



Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,
Great Falls, Montana 59405

761-7343

Rev. Joshua Reinke, Pastor

Office: 761-7343

Fax: 452-3884

December, 2024

www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.¹ Isaiah 7:14

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter December and the season of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, how is your mind doing? In the midst of the stresses of the season, preparing for all of the family gatherings, all the pressures that we put upon ourselves to find the best gift at the best time and price. It is enough to boggle one's mind. It scrambles it. Think of the Boggle travel game of old. You had to shake it around, let the letters fall, and attempt to find words. Our brains are so scrambled that it is hard to pick up the pieces afterwards.

That is how I feel, not only during the Advent and Christmas seasons, but every time I ponder the implications for what exactly happens at Christmas, the Incarnation. That the Creator of the Universe, the Creator of everything we see and cannot see. The One, who with a word can speak everything into existence, entered into His creation as a baby. He deigned to have to learn every single word by the voice of Joseph and Mary.

Why did God do this? Because of you. Because you cannot save yourself from your sinful nature. No matter how perfect you may think you are, you are not. You are a sinner in thought, word, and deed. That is why God in His love needed to do something. He could have just destroyed you, like He did those of Noah's time or Sodom and Gomorrah. Yet, in love, He saves you. He redeems you, pays the price of sin, death, and the power of the devil for you.

He does this by becoming flesh for you in Jesus Christ. Jesus, God in the Flesh, lives a perfect life in our places. Perfectly fulfills the Law on your behalf. He goes to the cross, dies the death of a criminal, taking the full wrath of God as it is laid upon Him in your place. Rising again from the dead, He gives you new and everlasting life with Him forever. Your sins paid for, washed away by God's holy and precious blood.

It is indeed enough to boggle our minds, all of the wondrous ways that God shows His great love for us in, and through, Christ Jesus. As we prepare our hearts and minds, looking forward with joy to see Him face to face at His second coming, let us rejoice in God's glorious salvation.

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Joshua Reinke

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Is 7:14). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

THANKS

TO

Everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Day meal at the church.
Everyone who helped decorate the church and set up the tree.
Tristin Reinke, Val Martin and Gloria Creek for playing the organ during our worship services.
Elsie Huss for changing the banners and paraments.
Bob Fletcher 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. 28 Peter and Ly Doscher
 Dec. 30 Emich and Sieglinde Steinke

Baptismal Anniversaries

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

Ushers for December

1 Arnie Gidlow
 Dennis Nivens
 8 Jeff Blomgren
 Tyler Denning
 15 Greg Franczyk
 Kevin Aguiar
 22 Brian Mittelstedter
 Mitch Martin
 29 James Onstad
 Pat Lewis



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

Ben Aagaard – 11 year old with liver cancer
Marylan Dallum – health issues - Fort Benton
Jody Decker – health issues - Fort Benton
Michael Drummond – Lupus
Rev. Mark Grunst of Billings who has Lewy Body disease
Connie Juden – Health issues
Rev. Erich Kaelberer – ALS
Bruce Kempf – health issues
Rachel Manley – cancer
Eloise Morehead – health issues
Becky Schlund - MS
Steven Schlund – Parkinsons
Rev. John Vallie – Alzheimer's Disease

Advent Devotion Booklets

Lutheran Hour Ministries provides us with devotion booklets each Advent. They are available on the table in the hallway. Please take one and enjoy!



Ladies Friday Bible Study

Advent! A favorite time of the year to witness the true meaning of Christmas. Sending Christmas cards with Christian artwork and wording. Responding to people's holiday greetings with, "Have a blessed Christmas!" Decorating with a nativity scene.

Discussing how to witness and share the love of Jesus more easily is blended in with the study of Philippians by the Friday Ladies Bible Class. Join them and share some of your ideas on December 6th and 13th from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Avenue South.

Assisted Living Ministry brings Christmas carols and a devotion to those who often cannot get out to a church for Advent and Christmas services. The group will gather on Friday, December 20th at 1:30pm at Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11th Avenue South. Prior to the Highgate event there will be a no host lunch at 11:45am at Jaker's, 1500 11th Avenue South. Pastor Reinke will bring the Advent message with worship services at the following locations. On Wednesday, December 11th at 1:30pm he will be at The Lodge, 1801 9th Street South. He will be at Highgate on Monday, December 16th at 1:30pm. Your presence at any of these activities is a witness to others!

Advent Service Schedule

Advent Worship Services will be each Wednesday in December at 7 PM. There is also potluck dinners served at 6 PM. The theme this year is

The Nativity: Songs of God and Men

December 4 - Advent Midweek 1: The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1:67–80

December 11 - Advent Midweek 2: The Song of Elizabeth, Luke 1:39–45

December 18 - Advent Midweek 3: The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46–56

December 25 - The Nativity of Our Lord: The Song of the Angels, Luke 2:1–20

By Rev. Hans W. Fiene, Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Crestwood, Missouri

Christmas Service Schedule

Holiday Worship Service is as follows:

Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday in Advent - 10:00 AM - Peace Lutheran with Holy Communion

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Service – Lessons and Carols - 7:00 PM – Peace Lutheran

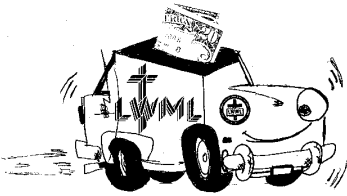
Wednesday, December 25, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord – 10:00 AM –with Christ Lutheran for the Deaf and First Lutheran with Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 25 – OFFICE CLOSED

There will NOT be a New Year's Eve Service.

LWML

- ♥ **November 30**, Saturday, at 11 AM, we will be decorating the church and putting up the Christmas Tree! All are welcome to come and join us!
- ♥ **Trinity's LWML invites you to an Advent Candlelight Devotional Program this Saturday, December 7 at 10 AM.** This will be a potluck brunch. Toby's House is the recipient of the ingathering. Their wish list includes wipes, diapers (any size or brand), diaper rash creams, Kleenex, formula of any kind or type as long as it is unopened.
- ♥ **December 14**, Saturday, at 11:00 AM, 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 15** 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 11 at 11 a.m. with a Bible study.** 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!

Installation of Peace's First Parish Music Director

The installation of Tristin Reinke as the Parish Music Director of Peace Lutheran Church will be **Sunday, December 15 at the 10:00 AM** Worship Service. LCMS Montana District President Terry Forke will be here to do the Installation and also his parish visit. Please plan now to attend!