

Peace Lutheran Church
2355 Clark Rd., P.O. Box 655
Dresser, WI 54009

Church Office: 715-755-2515

Website: www.plcdresser.org

Find us on facebook!

Worship Services:

youtube.com/peacelutherandresser

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Dresser, WI 54009
Permit No. 3

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Krissy Gregory

Financial Secretaries

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News from Peace!



2020

Dear friends, Happy New Year!

It's a funny phrase to hear these days. I'm a month early on the calendar, and secondly, much of the time it can feel like we're running low on happiness and cheer to go around. All this talk of a "dark winter" from public health officials can sure put a damper on this month when we celebrate all things merry and bright.

In December, we actually do welcome in a new year! The cycle of our church year has begun again as we enter the season of Advent. While it's just a four Sunday pit stop on the expressway to Christmas, the celebration of the birth of our savior, I have a soft spot in my heart for the season. Advent is a time of preparation; of longing and waiting for the light of the world, our salvation, to come. In previous years—and especially when I was working in retail during the holiday season—the message to pause, slow down, and be still amidst the hustle and bustle was a welcomed change of pace. Those holiday deals waited for no one!

The last 9 months of our lives have had a very Adventy feel to me. We've grown accustomed to waiting and trying our best to be patient.

We're waiting for a vaccine for the coronavirus.
We're once again waiting to be able to worship and gather safely in our building.
We're waiting to be able to visit and embrace our loved ones without a care in the world.
We're waiting for the days to start getting longer again.
We're waiting for peace and joy to arrive.

Celebrating a season of waiting seems redundant and almost unnecessary this year!

But we are not the first people to be waiting and long for salvation, nor will we be the last. God's people have always cried out for the Messiah to deliver them. They were doing so for 400 years after the last prophet had spoken before John the Baptist began preaching in the wilderness that Emmanuel, God with us, was on his way. And with a humble birth in a manger in Bethlehem, salvation came down for them and for us. I'm hopeful and confident we won't be waiting *that* long.

In a winter that may be gloomier and darker than others in recent memory, let us not forget that Christ, the Light of the World, does some of his best work in the darkness. Throughout this fall I have seen members of our congregation find wonderful, creative ways to care for each other, stepping up and out into the world to serve our neighbors. The Light of Christ in this community of believers is shining bright, and the darkness of these days has not and will not overcome it. A child was born to us that Christmas Day so that faith might be born anew in our hearts each new day. Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to all people!

Glad tidings to you and yours this extra-adventy Advent, and have a blessed Christmas,

Intern Pastor Ben

A Holy (and different!) Night... Join us on Christmas Eve!!

Just as the eve of Jesus' birth was Holy and like no other, so will it be the way we celebrate in 2020. Join us in one of the following ways as we celebrate the birth of Jesus together on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. It may be different, but be assured it will be Holy!

Online - A full, joyous Christmas Eve Service will be on the Peace You Tube Channel (www.youtube.com/peacelutherandresser) beginning at 2pm. Gather your household together and watch Christmas Eve online sometime throughout the evening. Participate in Communion in your own home with your own elements OR use the prepackaged communion kit that was in your advent bag (or pick up an at-home communion kit at the church during any of our office hours).

Outdoors - A 15 minute outdoor devotional-type service will be held at Peace Lutheran at **5:00pm and 6:00pm** on Christmas Eve. We will sing Christmas hymns (masks & socially distancing required), read the story of Jesus' birth, have a time of prayer, and light luminary candles. Bring your luminaries with you to this worship (found in the Advent bags or can be picked up at the church-see pg. 9)!

If you would like to be a part of this outdoor service, but do not feel comfortable around people, we invite you to drive to the parking lot of Peace, stay in your car, and turn your radio to 99.3. You will be able to enjoy the service from your vehicle.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ!

CHILLI FF

BRING ON THE WINTER CHILL...CHILI FEED - TO GO!!

FREE TO-GO MEALS...OPEN TO ALL

Monday, December 7th (4:30-7:00 pm)

Peace Lutheran continues to be blessed by generous gifts, volunteers and staff and we want to give back to the community! We feel blessed so that we may be a blessing to others. Please mark Monday, December 7th on your calendars and plan to drive up to the church to grab a Chili Dinner to go/take-out style.

All meals will include a bowl of delicious Chili (non-spicy), Corn Bread, a Cookie and Crackers/ Chips. Homemade Mac-n-Cheese meals will also be available for children and will include Mac-n-Cheese, Applesauce, a Cookie, and Carrots. All meals will be prepared and cooked in our licensed kitchen using Covid-safe methods.

Help us spread the word! Tell your neighbors and friends and invite them to drive to the church on Monday, December 7th.

We are also seeking donations for this meal. If you would like to help make this meal possible, we are welcoming the following donations. Please contact the church office for an updated list, specific amounts needed, or to donate:

- Sharp Cheddar Cheese (several bags needed yet)
- Colby Cheese
- Half & Half
- Chili beans, Black beans, Kidney beans
- Tomato Sauce, Diced Tomatoes (several cans needed yet)
- Soup Containers (can be found on our Amazon Wish List)
- Plastic Spoons
- Cookie Dough or Bakery-Bought Cookies
- Baby Carrots
- Plastic Ziplock bags (sandwich size)
- Bulk Gift bags (can be found on our Amazon Wish List)
- Campbell's Cheddar Cheese condensed soup
- Individual bags of Frito corn chips



So please drive through our parking lot on December 7th, between 4:30 & 7:00 pm, and get a MEAL TO GO! Spread the word!

High School Youth Programming Updates

Youth continue to be involved and engaged even while we are “gathering” online and at-home!! We will continue to “gather” and experience God and faith in creative ways during the month of December.

9th Grade Confirmation

Continue working towards completing your credits for Peace University! We have had a great online turn out for our Zoom Youth Group Weeks! Remember the Sunday Morning options too and make sure to sign up on the Google Doc at least a week in advance.

Dec 2 - Zoom Youth Group 7-8pm

Zoom ID: 715-755-2515
Passcode: 54009
(9th - 12th Grade)

Dec 9 - Elective Course: Pray Outside the Box @ 7pm

Will be done via Zoom
Must pre-register by Dec. 2 on the Google Doc

Dec. 16 - Zoom Youth Group 7-8pm

Zoom ID: 715-755-2515
Passcode: 54009
(9th - 12th Grade)

Dec 23 - NO YOUTH GROUP Christmas Break

Dec 30 - NO YOUTH GROUP Christmas Break

10th - 12th Grade

Every other week we will continue to meet on Zoom for YOUTH GROUP and we have lots of fun and creative things planned for our “Off Site/Distanced” weeks (opposite of Youth Group Weeks).

Make sure you receive the REMIND texts to keep up with each week's plans (send a text to 81010 and text this message: @plcyou), and follow our plcdresseryouth instagram page as well!

Here's what we have planned for the Month of December:

Dec 2 - Zoom Youth Group 7-8pm

Zoom ID: 715-755-2515
Passcode: 54009
(9th - 12th Grade)

Dec 9 - Christmas Scavenger Hunt around Town

Watch for Details via REMIND
(10th - 12th Grade)

Dec. 16 - Zoom Youth Group 7-8pm

Zoom ID: 715-755-2515
Passcode: 54009
(9th - 12th Grade)

Dec 23 - NO YOUTH GROUP Christmas Break

Dec 30 - NO YOUTH GROUP Christmas Break

2021 Summer Mission Trip to Idaho (9th - 12th Grade)

Dates: June 18-27, 2020

All participants have been added to the Remind Text Group as well as an email group. Watch soon for upcoming fundraising opportunities and events.

Contact Pastor Melissa if you have questions or would like more information!

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 am Staff Mtg	2 3:00-7:00pm Pick up Advent Bags 7:30pm Education Ministry Mtg	3 7pm-AA	4	5
6 Online Worship	7 7:00 pm Internship Mtg	8 9:00 am Staff Mtg	9 7:30pm Youth Ministry Mtg	10 7pm-AA	11	12
13 Online Worship	14	15 9:00 am Staff Mtg	16	17 7:00 pm Council Mtg 7pm-AA	18	19
20 Online Worship Sunday School Christmas Prog. included in our Online Service!	21	22 9:00 am Staff Mtg		24 Christmas Eve 5 & 6 pm Outdoor Prayer Service	25 Christmas Day	26
27 Online Worship	28 Noon-6:30 pm Blood Drive at Peace	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Christmas Eve Outdoor Services at Peace, 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Join us for a brief service including the reading of the Christmas Gospel, prayers, and a Christmas hymn, surrounded by the light of luminaries and the joy of Jesus' birth.

PARISH NURSE NOTES

Well here we are entering the Season of Advent. A lot has happened in 4 weeks' time, notably the rise of coronavirus cases, *hospitalizations, and deaths* even here in NW Wisconsin. The timing of this surge is particularly bad (would it ever be a good time?) with this week's deer hunting season and Thanksgiving Holiday. I am pleading with you all to PLEASE LIMIT YOUR EXPOSURE to others at this time. As much as you want to be with extended family and friends just to share a meal or visit for the afternoon, **DON'T**. It's that simple. If there's something you need, call the church and we'd be willing to pick it up and drop it off at your front door. And when around others, wear a mask. Remember...I wear mine to protect YOU; you wear yours to protect ME. I know... we're all tired of COVID! But look at it as a patriotic duty... not unlike the rationing of many items for civilians during World War II. It's what folks needed to do to help the war effort and combat the enemy. Wearing masks and physically distancing is what we all need to do to protect ourselves and each other against the threat of COVID-19.

Usually at this time I am planning the annual Service of Remembrance & Hope leading up to the Christmas holiday. Certainly the virus has added an extra dimension to grieving this year. COVID-19 has taken so much, and we are exhausted and weary. These past 8 months, we've lost connections, employment, and loved ones. And we've had to manage new and multiple demands. Saying goodbye to our way of living and those we love begets a strange new landscape to maneuver. Not being able to gather to have a "regular" funeral service is something I can personally relate to and it feels so wrong. Most of us are not normally capable of handling grief as a solitary burden. Physical distancing dictates grief in isolation – with little to no closeness or hugs to console one another. And now the Christmas holiday is approaching and everyone is supposed to be festive and merry. However, it can be anything but that for those whose loss is weighing heavy on their soul, OR just due to the fact that most of us won't be able to gather to be with all the loved ones we typically see at Christmastime.

Here are a few suggestions you may want to try to heal yourself and remember those who you are missing this holiday due to death or CDC separation guidelines:

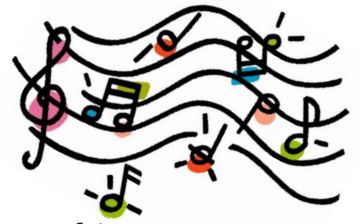
- ◆ Spend time with your favorite photos of the memories you've shared
- ◆ Talk on the phone or ZOOM with loved ones to share some special memories, e.g. "Remember the time Grandma forgot about the stuffing in the oven and it was practically petrified, but nobody wanted to hurt her feelings so we all chipped off a chunk?" Tell a favorite story about those you are missing this season or who have passed on.
- ◆ When you have your meal – even if you're alone this year – you may wish to set a place for those who aren't able to be with you. It can be something as simple as an empty glass or as elaborate as a full place setting.
- ◆ If the person or people you're missing are/were into nature, bundle up and go out for a walk around the block or on a wooded trail and take it all in.

As the holiday season approaches, find healthy ways to express the loneliness, stress, and grief you may be feeling. It's easy to self-medicate with social media, food, alcohol, online shopping and other behaviors that left unchecked can lead to a whole new set of problems. Letting go of how life used to be is hard. But we cannot move forward unless we are willing to leave something behind. Make this a season for introspection and reflection, identifying our grief and gratitude. Take inventory of the ways you have been blessed.

"I must be thankful for what is and stop thinking about what is not." ~ Nancy Wood

May you feel comfort in preparing for Jesus who promises that the darkness has not and will not ever overcome the light, *Karen*

THANK YOU, MUSICIANS & WORSHIP ASSISTANTS!



We had a great experience with our outdoor worship and the few weeks we had worshiping in-person in October. But as 2020 has shown us we need to continue to be creative while keeping everyone safe by continuing our online worship. Music is a big part of our worship services and many musicians stepped up to help us make these weekly services possible. We thank each of them for sharing their God-given gifts with all of us!

Singers: Mary Swenson, Pete Peterson, Kayla Stankowski, Linda Ferris, Gene Jaremczuk, Michelle Ward, Sharon Wampfler, John Lee, Karen and Jeff Elkin, Tara Adam

Praise Band: Jim Kirby, Craig Nelson, Mary Cotch, Diane Reeck, Ronda Haley

Special Music: Gene Jaremczuk and Mary Cotch, Jacob Hall, Becky Bystrom, Chris Olson, Dawn Western, Jackson Dvorak, Bode Gabriel, Mixed Group (Gene Jaremczuk, Pete Peterson, Mary Cotch, Diane Reeck), Jeff & Karen Elkin “4 in Accord” Quartet (Steve Swenson, Kent Muschinske, Jeff Elkin, Pete Peterson).

Accompanists: Dennis Alfveby, Jackson Dvorak, Ronda Haley

Lay Readers: Sara Haase, Karrie Melin Swenson, Kayla Stankowski, Gene Jaremczuk, Jeff Elkin, Mary Lee, Pat Kirby, Maria Gjovig, Claire Chinander, Pete Peterson, Jan Museus

A huge thank you to our newly hired Media Director, Tammy Brenizer, for the excellent recordings produced each week so we can all stay connected. Without everyone coming out of their comfort zones and allowing themselves to be recorded, these services would not have happened in the way they did. We look forward to continuing online worship during the Advent and Christmas season as we await our return to worshiping in person. We are a very blessed church family.

To God be the Glory!
The Worship Ministry

We, as a staff, have much to be grateful for. This month we would like to say a **BIG Thank You to:**

- ◆ Linda Moore, Cheryl Bjornstad, Lori Kromrey and Ronda Haley for putting lights in the outside trees
- ◆ Lori Kromrey & helpers (Lake Kountry, Inc.) for filling our outside planters with Christmas evergreens
- ◆ Pat Lones for all her help getting the Advent bags ready to go
- ◆ Sue DeMenge for making the Advent wreath to go on our new Advent Candle stand. (The new stand was purchased with Art Everson Memorial money)
- ◆ Lake Kountry, Inc., for fixing the potholes at the entrance of our driveways

OTHER NEWS

NOTE: If you are unable to view our worship services on Youtube, but have access to a dvd player please contact the office. We can put our service on a dvd for our you to watch.

PLC Virtual Sunday School Christmas Program:

This program will be part of the Online Service on Sunday, Dec. 20th. This brief program is sure to bring you smiles and joy as the children present the story of Jesus' birth!

There will be a **Blood Drive** at Peace Church on December 28th. No walk in appointments, please make an appointment by calling: 1-800-733-2767 or online: redcrossblood.org.

The Covid-19 antibody test is also available for those giving blood.

MAPLE SYRUP FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Holiday Syrup Bottles are here! Don't forget to stock up on these beautiful and fun holiday Maple Syrup bottles! These make great Christmas gifts, teacher gifts, or host/hostess gifts!

Purchase a set of 4 Christmas bottled syrup for \$40 (normally \$44).

Also for every \$50 of syrup you purchase, you will receive a **FREE BOTTLE** (8oz) of syrup! Syrup makes wonderful gifts!!

We also have some Maple Cream again at church. Call ahead to come in and get some.

Please Note:

Per PLC Council motion on Nov. 19th, we will not have-person worship (in the building) through January 10, 2021. This will be reevaluated at the end of December.



Christmas cd's for sale featuring Ronda Haley & Dennis Alfveby. These cd's are pre-order only and will be available on Dec. 15th. \$10 each. Please call the office to order yours, 715-755-2515!

All children who are not yet enrolled in our Sunday School Ministry are included in our Book Bunch! Because of restrictions with Covid we are delivering the book and an activity each month. We hope that you enjoy reading the book and doing the craft with your children).

Peace Lutheran's Little Bitty

Book Club

Advent Bags

We have been busy making Advent bags for youth and adults! These bags have activities for your family to do during the month of December. There are bags for kids & adults-the young and not so young!

Advent Bag pick up times at Peace:

Sunday, Nov. 29th, 9:30 am-11:00 am

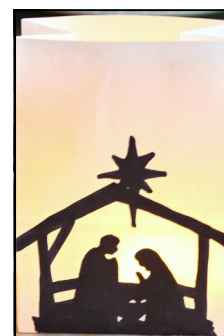
Weds., Dec. 2nd, 4:00-8:00 pm

Luminaries!

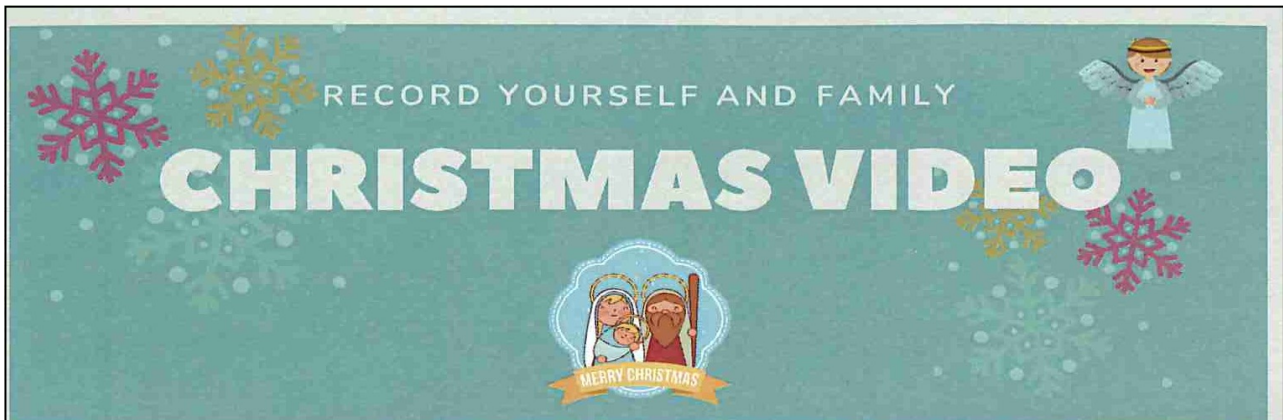
We have luminary bags (in the Advent Bags) and also available separately. We are asking our Peace family to decorate a bag and bring it to our Christmas Eve Prayer Service (see pg. 3).

Decorate them using markers, stencils, Christmas cut outs (use your Cricut!), paper punched holes, etc. Be creative! Examples pictured.

Instructions are included with each bag. Help us to light up our outdoor gathering space and celebrate the light of Christ!




Christmas Video



RECORD YOURSELF AND FAMILY

CHRISTMAS VIDEO



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Choose **one or two** of the items listed below to record.

A quick Christmas greeting to our Peace Lutheran family

In 5 words or less, what is your favorite Christmas tradition?

What is your favorite Christmas hymn or song?

Videos to be used December 24th & 27th



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!



Submit by December 6th

Please label the file with your name and which question you answered.



Attach to an email and send to plcdressermedia@gmail.com

If the file is too big to email, please send via www.wetransfer.com



If you have a problem emailing the file, please reach out to Tammy at plcdressermedia@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“The King will say to them, *“Whenever you failed to help any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do it for me.”* Matthew 25:45, CEV.

These words of warning from Jesus are part of a series of lessons He gave to His followers in the final days before his suffering and death. In this segment, Jesus paints a picture of His judgement of all humans, and the separation of the sheep, those who would join Him for eternity, from the goats, those who would suffer eternally for their lack of action during their lives. We Lutherans believe that the reward or punishment Jesus promises are not based on our actions, or works, but on either the faith that compels us to act, or the lack of faith that allows us to do less than our best to help those who are in need. We are called to be proactive in our response to others’ needs; for instance, John is instructed by Jesus in Revelation 3:16 to write to Christians in Laodicea, “But since you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth.” What action does our faith compel? Are we cold, hot, or just lukewarm? Will we be counted as sheep, or goats?

See you next month!

See you next month!

The Mission of the Stewardship Ministry of Peace Lutheran Church is to educate all Peace members about God’s Scriptural teachings regarding stewardship; namely, that our lives and our property belong to God, and that our grateful response should include generously, intentionally, proportionately,

PLC Financial Update (as of 10/31)

October income:	\$31,082
October expenses:	\$42,094
Income YTD:	\$394,269
Expenses YTD:	\$374,444
Budget YTD:	\$427,920

2nd	Robert Todd Terry Baillargeon Amy Succo Paige Dvorak Addyson Williams Bjorn Peterson	9th	Kyle Paulson	19th	Jeff Elkin Darren Solfest Emma Fehlen Brooklyn Miller
3rd	Lloyd Kobs Pat Kirby Tim Pauley	10th	Rosella Geving Lexi Kromrey	20th	Jennifer Berg Bryanna Raddatz
4th	Duane Vanderwerf Linda Ellefson Jessica O'Connor Nick Carlson Case Hanson	11th	Lindsey Lundeen Jason Bents	21st	Jill Hinze Joe Gorres
5th	Paul Lindholm	12th	Bill Stevenson Steven Kromrey Hunter Kautz	22nd	Bruce LaMirande Michele Merritt
6th	Dave Stephansen Gary LaMirande Dawn Tunison	14th	Mary Johnson Ariel Widiker Luke Ekstrom Reagan Ekstrom Graidy Guggisberg	23rd	Jerry Koosman Aubrey Haase
7th	Jocelyn Tate	15th	Kevin Campbell Holli Haase	24th	Mary Swenson
8th	Karen Elkin Scott Demulling Stella Hagen Sylvia Demulling	16th	John Lee Joe Rysdam	25th	Jeff Moryn
		17th	Diane Lechman Doug Johnson John Haley Aleah Jensen Violet Gorski	27th	Maria Gjovig Margie Johnson
		18th	Josiah Walstead	28th	Erik Rosik Xander Carlson
				30th	Melodie Needham Charlie Haines
				31st	Gavin Olson Ryah Corbett Jamison Berg Kynzlee Berg

Peace Prayer List

-this month we especially prayed for:

Gwen Anderson (Rosella Geving's niece)
Jeffery Bird (Betty Miller's son)
Harold Bishop
Jordan Braund (Dave & Jackie Berg's niece)
Chris Gilchrist (Dale & Carol Rhoe's son)
Presley & Alexa Hall (nieces of Jeff & Melissa Hall)
Cindy Hauser (Tim DeMenge's sister)
Julie Hendrickson (Trina Hendrickson's sister)
Sharon Johnson (Danielle Nelson's aunt)
Joe Kahl
Jim Kirby
Cindy Klotzbach (Linda Ferris' mother)
Virgil Koehler
Chris Nelson (Craig Nelson's brother)
Mary Nelson (Craig Nelson's mother)
Ken Peterson (friend of Dick & Rosella Geving's)
Kylie Peterson (Peggy Basham's niece)
Barb Plumley (Ilene Chapman's daughter)
Kathy Shannon (Robi Hollman's mother)
Wendy Sherrard (Sue DeMenge's niece)
Adrian Smith (great nephew of Tim DeMenge)
Joel Wigstadt (Kathy Clark's nephew)
Jim Wynne, Jr. (Dallas Wynne's cousin)
Serving in the Military: Collin Western
Family of Bev Ebert & Chuck Siltberg (Anita Siltberg's sister & husband)
Family of Harry Johns (Doris Johns' husband)

Divine Rehab & Nursing, SCF: Merlin Johnson, Opal Parel
CCH, Osceola: Ramona Paulson, Bob Larsen
Golden Age Manor, Amery: Chuck Siltberg
Evergreen Sr. Apartments, Amery: Anita Siltberg
Sophie's Manor, Centuria: Betty Brust



We are proud to welcome Lonnie Benjamin to the staff of Peace. Lonnie began his duties as our custodian last week and the building has already begun to sparkle and shine. As I write this he is busy washing our Narthex windows outside! If you stop in and see Lonnie, please welcome him!





The CRISIS of CHRISTMAS

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Christmas 2020 will occur while we are living through of a series of crises. Here's the list: the pandemic, economic losses, protests against racial injustices, an ongoing climate crisis, and a divided country following a contentious presidential election. I'm not going to lie, it's been stressful for me, and I imagine it has been for you, too. As Christians, we have been moving through these crisis-filled days with the expectation that God is present and God's promises are true. We move forward with hope.

The two Chinese characters for the word “**crisis**,” 危机, have often been translated as “danger” and “opportunity.” Others say that a better translation is “danger” and “change point.” What dangers do you see as your congregation moves toward celebrating the Birth of our Savior – Christmas - in a totally new way? What “opportunities” or “change points” do you see that could propel your church forward in a positive way into God's future?

Mary experienced a theological crisis when the angel Gabriel revealed to her God's plan to enter this world by the baby in her womb. Mary's body was the center of a theological crisis - much like the theological crisis caused by a virus that has invaded the bodies of our loved ones, and the theological crisis of abused and broken black and brown bodies, and the theological crisis experienced in the misuse of this planet on which all bodies live. Where is God in the crisis? What does this mean?

In a crisis, God comes to us. John 1:1,14 *In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and lived among us.* Jesus is God, divine *and* human. God took up residence and moved into our neighborhood. God goes where God's people go and is who the people are. This is the theological promise of John's gospel. God is present with us in our times of crisis and suffering. This is the foundation of Luther's theology of the cross.

God is revealed through the crisis of Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' untimely birth in a Bethlehem barn. God is revealed in the crucifixion; through the body of Jesus, hanging on a cross. God is revealed through the risen body of Jesus on Easter Morning.

No matter how different Christmas is for you this year, no matter what crisis arises, God is there, present as promised, in the WORD made flesh. May the story of Jesus' birth bring you much needed joy and hope this holiday season and may the presence of God comfort you in the new year.

AMEN

Rev. Laurie Skow Anderson
Bishop of the NW Synod of WI

Photo credit: Design by Artist Paul Johnson for the 2019 Concordia College Christmas Concert Mural

Thank you to Dr. Karoline Lewis for her thought provoking presentation to NWSWI on 11/7/2020 that inspired this article.

Dr. Karoline Lewis, Working Preacher.org, Dec. 2016