



## Peace Lutheran Church

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**January, 2026**

*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



# 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 Bake Sale for Mites.

**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.

**Tristin Reinke** for leading the adult choir and handbell choir.

**Val Martin** for accompanying the 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.

## Assisted Living Ministry

Happy 2026! May this be the beginning of a spiritually enriching year for you with plenty of time for the means of God's grace, word and sacrament at our wonderful worship services. For some of your private time of spiritual growth there is a terrific book in the library that is recommended, God's Mysterious Ways: Suffering, Grace, and God's Plan for Joseph, by Gary Inrig. It is a book about family dynamics, living in the world but not "of" it, and dealing with the unplanned tragedies that life brings. All of these are seen in the life of Joseph and God's hand in his life. Read it, and you will beg your friends to be the next in line to check it out!

Assisted Living Ministry will begin the new year with hymn singing and a devotion at Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30pm. Prior to this event a no host lunch will gather at 11:30am at El Comedor, 1120 25<sup>th</sup> Street South. Let your warm 2026 New Year's greeting be part of this enriching ministry.

## 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 24 at 11 a.m. with a Bible study. NOTE THE DATE 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 we need to plan the Parade of Tables. All ladies of Peace, CLCD and First are invited and encouraged to join us. Remember your Mite Boxes!



## Baptismal Anniversaries

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

## Ushers for January

4	Dennis Nivens
	Pat Lewis
11	Mitch and Taylor Martin
18	Jeff Blomgren
	Jayden McPartlin
25	Ernest Kietzman
	Andrew Onstad



## INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

**Ben Aagaard** – 13 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

## Family Night resumes

Family Night resumes on **Wednesday January 14th**. The potluck dinner will be at 6:00 with the theme being pizza. Join us for this time of fellowship and fun.

**Voice Choir and Bell Choir** will resume practice on **Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30 and 6:30** respectively. New voices and players are always welcome! Thank you, **Tristin Reinke**, for directing the voice and bell choirs.

Happy New Year 🎉 Happy New Year 🎉 Happy New Year 🎉

## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

(6 January 2026)

Isaiah 60:1–6

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

### The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas, and yet it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the Season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6).

### THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (First Sunday after the Epiphany)

(11 January 2026)

Isaiah 42:1–9

Romans 6:1–11

Matthew 3:13–17

### The Triune God Is Manifested and Reveals Himself to Us in Holy Baptism

The Baptism of our Lord is an “epiphany” of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus. He is the chosen servant of the Lord, anointed with the Spirit for the rescue of God’s people to “bring forth justice to the nations” (Is. 42:1). Thus, He makes all things new, and He is given “as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations” (Is. 42:6). In the waters of the Jordan, He takes His place with sinners and takes all the sins of the world upon Himself. He undergoes the Baptism of repentance in order to “fulfill all righteousness” for us (Matt. 3:15). He submits Himself to the curse of sin and death in order to redeem us. We are baptized with a Baptism like His, thereby dying and rising with Him, so that “we will also live with him” (Rom. 6:8).

Indeed, all of us who are baptized into Christ Jesus are anointed with His Spirit and named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(18 January 2026)

Isaiah 49:1–7

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

John 1:29–42a

### God Reveals His Glory in Christ and His Cross

“The LORD, the Redeemer of Israel,” calls forth “his Holy One” (Is. 49:7), Jesus, the Christ, “from the womb” of His mother (Is. 49:1). The incarnate Son of God is revealed as the Savior, not only for Israel but also “as a light for the nations,” whose salvation reaches “to the end of the earth” (Is. 49:6). John came “baptizing with water” (John 1:31) to reveal Jesus as “the

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), and who glorifies His God and Father by His atoning sacrifice upon the cross. When Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended “from heaven like a dove” and “remained on him” (John 1:32). By our Baptism, we are anointed by the same Spirit, adopted by God the Father, and “called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:9). Therefore, we “are not lacking in any gift,” but we can trust Him who promises to sustain us to the end, “guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:7–8).

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(25 January 2026)

Isaiah 9:1–4

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

Matthew 4:12–25

### The Lord Manifests His Glory through His Office of the Holy Ministry

By His coming in the flesh and by His preaching and miracles, the Lord Jesus shines the light of His Gospel upon “the people who walked in darkness” and “who dwelt in a land of deep darkness” (Is. 9:2). He also has “multiplied the nation” and “increased its joy” (Is. 9:3) by calling disciples to Himself from the ends of the earth. For this purpose, He calls Peter and

Andrew, with James and John, to follow Him and be “fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). As Jesus did, they also go forth “proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people” (Matt. 4:23). They preach the foolishness of the cross of Christ as the very power and wisdom of God. This word and preaching of the cross divides “those who are perishing” from “us who are being saved” (1 Cor. 1:18), but it unites the Church, the one Body of Christ, “in the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10).