

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



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PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dresser, WI 54009

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Website: www.plcdresser.org

Find us on facebook!

Online Worship Services:
[youtube.com/peacelutherandresser](https://www.youtube.com/peacelutherandresser)

PLEASE use our Post Office box
(not our street address)
when mailing something to Peace!

News from Peace!

December
2021

and

January
2022

Anticipate

A voice cries out: *“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”* -Isaiah 40:3

When are they coming? Will this event ever get here? Are we there yet? As humans, we have had times when we have eagerly anticipated an event in our lives. It could be the day that we leave to go on a vacation? Or maybe to celebrate our birthday? Or maybe getting a new pet? Or a new home?

How does your body feel when you are anticipating an exciting event to happen? Do you get butterflies in your stomach? Do you lose sleep when you are too excited? Do you jump around? Or maybe you have to lay in bed because the anticipation is making you feel unwell?

We all feel anticipation differently in our bodies and minds. During this Advent season, my hope is we are filled with feelings of anticipation that make us excited and joyful. As we anticipate the Messiah's birth, we need to ask ourselves some questions. What are we going to learn in this Advent season? When is the Messiah going to make his return? Are we going to see love, joy, hope, and light come with baby Jesus?

As we ask ourselves these questions with feelings of anticipation, we also need to start preparing the way for the LORD. Jesus didn't come into this world on his own. Jesus had the help of many including God, angels, his mother Mary, and father Joseph. Each of these divine figures and humans needed to prepare for welcoming the Messiah to earth. How do we need to prepare the way this Advent season for the Messiah? How can we prepare our hearts, our minds, and our lives for the Messiah?

Coming to Worship on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am and Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm can help us anticipate and prepare ourselves. Join in at 9:35 am on Sunday mornings for Fellowship time. We can also anticipate and prepare by reading an Advent Devotional. Many can be found online. We have Christ in our Home available at church. Intentional prayers are another way to help guide us in our anticipation and preparation. Whatever, we chose to do during this Advent season for our anticipation, we can be sure that God is with us guiding our path and holding our anticipation for the coming of the Messiah!

Blessings in Advent anticipation,

Intern Pastor Hillary

P.S.- January's Focus on the Word theme is Courage. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we will ask ourselves if we have the courage to step into this new year with the love of God shining through our lives. More to come in January.

Important Message about Intern Hillary's Internship Project

Greetings community of Peace!

As many of you know, an intern has to complete a project during their year of internship. In January, I will be starting my internship project here at Peace. My project is called Blessings Ministry. For the next eight months, as a community, we will be lifting up our family of Peace and the community through blessings. We want to celebrate each and every member of the Peace Community in milestones in your life. This includes birthdays, anniversaries, and other life milestones such as retirement, a new home, and getting your driver's license. Some of these life milestones, we know, and others you will need to tell us. A google form will be emailed out in the Weekly email starting in January to let us know about these life milestones. Each week during announcement and celebration time, we will give special blessings for these life milestones.

In addition, we will invite and welcome a group of people to receive a blessing each month on the third Sunday of the month. In January, we would like to bless anyone who works in the healthcare field. If you work in the healthcare field or know of someone who does, can you please email Intern Hillary at plcdresserintern@gmail.com or call the office to get their name on the list? We will do a special blessing for healthcare workers on Sunday, January 16th during the service at 8:30 am. I want to thank the community of Peace Lutheran for this wonderful opportunity here as an intern to grow and learn in ministry. We are blessed and we are called to be a blessing!

Blessings of peace for all! Intern Hillary

Join us as we celebrate the Birth of Christ on Christmas Eve!!

3:30pm & 10:00pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Join us in our traditional candlelight service as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

5:00pm: Outdoor Bonfire Worship

Join us as we sing Christmas hymns, hear the Christmas Story and celebrate the birth of our Lord. We will have large bonfires set up to keep us warm and we will be amidst beautiful luminaries as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Lots of space to social distance as well! Dress warm!



Join us for a Live Nativity at Peace on Weds., Dec. 22nd. Grab a hot beverage and a cookie while you view the nativity scene complete with live animals. The Christmas story will be read at 7:00 pm.

Jesus is the reason for the season.

JOIN PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF DRESSER, WI FOR THIS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY THIS CHRISTMAS TO EXPERIENCE A

LIVE NATIVITY

Wednesday December 22, 2021 - 6 PM - 7:30 PM

Located in front of the church. Bonfire, warm drinks, and the blessed feeling of Christmas as we ANTICIPATE the birth of our Savior.



FROM THE OFFICE

November 14th: Baptism of Everly and Adalyn, daughters of Richard & Nichole Benson

November Attendance:

7th: 112/18 14th: 21st: 75/14 Nov. 28th: 89

Online Views: 7th: 120 14th: 111 21st: 60

Giving in November: Budget/Missions

7th: \$8,745/\$130 **14th:** 10,360/\$304 **21st:** 6,604/\$90 **28th:** \$15,666/\$108

Needed each week: \$10,158



- ◆ To Vicky Simpkins for organizing & working many hours preparing for the Bazaar
- ◆ To all the wonderful bakers who donated baked goods to the Bazaar
- ◆ To the pie bakers for the Thanksgiving Service & Pie held on Nov. 24
- ◆ To Bernie Coulombe for her generosity to Peace (donuts, pies, cookies)
- ◆ To Claire Chinander & Jessica O'Connor for serving pie
- ◆ To Peace members who have sent Amazon Needs List items to Peace
- ◆ To Robyn Bjornstad for the cookies for the Drive Thru Soup meal

Salvation Army Homeless Shelter

Polk & Barron counties are creating a homeless shelter that will serve both counties. The location is between Barron & Clayton, and the plan is for it to open in February 2022.

A BIG THANK YOU to our Peace friends and members for donations of items and/or monetary for the Homeless Shelter.

With your generosity we are able to sponsor 1 Family Bedroom, 4 Individual Bedrooms, 1 Laundry Room, and donate 1 Large Screen TV for their Gathering Room!

We are blessed to be a blessing!



Sunday Fellowship Events (9:35am)

December: Focus on Christmas

5th: Christmas Hymn Sing in Sanctuary

12th: Coffee/Hot Chocolate Bar & Cookies, Luminary decorating

19th: Assembling and delivering treats to PLC homebound members

January: Focus on Wellness

9th: Breakfast and Corn Hole Tournament

16th: Service Event: Snacks for a Cause

23rd: Mission Partners: Robin's Nest Children's Home

(Join us as the Directors from Robin's Nest share updates and stories)

30th: PLC Annual Meeting

Psst...
We need your help!

Praise Band or Choir—Sing/Play Instrument

- _____ I am interested in Praise Band
- _____ Yes, I love to sing-Choir is for me!

**Polk/Barron Homeless Shelter
Items needed for a Family Bedroom**

- _____ Paint a Room (or 2) at the Shelter

Drive-Thru Soup Supper (Mon. Dec. 13th)

- _____ Bake cookies on Thurs. 9th, or Fri. 10th-Cookie dough is pre-made!
- _____ Bake Corn Bread Muffins on Thurs. Dec. (9th), or Fri. (10th)
- _____ Help with set up on Monday at 1:00pm

Confirmation Cookie Platters

- _____ Help bake or donate some treats for the Cookie Platters the Confirmation students are selling

Blood Drive @ Peace (Tues. Dec. 28th)

- _____ Help with registration (3-6:30pm)
- _____ Serve water/juice/snacks to blood donors (Noon-3pm) or (3pm-6:30pm)

Please call the office if you can help with any of the above items. Thanks!

Kwik Trip Cards For Sale!

The youth will be selling Kwik Trip Gift Cards beginning Nov. 1st (while supplies last) and receive 10% of all sales. You can pick up your \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift card from church or from any youth attending the 2022 Mission Trip. These make great gifts or stock up on them for yourself and know that you are helping the youth of PLC every time you get gas.

Upcoming Events at Peace

Peace Advent Services

Weds., Dec. 1, 8, 15 @ 6:30-7:00pm

St. Croix Valley Christian Choir Concert

Sat., Dec. 11th @ 3:00pm at Peace

Sunday School Christmas Program ~

Sun., Dec. 12th (8:30am Worship)
9:35 SS 10:45 Christmas Program

Cookie Platters for Sale

sponsored by Confirmation students
Dec. 5th-19th (see pg. 7)

Gift Basket Silent Auction

Sundays, Dec. 12th & 19th. Sponsored by Sunday School (B.L.A.S.T)-proceeds to new Homeless Shelter

“Soup-to-Go” Community Meal

Mon., Dec. 13th, 4:30-6:30pm

Choir Cantata

Sun., Dec. 19th @ 8:30 service

Service of Remembrance

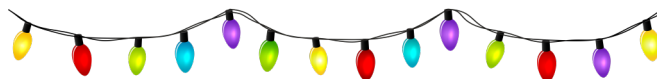
Sun. Dec. 19th @ 10:45

Christmas Eve Services ~ Fri., Dec. 24th

3:30 & 10:00pm In-Person worship
5:00pm Brief Outside Service / Bonfire

Service of Lessons & Carols

Sun., Dec. 26, 8:30am



Sundays 9:35am Opportunities for Fellowship/Faith

Dec. 5th: Christmas Hymn Sing in Sanctuary

Dec. 12th: Cookies, Coffee/Hot Chocolate Bar, Luminary decorating

Dec. 19th: Luminary decorating, assemble & deliver treat plates for PLC home bound members

Christmas CD's for sale featuring our very own accompanists, Ronda Haley and Dennis Alfveby. The cd's are located at the Welcome Center and the cost is \$10 each.



HS YOUTH

High School Youth WEDNESDAY NIGHT Programming Updates:

***A reminder to all students:** *If either SCF or OHS closes or is cancelled due to Covid19 or inclement weather, church activities will be cancelled as well.*

December Schedule:

6pm Pizza Dinner (\$1/slice), 6:30-7pm Interactive Advent Worship as a Youth Group
7-7:30pm Youth Group

January Schedule: 6pm Pizza Dinner (\$1/slice), 6:30pm-7:30pm Programming

Join us on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm!

**** No Programming on Wednesday, December 22nd & 29th.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!****

2022 Summer Mission Trip and ELCA Youth Gathering Updates: 9th - 12th Grade Dates: July 19-28, 2022

We are booked & ready to go!! Registrations and deposits were due Oct. 20th, but there is a chance we can still accept more participants. Contact Pastor Melissa if you are interested. This trip is open to all 9th - 12th graders and friends!

Save the Date for the upcoming fundraisers and watch for sign-ups coming soon:

- ◆ Sell Kwik Trip Cards on your own (while supplies last)
- ◆ Sell Kwik Trip Cards on Sunday Mornings (Sign up online)

Save the Date! Our First Mission Trip Training session is Weds., Jan. 26th (6:30-7:30pm). All trip participants and leaders are expected to attend.

January Mission Partner Highlight Robin's Nest Children's Home

Peace Lutheran has developed and nurtured a partnership with Robin's Nest Children's Home over the past several years.

Janet & Kevin Krusmark, directors of Robin's Nest, will be at Peace to share a message during worship and lead us in a time of fellowship following worship on **Sunday, Jan 23rd.**

We have had over 83 members of Peace travel to Jamaica over the years and share in the wonderful work with this Ministry partner. Save the date and plan to join them as they share their story.



Maple Syrup Ministry

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! Stock up today and enjoy our holiday and winter-painted bottles and Gingerbread Bottles!

Mission Trippers - During the month of November, you will receive 40% of all profit from the syrup that you sell! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to raise money for your trip!! These make great gifts for the holidays!

Children, Youth & Families

Come and join us!!

B.L.A.S.T meets every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at PLC
All are welcome!! Come and share in the faith, fun
and food!
Bring a friend. See you there.....it will be a blast!!

All children gather in the Sanctuary on
Sundays at 9:35 for an opening.

Following that the PreK /Kindergarten
students go to their classroom which is in the Ed
Wing, at the end of the hall to the right, and

CLUB56 kids gather in the Youth Room which is
the 3rd room on the right in the Fellowship Hall.

The other grades will meet in the Fellowship Hall
for learning stations.

Important Dates for B.L.A.S.T December / January

Sunday, Dec. 5th 9:35 a.m.:
Program Practice

Saturday, Dec. 11th 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.:
Program Practice / Party for JESUS!

Sunday, Dec. 12th 9:30 a.m.
Program Practice

Sunday, Dec. 12th 10:45 am
Christmas Program!

(Parents: Coffee, Hot Chocolate and cookies
will be served to you by our 7th grade confir-
mation class prior to the Christmas program,
in the narthex 9:45-10:45 a.m.)

Sunday, Dec. 19 9:35 am
Christmas Party for B.L.A.S.T.

Sunday, Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd NO B.L.A.S.T.

Sunday, Jan. 9th
Pancake Breakfast & Corn Hole Tournament
at 9:35 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 16th
9:35 am Milestone for Kindergarten &
B.L.A.S.T.

Peace Lutheran's Little Bitty

Book Club

Dec. 19th @ 9:40 am

Children birth to 4 yrs.

A monthly gathering of the youngest
members of Peace (and their parents).

Story time, craft/sensory activity,
snack and prayer!

Reminder postcards will be mailed in
December to the parents.

Silent Auction sponsored by B.L.A.S.T.
(Sunday School)

Baskets are located in the narthex and can
be bid on beginning Dec. 5th - Dec. 19th and
will also be available to view online. If you
are interested in bidding and are unable to
attend please contact the church office.

Winners will be contacted and available for
pickup after church Dec. 19th at 10:00 a.m.

COOKIES FOR A CAUSE: 7th & 8th
grade confirmation classes are selling Holi-
day Goodie Plates. Each plate will contain
a variety of holiday sweets and treats made
with love. Two sizes will be available (\$10
or \$15 platter) to order beginning Dec. 5th.
Last day to order platters will be Friday,
Dec. 17th. Plates can be picked up Sunday,
Dec. 19th after church.

All proceeds of the Silent Auction and the
Cookie Platters will go to the new homeless
shelter!

Attention Bakers: If anyone would like to
help the confirmation students with their
goodie plates please contact Dana Paulsen
or Pat Adam for more information.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Christmas Eve Services: 3:30pm & 10:00pm In-Person 5:00pm Outdoor (Bonfire)			1 8:30 am Quilting 6 pm Confirmation 6:30-7pm Advent Service 7pm HS	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Service 9:35 am BLAST (SS) 9:35 am Christmas Hymn Sing 9:30am Photo Booth	6	7 9am Staff Mtg	8 8:30 am Quilting 6 pm Confirmation 6:30-7pm Advent Service 7pm HS	9 7pm-AA	10	11 SS Prog. Practice 9:30-noon
12 8:30 am Service 9:35 am BLAST 10:45 am SS Christmas Program	13 4:30-6:30pm Soup to Go	14 9am Staff Mtg	15 =6 pm Confirmation 6:30-7pm Advent Service 7pm HS	16 7:00 pm Council Mtg 7pm-AA	17	18
19 8:30 am Service with Choir Cantata 10:45 am Service of Remembrance	20	21 9am Staff Mtg 1:30 pm Rachael Circle	22 6:00-7:30 pm Live Nativity at Peace!	23 7pm-AA	24 Christmas Eve see below	25
26 8:30 am Service of Lessons & Carols	27	28 11am-7pm Blood Drive at Peace	29 No Confirmation or HS Youth	30 7pm-AA	31	

**Sunday School
Christmas Program**
Sun., Dec. 12th, 10:45 am

**Christmas Eve
Services @ Peace**
3:30pm & 10:00pm In-Person
5:00pm Brief Outside Service
with Bonfire

**St. Croix Christian Community
Choir presents**

“Christmas Dreams” Cantata
Saturday, Dec. 11th, 3:00 pm
Peace Lutheran Church.
Free will offering will be given
to People Loving People Food
Ministry, Dresser.





January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 am Service 9:35 am BLAST (SS)	3	4 9am Staff Mtg	5 8:30 am Quilting 6 pm Confirmation and HS Youth	6 7pm-AA	7	8
9 8:30 am Service 9:35 am Breakfast and Corn Hole Tournament	10	11 9am Staff Mtg	12 8:30 am Quilting 6 pm Confirmation and HS Youth	13 7pm-AA	14	15
16 8:30 am Service 9:35 am BLAST	17	18 9am Staff Mtg 2:00pm Care- giver Support Group	19 8:30 am Quilting 6 pm Confirmation and HS Youth	20 7:00 pm Council Mtg 7pm-AA	21	22
23 Robin's Nest Orphan- age Sunday (see pg 7) 8:30 am Service 9:35 am BLAST	24	25 9am Staff Mtg 1:30 pm Rachael Circle	26 8:30 am Quilting 6 pm Confirmation and HS Youth	27 7pm-AA	28	29
30 8:30 am Service 9:35 am BLAST 9:35 am Annual Mtg	31			Volunteers needed to Usher on Christmas Eve at the 3:30 & 10:00pm Service		

Dec. & Jan. Usher/Lay Reader Schedule-8:30 am Services

Dec. 5	Usher	Chad Slater Family	Jan. 2	Usher	Gene Jaremczuk
	Reader	Anne Miller Solrud		Reader	Kayla Stankowski
Dec. 12	Usher	Mark Gjovig Family	Jan. 9	Usher	Mark Gjovig Family
	Reader	Maria Gjovig		Reader	Maria Gjovig
Dec. 19	Usher	Hall Family	Jan. 16	Usher	Hall Family
	Reader	Hall Family		Reader	Hall Family
Dec. 24	Ushers	Volunteers? (3:30 & 10:00pm)	Jan. 23	Usher	Erik Mayer family
				Reader	Michele Merritt
Dec. 26	Usher	Paul Lindholm	Jan. 30	Usher	Chris Chinander
	Reader	Pete Peterson		Reader	Claire Chinander



DECEMBER

2nd Robert Todd
 Terry Baillargeon
 Amy Succo
 Paige Dvorak
 Addyson Williams
 Isla O'Brien
 Bjorn Peterson
 3rd Lloyd Kobs
 Pat Kirby
 Tim Pauley
 4th Duane Vanderwerf
 Linda Ellefson
 Jessica O'Connor
 Nick Carlson
 Case Hanson
 5th Paul Lindholm
 6th Dave Stephansen
 Gary LaMirande
 Dawn Tunison
 7th Jocelyn Tate
 8th Karen Elkin
 8th Scott Demulling
 Stella Hagen
 Sylvia Demulling
 9th Kyle Paulson
 10th Rosella Geving
 Lexi Kromrey
 11th Lindsey Lundeen
 Jason Bents
 12th Bill Stevenson
 Steven Kromrey
 14th Mary Johnson
 Luke Ekstrom
 Reagan Ekstrom
 Graidy Guggisberg
 15th Kevin Campbell
 Holli Haase
 16 John O. Lee
 Joe Rysdam
 17th Diane Lechman
 Doug Johnson
 John Haley

17th Aleah Jensen
 Violet Gorski
 18th Josiah Walstead
 19th Jeff Elkin
 Emma Fehlen
 Brooklyn Miller
 20th Jennifer Berg
 Bryanna Raddatz
 Adalyn Benson
 21st Jill Hinze
 Joe Gorres
 22nd Bruce LaMirande
 Michele Merritt
 23rd Jerry Koosman
 Aubrey Haase
 24th Mary Swenson
 25th Jeff Moryn
 27th Maria Gjovig
 Margie Johnson
 28th Xander Carlson
 30th Melodie Needham
 Charlie Haines
 31st Gavin Olson
 Ryah Corbett
 Jamison Berg
 Kynzlee Berg

12th Tenley Dvorak
 Anne Prokop
 Riley Koosman
 13th Virgil Koehler
 Bill Tunison
 Noah Larson
 14th Coby Halstrom
 Donya Fehlen
 15th Lynn Lindholm
 16th Pat Carlson
 Declan O'Brien
 17th Shirley Sims
 Heidi Tomforde
 Kevin Western
 Amy Sheehan
 18th Kayla Rondeau
 Dylan Haase
 19th Jamie Tinney
 20th Lillie Strege
 Megan Hendrickson
 21st Miranda Hartman
 Brody Williams
 22nd Rebecca Berg
 23rd Dorothy Lindholm
 24th Betty Lou Chryst
 Emily Tebben
 Jackson Brown
 25th Jason Swanson
 Brandon Whittaker
 26th Paul Arndt
 27th Lee Isaacson
 28th Julie Leisch
 29th Drew Willeman
 30th Heidi Schrock
 Mitchell Steele
 31st Lisa Richert
 Cade Rysdam
 Easton Maloney

JANUARY

1st Jerry Succo
 Sam Schiebel
 2nd Jim Lechman
 Brandon Robinson
 3rd Ann Moryn
 4th Matt Adam
 Debbie Museus
 5th Tom Reeck
 6th Kaija Newman
 Emilie Glenna
 11th Trevor Scholz
 Mickey Raska
 Erin Swiontek

STEWARDSHIP LETTER

To my brothers and sisters the saints of Peace Lutheran:

This has been a remarkable year. We have emerged from the Covid-induced shutdown of 2020 with a remarkable bundle of new and effective methods of accomplishing our goals of ministry, thanks in large part to our amazing staff. Thanks are also most certainly due to all of you, who have stepped up and shared of your time, talent, and treasure and thus created a church that stands head and shoulders above its peers in its ability to minister to the local, regional, national, and global communities we serve, and to meet the spiritual and educational needs of our members.

But, dear friends, a great deal more remains to be done. Now that we are fully staffed and conducting ministries that are so vital to our communities, our expenses have increased. The heating season has begun, and, though we have made some progress, the majority of the benevolence payments to which we committed a year ago are still to be paid. We are paying our bills, but in order to do so we have had to draw from funds that have been designated for other purposes.

I urge you, as we enter the season of anticipation, to prayerfully consider increasing your tithes and offerings by the most generous amount you can manage. As Paul wrote in his second letter to the church at Corinth, *“Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.”* (2 Corinthians 8:11.)

Thanks be to God for this opportunity!

Yours in Christ, Pete Peterson, Stewardship Ministry

“Get your fields ready and plant your crops before starting a home.”

Proverbs 24:27, Contemporary English Version

This verse comes from a section of Proverbs comprising random bits of wisdom that are widely believed to come from King Solomon. Its broader message is one of priorities—of recognizing what is most important in our lives. As we anticipate the coming of our Messiah, do we follow Solomon’s advice? Do we assign first priority to planting in our hearts and minds the seeds of God’s Word that will grow into a willingness to share the time, talent and treasure that God has given us?

As we prepare for and await the coming of our Savior, let us emulate Paul, who wrote to the church at Philippi: *“But Christ has shown me that what I once thought valuable is worthless. Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”* Philippians 3:7-8a, CEV.

PARISH NURSE NOTES



Let every heart, prepare Him room..."



The season of Advent is a great example of December's theme word -- *anticipate*. Although most of us anticipate Christmas Day with joy, it's important to take some time to put aside all of our planning and baking and shopping and acknowledge the reason for the celebration -- the arrival of the Messiah. Remember that the message of Christmas has to cut through all of our busyness or it is just a holiday, not a *holy day*.

As for the word chosen for January, *courage*, Billy Graham once said, "I feel sorry for the man who has never known the bracing thrill of taking a stand and sticking to it fearlessly. Moral courage has rewards that timidity can never imagine." As we enter into a new year full of new possibilities, courage invites us to stand up against wrongdoing to help not only those around us but also around our world.

Early Detection Matters Here's another possible indication of the onset of dementia -- NEW PROBLEMS WITH WORDS IN SPEAKING OR WRITING. People with dementia may have trouble following or joining a conversation. They may stop in the middle of a conversation and have no idea how to continue or they may repeat themselves. The person may struggle with finding the right word or call things by the wrong name (e.g. calling a "watch" a "hand-clock"). **What's a typical age-related change?** *Sometimes* having trouble finding the right word.

Have you recently lost a loved one? Or do you find you especially miss someone special each year during the holidays? Perhaps you're grieving the continued separation from family members and friends due to the pandemic? If so, I invite you to join us for a brief **Service of Remembrance and Hope** on Sunday, Dec. 19th at 10:45 AM. During this time we will come together to reflect on those we have lost and remember them with a candle lighting and inspirational message.

Wishing you a heartwarming Christmas & a 2022 full of promise, *Karen*

~ Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. -- Romans 12:12 ~

Surely everyone who's been inside our church recently has seen the display of our Pure Maple Syrup that's for sale. If pancakes or waffles aren't your thing, have you tried putting a coating of maple syrup on a scoop of your favorite vanilla ice cream? Or sweetened your oatmeal with a teaspoon or so each morning like I do? Or do you keep maple syrup around as a cooking staple? If not, I would encourage you to do so. There are multiple recipes which utilize real maple syrup to sweeten or caramelize the other ingredients. Try the following salmon recipe (a favorite at our house) which is quick, easy and healthy, too. Parish Nurse Karen

<p><u>MAPLE/ROSEMARY SALMON SKEWERS</u></p> <p>1/3 cup real maple syrup 1/4 cup grainy Dijon mustard 1 Tbsp. fresh rosemary 1 Tbsp. lemon juice 2 tsp. soy sauce 1 ½ lbs. salmon cut crosswise into strips</p> <p>Whisk ingredients and set aside. Thread salmon strips onto skewers and brush with the ½ of the sauce. Grill the skewers to desired doneness, turning half way through. Serve with the other ½ of the sauce.</p>
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[Psalm 137:4](#) *How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

Christmas Message to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

In 1926, my maternal grandmother left Germany and immigrated to the United States. One of my earliest memories is singing *Silent Night (Stille Nacht)* in German by the Christmas tree in her small house in Jackson, MN. I wonder what it was like for her to move to a foreign land not speaking the language. I wonder how difficult it must have been for her to sing her song in a foreign land.

Last Christmas most of us couldn't gather inside our church buildings to sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. Some of us sang to our computer screens, some sang in their cars in the parking lot, some sang with masks. We were all trying to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, the land of COVID. It has been difficult. Our song has been muted.

Psalm 137 is a lament Psalm. The writer of Psalm 137 is describing the pain of the people who were forced to live in a foreign land after witnessing the destruction of their homeland and their temple. They are grieving the losses, lamenting, crying, and finding it impossible to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land."

My heart goes out to the Afghan Refugees who are experiencing their first winter at Fort McCoy. I wonder how difficult it will be for them to sing their songs of faith in a foreign land. Many know that they will never go home again.

In Luke 1, Mary sings her song in unknown territory. She has received the message from Gabriel that she will bear God's son and his name is to be Jesus, and he will reign as king forever. This incomprehensible message is confirmed by her relative Elizabeth and changes Mary's life's circumstances. Mary is asked to do what no one has ever done before. This is uncharted and foreign territory for a young girl. She sings her song in a foreign land like her sisters before her Miriam, Ruth, and Hannah. She sings a song of courage, faith, hope, and love.

Luke 1:46-49 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

This Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season I invite you to reflect on Mary's song as an old song sung in new circumstances. Many of us and our churches find ourselves dealing with circumstances we might not have chosen for ourselves and wish were different, circumstances that might cause us to lament and grieve. We are here now. Sing. Join Mary and the faithful of every time and place, that great cloud of witnesses, and sing of courage, faith, hope, and love. Sing. Sing an old song of trust in unfamiliar territory, and sing a new song of hope in a new land. We are here now.

May the Hope of Advent, Joy of Christmas and Light of Epiphany bring you Peace.
Bishop Laurie



Silent Night Oh Holy Night

Worship SCHEDULE

8:30 am Service each week

9:35 am B.L.A.S.T. (Believe, Learn, and Seek Truth) Sunday School
Livestream is at 8:30 am.

CHURCH STAFF Contact Information

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Custodian Jerry Rosenow

Bookkeepers

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Payroll Clerk Krissy Gregory

Financial Secretaries

Bonnie Crary, Maxine Waddick