



Peace Lutheran Church

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January, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have to come to worship him.' (Matthew 2:1-2)

On January 6th, the Christian Church celebrates the Epiphany of our Lord. On that day, we remember Magi from the east following a star in the heavens and traveling a great distance to worship the Christ Child on that first Christmas many years ago. Many people who read this account are fascinated by this special star which led wise men to find the Baby Jesus. Some think this was a huge star. Some think it is a configuration of several planets which appeared as a single star in the skies. Some think it is a special star which God created for this special occasion.

Regardless of *what* you think the Star of Bethlehem was, many people wished they had a star like that to lead them to Jesus and faith in Him. If only they had a star or some other special sign, then they could believe in Jesus. I have some good news for you. You have something far better and more miraculous than the Star of Bethlehem to lead you to Christ. And, instead of being in the heavens, it's sitting right under your noses.

If you examine the story of the Wise Men carefully, you will notice that the star did not lead them directly to the Christ Child. They came to Jerusalem initially, not Bethlehem. When they asked King Herod, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?" where does Herod find the answer? He consults the chief priests and scribes who consult the Word of God to find out that the Christ has been born in Bethlehem. It was the Word of God, not a miraculous star, which ultimately led the Wise Men to Jesus.

We have that same Word available to us today. Natural phenomena can help us know there is a God (Psalm 19:1). However, nothing in nature can lead us to our Savior Jesus Christ. His love, His mercy, and His forgiveness have to be revealed to us because we cannot find them or know them on our own. Only the Word of God can lead us to know our sin and to trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior. Thanks be to God that through His Word in its various forms – with water in Holy Baptism, on the printed page in the Bible, in the bread and wine of Holy Communion – we come to know Jesus, put our faith in Jesus, and have all the blessings which Jesus was born to give us.

We call this special day (January 6th) The Epiphany of our Lord because the word *epiphany* means to reveal. We celebrate this day, not because Wise Men found the Baby Jesus by following a star, but because the Word of God revealed the Christ to the Wise Men and led them to Him.

If you want to have an "epiphany" yourself, don't look for a star. Pick up your Bible. You'll find Christ and all of His blessings there.

In Christ, our newborn King,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.

Everyone who went caroling.

Everyone who donated items for the Gift of Love Tree.

Members of Christ for the Deaf, LWML, and the youth for sponsoring the soup suppers during Advent.

The children's for their Christmas Eve service.

Brook Gerard, Becky Schlund and Donnalene McPartlin for organizing and leading the Children's Service.

The adult choir for enhancing our Christmas Eve 11 PM worship service.

Kathy McIntosh for leading the adult choir.

Gloria Creek and Karen Schaefer for playing the organ and piano during all of our worship services.

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

Idell Croskrey for changing the banners and paraments.

Everyone who purchased the poinsettias for the Advent season.

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 and Alice Schuman for cleaning the Communion linens.

Cindy Greenwood for decorating the bulletin boards.

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.

Ladies Bible study schedule

Happy 2011 to one and all! God has granted us the beginning of a new year in His grace! Rejoice with the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS as they continue their study of the BOOK of LUKE. Ladies will meet for Bible study on January 7th, 14th, and 21st from 1-3 pm at the home of Ann Nimmick 2327 15th Ave So. Come and join them!

The deeper Montana goes into winter, the more Assisted Living Ministry is appreciated by residents. Singing hymns and sharing God's Word in a devotion is "good medicine" for all of us! Tuesday, January 11th at 11 am ladies will be at the Bee Hive Home at 2328 15th Ave. So. Friday, January 28th at 11:45 am the group will meet for a no host lunch at Prime Cut Restaurant, 3219 10th Ave So. After lunch they will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Please try to join in some of these activities!

Finances

The year to date budgeted amount through November 30, 2010 is **\$142,524.96**. What was given through November 30, 2010 is **\$128,764.55**. **We are short \$13,760.41**. Our Mission Commitment to the District is short by \$1,050.00. The amount in **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** as of November 30, 2010 is **\$30,963.32**. **LCEF loan balance as of November 30, 2010 is \$156,830.39**.

Christmas "Un decorating"

Be watching for more details about UN-decorating the church! Sometime after Epiphany...January 6th...we will be removing the Christmas decorations.

Snow removal needed

The Board of Directors at Peace is looking for someone to remove snow from the sidewalks at Peace when it snows. They are willing to pay \$10 per hour to the person or people who are willing to be sure the snow is removed in a timely manner each time it snows. In order to be in compliance with city ordinances, and because we have functions at the church each day of the week, this needs to be done any time during the week that it might snow, not just Sunday mornings. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Amy Dorr at 899-4050 or Diann Stevens at 453-1011.

LWML

- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the Gift of Love Tree.** Thank you, **Elsie Huss**, for organizing the tree. Thank you, **elders**, for delivering the gifts.
- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who helped in any way at the Soup Supper.** The total of \$93.50 was placed in Purple Pocket account and will go to missions.
- ♥ **During the month of January, we will have a Baby Shower for Life Way Pregnancy Services here in Great Falls.** Their wish list for layettes include diapers, wipes, onesies (size zero to 3 months), onsie PJs, bottles, and pacifiers. These items may be placed in the box provided.
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** We will also be making fleece blankets for Life Way Pregnancy Center. Bring 1 and ¼ yards of fleece and good scissors to make a blanket. 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.



January Anniversaries

Jan. 14 Garry and Ruth Denning

Baptismal Anniversaries

January	1	Patsy Zvara
	1	Jane Hering
	1	Tom Stevens
	1	Jessica Eby
	3	Mitch Martin
	4	Dan Martin
	4	Dennis Martin
	5	Ann Schuman
	6	Jeanette Talley
	11	Nathan Rubino
	11	Gary Lux
	11	Tammy Drummond
	12	Caleb Giles
	15	Bill Neuman
	15	Idell Croskrey
	16	James Onstad
	19	Shirley Smelser
	19	Deloris Brown
	20	Katy Koenig
	22	Ken Rubino
	22	Rick Bricks
	26	Ken Meske
	26	Matt Steffens
	26	Justin Talley
	26	Mikaela Grove
	27	Ryan Anderson

New Directory

A new membership directory will come out in January. If you have a new phone number or address, please contact the church office at peacesecretary@bresnan.net or call 406-761-7343 and let us know!



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

John Birkholz
Colleen Carr
Jo Flom
Patsy Zvara

Our members who are away serving in the military are **Kurt Mueller, Michael Lewis, Justin Talley, and Jacob Meierhoff.**

Justin Mann, grandson of Bruce and Janet Kempf, is serving in Afghanistan.

Family Night resumes

Family Night resumes on Wednesday, January 5th. We will have a potluck supper at 6:00 PM for all who want to participate. At 6:30 PM, we will activities for young children, pre-confirmation classes for older children, and Bible Study for adults. Adults are encouraged to bring their copy of *Christ Have Mercy*. We will continue our study of that. We will close at 7:30 PM.

The Truth Project begins in January

The Truth Project is a DVD-based study, designed to equip believers with a comprehensive biblical worldview. Practically and personally, participants will be reintroduced to the truth claims of God. *The Truth Project* will begin in our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class on January 2nd. Don't miss it!

Wee Disciples



We begin January with children and families – to start a new calendar year together – with anticipation and joy as well as concern and challenges. The following is a wonderful scripture to consider as we begin the journey of 2011.

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? But

I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. n Psalm 13:1,5 NIV
What a wonderful psalm this is for parents, teachers and church members. The first two verses paint an incredible picture of fatigue and weariness. David, the psalm writer, is just plain worn out. It is likely that you have had moments such as this. The last verse provides us with incredible direction. David refocuses on all that the Lord has done for him. he remembers to trust in the Lord's unfailing love and help, and he rejoices!

"Reprinted with permission of LCMS School Ministry."

We would like to welcome the newest member of Wee Disciples – Liora Grace – born to Sadie and her husband Todd– congratulations to their family – Oliver and Ascher are wonderful big brothers.

We begin registration for preschool, K-1 and after school programs for the coming year at this time. Please include the registration process in your thoughts and prayers as we ask God to guide all aspects of Wee Disciples for His glory.

Witness Workshop coming in February

Would you like to become more proficient in sharing your faith? Would you like to reach out into our community with the Gospel? Peace Lutheran Church will host a Witness Workshop on Saturday, February 12th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Registration fee is \$10.00. If you have any questions, talk to Arnie Gidlow or Pastor Schlund. More information will come in next month's newsletter.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life

“Every human life has value. That value does not come from its usefulness or how it looks or how big or healthy or productive it is ... The value of human life comes from the One who made it, who bought it back, and who desires to call every life for His eternal purpose. The embryo in the Petri dish, the baby in the womb, baby Sally in the neonatal intensive care unit, Uncle Ralph in the Alzheimer's unit, grandma in the nursing home bed, you and me—we all have value because of what God has done.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life – www.lutheransforlife.org



Happy New Year!