



## Peace Lutheran Church

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**December, 2017**

### **Giving Day – Every Day December 2017**

It had to happen. Even our society, which glorifies greed and magnifies materialism (especially around the Christmas season), had had enough. After the glut of shopping, spending, and indulging ourselves on Black Friday had been lengthened to include the week before Thanksgiving and had spilled over into Cyber Monday in the next week, dare I say there was a little bit of guilt? This ridiculous amount of spending for ourselves seemed to be too much even for a society that never has enough.

In an attempt perhaps to ease some of that guilt, Giving Tuesday was instituted. Giving Tuesday is a day when people are encouraged to give to charitable causes of their own choosing. This day seems to be some sort of secular indulgence by which people hope to be absolved of their greed displayed in the Christmas season. Does it work? I don't know. But a better question to ask is: why only one day? We have months of Christmas shopping, buying, and indulging, but only one day of giving to others?

The epistle lesson for Christmas Eve reminds us that the whole point of Christmas is giving. It says, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10) Christmas is not about us loving God, but God loving us. Christmas is not about us getting stuff, but God giving His only Son.

The giving on God's part doesn't end there. Christmas is more than an event of giving. Christmas is the beginning of the process of continuous giving on God's part. God's Son, Jesus, did more than simply be born on Christmas. Jesus grew up to manhood and perfectly obeyed the Law of God in our place because we had failed to do that. He then gives us His righteousness to replace our unrighteousness. That's still not all of the giving. Jesus gave his life on the cross "to be the propitiation for our sins," that is, the payment for our sins which appeases God's wrath and makes Him favorably inclined toward us. That's STILL not all of the giving. Jesus was given that we might live. He rose from the dead to life again, giving us new life now and eternal life after death in heaven with Him. All of these gifts are wrapped up in the Baby born in Bethlehem on Christmas. They are given to us in our Baptism and are daily given again to us in the Word of God and in His Holy Supper.

God's giving to us governs our response to Him. And the response is not rooted in materialism or the giving of stuff. God needs nothing, but our neighbor needs everything. Therefore St. John writes, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." As we receive the love God gave to us in His Son at Christmas, we respond by extending that love to one another. As Christmas began a continuous giving by God to us, so Christmas begins a continuous giving of ourselves, our love, and all that we have to each other.

Giving Tuesday? No! Giving Every Day.

In Christ, Our Ever Giving Gift,  
Pastor Schlund

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**Everyone** who donated food during the Thanksgiving Day Worship Service for the Great Falls Rescue Mission.

**Everyone** who came and helped decorate the church for the holidays.

**Gloria Creek, and Val Martin** for playing the organ during our worship services.

**The choir** for enhancing our worship services.

**Val Martin and Elizabeth Allen** for organizing and leading the choir at Peace.

**Everyone who helped** with the preparation of the food for the Thanksgiving Day meal here at Peace.

**All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes** on Sundays and Wednesdays.

**Matt Schlund** for changing the banners and paraments.

**Angelika Fisher** for cleaning the church.

**Everyone on the Prayer Chain** for their time and prayers.

**Everyone** who has donated treats for our fellowship time.

**All of the men** who volunteer to usher.

**Everyone** who counts the offering.

**Cheri Magnuson** for cleaning the Communion linens.

This list is not inclusive. Please accept our apologies if we have missed giving you credit for serving the Lord in any fashion. We know that the Lord knows your service to Him.

## Advent Worship Services

*“From Christmas to Calvary... And Beyond”* - How do the stories about Jesus’ first coming help us understand His ministry and His Second Coming at the end of time? *“From Christmas to Calvary... And Beyond”* will be the theme of our Wednesday evening Advent worship services this year. We will meditate upon several items from Jesus’ first coming and see how they tie in with His crucifixion, death, and resurrection, as well as how they relate to His second coming. The services will be at 7 PM on December 6, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. A soup supper will be served at 6 PM before every service. Join us as we take time to celebrate Jesus’ first coming and look forward to His second coming.



## Christmas Schedule

**December 10** – Christmas Cantata at Trinity at 7:00 PM

**Christmas Eve:** 7:00 PM - Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day:** 10:00 AM – Communion Service

**New Year’s Eve:** 7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion. There will be a New Year’s Eve Celebration in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship until midnight with food, fun, and fellowship.

## Ladies Bible study schedule

How quickly December and the season of Advent has come upon us! Advent, a season of joy and expectation, as we celebrate the coming of our Savior into the world. During our Wednesday Advent services we ponder anew God's gift of a Savior to mankind and the true meaning of Christmas.

Studying the PSALMS is an enriching activity for the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS. Join them for Bible study Friday, December 1st, 8th, and 15th from 1-3 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry continues during this festive month with hymn singing and a devotion at the following locations. Ladies and gentlemen will meet on Tuesday, December 12th at 11 a.m at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, December 22nd they will gather for a no host lunch at 11:45 a.m. at Maple Garden, 5401 9th Ave So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. How these residents love singing the familiar Christmas carols! Come and join in the fun!

# LWML

♥ **The ladies of LWML are sponsoring the first Advent Soup Supper on December 6.** If you would like to help in anyway, please contact Val Martin.

♥ **During the month of January,** we will have a Baby Shower for Denice Combs who gives baby layettes to the mothers at Benefis who have babies but have no clothes to put on them. You may bring new or clean, gently used baby items and place them in the box provided. We will also be making fleece blankets that will be given to Denice Combs.



♥ **Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 13 at 10 a.m. with a Bible study. Please note the day and time change!!** If you want to make a no sew fleece blanket during our meeting, please bring a 1 ¼ yards of any fleece material with you and we will show you how! All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! Don't forget your Mite boxes!

♥ **Remember to bring your new soap for Soap Sunday on the second Sunday of each month.** Soap collected will go to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks for your continued support.



## December Anniversaries

Dec. 18 Ed and Sarah Ostlund  
Dec. 30 Emich and Sieglinde Steinke

## Baptismal Anniversaries

December 4 Garry Denning  
6 David Greenwood  
19 Kristen Jacobsen  
22 Ganetta Ryster  
23 Donnalene McPartlin  
26 Mackenzie Smelser  
27 Joddie Naeseth  
27 Chisholm Naeseth  
29 Ernie VanVleet  
29 Reilly Jacobsen  
30 Nicholas Birkholz

**Deacons for December are Arnie Gidlow and Mitch Martin**

### Ushers for December

3 Lyle Onstad  
Arnie Wirth  
10 Ed Ostlund  
Greg Franczyk  
17 Matt Schlund  
Kevin Aguiar  
24 Pat Lewis  
Eric Fletcher  
31 Arnie Gidlow  
Al Beute



**INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:**  
The following people are experiencing health problems:

**Tami Birkholz,** Karen's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder  
**Michael Drummond** – Lupus  
**Joseph Furr II** (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia).  
**Leonard Gidlow**  
**Dan Hanneman** (Becky's brother battling leukemia)  
**Jane Hering**  
**Connie Juden**  
**Rev. Erich Kaelberer**  
**June Meier**  
**Bill and Dorothy Neuman**  
**David Norman**  
**Kathy Politz**  
**Jean Radke**

One member who is away serving in the military is **Michael Lewis.**

## Christmas Cantata

**On Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.** there will be a joint choir cantata titled "God's Promise" with members of Peace and Trinity Lutheran Churches at Trinity Lutheran. All are invited to join us for this very special service!

# Caroling

Anyone interested in going caroling is asked to meet at the church at 3 PM on Sunday, December 17. We will go caroling to some of the area nursing homes and member's homes. Come and join us!



# Finances

JANUARY 1, TO OCTOBER 31, 2017		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$ 110,180.53	\$114,166.70
Interest Income	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 833.30
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 111,195.53</b>	<b>\$115,000.00</b>
<b>Church Expenses</b>		
Personnel/Benefits	\$ 71,736.92	\$ 72,565.50
Administrative	\$ 5,787.69	\$ 6,841.60
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 18,976.30	\$ 19,325.00
Missions	\$ 9,174.79	\$ 9,583.30
Christian Education	\$ 3,963.52	\$ 4,758.30
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 109,639.22</b>	<b>\$113,073.70</b>
<b>Net Church Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,556.31</b>	<b>\$ 1,926.30</b>



# Christmas Open House

Pastor and Becky Schlund invite all members Peace Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf to a Christmas Open House at their home on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00 PM. The address is 2504 6<sup>th</sup> St. NE. Come and join the pastor and his family for food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth!

# “Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life

“God created you in the womb. He formed your very being. He called you by name for His great plans. He made your life new through the Holy One of Israel. God gave you a new heart through Christ. God has loved you so deeply—and He gives you the gift of life so deeply—that He gave you the heart of Christ. HIS heart beats within you. THAT is God’s gift of grace.” *Rev. Paul J. Frank, Hosanna Lutheran Church and School, Mesa, Arizona – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

“As we bask in the glow of God Himself choosing, from His freedom and through His immeasurable power, to sanctify every aspect and moment of human life by taking flesh and passing through every stage of human growth and development, and sanctifying each of those moments, let’s do the very hard work of taking our faith seriously and, knowing God loves us and will always forgive every sin, let’s winsomely and gently live in such a way we show the world a better way.” *Fr. Barnabas Powell, Cumming, Georgia.– A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

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# Trinity LWML Advent Potluck Brunch

The ladies of Trinity’s LWML invite you to “A Candy Cane Christmas” Advent Brunch Potluck on **Saturday, December 9, at 10:00 AM.** An ingathering of new games and toys for Christmas gifts will be collected and taken to the Great Falls Rescue Mission.

