

The Beacon

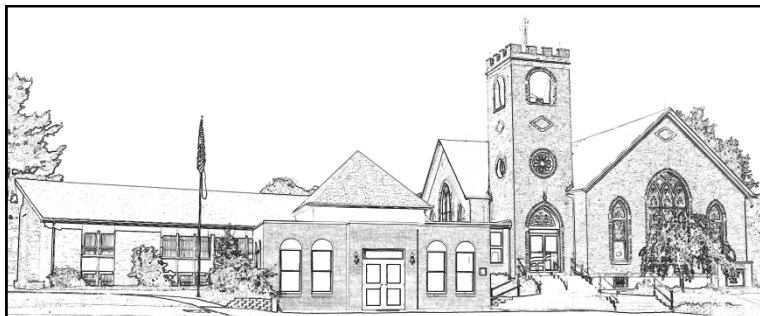
December 2023 and January 2024

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



Advent and Christmas Eve

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is the same day as Christmas Eve this year—Sunday, Dec. 24. We will hold one Advent worship service at 10:00 a.m. that day. Sunday School and Adult Forum will meet at 9:00 a.m. Come and observe the last of Advent as we tell the story of Gabriel's visit to Mary. This is a great prelude to what will happen Christmas Eve!

We will celebrate Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. with carols, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Joy and Tara are looking for volunteers to present music at 6:30 p.m., a half-hour before the service. Pastor Laura, as usual, will have a special children's sermon, and will once again tell the story from Luke of our Savior's birth.

We need a family to light the Advent wreath and Christmas candle and give our Christmas Eve readings. If your family would like to participate, see Tara. This is a service to savor, especially since we couldn't worship last Christmas. Bring your family and friends for this most beautiful night.

We hope to see you twice on Sunday, Dec. 24—at 10:00 a.m. for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and at 7:00 p.m. for the Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Eve.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

We will continue our celebration of Christmas with the Lessons and Carols for Christmas at both services on Sunday, Dec. 31. We will tell the history and the story of Christmas through Scripture and Christmas carols.

Pastor Laura will not have a sermon, but she will have a children's sermon. If we have not already sung your favorite Christmas carols, we will do so on this day, so come and rejoice!



The Cross-Lit Church - Faith, Hope and Love

Please Remember in Prayer

Prayer Requests Received Since the November Beacon

Dixie Beltz
Sue Bohrer
Jan Bickel
Gary and Sandy Brown
Claudia Fowler
Family of John Hertlein
Family of Dan Holland
Judy Huber
Norma Kelch
Wilfred Kelch
Dwight Leach
Esther Miller
Fae Miller
Debbie Mitchell
Family of Richard Mullins
Karla Ritchie
Robert Starett
Michelle Wallace
Tim Wilson



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.

Serving in the Armed Forces

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

Senior Member Birthdays

Esther Miller (16-Dec)
Monarch Meadows - Rm 401
299 Commerce Dr
Seaman, OH 45679

Ronald L. Yockey (5-Jan)
12971 Hamer Rd
Sardinia, OH 45171

Norma Kelch (18-Jan)
5753 Camp Run Rd
Georgetown, OH 45121

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement, cards and memorials given for Dan. Thank you to the Dorcas Circle, everyone who brought food, served, setup and cleaned up after the meal. For all of our amazing church family - your caring, kindness and fellowship helped us tremendously. God bless each of you.
Terry, Amanda and Adam

Thank You

We would like to thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, food, cards and visits during the loss of our husband, father, and grandfather. The church has been a blessing during this difficult time.

*Mary Alice Hertlein
Paul and Barbara Hertlein
Jean and Jeff Harvey
Marilee and John Carroll*

Thank You

I would like to thank all who wished me well thru my cancer and treatments. Prayers do work!
Cancer free! *Anna Lou Ralston*

Thank You

Pastor Laura would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her father, Dwight Leach. He is doing well and should return to his cottage soon.

Prayers for Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

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



Dear Friends,



My mom and I were always Team Real Christmas Tree. No matter how much I loved going to see my Grandma and Grandpa Leach at Christmas, the aluminum thing with the bright lights was **NOT** a Christmas tree. My dad, who was the one who had to struggle the trunk into the holder, was Team Artificial. He lost that battle every year.

And then came 1987, when my family found their children scattered. My youngest brother, Craig, worked for the government in Battle Creek, Michigan. My brother Dave and his wife Terese had a two-month-old baby boy, Joshua, and they lived in St. Louis where he was a cartographer for the government. I was on an internship in Staten Island, NY. Craig would be able to be there for Christmas, but not the rest of us. Dave and Terese didn't want to travel with their little one (thank goodness Rebecca and Christian had no such worries!), and I obviously had church duties (fun fact: our church secretary got mad at the pastor and quit on Christmas Eve with no bulletins done for Christmas Eve or Christmas morning). I would have vacation time for a week in January.

So Team Artificial won that year, but for a very sweet reason. My dad said, "We don't know from now on when our family will be with us to celebrate, but now we'll have a tree decorated whenever they come."

We try to celebrate with my dad on Christmas Day or as close as we can come. This year, my brother and hopefully the two oldest nephews who couldn't make it this week, will come the first week of January. We will celebrate Christmas and Rebecca's and Christian's January birthdays the second week of January. Christmas with family is not always celebrated on Dec. 25. I was used to this because growing up in Kettering, I had one set of grandparents in Athens and one set in Upper Sandusky, so we were often switching where we would be. Because of Christmas duties, we would go to my parents' house for an afternoon Christmas dinner, and we



From the Pastor



would leave to visit Ron's mom in Akron a couple days later.

As we enter Advent, waiting in hope for our Lord to come, and as we celebrate our Lord's coming, and in January, the coming of the Wise Men, the first Gentiles to know Christ, we prepare as well. We don't know when Jesus will come—even Jesus doesn't know—but our hearts will be ready and decorated with joy whenever Jesus comes. Get ready to prepare the way!

In Christ,
Pastor Laura

Thank You

Pastor Laura would like to thank the LYO for the Clergy Appreciation Month gift that included Scottish Breakfast Tea, biscotti, honey teaspoons and a mug! Those are among her favorite things, and are appreciated. Thanks also to those who sent cards both for Clergy Appreciation Month and congratulations on our new grandchild as well as some money for food on our trip.

Vacation

Pastor Laura and Pastor Ron will celebrate Christmas and January birthdays for Christian and Rebecca with a trip to Tennessee Jan. 10-Jan. 15. We will celebrate the gift of Seraphina as well. Pastor Larry Donner will be the supply pastor for Sunday, Jan. 14. Pastor Donner has been with us before and also led us in starting our THRIVE campaign. (Natalie, bring in that MEVO camera!). Please pray for good weather and good health for the Shrefflers.

Our Christian Sympathy



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of John Edward Hertlein, who died Sunday, Oct. 29. A Celebration of Life was held for John on Saturday, Nov. 4, with Pastor Laura Shreffler officiating. Burial will be at a later date at Peace Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, or any charity of the donor's choice. Please keep in prayer John's wife, Mary Alice; son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Barbara Hertlein; daughters and sons-in-law, Jean and Jeff Harvey and Marilee and John Carroll; and grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Rich Mullins III, who died Saturday, Nov. 18, after a recurrence of cancer. Funeral services for Rich were held on Friday, Nov. 24, at Cahall Funeral Home in Georgetown. The Rev. Dan Pelzel officiated. Burial was in Peace Lutheran Cemetery. Please keep in prayer Rich's mother, Ruth Litzinger, and his sister, April Mullins, as well as other family members. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105.

Advent Wreath Lighting and Readings

Sunday, Dec. 3, begins the Advent season. As usual, we are looking for families to do a reading and light candles. The readings are available on the table in the Access hall, along with a sign-up sheet. This includes readings for the Sundays in Advent, Dec. 3, 10, 17, and 24, and also a longer reading for the Christmas Eve service.

Families can be nuclear families, extended families, or friends who are a part of our church family, like our After-Church Lunch Bunch!. Thanks to Kay Bundy for making our Advent Wreath again this year!

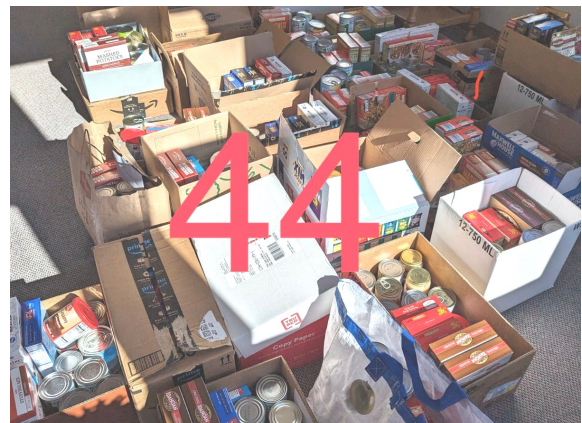
Dorcas Circle Christmas Dinner

Dorcas Circle members -- don't forget our annual Christmas dinner at 6:00 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11! Bring a Christmas reading to share. Country Inn will cater our meal again. Elf Nikki also will make an appearance, so you know this event will include a lot of laughter! Come for good food and fellowship. Dorcas Circle will not meet again until March.

Agape Holiday Food Boxes

Thank you, Peace Lutheran Church, for your giving hearts! We contributed 44 holiday food boxes to Agape for distribution at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The LYO delivered the boxes to the pantry on Nov. 12. The Christmas distribution will be from about 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at the Interfaith Agape Pantry at Sardinia Hope Church. They could always use help, even if it's for an hour or so!



Advent Bible Study

Pastor Laura will lead an Advent Bible study, "The Light of Grace," on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., beginning Tuesday, Nov. 28, and continuing Dec. 5, 12, and 19.

This Bible study enlightens the heart, mind, and soul with the Good News that the Light of the World graces us with his presence every day of our lives. We receive by grace the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love as did Zechariah, Isaiah, Elizabeth, and Mary.

Please sign up and let Pastor Laura know what time you will be coming. The sign-up sheet is on the Access hall table.

Christmas Caroling

The LYO and friends will go caroling to those who are homebound or in nursing homes on Sunday, Dec. 17. We will be delivering Christmas cards to each person as well.

We will have lunch in Frey Hall after the second worship service and leave the church at 1:00 p.m. We have a bus rented again so there will be easy transportation. Look for a sign-up sheet soon. Everyone is invited.

Advent Devotionals

Our Advent devotionals have arrived, and you will find them on the Access hall table. "The Light of Grace" is the name of the adult devotional. The Light of Grace comes to greet us in this Advent season as we ponder the free gift of God's Son. These devotions are the end of a year-long tribute to the 250th anniversary of the hymn, "Amazing Grace."

THE LIGHT OF *grace*

"Advent Seasonings" is this year's devotional for teens, college students, and young adults. From the "all-you-can-eat" buffet in the Garden of Eden to the baby laid in a feedbox, these devotions follow a taste-tempting food narrative through the Bible, adding a "little spice" to the celebration of Advent.

Finally, "Open Before Christmas" helps our young ones and families discover ways in which we can open our eyes, ears, mouths, and hearts to welcome the great gift of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus. An Advent chain activity will reinforce the message, as will our children's sermons throughout Advent.

Note to adults: The adult devotion and the Bible study have the same name. The adult devotional is purple and green, and the Bible study is mostly white. Make sure you have what you want, although we would love it if you picked up both!

From the Middle Pew

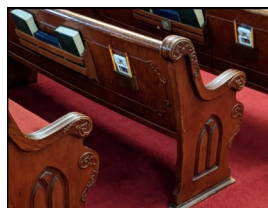
Gospel reading of Sunday
November 19, 2023

Matthew 25:14-30

We need not wonder why our many gifted world is ravaged by wars and shrouded in darkness.

We have squandered our freely given gifts, indulged ourselves in fruitless pleasures, and ignored our righteous Creator.

Only by confessing our sins, living in obedience to the teaching of Jesus, and rightly using our gifts will we joyfully hear, "Well done good and faithful servant."



JMW



Movie Night

The Youth & Family team will host a Movie Night Friday, Dec. 15 in Frey Hall. The movie has not yet been selected, so if you have any ideas for a family movie -- maybe even Christmas -- please see Natalie or Susan.

We'll begin with snacks at 6:30pm and the movie will begin at 7pm. Drinks will be provided, please bring a snack to share!

Game Night

Thank you to all who attended the Youth & Family-sponsored game night on November 10. We had approximately 20 people in attendance who enjoyed a few hours of board games, Wii games, and Euchre! We look forward to the next game night in 2024!

Women's Advent Brunch and Program

Christ the King Lutheran Church in West Chester will host the Cincinnati Conference's annual Women's Advent brunch and program, "Light Breaking Forth: Advent Music & Meditations" on Saturday, Dec. 2. The brunch is at 10:00 a.m., followed by the program at 11:00 a.m. The program will feature Lin Grieser on the harp and the Women's Vocal Ensemble.

They will collect children's hats and mittens for Crayons to Computers. Pastor Laura will go. If you want to go with her or drive separately, please let her know at the beginning of the week so she can call in reservations.

QUAKE

We have several young people attending the QUAKE event at Eastgate from Friday, Jan. 5, through Sunday, Jan. 7. We keep Isabelle, Addy, and Kylie in prayer along with our young adult chaperone Grace Humble and our LYO leaders, Susan Taylor and Natalie Vogel.

The group will worship, have Bible study, engage in games, meet new people and take part in a service project. Our young people have attended for many years and always have an uplifting experience.

Church Communications

Peace Lutheran Church 10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd Georgetown, OH 45121	937-446-2747 (with answering machine) peacelutheran@ymail.com www.facebook.com/peacelutheran.churcharnheim <i>One Call Now</i> notifications available Peace Lutheran FYI 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
Travis Phillips, Council President	513-739-0672



Facebook
QR Link

Warmth Tree

The Sunday School “Warmth Tree” will be in the access entryway during Advent and Christmas. A different twist will be added this year. All the gifts and donations will benefit our local community because we will be working with Brown County Children's Services.



We will still have our \$5.00 Wish Angels for those that may not want to shop. We will also collect gifts for children of all ages - items such as socks, gloves, hats, undergarments, baby items, etc. Sometimes Children Services must remove children from homes with only the clothes they are wearing. They also work in conjunction with Brown County Schools and help when needs arise.

The tree will be in place on Dec. 3, the First Sunday of Advent, and continue through Christmas. You may place items either on or under the tree. Any monetary gifts can be placed in the gift box under the tree which will be collected every Sunday after the second service.

Thanks for your generosity during this season of giving and sharing.

Luminaria

Because we didn't have Christmas Eve services last year, we still have all the milk jugs we need for the luminaria this year. We do, however, need people to help us light and distribute the 200 luminaria. If you can help, please come about 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The more people who come, the more quickly we get it done!

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
- Troop Box Ministries – copies of the needs list are available on the access hallway table

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.

Council Minutes — October 8, 2023

Present: Tricia McClain, Ken Wagel, Travis Phillips, Connie Perry, Marion Ralston, Steve Weddle, Dan Wagel, Natalie Vogel, Shauna Weis, Sue Bohrer, Steven Bundy, and Pastor Shreffler

Absent: Elizabeth Waits

President, Travis Phillips called the meeting to order and read the mission statement.

Steve Weddle led our devotion.

The Secretary's report was reviewed, Connie Perry making a motion to accept the report and Shauna Weis seconding the motion. Vote taken and motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed, Tricia McClain making a motion to accept the report and Shauna Weis seconding the motion. Vote taken and motion passed.

Pastor Shreffler's report was reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Church Property - heat is now turned on. Fixed light in hallway. The bridge was stained outside. Door for storage building needs replaced.

Cemetery - They will start the pavement for the road through the grave.

Finance/Investment - zoom meeting Tuesday at 6 p.m. for the Thrivent funds. Next council meeting will have budget printed to discuss.

Evangelism - Had parade at Brown County Fair that was successful. Next meeting is October 23, 2023.

Stewardship - next meeting November 12, 2023.

Scholarship - nothing to report.

Christian Education - next meeting October 17, 2023.

Worship/Music - Reformation Sunday is October 29, 2023, and All Saints Day is November 5, 2023.

Youth Ministry - nothing to report.

Mission Funds- nothing to report.

Paul Hertlein made a motion to accept the reports, Ken Wagel seconded the motion. Vote taken and passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natilie Vogel reported that website will be up and running soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Paul Hertlein made a motion to approve the Pastor's current health insurance and Shauna Weis seconding the motion. Vote taken and motion passed.

Looking for volunteer for someone to take out the trash on Tuesday evening.

Need a volunteer for Cemetery trustee.

November 19th will be the next congregational meeting at 9:30 a.m. and will be voting on budget and council members.

Next meeting is November 12, 2023.

Ken Wagel made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Shauna Weis seconding the motion.

The meeting closed with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia McClain, Council Secretary

Congregational Meeting

The congregation unanimously passed the 2024 Annual Budget at our congregational meeting on Nov. 19. The congregation also unanimously voted for the following new Church Council members: Dorothy Carrington, Cheryl Phillips, Linda Sue Stephan, and Joan Yockey.

The 2024 Nominating Committee will include Travis Phillips and Shauna Weis from Church Council, and Barbara Fowler, Nikki Tracy, and Zach Taylor from the congregation.

Barbara Fowler will also join chair Nikki Tracy and Donna Mahanes on the 2024 Audit Committee.

Installation of Council Members

Council members for 2024 will be installed at each worship on Sunday, Jan. 7. We welcome Dorothy Carrington, Cheryl Phillips, Linda Sue Stephan, and Joan Yockey to council.

Thanks to our outgoing members, Marion Ralston, Sue Bohrer, Tricia McClain, and Ken Wagel for your service the past three years.

Church Council will meet at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7.

Sardinia Hope and Promise Christmas Event

Sardinia Hope and Promise Community Development Foundation will hold a Christmas Event from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. Join other area residents in the center of the village for carols, decorating the tree, free crafts and gifts for the kids, hot dogs, coffee, and hot chocolate. This will end with the tree lighting. The annual Christmas parade will be on Saturday, Dec. 9.

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<i>Nov 30</i> 6:00 p.m. Decorate Christmas Tree in Sanctuary	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 10:00 a.m. Women's Advent Brunch and Music
3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	4	5 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study	6 Noon, Record Worship Video 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	7	8	9
10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 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 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meets 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meets	11 Shrefflers at Synod Retired Pastors Luncheon 6:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle Christmas Dinner	12 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study	13 Noon, Record Worship Video 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	14	15 6:30 p.m. Youth and Family Movie Night	16
17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 1:00 p.m. LYO Christmas Caroling Beacon Information Due	18 10:00 a.m. Distribute Agape Christmas Food Boxes	19 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study	20 Noon, Record Worship Video 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	21	22	23
24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service and Holy Communion	25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed	26	27 Noon, Record Worship Video 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	28	29	30
31 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 8:20 a.m. Healing Service 8:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols						

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed	2	3 Noon, Record Worship Video 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	4 Take down Christmas Tree	5 QUAKE Begins	6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
7 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD Installation of 2024 Council Members 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 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meets 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meets	8 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Meets	9 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Candidacy Committee Meeting	10 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	11	12	13
			Pastor on Vacation			
14 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY Pastor Larry Donner leads worship services 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	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	16 Pastor back in office	17 Noon, Record Worship Video 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	18	19	20
			Pastor on Vacation			
21 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 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 Beacon Information Due	22 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meets	23	24 Noon, Record Worship Video 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice	25	26	27
28 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 8:20 a.m. Healing Service 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. Catechism 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion	29	30	31 Noon, Record Worship Video 7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice			

The Beacon

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim, Ohio

December 2023 and January 2024

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



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