

The Good News Of Peace

To live as God's family gathering around His Word and promises
to effectively share
The Good News of God's love in Christ with our neighbors.

Peace Lutheran Church and Preschool

Chehalis, Washington

December 2019

December Schedule of Activities

December 4 th	Noon & 7:00pm	Advent Service (6:00pm soup supper)
December 7 th	11:00am-2:00pm	LWML Advent Tea
December 11 th	Noon & 7:00pm	Advent Service (6:00pm soup supper)
December 18 th	Noon & 7:00pm	Advent Service (6:00pm soup supper)
December 21 st	6:00pm	Children's Christmas Program
December 24 th	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25 th	9:30am	Matins
	10:00am	Christmas Day Divine Service
December 29 th	4:00pm	Annual Christmas Party



Advent Soup Suppers

This year the Wednesday morning Bible study will set up the tables for the Advent soup suppers. The suppers are held at 6:00pm prior to the 7:00pm Advent Service.

Volunteers are needed to provide soup and bread and there is a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board in the Narthex.

Annual Christmas Party

Our Annual Christmas Party is scheduled for **Sunday, December 29, 2019, at 4:00pm**, so please mark your calendars. This party is for all ages!

As usual, we will start off the festivities with a potluck dinner. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board where you can decide on what dish to bring. After desserts we will have the opportunity to listen to some of our very talented members perform, followed by the singing of a few of our favorite carols.

The Children's Christmas Play

The Children's Christmas Play Program is back! We will be performing "The Little Shepherd". This heartwarming play features a small shepherd boy named Thaddeus who possesses a special gift - the ability to talk to animals. His earnest conversations with his dog, Mary and Joseph's donkey, a cow, a sheep, and a camel convince him that a very special baby, The Messiah, is about to be born in Bethlehem. But Thaddeus's friends find this hard to believe. After all, he got his information from animals! Eventually the children see the holy family for themselves in the wonder of the newborn Jesus. Please join us on December 21st at 6:00pm for our Children's Christmas Program. The kids are working hard. Please come out and support them. It will be fun for all. Thank you. Karen Howsden

Out With the Old; In With The Even Older. (For Now)

When Advent arrives this year, we will transition once again to a different lectionary (the series of Scripture readings appointed for the Divine Service).

A Little History:

When Lutheran Worship (the blue hymnal) was adopted in the early 1980s, with it, came a new lectionary. That lectionary was largely based on the work of the Roman Catholic Church in Vatican II. Around that time, many denominations adopted the “Revised Common Lectionary.” The lectionary of Lutheran Worship was basically a slight revision of the “Revised Common Lectionary.” Instead of hearing the same readings year-in and year-out, the lectionary expanded to a cycle of hearing the same readings every three years. That lectionary is commonly known amongst LCMS Lutherans as “The Three-Year Lectionary.” (I know, creative, huh?)

When Lutheran Service Book (our new, burgundy hymnal) was developed, the “Three-Year Lectionary” underwent another slight revision. In addition, Lutheran Service Book, and its companion volumes included resources for a return to the older lectionary, now known as “The Historic One-Year Lectionary.” (I know, creative, as ever.)

In certain circles, a debate rages over which lectionary is the better one to use. (Yes, we nerdy pastor-types actually argue about such things.) Some insist that the One-Year Lectionary is the only one to use. Others argue that the Three-Year Lectionary is far superior. I, personally, remain unconvinced. I see advantages and disadvantages to each.

On the one hand, there are things about the One-Year Lectionary which have been completely lost in the Three-Year. On the other hand, the Three-Year Lectionary allows the reading of a larger portion of Holy Scripture than the one year.

Desiring the best of both worlds, we have been alternating between “The (Historic) One-Year Lectionary” and the Three-Year Lectionary (effectively making a six-year cycle where the readings are the exact same in years 2, 4, and 6).

A New (Old) Lectionary:

In Advent, this year, we return (for a year) to the Historic One-Year Lectionary.

What’s Different?

There are several things you might notice this year. Some are mostly cosmetic. For instance, the

Sundays in “ordinary time” (basically the summer and fall months) are measured as the “Sundays after Trinity” rather than the “Sundays after Pentecost.” Others are more substantial, but less obvious. For example, since the One-Year Lectionary was developed over centuries, the “theme” for any given Sunday is more pronounced. The readings, the collect, the introit, the gradual, and the Psalm all have a more obviously connective theme in the One-Year Lectionary.

Pre-Lent:

In the One-Year Lectionary, there is even an entire season which went away with the transition to the Three-Year Lectionary. In the Three-Year Lectionary, the Epiphany season lasts all the way to the edge of Lent, so that Transfiguration Sunday immediately precedes Ash Wednesday. In the Historic One-Year Lectionary, we celebrate “Pre-Lent.” There are three Sundays between Transfiguration Sunday and Lent that are “preparatory” for the great penitential season of Lent. These Sundays are a kind of countdown to the forty days of Lent. These Sundays are known as the “Gesima” Sundays from their Latin names: Septuagesima—“Seventy Days” (It’s about seventy days before Easter.); Sexagesima—“Sixty Days” (It’s about sixty days before Easter.); and Quinquagesima—“Fifty Days” (It’s about fifty days before Easter.).

Speaking of Latin Names:

You will probably notice that, in fact, most of the Sundays in the festival half of the Church Year have a Latin name. These names come from the first words of the appointed Introit and tend to reflect the theme for the day.

The Historical Advantage:

One of the great advantages of this lectionary is its historicity. There is always a benefit in receiving with joy the great heritage which has been handed down to us from our faithful parents. Many of our families have been Lutheran for generations. When we hear the readings from the One-Year Lectionary we are hearing the same Scriptures on the same day as our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and even farther back. We are eating the same diet of Scriptures which sustained our church for the last six centuries.

The historical nature of this lectionary means that there are far more resources (preaching; liturgical; musical; etc.) geared toward this lectionary. For many centuries, what was written in the Church was written in view of this lectionary. For example, the

vast musical offerings of J.S. Bach were written for this lectionary.

As we travel through the Church Year, this year, know that you are hearing essentially the same lessons which Christians heard from the early middle ages until the late 20th century. These lessons are, in fact, the lessons which were in use at the time of the Lutheran Reformation—the very texts upon which Martin Luther and other theological giants of the Reformation preached.

Advent

What is Advent? “Advent” means appearance, approach, or coming. Advent celebrates and anticipates our coming Christ. Advent starts four Sundays before Christmas Day, (the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle on 30 November).

The season of Advent is a season of preparation for the celebration of the feast of the Nativity. Advent is a penitential season—a time of reflection and repentance as we realize that it was our sinfulness which caused God to send our Savior into the world, to take our sins on Himself, and die on the cross.

Advent prepares us for Christmas because Christmas is the celebration of Christ’s first coming as an infant in a stable. But Advent also celebrates and prepares us for our coming Christ’s other comings. Christ comes to us with His grace in His Word and through His Sacraments. Our coming Christ is also coming again to judge the living and the dead. Advent is as much a celebration of and preparation for these comings as it is about the coming of an infant in a stable in Bethlehem.

Advent in the Historic One-Year Lectionary: (More Latin Names)

Ad Te Levavi—The First Sunday in Advent takes its name from the beginning of the Introit, “To You (O Lord) do I lift up (my soul). . .” It is the start of the new Church Year, but it continues the focus of the end of the last Church Year. We are watching and waiting for the Second Coming of our Lord. And while we wait, He comes with His grace. We do not know what the new year will bring, but we know it will be full of God’s grace.

Populus Zion—The Second Sunday in Advent also takes its name from the beginning of the Introit, “Daughter of Zion, (behold, your salvation comes). . .” The teaching of this day is addressed to the faithful. Those who receive Jesus, the King as

He comes to His Zion in Word and Sacrament will have glad hearts when He comes again.

Gaudete—The Third Sunday in Advent takes its name from its Introit, “Rejoice (in the Lord always). . .” Gladness and rejoicing are the themes. The rose colored candle and rose colored paraments and vestments of this day reflect a momentary pause, a lightening of the fast, and the rejoicing which is ours because the forerunner, John the Baptist has announced the arrival of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Rorate Coeli—The Fourth Sunday in Advent echoes the yearning of the Introit, “Come down heavens. . .” Closest to the Christ mass, this is the Sunday of preparation. We are prepared by Christ Himself for His coming. As we commemorate His outward and visible coming, the inward and spiritual presence of Christ prepares us for His ultimate coming on the Last Day.

Fasting During Advent:

(What follows is a short blurb written by the Rev. William C. Weedon recently retired Director of Worship of the LCMS and Chaplain of the International Center)

Part of Advent penitence traditionally was observing it as a time of fasting. Lutherans tend not to observe distinctions of meats (abstention), but we do encourage fasting as a useful bodily discipline; i.e., not eating. Going hungry for a bit.

If you’ve not fasted before, Advent is a wondrous time to begin the practice, and how much more counter-cultural can get you get these days when our society celebrates on unending pig-out from Thanksgiving through Christmas Day?

Chief fast days would be the Fridays of Advent (at least skip breakfast, or if possible don’t eat till sunset) and then also the Wednesday and Saturday of Ember week (following the Feast of St. Lucia on Dec. 13), so the 18th and the 21st, still observing Friday the 20th. That gives you a grand total of five days for fasting in this holy season. Traditionally, December 24th was also observed as a fast. That would bring it up to six.

Why fast? 1. To provide more time for Bible study and prayer. 2. To use any funds saved on skipping meals for yourself to give away to the poor as alms. 3. To remind your body that it does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; and train yourself to deny the body its every whim.

Why Am I Still Here, When I'm So Ready To Go Home Now, Why?

...is perhaps one of the most frequently asked questions of pastors when visiting the frail or dying.

To be sure, in one sense or another, we are ALL frail and/or dying... regardless of our age, we just don't recognize it as such.

The question, however, remains... why?

Also, a very common reply of pastors, and yes, it can sound trite, is that "you are still important, and needed (by someone)".

My particular view of the WHY question is framed in the Divine Service, where we all receive from God His infinite mercy, and in loving response, speak it back to Him. It is in that simple exchange, nuanced though it can be, where we sometimes answer the why question for ourselves.

We are here, as long as we're here, to give praise to God, and teach our neighbor to do the same.

So, in at least one sense, we lead, assist, embolden, encourage, teach, and emulate for our neighbor a proper response to the love of God, in Christ, as we gather to receive His good gifts.

That's the work we are trying to do week in, and week out, as we gather around Word and Sacrament at Concordia Evangelical Lutheran at

Providence Place. We seek to express the why of our existence for the benefit of our neighbor. I assure you, our neighbor needs this encouragement in ways we can't grasp.

As the winter weather sets in upon us, and days get greyer, colder, and wetter there may be mornings where you may be unable to come to Peace to gather with the family to receive the Gift of hearing God's Word.

Perhaps, it may be easier, or safer to attend an afternoon proclamation of that same, Bold, Precious Word of Forgiveness with the saints at Concordia Providence. For you; come hear the promise of our Giver God when He assures you of His love for you, but also, and perhaps more importantly, come and share your mature faith with men and women who are newer in faith. Men and Women, who would greatly benefit from observing lifelong faith in action. I have recently

received a man in his late 70's. He's never set foot in a church, but is eager to hear the Word of life. A solid Lutheran gentleman, as a mentor would be a wonderful blessing for him, as we work toward his Baptism soon.

Allow yourself to demonstrate an answer to that question, "why am I here"?

We are here to lift our hearts, voices, needs, confession, and praises to God in the sure and certain hope of the Forgiveness of our sins, and await our invitation to the marriage feast of the Lamb, which has no end.

All of the Peace family are warmly welcomed, as often as you wish, to celebrate our redemption in Christ, our Savior. Please, "come and see".

We pray **Vespers**, Sunday afternoon's at 4:30.

350 SE Washington Ave, Chehalis

Grab my elbow, or call me for more info.

Pr. Harris' cell (360) 219-6458

Thank you! I can use the help.

December Birthdays

3. Peter Lahmann
Sue Lykken
4. Nessa Shea
7. Derek Burger
Sandy Sund
9. Gitti Burger
12. Guy Lewis
13. Samuel Howsden
Pamela McConkey
Aveline Crouse
14. Stephen Eriksen
Randy Short
Joshua Souliere
16. Betty Schmitt
21. Rev. Daniel Freeman
22. Anita Gunlogson
24. Alyssa Ackerson (nee Huezo)
26. Sherrie Reuther
28. Lilah Nay
Jim Sund
29. Carol Heimbigner
30. Miguel Dwyer
31. Jamie Barrett

December Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|------|
| 2. | Alfred & Jeanette Mitzel | 1955 |
| 9. | Jim & Rita Nay | 1995 |
| 12. | Bill & Jennie Dries | 1954 |
| 14. | Roland & Jean Falb | 2002 |
| 16. | Sebastian & Lauren Dumoulin | 2017 |
| 23. | Jim & Sandy Sund | 1977 |



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

In place of our regular meeting in December, the LWML will be having their annual Advent Tea on Saturday, December 7th starting at 11:00am. This is a potluck, and all women of Peace Lutheran, as well as friends and neighbors are welcome to participate. Ladies, please bring a tea cup to exchange with a sister in Christ. Also bring your favorite Bible verse on a 3x5 card. Be prepared to tell why it is special to you. We have also prepared a short skit for entertainment.

On December 15th, we will be taking the boxes to the Tacoma Seafarers Center for the men coming in on ships. If you haven't filled one already pick one up in the Narthex and begin now. Be sure to take the instructions for filling it and the letter to place in the box for the person receiving this gift. There are extra items in the bin that you may use to fill your box. Please help yourself. Bring the box gift wrapped to the church by December 15th.

On Sunday, December 29th, the **Purple Bucket** will be in the Narthex for contributions. We have designated these funds to help Rachel Freeman with a short term mission trip this coming summer. Please be generous and help us support Rachel as she prepares to become a Deaconess.

Women's Bible Study

Ladies, we are finishing our study on Peter by Donna Pyle. We will be meeting December 3rd and December 10th to discuss our last lesson, Lesson 8. We will take a break until January. Watch for the announcement of the time and topic for our next class.

Youth Group News

At the Youth Group Meeting on November 10th, we discussed the Thanksgiving pie auction, planned and scheduled a Christmas wreath fund raiser, scheduled when we were going caroling, planned the Youth's Christmas party, handed out registration forms for next year's Higher Thing Conference, and briefly discussed a couple of other possible fund raisers. Finally, at the end of

the meeting, we scheduled the next meeting for the 1st of December.

CAROLING

The Youth plan to go Christmas caroling on December 22nd, following Sunday school. We gladly invite everyone in the congregation to join us. If you have any suggestions and/or requests of people who would enjoy us stopping by and singing for them, please tell Pastor or Michelle Schaefer.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Youth will have their Christmas Party following caroling on the 22nd of December. We hope to stop at the Quesadilla Factory for dinner, then head back to the church to eat dinner and play games including a saran wrap ball, and end the evening with a white elephant gift exchange.

FUND RAISERS

Christmas Wreaths

We will be selling Christmas Wreaths, \$20 for a plain one and \$25 for a decorated one. Youth will be taking preorders, November 17th and 24th. Then the youth will get together on Saturday, November 30th from 2 – 6 pm to make the wreaths. We will have additional wreaths available for purchase December 1st – 15th. The Youth would greatly appreciate the donation of greens to be used in the wreaths. The Youth also invites anyone interested in helping to make the wreaths and/or who would like to learn how to make wreaths to join us on the 30th of November at the church from 2 – 6 pm.

The next Youth Group meeting will be December 1, 2019 at 12:45. At this meeting we will continue making plans for the coming year; activities, fund raisers, etc.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those of you who are Thrivent members, Thrivent allots you Choice Dollars on a regular basis but you must direct them to an organization of your choice **or they are lost**.

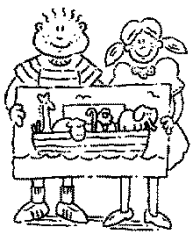
So please remember to do that and if you should want them to go to Peace Lutheran, be sure to select Peace Lutheran Church, Chehalis as there are numerous churches with the same name. These

funds are available for and by organizations within Peace.

Donations are way behind, so please direct those dollars today! Even if you have once directed your dollars, you **MUST** do it again each time you have a premium due.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please speak with Katie Foss, our Thrivent coordinator. Here's Thrivent's phone number and you can call them to ask if you have any Choice Dollars available: 800-847-4836 Monday-Friday 7:00am-6:00pm (central time).

Please call them today!!!



Preschool News

Our Christmas program will be on Thursday, December 19th, at 10:30 am. Refreshments will be served afterward in the parish hall. Please bring your student to class at the regular time on that

day. We will be rehearsing our program first thing in the morning.

Christmas Vacation will be December 23rd - Jan 3rd, with class resuming on Tuesday, January 7th.

December's color of the month will be red, the shape is a star, number is 5, letters I & J. Our Bible story for the month will be about the Nativity. There will be no sharing the week of December 17th.

School closures happen quickly in our area, whether they are due to power outages, snow, ice, or flooding. Our main goal is to make sure that your child is safe and may mean that we close preschool until conditions improve.

Peace Lutheran Preschool parallels, as much as possible, the Chehalis School District calendar year/weather closures. When Chehalis Schools close or have a late arrival, Peace Lutheran Preschool will be closed.

When severe weather conditions are present please use the resources below:

Radio stations KITI 1420 am, KELA 1470 am, KACS 90.5 fm, and Live95 95.1 fm.

Seattle morning news channels also have closures: Komo 4, King 5, Kiro 7, and Fox 13.

Here is a webpage online that will have information; <http://www.flashalertseattle.net/>

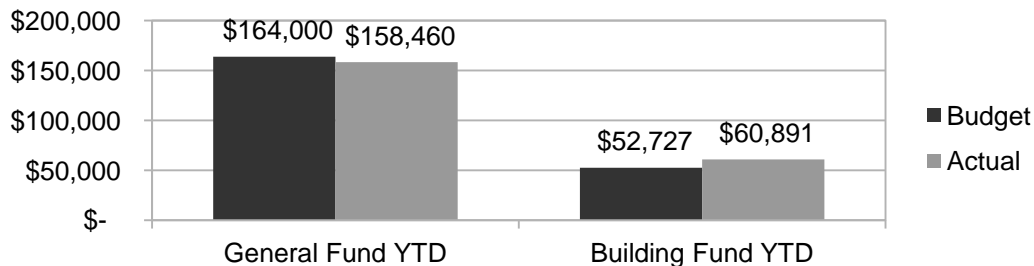
I will also post on our Facebook page as soon as I find out if our class will be canceled. You may call the church office if you have any questions: 360-748-4108

Many insurance plans change around the first of the year for a lot of people. If you need to update your information in your child's school records please let me know.

Have a wonderful Advent, and Merry Christmas, Ms. Libby

From Your Board of Stewardship

Offerings as of October 2019



Fund	Budget	Actual
General Fund YTD	\$164,000	\$158,460
Building Fund YTD	\$52,727	\$60,891

December Elder: Dick Piesch

December Ushers

01) John Shea & Peter Lahmann 9:00am
08) Brian Hill & Rick Bryant 9:30am
15) John Shea & Roland Falb 9:30am
22) Tom Howsden & Sam H. 9:30am
24) John Foss & Tom DeTray 7:00pm
25) Jesse Hardy & Allen Klapel 9:30am
29) George Schaefer & Bruce Hood 9:30am

Advent Services

Noon 7:00pm

04) Joe Hidalgo / TBD
11) Joe Hidalgo / TBD
18) Joe Hidalgo / TBD.

Candlelight Service
 Matins/Divine Service
 Divine Service

Acolytes: **01)** Jonah Freeman **08)** Sam Howsden
15) Colby Dwyer **22)** Landon Engelbertson **29)** Jonah Freeman

Altar Guild:

01) Jodie DeTray & Sophia DeTray **04)** Jodie DeTray & Sophia DeTray
08) Mary McHenry & Alyssa Ackerson **11)** Mary McHenry & Alyssa A.
15) Sandy Lupo & Rachel F. **18)** Sandy Lupo & Rachel Freeman
22) Marlene Farrell & Abigail F. **24)** Jodie DeTray & Sophia DeTray
25) Mary McHenry & Alyssa A. **29)** Sandy Lupo & Rachel Freeman

Coffee Hour: **01)***Anna Lupo/.Melinda McHenry/Sommer Engelbertson (c)
08)*Gitti Burger/Barbara Jolly/Carol Heimbigner (c)
15)*Sharon Harris/Peter Lahmann/Edith Gibson(c)
22)*Sandy Lupo/Rita Nay/Donna Lyon(c)
29)*Julie Liseth/Linda Follett/Edie Schroeder(c)

Counters: **01)** Klapel **08)** Doench **15)** Bryant **22)** Stocker **29)** Stocker

Flowers: **01)** OPEN **08)** Dries **15)** Falb **22)** Sund **29)** Open

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 Sunday School 9:00 Matins 9:30 Divine Service 11:15 Christmas Program Rehearsal Bible Study	2	3 10:00 Women's Bible Study	4 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Advent Service 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Advent Service	5 1:30-2:30 Individual C & A 6:30 Church Council	6	7 10:00-2:00 LWML Christmas Tea
8 8:15 Sunday School 9:30 Divine Service 11:15 Christmas Program Rehearsal Bible Study 12:15 Youth Group	9	10 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Lutheran Confessions Study @ Olympia	11 12:00 Advent Service 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Advent Service	12	13	14
15 8:15 Sunday School 9:30 Divine Service 11:15 Christmas Program Rehearsal Bible Study	16	17	18 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Advent Service 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Advent Service	19 1:30-2:30 Individual C & A 7:00 Board of Property	20	21 6:00pm Children's Christmas Program
22 9:30 Divine Service 11:15 Sunday School Bible Study	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 9:30 am Matins 10:00 Christmas Day Divine Service	26 1:30-2:30 Individual C & A	27	28 9:00-10:00 Individual C & A
29 9:30 Divine Service 11:15 Sunday School Bible Study 4:00 Annual Christmas Party Dinner	30	31	December 2019			

Peace Lutheran Church
2071 Bishop Road
Chehalis WA 98532

Return Service Requested

The Good News of Peace is published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church, 2071 Bishop Road, Chehalis, Washington 98532. We are affiliated with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS).

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Pastor Daniel L. Freeman
Email: pastor_freeman@juno.com

Sunday Worship at 9:00 am
First Sunday of Month, Matins at 8:30 am with Divine Service at 9:00 am
Sunday School – all ages – 10:45 am

We are located four miles south of Chehalis on the corner of Jackson Highway and Bishop Road.