



## Peace Lutheran Church

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January, 2019

### A New Year! January 2019

Have you ever wondered why we make such a big deal about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day? For one thing, the beginning of the new year is rather arbitrary. Did you know that the celebration of a new year at one time took place on March 1 and, on March 25? The choice of January 1 as the beginning of the new year did not really take place until the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar in 1582. Some people, including American colonists, were still celebrating March 25 as the beginning of the new year in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Also, what is so "new" about the new year? Do we seriously think that the next 365 days will be any better than the past 365 days? Maybe the reason people run around, shouting, "Happy New Year!" is out of optimism because they hope that the coming year will be better. Maybe the reason people drink so much on this holiday is out of pessimism because they're pretty sure it won't be any better.

While there will be new things in the coming year, in many important areas the coming year will not be new, but will be filled with the same old things. Sin will still plague this world in 2019. As a result, there will still be natural disasters, violence, and evil just like before. Since there will be sin and the wages of sin is death, there will be death in 2019. There are likely friends, family, and acquaintances whom you know and love who will die in 2019. Many will see this as simply more of the same old depressing thing and choose December 31 as an excuse to get drunk.

However, for us as Christians, there is newness. This doesn't mean that 2019 (or any other future year) will, on the whole, be newer than the previous year. It means that every day is new. The prophet Jeremiah writes in the book of Lamentations these words, "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 3:22-23)

Lest you think that Jeremiah is an incredible optimist or that he is some sort of "enjoy your best life now" preacher, realize that he writes these words after watching Jerusalem burned to the ground by the Babylonian armies. There is nothing new or positive about that. However, Jeremiah has reason for hope which is ours as well. God's love and mercy never ceases or comes to an end. His mercies are new every morning. In other words, in the midst of all of the turmoil and change that our world experiences, there is one thing that never changes – God's mercy toward us.

Every day, His mercy is extended to us, fresh and new. We experience his care for us. We receive forgiveness for all of our sins from Him. We are renewed in our hope of eternal life from Him. We don't receive yesterday's care, stale love, or used forgiveness. Every day, we receive God's new mercies. And, every day, we are new people in Christ. We have a fresh start every morning. Great is God's faithfulness!

This means we are not shackled to the sins of the past. In our Baptism, we are freed to live new every single day. Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism under the explanation for Holy Baptism these words, "The Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned in die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and rise to live before God and righteousness and purity forever."

We neither have to have blind optimism to help us wish for a better year coming nor an overabundance of alcohol to drown our fears of a worse year. According to the Word of God, we receive God's mercies new every single day of the year. By living in our Baptisms, we are new people every single day of the year. We begin with a fresh slate every day. Each of us is a new person in righteousness and purity every day.

While we likely will experience sadness and grief at times, the upcoming year will be "new" through God's new mercies shown forth in our new behavior and, despite any sadness or grief, we shall be "happy", yes, even "joyous" because of that newness.

Wishing you a happy and new year in Christ,

Pastor Schlund

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Everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.  
**LWML ladies, the Board of Trustees, and Jared, Lark, Elizabeth and Carli Dudden** for sponsoring the soup suppers during Advent.  
**The adult choirs** of Peace and Trinity and Trinity's bell choir for a lovely concert.  
**Val Martin, Elizabeth Allen, and Judy Boyce** for leading the adult choirs.  
**Val Martin, and Gloria Creek** for playing the organ and piano during all of our worship services.  
**All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school and Bible class** on Sundays.  
**Matt Schlund** for changing the banners and paraments.  
**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.

## Ladies Bible study schedule

2019!! The new year brings a month of recess from studies for the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS. They will resume their study of 1st Peter in February.

Assisted Living Ministry continues as the new year begins. Ladies and gentlemen will bring a devotion and lead residents in hymn singing in the following locations. Tuesday, January 8th at 11 a.m. they will gather at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. There will be a no host lunch on January 18th at 11:45 a.m. at Maple Garden, 5401 9th Ave So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Some of these assisted living residents are quite housebound in winter. There's no such thing, as too many visitors! Come and show them God's love by your presence!

## LWML



- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who helped in any way at the soup supper.**
- ♥ **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 no sew fleece blankets that will be given to**

Denise Combs.

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 12 at 10 a.m. with a Bible study. Please note the day and time change!!** We will be making no sew fleece blankets for the layettes that Denice Combs makes for the hospital. If you want to make a fleece blanket, bring 1 and ¼ yards of any print fleece and we will show you how to make the blankets. There will also be Bible study and a business meeting. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to join us. Remember 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	3	Mitch Martin
	4	Dan Martin
	4	Dennis Martin
	11	Gary Lux
	15	Idell Croskrey
	16	James Onstad
	19	Shirley Smelser
	19	Deloris Brown
	26	Ken Meske
	28	Kaye Franczyk



Deacon for January is Mitch Martin

### Ushers for January

6	Arnie Gidlow
	Jared Dudden
13	Tyler Denning
	Greg Franczyk
20	James Onstad
	Lyle Onstad
27	Darrell Greenwood
	Kevin Aguiar

## Family Night resumes

Family Night will start up again on January 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Chinese themed potluck at 6:00 PM. Bible Study for all ages will follow at 6:30 PM. We are continuing our study of the book titled *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?* Join us for food, fun, and spiritual growth!



### 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  
**Rev. Mark Grunst** of Billings who has a neurological condition  
**Connie Juden**  
**Rev. Erich Kaelberer**  
**Wallie Martin**, Mitch's brother under Hospice Care  
**Dorothy Neuman**

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

## 2019 Offering envelopes

Offering envelopes have been placed in your mailboxes for this year. Please let Arnie Wirth know if you want envelopes and haven't gotten them in the past, or if you received them but don't want them anymore.

## Electric doors now working

Peace and CLCD shared the cost for the installation of electric doors at the east entrance of the church. Thank you to everyone who made this wonderful addition a reality!

## Deaf sponsor Rummage Sale

CLCD will have a rummage sale again in the spring. Will pick a date later. It will go toward the cost of camp.

## Deaf Camp dates

The members of CLCD will host camp this year. The dates are **August 21 thru 25, 2019**. Plan now to come and join us for a wonderful time on Flathead Lake!

