



# Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 22, Issue 12 | December 2017

## Advent 2017



### *Greening of the Church December 3 at 9am*

The Greening of the Church is an age-old form of worship in Christian churches around the world. It is traditionally celebrated at the beginning of Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of Christ.

### *The Christmas Pageant December 10 at 9am*

Enjoy the Annual Intergenerational Christmas Pageant. The Christmas story will come to life through music, dance, drama and technology. Share in the Christmas spirit, young in age and young in heart!



### *The Christmas Music Festival December 17 at 9am*

Jubilantly celebrate this joyous season! Bring your family to hear inspirational Christmas music featuring choir, bells and more at this wonderful worship service.

### *Christmas Eve Services December 24 at 9am & 4pm*

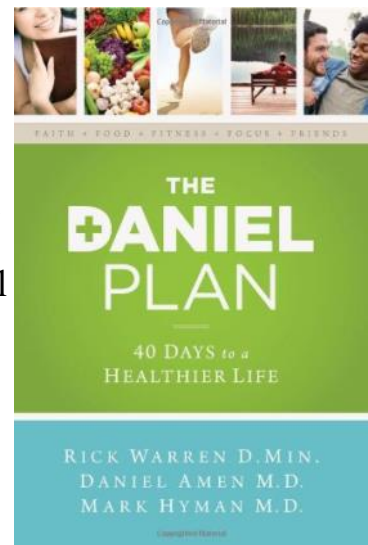
Peace on Earth, Good Will to All! Proclaim the good news on Christmas Eve with morning service at 9am or the candlelight service at 4pm.



## Lent 2018— The Daniel Plan

People often look at Lent as a time to “give up” something they know isn’t good for them. For 40 days they avoid certain foods or behaviors...and after those 40 days, go back to their old habits! Is there a different approach? This year Lent will be a time to focus on how you can better serve God and the world: physically, emotionally and spiritually. The Daniel Plan is all about living well and is based on science and the Bible. You’ll learn how to make the changes in your life that will strengthen you in Lent and beyond.

Signups start in January.



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## From our Minister of Music

Season’s Greetings, everyone. It is that time of year when we get to simultaneously await the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, while knowing that His death is what saves us from our sins. The season of Advent, leading up to Christmas, is one of my favorites of the church year. Here is a snapshot of Advent and Christmas at Peace:

On December 3, we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent and decorate the Sanctuary with the “Greening of the Church,” reminding ourselves of the traditions of the season and their meanings.

For the second Sunday of Advent, December 10, Peace will present its annual Inter-generational Christmas Pageant; this year’s is called “The Christmas Miracle” and features songs and carols from around the world.

The Christmas Music Festival will take place on December 17 at 9:00am. We will experience the Christmas story through music and commemorate “The Marvel of that Night.” Come hear all of our music ensembles participate in one service!

Advent is short this year, and the fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. Our services at 9:00am and 4:00pm will feature the Christmas Gospel, and the afternoon service will include the traditional candlelit Silent Night.

On the final Sunday, December 31, we will continue our celebration of Christ’s birth at our usual 9:00am service, giving thanks for a year of blessings from God.

I hope you will invite family, friends, and neighbors to these events – what a great way to share the meaning of Christmas with someone who doesn’t regularly come through our doors.

May Christ’s peace and light be upon you as we wait in quiet expectation.

**Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Minister of Music**



## PARISH NURSE NEWS

### Making Time for Peace at the Holidays

While it seems that every December, my newsletter focuses on the stress of the holidays, maybe we all need a reminder to take control of our thinking, feelings and behavior this time of the year. The holiday season can bring great joy, but it can also be a challenging time of year for many of us.

We often neglect our health during the holidays, eat and drink more, exercise less and don't get enough sleep. We set expectations for ourselves that are unrealistic and then wonder why we feel angry and exhausted. Our financial stress can increase; we can be exposed to family members who remind us of past hurts, and we can become so absorbed in our own "to-do" list that we forget about those less fortunate than ourselves.

If you've lost a loved one this past year (or recently); if you're dealing with difficult relationships; if you've lost a job or experienced other changes, the holidays may be something you're dreading. Emotions tend to run high at this time of the year and when you've experienced a loss

of any kind, you need to recognize that it's not only okay, but necessary for you to do what's right for you at the holidays. You don't have to wear a mask and pretend that everything is all right...choose to take part in the activities that provide you the support you need.

As Christians, we need to be sure that we aren't missing out on the real meaning of Christmas. We have the choice to stop every day, take some deep breaths and ask: *"Is what I'm thinking, feeling and doing bringing me closer to God or further away?"* We can practice this 10 second prayer each day: *"Jesus, be in my thinking, my being and my doing."* We can say "Yes" to the things that enhance our bodies, minds and spirits and "No" to the things that deplete them.

That means letting go of the "shoulds" that plague us this time of the year. It means daring to make some changes in traditions that create more stress than joy. It means taking control of your holiday season so that it can be a time of peace, hope, sharing and counting our blessings...the greatest of which is God's gift of Jesus Christ.

**To your health!**  
**Sondra**

**Peace Notes** is a monthly newsletter.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month.

Pastor  
Communication Specialist  
Parish Nurse  
Office Specialist  
Minister of Music  
Organist  
Childcare Specialists

Rev. Kjell Ferris  
Marta Johnson  
Sondra Weinzierl  
Chris Bacon  
Stefanie Fiser Kleven  
Ellen Hacker  
Brenna Kylo & Olivia Akhigbe

# YOUTH

The confirmation students have been learning about sustainability and environmental issues. An intergenerational group created sculptures inspired by Genesis 1, then used the sculptures to discuss sustainability and interconnected air, water, land and living things in God's creation. From there, the group investigated recycling. The EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod led the activities.



On November 18, Peace partnered with Interfaith Outreach to raise awareness and funds to end homelessness. Youth and adults pitched tents and stayed at Peace overnight for the community-wide Sleep Out.



## Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Peace is making the world a better place. In October, a group from Peace and Lord of Life in Maple Grove built three homes, relationships with each other, and a community in the Dominican Republic. The homes will shelter the families from weather and create space for them to grow in safety and love. Annie Bonow, a trip participant, said, "Getting to know people in the community and the families we built the homes with, warmed our hearts and taught me how much we have in common." Pastor Kjell said, "As we worked side by side with Jenny and Manuel, it was like we were part of their family—all with valuable gifts to share and things we can learn from each other."



# HOT NEWS

## December



### Advent 2017

Greening of the Church Dec. 3 @ 9am

The Christmas Pageant Dec. 10 @ 9am

Christmas Music Festival Dec. 17 @ 9am

### Christmas Eve



Dec. 24,  
9am and 4pm  
candlelight service

### Coming in January

Put these events on your calendar!

#### Holy Hootenanners

*Jan. 7  
@ 9am worship*

A Minnesota band that blends gospel, blues, folk and spiritual music will lead worship.

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#### *Jan. 20*      **Interfaith Bridge Building Retreat**

Augsburg University will host and lead this retreat, aimed at engaging with our Muslim neighbors to build connections. Sign up at the welcome desk.

### GIVING TO GOD'S CHILDREN IN TANZANIA

This Advent season support the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania by purchasing a gift for the school.

When you purchase a gift you will also receive a beautiful handmade African Christmas ornament for your tree!

# Events & Notices

## Women of Song

The Women of Song concert, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, will be on Sunday, December 10 at Peace Lutheran Church at 3 pm.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to connect to more people and be more involved at Peace?

There are some new opportunities to volunteer as a Sunday School Teacher, Service Project Coordinator, and Bulletin Board Caretaker. More information can be found on our website, [www.peaceofplymouth.org](http://www.peaceofplymouth.org).

## Holy Hootenanners

The Holy Hootenanners, a Minnesota band that blends gospel, blues, folk and spiritual music, will lead our worship service on Sunday, January 7. Put it on your calendar!

## Interfaith Bridge Building Retreat

On January 20, starting at 9am, Augsburg University will host and lead a retreat. This retreat is aimed at engaging with our Muslim neighbors to build connections. Sign up at the welcome desk.

## Giving to God's Children in Tanzania

This Advent season support the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania by purchasing a gift for the school. When you purchase a gift you will also receive a beautiful handmade African Christmas ornament for your tree! Several levels of gift giving are available, see the cards on the tree in the gathering space to choose your gift. Fill out the order form (available at Info Desk) with payment to receive your ornament.

## Activities

### >ROMEO BREAKFAST

Monday, Dec. 4 @ 8a; Perkins

### >BREWING FAITH

Monday, Dec. 4 @ 4:45p  
Rock Elm Tavern

### >QUILTING

Thursdays, Dec. 14 & 28 @ 9a

### >WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, Dec. 20 @ 8a; Panera

### >KNITTING & NEEDLEPOINT

Thursday, Dec. 21 @ 7p; Panera

### >YOGADEVOTION

Mondays @ 5:30p  
Saturdays @ 9a

### >PEACEFULL NIGHTS

Wednesdays @ 5:30p

### >BUNDLES OF LOVE

Thursday, Dec. 28 @ 3pm

## Members in Mission

Peace is making the community a better place through the work of members like Don Peterson (pictured) and Muril and Betty Pederson. They have volunteered at Interfaith Outreach helping support and invigorate the community. Don clocked over 300 service hours and Betty & Muril clocked over 100 service hours from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. Thank you for acting out Peace's mission in the community.



# DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9a YogaDevotion 3p Women's Christmas Tea
3 9a Worship w/ Holy Communion  Greening of the Church	4 8a ROMEO's 4:45p Brewing Faith 5:30p YogaDevotion	5 10a Faithfully Fit 12p Staff Meeting 7p Committee Night	6 5:30 PeaceFull Nights	7	8	9 9a YogaDevotion
10 9a Worship & Christmas Pageant 10a Second Sunday 7p Women of Song	11 5:30p YogaDevotion	12 10a Faithfully Fit 12p Staff Meeting 12:30p Faith Circle 7p Council Meeting	13 5:30p PeaceFull Nights	14 9a Quilting	15	16
17 9a Worship Christmas Music Festival	18 5:30 YogaDevotion	19 10a Faithfully Fit 12p Staff Meeting	20 8a Women's Breakfast 5:30p PeaceFull Nights <i>Newsletter Due</i>	21 7p Knitting & Needlework	22	23
24 9a & 4p Christmas Eve Services w/ Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 12p Staff Meeting	27 9a Newsletter Help	28 9a Quilting 3p Bundles of Love	29	30
31 9a Worship w/ Holy Communion						



**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## December

## Psalm-a-day Readings

1 PSALM 83	12 PSALM 94	23 PSALM 105
2 PSALM 84	13 PSALM 95	24 PSALM 106
3 PSALM 85	14 PSALM 96	25 PSALM 107
4 PSALM 86	15 PSALM 97	26 PSALM 108
5 PSALM 87	16 PSALM 98	27 PSALM 109
6 PSALM 88	17 PSALM 99	28 PSALM 110
7 PSALM 89	18 PSALM 100	29 PSALM 111
8 PSALM 90	19 PSALM 101	30 PSALM 112
9 PSALM 91	20 PSALM 102	31 PSALM 113
10 PSALM 92	21 PSALM 103	
11 PSALM 93	22 PSALM 104	



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# Welcome!

At Peace , people of all ages — children, teens and adults—are a very important part of the faith community. You'll 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 by serving others.

**At Peace, there is a place for you!**



## Adults:

- Men's & Women's Breakfast groups, Brewing Faith, Hope Circle
- YogaDevotion, Faithfully Fit & Health Forums
- Knitting, Quilting, Bundles of Love and Needlepoint groups
- Adult Choir, Celebration Singers & Adult Bells
- Serving, Community Garden & Peace Retreat

## Children & Youth:

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

## SUNDAY MORNING

9:00-10:00am—Worship

10:00-11:00am—Fellowship for All Ages



*Peace is social!*

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

**Small for our members, big for our community.**