



Peace Lutheran Church

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“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to count as lost, a time to keep and a time to discard, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Advent season is here! A time of preparation and reflection as we look back over the year gone by. For many people it is also a time of getting ready, for both family gatherings, travel plans, as well as getting ready for our Lord's return. It is in this line of preparation that we would do well as we prepare for our Lord's return to meditate on our own fallenness and death. The words of Solomon remind us that for everything under the sun, there is a proper time and place.

Every one of us will die. As Solomon writes, there is a time to live and a time to die. This we know for a fact, to quote an old saying "Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee". We will all die because of our many, great, and grievous sins against God and our neighbor, both original sin and actual sins.

Since everyone dies, how do we prepare for death? We prepare in the same way that we do for our Lord's return. We trust in what Jesus has done for us upon the cross of Christ. There, Jesus bore every single one of our sins. He took our pain and punishment upon Himself to reconcile sinful humanity with a holy and just God. Rising from the dead, He gives to us new life. It is in this new life that we live and die. We live in the hope that because Jesus lives so too will we.

Dear Brothers and sisters, as we begin a new church year, remembering our Lord's first coming as we await His return, let us always be mindful of why He came, to save us from sin, death, and the power of the devil, and give to us newness of life, now and forever.

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Joshua Reinke

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TO**

Everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Day meal at the church.
Val Martin for using her Thrivent Action Team cards to donate most of the food for the Thanksgiving Day meal.
All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes on Sundays and Wednesdays.
Tristin Reinke, Val Martin and Gloria Creek for playing the organ during our worship services.
Elsie Huss 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.
Everyone who cleans the kitchen after Bible study on Sundays and Wednesdays.
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.



December Anniversaries

- Dec. 12 Bob and Liz Ellesch
- Dec. 18 Ed and Sarah Ostlund
- Dec. 30 Emich and Sieglinde Steinke

Baptismal Anniversaries

- December 4 Jacob Meierhoff
- 19 Kristen Jacobsen
- 22 Ganetta Ryster
- 23 Donnalene McPartlin
- 29 Ernie VanVleet
- 29 Reilly Jacobsen
- 30 Nicholas Birkholz

Ushers for December

- 5 Arnie Gidlow
Pat Lewis
- 12 Greg Franczyk
Tyler Denning
- 19 Peter Doscher
Kevin Aguiar
- 26 Lyle and James Onstad



Prayer Chain

INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- Ben Aagaard** – 8 year old with kidney cancer
- Jody Decker** – Fort Benton
- Michael Drummond** – Lupus
- Rev. Mark Grunst** of Billings who has Lewy Body disease
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer** – ALS
- Ed and Sarah Ostlund**, in assisted living in Billings
- Becky Schlund**, MS
- Steven Schlund**, Parkinsons
- Ron Van Horn** – Fort Benton
- Van Oman family** – Fort Benton

The family of **Jane Nicolaus** who died November 8.



Ladies Friday Bible Study

How blessed we are to have the opportunity to stay focused on the true reason for the season of Christmas, with our special Wednesday night advent services through the month of December! Make time for them in your holiday schedule.

There's always room for more at the Acts Bible Study! Ladies will meet December 3rd and 10th from 1-3 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Avenue South. Learning about the early church and our own is fascinating!

On Friday, December 17th the group will have a sandwich lunch at Marge's at noon before going to Highgate House, 3000 11th Avenue South, for hymn singing and a Christmas devotion. Join in the Christmas carol singing with these special Christian residents! Share the joy of the Christ Child!

Advent Service Schedule

We are having Advent Worship Services each Wednesday at 7 PM. There is also soup suppers served at 6 PM. Ladies of LWML will host on December 2 and the youth will host on December 9. If you or your group would like to sponsor the soup supper on December 16, please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall.

Christmas Service Schedule

Holiday Worship Service is as follows:

Christmas Eve Service - 3:00 PM - First Lutheran in Fort Benton
Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 PM - Peace Lutheran
Christmas Day Service - 10:00 AM –with Christ Lutheran for the Deaf and Holy Communion
Sunday, December 26 - 10:00 AM – Divine Worship with Holy Communion
11:00 AM – Bible study and Sunday school for all ages
3:00 PM – Divine Worship with Holy Communion – First in Fort Benton
Monday, December 27 – OFFICE CLOSED – NO service for CLCD
There will NOT be a New Year's Eve Service

Advent Devotion Booklets

Lutheran Hour Ministries provides us with devotion booklets each Advent. They are available on the table in the hallway. I apologize that they are late, but I finally got them done last week. Please take one and enjoy!

LWML

- ♥ **December 4**, Saturday, at 11 AM, we will be decorating the church and putting up the Christmas Tree! All are welcome to come and join us!
- ♥ **December 17**, Friday, at 1:30 PM, we will have a baking day at the church!. We will be baking the goodies that will be handed out when we go caroling on **Sunday, December 19** at 1:30 PM. Please meet at the church at 1 PM and we will decide our route for caroling. All are invited to join us!
- ♥ **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 9 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! Remember your Mite boxes!

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(28 November 2021)

Jeremiah 33:14–16

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Luke 19:28–40 *or* Luke 21:25–36

The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us

The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this first Sunday establishes this theme for the rest of the season. The Son of God came long ago to be our Savior, “*a righteous Branch*” descended from David (Jer. 33:15). As He then came into Jerusalem, riding on a lowly donkey to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world (Luke 19:28–40), so does He come to His Church today in the humility of Word and Sacrament to deliver the fruits of His Passion: the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He absolves us and establishes our hearts “*blameless in holiness before our God and Father*” (1 Thess. 3:13). The same Lord Jesus, who came to Jerusalem then and who comes to us now in peace, will come again with power and great glory on the Last Day. Then there will be “*distress of nations in perplexity,*” with “*people fainting with fear.*” Yet, as we anticipate that great and terrible day, He bids us to rest securely in Him: “*Raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near*” (Luke 21:25, 26, 28).

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(5 December 2021)

Malachi 3:1–7b

Philippians 1:2–11

Luke 3:1–14 (15–20)

The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of the Lord

The preaching and Baptism “*of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*” (Luke 3:3) prepare us for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The historic work of John the Baptist was completed with the first advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, but the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of Law and Gospel and in Holy Baptism. Through His messengers, the Lord calls people of all nations to “*see the salvation of God*” (Luke 3:6). Our haughtiness is removed and our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. As the Lord has begun this good work of repentance in us, so also does He perfect it by His Word and Holy Spirit, and He “*will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 1:6). He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Mal. 3:3–4).

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(12 December 2021)

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)

The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice

The Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning “Rejoice!” For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; “*he has cleared away your enemies,*” “*taken away the judgments against you*” and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–

17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to “*rejoice in the Lord always,*” knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even “*the dead are raised up*” (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6).

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(19 December 2021)

Micah 5:2–5a

Hebrews 10:5–10

Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)

The Lord Comes to Visit Us in Peace

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the nativity of our Lord. With Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Spirit of God. As the Lord dealt graciously with her and did great things for her (Luke 1:48–49), so also He manifests Himself and His glory to us in mercy and gentleness. He comes to rule His people in peace, to “*shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD.*” He comes forth not from the great capital city of Rome or Jerusalem, but from lowly little Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, 4). He comes to sacrifice Himself, in fulfillment of His Father’s will, for the salvation and sanctification of His people (Heb. 10:10). He who once visited Elizabeth while hidden in the womb of Mary (Luke 1:39–45) now comes to visit us today, hidden in the lowliness of simple water, bread and wine.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

(26 December 2021)

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

Colossians 3:12–17

Luke 2:22–40

The Firstborn Son of God Is Our Redemption from Sin and Death

When the Lord destroyed the firstborn sons of Egypt, He spared the sons of Israel by providing a lamb in their stead. Hence, all the firstborn sons belong to Him. Every firstborn male animal was sacrificed, and every firstborn son of man was redeemed (Ex. 13:12–13). Therefore, the parents of Jesus “*brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord*” (Luke 2:22). However, He is not redeemed from priestly service but is consecrated for “*the redemption of Jerusalem*” and “*the consolation of Israel*” (Luke 2:25, 38). For God the Father did not spare His only begotten Son, but offered Him up as the true Passover Lamb, in order to redeem His people from bondage. His cross has caused many to stumble and fall, but His blood atoned for the sins of the world and delivers us from death. We now depart in the peace of Christ because we are also raised with Him. As we receive His body and blood, we join Simeon and Anna in “*giving thanks to God the Father through him,*” “*singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,*” including the Nunc Dimittis, with thankfulness in our hearts (Luke 2:28–32, 38; Col. 3:15–17).