

The Beacon

February, 2026

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Cross-Lit Church

10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd
Georgetown, OH 45121

Ministers, All Peace Lutheran Members

Pastor Laura Shreffler
Phone: 937-446-2747



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 18. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our need for repentance as we enter the solemn season of Lent. Ash Wednesday worship will include the Imposition of Ashes for those who want to receive them, corporate confession of sins, and the observance of Holy Communion.

Pastor Laura's sermon will be "Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness." We lay our sins on Jesus and receive his forgiveness in return. Join us as we begin midweek Lenten worship.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

The Agape Shrove Tuesday Worship and Pancake Dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17. After the worship service everyone will move to the Fellowship Hall. The young people from the Agape churches will take part in reading and demonstrating the meaning of making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. We welcome any of our LYO members to take part in this. Following this -- EATING PANCAKES! Members of the Agape churches will flip pancakes and cook sausages. Coffee, tea, milk, and orange juice will be provided.

Shrove Tuesday was the day when everyone would finish using anything with yeast, eggs, baking soda or baking powder. They would empty their cupboards by making pancakes. Many churches all over the world still invite people in for pancakes or chicken and homemade noodles on Shrove Tuesday, keeping the tradition alive.

Come, learn, and eat with us!

Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Laura will lead the six-session Bible study, "Dying His Death, Living His Life," at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through Lent. This Bible study examines those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

Study and discussion questions, prayers and reflections help to develop a closer relationship with Christ.

Sessions will be held on Tuesdays, Feb. 24, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24, and March 31. Look for sign-up sheets on the Access Hall table. You can sign up for a time, but if you need to switch times, feel free.



The Cross-Lit Church - Faith, Hope and Love

Please Remember in Prayer

George and Dixie Beltz
 Bobbie Blevins
 Family of Nicholas Bone
 Kathe Bradford
 Brittany Brown
 Jacob Brown
 Sandy Brown
 Brent, Carol and Alisha
 Lilly Combs
 Kendal Conley
 Melissa Dahlheimer
 Michelle and Craig Dick
 Betty Donathan
 Aiden Fowler
 Missy Freeman
 Maura Fultz
 Betty Gelter
 Karen Gilliam
 Michell Grey
 Judith Harp
 Pastor Scott Henning
 Kelley Hensley
 Dorothy Hibbs
 Judy Huber
 Josh Humble
 Lydia Humble
 Donna Johnson
 Ronald Land
 Taylor Latham

Angela Lauders
 James and Milly Leach
 Cynthia Marks
 Colt McKee
 Yolanda Meeker
 Esther Miller
 Estel Newberry
 Dorothy Orr
 Clarence Perry
 Brenda Reed
 Tom Reifenberger
 Karla Ritchie
 Mattie Robinette
 Amanda Roush & Josh Endsley
 Nicki Seip
 David Stephan
 Carl Stuck
 Family of Bill Taylor
 Nikki Tracy
 Michelle Uhl
 Bob and Cindy Verville
 Roger Vogel
 Dana Voight
 Michelle Wallace
 Charlotte Wenzlick
 Amy White
 Brent Wilson
 Holly Wilson
 Wayne Winter

Senior Member Birthday

James Wagel (7-Feb)
 6784 State Route 125
 Georgetown, OH 45121



Greetings from Donna Johnson

Dear Pastor Laura, Pastor Ron,
 and all my dear friends from
 Peace Lutheran Church,

I pray that this finds everyone
 well and enjoying the spirit of
 Christmas.

I am doing well after hip
 replacement in November. I find
 many things to keep me busy
 here at Otterbein. In January, I
 will begin piecing quilts, which
 Resurrection still does for LWR.
 This year, they mailed 134 quilts.

Prayers would be appreciated for
 my stepson, Bobby Johnson, and
 his parter J.P. as they have both
 lost parents this month. Both
 Bobby's stepfather and his mother
 died last month. J.P.'s stepmother
 also died last month.

Merry Christmas, and a Blessed
 New Year to all.

Donna

Prayers for Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

Cameron McCall (at home)
 Esther Miller (Monarch Meadows, 937-205-7658)
 James Wagel (at home)

Serving in the Armed Forces

Gordon Ellis, Michael Glass, Nicole Hatfield,
 Houston Henize, Daniel Kelch, Tom Mays, Tyler
 Thomas, Ryan Thornton, Jake Davis, Elijah
 Lawrence and Adam Vogel

Prayers for Health, Comfort and Strength

The Prayer List is published each month in the
 Beacon newsletter. Updates to the Beacon list
 are included in the weekly bulletins.

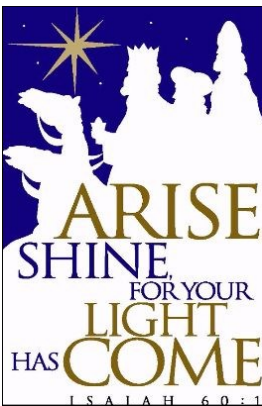
Please contact Pastor Laura or the church office
 to add names to the Prayer List or to request
 continuing prayers. Requests for prayers may
 also be distributed through Peace Lutheran FYI
 emails and the One Call Now phone service.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come!”

-- Isaiah 60:1a

Dear Friends,

These words are from the first lesson from Isaiah on the Feast of the Epiphany. "Arise, shine, for your light has come!" The magi read the signs of the sky—the great light put forth by the star at its rising—and they found the great Light of the World, a toddler in the small village of Bethlehem. Epiphany is a season of light. The hymns have references to light. The Scriptures have references to light. These are good words to hear in these dark and cold days of winter when we barely see the sun. We sometimes forget that



the daylight does last a little longer each day. We will enter Lent later this month, and those are dark and sad days as well, but our Scriptures still point us toward the Good News of Jesus Christ. The darkest of days at the end of Holy Week still takes us to the most brilliant and joyful of days.

This Epiphany has been difficult with everything going on in the world. One does not know what to pray for first. I am horrified by things taking place, and I am glad it is God taking care of the world and not me. So much to make the heart ache. I am thankful that my family has moved closer. I know it still seems far for most of you, but I also know that you who have had grandchildren grow up hundreds and thousands of miles away know that feeling. No matter how immersed I may find myself in the world's troubles, when I step outside the guest bedroom of our daughter's house, and I hear the soft running of little feet and the excited, "Hi Grandma! Hi Grandma!" or "Wuv you!" then all the troubles are momentarily forgotten. I am someone's hero (same with Grandpa!), and troubles are temporarily forgotten. God sends people of all ages and all beliefs into our lives, and those people also bring the light of Christ.

The great preacher, writer, and professor Dr. Walter Bruggeman died last year at the age of 92. He did not see the beginning to 2026, and yet I think his poem, "Epiphany," rings true for many of us.

From the Pastor



Epiphany

On Epiphany day,
we are still the people walking.
We are still people in the dark,
and the darkness looms large around us,
beset as we are by fear,

anxiety,
brutality,
violence,
loss—

a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

We are—we could be—people of your light.
So we pray for the light of your glorious
presence as we wait for your appearing;
we pray for the light of your wondrous grace
as we exhaust our coping capacity;
we pray for your gift of newness that
will override our weariness;
we pray that we may see and know and hear
and trust in your good rule.

That we may have energy, courage, and
freedom to enact

your rule through the demands of this day.

We submit our day to you and to your rule,
with deep joy and high hope.

Taken from Bruggeman's *Prayers for a Privileged People*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008), p. 163

"Arise, shine, for your light has come!" Keep that promise in your hearts.

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Home of Peace

December 17, 2025

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

As we approach the end of the year, we want to take a moment to thank you for your faithful and generous support in the life of Daniel and Meshack. Your commitment has made a meaningful difference, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership in this important work.

Daniel has just completed Form 4, which is equivalent to grade 12 in the United States. Next year he will be in VETA, a government vocational education and training program, until May and then he will begin Form 5. Meshack will complete his Form 6 year in May 2026. Forms 5 and 6 in Tanzania are educational steps between high school and college.

Because of your support, Daniel and Meshack have been able to receive a quality Christian education—one that nurtures both academic growth and spiritual development. This foundation is helping to prepare them for a future filled with hope and a better quality of life. Your investment is not only meeting present needs but also shaping long-term opportunities.

Thank you again for walking alongside Daniel and Meshack and for your continued generosity. Your faithfulness is a blessing to the child, their family, and the ministries that serve them. We will be sending another update in January with grades and future goals.

With sincere gratitude,

*One Plus God Ministries
on behalf of
Grace Lutheran
and Home of Peace Ministries*

Blessings,
Kim Stark-Schilling

Healing Service

Because we will hold a congregational meeting on the fourth Sunday of February, the 8:20 a.m. Healing Service will be held on Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 15.



Daniel Ndongo

Prayers for Candidates to be Ordained

Two Southern Ohio Synod candidates will be ordained in February. Vicar Patti Eaton will be ordained at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at Zion Lutheran Church in Hamilton, where she will serve as pastor.

One of the candidates that Pastor Laura mentored, Richard Ponton, will be ordained at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at his home congregation of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in West Chester. Pastor Laura will take part in this ordination. Richard will serve as pastor of New Hope United Lutheran Church in Middletown. New Hope is a merger of the former Zion and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches in Middletown.

Please keep Patti and Richard in prayer as they begin their calls.

Agape Quarterly Meeting

Agape will hold its quarterly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Sardinia Hope Church. We will discuss the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the Palm Sunday Stations of the Cross service as well as establishing a 501 c. Treasurer Leah Klump has news about a grant we have been awarded for the second straight year. Anyone who is interested can attend the meeting.



Lenten Devotionals

Devotions for Lent have been ordered. Pick up a devotional book and make it your Lenten practice to spend some time each day with God. Easier than giving up chocolate or cookies!

The adult devotions follow our theme of "Dying His Death, Living His Life." We are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection. Each week's theme affords us a chance to die to self and live for him. In each devotion we contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ. Pastor Laura has ordered a few more of the adult devotions since we ran out right away in Advent!

Our teen/young adult devotion is "Lighten Up for Lent." Light can be found in Lent! It is a season about sorrow and passion -- there's no denying that-- but Lent is also a season about salvation and the God who sent his Son to enliven and enlighten us. These Lent daily devotions for teens offer light-themed and sometimes light-hearted reflections on the light of Christ that shines, especially in this dark season. Teens and young adults will fix their eyes past the cross to the open tomb of Easter and the bright light that shines for all of us there.

"Step by Step with the Savior," is a Lenten Tabletop Window Calendar similar to the Advent calendar that our younger members received. Children and families can be engaged each day of Lent with this unique, interactive calendar. Each side of this triangular tabletop window calendar shows faithful and colorful scenes of our Savior's journey to the cross. The 41 windows on this calendar open to reveal Lenten symbols and Bible verses leading children and families to Easter. Fill-in-the-blank rhymes on the back of the calendar provide an additional guide for each of the 40 days of Lent.

Midweek Lenten Worship Series

We will gather at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent for the Midweek Lenten Worship Series, "Dying His Death; Living His Life." We are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection.

The old is gone. The new is come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for him. In word and song, we contemplate those things that we put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

February 25 Week 1

"Dying in Pride, Living for Others"

March 4 Week 2

"Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven"

March 11 Week 3

"Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith"

March 18 Week 4

"Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace"

March 25 Week 5

"Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace"

April 2 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday

April 3 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

Our Christian Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt at the death of her mother, Carol Darcy. Mrs. Darcy had cancer and had been in Hospice care for several months.

Christmas Caroling

On December 21, the LYO and friends visited members of our Peace family to spread Christmas cheer. Following lunch in Frey Hall, everyone boarded the bus and hit the road.

There were 15 people who participated and there were at least 10 more who weren't able to participate due to illnesses, etc. It was a great turnout... we filled the bus! Thanks to Melissa Taylor and Crosswell for the bus and driver!

Stops were made to visit Roger & Doris Vogel, Mary Alice Hertlein, Marlene Kress, Esther Miller, Linda Sue Stephan, James & Miriam Wagel, and Betty Gelter. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon together filled with Christmas music, friends, and even some sweet treats from a few of our hosts! We also sang happy birthday to Esther and Linda Sue.

Thank you to all who provided cards. It was a great turnout!



LYO and Friends Christmas Caroling



LYO Flower Sale

The annual LYO Flower Sale will soon be here! Order forms will be available beginning Sunday, March 1!

Phone Information

The church recently switched to Spectrum cable our internet provider. The church landline number was also ported to a Spectrum cell line. The number for the church stays the same (937-446-2747), but Pastor Laura answers calls using a cell phone she can keep with her most of the time.

These changes have corrected the poor voice and DSL connection we had with the landline and significantly reduced our phone and internet costs.

You can also contact Pastor Laura and leave voice mail messages on her cell phone at 937-564-0082.

LYO Valentine Dinner

The LYO will hold its annual Valentine Dinner at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, in Frey Hall. This is a very popular and elegant event, so sign up as soon as you get a chance. You will even have the opportunity to get your picture taken with your Valentine.

Signup sheets are available on the Access Hall table and the deadline to register is Sunday, Feb. 1. To help us with planning, please include your preference for pasta with white sauce (chicken spaghetti) or red sauce when you register for the dinner. Salad, garlic bread and a variety of desserts also will be provided. There is no cost, but the LYO will have a basket for donations.

For a small cost, you also can have a Valentine card and a carnation delivered to your special person during dinner. A box for pre-ordering the card and flower will be available. For more information, see Natalie Vogel.

QUAKE

Another year of Quake has come and gone! And this year did not disappoint! We had eight youth - Addy Bundy, Kylie Boyer, Isabelle Phillips, Zane Taylor, Hunter and Harper Bradford, and Lydia and Cullen Percy - and four chaperones from Peace attend. Our three first-timers this year have officially given Quake their seal of approval!

200+ youth were present from OH, IN, KY, WV, and IL. There was a lot of music, dancing, speakers, workshops, a service project, new friends, memories, very very little sleep, a whole lot of WORSHIP and PRAISE, and what youth trip would be complete without a bunch of junk food! We hope they all went home fulfilled and finally got some sleep!

The verse for the weekend was Hebrews 6:19. We studied how just as an anchor holds a ship steady in a storm, our strong and confident hope in Jesus is our own anchor in life's storms. As everyone exited QUAKE at the end of the weekend, they were given two bracelets - one to keep as a reminder of their own 'anchor' and one to share with someone else who needs that reminder in their life.

The older group invited the event speaker to have lunch with us on Saturday and the boys invited the drummer in the band to have dinner with us on Saturday evening. They are not a shy group! The speaker was Pastor Travis Hartjen and he works as a church planter in Texas. The band was '100 White Flags' from Minnesota.

The service project they worked on was meal packing. 8,214 meals were packed that will feed 23 kids for one year.

One of our teens asked the Quake staff why the event wasn't longer than a weekend. Our group truly loves these opportunities and they want more!

We also spent time as a group talking about what else we want out of this year. Some plans were made and others are in the works. It's amazing what a leader will agree to on very little sleep! Thank you all for your support! These opportunities would not be possible without it! Teenagers are hungry for experiences like this and we are always on the hunt for more! We've already marked the dates for Quake 2027 on our calendar!





The LYO at QUAKE



Thank You

- ✦ Our friend, Miranda and twin baby girls are doing well. We thank you for your prayers. God's blessings to all. *Chuck and Willa*
- ✦ We both wanted to let the congregation know how much we appreciated the cards and especially Dorcas Circle for the lovely poinsettia. Thanks goes to Nikki and Ron Tracy for delivering everything to us on a blustery day. This wonderful group of people is the absolute best. Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to each of you. *George and Dixie Beltz*
- ✦ Pastor Ron and Pastor Laura would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, and gift cards, but especially for their support and love shown throughout the past year. May you be blessed in 2026 as you have blessed us this year!
- ✦ Richard and I want thank everyone for their prayers, cards and visits to see me while I was in OVM. It's good be home! *Linda Sue Stephan*
- ✦ I appreciate all the prayers, caring thoughts and support shown for my granddaughter Taylor when she had her foot surgery and recovery. She is progressing well. We all are thankful to God and to this church for your kindness. *Cathy Latham*

Warmth Tree with Stars!

Thanks to the congregation for generously supporting the Warmth Tree and the young people at Wilson Children's Home in Adams County. Thanks to everyone who took a star so we were able to deliver 15 personal presents. Thanks to everyone who contributed a Warmth item. We delivered 91 Warmth items. Thanks to those who contributed \$215 in funds to be used for the young people. Thanks to everyone who filled out an encouraging message and placed it in the Blessings Jar.



Thanks to Debi Shultz for coming up with the Blessings Jar. Thanks to Nikki Tracy and the Sunday School Board for creating the Stars (and Tara Woods for actually making the stars) for personal presents for the young people at Wilson Children's Home.

Advent Thank You

Thanks to everyone who made this Advent and Christmas season special. Thanks to Dorcas Circle and friends, Joy Creighton, Tara Woods, Terry Holland, and Barb Montgomery for putting up the tree and the beautiful decorations. Thank you to Joy, Tara, Zane and Maya Taylor, Lydia and Larissa Percy, and Ava and Angel Stephan for sharing their musical talents on Christmas Eve, and to Ron Tracy for playing during the Advent season and today. Thanks to the Praise Band for their worship leadership as well. Thanks to everyone who faithfully attended Bible study. Special thanks to Susan Taylor for typing up the bulletin for December 21, the Fourth Sunday in Advent. And thanks to all of our Advent/Christmas readers and lighters of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle.

Chair Pilates

Cat Bundy will lead us in Chair Pilates at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. We had a good showing in January, and it would be good to keep that up! Chair Pilates are gentle exercises used to build up the core and to help with balance. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a light weight. This is open to men and women, girls and boys of all ages.

Living Lutheran

Living Lutheran tells the stories of the ELCA, bonding us as a church across congregations, synods, states, regions and countries. Subscribe to get informed, inspired and equipped with the perspectives they need to deepen their faith and connect with the broader Lutheran community.

Free digital memberships provide:

- A welcoming, easy-to-access format
- A personalized dashboard prioritizing the stories that interest them.
- Access to members-only content, and the ability to save and "like" articles.
- E-news delivery options to get the stories they want, both online and in their email inboxes.

Visit livinglutheran.org/create-account/ and sign up for your free digital membership today to stay connected with unforgettable stories of God's people living their faith.

Council Minutes — November 9, 2025

Present: Cheryl Phillips, George Fowler, Connie Perry, Linda Sue Stephan, Marion Ralston, Natalie Vogel, Joan Yockey, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Elizabeth Waits, Zac Taylor, Dan Wagel, Dorothy Carrington, Sue Bohrer

President Zac Taylor called the meeting to order and read the mission statement.

Zac Taylor led devotions.

The Secretary's report was reviewed. Linda Sue Stephan made a motion to accept the report, and Marion Ralston seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Joan Yockey made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Cheryl Phillips seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Pastor Laura Shreffler read the pastor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—Colliver to begin work on the gutter/soffit fix soon. Front gutters have been cleaned. Light bulbs in the basement need replaced. Flagpole light is out.

Church road sign replacement – in progress, more to come.

Red tag has been taken off the furnace for the season. Suburban has delivered a new batch of propane.

Cemetery—Chuck has been in contact with the company supposed to take the trees down, asked them to get started soon.

Evangelism—Trunk-or-Treat went well, passed out candy, bracelets, and baggies with a church card and a cross necklace.

Bingo at the VA Home on 11/8 went well.

Directory – met on 11/5, moving along.

Christian Education—Next meeting is 11/18

Worship & Music—These updates were given during Pastor's update. Next meeting is 11/17.

Youth & Family—Lake Waynoka craft fair – made \$1,210

November game night scheduled for 11/14

December game night scheduled for 12/12

Christmas caroling – 12/14

Quake – 8 youth are registered to attend.

Cheryl Phillips made a motion to accept the Committee Reports and Elizabeth Waits seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

We received a letter from the SOS thanking us for our increased donation estimate for the coming year.

Spectrum is being installed Thursday AM

Bar curtains – Dorcas Circle gave the ok to remove them, George will take them down.

Spectrum – fiber optics has arrived in the area. More to come.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – received two 'yes', lots of 'no'

It has been requested to explore the idea of reducing the required number of Council members, this will be brought up at the November 23 Congregation Meeting as a heads up for the February 2026 Congregational Meeting.

Reviewed the 2026 expense budget that will be presented at the November 23 Congregational meeting. George Fowler made a motion to approve the 2026 expense budget, and Linda Sue Stephan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Marion Ralston requested use of Frey Hall for Thanksgiving.

Elizabeth Waits made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and George Fowler seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

The next council meeting will take place on December 14.

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Vogel.

Council Minutes — December 17, 2025

Steve Bundy, George Fowler, Connie Perry, Marion Ralston, Natalie Vogel, Joan Yockey, Pastor Laura Shreffler, Elizabeth Waits, Zac Taylor, Dorothy Carrington, Sue Bohrer

President Zac Taylor called the meeting to order and read the mission statement.

Natalie Vogel led devotions.

The Secretary's report was reviewed. Elizabeth Waits made a motion to accept the report, and Dorothy Carrington seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

There was no Treasurer's report for today's meeting.

Pastor Laura Shreffler read the pastor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Church Property—Colliver to begin soffit work on the 19th

The bar curtains have been removed.

Flagpole light – still needs to be done.

4 Kings Landscaping handled the recent snow removal

The mailbox needs to be replaced.

Church signs – in progress, currently discussing with two different companies.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Shafer H&C – doing the seasonal tune-up on Jan 5 between 12p and 4p

Basement window – more to come

Cemetery—Tree work has been completed.

Evangelism—Directory work is still in progress. An update will be put in the bulletin.

Christian Education—We have all the jugs needed for the Christmas Eve luminaria.

Discussed warmth tree/star tags at recent meeting.

Worship & Music—Working on plans for the Christmas services.

Planning for Pastor's absence on Jan 4

Youth & Family—Helped to deliver meal boxes on November 16, all but one LYO member present.

Caroling has been rescheduled for December 21.

Quake is in 3 weeks. Will be working on 'swaps' on Sunday during 2nd service, before lunch/caroling.

Susan and Natalie will work on plans for 2026 during Quake.

Elizabeth Waits made a motion to accept the Committee Reports and Marion Ralston seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Following the November 23 meeting, a church member inquired about a past effort to redo the roads in the cemetery that was approved. This will be revisited in 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a water spot by the steps near the courtyard. Will keep an eye on it.

Installation of new council members/returning council members will be on January 11 at both services.

There is a bootcamp for Council President and Vice President on January 26 from 6:30p-8:30p. This will be done via Zoom.

Pastor Laura thanked the outgoing council members – Steve Bundy, Connie Perry, Natalie Vogel, and Elizabeth Waits.

A request was made to gift Dorothy, Zac, Melissa, and Dan with an end of year recognition. Steve Bundy made a motion to purchase \$100 gift cards for each of them (same as last year), and Joan Yockey seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed. It was also suggested to include a gift for Natalie W for the help she provides with the trash on Sundays.

George Fowler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Elizabeth Waits seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

The next council meeting will take place on January 11.

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Vogel.

'Souper' Bowl Sunday

At this point, only a few of us have any skin in the game, but you are invited to wear the colors or jerseys of your favorite team in (or out) of the Super Bowl. Yes, this was way more fun in 2022, but let's just keep looking forward.

On Super Bowl Sunday, we will definitely celebrate the Souper Bowl, where we collect on behalf of the hungry. We will have a Noisy Offering at each service, so bring your excess change! You can also bring pennies as the banks will take them in rolls, but it still might be best to stick to the half-dollars, quarters, dimes, and nickels. You can also contribute a "quiet offering" of paper money if you prefer. The whole offering will be given to the Agape Interfaith Food Pantry.

You can also bring in non-perishable food items. The food will be divided between our Little Cross-Lit Pantry and the Interfaith Food Pantry. To check on what the Interfaith Food Pantry can use, there's a list on the Interfaith Food Pantry drawer in the big cupboard at the Access Hall entrance.



Sunday School Board

Sunday School Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, in Frey Hall. We will discuss Easter plans, and Debbie has information about what is going on in Tanzania and how it has affected Flora, one of the students we sponsored. Please come for this important meeting.

Opportunities to Share

- ⇒ Agape Emergency Fund – donations for emergencies in our community
- ⇒ Agape Food Pantry – non-perishable food items
- ⇒ Adams/Brown County Homeless Shelter – common household paper products and sanitary items for adults and children
- ⇒ Cross-Lit Pantry – non-perishable food items for our outdoor pantry near the access entrance
- ⇒ Home of Peace Orphanage in Bariadi Tanzania – donations for the orphanage and children - aluminum cans for recycling

Peace Lutheran Communications	
Peace Lutheran Church 10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd Georgetown, OH 45121	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 937-446-2747 (with answering machine) • website: peacelutherantown.com • email: peacelutheran@ymail.com • www.facebook.com/peacelutheran.churcharnheim • <i>One Call Now</i> notifications available • <i>Peace Lutheran FYI</i> weekly emails available • <i>Beacon</i> newsletter mailed to members and friends
Pastor Laura Shreffler	937-564-0082 (cell), 937-446-9308 (home) trinitytwo13@gmail.com
Zach Taylor, President	937-515-7468

Council Officers Elected

The Church Council elected officers for 2026 at their meeting on Jan. 11. Zach Taylor and Marion Ralston were re-elected as president and vice president of council. Tricia McClain will be the secretary, and Dan Wagel will continue as treasurer. Terry Holland will continue as financial secretary.

Serving as liaisons to the church committees or as helpers on those committees are:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| George Fowler | Property |
| Jerry Jewell | Cemetery |
| Dan Wagel | Finance/Investment |
| Joan Yockey | Evangelism |
| Sue Bohrer | Scholarship |
| Dorothy Carrington | Christian Education |
| Cheryl Phillips | Worship & Music |
| Tricia McClain | Youth & Family Ministry |
| Dan Wagel | Mission Fund |

The Stewardship Committee will meet whenever there's a need.

We can use volunteers on all our committees, especially Property, Evangelism, Worship & Music, and Youth & Family Ministry. Talk to the council liaisons to see how you can be of help.

Church Council Installation

Both the new and current members of the 2026 Church Council were installed at the worship services on Jan. 11. Our new Church Council members this year are Jerry Jewell, Tricia McClain, Terry Holland, and Dan Wagel. Please be in prayer for all our Church Council members.



Congregational Meeting

We will hold our annual Congregational Business Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 22. We will have one worship service, at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum will meet at 9:00 a.m. The congregational meeting will begin following the worship service. At this meeting, we will review the 2025 reports from the treasurers, committees, and pastor.


Treasurer's reports should be turned in to the church office for the Audit Committee on Friday, Feb. 6, or earlier. The Audit Committee will review the reports and copies will be available to the congregation for review on Sunday, Feb. 15, the week before the meeting.

Please send news items, corrections and address changes to the church office or peacelutheran@ymail.com



The Beacon is the official publication of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio. It is sponsored by the Church and the LYO to furnish information and inspiration to our congregation and friends.

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <u>FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>5 7:00 p.m. AGAPE Quarterly Meeting at Sardinia Hope Church</p>	<p>6 Treasurer's Reports Due for Audit</p>	<p>7 5:00 p.m. LYO Valentine Dinner</p> 
<p>8 <u>FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</u> 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion "Souper" Bowl Sunday Offering 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meets 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meets</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Board Meets</p>	<p>11 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 <u>TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY</u> 8:20 a.m. Healing Service 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 2025 Reports Distributed to Congregation</p>	<p>16 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Meets</p>	<p>17 6:00 p.m. AGAPE Shrove Tuesday Worship and Pancake Dinner at Sardinia Hope Church</p>	<p>18 ASH <u>WEDNESDAY</u> 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 1:00 p.m. Pastor at Ordination of Richard Ponton at Lord of Life Lutheran, West Chester 1:00 p.m. Chair Pilates</p>
<p>22 <u>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</u> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion Annual Congregational Business Meeting Following Worship</p>	<p>23 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meets</p>	<p>24 2:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study</p>	<p>25 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

February, 2026

We welcome you to join us for worship, fellowship and service!

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Praise Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Holy Communion is celebrated every week
At both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

Pastor Laura Shreffler

Church Phone: (937) 446-2747

Church Email: peacelutheran@ymail.com



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Georgetown, OH 45121
Permit #22

Peace Lutheran Church
10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Road
Georgetown, OH 45121