



## Peace Lutheran Church

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**January, 2025**

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever Hebrews 13:8*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin a new year, the old year has passed, the new year has come. How was your year?

For some it might have been a horrible and rotten year. Facing the death of a loved one, the loss of a beloved spouse, family member or dear friend. Struggling with finances and making ends meet. Facing the constant assaults of the devil, getting sick over and over again. Fearful of what chaos will happen in the world and how it will affect your life.

For some it might have been the best year of their life so far. Celebrating a golden anniversary, getting engaged or married. Falling in love all over again. Announcing or celebrating the birth of a child. Going on a trip that they have been planning for decades.

Sometimes we have the best years of our lives, sometimes the worst years. Yet, through it all, good and bad, the mercy and grace of our Lord and Savior never changes. Whether you have had the best year or the worst year, Jesus still died and rose from the dead to save you, forgive all of your sins, and is with you forever. Jesus is with you. He is strengthening you during your horrible years and rejoicing with you during your best years.

A prayer as we reflect on the changing of the year, by Martin Franzmann: Rid us, O Lord, of the arrogant delusion that our age is harder to live in, harder to live through and be decent in than any age that ever was, that we are being tried as our fathers never were, that we have more excuse for our neurotic screaming, our pitiful muddling, our eroded standards, our sentimental slobbering, our pinching terror at the shadows of the future cast upon our way than any men who ever walked beneath your heaven and on your earth. Teach us, O Lord, by your sane and steadying Word that we stand before you as we always stood, living of your grace and moving toward your judgment, that the Bomb and the terrible technological trifles of our time have not altered the great, plain, steady fact that you are Lord and have not changed the blessed time of your coming as a thief in the night. I pray that the Lord would bless your year, whether good or bad, the best of times or the worst of times, constantly with His mercy, grace, and strength. Amen.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Rev. Joshua Reinke

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# J H A N K S TO

**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 paper plates and kitchen supplies.

**Everyone who helped** during the potluck meals during Advent.

**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

God's blessings as we begin another year in His grace. A new year inspires many people to try new health regimens with exercise, foods, and intellectual pursuits. These are all very admirable. Besides improving these worthwhile endeavors, join me in some spiritual growth via our church library. Books on a variety of topics are waiting to enrich your spiritual life. Devotionals, biographies, Bible commentaries, Christian parenting, as well as fiction are ready for check out. Take the challenge!

During the month of January, Friday Ladies Bible Class is in recess. They will have a little more time to spend with a library book...

The Assisted Living Ministry will bring hymn singing and a devotion to the following locations. On Friday, January 31 from 1:30-2:30pm they will be at Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11th Avenue South. Before the Highgate event there will be a no host lunch at 11:45am at Best Wok, 1800 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Pastor Reinke will hold worship services at The Lodge, 1801 9<sup>th</sup> Street South on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. He will conduct worship at Highgate on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. Don't miss the opportunity to share God's love and spiritual growth with these residents!

## Family Night resumes

Family Night resumes on Wednesday January 8th. 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.

## Tri-Parish Meeting scheduled

**Tri Parish meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday, January 18 at 11:30 AM** here at Peace. We will choose a delegate to go to the LCMS Montana District Convention in July in Billings. Also, bring names of any pastors in the district that you would like considered to be on the ballot as the president and 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president.

# 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 onesies, sleepers for boys and girls, BPA free bottles, baby wash, receiving blankets, pacifiers and teething rings. 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 11 at 11 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!
- ♥ **On Saturday, February 8 at 11 AM we will have a planning meeting at the church for the Parade of Tables.**
- ♥ **The Parade of Tables will be Saturday, March 8 from 11 AM to 1 PM.** It will have a tea party theme this year and the guest speaker will be from Echoz Pregnancy Center.



## 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

5	Mitch Martin
	Taylor Martin
12	Arnie Gidlow
	Brian Mittelstedter
19	Pat Lewis
	Tyler Denning
26	Dennis Nivens
	Greg Franczyk

**Voice Choir and Bell Choir** will resume practice on **Tuesday, January 7 at 5:30 and 6:30** respectively. New voices and players are always welcome! Thank you, **Toni Nivens and Tristin Reinke**, for directing the voice and bell choirs.



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

**Ben Aagaard** – 12 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

Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

(5 January 2025), 1 Kings 3:4–15, Ephesians 1:3–14, Luke 2:40–52

### The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church

The Lord Jesus “grew and became strong” (Luke 2:40); He “increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might “have redemption through his blood” (Eph. 1:7), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up “to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover” (Luke 2:41); when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father’s house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in “the word of truth, the gospel,” by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain “an understanding mind” to go about our vocations, discerning “between good and evil” (1 Kings 3:9). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem, to stand “before the ark of the covenant of the Lord” (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD / FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(12 January 2025)

Isaiah 43:1–7, Romans 6:1–11, Luke 3:15–22,

### The Triune God Opens Heaven to You in Holy Baptism

The Baptism of our Lord is an “Epiphany” of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. In divine mercy, He takes His place with sinners and takes their sin upon Himself. “When all the people were baptized,” Jesus submitted Himself to a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:21). He had no sins of His own, but He took the sins of the world upon Himself and so was baptized into His own death. Therefore, “when you pass through the waters,” He is with you (Is. 43:2). He created you for His glory, and He has redeemed you with His blood, that you may be His own and live with Him in His kingdom (Is. 43:1, 7). As you are baptized with a Baptism like His, so also are you united with Him in His death and resurrection that you “might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). For all who are baptized into Christ Jesus receive His anointing of the Holy Spirit and are named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(19 January 2025)

Isaiah 62:1–5, 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, John 2:1–11

### The Divine Glory Is Manifested in the Signs of Christ

When Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana, it was “the first of his signs” by which He “manifested his glory” (John 2:11). It pointed to His coming “hour,” when He was lifted up on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and the life of the world (John 2:4; 12:23–32). The glory of the cross is incomprehensible apart from the Word and Spirit of God, but disciples of Jesus recognize that glory in the signs of His Gospel, and so they believe in Him. Jesus does not wait for His disciples to discover Him on their own, but He seeks out the forsaken and the desolate and unites them to Himself. He adorns them with His own beautiful righteousness and delights in them “as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride” (Is. 62:4–5). Purified by the washing of water with His Word in Holy Baptism, His disciples confess that “Jesus is Lord,” and they return thanks to Him “in the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:3) as they drink the good wine that He pours out for them, which is the new testament in His blood.

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(26 January 2025)

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10, 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a, Luke 4:16–30

### The Lord Is Manifested as Our Savior through the Preaching of the Gospel

When Jesus opens His mouth to preach, gracious words flow from His lips. The Scriptures are, indeed, fulfilled in your hearing (Luke 4:21–22). For Christ was anointed by the Spirit of the Lord “to proclaim good news to the poor,” “to proclaim liberty to the captives” and “to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18–19). By this proclamation, Christ releases His people from captivity and gathers them to Himself in His Church. So it was when the Lord released His people from Babylon and returned them to Jerusalem. “Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people,” sanctified the whole congregation by the reading and preaching of the Law (Neh. 8:8–9). As the people then were urged to “eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready” (Neh. 8:10), so are you anointed by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ to share in His feast and to serve the fellow members of His Body with His good gifts, “giving greater honor to the part that lacked it” (1 Cor. 12:12, 24).