

**PEACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

91 WERNEX LOOP  
SELAH, WA 98942  
509-697-4353

**Pastor  
Mark Griesse**

**Office Hours**  
9:00-12:00

Mon. & Thu. @ Peace

Tue. & Wed. @  
Bethlehem

Afternoons by Appointment

**Secretary  
Tammy Peterson**

9:00-1:00  
Mon-Fri

**Sunday Worship**  
9:00 a.m.

**Sunday Adult  
Bible Class**  
10:30 a.m.

**Website**  
peacelutheran-  
church.360unite.com

**Email**  
peacelutheranselah@gmail.com



# Messenger of Peace

Dear Members and Friends,

Advent, a season of four Sundays, opens the church year. The season begins on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 30). The observance of Advent originated in France during the fourth century. The duration of the season varied from four to seven weeks until the Bishop of Rome in the sixth century set the season at four weeks. In ancient times Advent was strictly observed; every Christian was required to attend church services and fast daily.

The word "Advent" consist of two Latin words: ad – venire, "To come to." Advent's message is that God in Christ is coming to the world. This coming may be:

1. *A past experience.* God did come in Christ at Christmas. The prophets' promise was fulfilled in the Babe.
2. *A present experience.* God may come to you this Christmas in terms of rebirth, either for the first time, or a renewed birth in deeper dimensions and reality.
3. *A future experience.* Christ will return unpredictably at the end of the word. "He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead."

Since Advent promises the sure coming of the Lord, its message is "prepare." The Lord is coming whether the world is ready or not. For those unprepared, his coming means judgement. For those ready for his coming, it means salvation. How does Advent suggest we prepare?

*Repentance* - forsake the sins of the world for a godly way of life.

*Prayer* - pray for the coming of Christ, for he shall save.

*Patience* - his coming may be delayed. Watch and wait, for his coming may be sudden.

Of all the seasons, Advent is the most difficult to observe because of the competition with the commercial world. The world "celebrates" Christmas during Advent rather than during the twelve days of Christmas which begin on December 25.

The coming of Christ is the culmination of an historical process coming down through the history of Israel. This is the climax of God's plan of Salvation. The Old Testament is a record of God's preparing the world for the coming of his Son. *In the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son...* Since Advent is the Old Testament period of the church year, the emphasis is upon the preparatory work of God through prophets, priests, kings, and acts of history for the coming of the Messiah.

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Advent also deals with the Second Coming of Christ. A firm conviction of the coming again of Christ can mean much to our worship and devotional life. We prepare our hearts to receive Jesus through word and sacrament. He will come to his people bringing salvation and eternal life. *"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, and the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God."* It is the culmination of the history of the world, the obliteration of evil and the final victory of the forces of God.

I pray God's blessings on your contemplation and observance of the Advent Season.

~~~ Pastor Griesse

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The next **Men's Night Out** is scheduled for **Monday, December 17th**. All Peace Lutheran men and a guest are invited to meet at Tailgaters in Selah at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of relaxing and just shooting-the-breeze.

## December O.W.L.S. Lunch

This month O.W.L.S. will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on **Friday, December 14th at the Apple Tree Restaurant in Yakima**. Please let Marcia Shotwell know if you plan to attend (697-4543).



## Sing Some Christmas Carols!

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church is asking those interested to join them for caroling at the Valley Mall on Sunday, December 9th at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is to meet by the escalator.

# Holiday Schedule...



**Advent Worship—December 5th, 12th, and 19th at 6:45 p.m.**

Soup and Sandwich Suppers will be offered prior to worship at 6:00 p.m.

**Christmas Worship w/Communion—Monday, December 24th at 7:30 p.m. at Peace.**

## Office Closure...

The Church Office will be closed Tuesday & Wednesday, December 25th & 26th, in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

## Pastor on Vacation...

Pastor Griesse will be on vacation December 26th-31st. If you need pastoral assistance during his absence please contact our Head Elder, Mike Phelps, or one of the other Lay Ministers.

## Update on Vicar Program...

For those of you who have not heard, the Vicar Program was approved by the majority of voters at the Voters' Meeting held November 11th. We will be taking donations to fund this program in order to have the money needed before applying for a Vicar.

**IMPORTANT:** If you plan to donate to the Vicar Program your donation MUST be on a separate check (or cash in separate envelope) from your regular offering. If they are combined everything will go into the General Offering.

