

Peace Lutheran Church

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Where Everybody is Somebody Because Jesus Christ is Lord!



Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Ian McMichael
Church Secretary: Corrin McMichael
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DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11:00 Worship	1:30 Peace Stitchers	1:30 Peace Stitchers	3:00-7:00 Winterfest and Lighted Parade			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00 Sunday School and Christmas Program Practice	1:30 Peace Stitchers 5:30 Council Meeting					10-12:00 Christmas Program Practice
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Practice						
11:00 Worship 12:00-3:00 Confirmation	1:30 Peace Stitchers					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	7:00 Christmas Eve Service					
11:00 Worship	Office Closed	Christmas Day Office Closed	Office Closed			
29	30	31				
11:00 Worship	1:30 Peace Stitchers					

Luke 2:10-14

¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Every year, on November 1st, Corrin and I always have the same discussion. The Halloween decorations get put away; We box everything up and bring it all down to the basement. This moment, in my mind, should be followed by some well-deserved rest. Corrin, on the other hand, calls from the basement to help her bring up more boxes. She is ready to put up Christmas decorations! After saying, “It’s not even Advent yet! It’s All Saints’ Day!” I realize my protests are futile and Christmas decorations go up.

Advent is such a strange season when you think about it in the context of the world today. The massive consumerism that takes place the day after Thanksgiving all the way up to Christmas itself. Santa is in town. We sing Christmas carols and enjoy our Christmas bazaars. We drink hot cocoa and celebrate that God has broken into the world in a new way, through Jesus the Christ! Family comes to town. Travel, if the snow doesn’t ruin it, is often something to look forward to. No wonder we want to skip right to Christmas!

However, there is something to be said about Advent: The season of waiting. The season that is countercultural. The season that allows us to stop. Pause. Take in the beauty around us. Advent is what makes the joy of Christmas a reality. In order to experience the true coming of Christ in our midst, we also must recognize the world that he is coming into. The brokenness of the world. The injustices that take place. War. Famine. Poverty. Heartbreak. Loss. Our God enters into all of this. Our God, whom we wait for this Advent season, enters and brings joy and peace! We only recognize this though, if we take a moment to pause, and take in the world around us.

So how will you wait for the Lord this year? By taking time for yourself? Inviting someone to dinner who you know may need a friend? Letting someone go in front of you in line at the store? Letting go of anger and doubt? Getting out more often into God’s great creation? There are many ways, but I would encourage you to think of a couple ways to slow down and await the good news of Christmas.

I also feel the need to point out here, that I don’t think celebrating Christmas before December 25th is necessarily bad. In a world in need of healing, little joys bring great happiness. So, listen to that music. Put up those decorations. Light that peppermint candle and drink that creme brulee latte. But remember that in the midst of all of this, we wait. We wait for the coming of Christ, not for the newest iPhone. We wait for God to bring about the restoration of all humanity, even as we act within that very humanity. We find our Savior, laying in a manger in Bethlehem. Unexpected. Joyous. Life giving. Wait, and do what gives you life this season. Do it in the name of Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Ian

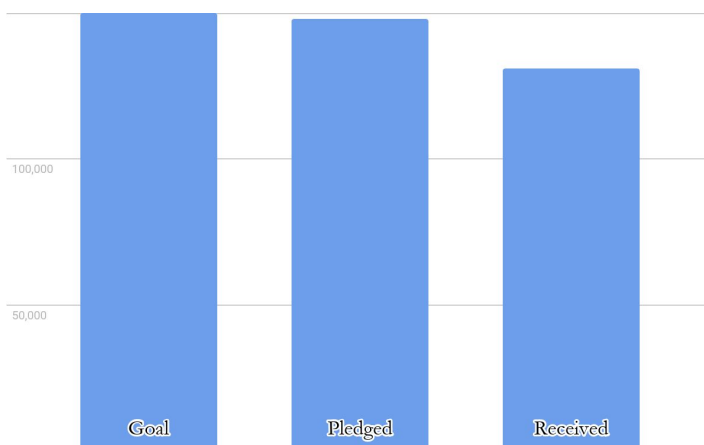
The 2019 Christmas Program

The program will take place during worship on December 15th. Program practice will be on December 8th at 10:00am, December 14th at 10:00-12:00am, December 15th at 10:00am.

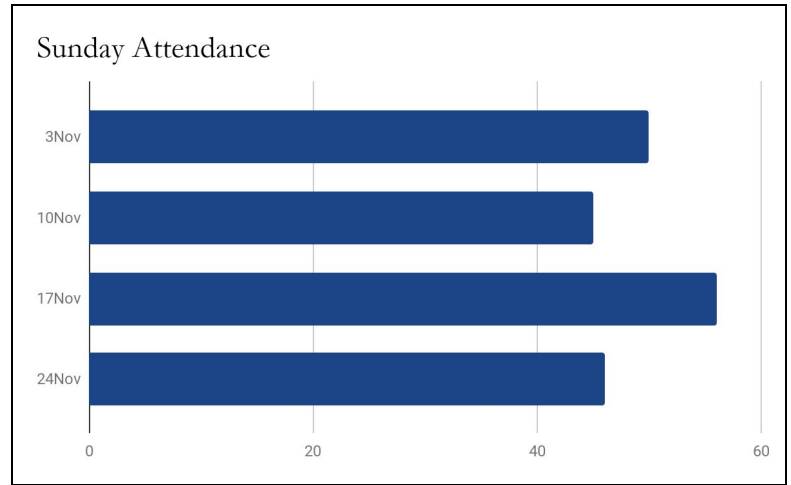
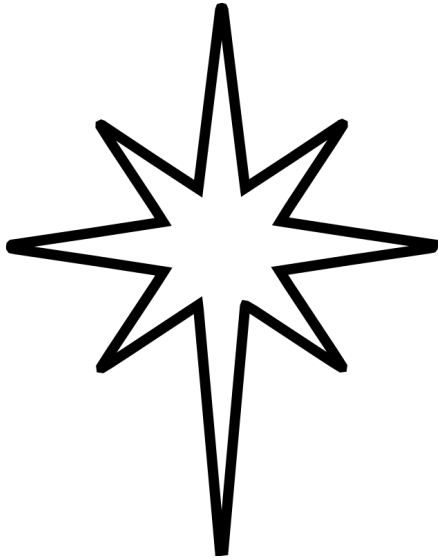
Starting the first Sunday in January, we will be worshipping at 9:00am. This will be the regular time for the year 2020, at least.

Growing into God's Future *Campaign News*

We are inching closer to our goal of \$150,000. As of the end of December, we have raised \$130,855.74.



Kate Schneider will be involved in two programs this season that include a medley of favorite songs from Frozen, several classic Christmas song medleys, “The Typewriter” by Leroy Anderson, “Sleigh Ride” by Leroy Anderson, and a few other pieces as well. Families with young kids are encouraged to attend because kids get in for free! It will be lots of fun, celebrating the Christmas season with many of our favorite Christmas songs. Concert no. 1 will be at **7:30pm at the Pullman High School on Saturday, December 7th**. I would suggest arriving fairly early as space is limited and this will be a well-attended event! Concert no. 2 will be at **3pm at Clarkson High School on Sunday, December 8th**.



Birthdays

- 1st - Jacob Cocking
- 2nd - Rebecca Berdal
- 4th - Brandy Wigen
- 6th - Sandy Jamison
- 8th - Calum Larkin
- 9th - Barbara Henderson
- 13th - Gary Feldman
- 16th - Georgie Leinweber
- 18th - Marne Maki & Alyssa Teade
- 30th - Maximus Phillips

Anniversaries

- 12th - Tom & Alice Barlass (1964)
- 20th - Marvin & Marilyn Wigen (1969)
- 21st - David & Lyndell Repp (1964)
- 27th - Sten & Judy Larkin (1963)

*"For it is good to be children
sometimes, and never better
than at Christmas,
when its mighty Founder
was a child Himself."*

—CHARLES DICKENS



Pastoral message addresses Hong Kong protests

10/29/2019 12:10:00 PM

Pastoral Message to ELCA members:

Accompanying the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong,
Hong Kong Lutheran Federation,
Hong Kong Christian Council
and all those living in Hong Kong

We, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have witnessed demonstrations in Hong Kong protesting several decisions by local authorities and expressing ongoing concerns about the future of the territory. These decisions have included the introduction of a controversial extradition bill, which has since been withdrawn, and several new regulations, issued in response to the demonstrations, that restrict civil liberties. Fears remain about what more these restrictions might mean for rights, liberties and governance. The demonstrations initially were very peaceful, but more recently engagement with local police has sometimes resulted in violent confrontations.

Members of the Christian community in Hong Kong hold varying views on the situation; some support the demonstrators while others oppose their activities.

I have sent a [message](#) to the churches and other people there in recent days.

Last month, the 72 Protestant and Catholic churches all over Hong Kong came together for an event, “Pray for reconciliation, healing, and a way out for Hong Kong.” As the people of Hong Kong discern their future, I commend their Prayer of Commitment to members of our church. We pledge our solidarity with them in this time of turmoil and join in prayer for a peaceful resolution of this crisis.

Prayer of Commitment

Introduction: In Hong Kong, where social turmoil has brought rapid changes, we rely on the unchanging Triune God to make a commitment together:

Leader: We are baptized into Christ by faith and united in Him regardless of race, gender or status (Gal. 3:28).

Response: We are determined to be humble, gentle, patient, and tolerant, to be peaceful, to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:2). We refuse to let political disputes or any

differences to divide the body of Christ.

Leader: Over the past three months, many people in body and spirit, as well as the entire society, have been deeply traumatized. For this, we must confess our sins and pray for one another (James 5:16).

Response: We are determined to be diligent to follow Jesus Christ to heal the wounded physically and spiritually, and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to resist the power of evil (Eph. 6:12).

Leader: Everyone is created in the image of God. Each person's dignity must be respected.

Response: We are determined not to regard people as inhuman. We reject all words and deeds that degrade human dignity. We win through the Lord without hatred. We overcome evil with good (Romans 12:17).

Leader: The Lord commands us to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphans, and plead for the widow (Isaiah 1:17).

Response: We strive to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and love others as ourselves. We are determined to help those who are oppressed, regardless of political views; to defend the rights and interests of the minority groups, no matter the different stances; to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). The Lord hates lies and loves honesty (Proverbs 12:22; Psalm 5:6).

Response: We strive to witness to and practice the truth, to seek and defend the truth. We are determined never to confuse right and wrong, but to be blameless and to do no harm.

Leader: In the face of the current political stalemate in Hong Kong, violence has been spreading and people are confused and fearful about their future. But we still believe that the Lord is in charge of history, and we are convinced that the Kingdom of Heaven will be fully realized.

Response: We are determined, no matter what the situation, to hold fast to our conviction that love and faithfulness will prevail overall. We will not be moved because we know that no matter what happens, nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

Both: Amen

God's peace,
Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA