

# Peace Lutheran Church



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*We are a loving community called by God's grace — that all know the Peace of God.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT / DECEMBER 24, 2023

**PASTOR:** Glenn Meyer  
**Elders:**  
**Sunday 9:00am** Paul Otte, George Quast  
**Sunday 3:00pm** Brad Havemeier, Dale Schumann  
**Sunday 5:00pm** Kevin Buss, Jeff Weckwerth  
**Sunday 7:00pm** Robbie Peterson, Wayne Vinkemeier  
**Monday 9:00am** John Lietz, Wayne Vinkemeier  
**Acolytes:**  
**Sunday 9:00am** Kiara Durbin, Brynn Kobow  
**Sunday 3:00pm** Morgan Miller, Brittney Merkins  
**Sunday 5:00pm** Gavin Skare, Micah Luthens  
**Sunday 7:00pm**  
**Monday 9:00am** Sydney Jackson, Sophie Schweiss  
**Greeters:**  
**Sunday 9:00am** Brian and Becky Kobow

The **Congregational Fund Committee** has voted to match an additional \$50,000 towards the debt reduction initiative. This match was to be of monies donated towards the principal from Nov 1 through Dec 31. and we have already surpassed our goal by almost \$5,000! We are on track to potentially decrease our principal balance by over \$600,000 this year! We are truly blessed by our members' response!

On Sunday, December 10th, the congregation voted to explore the creation of a childcare center that would be modeled after the business plan of Prince of Peace Retirement Living facility (501c3, as a separate legal entity from Peace Lutheran). At this time, the Church Council is looking for individuals that are interested in being a part of a commissioned team that will investigate how this project can move forward. If you are interested, or know someone that would be an asset to this team, please contact the Church Office.

Melissa Weckwerth, Church Council President

The **COOKIE/BAKE SALE & SILENT AUCTION** raised over \$2,100 towards the Debt Reduction Fund! Thank you to all who donated all of the delicious goodies or auction items, helped with the packaging/set-up or sale and again made this event a success!

We served 284 hungry students at the **HAY lunch** this past Thursday. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

### PRIVATE BAPTISMS ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

LaVae Svetlana Duke

Daughter of Brandon and Susanne Luthens

Sponsor: Matthew Weaver

Paris Lynn Luthens

Daughter of Brandon and Susanne Luthens

Sponsor: Shane Luthens

**Peace Lutheran Women in Mission**—The December "Mission of the Month" is McLeod Alliance. This organization provides free and confidential assistance to those affected by domestic violence in McLeod County and the surrounding area. If you wish to donate to this mission, drop your donation in the "Mission of the Month" boxes. Thank you...

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE:** Last week we received the call list prepared by Pastor Woodford, President of the Minnesota South District, LCMS. We have met twice to begin evaluating the candidates and are committed to complete our work without delay. As we do so, Pastor Woodford stressed the importance that we maintain the utmost confidentiality regarding the list of candidates. We ask for your prayers that the light and love of our triune God shine brightly upon and within all of us throughout this journey. Lynn Brown, Scott Haag, Dean Kirchoff, Jeff Miller, Paul Otte, Melissa Weckwerth, and Bob Sylvester, Chair

The **Children's Christmas Program**, held last Sunday, was a heartwarming success! If you were unable to attend, make sure to watch it on Facebook or on the Church Website. A Special Thank You to Dr. Joan Dixon for orchestrating and directing this year's program; to Jackie Dixon and Jill Lieder—our seamstresses (who were still sewing extra costumes Saturday night), to all of our Sunday School Teachers and helpers for your dedication this year and of course, to all of our youth participants! GREAT JOB!

*The Pastor and Staff would like to Thank everyone for the Season Greetings - cards, gifts, treats and well wishes. We feel blessed to serve here and look forward to another year here at Peace Lutheran.*

*Blessings to you and your loved ones!*

#### Current Checking Account Balances

General Fund .....	\$ 67,453.98	Building Fund.....	\$72,184.35
Cemetery Fund .....	\$ 64,754.39	Dedicated Funds ....	\$72,632.16

Building Debt Balance—1/1/22.....\$2,491,042.35

Building Debt Balance—1/1/23.....\$2,286,302.71

Building Debt Balance—11/1/23.....\$1,720,861.35

Building Debt Principal paid to date 2023 - \$565,441.36

#### Offerings Deposited 12/14-12/21

General Fund.....	\$ 29,574.14	Building Fund.....	\$ 15.00
Cemetery Fund.....	\$ 650.00	Dedicated Funds...	\$ 1,175.00

## Please pray for Peace members

Ron Janke	Melinda Mikolichek
Rita Janke	Jasmine & Caius Kron
Barb Ribar	Bonnie Lickfelt
Elaine Lewerenz	Miles Kohls
Jan Bakken	Cyndy Schmidt
Marjorie Huls	Darlene Piehl
Justin Nass	Lynette Hart
Sandra Bach	Pat Schmidt
Sam Schumann	Melba Lemke
Jon & Sylvia Radtke	

If you know of someone who is ill or hospitalized, or would like a pastoral visit, contact the church office

**Worship Bags for Children** are in the red wagons in the chapel, Peace Center and narthex. Children may use bags during worship and return to the wagon

### Attendance Last Week

Saturday 6:30pm	62
Sunday 8:30pm	136
Sunday 10:30pm	330
Wednesday 11:30am	73
Wednesday 4:30pm	64
Wednesday 6:30pm	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>696</b>
Boxcast	302
Livestream 8:30	162
Livestream 10:30	330
Livestream Wed/4:30	71
Livestream Wed/6:30	132

## Looking Ahead at Peace

**SUNDAY (12/24)**  
**9:00am Worship/Communion**  
 NO Sunday School  
 NO Adult Bible Studies  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**  
**ALL WITH COMMUNION**  
**3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm**

**MONDAY (12/25)**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**9:00am Worship/Communion**

**TUESDAY (12/26)**  
 No Activities

**WEDNESDAY (12/27)**  
 No Activities

**THURSDAY (12/28)**  
 No Activities

**FRIDAY (12/27)**  
 No Activities

**SATURDAY (12/30)**  
 6:30pm Worship/Communion

The January-February-March Portals of Prayer are now available in the Narthex and the Commons Area

**SUNDAY (12/31)**  
 8:30 am Worship/Communion  
 NO Sunday School  
 NO Adult Bible Studies  
 10:30am Worship/Communion

**MONDAY (1/1)**  
 OFFICE CLOSED

**TUESDAY (1/2)**  
 10:00am Womens Bible St  
 3:00pm Proverbs Bible Study  
 3:20pm Elementary Sewing  
 6:30pm Promise Keepers  
 6:30pm Elders

**WEDNESDAY (1/3)**  
 9:00am Release Time  
 1:00pm Mission Sewing  
 2:45pm Confirmation  
 3:30pm Tiger Tweens

**THURSDAY (1/4)**

**FRIDAY (1/5)**

**SATURDAY (1/6)**  
 6:30pm Worship

### New Donations for the Library

1) Autobiography of Dr. Oswald C.J.Hoffmann, as told to Ronald J. Schlegel. "Ossie" was the speaker of The Lutheran Hour from 1955-1988. Ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1939, he served the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as a religious leader and ambassador. He was a man who wore many hats in the service of the Lord. He once state, "I didn't do anything special. I just told the Good News". You be the judge of his comment "What More is There to Say But Amen" 2) The Prayer Box—a novel by Lisa Wingate. When tasked with the job of cleaning out an old Victorian house, a struggling young mother discovers boxes throughout the house which contain bits of paper revealing the life of the owner who has recently passed away. The boxes reveal lessons in faith, observations on love and one final lesson that could change everything. 3) Windows on Christmas—by Bill Crowder

Check out the beautiful **Chrismon Tree** in the Church office which was decorated by Dorcas/Women in Mission. Most of these delicate, handmade ornaments date back to the 1960's. Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. The word "Chrismon" is derived from the words "Christ" and "monogram" - meaning "symbols of Christ". They are white and gold—White is the Church color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect and the Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory.

The **Red Cross** collected 138 units at their stop here at Peace last week for the last bloodmobile of 2023. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for another year of selfless service for this great cause!

We have a beautiful new addition to the Church Library—**GRACE, Our Resident Angel**. Grace was procured and donated by the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study Group. Thank you ladies!