



Peace Lutheran Church

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January, 2024

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Isaiah 60:1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The days are still short. The sun is going down early. Its' light quickly fades. It seems like the nights never end. That we will be plunged into darkness forever. We look forward to the dawn. We look forward to seeing those first rays of light breaking forth. A joyous reminder that night does not last forever. It soon gives way to day.

This natural cycle can, and should, help us to remember our own darkness. The darkness that all of us have within. The darkness of our sins. It is a darkness that shows itself outwardly in our deeds and actions. All those times we have said a word in anger to our spouse or to the person that cuts us off in the street. Those actions we have down of coveting the good gift that someone else got at Christmas that we did not. I have to rejoice over underwear and socks again?! We are filled with a darkness that we cannot dispel on our own. We are blind and trapped.

Thanks be to God that the Light has arisen upon us! In love and mercy, the Father has sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He, who is The Glory of the Lord in flesh, has risen upon us. Come as a baby lying in a manger to take our darkness upon Himself. Jesus took our darkness, all our sins, and carried the full weight and punishment to the cross. Suffering and dying, He dispels our darkness with His own holy light and perfect righteousness. Risen from the dead, He gives to us a newness of life, now and forever.

In and through His Word and Sacraments, He dispels our darkness and puts His Holy Spirit within us. Through His power, we are no longer blind and trapped. We have been set free and given new eyesight! We no longer do the works of darkness. Instead, we do the work that He has given us to do. He works through us, our thoughts, words, and actions. That we might be mirrors reflecting the Light of Christ into the world, that the world's darkness may be dispelled by His glorious light. That they too may have the Light of the World shine upon them.

Rejoice, that the Light has risen upon you! Revealed in Jesus Christ who dispels your darkness by His death and resurrection from the dead.

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Joshua Reinke



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Everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.

Everyone who came and baked the goodies for the baskets for the shut-ins.

Val Martin for being so generous with her Thrivent Action Team cards and paying for the baking supplies for the goody baskets and everything else she bought.

Everyone who helped during the potluck meals during Advent.

Tristin Reinke and Toni Nivens for leading the adult choir.

Val Martin for accompanying the choir.

Tristin Reinke for leading the bell choir.

Everyone who sings in the choir and plays the bells in the bell choir.

Tristin Reinke, Val Martin and Gloria Creek for playing the organ and piano during all of our worship services.

Elsie Huss 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

A blessed New Year to all! Here comes 2024, ready or not. Did you make some resolutions that are achievable? Loose five pounds. Eat healthier with some vegetables and fruit each day. Exercise for at least 10 minutes each day. Did you think about adding some spiritual enrichment to your new goals? Suggestions from our church library might include: a devotion book, a Christian novel, a non-fiction book, a children's Bible story if you have children or grandchildren. There are so many choices and resources sitting on the shelves available for check out. Take the challenge to read at least one of our Trinity or Peace Library books before Ash Wednesday, which is February 14th this year. Tell Pastor or the church secretary what you're reading.

Friday Ladies Bible Class is in recess during January.

Those who help with our Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will be bringing song books for the singing at these locations. (Yes, a hymnal or Christian songbook would qualify in the above challenge.) They will be at The Lodge, 1801 9th Street South, on Friday, January 5th from 10-10:45am. On Friday, January 26th at 11:30am the undaunted by deep winter weather no host lunch bunch will gather around the table at Dante's Creative Cuisine, 1325 8th Avenue North. Afterward many will go to Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11th Avenue South, for hymns of praise to celebrate the New Year. Show you are Montana tough, and that cold weather doesn't scare you from spreading God's Word in song.

Pastor Reinke will be holding worship services at the following locations. On Wednesday, January 10th he will be at The Lodge at 2:30pm. He will be at Highgate Senior Living at 1:30pm on Monday, January 15th. Bring your warm smile on these frosty days to spread the joy of being part of God's community to these residents.

Family Night resumes

Family Night resumes on Wednesday January 9th. The potluck dinner will be at 6:00 with the theme being pizza. We will continue our study of Christ in the Old Testament. Join us for this time of fellowship and fun. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Reinke.

LWML



♥ **During the month of January**, we will have a Baby Shower for Denice Combs who gives baby layettes to the mothers at Benefis who give birth to babies but have no clothes to put on them. You may bring new or clean, gently used boy and girl sleepers, BPA free bottles, baby wash, bibs, receiving blankets and safe infant toys. Please place them in the box provided. We will also be making no sew fleece blankets that will be

given to her.

♥ **Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 13 at 10 a.m. with a Bible study.** 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, CLCD and First are invited and encouraged to join us. Remember your Mite Boxes!

♥ **Ladies mark your calendars for Saturday, March 9 for the Parade of Tables!** More information will be coming soon!



Baptismal Anniversaries

January	3	Mitch Martin
	4	Dan Martin
	11	Gary Lux
	16	James Onstad
	17	Peter Doscher
	17	Talitha Reinke
	26	Ken Meske
	28	Kaye Franczyk

Ushers for January

7	Mitch Martin Taylor Martin
14	Pat Lewis Jeff Blomgren
21	Arnie Gidlow Kevin Aguiar
28	Lyle Onstad Andrew Onstad

Voice Choir and Bell Choir will resume practice on **Tuesday, January 10 at 5:30 and 6:30** respectively. New voices and players are always welcome! Thank you, Tristin Reinke, for stepping in to direct the voice choir in Toni's absence.



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- Ben Aagaard** – 10 year old with liver cancer
- Marylan Dallum**, Fort Benton
- Jody Decker** – Fort Benton
- Michael Drummond** – Lupus
- Rev. Mark Grunst** of Billings who has Lewy Body disease
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer** – ALS
- Bruce Kempf** – health issues
- Rachel Manley** – cancer
- Eloise Morehead** – health issues
- Becky Schlund**, MS
- Steven Schlund**, Parkinsons
- Charlene Schottey** – health issues
- Van Oman family** – Fort Benton

Based on Peace Lutheran Church's current Mission Statement, the Board of Directors has created an updated mission statement: "Gathered as the Body of Christ, led by the Holy Spirit to bring Christ Crucified to the World." They welcome any comments or suggestions.



Camp Dates

We will be having camp this year at Trinity Camp in Bigfork, Montana from
August 15 through 18, 2024

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us! More details will follow as the time gets closer.

Special Voters Meeting

There will be a special voters meeting on **Sunday, January 14, 2024** directly following the 10 AM worship service to extend the Parish Music Director position that we created at our last voters meeting to Tristin Reinke. Please plan now to come. It should not take very long as that will be the only order of business for this meeting.