

December 2024/January 2025



Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Ian McMichael
Church Secretary: Kristi Nelson
Pianist: Kate Schneider
Custodian: Rex Rutledge

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General Announcements



What's Happening at Peace:

We will be holding **Children's Sunday School** the first Sunday of each month. (**please check the weekly email for any changes*). All are welcome!

PAC (Peace Action Committee) will be meeting next on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:15 AM. Our mission is to plan and implement outreach for the community and congregation alike with various events and ministries. All are welcome to attend!

Choir will be singing next on Sunday, December 22. All are welcome! The **Sunday School Children will be singing** some Christmas hymns with the help of the choir ☺

Pastor Ian is leading **Adult Bible Study**, where we are currently looking at the book of Romans. The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. All are Welcome and you can jump in it any time.

Join us each **Sunday evening at 6:30 PM** as we watch the sensational multi-season show **The Chosen** which depicts the life and ministry of Christ. Be part of the 1 billion people who have been following this amazing and inspiring series!

Come be a part of **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study** right after worship as we delve into the book of Acts which shows us how to live our lives as Christ taught us through His example and through the words of the New Testament. "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it." Joshua 1:8a

Peace Stitches is an amazing ministry that supports Lutheran World Relief. The group meets on **Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 PM**. You do not need to know how to sew to join!! There are other ways you can help and be part of the process. Questions? Please talk with Cathy Landers, Marilyn Wigen or Mary Cocking, or drop in sometime!

The **Annual budget meeting** will be held on January 26th, following Worship.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight** service will be held on December 24th, at 7:00 pm

Your financial gifts can be received in a number of ways!

In addition to leaving your offering during in-person worship, we also have, Tithe.ly, our online giving platform, which can be found here:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/1302894

You may also may also drop your offering in the mailbox at church or mail it to:
309 N Lake Street, Colfax, WA 99111

December Birthdays

4th - Brandy Wigen

6th - Sandy Jamison

8th - Calum Larkin

9th - Barbara Henderson

16th - Georgie Leinweber

18th - Marne Maki

January Birthdays

6th - Mary Cocking

9th - Donna Fisher

12th - Sophie Solimine

28th - Queenie Leinweber

31st - Ron Shirley

December Anniversaries

20th - Marvin & Marilyn Wigen (1969)

January Anniversaries

18th - Scot & Mary Cocking (1986)

20th - Bob & Lola Gillespie (1979)

27th - Vic & Julie Roberts (1961)

November Sunday Attendance

Week 1 November 3	Week 2 November 10	Week 3 November 17	Week 4 November 24
19	23	23	30

PLC's Shopping List

We are inviting donations to be left at the church as you are able to do so. Any contributions, large or small, will be greatly appreciated and help offset the ongoing expenses the church incurs as we replenish supplies of these items regularly.

Office Supplies:

White copy paper

Postage Stamps

Envelopes (No. 10 privacy-tint, 4.125x9.5x10.5x24.1)

Custodial Supplies:

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Kleenex

Kitchen needs:

Small paper plates

10 oz water/juice cups

12oz coffee cups

Basic napkins

Storage bags- pint, quart and gallon sizes

Coffee filters

PLC Treasurer's Summary Report

11/30/2024

PLC Treasurer's Summary Report

	2024 YTD	
Regular Offerings	\$	88,526
Funds transferred from other accounts for non-budgeted expenses/Grants	\$	-
Total offerings available for expenses	\$ -	\$ 88,526
Budgeted Expenditures	\$	105,776
Non-Budgeted Expenditures/Refunds	\$	-
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 105,776
Net Balance	\$ -	\$ (17,250)

Pastor's Message

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

John 1:1-5

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity,

If you are on council, you may know that I am on my way to finally finishing up my dissertation for my doctorate in Educational Leadership from Concordia University, St. Paul. I've spent time the last four years in online classes, writing papers, doing research and, last September thanks to a grant from the Northwest Intermountain Synod, I also had the chance to fly back to the Midwest, and drive West, to conduct interviews with administrators at various Lutheran colleges around the country. It has been a time of great insight, personal and professional growth, and a time to think big picture about higher education and the place of the Church in it.

At the same time, some of you have asked how exactly this relates to church business, or our everyday lives on the Palouse! A very valid question! Higher education as a whole is struggling mightily right now. Online courses that make education cheaper, coupled with aging buildings, dwindling endowments, and an overall shift in the societal "importance" of college, have made it extremely difficult for many Lutheran colleges today. Then, you get into questions about how Lutheran colleges live out their mission, what their mission is exactly, and whether or not people still want to be a part of it when the vast majority of the student population at most schools are no longer Lutheran, and you have what could be considered the perfect storm!

The church has a place in helping administrators at these colleges and universities, many of whom are no longer Lutheran, define what it means to be Lutheran in the modern world. In my view, that does not mean that churches have the obligation to force all students to be Lutheran, or to sign a faith statement, or even to be a Christian, but it does mean that helping universities define the Lutheran ethic upon which they make important decisions remains of vital importance to pastors like me and to churches like us. What does it mean to be Lutheran when hardly any of your students, faculty or staff are? If the church doesn't help answer that question, I'm afraid the strong Lutheran culture will slowly erode.

That being said, my dissertation has allowed me to get creative. Have you ever just had a moment where you know your body transcended time? Maybe it was when your kid scored their first soccer goal? Or the final buzzer, meaning you won the state championship? Maybe it was at a concert? Or maybe you just more broadly define yourself, or have heard others define themselves as "spiritual, but not religious." I'm a tennis fan and Rafael Nadal was notorious for placing his water bottles in exactly the right place, drinking them in a very particular order, and picking at his pants constantly before the ball was served. He had a ritual. Logically, that ritual made no sense, but these experiences all transcend logic don't they? I think all of this points back to the fact that while some may not define these moments as "God moments" they are an acknowledgement, from atheists and Christians alike, that there is more to the story. That there is more out there than we could ever imagine. That somehow, some way, professional sports athletes who are meticulous with their diet and training are, for whatever reason, willing to admit that not everything is logical. That something beyond ourselves somehow still plays a part. That even if we don't give God the credit, there is some benefit to spirituality. There is some benefit to the music entrancing you. There is some warping of time that takes place after a big, euphoric, sports victory.

That's what Lutheran universities and colleges, at their best, can provide. A link to the transcendent nature of time. While the students, many of whom are not Christian, would not necessarily define these moments in terms of religion, they can, with the help and space of these institutions, help orient their lives around the fact that it is not simply living for today that matters, but there will be

moments of their lives that transcend where we currently are, that are almost unexplainable. As a pastor of the church, I'll certainly give credit to God for this!

As we read this passage from John, often read around Advent and Christmas, we can all acknowledge, Christian or not, that the light keeps shining. And as Christians we can rejoice that God is the creator of everything, of curiosity and hope, of spirituality and joy. The church's job, and that of a church affiliated institution, is to help people connect what is to what might be, what could be. As Christians, we listen to God's call in the mundane, the muck of the world. And we realize that God is there too. Pulling us forward to the birth of Jesus, where the ultimate moment of transcendence occurs.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ian

