

*Peace Lutheran Church  
Linton, ND*

**Pastor's Article**

While preparing for Christmas sermons, I happened upon a quote from W.H. Auden. The quote is really a small excerpt from fairly long poem titled, "For The Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio (1942)". I know poetry isn't always easy to read, but I thought this excerpt to be very fitting for some post-Christmas reflections.

"Well, so that is that. Now we must dismantle the tree,  
Putting the decorations back into their cardboard boxes --  
Some have got broken -- and carrying them up to the attic.  
The holly and the mistletoe must be taken down and burnt,  
And the children got ready for school. There are enough  
Left-overs to do, warmed-up, for the rest of the week --  
Not that we have much appetite, having drunk such a lot,  
Stayed up so late, attempted -- quite unsuccessfully --  
To love all of our relatives, and in general  
Grossly overestimated our powers. Once again  
As in previous years we have seen the actual Vision and failed  
To do more than entertain it as an agreeable  
Possibility, once again we have sent Him away,  
Begging though to remain His disobedient servant,  
The promising child who cannot keep His word for long."

I am not an expert, but as I read this poem, I am forced to ask the question – does the miracle of Christmas change me? Do I carry the joy and charity of the season with me into January? Or, do I pack them away with the dismantled tree and the boxed up Christmas ornaments? Do I give up on loving "all our relatives" because I have grossly overestimated my powers to do so? Have I merely seen the Vision – that the Lord has taken human flesh and actually become Emmanuel, God with us – but fail to do more than entertain it as a nice idea? Auden would say yes. And as a fellow sinner, I look at myself and I agree with his assessment.

Later, Auden will talk of how Christmas quickly becomes a fading memory and as it does, we just simply go back to our normal lives. Our sinful natures, so often regain the ground they lost at Christmas. We would

**PLC Newsletter  
January 2025**

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**[www.youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357](https://www.youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357)**

**[www.ndpeacelutheran.com](http://www.ndpeacelutheran.com)**



rather send the Lord away and simply remain his “disobedient servant, [a] promising child who cannot keep His word for long.”

As Christmas fades from memory, “already the mind begins to be vaguely aware off an unpleasant whiff of apprehension at the thought off Lent and Good Friday which cannot, after all, now be very far off.”

I’m thankful that it really is only a matter of weeks before Christmas is followed by Lent. We cannot divide the baby in the manger – with all the immediate feelings of joy, gratitude, and brotherly love – from the Suffering Servant who will be bloodied and crucified for joyless, thankless, and hateful sinners like me.

I’m also thankful that we are privileged to tread the same path from Christmas to Lent to Good Friday to Easter every year. I’m thankful that each Sunday we hear echoes of that journey through God’s Word. And I’m hopeful, that as we continue to hear it the Spirit will continue to chip away at our disobedience to make us faithful servants to The Faithful Servant whose joy and faith will be left to decorate our lives for more than one month a year.

In peace,  
Pastor Sean

### **A Summary of the Church Council Meeting held December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024:**

Council members in attendance: Lori Bechtold, Tim Dockter, Gunnar Hanson, Mark Heidrich, Kevin Hendrickson, Erica Hoff-Wald, Elwin Nieuwsma, and Jennifer Vetter. Absent: Stan Naumann

Pr. Barnhart’s report: Had Mornings at Peace on Nov. 20 - 31 kids; Youth Group on Nov. 20 - 20 kids; ECMA Thanksgiving Baskets - 96 of them; ECMA Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 24th - 30 people; Decorated the church on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>; Mailed the Newsletter on Nov. 26th

Pres. Nieuwsma called for the Property Committee report. Mark Heidrich visited with a member of the Linton City Council regarding the city’s 2025 chip and seal project. Kevin Hendrickson contacted Jack’s Electric for the SE outside lights and the outlet near the basement drinking fountain.

Stewardship Report: Endowment Fund: Base: \$62,100.00; Earnings: \$18,671.03; Total: \$80,871.03. Discussion on how the Building Fund should be used.

Education Report: SS Christmas program practice on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Program on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: Reviewed updated policies on Church Property Use.

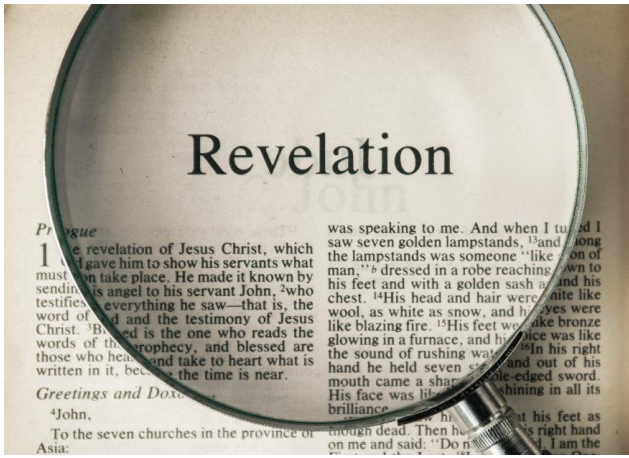
New Business: Discussed upcoming vacancies on council. Scheduled the Annual Meeting for January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Motion accepted to compensate Lisa Ptacek for bookkeeping work down in the absence of a church secretary. Motion to hire Twila Van Boven as the PLC Secretary/Bookkeeper.  
Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



***Daily Scripture Readings***

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."  
Psalm 119:105*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b> Jeremiah 23:1-4	Matthew 2:1-12	Matthew 2:13-15	Luke 2:39-40
<b>Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></b> Luke 2:41-5	Genesis 17:9-14	Exodus 13:1-2	Leviticus 26:3-6	Leviticus 26:9-13	Malachi 4:4-6	Isaiah 62:10-12
<b>Jan. 12<sup>th</sup></b> Luke 3:1-22	Malachi 3:1-4	Acts 19:1-7	Ephesians 4:1-7	Luke 3:23-38	Luke 4:1-4	Luke 4:5-13
<b>Jan. 19<sup>th</sup></b> Luke 4:14-30	Isaiah 58:6-12	1 Kings 17:8-14	2 Kings 5:1-17	Luke 4:31-37	Luke 4:38-41	Luke 4:42-44
<b>Jan. 26<sup>th</sup></b> Luke 5:1-11	Isaiah 6:1-8	Luke 5:12-16	Luke 5:17-26	Philippians 2:1-11	Luke 5:27-32	



### Adult Bible Study/Online Bible Study

Each Sunday morning, Pastor Sean leads 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 via YouTube on Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM at [Youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357](https://www.youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357)



### Youth Group/Confirmation Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

All 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to attend Youth Group. Bible Study, supper, and some games will all be provided. Meet up at Pastor Sean and Anne's house at 6:30!

### 8:10 Devotions

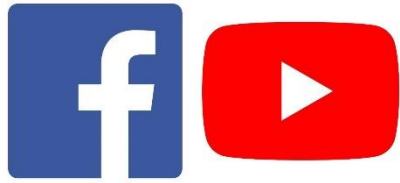
Join Pastor Sean each morning via Facebook or YouTube at 8:10 am Monday through Friday for a quick devotion to start your day!



### Give Using Tithely

Tithely makes it easy to give either with their app or by clicking the green "Give" button on our church website ([ndpeacelutheran.com](http://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.

Download the **Tithely** app from the Apple or Google Play Stores or give online at [ndpeacelutheran.com](http://ndpeacelutheran.com)



### Unable to Attend Sunday Worship?

Physically taking part in worship; sitting, singing, praying, and receiving the Sacrament alongside other believers is always preferable. But sometimes one just **can't make it to in-person worship**. If that is you, we now have two options for you. Join us live each Sunday via Facebook or YouTube from wherever you are. On Facebook, find us at

[facebook.com/peacelutheranlinton](https://facebook.com/peacelutheranlinton). Find us on YouTube at [youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357](https://youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357). All links can be found on our website at [ndpeacelutheran.com](https://ndpeacelutheran.com).

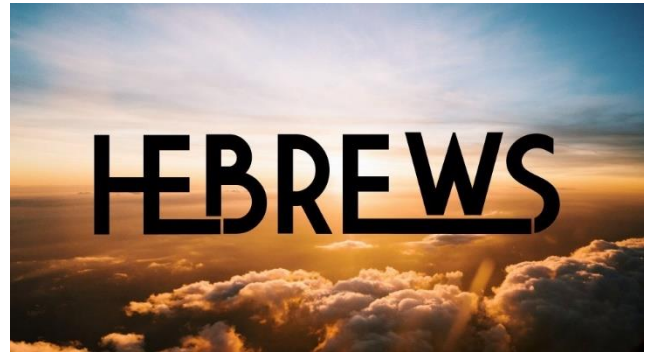
### Thrivent Choice Dollars

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/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>.



### Coming Soon: Adult Bible Study on "Hebrews"

Very soon in our Sunday morning Adult Bible Study we will be ending our year and a half study on Revelation. Where do we go next? How about the book of Hebrews? Hebrews is a great book to help one understand the sacrifices and promises given by Moses to the Israelites and how those promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. In fact, Hebrews will help us understand how every page of the Old Testament points us toward Jesus Christ.



### Memorials:

In September gifts were given in memory of Edna Serr to the Endowment Fund from Keith and Evelyn Petrick; to the Sunday School Fund from Herb and Arlene Grenz, Blaine and Joyce Lemer, Jim and Sylvia Weisser, Paul and Brenda Benedict, and others; to the Mission Fund from Brad and Suzanne Schmidt; to the General Fund from Karleen Ketchum. A gift was also given to the Endowment Fund in memory of Mel Jahner from Keith and Evelyn Petrick.



## 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 you would like played (if available). It will be played on that date, and you may choose the time either: 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. The song and donor will be acknowledged in the bulletin. The cost for Special Music is a donation.



### HONOR SOMEONE WITH FLOWERS

The Flower Committee: Janice Baer and Evelyn Petrick, along with Linton Floral N' More, has set up a system for members to provide flowers for Sunday Worship Services. For **\$40**, Linton Floral N' More will provide two arrangements of flowers to be placed in the two vases behind the altar or for \$30, a larger single arrangement displayed at the front of the sanctuary.

If you would like to supply flowers for a certain Sunday: Give your money to one of the ladies on the Flower Committee. Specify the date you would like flowers displayed let them know the special occasion and how that info should be listed in the bulletin.



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. Sign up for a whole month or just a

Sunday. Volunteers are needed each Sunday.



### ***Need a Ride?***

If you need a ride to worship?  
Please call  
**Elwin Nieuwsma: 254-0167**

If you or anyone you know would like a **weekly church bulletin** or a **monthly newsletter** mailed to them, please let the Church Office know. The deadline for the newsletter is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month! Please get your news and upcoming information to the church office by that date!

## **Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

***WELCOME*** people in  
Help them ***GROW***  
Send them out to ***CARE***

***Welcome ~ Grow ~ Care***

## January Mission of the Month

**Farm Rescue**  
HELPING FARM FAMILIES IN CRISIS



The mission of Farm Rescue is to help family farms and ranches bridge crises so they have an opportunity to continue viable operations. Farm Rescue provides planting, haying, harvesting, commodity hauling and livestock feeding assistance to farm and ranch families that have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster. We have assisted more than 1,000 farm and ranch families since our inception in 2005!

We see that one of the biggest financial drains on a family is an unexpected medical injury or illness and, of course, a natural disaster. It is even more pronounced on a farm where a family's livelihood depends on the ability to plant, harvest or provide for their herd.

Farm Rescue gives families a chance to continue their livelihood by providing the necessary equipment and manpower (free of charge) to get the job done.

## November 2024 Mission of the Month Giving:

In November we gave \$1,673.00 to Convoy of Hope, an organization bringing much needed help to those areas most effected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Thank you for your generous giving!

\*Please note, we send our mission of the month benevolence to the chosen mission about two weeks after the end of the month. Any donations given after that time, even if they are given in an envelope designated for that month will be included in the current mission. For example, a donation given after December 14<sup>th</sup> in an envelope dated for November will go to December's mission, not November's mission.

## 2025 Offering Envelopes are Available!

You can find your offering envelopes in the narthex at church. If at all possible, we would prefer not to mail them out (they are heavy) so please come and pick them up. If you would like a booklet, but cannot find one assigned to you, please let Pastor Sean know.

### To the Women of PLC:

You will notice along with this newsletter, there is a brief survey that the PLCW would like for all women to complete and return in the envelope provided. The envelope can be mailed or dropped off at the church. It would be appreciated to have completed surveys turned in by the end of January.

We've hired a new  
Bookkeeper/Secretary!

Stop in to say hello to  
**Twila Van Boven.**

We are thankful for the experience she  
brings as well as her willingness to learn!



### January Baptismal Celebrations

- 4 Todd Vossler
- 7 Bradlee Bauman
- 9 Paislee Schilling
- 11 Rachal Peterson  
Garret Roemmich
- 14 Kaidra Larson
- 16 Brent Bodvig  
Terry Hochhalter
- 20 Larry Umber III
- 23 Libby Wohl
- 31 Barbara Haas  
Connor Umber  
Abby Ketterling

### January Birthdays

- 1 Larry Umber III
- 2 Tyson Bodvig
- 3 Jerome Ohlhauser
- 5 Michael Schatz
- 9 Rory Humann  
Roberta Wagner
- 10 David Erickson
- 12 Jacob Janacek
- 13 Connor Umber
- 14 Mike Schwab
- 15 James Lauinger
- 16 Iris Bosch  
Wade Huber  
Tanner Peterson
- 17 Mitchell Forderer
- 18 Evelyn Petrick
- 19 Jill Rowe  
Aaron Stuckle
- 20 Jennifer Roemmich
- 21 Shaylee Bosch
- 22 Loretta Haas
- 23 Sean Barnhart  
Matthew Nieuwsma
- 25 Lori Bechtold
- 27 Melvin Wohl  
Suzanne Lester
- 28 Jude Barnhart
- 29 Steven Haas
- 30 Erica Hoff-Wald
- 31 Jarod Conroy  
Connor Jones

*“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”*

*Psalm 139:13-14*