

**December/January (2023/2024)**



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

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# General Announcements



The Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. There will not be Sunday morning Worship that day



Dear Members of Peace,

We will be holding our annual budget meeting on January 21st, directly following our 11am worship service. In addition, the council has been in conversation about how best to utilize the remaining funds received during the campaign. We remain curious if the earmarked campaign funds still serve the needs of Peace in the best way possible. I know many of you not only gave, but raised funds for these items, and I know all of us have a vested interest in stewarding our resources effectively. With this in mind, directly following the budget meeting, the council invites you to stay for a special meeting to discuss ideas around these funds, and the process we may use to either spend the funds as allocated, or open them up to the new needs of the church. Please come and share your thoughts with us as we move into a new year together! Peace, Ian McMichael, Pastor

# Offerings

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

1st - Jacob Cocking

4th - Brandy Wigen

6th - Sandy Jamison

8th - Calum Larkin

9th - Barbara Henderson

16th - Georgie Leinweber

18th - Marne Maki

## December Anniversaries

20th - Marvin & Marilyn Wigen (1969)

21st - David & Lyndell Repp (1964)

## January Anniversaries

18th - Scot & Mary Cocking (1986)

20th - Bob & Lola Gillespie (1979)

27th - Vic & Julie Roberts (1961)

## January Birthdays

6th - Mary Cocking

9th - Donna Fisher

12th - Sophie Solimine

28th - Queenie Leinweber

Katie Schmick

31st - Ron Shirley

## Sunday Attendance

Week 1 November 5	Week 2 November 12	Week 3 November 19	Week 4 November 26
25	22	25	20

**PLC Treasurer's Summary Report**

**11/30/2023**

**PLC Treasurer's Summary Report**

	<b>2023 YTD</b>	
<b>Regular Offerings</b>		<b>\$ 105,733</b>
<b>Funds transferred from other accounts for non-budgeted expenses/Grants</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total offerings available for expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 105,733</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ 113,127</b>
<b>Non-Budgeted Expenditures/Refunds</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 113,127</b>
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (7,394)</b>

# Pastor's Message

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"  
Luke 2:13-14

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity,

I've been doing a lot of thinking about the intersection of the secular and the sectarian recently. This has been most apparent as I work on my dissertation with regard to Lutheran higher education. Lutheran colleges affiliated with the ELCA who still make an effort to maintain some sense of "Lutheran-ness" have by-and-large adopted what has come to be known as the "third path." These institutions are unlike public research institutions like WSU or U of I, as important as those are. Lutheran institutions are grounded in their Lutheran tradition, take faith seriously, grapple with religion on personal terms and, at their best, are infused with a sense that God is present on that campus.

On the other hand, Lutheran institutions of higher learning reject the tradition that all secular knowledge is meant to be brought under the umbrella of God's Kingdom. In the Reformed tradition, for example, there are attempts to create and sustain subjects like Christian math, Christian physics, Christian biology, etc. At Lutheran schools there are not statements of faith to be signed, or doctrinal acrobatics that are needed to fit in.

However, in part because of Luther's Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms, Lutheran colleges and universities are grounded in their tradition, but open to diverse voices, ready to learn from others, insistent on serving their neighbor as a vocational call, and willing to engage others, many of whom are not Lutheran, to create a campus culture that is at once "Rooted and Open." While there are issues with this "third path," the idea of it, and the ideal of it, has deeply shaped my life and I think has the potential to continue to shape students' lives in a unique way into the future. The Church's mission is, of course, slightly different. We remain, at our best, open to different voices in order to learn, but also firmly grounded in our tradition, in who we believe God to be, and we evangelize that truth. However, sometimes the church ends up in a funny position between secular and sectarian as well. This Christmas Eve presents one of those experiences. For those of you who have looked ahead, you will realize that Christmas Eve (December 24th) falls on a Sunday this year, which would technically be our last day of Advent. Since both Peace and Trinity traditionally celebrate Christmas on the eve of December 24th, this would mean that if nothing had changed, we would have our final Advent worship in the morning, and then ask people to return for the evening worship service.

In talking with the council, we carved out a third path! We will not be worshipping together the morning of the 24th. Take the extra time to be with family, prepare for the evening, and take a breath before it all begins. Then, at 5PM at Trinity and 7PM at Peace, we will celebrate Christmas Eve together as usual, with our traditional Christmas Eve worship service. I'll admit, not worshipping together on a Sunday morning may seem a bit strange, but after conversation, it seems like the best way to fully engage people that evening, so that we can all lift our voices together with the angels and proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

I look forward to worshipping with you all and celebrating the birth of our Savior.

Merry Christmas! Peace, Pastor Ian

