

*Peace Lutheran Church
Linton, ND*

Pastor's Article

It's funny how turning a page on the calendar can feel like such a new and fresh start. No matter what the year is, there are always plenty of people who would like to leave that year in the dust, burn the calendar, turn to the next and start anew. Likely there was plenty of good in the Year of Our Lord that was 2025. Events and memories that will be cherished and bring smiles to our faces as we remember them. But often it is those moments we would like to forget and desperately wish didn't happen that become etched in our minds when we recall particular years.

Perhaps 2025 was a hard one for you. Maybe you lost some friends and family. Or maybe you had a few hard-fought fights with your physical and/or mental health. It could be you move into 2026 hoping that this year's events will cause all those of 2025 to be forgotten or that a good 2026 will at least balance a terrible 2025.

We long for fresh starts and new beginnings and I hope 2026 represents that for you. I pray it is happier and healthier and more prosperous. Unfortunately, for some it simply will not be. The world in 2026 will still be a broken sin-soaked world. You and I will still have to contend with our Old Adams and Eves. What we truly long for as the calendar moves from December 31st to January 1st is for all of that to be finally done and over. What we desire is for a broken world to be fixed and for our Old Adams and Eves to be finally and fully put to an end. *What we truly long for in the turning of the calendar is for Christ's return when the first heaven and first earth are done away with and the new heaven and earth appear (Rev. 21:1.)*

We've been waiting a long time for Christ's return and for the cosmic turning of God's Calendar. At times, the wait is agonizing, but this promise from Lamentations sustains us: "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; **they are new every morning**; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:21-23).

Every morning, the steadfast love of the Lord, his mercies, and his compassions are made fresh and new. Each and every morning you awaken to God's forgiveness and grace like its January 1st. Even on the cloudiest and most overcast days, the light of God's mercy rises like the sun to bathe you in his love.

PLC Newsletter January 2026

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*Proud member of the Northern Plains
District of the LCMC*

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We don't yet have what we truly long for – at least not in its fullness. But what we do have is the reminder that with every morning comes the always fresh, never ceasing, as-ever steadfast love of God who is faithful to his word and therefore faithful to his people. May you be sustained by God's steadfast love and faithfulness made new to you with every new sunrise.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Sean

Clothing Drive for Strasburg Care Center



Our friends at the Strasburg Care Center could use some help. The following items seem to always be in short supply. Please consider donating gently used or new clothing but note: all clothing should have front closures (zippers or buttons). Please no pullovers. Items needed include: Men's pajamas, women's nightgowns, sweatshirts and pants with draw strings, sweaters, shirts, slippers, gloves, hats, scarves, wide band socks.

Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary for Dec. 10th, 2025

Council members in attendance: Wayde Bauman, Mark Heidrich, Kevin Hendrickson, Erica Hoff-Wald, Edgar Ohlhauser, Jason Rossow, Shelly Serr, and Jennifer Vetter. Absent was Gunner Hanson

Pres. Hendrickson called for a review of the November 12, 2025, Regular Church Council Meeting Minutes. Edgar Ohlhauser made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark Heidrich seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Pres. Hendrickson called for the November Treasurer's Report. Wayde Bauman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Shelly Serr seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Pr. Barnhart's report. He provided the following items as his report: ECMA Ministerial Meeting, November 13, District Council Meeting, November 18, Youth Group, November 19, Strasburg Care Center Service, November 20, ECMA Thanksgiving Baskets, November 21, Preached at the ECMA Thanksgiving Service, November 23, Met with St. Luke's Council in Wishek to discuss LCMC, November 24, Started Bible Study in Lamentations and will do Galatians in the new year.

Property Committee report. The Property Committee noted handicap parking lines will need to be repainted in the spring.

Stewardship Committee report. The offering envelope list is cleaned up and envelopes will be ready for pick up. Pr. Barnhart in advertising Tithe.ly.

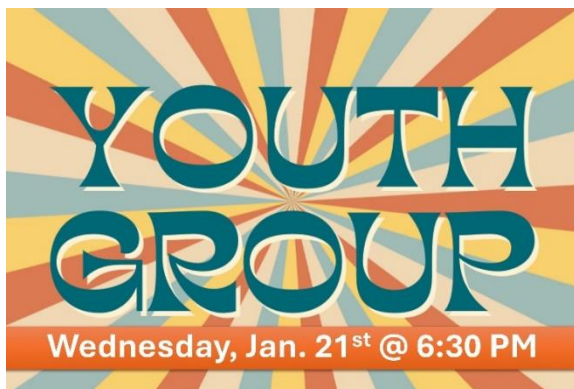
Worship Committee report. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is scheduled for 6:00pm and Christmas Day Worship for 10:00am with Holy Communion.

Education Committee report. The Sunday School Christmas Program is December 14, during the 10:45am service. Approximately \$435 dollars was spent updating costumes and purchasing props. The costs will be taken from the Sunday School Fund. Choir mics were purchased (approximately \$250) and will also be paid from the Sunday School Fund. A third step was built by Loren Hendrickson to accommodate space for the youngest children during the program.

Evangelism Committee report. The Evangelism and Stewardship Committees met and continued discussions and conversations related to the committee missions. A clothing drive for the Strasburg Care Center will be held in January. Mark Heidrich made a motion to form a formal partnership with Pr. Mawien Arik of South Sudan with a budget line item for financial support in the 2026 budget. Shelly Serr seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. Wayde Bauman made a motion to purchase a fuel gift card for a church member experiencing family illness involving significant travel. Edgar Ohlhauser seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

New Business. Mark Heidrich made a motion to hire Jay Vetter for sidewalk snow removal. Edgar Ohlhauser seconded the motion. Motion carried with Jennifer Vetter abstaining from the vote. A snowblower will be purchased. Jay Vetter submitted a \$480 bill for snow removal. Mark Heidrich made a motion to pay the bill. Edgar Ohlhauser seconded the motion. Motion carried with Jennifer Vetter abstaining from the vote. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2026. Edgar Ohlhauser moved to hold the next Church Council meeting January 7, 2026 at 4:45pm. Reports from each committee are due January 9, 2026. The Annual Report will be assembled and available to the congregation by January 18, 2026. Edgar Ohlhauser made a motion to hire Jody Kelsch to complete an audit of the 2025 financials. Wayde Bauman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. The Endowment Committee will have one vacancy. A replacement will be sought. The Church Council will have three vacancies. The Council is seeking three people to fill the vacancies.

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 4:45pm.



Youth Group/Confirmation

All 7th-12th graders are welcome to Youth Group on Wednesday, January 21st, at 6:30 PM in the church basement. We'll have a great meal, some Bible study, and games!

Memorials received as of Dec. 14th:

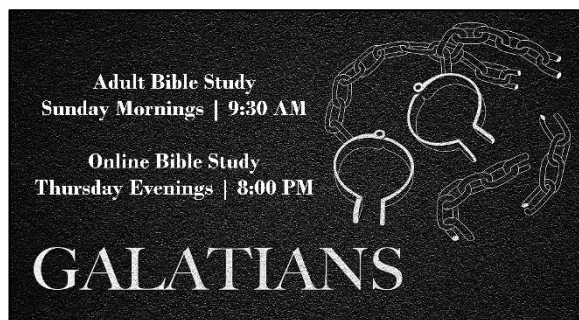
*To the Sound System Update from Mike and Becki Barnhart in memory of Emily Barnhart



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
				Jan. 1st Matthew 3:13-17	Matthew 4:1-11	Matthew 4:12-17
Jan. 4th John 1:35-51	Matthew 4:18-20	Matthew 4:21-22	Matthew 9:9-13	Matthew 9:35-38	Matthew 10:1-4	Matthew 10:5-12
Jan. 11th John 2:1-11	Luke 14:7-11	Luke 14:15-24	Psalm 104:10-16	Revelation 19:1-10	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 23
Jan. 18th John 2:13-25	Jeremiah 7:1-11	Zechariah 6:9-15	Zechariah 14:20-21	Revelation 21:22-26	Isaiah 56:1-7	Psalm 69
Jan. 25th John 3:1-21	John 3:22-30	John 3:31-36	Luke 3:19-20	Matthew 11:2-6	Matthew 11:7-15	Matthew 11:16-19



Online Bible Study

Join Pastor Sean with Online Bible Study on our YouTube channel posted on Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM at [Youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357](https://www.youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357)

Add a little Scripture to your daily routine! Tune in each day on Facebook or YouTube at 8:10 AM Monday through Friday for a short devotion or watch later at your convenience.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please consider directing them to your church. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” or log go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

2026 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.

Mission of the Month

In November, our congregation sent \$704.00 to **IFOSUD (Grow Haiti)**. Thank you for your faithful giving.

Online Giving Made Easy

Tithe.ly makes it easy to give either with their app or by clicking the green “Give” button on our church website (ndpeacelutheran.com). Give using your credit card or 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.



Find Peace Wherever You Go!

Follow Peace Lutheran on all our socials. Keep up with the most current announcements, be fed by God’s Word through 8:10 Devotions and Online Bible Study, and never miss worship!
Facebook: facebook.com/peacelutheranlinton
YouTube: youtube.com/@peacelutheran1357
Instagram: instagram.com/peace.lutheran

Annual Meeting Reports

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25th after worship. It would be appreciated for committee reports to be submitted to the office by January 9th. A proposed budget will be made available to the congregation by Sunday, January 18th.

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.



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



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.

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 20th 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

Mission of the Month

HERE TO HELP

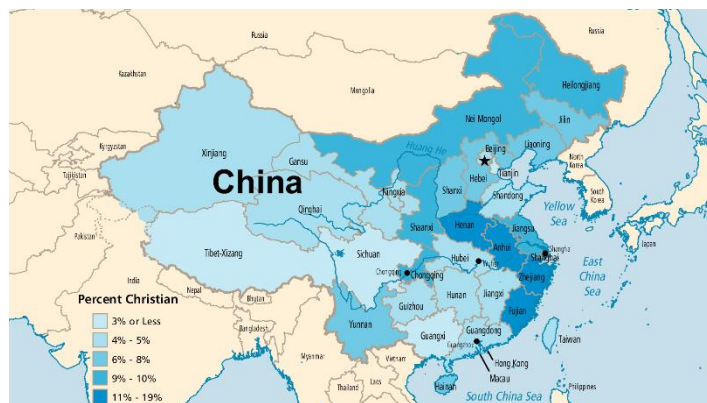
FOOD | SHELTER | CARE

WWW.SALVATIONARMYNORTH.ORG

The **Salvation Army**, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Some of the needs met by the Salvation Army include helping disaster survivors, empowering youth, sharing God's love, overcoming poverty, combating addiction, curing hunger, and providing housing.

The **Salvation Army Northern Division** covers Minnesota and North Dakota and has a major donor to the Emmons County Ministerial Association's Thanksgiving Basket project each year.



Country of the Month: China

The survival and growth of the Church in China are awesome events in our generation! The atheist government strictly controls religious groups and banned all religious activity during the Cultural Revolution. Christians then started underground house-church networks designed to survive the persecution. Through radio ministries, Christian workers, and believers devoted to outreach, the Church did more than survive; it grew! The

government re-allowed registered churches in 1978 as a way to regain control over Christianity. But the unregistered churches just continued to grow. In fact, there is no growth story like it in all of church history. 2.7 million evangelicals in 1975 grew to over 75 million in just 35 years!

The traditional house-church networks formed the core of the Chinese Church for many decades. Preachers travelled far and wide across China. The intense persecution isolated them from the global Church and forced them to adopt indigenous ways. They focus strongly on prayer, revival, simple living, and on Christ! Most house-church Christians love their country, but their first loyalty is to God. They do not want to register with the government. Their illegal status leads to persecution. The mass migration to the cities will force these networks and churches to adapt. Some rural congregations get left without a leader, and some migrants struggle without a church group in the city. Pray that the strong commitment to God's Word, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the boldness to spread the gospel will all continue to shape this growing, changing movement.



January Baptismal Celebrations

- 4 Todd Vossler
- 7 Bradlee Bauman
- 9 Paislee Mae Schilling
- 11 Rachal Peterson
Garret Roemmich
Casey Vander Vorste
- 14 Kaidra Larson
- 16 Brent Bodvig
Terry Hochhalter
- 20 Larry Umber III
- 23 Libbly 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
Robert Wagner
- 10 David Erickson
Olivia Ann Peterson
- 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