

# Peace Lutheran Church



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

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS / DECEMBER 31, 2023

**PASTOR:** Gerhard Bode  
**Elders:**  
**Saturday, 6:30pm** George Quast, Wayne Vinkemeier  
**Sunday 8:30am** Wayne Vinkemeier, Jeff Weckwerth  
**Sunday, 10:30am** John Lietz, Robbie Peterson  
**Acolytes:**  
**Saturday 6:30pm** Blake Raarick, Gavin Skare  
**Sunday 8:30am** Mason Carlson, Micah Perrault  
**Greeters:**  
**Sunday 8:30am** Alan and Delores Reiner  
**Sunday 10:30am** Jeff and Anita Miller

The **Congregational Fund Committee** had 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** last Thursday. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

**THRIVENT CARDS**—If you still have any Thrivent Cards available to apply for from 2023, you can still do so for use in January of 2024. Contact the Church Office for more information on upcoming events that Thrivent Cards are needed.

**THE 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO PICKUP IN THE RAMPWAY.**

**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 .....	\$ 70,707.73	Building Fund.....	\$72,484.35
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.....	\$ 1,712,071.14		
Building Debt Principal paid to date 2023 -	\$574,231.57		

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

General Fund.....	\$ 13,152.00	Building Fund.....	\$ 300.00
Cemetery Fund.....	\$ 0.00	Dedicated Funds...	\$ 0.00

## Please pray for Peace members

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

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

Sunday 9:00am	121
Candlelight 3:00pm	223
Candlelight 5:00pm	171
Candlelight 7:00pm	147
Christmas Day 9:00am	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>772</b>
Boxcast	102
Livestream 9:00am	276
Livestream 3:00pm	265
Livestream 5:00pm	222

## Looking Ahead at Peace

### SUNDAY (12/31)

8:30am Worship/Communion  
NO Sunday School  
NO Adult Bible Studies  
10:30am Worship/Communion

### MONDAY (1/1)

New Year's Day  
Office Closed

### TUESDAY (1/2)

10:00am POP Bible Study  
10:00am Womens Bible Study  
3:00pm Proverbs Bible Study  
3:20pm Elementary Sewing  
6:30pm Promise Keepers  
6:30pm Elders

### WEDNESDAY (1/3)

9:00am Release Time  
11:45am Lunch/Bible Study  
1:00pm Mission Sewing  
2:45pm Confirmation  
3:30pm Tiger Tweens

### THURSDAY (1/4)

### FRIDAY (1/5)

### SATURDAY (1/6)

6:30pm Worship/Communion

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

### SUNDAY (1/7)

8:30 am Worship/Communion  
NO Sunday School  
NO Adult Bible Studies  
10:30am Worship

### MONDAY (1/8)

1:00pm Body and Soul

### TUESDAY (1/9)

10:00am POP Bible Study  
10:00am Womens Bible St  
Z12-6pm Bloodmobile  
3:00pm Proverbs Bible Study  
6:30pm Promise Keepers  
6:30pm Council

### WEDNESDAY (1/10)

9:00am Release Time  
11:45am Lunch/Bible Study  
2:45pm Confirmation  
3:30pm Tiger Tweens  
6:30pm Handbells

### THURSDAY (1/11)

### FRIDAY (1/12)

### SATURDAY (1/13)

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 recently cashed in cans from the trailer at Peace Place - we received a check for \$121.60 to be used towards the debt reduction.. Don't forget to drop your empty cans off at the trailer.

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!