



PEACE OFFERINGS

A publication of Peace Lutheran Church Robbinsdale

From Pastor Jones

“Advent”

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

Happy New Year! Well, almost. Advent has a late start this year. It is rare to have over a week between Thanksgiving and Advent. And perhaps that has us in the spirit of St. Paul as he, too, awaited the return of the Lord. But come it will with its Blue decorations and Advent hymns, just as surely as the Christmas celebration will come after that. Perhaps even the oldest amongst us can remember the days passing slowly as we so anticipated the treasures under the tree.

Treasures under the tree:

I pray this Advent has you eagerly anticipating the Big Advent: Jesus’ Return. What a great and glorious day it shall be. But until that day, we live together as His people, under the tree, the tree of the Cross. He suffered and we share in the suffering. And as we suffer, He shares in our suffering, making it holy and pure. He gives treasures even under the tree of the Cross.

“The Advent of our King” is one of my favorite hymns, and not just at this time of year. With St. John I pray, “Come, Lord, Come Quickly,” but am glad to walk with you all during this time of Advent anticipation. May our Gracious Lord and Savior strengthen your souls as we walk together under the Tree.

Peace Lutheran Church
Worshipping, Gathering, Serving

4512 France Avenue North
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

www.peacelutheranmn.org

Church Office: 763-533-0570

Office Administrator’s Hours:

Tues. - Wed. 8:30am-3:30 pm

Thurs. 9:00am to 3:00pm

Email:

office@peacelutheranmn.org

Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

“We at Peace Lutheran Church are developing passionate disciples of Jesus Christ according to the Word: gathering together in community, worshipping the Triune God, and ministering to the needs of others.”

Worship Service Time

Sun. Worship at 9:15 A.M.

Sun. Education Hour

(September through May)

at 10:30 A.M.

Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Steven Jones

Office Administrator:

Kathy Bencker

Organist & Director of Music:

Leah Galaudet

Peace Choir and Hand Bell Director:

Grace Maunula

Parish Nurse:

Melissa Jones

Youth Director:

Katrina Schmidt

BOARD OF EDUCATION

YOUTH ADVENT SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, December 10th for the Youth Advent Worship Service at 9:15am.

The youth of Peace will be leading the service as we hear about Jesus' family tree.

See you there!

New Banner & Yearly Theme: The 2023-2024 theme for Peace is **Live Through Him** based on 1 John 4:7-9 "*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.*" What does this mean? There is only one way to live a Christ-honoring life, and that is by faith. Living by faith applies to the past, present, and future of a Christian's life. It means believing in what Christ did on the cross, what He is doing in you now, and what He will do in the future. The banner up front in the Sanctuary was painted by the Sunday School Youth and Teachers on Rally Day to remind us to live through Him.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children ages 3-12th grade are encouraged to join Sunday School! Classes are held at 10:30am after worship.



ADULT EDUCATION

Pastor Steve is leading Sunday morning Adult Education classes in the Fellowship Hall after worship service.

Schedule:

- December 03: *Christian Funerals-Pre-Planning with Pastor Steve/BCM*
- December 10: *Star of Bethlehem-Pastor Steve/Diane Mills*
- December 17: *Star of Bethlehem-Pastor Steve/Diane Mills-Potluck*
- December 24: *No Class*
- December 31: *No Class*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us in our study of the book of Luke.
We meet in the Parish Center at 10:00 am.
NO CLASS DECEMBER 27TH.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Bradley AbbottDecember 5
 Shirley Johnson..... December 7
 Randy Thiel..... December 7
 Carol Dooley..... December 8
 Phyllis BensonDecember 9
 Beth Duffy.....December 9
 Sara-Anne Fahey.....December 10
 Kyana PadillaDecember 10
 Jordan SchmidtDecember 13
 Kay Niederloh.....December 14
 Christopher Nelson..... December 15
 Nicholas HuberDecember 18
 Jeff NiederlohDecember 18
 Berit Gerhardson..... December 20
 Judi KieperDecember 21
 Vicki JohnsonDecember 23
 Brandon Abbott..... December 24
 Bill Lindig..... December 25
 Shari EvensonDecember 26
 Kyle Johnson.....December 26
 Leah GalaudetDecember 29

Remember our homebound friends during the holidays.

Lawrence Wm. Johnson
 OID 118310
 970 Pickett Street North MSU
 Bayport, MN 55003
Prison- Pastor

Luverne Toll
 12446 Jamestown St. N.E., Apt 8
 Blaine MN, 55449
 Sharon Toll – daughter
 612-245-8804
***Her children are visiting her.*

Carol Sandau
 7361 Melody Drive NE
 Fridley, MN 55432
 763-784-6173

Wendla Young
 6524 Riverwood Ln N
 Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
 763-566-3269

Johann Brentrup
 4031 Washburn Ave N.
 Minneapolis, MN 55412

Joanne Neumann
 Room 326R
 Catholic Elder Care
 817 Main St. NE
 Minneapolis, MN 55413
 612-379-1370

Gerald and Phyllis Benson
 C/O Copperfield Hill
 4200 40th Ave N #407
 Robbinsdale, MN 55422
geraldbenson@comcast.net

Marilyn Weinand
 6288 Louisiana Court Apt. 122
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55428-2566
 C-763-516-4017

POTLUCK + CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST DECEMBER 17TH!

Tis the season to be jolly alongside friends, delicious food, and a Christmas sweater contest! On Sunday, December 17, show us your best (or worst) holiday attire. We'll have prizes, so dig deep in the closet and bring out your 'most special' Christmas cheer! Join us for a Potluck meal and the sweater contest starting at our 9:15am worship service. Please bring a generous dish to share, if you are able. Everyone is invited! We'd love to get to know you better, and what better way to share community than around a table full of delicious food!



Board of Worship

HANGING THE STARS

On Saturday, the fourth of November, a group of six met in the sanctuary to hang the Stars of Remembrance for the next day's celebration of All Saint's Day. Bill Lindig had gotten the box of supplies out of a cabinet where it was kept. Can you believe that that involved removing the cabinet doors to make it possible for the box to be removed?

Marion had the honor of bringing the supplies into the sanctuary. Then Annie Pitschka opened the box and the fun began. Highly organized, lines, for hanging the stars had been carefully wrapped around heavy cardboard tubes. The tubes had code letters on them indicating where that group of stars was to be hung. Pastor Steve was on one ladder, Bill on another. Jeff Niederloh and Dan Mast were on the pews. Being tall was a definite advantage. Kaye Lindig had a yardstick with which she nudged the stars to more precise locations. Even short Marion was useful in picking up used pieces of tape, bulldog clips, used plastic straws, and tissue paper wads, disposing of some, and sorting the other stuff into organized piles.

The job was quickly done. Everyone had done the work before. But what is going to happen in the future when, as one person mentioned, "I'm getting too old for this." (It wasn't Marion.) We need younger people to come forward and work with the experienced workers to learn how it is done. What cabinet is used to store the stars? What do those code words mean? Is there a specific order the lines of stars need to go up? Some lines are longer than others? Why?

Perhaps this tradition of remembering those who have lived and died in Christ will be lost. What a shame when all it would take to keep it going is about three/four hours of work. That is for putting them up and taking them down combined. Please don't wait to be asked to join in this work. Come forward.

You will definitely be welcomed. And bring someone else with you!

SUBMITTED BY MARION MAYNARD



GETTING TO KNOW...

Here it is, the last month of the year, and we are going back to something we did in the past. We are re-introducing "Getting to Know..." In the past we had articles on members of our congregation so we could know them better. We decided to go to the church's birthday list for December and find the oldest member on it.

Hey, everyone, meet Phyllis Benson! On Dec. 9th she will be 94 years old.

I met will Phyllis and her husband Jerry, one afternoon and had the most delightful time. Both of them have such a happy outlook on life, and quick senses of humor, and a firm belief in their Lord.

Phyllis was born in Iowa. There was a midwife handling the birth and that midwife was Phyllis' grandmother!

Phyllis' early days were quite unstable. Her father worked for the railroad which meant the family moved multiple times. One year she went to three different schools. The rail company provided housing for the family. Their house was two box cars set side by side! Like many other siblings at the time, Phyllis and her sister shared a bed. The house had no electricity, plumbing, or telephone.

After graduating from high school, she landed a job within two days in Omaha, NE where the family was then living. She has worked in several occupations even after she married and had a son. (She later divorced.)

Jerry entered the picture and he knew from the first moment that he was going to marry Phyllis. He adored her and her son. Their courtship was unusual in that they never went on a date. Whenever they were together it was always at some social function with others around. Their first real date was on New Year's Eve. He proposed right then and there.

The two married July 16, 1960, and moved into an apartment that Phyllis called "the gopher hole". Housing improved over the years complete with multiple bedrooms and modern conveniences. Phyllis loved house-keeping and is upset now that someone comes to their apartment each week to dust and vacuum for her!

This is only a small part of Phyllis' story. To hear more about her, give her a call. (763) 545-3922. She and Jerry would love to have company. Then you could hear more of this wonderful couple's life. (They enjoy a bit of fresh fruit.)

SUBMITTED BY MARION MAYNARD



Luke 2:8-12

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger."

NIV



DID YOU KNOW?

In the King James Version of the Christmas story, most of us have learned that the term "swaddling clothes" is not a good translation. The more accurate term is "swaddling cloths". Remember how the announcing angel told the shepherds out there in the fields that they should go to Bethlehem and find the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths (or "bands") lying in a manger? Shepherds were very familiar with that term as well as the word "manger." They knew exactly what they should look for.

So, what exactly were the swaddling cloths? They were strips of fabric five inches wide by five to six yards long! That's 180-216 inches! How were they used? When lambs are born they could injure themselves. Apparently lambs struggle to "find their feet" during their first hours after birth. If these lambs were to be sacrificed later, they had to be perfect, no scrapes or scars allowed. Many of the lambs used in the temple sacrifices in Jerusalem were born and raised in Bethlehem. When the shepherds entered the cave (not stable) they would immediately recognize the Baby the angel had told them about because they saw the feeding trough and the cloths.

I have some of my own thought about those swaddling cloths. Changing a baby's swaddling cloths must have been a challenge when they had been dirtied. Mom's at that time must have had some method no longer remembered how to make it easier.

And those poor little lambs must have looked somewhat like Charlie Brown in his winter snow clothes. How could they possibly have moved? It would be interesting to have some present day shepherd experiment with those cloths and make a video of the little lamb fully swaddled.

Swaddling cloths also were used when a person died. The corpse was wrapped in those long strips of fabric. What a picture. When Jesus' life came to an end, He was wrapped just as He had been wrapped 33 years before.

I found much of this information in a book entitled *The Forgotten Jesus* by Robby Callaty.

Submitted by Marion Maynard

SERVING DECEMBER 2023

Greeters:

03 Berit Gerhardson, Nancy
Wadsworth
10 Sherry Kroll, Jeff Niederloh
17 Bill Lindig, Kathy Bencker
25 Liz Reiter, Berit Gerhardson
31 Berit Gerhardson, Nancy
Wadsworth

Communion Preparation:

10 Melissa Jones (rail)
24 Bill Lindig 9:15am & 9:00pm(cont)
25 Dale and Darlene Hauschildt (cont)

Lector/Communion Assistants:

03 Karen Schmidt
06 Kathy Bencker
10 Bill Lindig
13 Sherry Kroll
17 Nancy Wadsworth
20 Kathy Bencker
24 Bill Lindig, Jeff Niederloh (asst.)
9:15am
24 Bill Lindig, Dan Mast (asst.)
9:00pm
25 Gary Schmidt, Ray Vomhoff (asst.)
10:00am
31 Cole Haaland

Ushers:

Team 1: Leo Tomperi, Quinn Haaland,
Dale Hauschildt
Team 2: Dan Mast, John Reiter III,
John Reiter, Jr., Augustus Wrayee
Team 3: Steve Van Tassel, Bob Wadsworth,
Gary Schmidt, Jim Hald
Team 5: Dave Neumann, Randy Theil,
Dave Minke, Ray Vomhof

DEC. 03 Team 5
06 Team 1
10 Team 3
13 Team 2
17 Team 5
20 Team 1
24 Team 3-9:15am
24 Team 5-9:00pm
25 Team 2
31 Team 5

Altar Guild

Nancy and Vicky

Worship Video Recording

Katrina Schmidt, Vicky Frank

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

12/09	Advent (also 11:30 am)	7:00 pm Wednesday
12/13	Advent (also 11:30 am)	7:00 pm Wednesday
12/20	Advent (also 11:30am)	7:00 pm Wednesday (Decorate church after)
12/24	Sunday Service	9:15 am
12/24	Christmas Eve	9:00 pm
12/25	Christmas Day	10:00 am

Music Ministry Minute

December 2023

Happy Advent!

The handbell rehearsals will have an adjusted rehearsal schedule during Advent season. The bells will rehearse prior to each Advent service at 6:00pm, while the choir will rehearse following each service. We would like to invite anyone who would like to sing with the Christmas Festival Choir just for Christmas Eve to come to ANY or all the rehearsals after the Wednesday Advent services on Dec. 6, 13, and/or 20th around 7:30pm or at 7:00pm on Wednesday, Nov. 29th. The option to add a Sunday morning rehearsal is open should that need arise. We would also rehearse prior to the Christmas Eve service. Let Grace or me know if you are interested in this short-term venture or if you would like music to take home and look over.

Being we are having only **one** Christmas Eve service at 9:00pm this year, we need to be flexible with our planning. If we can get the volunteers, I would love to have the Women's Group or small group sing "O Holy Night" again. I'm always looking for musicians for our Christmas Service, as well.

Rehearsal Summary:

Omega Strings: Rehearsals as decided on by group.

Handbells: 6:00pm, Wed., Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20 (and prior to 12/24 service selected)

Festival Choir: 7:00pm, Wed., Nov. 29.

7:30pm after Advent service

Dec. 6, 13, 20 (and prior to 12/24 service selected)

Festival Choir

Performance: 9:00pm, December 24, 2023

NO REHEARSALS: Wednesdays, Dec. 27, & Jan. 3.

Peace Choir will also be singing at various services throughout the season.

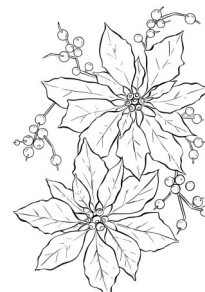
As always, anyone interested in sharing their special musical talents-whatever they may be-is encouraged to contact me to put you on the schedule!

Blessing on this joyous season!

Musically yours,
Leah Galaudet
Director of Music

Poinsettia Orders: The Board of Worship has ordered poinsettias to beautify the church for the Christmas season again this year. If you would like to purchase a medium poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone, envelopes will be available in the Narthex on **Advent Sundays, December 3rd, 10th, 17th, as well as each Advent Wednesday on the 6th, 13th, and 20th. The cost will be \$12.00 each.**

PLEASE PUT THE ENVELOPES IN THE CLEAR BOX IN THE NARTHEX. Contact Leah Galaudet with any questions. leah@peacelutheranmn.org
Thanks!



Board of Worship

The Board of Worship at Peace is comprised of several members of the congregation who serve to organize, schedule and support the worship services held each Sunday, or other times throughout the year. All members are encouraged to regularly participate in worship services, gathering together as a community of believers, hearing the need, and the promise of salvation through faith in Christ. We offer our praise and thanks to the Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Each service involves many parts, and we have teams of volunteers filling various roles. If you ever find yourself thinking ‘wonder if I could do that?’, be assured that you can! Connect with me or any member of the board, and we will be happy to involve you in our worship experience.

Bill Lindig, Director

Board of Missions and Outreach

BLOOD DRIVE – The Crystal VFW, 5222 Bass Lake Rd, is having a blood drive on Tues., **Dec. 5th**, from 2-8 pm. You can sign up at redcrossblood.org or call (763) 537-9914. Walk-ins are also welcome. Tell them you are with Peace!. Blood banks are seriously short of blood. Your donation would be greatly appreciated.

Dave Minke, Director



Enjoy coffee, treats and fellowship after the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month down in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to donate treats and help with serving and clean up please let Vicky Frank know. 612-232-3401.



LWML
Lutheran Women *in Mission*

December 17th during Potluck we will sign cards for the children, youth and homebound of our congregation. Please stop at the “card” table and sign your name and give a Christmas blessing to let these members know we care and are praying for them.



MIGHTY MITE SUNDAY!!!

The third Sunday of each month is “Mighty Mite Sunday”!

Bring your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and “YES” paper money!

All these coins and paper go to the District and National (LWML)Lutheran Women in Mission to fund the mission grants voted on at conventions. This year the National goal is 1.35 million dollars and we have NEVER failed to make our goals! You can place your mites in a plastic bag and put in the offering plate or put them in the large Mite box downstairs in the Fellowship Hall OR give them to our Women of Peace Treasurer, Tamara Foley.

Get your Mite Box downstairs in the Fellowship Hall!



Our LWML Society is called Women of Peace. The current officers are:
Kathy Bencker-(Interim) President, Tamara Foley-Treasurer, Nancy Wadsworth, Secretary, and Kathy Bencker, Nancy Wadsworth-Delegates.

Visit the website www.mnslwml.org or www.lwml.org for upcoming events and a multitude of information about the Minnesota South District LWML and the National LWML.

The **Lutheran Women's Missionary League** ,
(LWML), also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, is an official auxiliary of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

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of Robbinsdale**

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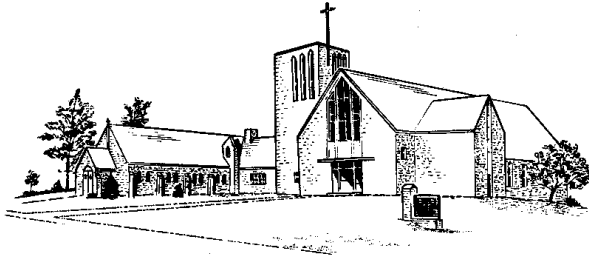
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November 2023**



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