



# Messenger of Peace

*"Where the love of Christ is shared."*

*January 2015*

**Peace Lutheran Church**

91 Wernex Loop  
Selah, WA 98942  
Phone: 509-697-4353

**Pastor**

**Mark Griesse**

Office Hours  
9:00 - 12:00

Tues - Wed. - Bethlehem  
Mon. & Thur. - Peace  
Afternoons by Appointment

**Secretary**

**Tammy Peterson**

9:00 - 1:00  
Mon. - Fri.

**Sunday Worship**

9:00 AM

**Sunday Bible Study**

10:30 AM

**Website**

[peacelutheranchurch@360unite.com](mailto:peacelutheranchurch@360unite.com)

**Email**

[peacelutheran@fairpoint.net](mailto:peacelutheran@fairpoint.net)



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

Dear Members and Friends,

Epiphany (January 6) is the thirteenth and final day of Christmas, not because it is the end of Christmas, but because Epiphany is the climax of Christmas. Epiphany is the season finale; the time of greatest rejoicing. The substance of Epiphany is this: that the glory of God shines upon us and we are led toward that glory-light and away from darkness. This theme, being led out of darkness into marvelous light, unifies Christmas with Epiphany.

Now we may not be feeling particularly illuminated right now. The post-Christmas gloom may have begun set in. The bright wrapping paper from Christmas presents lies in damp dark shreds at the bottom of our trash cans. Even the Christmas trees are looking quite dry and brittle. Their lights are usually unplugged; their once welcome warmth worn out. We are like our world (or it is like us): not particularly bright at this time of year. We are dimmed and subdued by our own nature.

This After-Christmas darkness seeps into us from the wrong emphasis we and our world sometimes place upon the symbols of Christmas. The symbols of Christmas for many become the meaning of Christmas. These symbols are trees and lightbulbs, gifts and snow. Snow melts; gifts break, stain, or tear; lightbulbs burn out; trees wither and die. Unlike Christmas itself, the symbols of Christmas are things that are here today and gone tomorrow. Trees and snow, lightbulbs and presents are meant only to represent Christmas, not be Christmas. When Christmas becomes only trees and presents, lightbulbs and snow and nothing more, then it ceases to be Christmas that is "Christ's Mass" or the worship of Christ, and becomes something dark and fleeting.

Our hearts can be aglow, but we need to learn the lesson of the Magi. The lesson of the Magi is that they came first to worship and second to give gifts. We often focus first on the gifts but the focus of the Magi is not primarily upon the gifts they gave, but the gift they received: Christ. They came to worship. Worship, Divine Service as we call it, is just that: it is God first giving us the greatest gift--His word and His forgiveness in Christ. Then, having been first served by God, Divine Service is us serving God, with our lives, with everything we are. Come and join us in worship, come let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Griesse



The next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held January 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8 a.m. at Howard Johnson Plaza.  
(9 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Yakima)

Come by yourself or bring guests and share in the fun, food, and fellowship of this exciting ministry for men.

**MAY GOD BLESS  
YOU ALL IN THE  
UPCOMING YEAR!**

- ❖ The Church Office will be closed January 1st & 2nd and will reopen on Monday, January 5th.
- ❖ Pastor will be taking vacation December 28th-January 4th. If anyone needs pastoral assistance during this time please contact a Lay Minister. Call the church office for contact information



### **O.W.L.S. Lunch**

**Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m.  
at Red Lobster**

**We will need a headcount so please let  
Marcia Shotwell know if you plan to attend.  
509-697-4543 or [shotwell@elltel.com](mailto:shotwell@elltel.com)**

### **World Vision ~ Life Gate**

The yearly fee of \$300 to World Vision (parent company of LifeGate) will be due soon. If you would like to help with this fee, please mark your donation "World Vision" and place in the offering plate.

Thank you!

**Thank you to everyone who donated food and/or gifts to our Christmas families this year. The congregation of Peace is truly a place *"Where the love of Christ is shared."***



THANK YOU

Dear Mark,

11-26-14

Thank you so much for opening  
your doors to us today for the  
Selah Academy Thanksgiving dinner.  
The kids had a great time  
and so did the staff. Blessings  
to all of you.  
Ruh Rous, Principal SHS



**CALLED.**  
**LOVED.**  
**SENT**



LUTHERAN  
HOUR  
MINISTRIES

**LHM SUNDAY**

DATE: **Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**  
SERVICE TIMES: **9:00 a.m.**

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"**WHOM SHALL I SEND?**  
and who will go for us?" And I said,  
"**HERE AM I. SEND ME!**"

ISAIAH 6:8



## **Yakima Valley 24/7 Prayer Scripture Support for Prayer Topics January 2015**

**As we begin the year of 2015, we declare it to be a year of hope. We hope in You, LORD, because You are faithful to Your promises (Hebrews 10:23). Please prayerfully read Isaiah 40-43.**

**Because of You, LORD, there is life, an abundant life available to each of us. May the people of the Yakima Valley be awakened to the Hope that is found only in You. You are *our* Way, *our* Truth and *our* Life. (1 Peter 1:3, 4; John 14:6)**

**We thank You that we are Your workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them, and believe Christ in us is the hope of glory. (Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 1:27). Help us walk in Your love to reach the lost and hurting. You have said, "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into Light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them." (Isaiah 42:16 NIV)**

**We ask that through Your Word and through those in place to minister, You would prepare Your people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13 NIV).**

**We pray that we Your people would remember that Your Light shines in and through us and that we represent You. Strengthen us to represent You according to Your Word, character and purpose, especially to those who are doubting or rejecting You. (Ephesians 5:8; Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 5:20)**

**We ask that through You, LORD, we recognize our love must be sincere. We must hate what is evil and cling to what is good. We must be devoted to one another in brotherly love, honoring one another above ourselves. We must never be lacking in zeal, but keep our spiritual fervor, serving You LORD. We must be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer. We must practice hospitality and share with God's people who are in need. (Romans 12:9-13 NIV)**

**We declare Your Word: "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13). Love alone is eternal, for God is love (1 John 4:8). Trust steadily in God. Hope unswervingly and love extravagantly.**

**We ask that we, as ambassadors in Christ and ministers of reconciliation, find ourselves effectively using the wisdom, power and authority we have received from You to reach people who need healing; those who feel lonely, confused and desperate; the homeless, abused and abandoned; those in poverty; those who have lost their hope; those in bondage to destructive substances; those not living up to their potential because they have received the lies of the enemy rather than their identity in God; and those caught in the web of the world and its focus on self. May we be the sweet aroma of Your love. As we reach out in love to others, may the Father be glorified. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:15-17; Luke 6:31)**

**Restore us to the truth of love. Community is unity of Spirit and communion is union with Christ; therefore we, as sons and daughters, choose to abide in the Father's love.**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NIV)**

## Resources available for domestic violence and other issues

During the busy holiday season, it's easy to overlook the hurting and lonely in our midst. We hear the carols and experience the joy, but these are difficult days for those dealing with abuse or violence at home. The world doesn't have much time during the Christmas season for reconciling reality with hope in Christ, but that's where the Church can help.

Even in our sinful world, Jesus brings hope, comfort and forgiveness. Let us remember those who are often forgotten during this happy season and share with them the light of life that never, ever goes out.

To promote life together as we maneuver through this earthly kingdom and the myriad issues we confront almost daily, we have assembled resources on topics ranging from domestic violence to religious liberty now available on a new "social issues" area of [lcms.org](http://lcms.org). While some of the pages are still under construction, and materials are still being updated, we draw your attention to our domestic violence resources.

[Visit Site](#)

The issue has been prominent in the news lately involving stories of abuse by professional athletes. However, domestic violence is not limited to those on either end of the economic spectrum as one might assume. The likelihood of it impacting each of us is great. One study commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced a form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime, demonstrating the urgency with which the Church needs to be prepared to respond to the issue.

Resources on domestic abuse are now available to aid church workers, friends, family members and survivors of domestic abuse in identifying and understanding the issue, and information is provided for how to intervene when such a situation is confronted. Resources include:

- A theological statement entitled "When Homes are Heartless" provides a Lutheran perspective on domestic abuse.
- Pastoral care rites and resources.
- A helpful information sheet containing both practical and spiritual resources for addressing the issue.
- A Lutheran Hour Ministries tract written for abuse survivors, "Has God Abandoned Me?"
- A comprehensive training program for districts, congregations and other LCMS organizations.

You can find these resources at [lcms.org/socialissues/domesticviolence](http://lcms.org/socialissues/domesticviolence). You also can hear an interview on KFUAO about domestic violence and how to respond faithfully in love at [www.kfuoam.org](http://www.kfuoam.org). We pray you find these resources helpful, and we encourage you to share them broadly.

If you have questions about this email or need assistance, please contact the LCMS Church Information Center at 888-THE LCMS (843-5267) or [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org).





# Special LCEF offer for Northwest District members

Submitted by Rev. Laurence L. Meyer, Redeemer LCEF Advocate



**Reminder:** Any member who has not invested in Lutheran Church Extension Fund during the last two years can invest to empower ministries by investing as NEW investors in LCEF's, ConnectPLUS two-year term note.

## **ConnectPLUS\* features:** ☐ **Opportunity to empower ministries**

☐ 3% fixed rate on the first \$5,000;  
second-tier rate on balance over \$5,000

☐ \$500 minimum to open

☐ Two-year term

☐ Additional investments of at least \$25 allowed

**Those who begin a ConnectPLUS account prior to June 1, 2015 will also have the opportunity to support a ministry endeavor of their choice at their congregation.**

Each ConnectPLUS investor will be entered into a monthly drawing beginning January 2015. If the investor's name is drawn, LCEF will "gift" \$100 to a ministry of investor's choice in their congregation (i.e. youth, small groups, choir, general fund, or?).

Drawings will be held the first of each month with the final drawing on June, 15, 2015. Recipients will be announced by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.\* The earlier you open a ConnectPLUS account the more opportunity you have to support ministry at your congregation.

Contact Rev. Laurence Meyer, (509-582-5368) Inland Empire LCEF Advocate;  
Susan Olson, (1-888-693-5267) District Office<sup>1</sup>

Offer only valid for those investors living in the Northwest District - LCMS. Chances depend on the number of ConnectPLUS accounts opened. Winners are removed from future drawings.

\* ConnectPLUS is available to individuals 18 and older who have not had an LCEF investment in the past 24 months.

\* Offer subject to change.

**Join with the tens of thousands of LCEF investors helping LCMS Lutherans in their vital witness and mercy work among people around the world. Invest with ConnectPLUS today! Visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) or call 800-843-5233**

## **Example of Ministry empowered by LCEF in Northwest District**

Here is an example of what LCEF has supported in the Northwest District's Alaska region. Thirteen years ago, a new facility built in Alaska with the help of an LCEF specialized ministry loan led to a unique partnership between Denali Lutheran Church and the local fire department.

And while the congregation and the fire department jointly own and share the building in Copper Center, the mission side sees the most activity, drawing people for worship, Bible studies, exercise classes and more. In June 2014, some 60 children participated in vacation Bible school (VBS), including many youngsters from families with no church affiliation.

Last Christmas, a play presented at the center was standing room only. "We're close to outgrowing the space," says the Rev. Todd Roeske, interim executive director of ministry with the [Alaska Mission for Christ \(AMC\)](http://AlaskaMissionforChrist.org),

which includes Denali Lutheran, a nongeographic fellowship based in Copper Center that serves remote Alaskan communities.

A relatively small group worshiped at the facility in 2001, the year Denali Lutheran received LCEF's prestigious Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award, named in honor of the late LCEF president.

Roeske also is pastor of Mt. Drum Lutheran Church in Copper Center, a congregation that has grown out of the Denali Lutheran fellowship. Over the years, worship and outreach opportunities have grown in Copper Center, located about four hours northeast of Anchorage and near what Roeske calls the world's largest wilderness.

But while some view Alaska as the romantic frontier often depicted on television, Roeske says that "in the midst of that beauty, people are hurting and need to know Jesus." "We have some of the highest rates in the United States of alcohol addiction, family violence and sexual abuse, and high rates of suicide and depression," he said. "There's a real need for us, the people of God, to reach out to people who are hurting in Alaska." One of the most active programs at the center is the "Celebrate Freedom" ministry with people struggling with drug and alcohol addictions.

Beyond Copper Center, AMC also connects with young people in distant communities.



A volunteer assists young vacation Bible school student at the Denali Lutheran fellowship center in Copper Center, Alaska. Mission activities at the center and beyond have grown since 2001, the year Denali Lutheran received the Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award, named in honor of the late LCEF president.

Almost 5,000 youngsters and adults took part in VBS, art and sports camps in Alaska last summer, presented with the help of more than 400 volunteers. Roeske, his wife, Kim, and four daughters arrived in Alaska in 2006, after serving as missionaries in the Philippines. Roeske also is pastor of Mt. Drum Lutheran Church in Copper Center, which has grown out of the Denali Lutheran fellowship.

Looking ahead, Roeske expects that growth to continue in the nation's largest state. The Rev. Keith Aschenbeck recently accepted a call to serve as missionary pastor in the upper Tanana

River region of Alaska, and he and his family plan to arrive in spring 2015. The Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award recognizes outstanding efforts on the part of

mission projects within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that have been helped through LCEF loans or services.