



Peace Lutheran Church

Messenger of Peace

"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"

December 2015



**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
Mon.—Fri.

Sunday Worship
9:00 AM

**Sunday Adult
Bible Class**
10:30 AM

Website
peacelutheranchurch
@360unite.com

Email
peacelutheran@fairpoint.net



Dear Christian Friends,

What a great time of year this is! We really enjoy all the customs that make Christmas a special time of year. There is the special food that we only seem to get at this time of year, like eggnog, fruitcakes and the like. There are the unique customs that have been passed down for years in our families, there are the special Christmas parties at work and in the church, there is the selection of a "perfect" tree, the colorful lights, and the family gatherings. All this makes Christmas time very special and draws the family together.

For Christians, however, there is another reason for celebration. God sent us a Son! In Jesus we have God's gift of forgiveness. In Jesus we have the assurance that God loves us so much that He would send His only Son as a sacrifice in order that we might be His sons and daughters and live with Him in His kingdom forever. It is God's unconditional love for each of us, individually, that empowers us as His people to love others, forgive others, and bring hope and healing to a world that desperately needs God's unconditional love.

Our family extends to your family our very best wishes. We hope that this Christmas brings the light of our Savior Jesus Christ into your home and into your hearts.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

May God bless you and yours with His presence, His forgiveness, His life and His hope.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark & Yvonne Griesse

P.S

Come join us for our Midweek Advent Soup and Sandwich Suppers at 6 pm on Wednesday evenings. The Theme for this Advent is "Stir Up the Power." For those who wish to attend a daytime service come to Bethlehem at 12:10 pm for the same worship service.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERIES

12/02/15	6:45 pm	1: Stir Up the Power of Hope, Romans 15:12-13
12/09/15	6:45 pm	2: Stir Up the Power of Preparation, Matthew 3:1-12
12/16/15	6:45 pm	3: Stir Up the Power of Love, 1 John 4:15-21

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE @ Peace Lutheran — 7:30 p.m.**Church Office Closed**

The church office will be closed **Thursday and Friday, December 24th & 25th** for the Christmas Holiday.

Pastor Griesse will be on vacation December 28th-January 3rd. If you need pastoral assistance during that time please contact a Lay Minister. Call the office for contact information.

**O.W.L.S.**

O.W.L.S. will have lunch on **Friday, December 11th at Twigs** (in the Valley Mall, Union Gap). Please let Marcia Shotwell know if you plan to attend. Contact her at 697-4543 or email at shotwell@elltel.net.

A Trip to Germany in 2017

Is anyone interested in a planned trip to Germany in 2017? (Celebrate the 500 year anniversary of church reformation by Martin Luther.) There is a display on the back wall of the Fellowship Hall with all kinds of information regarding the trip. If you have any questions contact **Hilde Hibdon** at **961-1793** or email her at hilde_88@yahoo.com.

Stephen Ministry

A new class to train people to become Stephen Ministers is scheduled to begin January 11th. This is a 20-week class running weekly on Monday evenings through May. We need at least nine people to have a training class. We ask that you consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Pray about it. If you feel God is leading you to this ministry and would like to attend this class to become a Stephen Minister please let Pastor Griesse know.





Peace will be supplying food baskets and gifts for two families for Christmas again this year. Both families consist of mom and four kids. Wish lists/tags and food list will be posted soon; watch for more details. If you have any questions contact Tammy Peterson, Teri Sanchez or Marcia Shotwell.

Updated Directory

We are currently working on updating the Church Directory. It should be ready around the first week of January. If you have any addresses, phone numbers, etc., that need updating, please let Tammy in the church office know.

For Your Info...

The congregation's input in hymn selection is appreciated. When it coordinates with the worship theme we will try to include your favorite hymns. During the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons many carols will be included in the worship services.

Peace Quilters

The quilters will not meet in December. They will resume quilting after the first of the year (weather permitting).

AS 2015 DRAWS TO A CLOSE, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS SERVED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER HERE AT PEACE LUTHERAN THIS PAST YEAR. THANK YOU TO ALL THE USHERS, READERS, COUNTERS, ALTAR GUILD, BOARD MEMBERS, JANITORS, CHILDREN'S CHURCH TEACHERS, MAINTENANCE GUYS, VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS, THE BAZAAR VOLUNTEERS, SHOEBOX PACKERS, QUILTERS....WE COULD PROBABLY GO ON AND ON. WE HOPE WE HAVEN'T LEFT ANYONE OUT. IF WE HAVE IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT APPRECIATED. WITHOUT ALL THE HELP PEACE GETS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RUN THE CHURCH. YOU ARE ALL AN IMPORTANT PART OF MAKING THIS CHURCH OPERATE. WE WISH YOU ALL THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS. WE PRAY FOR A BLESSED YEAR TO COME FOR PEACE LUTHERAN AS WELL AS ALL OUR PEACE FAMILIES. GOD BLESS EVERYONE!



The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2 New International Version (NIV)

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

