



Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;  
let it be to me according to your word. Luke 1:38

Mary responds to Gabriel's words with an incredible willingness to yield to the Lord. The result, is the Word begins to be formed within her. The Word becomes flesh. The becoming takes time.

Not only the divine "just the right time" in history when Jesus comes and is crucified for us (Romans 5:6), but the 9 months of human gestation. Waiting for the Word to be formed in us involves waiting, it involves *eagerly* waiting, participating with God in the waiting.

This is true for all who believe and follow Jesus. There is the moment, the 'just the right time' when Christ saves, when we are born from above (John 3:3). And there is Christ being formed in us (Galatians 4:19, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21) which involves an active waiting on the Lord. There are ways to respond to Christ's saving work in us that cooperates with the process of His life forming within us. This process is described in various terms: discipleship, following, abiding... all with the purpose of living this life in the flesh by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us (Galatians 2:20). Our part in this process is our gift to God, the gift of our lives returned to the One who created us, and continues to work in us for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

So what does our responding look like? We worship. We glorify God in our daily living with the attitude of Christ in us and the fruit of His Spirit manifest through us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). We gather regularly with other believers to bear this fruit in practical ways with one another and for those who do not yet know Christ. Our works of love, forgiveness, service as well as our words of peace, truth, kindness are ways in which we worship, bringing hope to others and glory to God.

In our becoming we are formed and fashioned together as a means of God's grace in the world. We bear witness to the faithfulness of God (even when our faithfulness is waning). We bear witness to the One who is strong when we are weak, to the One who knew no sin but became sin for us so that we may become His righteousness (Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, 8:9, 12:10).

In a world which seeks to form and fashion us into its image, worship is how God returns us to our fearfully and wonderfully made place, abiding in Him, the vine who nourishes us. In worship we are reminded and encouraged to live up to the kind we are in Christ. In worship we present our lives for His good pleasure and purpose for the sake of those who do not yet know Him. You see, as we respond to God's Word, Christ is formed within us and we are sent into the world to transform the lives of others in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1-2).

May this Christmas season be a time to return to the shepherd and guardian of our souls (1 Peter 2:25). May God's Word teach, reprove, correct, and train us for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16).

May we come and adore the Christ who has come to bring us Himself: the good news of great joy which is for all the people (Luke 2:10). May we all live, move, and have our being in Him, according to His Word! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jon

## Family Fun Night & Hanging of the Greens: Friday, Dec 2, 6 PM

Come decorate the Church for the Advent season! Enjoy pizza (provided), music and fun together. Bring frosting and half a dozen baked (but undecorated) cookies as we will also have a cookie decorating area set up. Of course, there will be jolly holiday tunes too! All ages are invited to come to the church for a few hours and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship together! Kindly let Karen know you intend to come so enough goodies will be ordered for you to enjoy!



## Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts!

What a wondrous and blessed OCC Shoebox Gifts season we've just had! Thank you to Catherine Rangel for her leadership with this annual effort – 174 Shoeboxes were delivered during collection week by Jim Helgeson to a local site and will now go on to a national distribution center.

Your box is on its way and part of spreading the Gospel message to a child, sometimes in the remotest places of the world. **How powerful!** You supported the shipping of our boxes via fun raffles. Congrats to our winners of the three baskets: Charlotte Newman,

Breakfast, Brunch & Beyond basket, Jackie Kanneguard (TOPS member & Ervnette Arthur's Auntie) Brewer's Advent Calendar basket, and Betty Nomanson, \$250 Gift Card basket. The raffle raised \$1,345 and the proceeds have been sent to Samaritan's Purse to defray shipping cost. Many thanks to Thrivent Financial for Action Team card seed money supporting our raffle baskets, and to Pastor Jon and Jim Helgeson for applying!



## Stewardship Emphasis

Thanks to Chris Clark and Mike Hill for putting together a thoughtful stewardship letter and packets for our prayerful giving in 2023. Pledges have been returned, Financial Secretary, Amy Birge, has entered them, and provided this information to Budget Team of which she is a part. Thanks also to Ken Birge for quickly assembling the Team and to Lee Ely & Paul Seher for accepting appointment serving as a congregational members of the Team. A proposed budget will be finalized before the Dec council meeting and submitted for review. The 2023 budget will be voted on by you at the Annual Meeting in Jan.

*Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9*

## Upcoming Team Meetings & Special Guest

Want to get involved? P&M Team is meeting Dec 6 at 6 pm, and Fellowship Team on Dec 7 at 11 am. Stop in, intro yourself, and get ready for a fun time serving! **On Dec 11**, a special guest from the Post Falls Food Bank will be here to share some information with us. See page 10 for more information!

## Imitate Christ, not Culture

Humans, by nature, compare and imitate. We observe and identify traits/actions in others and attempt to copy them. Have you ever copied a haircut you saw in the movies? Imitated an accent or manner of speaking? What about a groovy dance move? We also fall into patterns of mimetic desire, in which we want what others want or have. When the trendiest Christmas gift is sold out, we desire it even more than when the shelves were stocked. Others wanted it and have it, so I must need it. In today's loud consumerism world, if you don't consciously think about what you desire, you will be told what you are to want. Not only this, but you will be told that satisfying your personal desires is your main objective. It isn't. Rather, as Christians, we are to "glorify God and enjoy Him forever" (Westminster Catechism, [Psalm 96](#), [Colossians 1:16](#)).

We become that which we imitate. We become like that which we choose to pay the most attention to. Devote the most time to. What (or who) are you imitating? What are you paying the most attention to? How do you spend your time? The distracting and self-focused world works to separate us from our true identity, rooted in Jesus Christ ([Genesis 1:27](#), [John 1:12](#), [1 Peter 2:9](#)). We are to imitate Him ([Ephesians 5:1](#), [1 Thessalonians 1:6](#), [1 Corinthians 11:1](#), [1 Peter 2:21](#)). We are to set our minds on Him, not on the glitzy items of this blindly colorful, temporary world ([Colossians 3:1-4](#)). We read His Word (all of it) and obey Him ([Psalm 1](#), [1 John 2:1-6](#), [Timothy 3:14-17](#)). We love Him and teach our family to love Him and walk in His way, knowing if we don't fill and disciple the little ones, the world will ([Deuteronomy 6:3-9](#), [Proverbs 1:1-9](#)). We focus, not on self or culture, but on Christ, our beloved Savior ([Hebrews 12:1-2](#)).

Every day, but especially at Christmas time, we remember that we have everything, because we believe in a Savior who came, not for a cradle, but for the cross. To take our sin and bear our shame ([Romans 5:8](#), [1 John 2:2](#)). We have faith in God who gave us His only Son, granting us restoration, hope and life everlasting with Him ([John 3:16-18](#)). May you ponder this glorious gift in your heart this season, doing all your tasks to the best of your ability, for the glory of God, imitating and seeking Christ our Lord ([Colossians 3:23](#), [1 Corinthians 10:31](#), [Romans 11:36](#)).

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" ([Romans 15:13](#)).

Karen Robison

### Could 5% change lives?

Consider how your life and the life of our congregation could be transformed by devoting 1% each day, 1% each week, 1% each month, and 2% each year to the four most true things about who we are in Christ:



#### **beloved** (1% of each day = 15 minutes)

- daily time spent with God in His Word ([Psalm 1:1-3](#))
  - [Psalm 19:7-11](#), [63:6-8](#); [Proverbs 3:5-6](#); [Deuteronomy 6:6-9](#); [Joshua 1:8-9](#); [James 1:22](#), [4:8](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#); [Colossians 4:2](#); [Ephesians 5](#);

#### **belong** (1% of each week = 1.5 hours)

- weekly gathering for worship services ([Hebrews 10:25](#))
  - [John 1:12-13](#); [4:23-24](#); [Psalm 19:1-3](#); [33:1-4](#); [Psalm 46](#); [1 Peter 2:9](#); [Colossians 3:16](#); [1 Corinthians 6:19](#), [12:14-31](#); [14:26](#); [Romans 12:1](#); [Ephesians 4](#); [1 John 3:1-3](#);

#### **becoming** (1% of each month = 7 hours)

- extended time with 'family' members in smaller settings ([Acts 2:42](#))
  - [1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#), [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#); [Galatians 2:20](#); [Ephesians 4:11-16](#), [32-33](#);

#### **blessing** (2% of each year = 1 week)

- living, loving, and serving in the community ([Acts 1:8](#))
  - [Jeremiah 29:7](#); [John 17:13-19](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Philippians 2:1-4](#); [Galatians 5:1](#), [13](#), [22-25](#)



Chorale CdA is presenting its Christmas concert "Come Quickly, Lord Jesus" on Friday, December 9, at 7 pm, and on Saturday, December 10, at 2 pm. The concert will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 N 5th Street, CdA. Tickets are \$25 adults/\$20 Seniors/\$15 Students and under 6 yrs are free. Please purchase your tickets online at [www.ChoraleCdA.com](http://www.ChoraleCdA.com) or at the door.



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Dr. Stan McDaniel  
ACCOMPANIST: David Brewster

Friday December 9, 2022 | 7:00 PM  
Saturday December 10, 2022 | 2:00 PM  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 N. 5th St.

BUY TICKETS AT CHORALECDA.COM

Adult \$25   Student \$15
Senior \$20   Military \$20
Children 6 and under Free



### Orchard Ridge

We have received a lovely flyer from Orchard Ridge that it's time to be thinking about putting together **Holiday Baskets** for their residents this Christmas. A list of items that are recommended for residents for one of the best and Christian care facilities for older adults for more than 100 years **is posted on the bulletin board** in the hall. Gifts can be put in a basket, plastic storage bin, gift bag or just loose items to build baskets. Please **deliver your baskets directly to Orchard Ridge before Dec 16** for their distribution. Call Holly at 208-664-8119 or email her at [hjohnson@theorchardcda.org](mailto:hjohnson@theorchardcda.org) with ?s

### Book Club

Interested in good books and discussion? We have an idea to start a Book Club! The books will be encouraging and will help us gain discernment and sharpen our faith. We have a great book to start out! Please complete this [3-minute interest survey](#) to help us in the planning process. Contact Karen with questions, comments, suggestions, etc.!

### Support the Youth!

We have a limited supply of beautiful **2023 God's Creation Calendars** for sale at only \$10 each. They make beautiful gifts for family and friends or for you to enjoy all year long! The calendars are on the table in the hall with a basket next to them for payment. Cash or check made to Peace Lutheran with memo Calendar. Thanks for supporting our youth ministry!

### Writing Our History

We've had an exciting year as a church locally and globally. It's time to get those thoughts organized to share in our Annual Report. If you are a council liaison, ministry team leader, have led a special event or mission outreach, please send us your AR **no later than Dec 15** via an MS Word doc attachment (no PDFs please) or in the body of an email to [office@peace-lutheran.church](mailto:office@peace-lutheran.church). We can't wait to hear about your team's accomplishments in 2022. How did PLC serve, touch lives, grow in faith, complete goals, and have fun fellowship together? Let us know! Questions – call the church office. *Thank you!*

Mary Washburn would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to all those that provided delicious meals while her caregiver sister, Rae Carnahan, was recuperating from surgery. She enjoyed everything, and thinks you are fine chefs!

*Dear Friends,*

I just can't express how grateful (and humbled) I was with all your thoughtful writings, cards, gifts, wonderful fellowship, and a treasured memory book that I will keep forever! I should have known something was up when Pastor Jon asked, "How long have you been here now?" It has been a joy and journey of love these last 10 years! – Lynn Affeldt

**So many thanks!** I'd like to take a moment to recognize Marge Freligh for her long-term commitment scheduling Sunday Ministry Servants for worship. Year after year since 2013, Marge has consistently provided the church office a new schedule each month and by newsletter deadline (*extra thanks for that!*). In our early days, I recall sitting together with her and Gail Gutterud at the Thomas Hammer coffee shop to begin the work of defining ministry teams and creating a booklet! Marge has always been mission minded and heavily involved with the Ecumenical Food Kitchen and now Family Promise leadership. She wants to pursue mission effort and has asked Barb Nimke to be her successor, which I am happy to report, has accepted! Thanks again to Marge for her exceptional volunteerism at Peace! – Lynn Affeldt

**Staying Connected!** Have you visited our new website? Click here [www.peace-lutheran.church](http://www.peace-lutheran.church) and be amazed! Thank you to Lee Ely who converted our .com domain to .church for all our business needs. You may now update all our email addresses for staff and the church office by simply removing the .com and replacing with .church for each one. Example: formerly [office@peace-lutheran.com](mailto:office@peace-lutheran.com) to [office@peace-lutheran.church](mailto:office@peace-lutheran.church). *Simple!*

## Financial Summary for Oct 2022 Submitted by Lynn Affeldt, Nov 8, 2022

### Oct Balance Sheet

Ministry & Facility Fund	\$ 62,464	
All Designated Funds	<u>\$ 83,803</u>	
Total Mt West Checking	\$146,267	
Thrivent Mortgage Balance	\$277,414	\$279,939 (Sep)

### Oct Income & Expense

Actual Giving	\$ 27,189	(Plan for Giving \$19,743)
Actual Expense	\$ 19,922	

### YTD Income & Expense: (Jan-Oct 2022)

Actual Giving	\$259,525	(Plan for Giving \$197,424)
Actual Expense	\$189,731	



Oct Designated Funds:	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Memorial Fund	0	0	\$ 2,853
Emergency Fund	0	0	\$10,000
Refresh Team	0	0	\$ 276
Good Samaritan Fund	0	132	\$ 1,647
Sabbatical Fund (accrual)	100	0	\$ 4,600
Reception/Kitchen Fund	0	0	\$ 1,426
Campership Fund	0	0	\$ 1,947
Dorcas Fund	0	0	\$ 1,600
Youth Fund	140	125	\$ 5,281 (Calendars)
Uganda Fund (\$300 accrual)	300	10,000	\$11,471 (Sent for medical mission)
Other Misc Designated	940	993 (carpet)	\$ 3,354 (Raffle tickets/Button Club)
Anonymous Gift	20,200	0	\$20,200
Scholarship Fund	0	0	\$ 50
Internship Fund	0	0	\$ 243
Capital Fund	0	0	\$10,350 (aka Building Fund)
Signage	0	0	\$ 7,500
Safety Team	0	0	\$ 1,004

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**Year-end Giving Statements:** In our attempt to be good stewards, conserve resources, and keep down costs (did you know paper has doubled in price?) council has approved emailing your year-end giving statement for your tax purposes. For those without email, the Financial Secretary will print you a copy to pick up at the church. Our homebound folks will receive their statement via USPS. Please let us know if you have any questions!

**Kitchen Needs:** THANK YOU to a certain family that went to Costco and nearly purchased everything on our kitchen wish list! Ongoing needs: Coffee, cases of bottled water, large-size refill bottles of sanitizer, small paper plates, coffee supplies like Torani syrups, powdered creamers (regular, vanilla & mocha), and/or **non-dairy** mini-moos, sugar packets, and hot cider packets. Gift-in-kind donation receipts are available in the church office. *Thank you for your donations!*

**Food Bank:** Thank you for plentiful food bank donations each month! Please remember to check expiration dates carefully on donations, and to make sure packaging hasn't been opened. The food bank **cannot accept** opened or partially used food and personal care products. Unfortunately, we've had to throw away quite a bit lately. **All products must be new, factory sealed, and within date.** Thank you to Ardella & Mona for delivering **99+ lbs** to PF food bank. Holidays foods are always welcome this time of year as are personal care products, pet food, diapers, etc. Our Thanksgiving offering was equally divided between the food banks – *thank you!*



## **YOUTH GROUP:** *The Life of Jesus*

(6th grade - 12th grade)



**Every Wednesday, 5:00pm!**

We continue to gather, worship, discover & discuss God's Word, share, pray, and bless.

We will be a part of **The Bigger Story** during 2023. AND... we will be heading to Winter Camp @ Lutherhaven in February - *details coming very soon!*

Please make plans to join Beckie & Jon in the Youth Room every Wednesday!

### **Winter Bible Study Groups**

**Sun Adult Study:** Please join us at 8:30 am as we discuss the Gospel reading coinciding with the Sunday message led by Karen Robison. Please bring your any version bible. (Not meeting Dec 18 & 25). **The Bigger Story begins New Year's Day, Jan 1 at 9 am!**

**KidZone:** Biblical activities, good music, and fun crafts for children during the service with the KidZone team.

**Mon Men's Group:** *Close Encounters with Jesus* at 6 pm with Pastor Jon. **The Bigger Story is coming in Jan!**

**Wed Bible Study:** Pastor Gail continues a study of the Gospels at 10 am, currently in Matthew. You may arrive early at 9:45 to share prayer concerns and pray together before the study begins -*drop in any time!*

**Wed Youth:** We continue learning about *The Life of Jesus* every Wed at 5 pm with Pastor Jon & Beckie!

**Thu Bible Study:** Our book study of Genesis, *Old Places, New Faces*, meets at 11 am with Jim Wardlow leading. The study will conclude Dec 8 and be on break until the new year.

## **Men's Group Continues**

Monday nights at 6:00pm

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:16

**For God  
so loved  
the world  
the bigger story**

Beginning in January we will participate in the BiGGER Story event at PLC. We will weekly be sharing, discussing, and praying about the Sunday messages as we *take a sweeping look at the major themes in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and see how they all point to Jesus!* As we continue to encounter Jesus in His Word and Bring your Bible, your appetite on Monday nights as we gather in Fellowship Hall.

## Advent is Here!

As Lutherans, we look forward to the changing of liturgical seasons and can often feel the rhythm of the year as we move through. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical church year and for good reason – *Jesus is coming!* Over the next several Sundays as we wait in anticipation of His great birth, we encourage you to take time, slow down and immerse yourself during this time and ponder. You'll notice your announcement page looks a little different this Advent season as we wanted to do something special. Each week there will be a new worship theme and announcement cover. The series will take us right into Christmas Eve services at 5 & 7 pm. There will also be a special cover for Sunday, Christmas Day worship, at 10 am!

### PLC Weekly Calendar & Events

**Mon:** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Men's Group, 6 pm  
**Wed:** Bible Study, 10 am | Youth 5 pm | Music, 6 pm  
*Dorcas Quilting 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 9 am-12 pm | Button Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 12-3 pm | 4-H Group 4<sup>th</sup> Thu 6 pm*

**Tue:** Chorale CDA, 5-9 pm, Various meetings  
**Thu:** TOPS, 8 am | Bible Study, 11 am

- Dec 2:** Family Fun Night, 6 pm – *Hangin' of the Greens!*
- Dec 3:** Chorale, 9:30-noon rehearsal
- Dec 4:** Quilt Blessing & Sending; Prayer Garden presentation
- Dec 6:** Budget Team, 5:30 pm; P&M Team, 6 pm
- Dec 7-8:** Pastor away for LCMC Trustee meeting
- Dec 13:** Young Artists Auditions, 4 -8 pm | **Dec 14:** Button Club, 12-3 pm
- Dec 17:** Christmas Program Practice for all, 10 am
- Dec 18:** Cantata & Christmas Program – *I Hear the Prophet Calling*
- Dec 24:** Christmas Eve service 5 & 7 pm
- Dec 25:** Christmas Service of Carols, 10 am
- Dec 26-30:** Church Office Closed
- Jan 1:** Adult Ed, **9 am** – The Bigger Story Begins!
- Jan 2:** Church Office Closed, New Year's Holiday

Pastor Jon takes Fri & Sat off each week.

The Church Office is open Mon-Fri, 9 am – 4 pm (**closed the noon lunch hour**)

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### Dec Sunday Ministry Servants

	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Dec 4</b>	Karle & Barb N	Kira N	Teresa B	Mike H, Mary C, Kristin G
<b>Dec 11</b>	Carol B & Marge F	Colt K	Jack A	Paul & Lisa S, Vol
<b>Dec 18</b>	Rod & Marge F	Keegan R	---	Ken & Rita B, Lynn A
<b>Dec 24 5pm</b>	Patty S & Gail S	Kendall A	Lisa A	Paul & Shelly M, Jerry B
<b>7pm</b>	Volunteers	Sam R	Jennifer M	Ed & Catherine R, Karen R
<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Merry Christmas!</b>	Volunteers needed for all areas		

Thank you to Paul & Lisa Seher for communion setup/cleanup and baking the bread.

Scripture readings are provided to our readers for review on Wednesday for the coming Sunday.  
 Thanks to Marge Freligh for scheduling assistants. Please let the office know of any changes – *thank you!*

	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Safety Team</b>
<b>Dec 4</b>	Amy B & Tom C	Todd & Bruce
<b>Dec 11</b>	Chris C & Amy B	John & Doyle
<b>Dec 18</b>	Chris C & Tom C	Rick & Karle
<b>Dec 24</b>	---	<b>5 pm</b> Gordon & Ken   <b>7 pm</b> Rod & Vol
<b>Dec 25</b>	Amy B & Vol	Volunteers





### **We're Praying for...**

Jeannine Frisque; broken wrist; Joann Carlson, heart issues; Debbie Wardlow, ALS; Nadia Bruno, Jim Cady, Mina Mittelstaedt Margie Hill, Ivan Pilyayev, healing; Cindy Magnus, lupus; Dave Pollard, chemo treatments; Sharon Alexander, kidney cancer.

Vanita Hardy in the passing of her husband, Steve (Umlands); Charles Lindenmeier (Charlene Somerville's father) in Hospice; Jinja, Uganda, Ebola outbreak; Jerry Gibson (Carol Wos) prostate cancer, failing health; Luke Hohenstreet & donor Lisa (Lynn Affeldt) healing, kidney transplant; Scott Birge (Ken Birge's brother) cancer; Infant Samuel (Eunice Gillam) hole in heart, RSV; Cecile Savory (Anna Dailey's sister) lung surgery, healing; Terry McNabb (Heidi Ely's brother) recovering, heart attack, AFib; Bob Ovnicsek (Gail S) cancer; Larry Sauer (Shelly Matthews' father) health issues; Jutta Thorsness (Amy Birge) breast cancer; Robin Lindenmeier (Charlene Sommerville's sister) health concerns; B & S Wear (Friends of Pr Jon & Chris Anderson; Max Cahoon (Somer's grandson) leukemia.

### **Pray for Our Ministry Partners:**

Safe Passage, Family Promise, Orchard Ridge, Open Arms, Juvenile Justice Outreach, Lutherhaven Ministries, Ecumenical Food Kitchen, Champ's Heart, Summit Christian Academy, Good Samaritan Rehab, Food Banks, Voice of the Martyrs, **Union Gospel Mission**, Uganda Medical Mission, OCC Shoebox Gifts, and LCMC.

Notice the ministry partner in **bold**? They are PLC's benevolence focus this month set by our council.

Have a **Prayer Tree** request? Please **email** the Church Office at [office@peace-lutheran.church](mailto:office@peace-lutheran.church)  
*Prayer requests will be revised periodically. Kindly keep the church office informed of changes. Thank you.*

### A Guest!

On Sunday, Dec 11, we'll welcome Post Falls Food Bank Executive Director, Leslie Orth, who oversees the operations of the food bank. Leslie has received her bachelor's degree in Organizational Management and Communications and has worked in the non-profit realm the last 10 years. She is a certified trainer through Circles, USA and certified in Emergency Mental Health Crisis Management. Leslie and her husband, Rob, have six adult children and moved to Idaho in Feb 2015. They believe they are living in the most beautiful place on earth! Leslie will share a brief talk about the food bank and is thankful for the support Peace has shown over the years!

## Sometimes a familiar text needs a longer look.

Beginning on Sunday, January 1st we will take that longer look, spending the year abiding in God's love as we take a sweeping look at the major themes in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and see how they all point to Jesus! These themes will shape our Sunday morning Adult Study as well as the Monday Night Men's Group. We will provide discussion prompts each week for small groups which may want to form (eg., invite a few friends to gather weekly to discuss the theme from the Sunday message). We will also provide a suggested daily reading plan for those who may want to read through the Bible in 2023.

## For God so loved the world the bigger story

*For God so loved that world that He gave His only Son  
That whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*



**Save the Date:** Friday, January 6, at 6 pm - A Fun First Friday celebrating **Epiphany!**

Who is interested in an after-Christmas white elephant gift exchange?

Playing new board/card games?

Should we be "New Year's" healthy or gather with all our leftover sweets? More information coming soon!

## **A Resurrection Walk / Prayer Path Proposal:**

Many of you have already heard about this project and even seen the drawings in the entryway and fellowship hall. So, this will be more of an update and reminder of why we are presenting this project. Peace Lutheran Church belongs to all of us, therefore when someone comes along with a plan to utilize this property, it takes a congregational vote to approve it. Our project team is hoping to provide you with enough information that you will see the potential in this project and approve our moving ahead with it at our Annual Meeting in January.

The purpose for this project is to create an outdoor area that would beautify our "backyard"...a garden with walking path, water feature, scripture stops and an intentional area of remembrance. A space filled with native wildflowers, grasses, bushes and trees, where one can enjoy the beauty of God's creation, pray, reflect, and remember the gift of Christ's resurrection; while watching joyfully each year as the garden grows, changes, and reveals its beauty in new ways with new life!

The first part of the path would encircle a water feature and have plantings to provide some quiet comfort and benches for those who just want to pause for a bit or perhaps are unable to walk the entire path. A place to sit in quiet and remember a loved one and to visit with the God who loves us. A place of "Peace on the Prairie!" Then imagine at the far end of the path a mounded area filled with and surrounded by prairie grasses and aspen trees, with the wind sweeping through them...a reminder of Pentecost?

It would be a path that meanders with places to stop and read the scriptures from plaques placed on tall basalt stones...Jesus words after His resurrection. Around those "scripture stations" paver stones will be placed; names of those we want to remember, or honor can be engraved on them. There will be benches periodically placed along the way.

We have a landscape project manager, Courtney, who is graciously working with us, at no cost to us, to assess, analyze and present a cost estimate...not a bid. All the funds needed to create this project would come from donations and memorials specific to this project, not from any pledged or unpledged church funds, nor from any benevolence or budgeted monies.

The comment cards you see in the entryway are available for you to share ideas, questions, concerns. Our initial goal is to be able to bring you on board with your understanding of the project, your excitement in seeing it created, your participation in caring for it, your willingness in hands on planting, and your desire to use and to invite others to use! We will continue sharing how it will be funded!

Blessings from our "Resurrection Path" Team members: Ken and Bernita Carlson, Ken Birge, Hill Pfundheller, Jack Acton, Robin Lake, Courtney Gallagher with Earth Element Design, Brenda Ely, Pastor Gail and Pastor Jon as encourager and idea sharer.

**FYI:** We currently have \$15,000 pledged, and \$1,500 available in memorial funds.

Donated "sweat equity" from people with equipment/knowledge/willingness = \$3,000

A local nursery donated approximately 47 plants that need to be wintered. (Value \$1,000)

(They are currently being wintered at Ken Carlson's home)

Pavers could be purchased by the congregation for engraving the name of loved ones.

A list of plants and bushes, grasses and trees can be put out for you to choose to purchase in memory of a loved one.

The Wednesday morning bible study group (The Serendipity Group) will likely not complete the study of Matthew until January. At that time, we'll take a week and look back at where God has brought us thus far. We are traveling through the gospels, so the book of Mark will be next. We welcome visitors; come and join us for a week. Behold, this may be just where God is leading you! We begin at 9:45 am with prayers and the study starts at 10 am. Blessings to you, Pastor Gail



## This Winter at Lutherhaven

**Cut, Crop & Quilt** is Lutherhaven's crafting retreat for you and your friends. Bring your favorite crafting, quilting, or scrapbook project and create together with new camp friends! Pause for meals, worship, and devotions; otherwise, the time is yours to craft. Contact Lutherhaven to plan your CCQ weekend with friends between now and Dec 31!

### **Deck the Halls: Woodland Christmas Camp: Dec 9-11; Dec 16-18**

Stunning wintry lake views, hot cocoa, and more...come enjoy all the fun of Lutherhaven Family Camp in the winter! We'll make Christmas crafts, enjoy worship around the campfire, play broom ball, and more. Start your day with a hot cup of coffee in an Adirondack chair overlooking beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene then spend the day making memories to last a lifetime. **The ultimate Christmas family retreat!**

**BYG Youth Winter Weekend Feb 10-12:** It's a fun-filled weekend designed to help our youth group grow together in community and faith. BYG (Building Youth Groups) is just right for building faith that will stick with our crew. This weekend is designed especially for Middle School & High School youth groups (6th-12th grade) to dream, plan, talk, learn, grow, reflect, and have fun together! Ask Pastor Jon about our plan to go!

Please register for all events at <https://www.lutherhaven.com/>

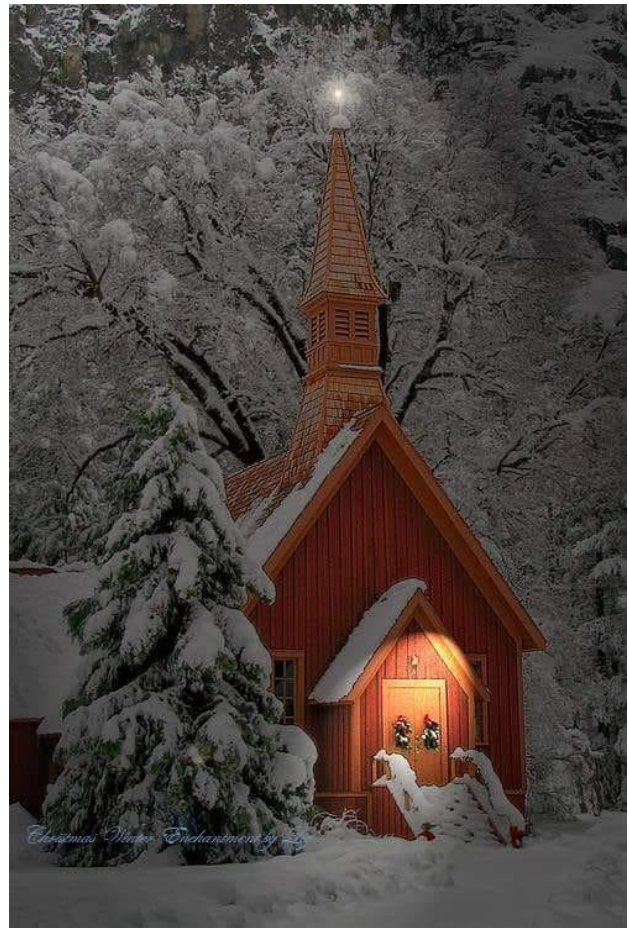


Please join us this blessed Christmas Eve at 5 & 7 pm for an "all is calm, all is bright" service of carols, beautiful music, inspiring message, and traditional candlelight as we welcome Christ to the world!



**Peace**  
L U T H E R A N

8134 N Meyer Rd (at Prairie Ave & Meyer Rd)  
Post Falls, ID 83854  
Phone: (208) 765-0727  
Website: [www.peace-lutheran.church](http://www.peace-lutheran.church)  
Email: [office@peace-lutheran.church](mailto:office@peace-lutheran.church)



**Sun Adult Study 8:30 AM**

**Sun Worship at 10 AM**

**Wed Bible Study 10 AM**

**Thu Bible Study 11 AM**

Pastor Jon Anderson

Pastor Emeritus, Gail Gutterud