



# Messenger of Peace

*"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"*

December 2014

**Peace Lutheran  
Church**

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

Pastor

**Mark Griesse**

Office Hours  
9:00 - 12:00

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

Secretary

**Tammy Peterson**

9:00 - 1:00

**Sunday Worship**

9:00 AM  
10:30 Bible Study

Website

peacelutheranchurch  
@360unite.com

Email

peacelutheran@fairpoint.net



Dear Friends and Members,



I was asked the other day what "Advent" was. Advent means "to come." It is the Season of the Church year (Last Sunday in November through Christmas Eve) where we prepare for the high and holy joy of humbly welcoming God's Son. Once He came in Bethlehem! He comes to us now through his word and the sacraments! And he will come at the end of time to judge the world.

This season is a season of preparation that carries with it a note of repentance and rejoicing. We know the king who is coming. He is Jesus! While he is the almighty all powerful Lord of the universe, he did not come to condemn, but to save. He is our Lord and Savior. We believe his promises, we celebrate his calling us to be his children, and we anticipate his coming as a joyous re-union as we receive the goal of our faith - eternal life with God.

This year to highlight the Season of Advent we will be using the following themes:

November 30	Sunday	9 am	How Shall You Meet Jesus (Mark 11:1-10)
December 3	Wednesday	6 pm	Jesus Shows us Our Creator (Psalm 95)
December 7	Sunday	9 am	It's About Jesus (Mark 1:1-8)
December 10	Wednesday	6 pm	Jesus Shows Us Our Provider (Psalm 104)
December 14	Sunday	9 am	I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy (Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11)
December 17	Wednesday	6 pm	Jesus Shows Us Our Father's Heart (Psalm 103)
December 21	Sunday	9 am	Children's program/The Chosen Ones (2 Sam 7 & Luke 1) Our Sunday School Children help us prepare for Christmas with a program during our Sunday morning worship.
December 24	Wednesday	7:30 pm	God's Gift for You (Luke 2)

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Our Wednesday Evening Devotion includes a Soup and Sandwich Supper beginning at 6 pm, the Devotion starts at 6:45 pm. Come and join with us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ Jesus our Savior.

Yours In Christ,  
Pastor Griesse

## OWLS December Lunch

The O.W.L.S. will meet for their Christmas Luncheon on **Friday, December 12th at 11:30 a.m. at Creekside West.**

The restaurant will need a headcount so please let Marcia Shotwell know if you plan to attend the luncheon. You can call her at **697-4543** or email her at [shotwell@elltel.com](mailto:shotwell@elltel.com).



## Membership Tranfers

**John & Lisa Ulstad** requested transfer of their membership to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Kingman, Arizona.

**David & Alice Krause** requested transfer of their membership to Zion Lutheran Church in Nampa, Idaho.

## LifeGate

The 1st quarter membership fee for LifeGate of \$150 will be due the first of January, as well as the yearly fee of \$300 for World Vision. If anyone would like to donate towards these fees, mark your check "LifeGate/World Vision" and place in the offering plate. Thank you.

## Thanksgiving Baskets



Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Thanksgiving Baskets. The families were thrilled and we had the opportunity to *"..share the love of Christ"*.

## Baptisms

**Matthew & Reagan Van Campen** were baptized November 9th. Matthew & Reagan are the grandchildren of John Skogen.



**Alexa Conley** was baptized November 30th. Alexa is Maridee Pearson's great-granddaughter.

**Gracie Calhoun** was baptized December 14th. Gracie is the daughter of Joseph & Sharell (Sinclair) Calhoun, granddaughter of Steve & Judy Sinclair, and great-granddaughter of Jean Sinclair.

## Advent Soup & Sandwich Suppers



Wednesday evening Advent Soup & Sandwich Suppers and Devotions will begin December 3rd. Supper will begin at 6:00 pm with Devotions at 6:45. (Bethlehem will have Wednesday Advent services at noon; no meal.) The food sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to bring something, just add your name to the list.

## Church Office Closure

The Church Office will be closed the following dates:

**December 24th & 25th**

**December 31st** (closing early)

**January 1st**

**Have a blessed Holiday Season!**



## Thank You!

As 2014 comes to a close, I would like to thank all who knitted the sweet hats that I took on my mission to Ecuador this past July. Thank you for sharing your talents with those in need in the high Andes mountains of South America.

-- Shereen Stocker

## Poinsettias



If anyone would like to donate live poinsettias for the altar railing this Christmas season, please bring them to the church beginning December 7<sup>th</sup>. You can leave them by the window in the kitchen. There will be a sheet by the window to list those loved ones you would like to donate your poinsettia in memory of (write their names as well as your name).

## A Thank You for All Your Ministries

Throughout the year, Peace Lutheran's congregation participates in many different ministries. Some of these ministries are obvious; some are 'behind the scenes' so to speak. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to **everyone** who has contributed in some way or other to these ministries. Listed below are ministries here at Peace. Hopefully we have not forgotten any and apologize if any were left out. Every person who is involved in any ministry here at Peace is helping to carry out the mission of this church...*"Where the Love of Christ is Shared."*

**Thank you.**

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes** - over 400 shoeboxes packed and sent this year

**2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest/Thrivent Food Distribution** - held three times this year with volunteers helping to bag and distribute the food.

**Rod's House** - donations taken for various items needed throughout the year, as well as a 'makeover' of main living area of the house (new furniture, paint, television)

**Knitted hats** made for the Orphan Grain Train

**Feeding 5000** Packaging Day

**Quilts** - given to local missions, such as Life Choices, YWCA, Gospel Mission

**Stephen Ministry**

**Thanksgiving Food Baskets** for families in need

**Christmas Food Baskets & Gifts** families in need

**Work on the church building** to make repairs/improvements - all volunteer

**Life Choices Baby Bottles** filled with your change that helps provide for pregnant women.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,  
always in every prayer of mine for you all making  
my prayer with joy, because of your partnership  
in the gospel from the first day until now."

(PHIL. 1:3-5)



This December, we thank God for our many partners in the Gospel. As Synod, we walk together to unite our congregations, plant more churches, bring more mercy, care for our church workers, strengthen seminary education and support our families and schools.

## Walking together in the Gospel

We Lutherans love Jesus, mercy work, bearing witness to Christ, holding potlucks and engaging in hearty singing and weighty Bible studies. We also love acronyms: CUS, CPH, CPS, CHI, LCEF, LLL, LWML. (Can you name the organizations these acronyms stand for? If not, visit [www.lcms.org/themes/december](http://www.lcms.org/themes/december) to learn more.) They're unassuming — these little alphabet soup clusters of letters — but the work Christ does through them is anything but!

One of the distinct joys we share as the body of Christ is our ability to work together. We don't go off on our own. We don't operate apart from those with whom we confess the faith. We don't endeavor to do it all by ourselves. We work together. We listen to each other. We forgive each other. We have fun together! And we serve one another, walking together in great joy.

Paul understood this in full, encouraging Christians to join together in "partnership in the gospel" (Phil. 1:5). And we are still heeding his words today! That's why it doesn't take much digging to realize that Christ is working mightily in the LCMS and that we can, by His grace, do more together than we can accomplish in dark corners working by ourselves.

Just take a look at all of our partners. They serve in their own alphabet soup variety of vocations, from global missions to health benefits, from investments and loans to liberal arts education, from partner church bodies to the Synod's archives. And they do it all for the well-being and care of individual members of the LCMS, each of her congregations, all of the 35 districts, even the Synod at-large. The impact they make is one we all share, and each one provides a new way for Lutherans like you and me to get involved in our communities and around the world.

We Lutherans love Jesus, and we love our acronyms too, because they are proof that the Lord blesses, that He rejoices to work through us for the good of our neighbor, that He can use an alphabet soup of Lutherans working together to accomplish truly wonderful things.

Join us this December in giving special thanks for our partners in the Gospel, and ask God to bless our work together according to His will.

To learn more, go to [www.lcms.org/themes/december](http://www.lcms.org/themes/december).

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison  
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





**Northwest  
District** of the  
Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Correction to the Northwest District LCMS giving reported in the November 2014 Lutheran Witness**

In the article titled "District Giving" in the November Lutheran Witness, Synod reported receiving \$15,845 from the Northwest District during their fiscal year 2014. The actual amount should read \$158,545.

Thank you for your support of God's work through your gifts to the Northwest District, 10% of which is sent on to Synod to support the work of the church at large.

Pastors, please share this information with your parishioners, many of whom receive the Lutheran Witness.

### **The Northwest District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod**

Marilyn Allen

Business Manager

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