

News of Peace

Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

Published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church



January 2026

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Christian Symbols



Stone Tablets

The tablets of stone symbolize God's giving of the Law to Israel through

Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb).

They're often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.



Shell

A scallop shell, pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is often used to symbolize baptism and the washing away of sin. The three water droplets stand for the Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

God's New Year Resolution

Are our resolutions righteous? Is our commitment to self-improvement a selfless act motivated by love for the neighbor?

We are bean counters. Weight watchers. List makers. No more-so than this time of year, the first weeks of the new year. Gym memberships spike. Shelters, churches, and soup kitchens see a significant increase in volunteers. Extra chairs need to be set out at A.A. Meetings. Family and friends want to know, "What kind of new year's resolutions did you make?"



The start of a new year is when we hit the hard reset on old, often bad, habits. We pledge to ourselves and others that this year we are going to improve ourselves. Get in shape. Get that promotion. Heal a broken relationship.

Then, usually by Valentine's Day, our resolutions are reduced to credit card charges, lightly used exercise gear hung at the back of closets, and self-improvement books with the spines still intact.

However, New Year's resolutions are not a recent phenomenon. There are inscriptions on stone tablets from four thousand years ago that reveal the Babylonians made similar resolutions at the start of their calendar year. But unlike us, they believed that someone who did not follow through on his resolutions would die.

So why do we do it to ourselves? Why do people, at least for the past four thousand years, engage in an annual audit of character flaws, bad habits, and personal demons? Why do it if so many times before we have failed to follow through. What is the "why" of new year's resolutions? What is their purpose? What is our goal?

In relation to God, it's because old Adam wants to stand in the place of God. He wants to be God. Old Adam wants to be in control of his destiny. He does not want to rely on God for all the needs of body and soul. Old Adam wants, more than anything, choice. The two things all of us lack are time and choice. We are confined by the time in which we live and the space we occupy at any given moment. We just cannot be in two or more places at once. We cannot choose for ourselves any more or less than what is already in front of us, no matter how much wishful thinking we engage in or how many



- 4 Penny Hansen
- 13 Dale & Gayle Montague
- 16 Ron Meyer
- 17 Brett & Cindy Niebur
- 24 Rory Rathje
- 26 Earl Hartenstein
- 30 Jeff Emery



Church Office Schedule

Church office hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. Phone number 573-836-8141. Secretary Pudge Springer

resolutions we post to our Facebook profile.

We are creatures, and although we are like God knowing good and evil, we are not God. Too often, we commit evil for the most righteous reasons and wander blindly into good works, when our intentions were wholly selfish.

Are our resolutions righteous? Is our commitment to self-improvement a selfless act motivated by love for the neighbor? Do we care so long as our intent is “good”, or righteous, or so long as our old Adam feels he is in control, he is calling the shots, he is the master of his own destiny?

There is a long-standing tradition in the church that at the beginning of a new year the assembly of the saints hear the call to repent and return to their Lord, Jesus Christ. Look up from vain naval-gazing and behold our Good Shepherd. The weeks after Christmas are a time in the church to hit the hard reset. A time to focus on what matters most. As St. Paul writes:

...I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God,

The weeks after Christmas are a time in the church to hit the hard reset. A time to focus on what matters most.

in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin... (Romans 7:15-25)

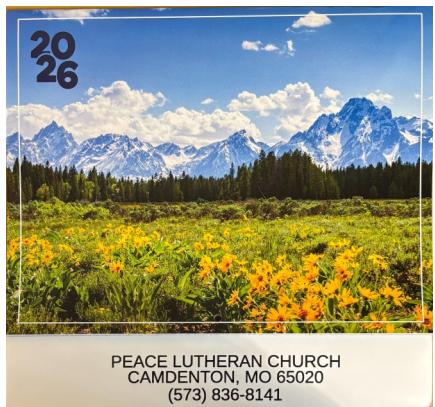
At this time of year, the church is called by her Bridegroom to again stop staring at her reflection in the mirror, to stop looking inward where only ghosts dwell, and to look outside herself to the Source of her faith, hope, and charity.

In Christ Jesus there are no beans to count, no waistline to watch, no list to scribble down, and nothing left to audit. And if we do not manage to follow through on our resolutions we don't have to worry, like the Babylonians, that we will die. Jesus died for us instead. And He has announced to us that He is Sin to our sin. He is the Death of our death. He is Satan to our satan. And even though our resolutions may fail to reach fruition, His resolve to love us is steadfast and unfailing, even in the midst of defeat, death, and damnation. That is, as St. Paul writes:



Mites Collection

In December we collected \$85.56 in pocket change for Mites. Thank you for your continued support of this ongoing project.



A reminder to pick up a 2026 calendar if you haven't already. They are located in the back of the church.

Faith in Action

A Christian is someone who makes it easier for others to believe in God — not through perfection, but through kindness, grace and love in everyday life. When people see Christ's compassion in us, they're drawn closer to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31b-39).

by Donavon Riley, 1517 website

Every One His Witness

Share What You Can

(Not everyone will listen even after you've listened to them.)

You may patiently listen to a person's story, ask meaningful questions, encouraging them to share even more about their life, and seek out an appropriate connection that provides an excellent opportunity to share God's Word only to experience the person shutting you down as you try to speak.

Some people are opposed to God's Word no matter how faithful and effective a witness you may be.

Frustration and discouragement will fill you if you forget your roll in witnessing: you plant...you water...God provides the growth.

Remember your roll and continue to plant and water. Share what you can share. Not everyone will listen to you—even after you've listened to them.

Be confident that the Word you are able to share—no matter how little—is sufficient for that which the Lord intends.

He proclaims in Isaiah 55:11 that His Word "shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Share what you can share and trust God to bring the results He has determined. And remember that "in the Lord your labor is not in vain". (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Next month: the "I" in LASSIE - Invite

by Mark Wood director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry



January Devotion



The Word for the New Year

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness."

1 Corinthians 3:18-19

In recent years the Word of God has been the focus of a great many attacks.

Atheist and agnostic, doubter and denier, skeptic and cynic have all gleefully thrown their barbs and darts at Holy Scripture. If it weren't so sad, it would be almost laughable to see how they pounce on an imagined and what they believe to be newly discovered inconsistency of Scripture.

Holding their breaths and stomping their feet, they demand the church explain these errors. Unfortunately, they seldom listen to anything that is said in response.

Their actions all remind me of the time when churchman John

Wesley received a critical note, which, in part, read, "The Lord has told me to tell you that He doesn't need your book-learning, your Greek, and your Hebrew."

Humbly, Wesley answered, "Thank you, sir. Your letter was superfluous; however, as I already know the Lord has no need for my 'book-learning,' as you put it. However, although the Lord has not directed me to say so, on my own responsibility, I would like to say to you that the Lord does not need your ignorance either."

Wesley was right.

God neither needs our book-learning, nor does He need the ignorance of His self-appointed detractors. What the Lord needs is people who see themselves as

sinners and Him as a God who saves.

What He wants is people who say, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner" and, who believe, because of His Son's sacrifice that He is.

What He needs is people who know they need the Savior and people who are willing to share Him.

This is what Lutheran Hour Ministries tries to do. It is what your congregation tries to do. It is what God's people continue to do. Prepared to make a defense of the Gospel, we share the Savior with those who need to hear it the most.

It is for such people that we pray today.

The Prayer: Dear Lord, Your Word and plan of salvation will always have its critics. Now I ask that those who delight in challenging Your Word, may be equally open to hearing what that Word says. May they be humbled and realize that if they are ever to be forgiven and saved, it will only be through the blood of Jesus. Lord, I pray for myself. May I be prepared to make a defense of the Gospel to those who need to hear it. Guide and guard my words, so they are effective in touching the lost. This I pray in the Savior's Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,
Pastor Ken Klaus Speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour®
(Pastor 1948-2023), Jan. 1, 2014



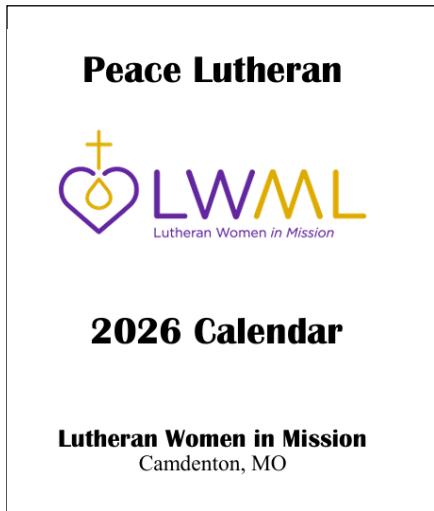
2026 Officers

President: Dawn Hedberg
Vice President: Cindy Niebur
Secretary: Jayne Marie Trick
Treasurer: Susan Kral



Now Available

The 2026 calendar booklets are now available. If you have not received your booklet, please let Dawn Hedberg know.



Donations for Hurricane Deck

For the month of November the LWML collected scarves, mittens and hats for Hurricane Deck School.

Thank you to all who donated these items to support the school. The items were given to the school before Thanksgiving break. Photo submitted by Pudge Springer.



Everything Christmas

On Saturday, December 13 the ladies of Peace held their annual Christmas party in the dining hall with 24 ladies attended the festivities.

The theme this year was Everything Christmas. Everyone brought their favorite salad or dessert dish to share along with a \$10 gift limit.

Everyone attending had a great time. A huge thank you to Paula for organizing this event each year.



Decorating the Church

A huge thank you to all who took time out of their busy schedule to come decorate the church for the Christmas season. Photos submitted by Diane Borgmann.



Dec. 3 Advent Supper



These members enjoyed a chili supper before the Advent service.



Jeff and Dawn are looking over the beverages. Photos submitted by Diane Borgmann.



Dec. 10 Advent Supper



Russ and Rodney decided on what they would like to eat with their soup.



The elves are ready to help serve vegetable beef soup.

Dec. 17 Advent Supper



These members enjoyed all beef hot dogs with mac and cheese. There was good food and fellowship during the Advent meals. Thank you to all who made the Advent suppers a huge success.



Thank you to Bob and Candi for providing the meal.

2025

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

January – The January 5 Divine Service was canceled due to inclement weather. New and current officers were installed. A new wrought iron cross replaced the wooden cross in the Narthex. The mailbox was replaced. Reinhold Electric will be responsible for the parking lot lights. LWML served breakfast and lunch for the Pastor's Conference.

February – The February 16 Divine Service and the February 11 council meeting were canceled due to inclement weather. The wedding of Tammy Snell and Kyle Wright was held. Ned Soseman became a member of Peace.

March – Ash Wednesday service and Lenten services were held. Life Line screening was held. Books for 2024 were audited. Parking lot lights were repaired. Fire alarm was replaced in the sanctuary. It was approved to hold the council meetings on the first Tuesday of each month instead of the second Tuesday of the month.

April – Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Services were held. The LWML hosted an Easter brunch. The defibrillator was ordered.

May – May 14 – Toms Heating and Cooling replaced the HVC system. All the HVC systems have been replaced. Pat Callahan reinstalled our church sign on Old Highway 5. Jeff Emery will check our sign on F road and install solar lights to make it more visible.

June – a new sound system was purchased; hand railing and exit door on the south side of the church was repainted; a training session for the use of the defibrillator was held along with CPR training.

July – looking into updating our visitor and attendance cards; approved to change the handicapped parking spaces to visitor parking; a bid was received for replacing the entrance windows

August – Restriping of the parking lot, panels were added to the entrance windows; installation of new handicap and visitor parking signs; four downspouts were repaired; LWML organized visitor gift bags; a bid was received for replacing the cemetery water line; cancelled the new mover card account with Outreach.com

September – LWML garage sale and BBQ were held; Council

meetings was changed back to the second Tuesday of the month due to the Pastors' circuit meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month; a new way of taking attendance on Sunday mornings was started. Matt Walz became a member of Peace. Peace is now in the Jefferson City-Columbia Circuit.

October – A Trunk and Treat was held on October 31; two bikes and candy were purchased with Thrivent money; new member brunch was held. The wedding of Don Springer and Pudge McCloud was held. New officers for 2026: Vice President: Noah Estes; Evangelism: Paula Emery; Stewardship: Candi Tostenrud. Thank you to the new officers and current officers for serving.

November – A new vacuum was purchased. The audit from Jan. to Oct. 2025 was completed. A new Rumba vacuum will be purchased. A new water softener was installed. New water hydrant and pipe were installed for the cemetery. A backpack weed sprayer and rebar were purchased. Fire extinguishers were checked. Tulips were planted in the cemetery. Thanksgiving Eve service was held. The church was decorated for Christmas.

December – Advent and Christmas Eve Services were held. Advent meals were held. Our December council meeting was not held due to many of the council members having other commitments.



Stewardship



"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of "new" talk. Parties are held to ring in the "new" year. "New" year's resolutions are made to set a "new" course of life in the "new" year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the "new" year on the dateline.

We use all this "new" talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the "new" resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That "new" person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The "new" habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The "new" person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need "new" talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of "new" is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new.

These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This "new" comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of "new" is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary's cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over

faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

Reprinted from the LCMS stewardship website



WORSHIP



SCHEDULES

Sunday Worship* 9:00 am
 Bible Class/Sun. School 10:30 am

Wednesday Evening Services:

- Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm
- During Lent 6:00 pm
- During Advent 6:00 pm

Holy Week

- Maundy Thursday* 6:00 pm
- Good Friday Service 6:00 pm
- Easter Sunday* 9:00 am

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Evening Service 6:00 pm

*Holy Communion

The Lord's Servants

• Elders—First Sunday of Each Month

Chairman: Jeff Hedberg, Jeff Emery, Larry Trick

• Council—2nd Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 pm

- ◆ **President:** Brock Kliewer (two yr term)
- ◆ **Vice President:** Noah Estes (two yr term)
- ◆ **Secretary:** Susan Kral (two yr term)
- ◆ **Financial Secretary:** Brett Niebur
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Peggy Callahan (two yr term)

• Stewardship: Candi Tostenrud

• Evangelism: Paula Emery

• Education: Open

• Organists: Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab

• Trustees: Kyle Wright, Rodney Schulz, Pat Callahan, Chuck Kral

LWML—2nd Monday of each month 9:00 am

President: Dawn Hedberg

Altar Guild: Dawn Hedberg

Bible Studies As announced

• Elected Offices

Serving in God's House

Elder

Altar Guild

January	Dawn Hedberg
February	Paula Emery
March	
April	
May	Paula Emery
June	
July	Dawn Hedberg
August	Paula Emery
September	Diane Borgmann
October	Cindy Niebur
November	Paula Emery
December	Dawn Hedberg
Minister	Rev. Gary Brandt
Organists	Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab

Ushers

1st Sunday	Robert & Penny Hansen, Paul Bartels
2nd Sunday	Earl Hartenstein, Jeff & Paula Emery
3rd Sunday	Diane Borgmann, Rodney Schulz
4th Sunday	Jeff & Dawn Hedberg, Russ Schulz
5th Sunday	Robert Hansen, Earl Hartenstein, Jeff Hedberg

Counters

1st Sunday	Jeff & Dawn Hedberg
2nd Sunday	Jeff & Paula Emery
3rd Sunday	Brett & Cindy Niebur
4th Sunday	Matt & Deb Mayes
5th Sunday	Pudge McCloud

Revised 9/2025

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____ . The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

- Creation
- Beginning
- Season
- Covenant



Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

Activity Page

Bible Word Search: Baby Jesus

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. After you have found all the words, write the leftover letters in the correct order to form the ***mystery answer***.



Augustus, Bethlehem, Blessed, Caesar, Christ, Consecrated, Cyrenius, Decree, Dream, Emmanuel, Espoused, Gabriel, Galilee, Grace, Humble, Inn, Jerusalem, Joseph, Joy, Judea, Kingdom, Magi, Mary, Miracle, Nazarene, Nazareth, Peace, Pondered, Presentation, Prophetess, Revelation, Sacrifice, Salvation, Shepherds, Sign, Spirit, Star, Swaddling

Mystery answer _____

Answer: Frankincense

From: Christian Bible Reference Site

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 God	2 night	3 word	4 in	5 love	6 Jesus
7 glory	8 therefore	9 speak	10 give	11 light	12 Christ	13 a
14 saw	15 beginning	16 anyone	17 waters	18 help	19 is	20 many
21 he	22 again	23 through	24 earth	25 made	26 while	27 back
28 new	29 if	30 and	31 creation			

The second Monday _____

The last Monday _____

The 16th _____

One day before the 20th _____

The day before the first Friday _____

The last weekday of the second week _____

The day after the 20th _____

The day after 18th _____

The first day of the second weekend _____

The last Sunday _____

The last day of the month _____

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3
4 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Elders Mtg. Mites Collection	5	6 	7	8	9	10 Take Christmas Decorations down
11 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Baptism of Our Lord	12 LWML Mtg 9 a.m. Roll call word	13 Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Voters Mtg	19 Newsletter Deadline 9 a.m.	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31



News of Peace is a monthly newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, 9307 North State Highway 5, Camdenton, MO 65020; Rev. Gary Brandt: 580-481-8108; Church Phone: 573-836-8141; Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 8 am to 12 pm; Church email: plccamdenton@gmail.com; Website: www.plccamdenton.org; Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church—Camdenton—Greenview—Missouri **Our Mission:** “We the members of Peace Lutheran Church gather and grow together as God’s children and rejoice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaim His word, and reach out with his love to: each other, our community, and the world.”