

St. Peters Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

December 2023



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Wentworth, SD 57075-0125

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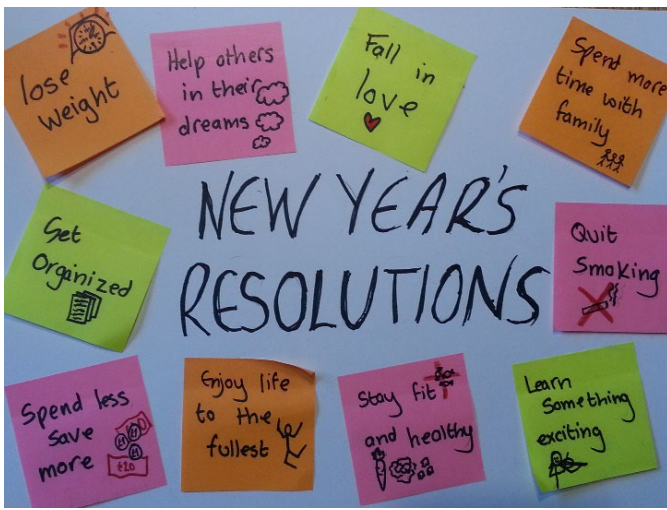
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Our Mission Statement:

**“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.”**



New Year's Resolutions

Are they Christian?

Last month we talked about how it was ok for Christians to make New Year's Resolutions. We pointed out it was one way to be a good steward of the life and possession God has given to you. This month we want to look at what could be some good New Year's Resolutions for a Christian to make.

A quick reminder we are not to depend on these for saving our lives, making them perfect, or perfecting us in the eyes of God. All of that is only accomplished by Christ on the cross. There in His blood we find redemption and forgiveness of sins. We cannot make ourselves more holy by doing the right thing as Christ has already made us perfectly holy.

Ideas for New Year's resolutions can be found anywhere online and many are good, but for Christians we can focus on our faith when thinking about making changes to our life's and life styles.

First, resolve to attend more church. To be there for every service every month. To be willing to do the hard work of finding a church we can attend when we go on vacation and saying no to any activity which would take us away from church.

Second, resolve to pray for each member of the congregation with specific needs. This one may seem overwhelming, but it is easy. Each week in the bulletin there is a list of those members

celebrating birthdays for the upcoming week—bingo there is your list for the week. By the end of the year you will have prayed for every member of the congregation specifically. You can contact them and ask them if there is anything they want you to pray for them that week.

Third, resolve to set aside additional time to volunteer at church. Anything being a Sunday School teacher, helping to usher (for you men), working in the kitchen, helping with clean up days, cooking for youth group, or even helping with youth group. If there is something, we as a congregation are not currently doing and you think it would be good to do lead the charge in getting it started.

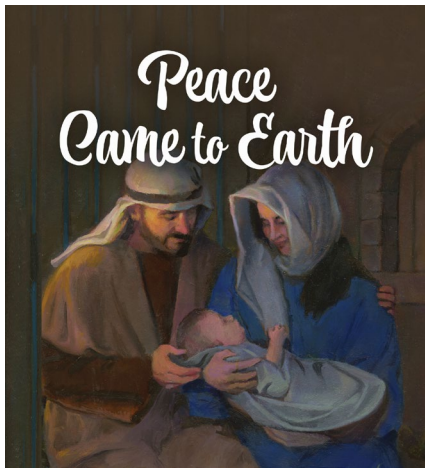
Fourth, resolve to invite people to attend church with you. The purpose is not to see who can get the most people to church or to makes sure you are doing your part. The reason for making this a New Year's resolution is so we remember to share the love of Christ and the forgiveness of sins with those people who are in our lives.

With this last one there is a little extra work. You need to invite them and then follow through. Make sure to tell them the time of the service. Check back with them a day or two before to make sure they are still coming. When they come join them and sit with them. Help them navigate the service. Plan on inviting them either over to your house for lunch or to go out to lunch with you. Then, and this is important, make sure to invite them to come back again the next week.

No, matter which one or ones you choose to do. None of them are going to make you more holy or save you, but you are called to be a good steward and this is one way you can be.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor



PEACE CAME TO EARTH

Peace is our common pursuit.
series by Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Paavol

As Advent leads us to Christmas, we are especially seeking a distinct season of peace. We need a quiet place to rest during this restless time. Year after year, with each Advent season, we wonder if this year will bring a peace that endures. We crave the reassurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just for these short weeks but for every season.

Often, we grow impatient as we seek peace. Despite knowing the promises of God to provide for us, we might try to find peace on our own. We then define peace according to the ways we seek it. We might imagine that peace comes when we finally have enough of all the things we plan to buy. Or we might look for the perfect place where peace is an undisturbed solitude, the cabin beside a still lake. We might seek peace by escaping memories of the past. Or peace might be an elusive future where everyone does exactly what they should. These are our many ways of defining peace, but sadly, each of these directions could go on and on without ever being fulfilled.

To illustrate both our pursuit of peace and God's plan for us, our Advent series this year uses a five-point star for each sermon and children's message. Each message will emphasize a different point of the star. Overall, the star reminds us of the Christmas star of Matthew 2 and that wonderful light that guided the Wise Men to find Jesus. Their long

journey ended with the blessing of a lasting peace. Just as the Wise Men followed the star, so we will go to each point in this Advent star. This won't be a useless journey that never ends. We will find that God meets us at each point of the star, knowing our needs and bringing us the peace we are seeking.

Since the five-point star will guide our journey, picture yourself drawing such a star. Start in the bottom left corner and draw up to the top center point. Stop and draw downward to the bottom right corner, then upward to the middle of the left side. Draw across to the right, and back to the bottom left corner, eventually reaching each point. Every point goes a certain distance but then is stopped. In the same way, each of our paths to peace could go on and on, never being fulfilled. There won't be enough possessions or perfectly calm places to give us lasting peace. But as we seek peace in these many ways, God intersects us with a peace that both passes our understanding and yet meets our needs. God knows the many ways and directions by which we seek peace. As we journey, God meets us, halts

our endless pursuits, and gives us a new understanding of His gift of peace. That peace comes always through the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh who steps into the world and fulfills our desire for peace.

In the end, we find our lasting peace and treasure. God's peace doesn't send us on an impossible search. God's peace is not an invisible needle buried in a haystack. God's peace is a treasure laid in the straw of the manger. God's peace is the priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid in plain view for us all. He is the diamond found in the manger's straw. As the Prince of Peace, He is the peace that we seek.

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 December 6 2023
Sermon: Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2 December 13 2023
Sermon: Peace to All, Near and Far

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 December 20 2023
Sermon: Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

2024 GREETER SCHEDULE

January	07	Erik & Lisa Lindholm Family; Kenneth Lindholm
	14	Jeremy & Lori Lindholm; Rayden Lindholm
	21	Loren & Amy Lindholm Family; Rachel Lindholm
	28	Louis Lindholm; Mason Lindholm
February	04	Ryan & Stacy Lindholm Family
	11	Ted & Carolyn Lindholm
Wed.	14	Marty & Billie Lusk Family– Ash Wednesday
	18	Gale & Diana Maas; Jarrod Maas
Wed.	21	Brett & Alexandra Martin– Midweek Lent I
	25	Shawn & Jill Martin
Wed.	28	Ryan & Tara McManus Family– Midweek Lent II
March	03	Russ & Kay Mendel; Jackson Mendel
Wed.	06	Eric & Ashley Milbrandt Family– Midweek Lent III
	10	Remington & Mandie Miller Family
Wed.	13	Brad & Tari Minor– Midweek Lent IV
	17	Jon & Mindy Olinger Family
Wed.	20	June & Carol Olson; Garret Olson– Midweek Lent V
	24	Carleen Ooms - Palm Sunday
Thurs.	28	Kayla Reck; Logan Reck; Tyler Reck – Maundy Thursday
Fri.	29	Kory & Melissa Reck– Good Friday Worship
	31	Terry & Deb Reck– Easter Sunrise Service
	31	Rudy & Ione Schmidt– Easter Service
April	07	Brett & Heidi Schneider Family; Chloe Schneider
	14	Mitch & Erin Schneider
	21	Cheryl Schriever; Emily Breck
	28	Llyn & Luanna Shuck – Confirmation Sunday
May	05	Alex Tammen; Mikeal Tammen
	12	Austin & Liz Tammen
	19	Mike & Trish Tammen
	26	Greg & Linda Teal
June	02	Matt & Kayla Tweet Family– Recognition Sunday
	09	Verle & Opal Uthe
	16	Leonard & Cindy VanPelt
	23	Daniel Voy; Mathew Voy
	30	Noel & Catherine Wareham

July	07	Rick Yager	
	14	Loren & Shirley Zimmer	
	21	Dakota Alfson; Dan & Misty Alfson Family	
	28	Jeff & Marlys Arneson; Marsha Ellison	
August	04	Gaylen & Shirley Backus	
	11	Tyler & Nicole Backus Family	
	18	Jesse & Alyssa Baumberger Family	
	25	Justin & Jenna Baumberger Family	
September	01	Tom & Arla Baumberger	
	08	Dave & Crista Beeck– Rally Sunday	
	15	Josh & Neisha Bjorklund Family	
	22	Josh & Megan Bonstead Family	
	29	Connie Brown; Macie Brown	
October	06	Russ Claussen	
	13	Ashes Dean Family	
	20	Julie Delfs; Benjamin Delfs Family; Samuel Delfs	
	27	Jim & Jane DeVaney	
November	03	Dale & Kathy Dorow	
	10	Charles & Danielle Eppe Family; Brock Eppe; Emma Eppe	
	17	Brandon & AnnaLee Fedeler Family	
	24	Scott & Jill Feige Family	
	Wed. 27	Terry Feldmann– Thanksgiving Eve - Communion	
	28	Jason & Meredith Fischer Family; Ella Fischer	
December	01	Sheldon & Jessica Foster Family– First Sunday in Advent	
	Wed. 04	Jerry & Julie Gehrels– Midweek Advent I	
		08	Jon & Danielle Gehrels Family
	Wed. 11	Kasey & Lacey Gehrels Family; Kayden Gehrels– Midweek Advent II	
		15	Bill & Peg George
	Wed. 18	Leon & Melissa Gerry; Parker Gerry– Midweek Advent III	
		22	Shelia Gerry; Nathan Gerry
		24	The Elders – Children’s Christmas Evening Service
		25	Rev. Adam & Kayla Welton family – Christmas Day
		29	Tom Graff

This schedule is what you see on the monthly newsletter calendar and in the weekly bulletin. You will also receive “reminder letters.”

If you cannot be here on your scheduled Sunday or choose not to be here, it is YOUR responsibility to trade Sundays with someone or to find someone to fill-in for you.

Winter Carnival

And Babysitting Clinic



Saturday December 2nd, 2023

5-8:30PM

Ages 1-13(8th Grade)

You may drop your child(ren) off at the church where the youth group will have food(supper), games, treats and Christian fellowship.

(Note that this is an allergy free event) If you have concerns please let us know as we wish all children to be included.

****please register children ages 0-1 with Billie Lusk (605-728-7285) **Any questions: please ask Marty Lusk or Billie Lusk for further details**

List of activities include:

Limbo

Golf net

Large tic tac toe

Bean bags

Musical chairs

Pin the (nose, carrot) on a reindeer or snow man Dance party/freeze dance Ducky game Play dough table

Thank you! St. Peter's Youth Group

LAKE COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

CHRISTMAS TURKEY AND ANGEL TREE PROJECTS

The Food Pantry has provided food to over 500 people so far this year and is continuing its regular distribution of emergency food supplies. As the holiday season approaches, the Food Pantry is preparing for the 41st annual Christmas Projects.



CHRISTMAS TURKEY

In 2022, 144 families consisting of 503 people received Christmas food boxes, valued at \$75 each. Eligibility for receiving food boxes is determined by ICAP, the Community Health Nurse, the local Social Services office and the Madison Ministerial Association. If you know of anyone in need of a Christmas food box, please contact one of these agencies.



ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree Project is in its 39th year. Three 'angel' trees have been set up, one each in the community window of Gary's Bakery, the Madison Public Library, and at Montgomery's Furniture. On each tree are 'Angels' which identify deserving children and suggested gift(s). In 2022, 291 children received over 650 gifts through this program. Most children will be in 8th grade or younger. We encourage any interested person or group to 'adopt' Angels and purchase that child's gift. Donations of money are also welcome (Food Pantry account at First Bank and Trust), through your church, or to PO Box 61, Madison, SD 57042.

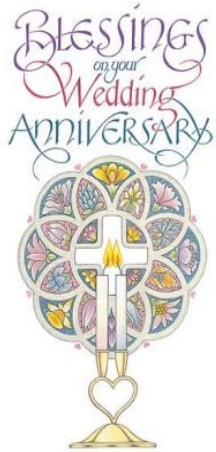
Gifts should be delivered to the Downtown City Armory (198 Van Eps Ave N., Madison) beginning Saturday, December 9th through Wednesday, December 13th, 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. daily except Sunday. The food and gifts will be delivered on Saturday, December 16, 2023.

We again are asking for your support of the Food Pantry Christmas Programs. Your past support has meant a merrier Christmas for many Lake County families. All donations to the Food Pantry are tax deductible.

Thank you,

The Board of Directors

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Terry & Deb	Reck	December 1, 1972
Kasey & Lacey	Gehrels	December 6, 2013
Dan & Bonnie	Lindholm	December 20, 1974

DECEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS



Mason	Lindholm	December 1, 1991
Diana	Maas	December 1, 1957
Jason	Fischer	December 2, 1979
Lori	Lindholm	December 2, 1979
Olerick	Welton	December 2, 2009
Rachel	Lindholm	December 5, 2004
Luanna	Shuck	December 8, 1953
Darlene	Iverson	December 9, 1958
Rilynn	Zillgitt	December 9, 2018
Olivia	Cacho	December 14, 2008
Ella	Fischer	December 14, 2005
Kathy	Dorow	December 16, 1945
Grace	Feige	December 19, 2007
Sawyer	Fedeler	December 20, 2017
Matt	Tweet	December 22, 1991
Brett	Schneider	December 23, 1979
Verl	Uthe	December 26, 1954
Arla	Baumberger	December 27, 1953
Terry	Feldmann	December 28, 1946

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Hazel	Foster	December 4, 2020
Grace	Feige	December 5, 2007
Ella	Fischer	December 7, 2005
Loren	Lindholm	December 8, 1963
Mathew	Voy	December 8, 1993
Shirley	Hess	December 13, 1942
Brett	Schneider	December 13, 1979
Arla	Baumberger	December 16, 1953
Gale	Maas	December 16, 1954
Kay	Mendel	December 17, 1960
Kadyn	Gehrels	December 18, 2004
Darlene	Iverson	December 18, 1928
Sawyer	Fedeler	December 20, 2017
Kaelie	Lindholm	December 20, 2006
Parker	Gerry	December 22, 2005
Heidi	Schneider	December 22, 1980
Carrol	Olson	December 25, 1942
Marlys	Arneson	December 27, 1958
Ashley	Milbrandt	December 27, 1993
Logan	Reck	December 27, 2004
Adam	Welton	December 28, 1983
Garret	Olson	December 29, 1998
Justin	Baumberger	December 30, 1986
Kim	Hemmer	December 30, 1962
Cade	Fischer	December 31, 2015
Brooke	Grass	December 31, 1992
Noel	Wareham	December 31, 1969

To read the Bible in one year:
SUGGESTED BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

DATE	FIRST READING	SECOND READING
December 1	Luke 1:46-55	Revelation 1-2
December 2	Psalm 1	Revelation 3-5
December 3	Psalm 2	Revelation 6-8
December 4	Psalm 3	Revelation 9-11
December 5	Psalm 4	Revelation 12-14
December 6	Psalm 5	Revelation 15-17
December 7	Psalm 6	Revelation 18-20
December 8	Psalm 7	Revelation 21-22
December 9	Psalm 8	Isaiah 1-3
December 10	Psalm 9	Isaiah 4-6
December 11	Psalm 10	Isaiah 7-9
December 12	Psalm 11	Isaiah 10-12
December 13	Psalm 12	Isaiah 13-15
December 14	Psalm 13	Isaiah 16-18
December 15	Psalm 14	Isaiah 19-21
December 16	Psalm 15	Isaiah 22-24
December 17	Psalm 16	Isaiah 25-27
December 18	Psalm 17	Isaiah 28-30
December 19	Psalm 18	Isaiah 31-33
December 20	Psalm 19	Isaiah 34-36
December 21	Psalm 20	Isaiah 37-39
December 22	Psalm 21	Isaiah 40-42
December 23	Psalm 22	Isaiah 43-45
December 24	Psalm 23	Isaiah 46-48
December 25	Psalm 24	Isaiah 49-51
December 26	Psalm 25	Isaiah 52-54
December 27	Psalm 26	Isaiah 55-57
December 28	Psalm 27	Isaiah 58-60
December 29	Psalm 28	Isaiah 61-63
December 30	Psalm 29	Isaiah 64-66
December 31	Luke 1:46-55	Mark 1

DECEMBER 2023

Altar Guild: Lacey Gehrels ~ Jill Martin ~ Marlys Arneson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
<p>3 Sunday December 3 -9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Tracer Feige Greeters: Randy Hess; Layne Hess; Emma Hess Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study following service. Board of Education Meeting</p>	4	5	<p>6 4:00 pm ~ Confirmation~Bible History Class & Bells 6:00 pm ~ Midweek Advent Worship Service Acolyte: Brendon McManus Greeters: Rollyn & Connie Hess Organist: Peg George 6:30 pm ~ Advent Meal 7:00 pm ~ Youth Group</p>	7	8	9
<p>10 Sunday December 10 -9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Colten Miller Greeters: Dannie Johnson Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study following service.</p>	11 7:00 pm Altar Guild	12	<p>13 4:00 pm ~ Confirmation~Bible History Class & Bells 6:00 pm ~ Midweek Advent Worship Service Acolyte: Makenzie Cacho Greeters: Todd & Carmen Keupp Organist: Peg George 6:30 pm ~ Advent Meal 7:00 pm ~ Youth Group & Elders Meeting</p>	14	15	19
<p>17 Sunday December 17 - 9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Olerick Welton Greeters: Brant & Amanda Klawonn Family Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study following service</p>	18 NEWS LETTER DEAD-LINE	19	<p>20 4:00 pm ~ Confirmation~Bible History Class & Bells 6:00 pm ~ Midweek Advent Worship Service Acolyte: Rilynn Zillgitt Greeters: Dick & Helen Lease Organist: Peg George 6:30 pm ~ Advent Meal 7:00 pm ~ Youth Group</p>	21	22	23
<p>24 Sunday December 24 - 9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Abigail Eppe Greeters: Lee Limmer Organist: Peg George 6:00 pm Childrens Christmas Service Acolyte: Usher Greeters: Elders Organist: Peg George</p>	25 Christmas Day Worship W/Holy Communion Acolyte: Natalie Feige Greeters: Rev. Adam & Kayla Welton Family Organist: Peg George	26	27 NO CONFIRMATION, BIBLE STUDY, BELLS, OR YOUTH GROUP.	28	29	30
<p>31 Sunday November 26 - 9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Usher Greeters: Mark & Delorus Limmer Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study following service</p>						