



Peace Presbyterian Church - Elkhorn, Nebraska

December 2019



An Announcement: "...they shall name him, Emmanuel, which means, 'God Is With Us.'"

The Annunciation, recorded in Luke 1:26-38, is a key event in the story of Jesus' birth. The word "Annunciation" is a special form of the word "announcement." It refers to that holy moment when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive in her womb and bear a son, the Christ child. Joseph was part of the holy announcement too. The announcement to Joseph is recorded in Matthew 1:18-25. He had found that Mary was already with child and he planned to quietly break-off their engagement. As he slept, his holy moment came as an angel spoke to him while he dreamed.

Just imagine what Mary and Joseph experienced in being called by God to be faithful to God and to one another in this unplanned and unexpected reality of their lives. It must have been a mixture of emotions and experiences for them: the wonder of the unknown: "The power of the Most High will overshadow you," the angel said to Mary; the experience of peace: "Let it be with me according to your word," Mary answered; the acknowledgement of human feelings: "...do not be afraid", the angel said to Joseph.

These are gifts of presence and knowing God shares with us when we are called to follow and serve: a life of wonder in which God's power overshadows us; a life of peace and rest knowing God is in charge and God's will is done as we safely submit to it; a life of being understood for our human condition and loved for who we are, not alone, but with Christ and in Christ, our Savior.

In these seasons of Advent and Christmas, holy moments that announce Christ Jesus is born among us can be found wherever life is lived, fears are set aside, hope is shared and love is given and received where we are. These are God's gifts of wonder and promise to a world so much in need of both. Let us each become announcers of "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Christ Jesus is born! "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

In Christ's love,
Pastor Bonnie



*Rev. Bonnie Wilkins
Mr. Thaddeus Wilkins,
the Elders, Deacons & Staff
of Peace Church
wish you a Merry Christmas
and Blessed New Year.*



The 2020 Confirmation Class Students & Parents will meet in the Library on Sunday, December 1, at 11:30am. All those planning to be confirmed this year and their parents, please plan to attend. See Pastor Bonnie with questions and for more details.

Sign up to help with the **COPE Christmas Party!**

There are opportunities to help on Thursday (Dec 5), Friday (Dec 6), and/or Saturday (Dec 7).

Or sign up to bring cookies for the party on Saturday, December 7th.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a48aea723a46-cope>



On Friday, **December 13, 6:00-7:30pm**, our church will host dinner with Mary and Joseph "On The Way to Bethlehem". The whole church is invited for supper, story, a craft and pictures. All ages will enjoy sharing in this very special event to celebrate Advent and the Christmas season. RSVP to the church office or sign-up in the foyer. Contact Matt Marshall or Pastor Bonnie with questions or to help out that night.



The Presbyterian Women are sponsoring a **Christmas Mitten Tree** again this year!

It will be in the foyer after Thanksgiving, ready to collect all sizes of new mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks. Please leave your donations on or under it by Dec. 29. Items collected will go to those in need in the Omaha/Elkhorn area.

Thank you for helping to make this a blessed and warm holiday for our community!

Nancy Haack, Project Chair



YOUTH RETREAT



**2020 Peace Presbyterian Church Pledge
Drive**

"Faithful Stewards"



Thanks to all who have made a pledge for



SESSION APPROVED FUNDARISER!

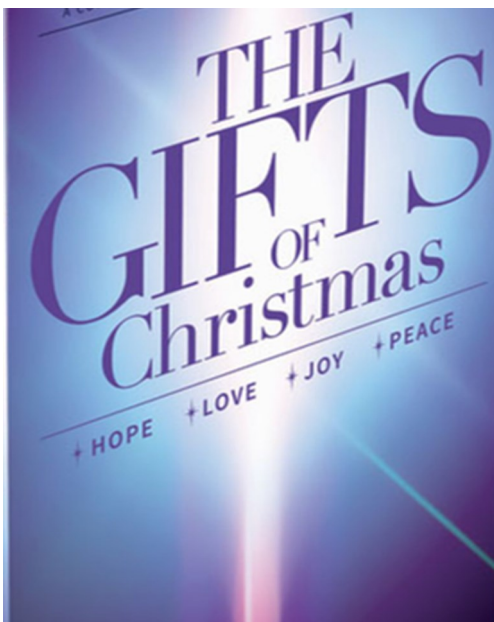
Owen's Mowing will be renting the turnaround on the north side of the church to sell Christmas trees from Thanksgiving to December 24. Currently they will sell from noon to 8:00pm daily, If you plan to buy a live tree this year, please consider using Owen's as your provider!

Church Security and Safety

As communicated earlier, a Safety Committee has been formed for Peace Church to focus on multiple security and safety issues. These include emergency weather and fire procedures, staff and volunteer safety, an overall security assessment of the church's facilities, formation of a security team, and the role of firearms (if approved) in protecting the congregation. While a number of these initiatives continue to be worked on, the Safety Committee has recommended, and the session approved, the following firearms policy, which goes into effect immediately.

Peace Church Firearms Policy: Nebraska law prohibits carrying a concealed handgun in a place of worship unless approved by church leadership along with written notice to the congregation. The session of Peace Church has determined NOT to allow concealed handguns on church property. Furthermore, the session has also determined that openly carrying firearms or weapons is prohibited. (These rules do not apply to active-duty law-enforcement officers or off-duty officers being paid by Peace Church for security purposes.) Violations of this policy may result in the offending individual(s) being asked to leave the property and/or placing a call to local law enforcement for further assistance.

Thank You,
Bernie Baker & Michael Young
Building & Grounds Co-Chairs



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH

10:15AM

**BE HERE TO WORSHIP AS THE
MUSIC AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

DEPARTMENTS

SHARE THE CANTATA

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS.

YOU WILL BE BLESSED!

DECEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION	CONTACT
Dec 1	8:40am	Youth Praise Team & Cantata Rehearsal; Sanctuary	Scot Thompson
	9:00am	Sunday School, Everyone	Matt Marshall
	9:30am	1st Sunday Choir Practice, Sanctuary; Everyone	Scot Thompson
	10:15am	Worship, Communion. Lighting of Advent candles	Rev. Wilkins
	11:15am	Student/Parent Confirmation Meeting; Library	Rev. Wilkins
	4:00pm	Youth Music Night & Cantata Rehearsal; All Children/ Youth	Jane King
Dec 2	6:30pm	Cub Scouts	Bernie Baker
Dec 5	10:30am	PW Lunch & Blessing Bag Packing, All women; Fellowship Hall	M Schreiner, L Hurt
	7:00pm	Adult Choir & Youth Cantata Rehearsal; All Adults, Children, Youth; Sanctuary	Scot Thompson
Dec 7	1:00pm	COPE Christmas Party; Everyone welcome to help	Erica Wagner
Dec 8	8:40am	Youth Praise Team & Cantata Rehearsal; All Children, Youth; Sanctuary	Scot Thompson
	9:00am	Sunday School; Everyone	Matt Marshall
	10:15am	Worship, Sanctuary; Everyone	Rev. Wilkins
	6:00pm	Crossroads Connection; Everyone	Dave Fulton
Dec 9	6:30pm	Cub Scouts; Basement/Fellowship Hall	Bernie Baker
Dec 10	10:45am	Service at Grand Reserve; Everyone Invited	Rev. Wilkins
Dec 11	12:00pm	Retiree Potluck Lunch; All Retirees; Bossman Home	Office
	7:00pm	Adult Choir & Youth Cantata Rehearsal; All adults, Children & Youth; Sanctuary	Scot Thompson
Dec 14	8:30am	Youth Praise Team & Cantata Rehearsal; All Children, Youth & Adults; Sanctuary	Scot Thompson
	9:00am	Sunday School; Everyone	Matt Marshall
	10:15am	Worship, Cantata; Everyone; Sanctuary	Rev. Wilkins
	11:15am	Cookie Fellowship; Everyone; Fellowship Hall	Deacons
	TBD	Youth Caroling Party, All Youth	Jane King
Dec 16	6:30pm	Session Meeting; Library	Rev. Wilkins
	6:30pm	Cub Scouts; FH, Basement	Bernie Baker
Dec 18	7:00pm	Adult Choir Practice; Sanctuary; Everyone	Scot Thompson
Dec 19	6:30pm	Man Cave; FH; All Men of Peace	Dave Fulton
Dec 22	10:15am	Worship, Christmas Joy Offering; Sanctuary; Everyone	Rev. Wilkins
Dec 24	6:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; Sanctuary; Everyone	Rev. Wilkins
Dec 28	1:00pm	Peaceful Quilters; Quilters' Room; Everyone Welcome	Nancy Haack
Dec 29	10:15am	Worship; Sanctuary; Everyone	Rev. Wilkins



BEST WISHES ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

ANNIVERSARIES: Dec 7 Tom & Donna Nelson; Kurt & Brenda Ohlrich; Dec 28 Curt & Ale Oran; Dec 30 Roger & Judy Breed

BIRTHDAYS: Dec 2 Cheri Koel; Dec 8 Emma Iberg; 9 Teresa King, Chris Robertson; 10 Jasmine Moats; 12 Dennis Curtis; 13 Jonathan Moats; 14 Kim Rogers; 15 Jan Fuller, Ashley Hopkins, Cannon Kinchelow; 17 Robert Rolfs; 19 Shari Brosz, Mardell Johaneck; 20 Jeffrey Klug; 21 Jeanne Weaver; 23 Erica Anderson; 27 Linda Clark; 28 Sophia Hazzard, Chad Wheeler; 31 Matt Marshall