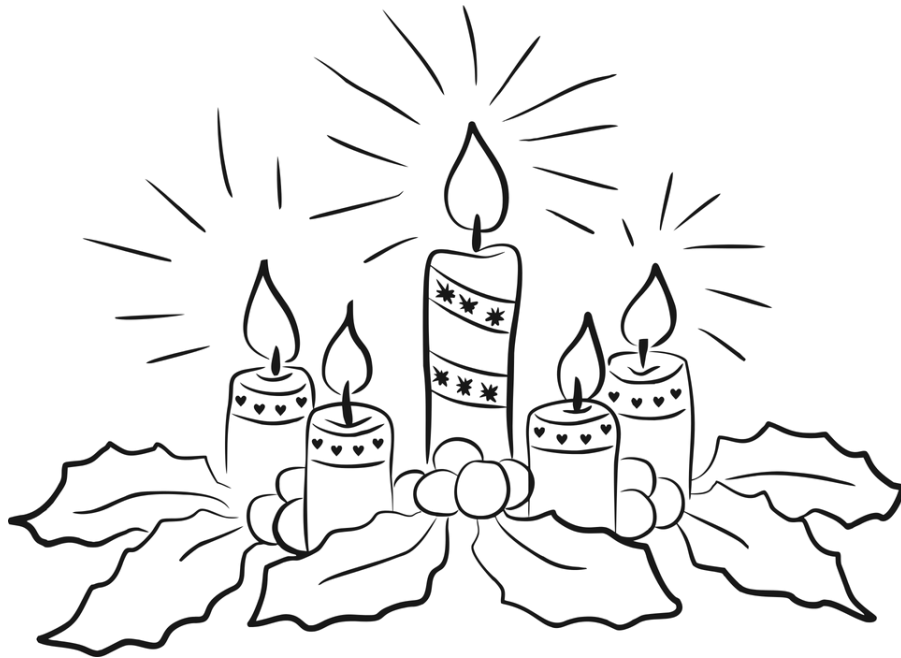


*Peace Lutheran Church*

# DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Where Everybody is Somebody Because Jesus Christ is Lord!



Ministers: The Congregation  
Pastor: Ian McMichael  
Church Secretary: Mary Cocking, temporary  
Pianist: Kate Schneider  
Custodian: Rex Rutledge

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## WINTER/CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



**Avenues For Hope Housing Challenge:** From December 10-31st, Donations of \$25.00 or more will be *increased by 35%* through the **Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge** that is sponsored by the Home Partnership Foundation. To do so, you can either send a check to Family Promise, P.O. Box 9389, Moscow, ID 83843, or go online to:

<https://www.avenuesforhope.org/organizations/family-promise-of-the-palouse>. At FPP, for every \$1 donated they are able to provide the families with \$3 worth of goods and services thanks to amazing volunteers. With your help, Family Promise will achieve their goal of raising \$50,000 in this campaign season. Give Hope this Christmas to Families in Need.

**ELCA Good Gifts Catalog 2020:** As members of the ELCA, we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. The 2020 Christmas gift catalog is now available either at the church in the narthex, or online at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts). Whether you choose to donate funds for safe clean water, goats and a flock of chicks or other farm animals, send young girls to school or donate school supply funds, help purchase seeds or gardening tools, provide mosquito nets, vaccinations or help stock a health clinic, needs are great in third world countries. Please consider a percentage of your Christmas budget to God's work.

### November General Offerings:

Nov. 1	\$ 2,989.68
Nov. 8	1,035.16
Nov. 15	760.00
Nov. 22	705.00
Nov. 29	<u>500.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 5,989.84</b>

COUNCIL APPROVED

EXPENDITURES FOR NOVEMBER **\$ 8,158.30**

### YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURES APPROVED BY COUNCIL (through Nov. 30)

General Offerings	\$ 79,859.66
Expenditures	<u>105,344.07</u>

**Excess (Deficiency)            \$ -25,484.41**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be held at 3:00 here at Peace Lutheran Church on Dec. 24th to celebrate the arrival of our King! Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we can only have 25% capacity in our church for services, so please sign up so we know you are coming at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vCIXmZ3\\_7\\_VEU-\\_GK6u6GTew2JMkWetuoDRrBU0rMxU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vCIXmZ3_7_VEU-_GK6u6GTew2JMkWetuoDRrBU0rMxU/edit?usp=sharing)

***Christmas Eve Service Bag of Goodies*** - We know this Christmas will be different this year, and that many of you will choose to stay at home for various reasons! We are not sure how Christmas will happen this year, and are playing it by ear as the state gives us guidelines and mandates. However, we want everyone to be included in our congregation's Christmas festivities one way or another! One way that we will do that is to provide you with a "Christmas Bag of Goodies." There is a drive-by option to pick up these bags or someone can drop them off at your house. Just let us know if you would like one.

**FAMILY PROMISE MEAL** - The next Family Promise Meal that is provided by our congregation to the families currently within Family Promise is on Thursday evening, December 17. Please contact Mary Cocking to sign up to provide part of this meal. Since the families are still staying in hotels, all food is delivered by 5:00 pm that day to the day center in Moscow. If you are interested in delivering the meal to Moscow, please let me know.


**THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE** - The December issue of Living Lutheran has arrived at the church. Feel free to pick one up in the church narthex during the week when the building is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during business hours, or on Sundays after service. Living Lutheran is delighted to unveil a brand-new digital platform for Stories of Faith in Action, housed at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org)

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CONSTITUTION** - At the last council meeting the council approved changes to our current constitution and now it is time to ratify it with the congregation. Please mark your calendars for the ratification meeting scheduled for January 10th after worship. Copies of the amended constitution will be in your email boxes very soon. There are also paper copies available at the church.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Robin Jones, Dorothy Feldman and her family since the loss of Gary, Chuck Carroll, Milt Klettke, Queenie Leinweber, Lyndell Repp, Katie Schmick, Tim Silvernale (Mary Cockings Brother), Connie Silvernale (Mary Cocking's sister-in-law), Jim Repp, Donna McPherson, Jim, Deb and Pam Repp, Mike Hanson and Sofie Colyar.

## **"LEARNING TO WALK IN THE DARK" · BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR**

Join clergy and lay people, Millennials and Boomers, folks from all over the synod and beyond, in a study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book "Learning to Walk in the Dark". The same material will be covered during two different times: Mondays at 7pm and Thursdays at 10am. We will explore the generative, restorative and holy aspects of darkness in this Advent season. The study begins on November 30th so get your book now! Contact Pastor Arianna Arends [pastorarianna@gmail.com](mailto:pastorarianna@gmail.com) for Zoom link and more information.

**LUTHERHAVEN** - Deck the Halls, beginning this weekend through December 20th, allows you and your family to come enjoy lakeside bonfires, cozy heated cabins, a craft wonderland, Christmas lights, broomball hockey, and more at beautiful Camp Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d'Alene! All are welcome! Camp is a great way to socially distance outdoors and enjoy quality time with your loved ones for just \$50/night. Spots are filling up fast, so contact us today to reserve your spot at (208) 667-3459 ext 119 or book now at our website. 

### ***Mission Aviation Fellowship -***

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for partnering with us to help MAF be ready for every flight. Your gift of \$328.00 will help ensure we have the fuel we need to keep our airplanes in the air and, quite literally, fuel the mission! Our pilots could be transporting emergency food and water to disaster victims. Or rushing a pregnant mother facing complications to a hospital for urgent medical care. Or perhaps delivering the very first Bibles translated in the language of a remote jungle tribe. You are also making it possible for MAF airplanes to travel to remote regions around the world and reach isolated people with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Just as we depend on fuel to power the airplane, we depend on the generosity of God's people to fuel this ministry as we commit our plans to the Lord. Again, thank you for answering our prayers and giving to meet this critical need.

## **Pastor's Message**

*Isaiah 43:19-22*

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.*

*Dear Siblings in Christ,*

The year 2020 is almost behind us. Many of us have experienced joy during this year. Little Wren entering the world this last September will always be a sign of hope and new beginnings for the McMichael family. At the same time, perhaps more than most years, this year has been a time of great tribulation. As I have written elsewhere, it is quite easy to look out and see the hurt and brokenness in the world. One need not look very hard to see the vast amount of divisiveness and suffering that this year has brought upon us in different ways. I feel this pain even more acutely every time COVID-19 rears its ugly head around church festivals. Back in April, Easter looked a lot different. Now, we stand with a choice. How will Christmas look? How do we make meaningful traditions happen in the face of a pandemic? How do we welcome the birth of the Christ child anew this year?

The councils at both Trinity and Peace have decided to trust the words of Isaiah 43. To trust that God is doing something different for and with God's people. Something splendid. Something unique. For this reason our Christmas Eve services will look different than in years past. Both services will be a hybrid of indoor/outdoor worship.

At Peace, we will still be gathering in-person, within the legal limits, at 7PM. There will be a soloist for the singing and masks will be required. Social distancing, of course, will be necessary. We will have as normal a service as possible at this time and at the end, we will process outside with our candles as we all sing Silent Night. There is a sign-up limit for the in-person worship service. If you would like to attend, it is best to sign up sooner rather than later.

In addition, there will be other viewing options available. The people of Peace and Trinity have put together a full Christmas worship service that can be watched on Youtube. Watch your emails or Facebook for the link. Also, our in-person worship service will be live-streamed. Keep

an eye out for ways in which those of you at home can still interact and be part of community on Christmas. The churches are working hard to make that a reality.

As always, but especially true in 2020, none of this can happen without people power. While numerous people from both churches have already volunteered to do various things, we can always use more! Whether it is donating money towards materials, being a part of the video or coming up with your own ideas, we are blessed by your willingness to serve! Please check in with me so that we can discuss what might be possible. The sooner the better!

While God doing something new sometimes instills a sense of dread in me, since I often like the way things are going, I think in this particular instance God leading us into an unknown future is exciting. This will be good! We will help to make it so! We are God's people and God has not forsaken us. We stand strong in God's promise of redemption and eternal life. We rejoice at the opportunity to live out our baptismal calls this Christmas, as we celebrate the coming of a Savior, a Savior who changed, and continues to change, the world.

Peace,  
Pastor Ian

### **Birthdays**

Dec 1st - Jacob Cocking  
Dec 2nd - Becky Berdal  
Dec 4th - Brandy Wigen  
Dec 6th - Sandy Jamison  
Dec 8th - Calum Larkin  
Dec 9th - Barbara Henderson  
Dec 16th - Georgie Leinweber  
Dec 18th Marne Maki and  
Alyssa (Teade) Oestreich  
Dec 30th - Maximus Phillips

### **Anniversaries**

Dec 12th - Tom & Alice Barlass (56th)  
Dec 20th - Marv & Marilyn Wigen (51st)  
Dec 21st - Dave & Lyndell Repp (56th)  
Dec 27th - Sten & Judy Larkin (57th)

# DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship 9:00	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship 9:00	14	15	16	17 Meal to Family Promise provided by Peace	18	19
20 Worship 9:00	21	22	23 Church Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve Service 3:00	25 Christmas Day	26 Pastor on Vacation
27 Worship 9:00 Pastor on Vacation	28 Church Office Closed Pastor on Vacation	29 Church Office Closed Pastor on Vacation	30 Church Office Closed Pastor on Vacation	31 Church Office Closed Pastor on Vacation		