kings all followed the light to pay tribute to Him

To leave gifts at his feet and acknowledge their King

Mary's son, and the Son of God

A man, too, and mortal, able to die for our sins, and so

Save us from ourselves, and grant us eternal life and light



Please think about serving on the Church Council. Three will go off the council the end of 2023 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.





† Memorials †

During November gifts were given in memory of Viola Leier to the Endowment Fund from Chris Leier; in memory of Lyla Beitelspacher to the Endowment Fund from Evelyn & Keith Petrick, and for a song played on the carillon from Candis Wagner.



🔔 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 \$40, the Linton Floral N' More will provide 2 arrangements of flowers for the 2 vases behind the altar or a larger single arrangement for \$30 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: Evelyn Petrick and Janice Baer. †



If we keep Christ in our heart
Christmas has no end!



Christmas is not so much about
opening presents, as opening our hearts.



† DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE †

Sunday School will meet the 3rd, 10th, & 17th @ 9:30 a.m. ~ No Sunday School the 24th or the 31st.
Adult Bible Study the 3rd 10th, 17th @ 9:30 a.m.
No Adult Bible Study the 24th or the 31st.



Dec. 3 – Traditional Worship/Holy Communion
10:45 AM

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

Dec. 17 – Worship - Sunday School Christmas Program **10:45 AM**

Dec. 24 – Celebrate Worship/Holy Communion
10:45 AM

🕯 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 PM

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

Dec. 31 – Praise! Worship **10:45 AM**

🚗 Need a Ride??

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



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

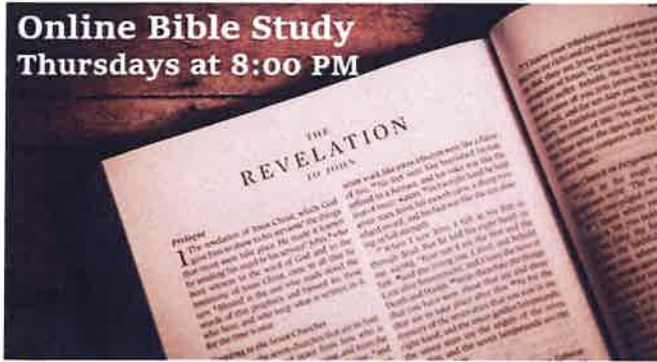
<http://ndpeacelutheran.com/> and find all the links you need there.



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. 😊

**Online Bible Study
Thursdays at 8:00 PM**



<https://www.youtube.com/@peace.lutheran1357>

Online Bible Study

Join Pastor Sean each Thursday evening at 8:00 pm for an online Bible Study recapping the previous Sunday's in-person Bible Study on Revelation. **You can find Online Bible Study through our YouTube Channel.**



A Prayer for December

Heavenly Father, during this Christmas season, we celebrate Your boundless love reflected in the gift of Your Son. May our hearts be filled with gratitude and compassion as we share Your love with those around us. In this blessed time, let Your divine presence guide and uplift our spirits.

Amen.
(Anonymous)



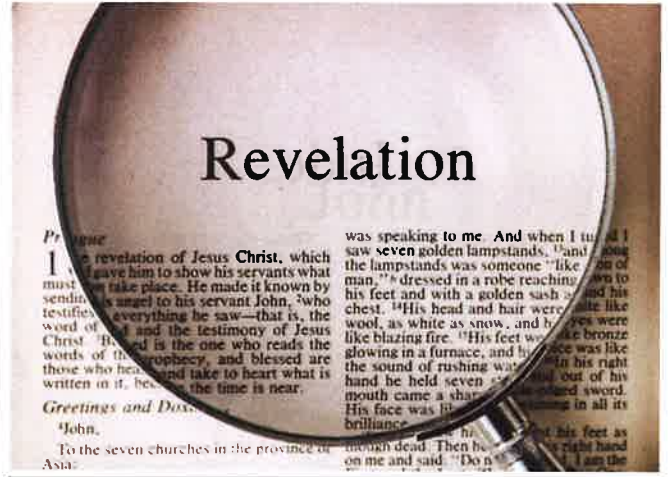
Quilting will resume in January. They will meet Mondays and Tuesdays beginning January 8th, 9 AM – 4 PM.



Instagram

Check us out on Instagram!

@peace.lutheran



Adult Bible Study

Each Sunday morning, Pastor Sean leads an adult Bible study on the book of Revelation at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion or to simply listen in. If you can't make it, or miss a session, get the weekly recap via Online Bible Study on You Tube!



Download the **Tithe.ly** app from the Apple or Google Play Stores or give online at ndpeace.lutheran.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 (ndpeace.lutheran.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.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

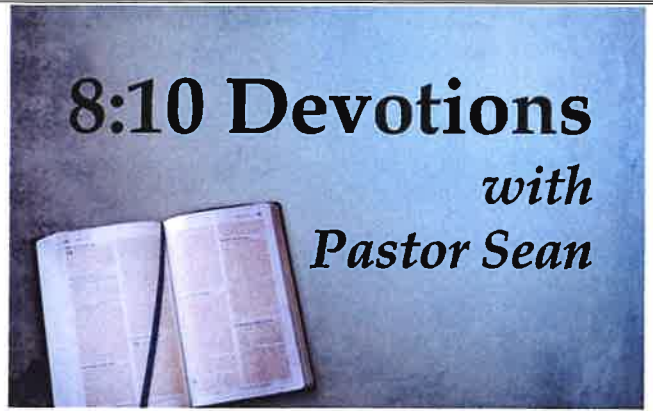
Connecting faith & finances for good.®

We received \$54 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/>



8:10 Devotions

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



The Emmons County Ministerial Association is participating in the Our Family® Direct Your Labels™ program. Every time you shop at any local store carrying Our Family® brand products, clip and save your UPC barcodes. Every time we collect 500 UPC barcodes, we can turn them into a \$25 check for the Emmons County Ministerial. Bring those labels to the church to support the ECMA!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The SS kids have started practicing for the Christmas program. The program will be December 17th during the 10:45 worship service. They look forward to presenting Christ's birth to all who attend! Sunday School will resume on January 7th.

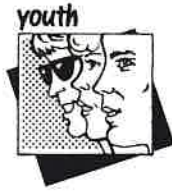


~PLCW News~

No news this month. ☪



There will be a piano recital of Sylvia Weisser's students on Sunday, December 17th, at 2:00 PM at Peace Lutheran Church. All are welcome!



Confirmation and Youth Group Schedule
Wednesday, Dec. 6 – Confirmation Class @

7:00 PM

**Wednesday, Dec. 13 – Confirmation Class
@ 7:00 PM**

**Wednesday, Dec. 20 – Youth
Group/Confirmation Class Christmas Party
6:30 PM**



**It's not what's under the Christmas tree that
matters, it's who's around it!**

**You can tell you are getting older when all you want
for Christmas is a nap. 😴**

JOY

Thank You to the gals who have helped with the newsletters by stuffing and sealing the envelopes getting them ready to mail. Jean Rudy, Avis Mickelson, Linda Tschritter, and Marilyn Malmedal – you are the best! Your help is appreciated so much! God bless you!



Our October "Mission of the Month" was **Emmons County Food Pantry**, and our offerings for that Fund totaled \$520. Our November Mission was **Ministry on the Margins**, and offerings as of November 27th totaled \$423. Our December Mission of the Month is **Central Dakota Humane Society**.



The Mission of Central Dakota Humane Society is:

- To provide for, house, rehabilitate and relocate lost, strayed or homeless animals.
- To provide appropriate medical services.
- To foster and promote humane treatment of all animals.
- To encourage proper responsibility by owners of animals in their care, training or control.
- To cooperate in the enforcement of laws that protect animals from cruelty or neglect.
- To promote spaying and neutering of companion animals to avoid unwanted litters.
- To help bring about a time when no more abused and/or abandoned animals will be destroyed anywhere.
- To do such acts and exercise such powers - within the law - as may be necessary, desirable or incidental to the carrying out of the purposes specified above.



**Due date for articles and notices
for the January Newsletter is
December 18th.**



December Baptismal Dates

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

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

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

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



2023

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



LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission of the Month:
Central Dakota Humane Society
Coming Up:
Sunday School Christmas Program, Dec. 17 during worship



Merry Christmas!

Christmas Caroling Sunday,
December 10 @ 2:00 PM.

