



Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,

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www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you ^bjudge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*

Psalm 67:4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The days are getting colder. Snow is due to start falling at any moment. Many are walking around bundled up in layers against the wind and cold. In the midst of this cold and snow, with the clouds and darkness creeping ever longer, what is there to be joyful about? We can rejoice because we are getting ever closer to celebrating the Feast of the Nativity, the incarnation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is indeed a time for the entirety of the nations to be glad. A time to rejoice because One has come that will judge the people with equity. Equity means the quality of being fair and just, especially in a way that takes account of and seeks to address existing inequalities.

Jesus addresses the inequalities between us and God by being unfair to Himself. The inequality that we call sin. Because of our sins, we deserve death and everlasting punishment. This is because we are not Holy. We are not perfect. We sin in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. Something needed to be done to reconcile God with sinners, otherwise we die forever.

What was done? The incarnation. The Creator enters into His creation. He who is, and grants, life, takes His first breath. He who says "Let there be light." Enters the Darkness of this sin filled world to become the sin-bearer for us. Jesus takes all of our sins upon Himself. He sets His face like a flint towards Jerusalem, going to the cross and certain death. Jesus dies in our place. He dies our eternal death, bearing the full wrath of God in our place. He physically rises again from the dead as proof that His sacrifice was acceptable in the eyes of the Father, that we might have physical, bodily, life with Him forever and ever.

Indeed, let the nations be glad and sing for joy. Your Savior has been born, redeemed you from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Jesus will come again in power and glory, and you will be with Him forever and ever.

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Joshua Reinke

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

7 Pat Lewis
 Jeff Blomgren
 14 Lyle and Andrew Onstad
 21 Mitch Martin
 Cole McPartlin
 28 Arnie Gidlow
 Tyler Denning



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

Ben Aagaard – 12 year old with health issues
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
Rev. Erich Kaelberer – ALS
Bruce Kempf – health issues
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!



Assisted Living Ministry

An old English Christmas carol has these lyrics:

Christmas is coming the goose is getting fat;
Please [do] put a penny in the old man's hat.
If you haven't got a penny, [then] a ha'penny will do.
If you haven't got a ha'penny, [then] God bless you!

This carol indicates that some poor people hearing the song do not have even a half penny to give away at Christmas time. Will you be having Christmas presents under your Christmas tree this year? Will there be few or an abundance for each person in your family to receive? Will there be almost an over abundance of gifts? Will there be someone in the family who is difficult to buy for because they seem to "have everything?" There are people in Great Falls who are like those in the song who don't have a half penny to give the old man. Do you know anyone who is that poor? No? Well, the Mercy Home does. The Food Bank does. Helping Hands does. The Salvation Army does. Family Promise does. The list goes on and on. If you're having trouble buying a gift for well financed Grandma or Grandpa, well-to-do Aunt or Uncle, or others consider a gift in their honor to one of these organizations that is helping the poor in our community, however small the amount. Make a card for the honoree to place under the tree to let your relative know where your gift was given in their name. Ponder this idea in your heart as you buy gifts for your family this giving season...

Assisted Living Ministry will be singing Christmas carols and giving a devotion at 1:30 pm on Friday, December 12th at Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11th Avenue South. Earlier that day a no host lunch will be held at 11:30am at Old Chicago Pizza, 1101 7th Street South. Don't get too busy wrapping gifts to miss these opportunities to enjoy the fellowship with friends at a delicious meal and singing God's Word that Christ is born!

Pastor Reinke will be delivering the Christmas message of the Babe of Bethlehem born to save the world from sin at Highgate on Monday, December 15th at 1:30pm. The keyboard will peal out the familiar Christmas carols as parishioners enjoy joining the group leading the songs. Take time to give the gift of yourself for an hour with these residents. The residents at their age and living now in smaller quarters don't need gifts, but the gift of your smile and Christmas greeting lights up their faces and puts a song in their hearts. Ponder this idea...

Christmas Service Schedule

Holiday Worship Service is as follows:

Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday in Advent - 10:00 AM - Peace Lutheran with Holy Communion

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

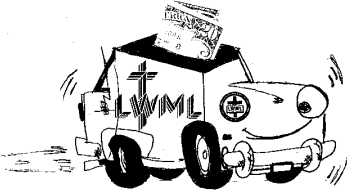
Thursday, December 25, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord – 10:00 AM –with Christ Lutheran for the Deaf and First Lutheran with Holy Communion

Thursday, December 25 – OFFICE CLOSED

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

LWML

- ♥ **On Saturday, November 29, at 11:00 AM**, we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season. People young and old are asked to come and help for as long as their schedule allows.
- ♥ **Advent potluck meals begin on Wednesday, December 3.** Please bring a dish to share. Please plan now to attend!
- ♥ **We will have a baking day on Friday, December 12 at 10 AM.** We will be baking things for a bake sale that will be held on **Sunday, December 14** before and after the service. Funds raised will go to Mites.
- ♥ **Caroling has been changed to Saturday, December 20 at 1:30 PM.** We hope the change will allow more people to come and 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 10 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 Rev. Robin Fish at Zion in Power

The installation of Rev. Robin Fish to be pastor of Zion Lutheran in Power and St. John Lutheran in Fairfield will be **Sunday, December 7 at 4 PM** at Zion in Power. Please plan now to attend!

Life Quotes

“And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God.” *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

“As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us pray for all mothers who find themselves pregnant and afraid. Abortion is never the answer. We pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all expectant mothers who find themselves alone and seemingly without hope and that He will help them choose life. Every human being’s life is a precious and beautiful miracle.” *Judie Brown, American Life League – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Advent is Here!!
Join us for 3 Wednesdays beginning
December 3 for
Advent potluck meals at 6 PM followed by
worship at 7 PM.

EVERY HEART PREPARE

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. In November and December people spend hours putting up lights in their living space and ornaments on their evergreens. Poinsettias are placed on the mantel and presents under the tree, and we “deck the halls with boughs of holly.” These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday.

Advent is the church’s season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the crèche. Then on Christmas we will focus on the decorated presents which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1
EVERGREENS

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of evergreens—from Christmas trees to pine garland. The evergreen decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent—a season of preparation. Today we will consider how evergreens point us to the coming of Christ and the eternal life that He brings.



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2
LIGHTS

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of lights—from candles to twinkling LEDs. These luminous decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent, a season of preparation. Today we will consider how lights point us to the coming of Christ and the glory He brings.

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3
CRÈCHE



We decorate in preparation for Christmas. Our decoration preparation includes the use of the crèche—the miniature model of the nativity scene. The crèche is a distinctively Christian decoration in that it depicts the characters involved in the nativity of Christ: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the angels, the stable animals, and—most important of all—the infant Jesus. As we view this manger scene, we recall the timeless story of God coming to earth as a baby to redeem us from our sins.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
WRAPPED PRESENTS



We decorate for Christmas. Our decorations include wrapped presents—gifts in colorful boxes and bags that are placed under the Christmas tree. But these gifts all pale in comparison to the gift that started it all at Christmas—the gift of God’s Son, whose birth brings us regeneration, renewal, and eternal life. On Christmas [Eve], we consider how the gifts under the tree point us to God’s indescribable gift in Jesus Christ.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT - (7 December 2025)

Isaiah 11:1–10; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord

“John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent’” (Matt. 3:1–2). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins prepared people for the coming of Christ into the world. St. John’s work was historically complete with the incarnate advent of Jesus, but his vital ministry continues in preaching Law and Gospel. The Son of God has come in the flesh, “a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots” (Is. 11:1), and continues to bear the fruits of righteousness. His good tree of the cross is “a signal for the peoples” (Is. 11:10), by which He calls the nations to repentance. “With the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips” (Is. 11:4), He slays the wicked and brings the dead to life, making sons of Abraham out of lifeless stones. So also the “root of Jesse” comes to us, “even he who arises to rule the Gentiles” (Rom. 15:12), that “we might have hope” and be filled “with all joy and peace in believing” (Rom. 15:13).

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - (14 December 2025)

Isaiah 35:1–10; James 5:7–11; Matthew 11:2–15

The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see “the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, “be patient” and “establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,” so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that “sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Is. 35:10).

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - (21 December 2025)

Isaiah 7:10–17; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25

God’s Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “God with us.” The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus “descended from David according to the flesh” (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called “Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately “did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - (28 December 2025)

Isaiah 63:7–14; Galatians 4:4–7; Matthew 2:13–23

The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His People from Their Sins

Herod’s efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod’s edict, Joseph must “take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt” (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He “had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son’” (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing “his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses” (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. “He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them” (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God’s might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we “receive adoption as sons” in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus’ name: “Abba! Father!” (Gal. 4:4–6).