



Peace Lutheran Church  
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# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 21, Issue 16 | December 2016

## Advent

Advent is a season of preparing - not only to look back and remember Christ's coming as the baby Jesus, but also preparation in anticipation of Christ's now-and-not-yet coming into the world; preparing for God coming to meet us - and be born in us - every day and in many ways. So, Peace will follow the prophetic call to "Turn and Return to God" (Joel 2:13) as we dance through Advent, looking back to remember and looking forward with hope.

**ADVENT 1:** Is a celebration of seeing God in the Turning of the Seasons, as we worship with The Greening of the Church, a centuries-old tradition of decking our worship space with the symbols and songs of Advent and Christmas in preparation for the coming of Christ.



**ADVENT 2:** Is a time for reflection as we heed God's call to turn and return our whole selves to God's care and God's will.

**ADVENT 3:** Is our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant in which we hear the voices of the prophets call all of society to turn and return to God by creating cultures of justice and peace.

**ADVENT 4:** We join the eternal turning of the stars as we celebrate in Word and Music the Light of Christ coming into the world.

Join the celebrations as creators, leaders, readers, actors, dancers. Invite your loved ones, neighbors, friends and co-workers. Let this Advent be a time of turning and returning in your life, a time of remembrance and a time to look forward; a time of preparation and hope.

## Welcome!

At Peace Lutheran Church, people of all ages — children, teens and adults—are a very important part of our faith community. We love to see children in worship, teens serving and families exploring their faith together in Jesus Christ.

Ministries for all ages help people grow in faith, connect in the community and share their strengths in serving others. Sundays and Wednesdays are filled with opportunities for all ages to grow in their faith together as an intergenerational community.

We invite you to find your place at Peace!



## SUNDAY MORNING

**9:00-10:00am** — Worship

**10:00-11:00am** — Sunday School, Bible Studies & Forums  
(programs for all ages)

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

**5:30-6:00pm** — Dinner (all ages)

**6:00-7:30pm** — PeaceFull Nights (programs for all ages)

**7:00-7:45pm** — Celebration Singers Rehearsal

**7:45-8:45pm** — Adult Choir Rehearsal

**7:45-8:45pm** — Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Adults:

- Men's & Women's Breakfast groups; Faith & Hope Circles
- Knitting, Quilting and Needlepoint groups
- YogaDevotion, Faithfully Fit & Health Forums
- Adult Choir, Women's Choir & Adult Handbells
- Serving & Community Garden

### Children & Youth:

- Sunday School, Nursery & Bible Buddies
- Confirmation & Youth Group
- Children's Musical Ensemble & Youth Handbells
- Family Camp, Summer Youth Trip & Summer Children's Day Camp





### 5K Walk/Run for Water

Thank you to everyone who participated in and volunteered at the Reformation Day 5K Walk/Run Community Festival and the Walk for Water Campaign. Together we raised \$1,000 to provide safe drinking water in Africa and Asia. Visit our website and facebook to see photos!



### Martin Luther at MIA

Two groups from Peace had fun exploring the “Martin Luther: Art and The Reformation” exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

### Peace Notes

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Peace Notes is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth. The deadline for submissions is the second Monday of the month prior to publication.

Lead Pastor Rev. Kjell Ferris  
Life Long Faith Formation Pastor Rev. Emily Meyer  
Director of Volunteer Ministries Judy Lubben  
Communications Specialist Sue Jacob  
Parish Nurse Sondra Weinzierl  
Minister of Music Steve Peters  
Choir Director Stefanie Fiser  
Childcare Specialist for Nursery Samantha Bartelt

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!

*Bring your family and friends and celebrate this most joyous season!*

### Sunday, December 11 @ 9:00am—Christmas Pageant

Enjoy this delightful Second Annual Intergenerational Christmas Pageant. The Christmas story will come to life through music, dance, drama and technology. Come share in the Christmas spirit, followed by a Bible Buddy Breakfast.



### Sunday, December 18 @ 9:00am & 4:00pm—Music Festival

Come celebrate this joyous season! Bring your family to hear inspirational Christmas music featuring choir, bells and more at this wonderful community concert.

### Saturday, December 24 @ 3:00pm and 5:00pm—Christmas Eve Worship

### Sunday, December 25 @ 9:00am—Christmas Day Worship



### CONNECT-THE-DROPS IS BACK!

Last year, Peace participated in the Minneapolis Synod offering, helping people find the intersections of Science, Faith & Leadership. This year Peace deepens those connections with a focus on WATER as we Connect-the-Drops. Meet leaders from partner congregations at the curriculum training, hosted at Peace on **Thursday, Jan. 5th, starting at 9:00 AM.** Then join your Bible Buddy and other friends on Sunday January 8th through February 5th. The Connect-the-Drops Bible Buddy Breakfast will be February 12th. The hope of Connect-the-Drops is increased eco-justice projects here at Peace. Watch for those exciting opportunities!



## PARISH NURSE NEWS

### Christmas: Let There Be Peace on Earth (and in our families!)

This season can bring a sense of joy, wonder and gratitude. It's a time to gather with family and friends and celebrate the birth of Jesus. But for some of us, Christmas can also be a time where past family dynamics and difficult relationships arise. This year, after a divisive political season, we may encounter family members or friends who have very different views and we worry this might bring a cloud over the usual celebrations. Some gatherings result in conflict or hurt feelings. This can be hard on our physical, emotional and spiritual health.

Here is when we need to remember that the message of Christmas (and of the person of Jesus) is to bring light into a world of darkness. Jesus brought love, tolerance, compassion, respect and kindness into a world of inequality. Jesus taught us not to shame, humiliate, embarrass or “get back” at others but to pave a “new way” in our relationships. Jesus taught us that every person is a child of God, fully worthy of unconditional love and acceptance. Can we accept that grace for ourselves and extend it to others?

Christmas gatherings are not the best time to try to discuss past hurts or conflicts or resolve relationship problems. But Christmas might be a time for you to step-back and reflect on what is causing your relationship issues: “What are the thoughts and feelings I have that are getting in the way of my ability to offer love, tolerance, compassion, respect and kindness to someone else?” “What might be the perspective of the other person?” “Is it time to ‘let go’ or get help from a professional in order to heal these past hurts, criticisms, assumptions?” We know we can't change another person's behavior, thoughts or feelings...but we have the power, with God's help, to change our own. And the most surprising gift of all is when we fill our hearts and thinking with love and kindness, we often experience true joy and a peace that passes understanding.

This Christmas, may the words of this song resonate in each of our hearts:  
***Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.***

*To your health, Sondra*

### SCREEN AGERS

Sunday, January 15

10:00am-12noon

**Free community event!**

A special screening of this timely, award-winning film. Recommended for parents of children of ALL AGES as well as students in the 4th grade and older. Includes one-hour film followed by breakout discussions. Bring a friend!

**Proudly sponsored by the  
Greenwood Elementary PTA  
screenagersmovie.com**



Peace will have a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 4 at 10:00am** to vote to move forward in pursuing a partnership with Bloom. Council is confident that the missions of Peace, TreeHouse and Bloom will all be served by this partnership and that this is a great use of Peace's building.



### Sleep Out

Thank you to the 20 campers who slept out under the stars to raise \$275 for Interfaith Outreach.

### Pledge Cards

Please remember to turn in your pledge card before the end of the year, to the church office. You may also email your selections to Lance at [finance@peaceofplymouth.org](mailto:finance@peaceofplymouth.org)



**Peace is getting social!**

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to stay connected.