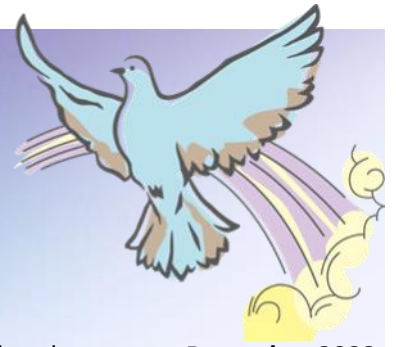


News of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

Published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church

December 2022

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Christian Symbols

CANDLE—The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season.



Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candle-light worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.

EVERGREEN—These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.



A Real Saint to Emulate

The Christmas season is upon us? Surprise! It began on November first this year. Already, as I write this on Thanksgiving week, radio stations have been playing Christmas music for two or three weeks. And that *huge* all-important starter's pistol that usually marks the beginning of the Christmas shopping season has rung out for all to hear. The resale market, it seems, was up and running with Black Friday deals to be found throughout November. It all began the day after Halloween. Of this I'm almost certain.

I remember thinking, "They want us to go shopping *before* the mid-term elections, so the possibility of continued inflation won't keep us from buying stuff." Who knows whether I'm right about that or not, what I do know is that the secular signs of Christmas will surround us by the time you read this. And I *love* the Christmas season! I want it to last for as long as it possibly can. Christmas songs make up roughly half of the digital music I've purchased over the years. *Christmas food*...now there's something that *really* makes me feel good about the season. I know I'm not alone in cherishing all the trimmings and trappings of this season.

So that was a long introduction to my topic for this month, but let's just say that the Christmas season really did start on the first of November. Surely, you remember the day the church observes one day *after* Halloween/Reformation Day. It's All Saints Day! So, the topic for this month is the real St. Nicholas; among the jolliest of old men known to man.

Recall that there are only a few good reasons the Lutheran Church retains the practice of observing All Saints Day. One is to recognize and acknowledge the faithful departed (Christians who have died since the previous All Saints Day). This is good, right, and beneficial though it can bring tears to those who are still marching onward as the "Church Militant." A second reason applies to saints who did something extraordinary in and/or with their lives. So when did the *real* St. Nicholas live, and what did he do that is worth emulating?

A church worker in our synod, Julie [Stiegemeyer](#), wrote a fabulous children's book enti-



continued on page 2

tled: Saint Nicholas: *The Real Story of the Christmas Legend*. It was published by CPH, our publishing house (Concordia) in 2003, nine years prior to a book written by Professor Adam English of Campbell University in North Carolina. Both authors pieced together the life of St. Nicholas, the latter in his 2012 book, *The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus: The True Life and Trials of Nicholas of Myra*. Finally, that ever faithful internet encyclopedia, *Wikipedia*, conveys details that all three sources have in common.

Professor English says it succinctly: . . . as a young man, Nicholas had inherited a sum of money. Nicholas hears about a man in town with three daughters on the verge of destitution. So he bags up some gold, and in the middle of the night, anonymously tosses the bag through the window. Nicholas repeats the act two more times so that the family could use the money as dowries for [each of] the daughters.

From this one faith-filled true story flows many other legends that were built upon and elevated, as is so often the case with the belief that a saint is somehow between human and angel. By the twelfth century, English says, nuns in France were making little gifts, leaving them on the doorsteps of children, and signing them "from St. Nicholas."

Ms. Stiegemeier says it this way:

Tales of Nicholas' generosity were widespread, and he became patron saint of Russia. In Europe, he was known as Father Christmas, and in America, Santa Claus. Legends about his home at the north pole, flying reindeer, and distributing gifts all over the world on Christmas Eve were created to enhance his story, but his generosity is based in historical fact, . . . the story of his supplying the dowries for the three girls is believed to be factual.

She goes on to say, "The significance of Nicholas for us today is that his response to God's great love for us in Jesus was to care for other people. His kindness and care for children are modeled every time we give a gift out of love.

Truly, St. Nicholas is one saint worth emulating.
Pastor Anderegg



**Christmas Eve
Service**
December 24
6 p.m.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

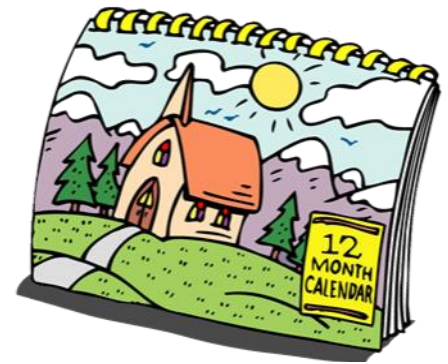
- Dec. 11 Blake Johnston
- Dec. 14 Bob & Penny Hansen
- Dec. 16 Bob Mueller
- Dec. 19 Judy Janssen

Meeting Canceled

Peace is one of many polling places in the area. Since the general election fell on the same night as our council meeting, the council meeting was canceled.

2023 Calendars Are Available

If you are in need of one or more 2023 calendars, they are located on the table in the sanctuary. Take as many as you need.





We invite you to come to Christ the King Lake Ozark and purchase your homemade Christmas cookies baked fresh from the volunteers at Christ the King Lutheran Church. You will find a large variety to select from, including fudge and homemade candy. The sale is on Friday, December 9 from 10 a. m. to 5 p.m. Price is \$9.00 lb. All proceeds will go to the King's Academy school.

Hospitalized?

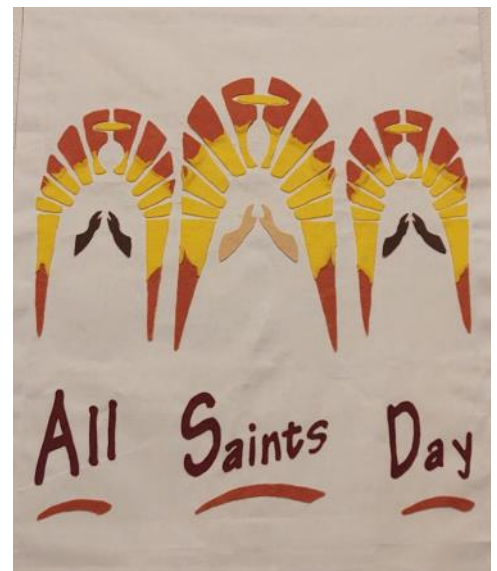
If you or a loved one is hospitalized, have experienced a death in the family, are home bound, or scheduled to go to the hospital, please call Pastor Brandt (580-421-8108). Please keep in mind that privacy laws also limit the information hospitals can share with us. Both Pastor Anderegg (573-528-4597) and Pastor Brandt are available for any emergency, or any issue you and your loved ones might be having. Remember, our two pastors are here to serve you. **Our Elders:** Jeff Hedberg (573-819-4446), Joe Stauch (573-347-2903), Earl Hartenstein (573-691-7117) will also assist in getting one of the pastors to follow up on any issue, not just hospitalization for you, a loved one or a death in the family. To find out which Elder you are assigned to, please see the bulletin board in the Narthex.

New Furnace & Air Conditioner



On October 31, Tom's Heating and Air replaced the second of the three furnaces in the church.

New Banners for All Saints Day



Thanks to everyone involved who worked on the All Saints banners.



Join us for Mid-Week
Advent services at
6 p.m. on
November 30
December 7
December 14

Altar Flowers

You have the opportunity to sign up to provide flowers for any occasion you wish to celebrate. The sign-up sheet is located the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Greeters/ Coffee Servers Needed

There are still dates available for December to sign up as a greeter/coffee server. You can sign up with your spouse or another member for a Sunday. Requirements are greet people with a smile and a “hello” when they come in the door, make coffee (instructions available) & clean up afterwards.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Disaster Response ministry responds to immediate and long-term needs following natural and man-made disasters. The LCMS is launching a full-scale response to Hurricane Ian. Detailed information about the response can be found at www.lcms.org/disaster. This response will be an extended one and much aid and comfort will be needed. Here is how you can give:

- **By mail** — Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and write “Hurricane Relief” on the memo line. Send to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.
- **By telephone** — Call 888-930-4438.
- **Online** — Visit lcms.org/givenow/hurricane



All ladies of Peace and their guests are invited to the LWML Christmas party to be held on Friday, December 16 beginning at 12 p.m. A variety of salads with dessert will be provided. Please sign up on the board in the Narthex how many people in your party are coming and what type of salad you plan to bring.

Hats & Mittens

The Ozark and Camdenton elementary schools are in need of hats and mittens.

If you would like to donate these items, a basket is available in the Narthex. We are accepting these items until mid-December. If you have any questions, please contact any LWML member.



Directory of Church Officers, Appointed Offices & Auxiliary Organizations 2023

Elected Officers:

Elders: Jeff Hedberg
Jeff Emery
Joe Stauch

President: Bob Hansen
Vice President: Brock Kliever
Secretary: Susan Kral
Treasurer: Peggy Callahan
Financial Sec.: Brett Niebur
Trustees: Chuck Kral
Rodney Schulz
Pat Callahan

Dir. of Evangelism: Russ Schulz
Dir. of Stewardship: Dawn Hedberg

Appointed Offices:

Cemetery: Diane Borgmann
Altar Guild: Diane Borgmann
Auxiliary Organizations:

LWML Officers:

President: Sara Anderegg
Vice President: Sheryl Bald
Secretary: Vicki Lamb
Treasurer: Susan Kral

Thrivent: Vacant

Thank you to the officers that served their term and those that continue to serve. We welcome the new officers.

Cards Available

There are a nice selection of cards available for purchase for \$1.00 each and are purchased on the honor system. The cards are located in the Narthex.

November 7, 2022, LWML Meeting

Pastor Anderegg continued our Bible study on the book of Ruth.

Nine members answered roll call using a Bible verse with the word reap. We welcome Jan Loman as a new member.

The September minutes were read and approved.

Susan handed out and discussed the treasurer's report. We gave a love offering of \$50 to Zoey's Home in Clinton. The treasurer's report was approved as printed.

President's Report: Sara and Carol Murrell attended the zone board meeting at Warsaw. The Spring rally will be held here at Peace on April 18. The other two churches will be providing the food for brunch, and we will provide coffee and orange juice.



Thank you for your continued support of the Pocket Change for Mites. We collected a total of \$86 for October and November. Our next Mites collection will be Sunday, January 1, 2023. Bring your mites anytime in the month and place in the LWML box in the back of the church.

Sara will be the speaker and will present information on Christian Art.

Yearly dues were gathered by active members. Large print quarterlies are available free of charge.

Cathie gave the Mites reading and the offering bags were passed around.

Correspondence: none

Committees: Pop tabs: no report, **Best Choice Labels:** no report, **Kitchen:** the kitchen is in good shape. The kitchen needs to be reorganized and the cabinets need to have updated labels.

Human Care: Osage Beach and Camdenton elementary schools need hats and mittens. We will gather them from now until mid-December. Information will be placed in the bulletin and newsletter. Deb will give lessons for those who would like to learn how to knit the hats.

The Christmas stocking money will be collected at the Christmas party. We decided the money will be given locally to Medical Missions for Christ. Deb is finishing the Christmas Christmas.

Old Business:

- We all agreed the All-Saints Banners were beautiful. We thank all of those involved.
- The Fall tea was a huge success. We took in more than \$700 for Lutheran Ukraine Relief.

- Diane and Jan will work on organizing and relabeling the kitchen cabinets in January. Carol ordered a sample label for us to review.

New Business:

The Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 16 beginning at noon with a salad luncheon. Members can also bring guests. We agreed not to have a gift exchange. Paula will take care of the decorations, games etc.

This is the 80th year of the LWML (1942-2022). The LWML would like each group to donate 80 of something i.e. socks, hats mittens etc. They would like pictures from each local group to make a montage for the June 2023 National Convention in Milwaukee, WI.

Our treasury funds are low. We discussed at length of various fundraisers we could have.

We are planning to have a Valentine's party after the February 12 worship. A Thrivent card could be used to purchase food. We can ask Paula about decorations.

We also talked about bringing back a congregation Christmas party.

We will have a December 12 meeting at 9:30 a.m. to finish up the book of Ruth. Roll call word is peace.

With no further business we closed with prayer. Sheryl Bald, acting secretary



Christmas Devotion

And what do we need? The Lord answered that question when, in a dream, He spoke to Joseph, Jesus' stepfather. He said, "Jesus will save His people from their sins." A SAVIOR FROM SIN ~ THAT IS WHAT WE NEED. The best and worst of us, the successful and the failures, the healthy and the sick, the young and the old -- all of us need a Savior because all of us are helpless to save ourselves. We need a Savior who will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. A Savior is what we need, and a Savior is what was given to us in Bethlehem. Seeing our helplessness to live a perfect life, resist temptation and defeat death, the Lord gave us what we needed: a Redeemer who would live the perfect life we could not, who would die the death we deserved, who would rise on the third day to show the world that death had been defeated. Jesus is the gift humanity needs. He is the Savior whose birth Christians remember. Now let us pray that by the Holy Spirit's power and before another Christmas comes around, the lost of this world may be turned from the things they think they want, to the Savior the Lord knows they need.

The Prayer: Dear Lord, for months we have heard the advertising world tell us what we should get for Christmas, if we want to be happy, successful, or envied. Today I give thanks that You have, in the Person of Jesus, given me what I need: a Savior from sin. In the year to come may I share this great Gift with others. In my Savior's Name I ask it. Amen.



The Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:20b-21



What do you want for Christmas? You don't have to ask children a second time. They know what they want for Christmas. Recent letters to Santa tell us what's on some wish lists:

- One child wrote to Santa and summarized: "I did not get what I wanted last time. My name is Penny and I am still living in the same house. There is a big number 40 on the door. Santa, let's get it straight."

- Another child named Morris minimized word usage when he made this simple request: "Dear Santa, I want one of everything you've got."
- Six-year-old Robert was a bit more directive when he sent his letter to Santa. His instructions were "I want a rifle, a pistol, a machine gun, a hand grenade, dynamite and tear gas. I am planning a big surprise for my big brother."
- Of course, there are children who are a bit more pragmatic. One girl wrote, "Dear Santa, me and my brother are not very happy this Christmas. Our daddy left home in the summer and has not sent any money. Plus, my mom is sick and can't get out to work much. We don't have a tree this year, and I am afraid we won't have any presents at all. Will you please send just a little toy to my brother David to make him feel good? Thank you. From your friend, Sammy."

As the years change, so does our list of things we want for Christmas. Thankfully, the Lord pays more attention to what we need, rather than what we say we want.

The Problem of Darwinism

from The Reason I Believe by Allen Quist

Bill Nye, the science guy, presented his arguments for evolution in his debate with Ken Ham.

Nye's Argument 1:

Ice Core Dating. In his first argument, Nye said that the ice caps in Greenland are 680,000 years old, far too old for Genesis to be accurate. Is he correct? It is easily demonstrated to be false based on the 1992 recovery of an airplane called the *Glacier Girl*,



a WWII plane that was abandoned on a Greenland ice cap. After the crew was rescued, the plane was eventually buried beneath 264 feet of ice. After several searches, the plane was discovered in 1992, brought to the surface, and restored to flying condition. The reason that earlier search parties didn't find the plane was because it was thought that it could be no more than 40 feet below the ice. This means that we now know the actual rate of ice accumulation on Greenland. We know that the plane did not sink in the ice because that would've broken the wings. All 264 feet of ice accumulated after the plane had been abandoned, which means that the scientific consensus had been wrong and not to be taken seriously. The new rate of ice buildup means that it would take only 1,000 years for the ice cap to become one mile deep, which is what it is now. The supposed 680,000-year-old age of the Greenland ice cap has been proven false and, therefore, the ice core dating argument used to discredit Genesis is now known to be mistaken.

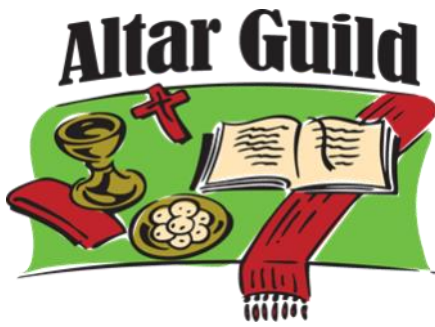
Next Month: Nye's second argument: Old Tjikko

Witnessing Truth

"Witnessing myths" are centered on what WE do to bring other people to faith. In contrast, "witnessing truths" put things in their place by centering them on the triune God. Saving people is His work, not ours. But we still have a roll as God does His work through us. He doesn't need to do that. He could do saving work without us – and we may be tempted to think that He should. But, we know that the Lord desires all people to hear the Word of Truth and come to know the salvation that Jesus has won for them (1 Timothy 2:4). We also know that the Lord best understands how to save His people. C.F.W. Walther offers this insight: "God plants, manages, extends, and sustains His kingdom not directly, but by the means of men, who are altogether unfit for the task....Who can measure the greatness of God's love, revealed in the fact that He desires not only to save this apostate world but also to employ human beings – that is, sinners – for this task? Who can plumb the depths of the wisdom of God, who

knows how to accomplish the work of saving people by – of all things – using other people who are quite unfit and unqualified for this work?" (C. F. W. Walther, Law and Gospel: How to Read and Apply the Bible) Our having a role in God's mission to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) shows us His great love and wisdom.

And remember the LASSIE approach to witnessing: (Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, Encourage) by Mark Wood director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry (<https://www.everyonehiswitness.org>)



Altar Guild

Externals Are Important

Nonetheless, externals are invariably associated with Christian worship. There for they are important.

Christian doctrine, faith, and life are never merely theoretical, barren, or lifeless. They express themselves in outward acts. Churches formulate principles and policies also in matters which are neither

Commanded nor forbidden by God. These principles and policies are not based on any ceremonial laws of God, but on Christian doctrine, tradition and sanctified common sense.

First Principle

A first principle of worship is that traditional forms of worship are to be retained as long as they are helpful and in harmony with the Word of God.

Those forms that become corrupted or lost may be restored and purified, brought back to their originally pious purpose.

For instance, worshiping toward the altar in church is a traditional and laudable Christian custom whose purpose is to focus the worshiper's attention on the presence of God among His people, to remind them on the redeeming sacrifice of Christ, and to stimulate their sacrifice of self, their prayers, praise, adoration, and service to Him.

If you would be interested in becoming a member of the Altar guild, please contact the church office.

Stewardship

Anxiety vs. Trust

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: **"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24).**

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25-33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified



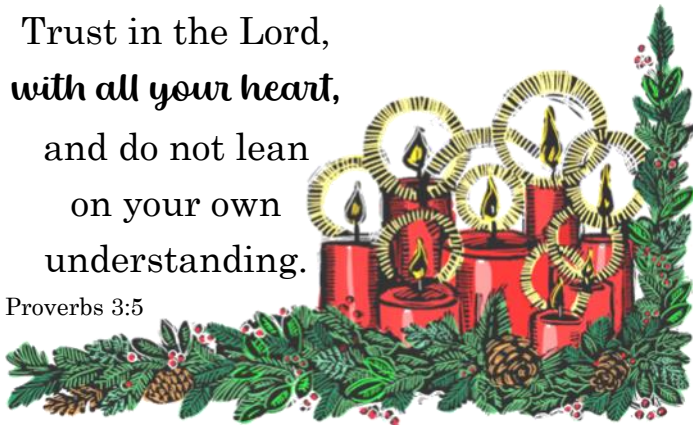
The Sermon on the Mount

CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM, BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU.

1 PETER 5:7, NRSV

Trust in the Lord,
with all your heart,
and do not lean
on your own
understanding.

Proverbs 3:5



for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

— Reprinted from the LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Servants of God

Elder: Earl Hartenstein
Altar Guild: Dawn Hedberg

December 4

Pastor Rick Anderegg
Organist: Diana Schwab
Ushers: Bob & Penny Hansen, Paul Bartels
Flowers: Penny and Bob Hansen
Counters: Jeff & Dawn Hedberg

December 7: Midweek Advent Ser. @ 6 p.m.

December 11

Pastor Gary Brandt
Organist: Diana Schwab
Ushers: Earl & Shelia Hartenstein, Jeff & Paula Emery
Counters: Jeff & Paula Emery

December 14: Midweek Advent Ser. @ 6 p.m.

December 18

Pastor Gary Brandt
Organist: Diana Schwab
Ushers: Diane Borgmann, Sheryl Bald, Rodney Schulz
Counters: Brett & Cindy Niebur

December 24—Christmas Eve Service @ 6 p.m.

December 25—Christmas Day Service

Pastor Gary Brandt
Organist: Diana Schwab
Ushers: Jeff & Dawn Hedberg, Russell Schulz
Counters: Matt & Deb Mayes

Worship Schedules

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

Wednesday Midweek 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*



DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Mites Collection	5 Elders Meeting 9:30 a.m.	6	7 Midweek Advent Service 6 p.m.	8	9 Cookie Sale Fundraiser Christ the King 10 a.m.-5 p.m.	10
11 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	12 LWML Mtg. 9:30 a.m.	13 Council Mtg. 6:30 pm	14 Midweek Advent Service 6 p.m.	15	16 LWML Christmas Party 12 p.m.	17
18 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	19 Newsletter Deadline 9 a.m.	20	21  First Day of Winter	22	23	24 Christmas Eve  Service 6 p.m.
25  Christmas Day Service 9 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31  New Year's Eve



News of Peace is a monthly newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, 9307 North State Highway 5, Camdenton, MO 65020; Rev. Richard Anderegg: 573-528-4597, Rev. Gary Brandt: 580-481-8108; Church Phone: 573-836-3959; Office Hours: M, T, W, 8 am to 12 pm; Church email: plccamdenton@gmail.com; Website: www.plccamdenton.org

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."