

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
peace.lutheran-
church.360unite.com

Email
peace.lutheran.selah@gmail.com



Messenger of Peace

Dear Members and Friends,

Most of the world does important things with great fanfare, publicity, and a whole lot of noise. Our God does things differently. He hides himself in the flesh and blood of a little baby in a backwater town in a cattle stall. Then instead of announcing to the Emperors and priests that God has come to dwell with us he sends an angel chorus to shepherds in the fields. More than anything it trumpets the truth that Jesus Christ came to save prostitutes, tax collectors, the lonely, the lost, the sinners.

That means that Christmas is for me. It tells me of God's great love for me. It tells me I can put my trust in Jesus because even **"though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."**

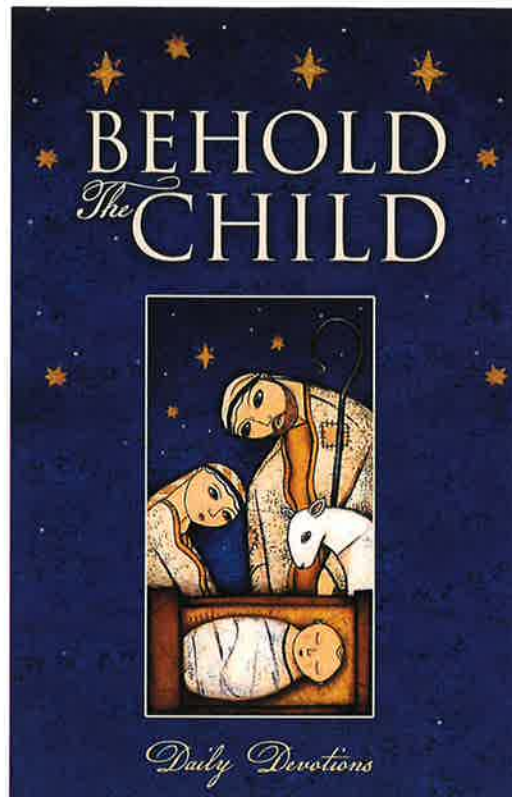
May we take time this Christmas to ponder this great wonder and worship Him who comes to us as a child meek and mild.

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n
So God imparts to human heart the blessing of His heav'n
No ear may hear His coming But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!*

Yvonne and I wish you and your family a joyous Christmas and may his blessings continue throughout the coming year.

~~Pastor Griesse



This Advent/Christmas season we will be following the theme "Behold The Child." Advent is a season of preparation to receive Jesus into our hearts and lives. Advent has the dual theme of preparing to receive God hidden under the flesh and blood of a child in a manger and also preparing to receive God at the end of all time coming on the clouds in great power and glory. Christmas celebrates the grace of God given in a child who will live a perfect life, suffer a cruel death and then rise in victory over sin death and the power of the Devil.

Behold the Child celebrates Jesus as both God and man. I pray that the daily devotions will help you focus on the joy of God's great gift to us at Christmas. Thirty-seven days of devotions guide you from December 1 through Epiphany (January 6). Each devotion connects with the corresponding sermon series drawing you closer to your Savior, the blessed Child. You can find the devotionals on the table in the Fellowship Hall (one per family please).

The Life and Times of Len Martian...

For the past twelve to fifteen years Len Martian has faithfully attended Peace Lutheran Church. Although not officially a member yet, Len is as faithful as a member and prefers to participate fully in the worship, sacraments and study of God's word.



Len was born in Belfield, N.D. in July 31, 1931, a descendant of German immigrants. As a child his father came to America from Eastern Germany. His mother also had German heritage. His parents were farmers in northern North Dakota, but Len said his parents lost the farm during the depression. When his father got a temporary job they moved to Belfield. From the time Len was seven until he was in the 6th grade they lived in Belfield. He said the winters were very cold with temperatures getting down to 50 degrees below zero. He appreciates the weather of the Selah area much more, both summer and winter.

Len and his family moved to Selah in the early 1940s. His father had a sister living in the area and she invited them to live here. His father got a job with Fred Brown and did his irrigation in the orchards. Len graduated from Selah High School in 1949. He started working for Del Monte at age 15 on a part time basis.

He had married Marie in February, just prior to entering the Army in 1952. He joined the U.S. Army and served during the Korean conflict, serving in both Okinawa and Korea. After serving over two years in the Army Len came back to Selah. Upon returning he went back to work for Del Monte. Len then went to barber school in Yakima for nine months. He worked in a barber shop in the old Yakima Hotel till 1960 when he bought his own barber shop.

Len and Marie were blessed with two children, Dan who eventually studied for the ministry in the Presbyterian Church during which time the family were members of the Presbyterian Church. Dan has served churches in Terrace Heights, Pittsburg PA and now in New Jersey. Daughter Rhonda and her husband live in Terrace Heights and have one son.

After 59 years of barbering, Len retired a couple of years ago. Len, was initially Roman Catholic but some years ago had some disagreements with the practice of Catholicism and started going to the Presbyterian Church. This was fine with Marie, as she was initially a member of the Assembly of God. The change was suitable for both. However, some differences gradually evolved there, so they decided to look at a local church and chose Peace Lutheran Church. After several months when Pastor Kris Morris was the pastor, they made the decision to stay in worship and fellowship with Peace. They agreed with the doctrine and the friendliness of Peace and it's members.

Marie passed away in 2018, and Len continues to reside at their home on Fremont Avenue where he has lived since 1959. He appreciates the members of Peace Lutheran, especially the ones who comforted him following his wife Marie's passing. We can always see Len sitting in his usual pew on the upper left side of the sanctuary nearly every Sunday morning and at Pastor's Wednesday evening Bible class.



Advent Season...

Our Wednesday Evening Advent Services are December 4th, 11th & 18th. We will have soup and sandwich suppers at 6:00 p.m. on those evenings, with Devotions following at 6:45 p.m. There is a food sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for the suppers.

Bible Study Classes...

- The Wednesday Evening Bible Class at Peace and the morning Bible Class at Bethlehem is taking a break during the Advent Season.
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- The Women's Bible Class will not meet during December. They will resume January 17th.

Thank you...

Thank you to all who donated warm socks, gloves and hats for our Veterans. They were delivered and most appreciated.

Christmas Family...

Peace will be providing Christmas dinner and gifts to a local family again this year. There is a food sign-up sheet for the dinner on the table in the Fellowship Hall. There are also tags with all the info for the gifts. If you have any questions, contact Jean Sinclair.



***AND SHE SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THOU SHALT
CALL HIS NAME JESUS: FOR HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE
FROM THEIR SINS. MATTHEW 1:21.***

December O.W.L.S. Lunch

O.W.L.S. will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on **Friday, December 13th** at **Waterfire Restaurant (40th & Washington)**. If you plan to attend please let Marcia know at 697-4543 or shotwell@elltel.net.



Bazaar Results...

If you haven't heard, Peace did awesome at the Holiday Bazaar at Our Lady of Lourdes last month. The bazaar committee worked hard at getting everything ready to sell and also working at the tables during the bazaar. The final tally is \$1705.00! Way to go Ladies!!



The next **Men's Night Out** is scheduled for **Monday, December 16th**. 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.

Christmas Eve Service...

Peace will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Dec. 24th at 7:30 p.m. There will be an earlier service at 5:30 at Bethlehem.

Address Change...

Peace member, Mert Lehman, has moved into the Landmark Care Center. Her new address is 710 N. 39th Ave. #111, Yakima, 98902.

Second Commandment

Luther's explanation: "We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks" (Luther's Small Catechism, pp. 11–12). The ESV translation of the Second Commandment reads, "**You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain**" (Ex 20:7). The term "in vain" means to empty of significance, to disrespect, to belittle. The issue of the Second Commandment is reverence.

We are an irreverent society. We like to knock people off their pedestal. We are happy to hear about the weaknesses and failures of the rich and famous. Like me, you may glance furtively at the sensational headlines on tabloids as you stand in the check-out lane. We have an obsessive need to pop everybody's bubble, to reduce everyone to our level of ordinariness. Is that also why we are so irreverent with God's name? We don't want even him considered special?

Some years ago on a trip with my wife to New England, we were amazed that we hadn't heard any swear words. We had even been on a difficult hike up a steep mountain along with a group of high school youth. Not even the teenagers had used any swear words despite the slipping, sliding, and scraping. At our last stop, we asked our hostess why there was no swearing in this part of the country. Her first response revealed what she thought of the Midwest, where we live, "Perhaps people are better educated here." (She apparently associated vulgar language with lack of culture.) I replied, "Plenty of people with doctorates use that kind of language too." Then she guessed, "Perhaps it has to do with the Puritan background in this part of the country."

That made more sense to me. The Puritans indeed did revere God's name, and perhaps they set a standard that remains today. They feared God and would never use his sacred name casually or disrespectfully. What does the word *god* mean to you? I must admit that when people say, "O God," I don't get as upset as when they say "Christ" this and "Jesus" that. To me, apparently, the word *god* is generic. It's common to all religions and has many meanings, different for a Hindu or a Muslim or a Christian.

But the name of Jesus is different. That name is important in my personal faith. That is the name of the Son of God who became flesh and blood like me—who loved me enough to die on the cross in my place. That is the name through which I am saved and have forgiveness of sins, new life, and the assurance of eternity in heaven. Peter says, "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

That is the name God exalted over every name and sat at his own right hand. Paul says, "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:9–11). We may not literally bow our knee or head at the name of Jesus, but do we bow spiritually? Do we humble ourselves and honor that name before the world?

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Growing up in Chicago, I heard four-letter words everywhere. My wife's father, a conservative Missouri Synod pastor, did not consider those words swearing. That language was not sinful, not a misuse of the name of God, it was just coarse and vulgar according to our culture. He got much more upset when we said "Gee," or "Gee wiz." These are shorthand for "Jesus" and "Jesus Christ." This man deeply revered the name of his Savior and resented anyone using that sacred name flippantly.

The Second Commandment confronts us with a personal question: how deeply do we revere our Savior? There is a liturgical custom that each time the name of Jesus is mentioned in worship—in a Gospel reading, hymn, or prayer—all worshipers should slightly bow their heads. I don't personally follow that practice, though I do bow my head whenever the name of the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is mentioned.

A Jew never says *Yahweh*, the name God told to Moses at the burning bush, meaning "I am who I am" (Ex 3:14). When those letters appear in Hebrew text, a Jewish worshiper will avoid saying the sounds. He will switch to *Adonai*, another name for God in the Old Testament, but will never say *Yahweh*, the real name of God. That would be sacrilegious and irreverent.

Do you feel that way about the name of Jesus? Do you count it a privilege that you know this name and all it means for our life and salvation? How would your life be different if you did not know this name? Paul says, "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3:17). Luther includes that thanks in his explanation of the Second Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks."

Hold high the name. When you hear the name *Jesus*, do you think of him on the cross, going through hell in your place? Do you honor his name by praying? Do you think of him rising on Easter and going to prepare a place for you at his side for all eternity? Do you honor his name by rejoicing?

Each time you come to worship, do you relish the opportunity to join with fellow disciples to fall at Jesus' feet and hear his words of hope and direction? Do you honor his name by listening? Do you look forward to every opportunity to come to his Table and receive his body and blood through the bread and wine, to fill yourself with his love and forgiveness? Do you honor his name by coming?

Hold high the name! The next time I hear Jesus' name misused, I pray that God's Spirit will embolden me to say, "You know, that's the name of my best friend and Savior."

**WHEN WE HONOR GOD'S NAME, WE HONOR GOD
HIMSELF, WHO DIED TO SAVE US FROM OUR SIN.**



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program! On air since 1930 and broadcast in more than 80 countries.

December 2019

December 1

"Enough with the Self-Talk"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What you say to yourself about yourself may or may not be what's true.

Who does God say you are? You'll find that you are worse than you thought, and yet, more loved than you could ever imagine. (Luke 18:9-14)

December 8

"God's Yes"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Loved and Sent Series

(Romans 8:18-39)

December 15

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Loved and Sent Series

December 22

"Christmas"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

December 29

"Dreams"

Guest Speaker: Pastor John Nunes

(Jeremiah 23:24)

**Listen to
The Lutheran Hour**



The LHM Mission: *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*

LHM plays a vital role in helping spread the Gospel message all over the world with 34 ministry centers on six continents reaching into more than 50 countries, often bringing Christ to places where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present. LHM's flagship ministry, The Lutheran Hour®, airs weekly on more than 1,800 radio stations and the American Forces Network.

MINISTRY NEWS



Speaking of JESUS

New Podcast from LHM. Join us each

week to hear real people having a real conversation about life, Jesus, and what he means to them. We encourage you to invite Jesus into your everyday conversations, too. Each week will unfold a discussion between 4-5 individuals about an excerpt from the Bible, what it means to them, and how it applies to daily life. They are the ones Speaking of Jesus.

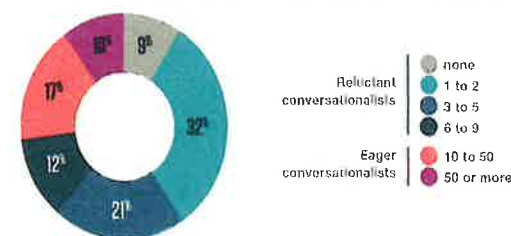
Real people having a real conversation about Jesus. That's it.

We want to encourage you to invite Jesus into everyday conversations. The weekly dialogue is centered around Christ and his relevance. This program is a dialogue between a variety of Christians from different walks of life, different stages of life, and different family backgrounds.

<https://www.lhm.org/speakingofjesus/>

**NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FAITH
IN THE PAST YEAR**

* AMONG U.S. SELF-IDENTIFIED CHRISTIANS



Global Focus — Myanmar (Burma)

Director: Mrs. Zin Mar Kyaw (Mar Lay)

Website: www.lhm.org/intlportal

May is 15 years old and comes from a non-Christian family. She and her family are homeless and she is not able to go to school. May has learned a lot of information through literature received from LHM-Myanmar. LHM staff and volunteers host puppet shows and children's programs which May is always invited to and she pays very close attention when she goes. May heard about God's love and salvation at a puppet show and saw how the staff and volunteers showed the love of God through their actions. May was led to trust in Jesus by the power of God's Word, but her parents still don't believe. She recently began bringing her younger brother and sister to the LHM events to participate in the programs with her.

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM)—Myanmar (Burma) is known locally as Word of Hope. This ministry center prides itself on its use of various media to reach the public. Radio programs, cassettes, videos, and print materials all play important roles in the growing Christian faith in Myanmar. One successful radio program is "Hope for Youth," a 15-minute program that airs nightly and appeals to both youth and young adults. Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC) offered by LHM—Myanmar utilize different messages and lessons to appeal to both youth and adults.

Lutheran Hour Ministries **International Ministry Centers** in more than 30 countries serve the needs of hurting people. Ministry center volunteers reach out to their neighbors and communities in culturally appropriate ways with the story of Jesus—sometimes at great personal risk. Every \$10 you give enables us to reach 1,000. To donate or for more info: www.lhm.org/international

LLL/LHM Districts

The Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) is divided into regional districts and district zones, each zone having ambassadors for each of their zone churches. Districts partner with an Intl LHM ministry center. Districts have the opportunity to choose from a variety of ministry center needs, allowing them to reach out with effective ministry to the people of that region.

LHM MOBILE APPS

