

# ✠ Peace Lutheran Church ✠

Volume 32 No. 12

December 2019



## THE PRAYER OF HOPE

*"Yes, I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."* Revelation 22:20

The Revelation of St. John is a book of hope. Though its contents seem frightening, it holds out the absolute promise and hope for God's people. Jesus, Himself, promises that He will come again and bring not only the close of this age but also that He will take His people home to be with Him in heaven for eternity. To this promise, the Church cries out, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" I think it would be fair to say that the Christian would add, "Come quickly!!"

In this month of December, we begin and end in the words and promises of God that inculcate absolute certainty and hope.

Advent reminds us of God's threefold coming. First, the promise of His second return in all His glory. Second, that He comes in the proclaiming of His Word during this season of grace so that others might come to believe and so that believers remain in hope. Finally, we are reminded of His coming into the flesh when He, Himself, came in the flesh and walked on this earth and offered Himself up to reconcile God and man as was promised Adam and Eve in the Garden and echoed throughout the Old Testament era and celebrated in this New Testament era.

Christmas is the celebration of that third coming. We celebrate the incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It, too, is a celebration of the hope that is alive in us and for the sake of all. This hope is made certain on account of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Take away that gift for all nations and there would be no need to celebrate. The motivation for the giving of gifts is on account of the greatest gift given to us by God our Father in His Son, Jesus.

During the last several months we briefly explored many of Jesus' parables. They serve as instruction guiding our lives that are offered up to Him for the sake of His kingdom work. These parables also serve as assurances of hope. That hope serves as empowerment during our pilgrimage here on earth.

The last day of the month concludes with celebrating God's faithfulness in providing for all of our needs over this past year and anticipates His continued faithfulness in the year(s) to come. As the hymn so wonderfully expresses...

"Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Still be our guard while troubles last  
An our eternal home.

As you can see, all of the themes of this month come full round in this simple verse. May God richly bless you and your family with a Christ-centered Christmas and Blessed New Year!

To God be the glory!!

*Pastor Ricky P. Schroeder*

## 2019 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE SCHEDULE

**(CLIP AND SAVE!)**

### Sat., Dec. 7th

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. Gr. 1 & 2 & 3  
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Gr. 4 & 5 & 6

### This is Church Bazaar Day

At this small group practice, all the children will receive their costumes for Christmas Eve. We ask that parents please spot clean (if needed) iron, and return them to church by Dec. 23rd. Be sure to put your child's name on the costume or hanger.

Sat., Dec. 14th 9:00AM—11:00 AM

Gr. 1-6/All Narrators & Readers

Sat., Dec. 21st 9:00AM—NOON

FINAL PRACTICE Grs. N - 8, ALL Narrators, Readers, Youth Choir & all Adults (Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus)

### Other Practice Times:

Sun., Dec. 1st: Extended S.S. until 11:45

Sun., Dec. 8th: Extended S.S. until 11:45

Sun., Dec. 15: Extended S.S. until 1:00PM.

S.S. Christmas Party until 1:00PM. Don't forget your socks and underwear for Christmas giving.

Sun., Dec. 22nd: Extended S.S. until 11:45

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN ~ Any Sunday School child who plays an instrument and would like to play a Christmas Hymn before the Christmas Eve Services begin, should see Mrs. Ehlert or Mrs. Wilson as soon as possible.**

It is very important for your child to attend as many practices as possible and to learn their parts and songs. Parents are encouraged to help their children learn their parts and songs so that they feel confident and prepared for this special worship service. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Anne Wilson. Thank You!!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**



As Christmas rapidly approaches, our busy Sunday School gets even busier. We are in the process of getting ready for our Christmas Eve Program on Tuesday, **Dec. 24th.** at 4:00 P.M.

Children are asked to arrive at church by **3:30 P.M.** for costumes and final warm-up. **Christmas Eve S.S. Musicians** should arrive by **3:15 P.M.** Their concert will start at 3:30 P.M.

Families are urged to find a seat and enjoy the special Christmas music presented by the children of our congregation. **The Children's Worship Service begins at 4:00 P.M.** We look forward to sharing this special evening with our church family and friends as we celebrate, through worship, the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



**COFFEE SERVERS AND GREETERS ARE NEEDED!** Check out the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Pick a date and sign-up to help today. Please try to fill in the dates from top down so we won't be without either. Also in need of people to greet on Saturday evening.

### **Sunday School December Mission Project**

Starting Sun., Nov. 24th., the Sunday School children will once again have the opportunity to help needy children and teens in the Fox Valley by bringing in NEW packages of socks and underwear. These are needed in ALL sizes ranging from infant to adult. Toys and other gift items will also be accepted. These items, along with a gift and food, are distributed to needy families through a program sponsored by the Boys' and Girls' Brigade. Last year we collected over 40 items for this project, thus helping many area children with a basic need. The congregation is urged to help with this worthwhile project. Donated items may be placed in the manger located in the back hallway by the Sunday School rooms. The deadline to bring in items is Sun., Dec. 15th.!

A big THANK YOU to our Sunday School children and families from the Trinity Food Pantry. Our Sunday School children collected over 160 items. The congregation families collected many, many, many food items as well, for those in need. GREAT JOB Sunday School children and Peace families!

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY DEC. 15TH.**

Extended Sun. School to 1:00 P.M.

The Board of Education will be hosting a Christmas party for the children Grades N-5 at Peace until 1:00 P.M. on Sun., Dec. 15th. We will practice our singing at 10:30 A.M., followed by our Christmas Celebration which will include lunch for everyone, some treat decorating and of course BINGO for grades 1-5th. 3K through 5K will have age-appropriate games and fun. Children will be dismissed at 1:00 P.M.

**Our Middle School Youth** (Grs. 6th-8th) will also be enjoying their Happy Birthday Jesus party during this time and ending at 1:00 as well. A "Secret Santa" reveal will take place along with activities, food, and fun!! A birthday party usually needs a GIFT! "Socks and underwear for needy children" would make a GREAT gift! Gifts can be placed in the manger in the back hallway!

### **Calling ALL Senior High Youth . . .**

This fun and exciting group

This fun and exciting group meet every Sunday after the worship service. Come join us for a hot beverage of your choice, fellowship, Bible study, and just about whatever the youth leaders can come up with to energize your lives with God's Word and knowledge of Him. If you haven't come to Youth Group yet, please come and check us out. We've been missing you! Mark your calendars with these upcoming events and activities:

**Dec. 4th** Advent Meal - 5 P.M. setup. ALL Youth are asked to bring a dessert. See page 7 for more information. All proceeds will be used to purchase gifts for Christmas Giving!

**Dec. 8th:** Devotion and Shopping for Christmas Giving

**Dec. 15th:** Advent lesson

**Dec. 22nd:** Christmas "Happy Birthday JESUS Party!" .... Choice of Waffle bar or other food, games, and White elephant exchange (start looking for the perfect gift now!)

Watch for further info or details from the Youth group leaders or check the Youth board in the hallway.

### **Coming Events: Middle School Youth and Senior High Youth...**

• **Anyone need a Mystery Trip?**

• **A Cup of Joy Trip?**

• **Ski /Snow Tubing Trip....Anyone interested???**

**Other winter fellowships . . .Got any good ideas?** See one of our Youth leaders .

• **Our 1st fundraiser of 2020 is coming soon watch for details.**

## ODDS AND ENDS

**A WORD OF THANKS** It is always good to give thanks to God and to others for gifts received. Thank you to the Altar Guild and the Peace Mission Guild for your gifts received expressing appreciation for me your pastor. Pastor Schroeder

**CALL COMMITTEE: UPDATE** Having received the Candidate List from the District President, the Call Committee is reviewing the provided information. The Call Committee will work through the month of December to determine a shortlist of candidates to be interviewed. It is hoped that the interviews can take place in January so that a Call Meeting could take place in late January or early February. An update will be forthcoming. Continue to pray that the Lord will direct us in this process and would provide an Associate Pastor accordingly.

### ATTENTION!! IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUTH CONFIRMATION:

- There will be no classes on Wednesdays December 25 and January 1.
- Progress Reports will take place on Wednesday, January 8.

Letters with information regarding these reports will be sent near the end of December so that appointments can be made.

If school is canceled in the Neenah School District on a Wednesday, there will be no Confirmation classes. If the weather is a problem, parents will be contacted if the class is to be canceled. Finally, if at any time you do not feel safe due to road conditions, simply contact the church office and leave a message for Pastor as Mrs. Wilson will be retired beginning January 1, 2020.

**Regular classes will resume on Wednesday, January 15 at 5:00 P.M.**



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THE TRINITY FOOD PANTRY in Menasha!**

*Peace continues to support the Food Pantry..... you may help by bringing your donations in and placing them by the north entry door on the rack or in the baskets.*

*We will then be sure that it is delivered to the Food Pantry.*



### ARE YOU GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS? - GIFTING

**THAT GIVES BACK.** Find gifts for everyone on your list while raising funds for our organization. Whether you buy the gift cards to give as presents to family and friends, or to use them to buy your gifts—our organization earns with every gift card purchased. We also carry some brands on hand for purchase. We have some

cards in stock, but we can order **so many more.** **NOTE: The deadline for Christmas ordering is Dec. 15th** in order to receive the cards in time for Christmas gift giving. Thank you for your continued support!



**FIND YOUR FIRE**



MOPS is an international organization that exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. Neenah

MOPS will be meeting on **Tues., Dec. 10th from 8:45 to 11 A.M.**

### December Knitting Dates:

**Mon. Dec. 2 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Tues. Dec. 17- 1 p.m.**

Don't know how to knit?

Join us and we'll teach you.

Anyone interested is invited to join us as we knit.



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Number of Baptized Souls: 437**

**Number of Confirmed Souls: 408**

**Number of Families: 223**

**WHERE DO BAZAAR FUNDS GO???** Did you know that at least 10% of all bazaar proceeds get donated to charity? Each year we have donated up to \$1,000 to charities such as Fox Valley Emergency Shelter, Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Mother and Unborn babies, Reach, Park View Health Center, Brewster Village, Trinity Food Pantry, Snack Pack Program, Ministry to the armed forces, Desert Veterans of America, Hoover Elementary School and JumpStart. This year our donation will go to JumpStart and the Neenah-Menasha K-9 fund. Thank you for making these donations possible.

Also, the remaining bazaar funds are used to purchase non-budgeted items for our church. Over past years we have purchased such items as new silverware for the kitchen, a push lawnmower, furniture for Youth Director's office, cabinets for the library, a grill for the pancake breakfast, a full projector system and laptop for the fellowship hall, we paid for about half of the new freezer and refrigerators, and we gave \$6,000 to the Foundations for the Future fund.

If you ever have suggestions for a charity to donate to, or an item needed in the church that is not budgeted, please let a bazaar committee member know and it will be considered.

**Thank you! From the bazaar committee.**



**Puppet Ministry News** It's exciting time for our Peace Puppets. Join in the fun and excitement as we "Reach out, serve Jesus and Celebrate His love."

**December 1-** Youth Puppet practice, 11:45-12:15.

**December 5-** Adult Puppets are live on Channel 5 at 9am, to promote participation in a "Very Neenah Christmas", community event.

**December 6,** 6pm-8pm, Peace Puppets will be singing Christmas hymns for the Very Neenah Christmas at Kessler's Funeral Home. Peace youth and adults will be participating in the Live Manikin event. What an awesome opportunity to share the amazing story of our Savior's birth and promise of salvation for us."



Book Club does not meet in December. Our next meeting will be at Shellattes, 300 N. Commercial St., Neenah, on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at 10 a.m.



**YEAH! The OWLS have landed and we're having a HOOT!!!**

**YEAH OWLS**

**Y(young) E(especially) A(at) H(heart)  
O(older) W(wiser) L(livelier) S(saints).**

Our December YEAH OWLS get together will be Thursday, December 19, 2019, and will include a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift, something practical, useless, or silly. Search your closets, drawers, cupboards, basement, or garages for something no longer of use to you. One man's trash is said to be another man's treasure, or perhaps just plain funny. We begin at 11:00 AM with lunch served promptly at 11:30 AM. For this month we're asking everyone, if able, to bring a "festive-themed dish", something green, or red, or "snowy" or holiday-oriented, a dish to pass. We will have a "holiday potluck surprise". Give your dish a festive holiday name. At noon we will have our program. Signup sheets will be in the Fellowship hallway 2 weeks before the December 19th meeting. Make sure to sign up. We want to see you there and you can even bring a friend.





## The Giving Tree

As is our tradition, we will again have our annual Christmas Giving Tree in the Narthex. This year we will be supporting families from the Boys and Girls Brigade in Neenah.



You will find tags tied to ornaments of various items on the tree. We will also post a list of items on the bulletin board in the hallway. After taking a tag, please purchase the item and place the gift under the tree on or before Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please do not wrap the gifts. Keep the ornament and as always, your generosity is much appreciated this time of year.

### ADVENT MEAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dinner served 6:00P.M.—6:45 P.M.

Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18 Worship Service at 7:00 P.M.

**December 4th:** The Sr. High Youth Group & Leaders will be serving the 1st Advent meal. Hamburger Stroganoff, hot veggies, salad and dessert. A free-will offering will be taken at the door. Youth and parents are reminded to sign-up up to bring a dessert. **Proceeds from this meal will help purchase gifts for high school aged students at Appleton Alternative School.** All youth and leaders and parents will be needed to work on the 5th.

**December 11th:** Our Men's Ministry will be serving the second meal. Watch the bulletin for more information.

**December 18th:** Our LWML will be serving this third meal. They will be serving sloppy joes.



**December 9:** Peace Mission Guild Christmas Dinner at Bridgewood, Neenah.

**January 4 & 5:** Mission Mites Collection.

**January 13:** Peace Mission Guild Meeting. Time change - 1:00 pm at church.

**February 7-8:** Winter Get Away. Watch for details.

### Mission Mites At Work

Each month, we include information about mission efforts near and far, that spread the Good News of our Savior's Love for us. Please include them in your prayers.

**God's Grace for this Generation.** LAMP Ministry Inc. reaches out to isolated villages in Northern Canada, where life is desolate and hopeless for young people. The proposed grant of \$100,000 will be used to recruit, train, support, and send 100-200 volunteer missionaries proclaim the joy and hope of the Gospel.

**Hmong Lutheran Outreach.** There are 10,000 Hmong people in the Fox Valley area. These people are unfamiliar with Christianity and the Good News of Salvation. Rev. Blong Vang serves as pastor of Hmong Lutheran Outreach Church, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Oshkosh. Unfortunately, his grant/monetary support was discontinued and he must work a full time job to support his family. He continues to serve the Hmong Lutheran Outreach.



Lori Kleinschmidt 12-3  
Monica Jeske 12-4  
Marise Bailey 12-21  
Carol Brandt 12-30



## MIDWEEK ADVENT – CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR'S EVE SCHEDULE 2019

### Our Regular Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 5:00 P.M. & Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

### Midweek Advent Services - Overall Theme: "Behold the Child"

A Light Supper will be served prior to each Midweek Advent Service. Serving will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, December 4 (7:00 P.M.)

Theme: "For You and All the World"

Wednesday, December 11 (7:00 P.M.)

Theme: "To Set You Free From All Your Sorrow"

Wednesday, December 18 (7:00 P.M.)

Theme: "For You to Bear Your Flesh in Weakness"

### Peace Puppets

Friday, December 6 (5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.)

### Live Nativity

Friday, December 13 (6:00-7:30 P.M.)

### Christmas Eve

#### **Children's Service**

Tuesday, December 24 (4:00 P.M.)

Theme: "Behold the Child"

#### **Candlelight: A Service of Song and Lessons**

Tuesday, December 24 (8:00 P.M.) \* Please note time change for this year.

Theme: "Now Appearing..."

### Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25 (9:00 A.M.)

Theme: "All the World with His Free Grace Supplying"

### New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31 (6:00 P.M.)

Theme: "I Am Convinced"

**Peace Lutheran Church**

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(920) 725-0510  
Rev. Ricky P. Schroeder  
Pastor



**Peace  
Lutheran Church**  
NEENAH, WISCONSIN—LCMS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Reaching Out . . . Serving Jesus . . . Celebrating His Love*



**FAX**  
**(920) 725-0625**

**e-mail**

[pastor@peaceneenah.com](mailto:pastor@peaceneenah.com)

**Web site:** [www.peaceneenah.com](http://www.peaceneenah.com)

**Worship Services**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

**Sun. 9:00 a.m.**

Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Sundays

*A Blessed Christmas  
From the Staff of  
Peace Lutheran Church*

*~ Pastor ~*

Rev. Ricky P. Schroeder

*~ Lay Director of Youth~*

Anne Wilson

*~ Organists ~*

Janelle Bonson, Don McDermott

*~ Choir Director ~*

Brian Hallman

*~ Administrative Assistants~*

Grace Schmall & Kathy Ehlert

*~ Maintenance ~*

Todd Oppermann (Inside)

David Henneman (Outside)



**Peace Lutheran Church**  
**1228 S. Park Avenue,**  
**Neenah, WI**

*Step back in time  
and  
experience the Live  
Nativity!*  
**Friday, December 13, 2019**  
**6:00 – 7:30 P.M.**