

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 2020

Christmas in the Time of COVID-19

In keeping with our Governor's mandates on church attendance, we are limiting our services to approximately 50 participants each.

In order to accommodate our regular Christmas attendance, we have added an extra service. We will have three Christmas services:

- Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, Dec. 24, 7pm
- Christmas Midnight Divine Service, Dec. 24, 11pm
- Christmas Day Divine Service, Dec. 25, 10am

While in any other year, I would encourage you to attend all three services (each one is unique in its lessons and theme as the Church has historically used these services to focus on different aspects of the joy of our Lord's birth for us), this year you will most likely need to limit yourself to one or two services.

Historically, our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service has had well over 50 attendees. It is a beloved service. For the sake of the love of your neighbor, you may wish to consider attending a different service and experiencing a service which you haven't before.

SIGNING UP FOR THESE SERVICES WILL BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. The sign-up links are on the front page of our congregational website at www.chehalislutheran.org If you do not have internet access, or are having trouble signing up, please contact the church office for assistance. For our Saturday and Sunday services, we can usually accommodate a few who have not signed up. We anticipate that being much more difficult for these Christmas services (especially perhaps Christmas Eve). If you have not signed up, and we end up over capacity, we may be forced to ask you to leave. Please don't put us in that position. Please sign up for the service you intend to attend or contact the church office for assistance.

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.

Fasting During Advent:

(What follows is a modified version of a short blurb written by the Rev. William C. Weedon recently retired Director of Worship of the LCMS and Chaplain of the International Center and host of the daily Bible study podcast, "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever.")

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 16th and the 19th, still observing Friday the 18th. 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.

Advent Midweek Service

Sermon Series

THE JESSE TREE IS THE JESUS TREE!

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.” (Isaiah 11:1)

It is Advent—a time to reflect, pray, and worship the Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again. Imagine the world some two thousand years ago in the weeks before the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. People were busy doing whatever it was that defined their lives at that moment. For some, it was struggling against hunger, fear, and desperation. For others, it was enjoying their wealth and ease. For yet others, it was simply dealing with the pressures of their lives. But for all, the weeks we call “Advent” were just days and nights lived in darkness.

And indeed, it is a dark world. God had created the world to live in union with Him. He had breathed life into the father of our race, Adam, a creature of dust. He had formed Eve from the side of Adam and had joined the two together and to Himself. How bright the world must have been as Eden lived in harmony with the Creator.

But darkness came. Those created and loved by God rebelled against Him, bringing a darkness which permeated all creation. Death had entered through sin, and as the children of Adam filled the world, they took with them the darkness of that dreadful day in Eden when sin and death entered the world.

It was a world of darkness cut off from the source of all light, the Creator. Yet a light was breaking into the world. A young girl carried in her virgin womb a Son. This daughter of Eve was about to give birth to the One who would be the Light of the world. This infant would reverse forever the horror of humanity's fall into sin and death and darkness. This was the miracle of miracles: our human sister, Mary, became, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the mother of God, the bearer of the Savior of the world.

No human eye could perceive it that night. All that could be seen was a child. Yet this child would forever destroy the darkness, for He brought life into death, and His light was to be the light of the world.

Every force of Satan would seek to put that Light out. Herod would attempt to destroy Him by killing every male infant. Scribes and Pharisees would seek to silence Him as He spoke words of life. Failing to silence Him, they would seek to kill Him. Some thirty-three years after the first Christmas, the Babe of Bethlehem would be nailed to a cross. But this is what He had come to do. The Advent story, including the culminating Christmas story, is about a baby who had been born to die—yet not just to die but to be placed in the utter darkness of a tomb and on Easter morning to burst forth from the tomb. When the child of Mary rose from the grave, the light which began at Bethlehem shone so brightly that no one can put it out.

This Advent, we gather in the name of Jesus and consider His great story anew. The Jesse Tree is filled with symbols telling the story of Jesus from creation to His second coming. The story of the Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, is the story of Jesus. He is the Seed of Jesse's tree. He is the Root of Jesse's tree. He is the Life of Jesse's tree. And He is the Firstfruit of Jesse's tree. As the Church will sing with the angels on Christmas Day, “To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth” (*LSB* 383).

Obituaries



It pleased the Lord to call to His heavenly home:

Blanche Jobes

November 24, 2020

Counters Needed

We are in need of 2 counters for next year. Counting duties are performed 1 Sunday a month. Counters take turns covering the months which have 5 Sundays, so you will have 1 additional Sunday at some point during the year. Please contact Marlene Farrell 360-748-2223 if you are interested.

New Flower Chart and New Flower Fund

The flower chart for 2021 has been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway near the restrooms. Beat the rush and sign up for the days you would like to provide flowers for the altar.

In case you don't want to be responsible for a Sunday all by yourself, but still want to help provide flowers, there is a way to do that, too. A fund has been established to use to purchase flowers for the altar on the Sundays when no one has signed up. If you would like to contribute to that fund, please mark your offering envelope and your check "Flower Fund".

If you have any questions about altar flowers, please call the church office.

Flowers in December:

During the penitential season of Advent, arrangements of greens are more appropriate than flowers. For Dec. 24th-25th Altar Guild provides Poinsettias

Offering Envelopes

If you currently do not have a booklet of offering envelopes and would like one for next year, please contact Marlene Farrell 360-748-2223.

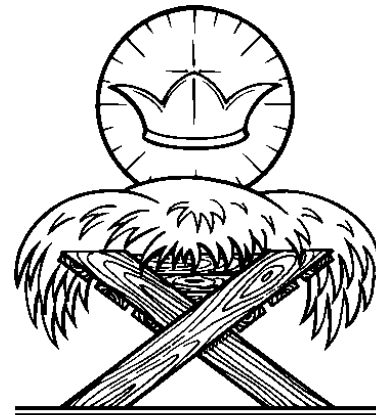
LWML News

Even though the LWML has not had a meeting since Jan. we continue to carry out helping our missions. We have been supporting Missionary Trump and the Possibilities Center monthly with our existing funds.

Anyone wishing to donate to the LWML can do so by designating through their offering or making a check directly to the LWML and place it in the LWML Treasurer's mailbox (Edie Schroeder). You can help us support our missions. If you order from Amazon you can sign into Amazon Smile and designate Possibilities Women's Care Center and they will donate to the charity of your choice. So far Possibilities has received \$641.00 from Amazon. It doesn't cost you any extra to do so.

The National and District LWML vote to support various mission projects at their conventions. Any money received donated to Mites is sent directly to support those mission projects. There is a Mite box in the narthex for donations.

Please remember to pray for these Mission projects and the LWML that we may continue to do the Lord's work. You can make a difference.



For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given ...

Isaiah 9:6

<p>December Elder: Peter Lahmann</p> <p>December Ushers:</p>	<p>Altar Guild:</p> <p>02/05/06) Jodie DeTray & Sophia DeTray 09/12/13) Marlene Farrell & Chris Pfaff 16/19/20) Cherie Hill & Rachel Freeman 24) Sandy Lupo & Marlene Farrell 25) Jodie DeTray & Sophia DeTray 26/27) Mary McHenry & Alyssa Ackerson</p> <p>Counters: 06) Klapel 13) Stocker 20) Doench 27) Bryant</p> <p>Flowers: 06) OPEN 13) Dries 20) OPEN 27) OPEN</p>	<p>December Birthdays</p> <p>3. Peter Lahmann Sue Lykken</p> <p>4. Nessa Shea</p> <p>7. Derek Burger Sandy Sund</p> <p>9. Gitti Burger</p> <p>12. Guy Lewis</p> <p>13. Samuel Howsden Pamela McConkey Aveline Crouse</p> <p>14. Stephen Eriksen Randy Short Joshua Souliere</p> <p>16. Betty Schmitt</p> <p>21. Rev. Daniel Freeman</p> <p>22. Anita Gunlogson</p> <p>24. Alyssa Ackerson (nee Huezo)</p> <p>26. Sherrie Reuther</p> <p>28. Lilah Nay Jim Sund</p> <p>29. Carol Heimbigner</p> <p>30. Miguel Dwyer</p> <p>31. Jamie Barrett</p>
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December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service	3	4	5 6:00 Divine Service
6 9:30 Divine Service	7	8 6:30 Lutheran Confessions Study @ Olympia	9 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service	10 7:00 Church Council	11	12 6:00 Divine Service
13 9:30 Divine Service	14	15	16 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service	17 7:00 Elders Meeting	18	19 6:00 Divine Service
20 9:30 Divine Service	21	22 6:30 Lutheran Confessions Study @ Peace	23 10:00 Bible Study	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00pm Christmas Midnight Divine Service	25 10:00am Christmas Day Divine Service	26 6:00 Divine Service
27 9:30 Divine Service	28	29	30	31		

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

Peace Lutheran Church
2071 Bishop Road
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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.