

# Peace LUTHERAN

In the **beginning** was the Word... John 1:1

**I**n the beginning... it's *the* start of all great stories. And there is no greater story than the one in which we are a part: God's story! God's Word is not only *in the beginning* it is everlasting, even when heaven and earth pass away, God's Word will not pass away (Isaiah 40:8; Luke 21:33; 1 Peter 1:25).

As life moves forward, days, seasons, years... we realize that the gift of time which God has placed all created things, is perhaps one of the most hallowed God has given to us. It is in fact the first thing God calls holy, "Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy..." (Genesis 2:3). We realize how holy, how set apart time is at certain special events such as birth, baptism, getting our first drivers license, confirmation, our first job, our first love... yet, perhaps most poignant is at the time or nearing the time of death. Ironic that we may come to value time most near the ending rather than the beginning.

Jesus says in the parable of the sheep and goats, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). In other words, God has been preparing our inheritance from the beginning. Paul says, "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love" (Ephesians 1:4).

What I am trying to say is this: God, *in the beginning*, had us in mind, had us upon His heart as He spoke His Word into the darkness and declare Light, separated the waters, called forth dry land filling it with vegetation, cast the sun, moon, and stars into their courses, called forth the creatures of sea and sky, raised up animals to roam the earth. And the *pièce de résistance*: "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth... male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26-27).

In the beginning God so loved the world... His *very good* creation. And from before the foundations of the world, Jesus (God's Word) was part of God's plan to rescue us, to save us. Peter says it plainly, "...you were not redeemed with perishable things... but with precious blood... the blood of Christ... foreknown before the foundation of the world..." (1 Peter 1:18-21).

May the gift of this new year before us be a fresh beginning of life in God's Word dwelling in our hearts, our thoughts, through our hands and feet and words — lives which are precious in His sight blessed to be a blessing to others who have yet to believe in the One who speaks us all into existence for His good pleasure.

Pastor Jon

**P.S.** Pray through some of the ideas shared in this New Year edition of the newsletter. Consider how God may be calling you to be part of *The Bigger Story* as His beloved, belonging, becoming, and blessed sons and daughters.



## It Begins – THE BIGGER STORY!

### **Beginning Sunday, January 1st**

We are 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 study at 9:00am, our 10:00am worship gatherings, as well as the Monday Night Men's Group (resuming on Monday, January 2nd @6:00pm) and Youth Group gatherings.

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

- There are discussion prompts each week for your **small group** (eg., invite a few friends to gather weekly to discuss the theme from the Sunday message).
- There is a suggested daily reading for those who want to read the Bible in a year.
- 5 Mega Themes, with 12 mini-series through the 52 weeks of 2023
- Here's a peek at the upcoming Sundays in January:

### **I. FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD:**

#### **BEGINNINGS:**

JANUARY  
**1**  
**Creation**  
Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 1:13-20  
John 1:1-14

JANUARY  
**8**  
**Fall**  
Genesis 3:1-13  
Psalm 32:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Luke 4:1-13

JANUARY  
**15**  
**Promise**  
Genesis 12:1-3  
Psalm 105:1-11  
Hebrews 11:1-12  
Mark 1:1-12

#### **JOURNEY:**

JANUARY  
**22**  
**Freedom**  
Exodus 2:24-3:14  
Psalm 106:1-12  
2 Peter 1:2-11  
John 8:51-59

JANUARY  
**29**  
**Law**  
Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 111  
Romans 7:12-25  
John 15:1-12

Check out all kinds of details, group ideas, reading plans, and opportunities to be involved in **The Bigger Story** on our website:

[peace-lutheran.church/thebiggerstory](https://peace-lutheran.church/thebiggerstory)

Copies of the whole year reading plan are available on our website at [peace-lutheran.church/thebiggerstory](https://peace-lutheran.church/thebiggerstory), your inbox, or on the table in the hall

## LCMC's Three Days of Prayer: January 3-5

"Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us,  
choosing gratitude until we are grateful,  
praising God until we ourselves are a constant act of praise."

~ Richard Rohr

There are times the Holy Spirit takes what some people have been ignoring or only engaging in by rote, breathes fresh life into it, and uses it to pull us into the current of God's plans for our lives. An illustration of this is the ancient prayer and practice of The Lord's Prayer.

This year, we're going to take that ancient prayer and practice of the Church and put it to use in LCMC's [Three Days of Prayer](#). As we pray together as individuals, congregations, and as one international association, I believe the Lord is going to use what we pray in this ancient prayer to pull us into the current of the plans and purposes He has for us in the present and in the future.

LCMC's Three Days of Prayer is January 3-5. Each congregation or person can structure these days of prayer however seems best. This year, I am encouraging us all to use the Lord's Prayer as an outline to pray for our congregations and leaders, for those who don't yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord, and for our international partners. Praying the Lord's prayer as an outline can give form to our prayers and provide space for us to pray according to each petition for the churches or people we are focused on that day.

Pray each petition one at a time, then pause and pay attention to what comes to mind. Then pray out of those thoughts or impressions. For instance, pray "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name," and pause. Then pray words and thoughts of thanks to God for being your Father, for His love, and for His goodness toward you. Glorify His name in prayer. Then pray the second petition, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," and pause. Think of how you would love to see God's Kingdom life break in on those you are praying for, and then pray for them. Pray for relationships, emotions, or bodies to be healed. Pray for someone to become aware of God's love for them. Pray for peace in someone's life or in a region. And so on. Continue to pray each petition one at a time, pausing to listen to thoughts, scriptures, and impressions that come to mind, and then pray for that church, that person.

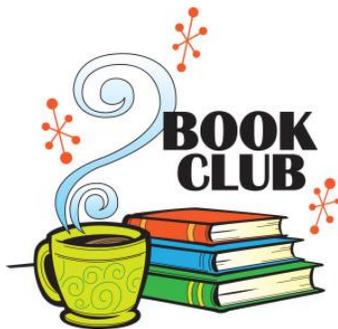
No matter how you structure this time of prayer, let's come together as an association of congregations across the U.S. and around the world to pray. Check out our [Three Days of Prayer Resources](#) page to download a sample guide.

Mike Bradley, LCMC Service Coordinator

### 6:00 pm on Friday, January 6th – All are Welcome to a Fun First Friday celebrating Epiphany!

Epiphany celebrates the magi's visit to the Christ Child, celebrated 12 days after Christmas. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" or "revelation" as the day marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, as represented by the Magi. No need to bring gold, frankincense or myrrh, but do bring your friends and family, a \$10 or less white elephant gift, if you would like to participate in a gift exchange and/or your favorite snacks and games to share. This is another opportunity to gather and spend time together.

**Save the Date:** Fun First Friday on February 3<sup>rd</sup> may involve a Valentine's Craft for all ages!



### Book Club

Interested in good books, friends, 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. Based on the interest so far, this group is set to start after the holidays, meeting twice monthly. The first meeting is tentatively, Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Terre Coffee in Post Falls (621 N Spokane Street).

We plan to meet at coffee shops, bookstores etc., moving outside the church walls and continuing conversations about Christ. All are welcome – feel free to invite guests too!

For the first book, we plan to read [Another Gospel?](#) by Alisa Childers. This book is at the [local library](#). No need to have read any of the book prior to the first meeting – but feel free to dig in as your schedule allows! Next, depending on the group's selection, would be [The Screwtape Letters](#) by CS Lewis. Please contact Karen with questions, comments, suggestions, etc. and think about joining this reading group for the New Year!

## Financial Summary for Nov 2022 Submitted by Lynn Affeldt, Dec 13, 2022

### Nov Balance Sheet

|                           |                  |                 |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Ministry & Facility Fund  | \$ 70,101        |                 |
| All Designated Funds      | <u>\$ 83,552</u> |                 |
| Total Mt West Checking    | \$153,653        |                 |
| Thrivent Mortgage Balance | \$277,414        | \$278,679 (Oct) |

### Nov Income & Expense

|                |           |                            |
|----------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Actual Giving  | \$ 19,466 | (Plan for Giving \$19,577) |
| Actual Expense | \$ 19,575 |                            |

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

|                |           |                             |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Actual Giving  | \$278,991 | (Plan for Giving \$217,167) |
| Actual Expense | \$209,306 |                             |



### Nov 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         | 200    | 0       | \$ 1,847                                       |
| Sabbatical Fund (accrual)   | 100    | 0       | \$ 4,700                                       |
| Reception/Kitchen Fund      | 0      | 0       | \$ 1,426                                       |
| Campership Fund             | 0      | 0       | \$ 1,947                                       |
| Dorcas Fund                 | 40     | 0       | \$ 1,640                                       |
| Youth Fund                  | 30     | 0       | \$ 5,311 (Calendars)                           |
| Uganda Fund (\$300 accrual) | 300    | 0       | \$11,771                                       |
| Other Misc Designated       | 425    | 1,345   | \$ 2,434 (Raffle sales/total Shoebox shipping) |
| Anonymous Gift              | 0      | 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                                       |

**Year-end Giving Statements:** In our attempt to be good stewards, conserve resources, and keep down cost, council has approved emailing your year-end giving statement for your tax purposes. For those without email, Amy Birge, our 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 or need help.

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 **ASAP** 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!*

**Ongoing Kitchen Needs:** Hot cider packets, 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. Gift-in-kind donation receipts are available in the church office. *Thank you for your donations!*

**Food Bank:** All donations must be new, factory sealed, and within date. Thank you to Joyce Beghtel for delivering **73+ lbs** to the CDA food bank in Dec. Personal care products, pet food, diapers, etc. are always very welcome!

## Winter Bible Study Groups

**Sun Adult Study:** Join us as we begin **The Bigger Story on 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:** Start up is **Jan 16, at 6 pm** with Pastor Jon. Please see below for details!

**Wed Bible Study:** Pastor Gail continues an overall 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:** Let's gather **Jan 11 at 5 pm** for The Bigger Story with Pastor Jon & Beckie.

**Thu Bible Study:** Thursday bible study begins anew with Jim Wardlow leading a 12-week topical book study of John. Please use the provided sign-in sheet on the table in the hall so materials can be ordered. The study is 11 am – 12:30 pm each Thursday and will begin **Jan 12**. Please join us!

### Serendipity!

The Wednesday morning bible study group (The Serendipity Group) will likely complete the study of Matthew in 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 any or every 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

### YOUTH GROUP:

*For God so loved the world*

*that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him*  
*will not perish but have eternal life.*

(6th grade - 12th grade)

Resumes on Wednesday, January 11, 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!



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## Men's Group Resumes

MONDAY, JANUARY 16 @ 6:00pm

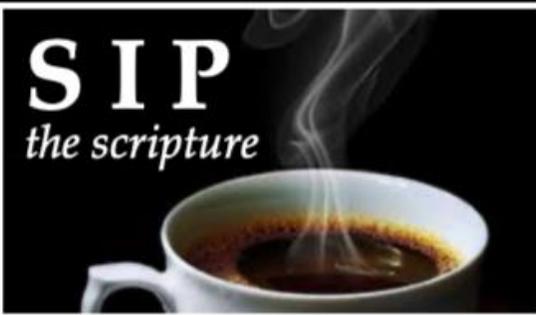
*For God so loved the world that He gave His only  
Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but  
have eternal life. John 3:16*

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. Looking forward to what God has in store of us as we gather around His Word, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer!

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

# SIP

*the scripture*



## Slowly

Psalm 1 speaks of 'meditating' on God's Word, to linger long over it, letting it soak in. Consider pondering a verse each week that stand out to you as you are hearing and reading scripture. Take your time to slowly read it, listen to it, consider how God may be applying your life to it.

## Imaginatively

Put yourself in the story. As Jesus encounters people in the Bible, who are you in the story? What words do you hear Jesus speaking to you? What words do you need to hear?

## Prayerfully

Pray the passage. Turn the verse into a prayer, use the language of God's Word to pray for yourself and others. Ask God how the passage is intended to effect your life and the life of others.

How will I live out the truth God is revealing to me in His Word?

## 7 Day Creation Meditation

Day 1 - Genesis 1:1-5

Day 2 - Genesis 1:6-8

Day 3 - Genesis 1:9-13

Day 4 - Genesis 1:14-19

Day 5 - Genesis 1:20-23

Day 6 - Genesis 1:24-31

Day 7 - Genesis 2:1-3

### Suggestions as you read these passages:

- Begin each day thanking God for His Word and for the Spirit to show you God's handiwork.
- Read a passage, slowly, imaginatively, prayerfully
- Write down key words and phrases that stand out.
- How do you see this day? How do you hear it? Other senses?
- Other thoughts and feelings?
- What are you coming to know about God in this day?
- Spend the day noticing how this particular day of God's creation shows up. Tell God what you notice, think, wonder about?



# New Member Orientation

Thursday, January 19, 2023

God has placed the members, each one of them,  
in the body, just as He desired.

1 Corinthians 12:18

Come for an evening to discover what it means to become a member of Peace Lutheran Church. Please contact the office at: 208-765-0727 or [office@peace-lutheran.church](mailto:office@peace-lutheran.church) to sign up or for more information.

Thursday, January 19, 2023 – 6:00pm

Everyone is invited to the **Annual Meeting** on Sunday, Jan 22, at 11:15 am, for a wondrous recap of the year, a look ahead to the future, the opportunity to vote on items, and the proposed 2023 budget. Annual Reports will be sent via email for your review before the meeting.

### PLC Weekly Calendar & Events

**Mon:** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Men's Group, 6 pm (Jan 16)      **Tue:** Chorale CDA, 5-9 pm (Jan 10)  
**Wed:** Bible Study, 10 am | Youth 5 pm | Music, 6 pm      **Thu:** TOPS, 8 am | Bible Study, 11 am (Jan 12)  
*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*

**Dec 26-30:** Church Office Closed

**Dec 31:** Rod Freligh Memorial, 11 am

**Jan 1:** Adult Ed, **9 am** – The Bigger Story Begins!

**Jan 2:** Church Office Closed, New Year's Holiday

**Jan 3-5:** LCMC Three Days of Prayer

**Jan 6:** First Friday Epiphany Event, 6 pm | **Jan 8:** Prayer Path Info

**Jan 9-13:** Pastor Jon away for required Cohort week

**Jan 9:** Chorale Audition, 5-8 pm | **Jan 10:** Chorale season begins, 5 -9 pm

**Jan 11:** Wed Youth Group begins, 5 pm | **Jan 12:** Thu bible study begins, 11 am

**Jan 16:** Staff Planning Day, offsite | Dorcas Quilting begins, 9 am | Mon Men's Group startup, 6 pm

**Jan 19:** New Member Orientation, 6 pm – *Contact Pastor Jon!*

**Jan 22:** Annual Meeting, 11:15 am

**Jan 26:** EFK | 4-H Group, 6 pm

**Jan 29:** Fifth Sun, two services; Heritage 8:30 am & Regular 10 am

Pastor Jon takes Fri & Sat off each week.

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

Your church staff will be off-site the morning of Monday, **Jan 16**, for our yearly planning day and will return after lunch. Our calendar fills up quickly, and some things have already been planned through June! If your ministry team is thinking of an event in 2023, please let us know dates and times. *Thank you!*

### Jan Sunday Ministry Servants

|                    | <b>Ushers</b>   | <b>Acolyte</b> | <b>Reader</b> | <b>Communion</b>          |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Jan 1</b>       | Volunteers      | Kira N         | Maren S       | Tom & Paula C, Jennifer M |
| <b>Jan 8</b>       | Karle & Barb N  | Colt K         | Barb H        | Jim & Darlene B, Chris A  |
| <b>Jan 15</b>      | Doyle & Julie J | Keegan R       | Patrice S     | Chris C, Amy B, Betty N   |
| <b>Jan 22</b>      | Roy & Candy V   | Sam R          | Joy B         | Rod & Marge F, Gail G     |
| <b>Jan 29 8:30</b> | Paul & Lisa S   | --             | Mina M        | Bill & Connie A, Karen R  |
| <b>10 am</b>       | Kevin & Susan S | Kendall A      | Samantha P    | Paul & Shelly M, Lynn A   |

Thank you to Helen B, Catherine M, & Ervinette A 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 Barb Nimke for scheduling assistants. Please let the office know of any changes – *thank you!*

|               | <b>Counters</b>  | <b>Safety Team</b>                       |
|---------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Jan 1</b>  | Amy B & Tom C    | Rick & Doyle                             |
| <b>Jan 8</b>  | Amy B & Tom C    | Rick & John                              |
| <b>Jan 15</b> | Chris C & Lee E  | Gordon & Colby                           |
| <b>Jan 22</b> | Chris C & Lee E  | Karle & Darrell                          |
| <b>Jan 29</b> | Julie J & Lisa F | Ken (8:30 Heritage)   Jim & Todd (10 am) |

### Let's Pray for...

Scott Ovnicek in the passing of his dad, Bob; Marge Freligh in the passing of husband, Rod; Debbie Wardlow, ALS; Dave Pollard, chemo; Joann Carlson, heart issues; Chris Anderson, Pam Kirking, Nadia Bruno, Jeannine Frisque, Jim Cady, Mina Mittelstaedt Ivan Pilyayev, healing; Cindy Magnus, lupus; Sharon Alexander, kidney cancer.

Rebecca Kirkpatrick in the passing of her brother, David; Judy Halone, lumpectomy, Jan 9; Craig Burkhart in the passing of his wife, Connie (Lisa Fisher); Charlene Somerville in the passing of her father, Charles Lindenmeier; Bill Ware, many health issues (Pr Jon & Chris Anderson); Nicole (Nimke's friend) brain tumor surgery;; Scott Birge (Ken Birge's brother) cancer; Jinja, Uganda, Ebola outbreak; Jerry Gibson (Carol Wos) prostate cancer, failing health; Luke Hohenstreet (Lynn Affeldt) healing, kidney transplant; Infant Samuel (Eunice Gillam) hole in heart, RSV; Cecile Savory (Anna Dailey's sister) healing; Terry McNabb (Heidi Ely's brother) recovering; Larry Sauer (Shelly Matthews' father) health issues; Jutta Thorsness (Amy Birge) breast cancer; Max Cahoon (Somer's grandson) leukemia.

### Praying 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.

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.*



### Christmas Cantata And Children's Program



**Come, let us adore Him!**

## This Winter at Lutherhaven

### Shoshone Mountain Retreat: Snowshoe Saturday, Jan 21, 12-2 pm

Bring your snowshoes and come enjoy all-you-can-eat cornbread, chili, and hot winter drinks at beautiful Forest House on the Coeur d'Alene River! We will explore the local trails all day and lunch will be available from 12-2 pm. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your own snowshoes and snow gear. Email [Clint@lutherhaven.com](mailto:Clint@lutherhaven.com) to RSVP!

**Prefer to snowmobile instead of snowshoe? Come to the [Snowmobilers Chili Feed](#) a week later on Saturday, Jan 28!**

Shoshone Creek Ranch is desperate for horses this coming summer season. If you have a stable and sound horse to donate, or know of someone who may, please email Shoshone at [uptheriver@lutherhaven.com](mailto:uptheriver@lutherhaven.com) for more details.

**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/>



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Website: [www.peace-lutheran.church](http://www.peace-lutheran.church)  
Email: [office@peace-lutheran.church](mailto:office@peace-lutheran.church)

**Sun Adult Study 9 AM**  
**Sun Worship at 10 AM**  
**Wed Bible Study 10 AM**  
**Thu Bible Study 11 AM**  
Pastor Jon Anderson  
Pastor Emeritus, Gail Gutterud