

**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

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peacelutheranselah@gmail.com



Messenger of Peace

A White Christmas

A Christmas Message in Poetry Psalm 51:7

Rev. Lawrence L. Eatherton, pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church,
Fenton, Missouri

Every year we hear the popular Christmas song "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." The last stanza goes like this: "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas with every Christmas card I write. May your days be merry and bright, and may all your Christmases be white."

There is another song about snow written by David some 1,000 years before Christmas-Psalm 51:7. This song, this prayer to God, says: "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." With these two songs in mind, listen to this poem.

"A White Christmas."

It is the Day of Christmas, and all
over the earth
Christian people celebrate our dear
Savior's birth.

With presents to open and some
even tried,
We pause for a moment and set
them aside .
And leaving the hustle and bustle
and rush,
We sit here, just sit here, enjoying
the hush.

Maybe we think of the month that is
past,
And wonder about how it went by so
fast.
So then we recall all the things we
have done,
To judge the ones that were boring
or fun,
And count up all of our trips to the
mall,
The cookies, the candies, the wrap-
pings, and all.

We wonder, oh, yes, if in all that is here
We've left something out of our
Christmas this year.

Oh, we still must visit and buy more
presents yet,
But still something's missing, some
need that's unmet.
Ah! Its obvious, obvious that we don't
have a trace,
It ought to be plain as the nose on our
face.
That this Christmas, this year, as you
already know
Isn't white because, well, it just didn't
snow!
Now maybe for some that's all just as
well
That we don't have to shovel up snow
for a spell.
But you have to admit that it all looks
so right
When we look out the window, and
Christmas is white.

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When the dark and the stark and the naked old trees
Glisten and sparkle in the wake of the freeze
And the muddy old ground, once so barren and low
Becomes such a wonder in its blanket of snow.
And even the stalks of the untrimmed roses
Appear to be snowmen in various poses.
And all that was ugly, unseemly, or trite
Becomes clothed in beauty, all dressed up in white.
But this white picture's more than Currier and Ives;
This white picture touches more than our eyes.
And God in his wisdom would lead us to know
The message he gives in the white of the snow.

For each stark and dark and naked old tree
Is a description of all that is lacking in me.
And the muddy old ground looking barren and low
Is the stain of my sin and the guilt that I know.
And even the stalks of the untrimmed roses
Stand out as my life in its unholy poses.

And I long for a blanket to cover my sin,
Something to hide the deep stain that's within.
And I stumble and fumble and search through the night,
But I cannot begin to turn darkness to light.
In my helpless condition, though I strut and I brag,
I'm no closer to white than a filthy old rag.

Oh, I can holler and wail that enough is enough,
And could even try to be hateful and rough.
After all, it's not my fault I'm morally lame.
It's the world! It's those others! It's, it's the weather I'll blame!
But even as I clamor with self-will and with pride,
Looking for excuses behind which to hide,
God's Law is so perfect, and clear is the sign:
The sin, the transgression, the evil are mine.

And that's when I sit in the darkness of night,
I pray to God to send forth his light.
"Lord, take all within me that's rotten and mean,
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean.
Where sin's ugly stain is all I can show
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

That washing, that cleansing from darkness and strife,
That freedom from bondage, that forgiveness and life,
Was the promise that God through his work would bring,
The promise he gave to each prophet and king:
Salvation would spring forth and put sin to flight,
And Christmas for all men would one day be white.

In so many ways our God spoke of old
And thus through the prophets his message was told.
And through signs and wonders and visions to man
He began to reveal his most wonderful plan.

But did walking with God in the garden in light
Secure man's salvation and make all things right?
No, Adam and Eve turned away in their pride.
And because of their sin, each one of us died.

And what about Noah, when the flood waters came,
Did life in the ark cleanse the guilt from his name?
No, the sin of the world was not washed in that flood.
Men continued to hate and to shed their warm blood.
Did the rescue from slavery in Egypt by night
Free the world from its bondage to sin and its might?

Did giving the Law on Mount Sinai's height
Make people sinless and forgiven and right?

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Did the Red Sea rescue? Did the wilderness
plight?
Was that manna from heaven their holy delight?
Did it happen when God with his own hand
brought them into that Promised Land?
Was it there in the temple, where God chose to
dwell?
Did Jerusalem's walls thwart the powers of hell?
Did the remnant from exile with praises to sing?
Did judges? Did prophets? Did priests? Did
kings?

God used all these things only to make it clear,
His promise of ages was still drawing near.
And God in his wisdom, in each sign they could
see
Was telling them always, "Hope and trust in me.
And soon when time in its fullness has run,
I will give you that gift of my own precious Son."

And I see what the prophets had promised for
years,
What God's people longed for with prayers and
tears
God brought to pass in the still of the night.
Jesus was born, and Christmas was white!

White because here was God's holy child.
White because tho' he was humble and mild,
He would carry our griefs and our sorrows and
blame.
He would suffer indignity and insult and shame
And endure each temptation without giving in,
Then give up his life to cleanse us from sin.

White because over sin rank and obscene
He purged me with hyssop, and I became clean.
White because in his shed blood I know,
He washed me in love, I became whiter than
snow!

It's the Day of Christmas and all over the earth,
As Christians we celebrate our dear Savior's
birth.

In spite of the season stuffed full of noise
We remember the reason for all of our joys.
You could cover the world in a blanket of snow,
And still every heart would deep down in it
know
That it takes more than snow to turn darkness
to light.
Yes, it takes more than snow to make Christmas
white.

So where's the white Christmas that we're
dreaming of?
Why, it's right in the manger, in God's gift of
love.
No longer is Christmas dark, naked, and old.
No longer will sin leave us barren and cold.
Not the stain of my sin, nor the guilt that you
know,
For our Savior has washed us much whiter than
snow!

And now through our lives, every day, every
hour,
We can know his forgiveness, his strength, and
his power.
And then on that day when we see him in light,
We will stand with the multitude clothed in pure
white
And give glory forever to God up above
For the gift of a Savior, the power of love.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With Jesus' birth here on this night.
May your days always in him be bright
And may all your Christmases be white.



Peace's Indoor Services...

Peace is still offering two indoor services. We have a morning service at 9:00 a.m. and an afternoon service at 4:00. Both services will offer communion on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays. (We are only allowed 50 people indoors so once we've reached 50 you will have the option of either attending the afternoon service at 4:00 or Bethlehem's service at 11:00.) **You must call the Church Office no later than Noon the Thursday before the Sunday service to register to attend.**

Bible Class Schedule...

The Wednesday Bible Class will be taking a break for the Advent Season. They will resume January 13th.

Advent Worship...

Peace will offer Wednesday evening Advent Services on **December 2, 9 & 16 at 7:00 p.m.** (Bethlehem will offer Advent Services at 12:10 on those same days.) Due to the COVID-19, we will not be able to offer Soup & Sandwich Suppers this year. Also, as with our Sunday services, **you will need to call ahead and register if you plan to attend the Wednesday services.**

Christmas Worship Schedule...

Peace Lutheran will offer a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30 p.m. and also a Christmas Day Service at 9:00 a.m. (Bethlehem Lutheran will offer a Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. and a Christmas Day service at 11:00 a.m.) As with all our other services, **you will need to call the church office and register before Tuesday, Dec. 23th.** Services are expected to fill quickly (we can only have 50 people per service) so sign-up early if possible. (If you plan to attend services at Bethlehem you will need to call their church office and register there.)



The Life and Times of Kara Mantey...

Kara Mantey has been a member of Peace Lutheran Church since 2005. Kara was born and raised in the Moses Lake area.

Kara's ancestors came from Europe, as her grandmother was from England and her grandfather was from Germany. Her grandparents settled in Nebraska. After her grandfather's first wife died in an accident the family moved to the Oregon area. Kara's father, Otto Timmerman, lived in the Portland area and raised strawberries. In 1954, when Otto's father died, the family moved to the Moses Lake area.



Kara married soon after graduating from Moses Lake High School. She and her husband had two daughters, but the marriage did not last. She later married a second time and had a son.

Kara eventually moved to the Yakima area and found employment at Western RV where she worked for 16 years. It was during that time she met Doug Mantey. Doug was employed by Canopy Country and he often went to Western RV for parts. A relationship developed and then romance set in. After Kara and Doug married, they moved to Arizona and started an auto glass company. They lived in the Tuscon area for 15 years.

Doug was in the military during this time and that took them to Hawaii. With Doug being in the military they moved several times. Kara said it was some of the happiest times of her life. They were in Hawaii four months and then moved back to Arizona. Shortly thereafter they came back to Yakima.

Doug was a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. (He and his father had helped build Mt. Olive in the 1960s.) Kara, who was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church in Moses Lake, was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran at that time. In 2005, Kara and Doug decided to join Peace Lutheran Church together. Doug later died from cancer in 2010.

Kara continues to be a faithful and involved member of Peace Lutheran Church. She has been involved in ministries at Peace like the Fellowship Committee. She remains a steady and helpful member in other areas such as assisting members when they need help and assisting the Christmas "shoebox" project. Kara has a mother and brother who live in Las Vegas and a sister who lives in Anacortes, WA. She loves to visit them whenever the opportunity permits. Her mother and sister are both very active in the Lutheran Church.

Kara loves to sew and garden. (She says it's now time to plant her garlic.) Some of the garden harvest she sells to help provide an income. She likes to attend pastor's Bible Classes at Bethlehem when she's able. Because her home is too large for her now, she is hoping to sell it by next Spring.

“Christmas Family” Donations...

Peace is going to continue providing Christmas gifts and a meal this year to a needy family. We have a family consisting of a mom and two teenage daughters (ages 14 & 16). They are in need of clothing more than anything else. There are “ornaments” on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall with all the information (sizes, likes, etc.). If you would like to participate all you need to do is take an ornament (or 2) off the bulletin board, purchase that item(s), and bring the item(s) **UNWRAPPED** to the church. (You can leave all gifts on the back tables in the Fellowship Hall.) If you have questions, please contact Jean Sinclair or Jody Hert.

For the Christmas meal we are providing this same family, there is a list of what is needed on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign your name on the items you plan to bring. (These can also be left on the back tables.)

All gifts and food items need to be at the church by December 17th.

****When you are in the church to collect or drop off items, please be sure to observe social distancing if there are others there at the same time!****

Church Office Closed...

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24th & 25th for the Christmas Holiday. The office will reopen Monday, December 28th.

Ushers Needed...

We are in need of additional ushers to serve at the Worship Services. If you would be willing to volunteer please let Tammy know. Training will be provided.



Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.

Start

