

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December 2019

## From the Pastor. . . “Presents or Presence?”

What do you want for Christmas? The answer to that question depends on who you are and what stage of life you are in. If you are a child or a teenager you can probably come up with a list of presents that you want rather quickly. If you are a parent with adult children or a grandparent with family living some distance away, you may want your family to be present with you for Christmas.

Christmas is the Good News that even when our world is breaking apart and our nation is deeply divided, God is with us. The world Jesus was born into was broken also. The Jews despised the Romans who occupied their land. Different factions in Israel vied for the little power and influence they could have under those circumstances. People worshipped a whole variety of different “gods” and rejected the idea that there was only one true God.

God gave the promise of the Immanuel, which means God is with us, through the prophet Isaiah. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary he said, *“The Lord is with you.”* Then he said, *“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”* (Luke 1:28, 30-31 NLT) God kept His promise when Jesus entered our world that very first Christmas.

Everything changed when Jesus was born. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.”* (Galatians 4:4-5 NLT)

Jesus gives us the promise that He will always be with us. Nothing can separate us from God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. God’s greatest present is His presence in our world and in our lives. Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, to pay the debt for our sin and to restore us to God’s family, are proof of God’s great love for us and for all people.

Too many times we make such a big deal about the Christmas presents that we give or receive. Maybe we should learn from Jesus that our presence is far more valuable than any material present we give. The presents we give don’t always last. Our loving, caring, undivided presence can make a lasting difference.

Knowing that God is with us and that God is for us makes all the difference for us. I hope you have a joyful Christ centered Christmas.



Larry Courson, Pastor of Peace

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<https://www.peaceaa.net/>

Peace Facebook Page:  
[fb.me/PeaceLutheranA2](https://fb.me/PeaceLutheranA2)

Pastor’s Blog:  
larrycourson.wordpress.com

HART Website: HHV.care

Facebook: Peace Lutheran  
Hart Huron Valley

Larry Courson, Pastor  
larrycourson@peaceaa.net

### Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 am Traditional Service

9:45 am Sunday School  
& Bible Classes

11:00 am Praise Service

5:00 pm Youth Praise Band

6:00 PM Evening Worship

6:45 PM Youth

### **In This Issue**

- Sunday Message Topics
- Bible Classes
- Youth Events
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- Volunteer Opportunities
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Daily Bible Readings
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- Peace Helper List



# Worship Schedule

Morning Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Sunday School & Bible Classes: 9:45 AM

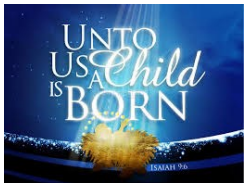
Youth Praise Band, 5:00 PM on December 1, 15, 22 & 29

Evening Worship: 6:00 PM on Dec. 1, 8 & 15

Confirmation & Youth Meet: 6:45 PM on Dec. 1, 8 & 15

## Sunday Advent Message Theme: *Together in Advent*

December 1	<i>Be Present</i>	
December 8	<i>Send Peace</i>	
December 15	<i>Share Joy</i>	
December 22	<i>Wrap in Love</i> (8:30 & 11:00 am) (no evening worship)	
December 29	Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 am with Pastor Charles Schultz (no evening Worship) 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School—Veggie Tale Movie	



## Wednesday Evening Advent Services and Theme: *Unto Us a Child is Born*

*Advent Soup Supper Served at 6:00 pm    Worship Service at 7:00 pm*

December 4	<i>Great Light</i>
December 11	<i>Wonderful Counselor</i>
December 18	<i>Everlasting Father</i>

Everyone is invited to join us for worship. If you are attending the 6:00 PM Advent Meal, please sign up at Peace if you would like to bring a side dish (not mandatory). Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the entryway at Peace.

**The Night Before Christmas**  
is the Theme for this year's  
**Family Christmas Festival on**  
**Sunday, December 15th at 9:45 am**



### Christmas Candlelight Services:

**Monday, December 23rd at 6:00 pm**

**And**

**Tuesday, December 24th at 6:00 pm**

**Join us in Celebrating the**  
**Birth of our Savior!**





## **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study, 9:45 AM**

Pastor Courson concludes the Adult Bible Study, “The Birth of Jesus of Nazareth” on December 8th. There is no Adult Bible Study on December 1 (Church Decorating), December 15 (Family Christmas Festival) or December 22 (Annual Voter’s Meeting).

Pastor Charles Schultz will lead Bible Study at 9:45 am on December 29.

Pastor Courson will resume Bible Study on Sunday, January 5th at 9:45 am

## **Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study, 10:00 am**

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will meet December 4, 11 & 18 at 10:00 am.

## **Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study, 9:30—11:00 am**

New faces are always welcome. Deuteronomy is our focus right now but you may jump in at any time. Contact Dorothey with any questions at 734-426-1535.



## **Youth Group**

Youth Morning Bible Study with Alexander Kauffman, Sunday mornings in the loft at 9:45 am.

Youth Evening session with Alexander Kauffman and Nick & Max Santoro meet Sunday evenings in the loft at 6:45 pm. Friends are always welcome!

### **December Schedule:**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| December 1             | Thanksgiving weekend, no youth activities |
| December 8             | Indoor Snowball Fight!                    |
| December 15            | All Youth Christmas Party                 |
| December 22            | No Youth Activities                       |
| December 31- January 1 | Overnight New Year’s Lock in              |

## **Confirmation Classes**

### **December Class Schedule:**

- |             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| December 1  | Confirmation Class        |
| December 8  | Confirmation Class        |
| December 15 | All Youth Christmas Party |
| December 22 | No Confirmation Class     |
| December 29 | No Confirmation Class     |

Confirmation Class Resumes Sunday, January 12, 2020

## **Youth Praise Band, Sunday Evenings at 5:00 pm Dec. 1, 15, 22 & 29**

Contact Juliette Harrison at [Juliette@sweetwoodfarm.org](mailto:Juliette@sweetwoodfarm.org)

# DECORATE the Church

All Church Christmas Decorating will take place  
Sunday, December 1 at 9:45 am.

All are welcome to have fun  
decorating the church sanctuary,  
narthex and entryway!

There will be no Adult Bible Study

The Sunday School Children  
will watch a Veggie Tales Movie!



If you would like to help decorate the altar area  
with poinsettias at Christmas, you are welcome  
to purchase plants and bring them to Peace  
by Sunday, December 22nd.

The plants will be arranged by the altar and  
you may take them home following the  
December 24th, 6:00 pm Candlelight Service.

If you have questions, please contact  
Sue Zalucha, 734-426-1969.



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On December 7 from 4:30—9:00 pm Peace is  
hosting an Indoor Nativity.

Invite your family and friends as the story of  
Christmas is played out before you!  
Live animals will be on the grounds of Peace.

Enjoy Christmas Cookies as you listen to  
Christmas Carolers performed by the Dexter  
Senior Friends in Harmony.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for  
Faith in Action!



Peace is looking for a piano player or keyboard  
player to play liturgy and hymns during the  
8:30 Worship Services each Sunday.

Pay: \$50.00 per Sunday

Time: 8:15—9:30 am

If you or someone you know may be  
interested, please contact the church office:  
[peacelutheran@peaceaa.net](mailto:peacelutheran@peaceaa.net) or 734.424.0899

"Call His Name Jesus" is the theme for  
this year's daily Advent devotional from  
the Lutheran Hour. Copies of the  
Devotion are available at Peace or you  
may sign up to receive these devotions  
by email or listen to them on your  
mobile device using the Lutheran Hour  
Free App. Just click on the  
following link for directions:  
<https://www.lhm.org/advent/>



## **Praise Peace Praise Band**



If you would like to join the Peace  
Praise Band, please contact Matt  
Towers at [mtowers@gmail.com](mailto:mtowers@gmail.com).



## **Dexter Special Olympics Basketball 2019—2020 is looking for Boys and Girls of all ages to join!**

The team will practice at Peace

Thursday evenings beginning Dec. 12th at 6:00 pm,  
through March, 2020.

If you are interested in playing or know someone who  
would like to play, please contact Craig Lennon at  
[dexterspecialolympics@gmail.com](mailto:dexterspecialolympics@gmail.com).

## Peace Call Committee Update

The Call Committee met with Rev. Don Neuendorf on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

There are a number of things that will be going on over the next couple months, so we wanted to keep you abreast of activities supporting the call process.

The Congregational surveys have been completed. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback/input. We will be delivering them to the District office by November 27<sup>th</sup>. The District office will review them and give us a report and also start the search for possible candidates. We do not have an estimate of how long this will take at this time. The report should give us direction as to the qualities and strengths needed in our future pastor. We can then solicit the congregation for any pastors they might want to suggest who might have these qualifications and they will be forwarded to the District office.

Once we get the information of possible candidates from the District, the Call Committee can start reviewing that information looking for the candidates that best fit the requirements we feel are needed here at Peace to help grow God's Kingdom.

Until that information is received from the District office, the Call Committee will be working through what information about Peace that will need to be included in the Call Document to give the candidates an idea of what Peace needs and has to offer. We have to give the candidates an accurate picture of Peace. We will continue to provide updates via the monthly newsletter and also use time following services to provide updates as the committee completes a step in the process.

Thank you for your support and continued prayers related to this very important process!

Carroll DeLancey – Head Elder



### Voter's Meeting

Peace's Annual Voter's Meeting will be held Sunday, December 22 at 9:45 am. All members 18 years and older are urged to attend this meeting. Topics include: Election of Elders and Directors and Approval of the 2020 Budget.

### Have you set up your Kindrid Account yet?

Kindrid is a free electronic giving opportunity through the Michigan Church Extension Fund. It is very easy to set up and allows you to enter the date and amount you would like to have your monthly offerings deducted from your bank account. Click on the link below and follow the steps to set up your recurring or one time giving options! <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/Peac9999957>

### Thrivent Grant Opportunities at Peace

Members of Thrivent Financial may be eligible to obtain \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team Grants to go towards community events that Peace is sponsoring. To find out if you are eligible to obtain grants, contact your Thrivent Financial Representative. Instructions for completing grants is found on Thrivent's website, <https://www.thrivent.com>

Grant Opportunities:

- Purchase books to give to families at Peace Candle Light Services, December 23 & 24



### Sunday, December 1

Decorating the Church for Christmas, 9:45 am (No Morning Bible Class)

### Advent Sunday Message Theme: "Together in Advent"

December 1 Message Topic: "Be Present" (No Bible Class)

December 8 Message Topic: "Send Peace"

December 15 Message Topic: "Share Joy" (No Bible Class)

December 22 Message Topic: "Wrap in Love" (No Evening Worship)

### Wednesday's in Advent Message Theme: "Unto Us a Child is Born/Unwrap the Presents"

Advent Services held at 7:00 pm

Advent Meal Served at 6:00 pm, followed by Worship at 7:00 pm

December 4 Message Topic: "Great Light"

December 11 Message Topic: "Wonderful Counselor"

December 18 Message Topic: "Everlasting Father"

### Sunday, December 15, 9:45 am

Family Christmas Festival "The Night Before Christmas"

### Sunday, December 22

Annual Voter's Meeting, 9:45 am

No Evening Worship

### Monday, December 23

Evening Candlelight Worship Service, 6:00 pm

Message Topic: "Prince of Peace"

### Tuesday, December 24th—Christmas Eve

Evening Candlelight Worship Service, 6:00 pm

Message Topic: "Prince of Peace"

### Sunday, December 29

Worship Services at 8:30 & 11:00 am (No Evening Worship)

Sunday School & Bible Class, 9:45 am

**Pastor Courson's Blog and Monday—Saturday Daily Readings**

During the month of December, Pastor Courson finishes reading through the minor prophets, selected Psalms and the account of Jesus' birth. Pastor Courson will post thoughts about the daily readings in his blog:

<http://www.larrycourson.wordpress.com/>

**December Birthdays & Anniversaries**  
If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed, please contact the Church office so we may update our records

**December 2019**



**December Readings**

1. Zechariah 13	17. Psalm 115
2. Zechariah 14	18. Psalm 116
3. Malachi 1	19. Psalm 117
4. Malachi 2	20. Psalm 118
5. Malachi 3	21. Palm 132
6. Malachi 4	22. Luke 1:46-55
7. Psalm 1	23. Luke 1:67-79
8. Psalm 2	24. Luke 2:1-20
9. Psalm 23	25. Matthew 1:18-24
10. Psalm 45	26. Luke 2:21-32
11. Psalm 46	27. Matthew 2:1-12
12. Psalm 72	28. Matthew 2:13-23
13. Psalm 89	29. Psalm 111
14. Psalm 110	30. Psalm 90
15. Psalm 113	31. Psalm 150
16. Psalm 114	

Nathan Biggs	12/1
Matthew Burr	12/3
Gary Eichenberg	12/3
Isaac Burr	12/6
Paul Zalucha	12/9
Connor Fischer	12/10
Jadon Fischer	12/10
Luke Engstrom	12/12
Diane Bacon	12/13
Tom Arbaugh	12/14
Cori Walworth	12/15
Kim Fredericks	12/16
Amy Lamb	12/16
Ayla Hendricks	12/17
Natalie Lennon	12/17
Charlotte Wetzel	12/18
Nora Arbaugh	12/20
Shirley Mitchell	12/22
Emma Walworth	12/23
Heather Dettling	12/26
Dorothea Paulun	12/27
Chris Zalucha	12/27
Pam Clark	12/28
Joan Savery	12/28

**Official Acts ~**  
  
Baptism: Elijah John Rich, November 24, 2019



**Peace Board of Directors**

**Matt Burr, President**  
[matthew.burr@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.burr@gmail.com)

**Todd Stites, Vice President**  
[todd.stites@gmail.com](mailto:todd.stites@gmail.com)

**Nathan Lamb, Treasurer**  
[n8lamb@gmail.com](mailto:n8lamb@gmail.com)

**Rebecca Luken, Secretary**  
[rluken06@gmail.com](mailto:rluken06@gmail.com)

**Jessica Towers**  
[jetowers@gmail.com](mailto:jetowers@gmail.com)

**Carroll DeLancey, Head Elder**  
[carrolldelancey@aol.com](mailto:carrolldelancey@aol.com)

**Board of Elders**

**Tom Arbaugh**  
[Thomas\\_arbaugh@hotmail.com](mailto:Thomas_arbaugh@hotmail.com)

**Carroll DeLancey, Head Elder**  
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**Mark Bacon**  
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**Ken Visel**  
[lahvis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lahvis@sbcglobal.net)

**Charlie Yuan**  
[charlieyuan@gmail.com](mailto:charlieyuan@gmail.com)

<b>Ron &amp; Mary Teachout</b>	<b>12/30 24 years</b>
<b>Ken &amp; Lynn Visel</b>	<b>12/31 29 years</b>



Keep up with events at Peace, read the Newsletter, view the calendar, listen and/or read Pastor Courson's messages and more!  
Visit the Peace website:  
<https://www.peaceaa.net/>

Peace Facebook Page:  
[fb.me/PeaceLutheranA2](https://fb.me/PeaceLutheranA2)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> First Sunday in Advent <b>Communion</b> Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 am Church Decorating 9:45 am Sunday School -Veggie Tales Movie 5:00 pm Youth Band 6:00 pm Evening Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm 12 Step Grp.	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Jackson Trippers	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Quilting  5:30 pm Foster Parent Training  Spanish Classes 6:30 pm Beginning 7:30 pm Advanced	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Adult Bible Study  5:30 PM Girl Scouts  6:00 pm Advent Soup Supper 7:00 pm Advent Worship Service	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  5:00 pm Foster Parent Training 6:00 pm Living Nativity Mtg. 6:00 pm Brownies 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>  6:00 pm Living Nativity Mtg. 7:00 pm AA Mtg.	<b>7</b> 4:30—9:00 pm Living Nativity
<b>8</b> Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 am Bible Class & Sunday School No Youth Praise B 6:00 pm Evening Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class 6:45 pm Youth Activity 7:00 pm 12 Step Mtg.	<b>9</b> 5:30 pm Daisies 5:30 pm Wheelchair Basketball 7:00 pm Directors Mtg. 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>10</b> 5:00 pm Foster Parent Training  Spanish Classes 6:30 pm Beginning 7:30 pm Advanced 7:00 pm Dexter Co-op Board Mtg.	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Adult Bible Study  6:00pm Advent Soup Supper 7:00pm Advent Worship Service	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  5:00 pm Foster Parent Training 6:00 pm Special Olympic Basketball	<b>13</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>  7:00 pm AA Mtg.	<b>14</b> 6:00 pm Dinner & Bible Study
<b>15</b> <i>Communion</i> Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 am Family Christmas Festival 5:00 pm Youth Band 6:00 pm Evening Worship 6:45 pm All Youth Christmas Party 7:00 pm 12 Step Grp.	<b>16</b> 5:30 pm Wheelchair Basketball 7:30 pm Elders Mtg.	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Quilting  Spanish Classes 6:30 pm Beginning 7:30 pm Advanced	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Adult Bible Study  5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Advent Soup Supper 7:00pm Advent Worship Service 7:00 pm Cub Scout	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:00 pm Brownies 6:00 pm Special Olympic Basketball	<b>20</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>  7:00 pm AA Mtg.	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45am Voter's Mtg. 9:45 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Youth Band No Evening Worship 7:00 pm 12 Step Grp.	<b>23</b> Candlelight Worship Service 6:00 pm	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve  Candlelight Worship Service 6:00 pm	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm AA Mtg.	<b>28</b> 6:00 pm Dinner & Bible Study
<b>29</b> Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 am Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School—Veggie Tales Movie 5:00 pm Youth Praise Band No Evening Worship 7:00 pm 12 Step Mtg.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Youth Overnight Lock In	If you are looking for a place to play indoors When Dexter schools are closed, the gym at Peace is usually open. Call to confirm dates and times. 734.424.0899 peacelutheran@peaceaa.net			



# Peace Helper List for December 2019

Sign up online:

<http://goo.gl/APhYGZ>

## December 1 - Communion

### 8:30 Service

Elder: Carroll DeLancey  
Usher: R. Ponitz / T. Biggs  
Video: Nathan Biggs  
Acolyte: Jasmine Biggs  
Greeter: Ruhl  
Altar Guild: Joan Savery  
Coffee Setup:

### 11:00 Service

Elder: Edward Krzysik  
Usher:  
Video:  
Acolyte:  
Greeter: Becky Klaus  
Altar Guild: Louise Howland  
Coffee Setup:  
Counters: Roberts / Woodruff

### 6:00 PM Service

Elder: Larry Jones  
Video:  
Acolyte:  
Greeter:  
Altar Guild: Jane Harlow

## December 8

### 8:30 Service

Elder: Ken Visel  
Usher: R. Ponitz / C. DeLancey  
Video: Cathy Ponitz  
Acolyte: Cayden Cappelli  
Greeter: Gardiner  
Coffee Setup:

### 11:00 Service

Elder: Tom Arbaugh  
Usher:  
Video:  
Acolyte:  
Greeter: Pam O'Hara  
Coffee Setup:  
Counters: Ted/Ruth Aufdemberge

### 6:00 PM Service

Elder: Larry Jones  
Video:  
Acolyte:  
Greeter:

## December 15 Communion

### 8:30 Service

Elder: Mark Bacon  
Usher: R. Ponitz / B. Stone  
Video: Nathan Biggs  
Acolyte: Jason Biggs  
Greeter: Koester  
Altar Guild: Karen Walworth  
Coffee Setup:

### 11:00 Service

Elder: Charlie Yuan  
Usher:  
Video:  
Acolyte:  
Greeter: Koch  
Altar Guild: Tracey Melody  
Coffee Setup:  
Counters: K. Piatek / P. O'Hara

### 6:00 PM Service

Elder: Larry Jones  
Video:  
Acolyte:  
Greeter:  
Altar Guild: Joan Courson

## December 22

### 8:30 Service

Elder: Mark Bacon  
Usher: D. Paulun / D. Betz  
Video: Cathy Ponitz  
Acolyte: Charlotte Wetzel  
Greeter: Jane Mangold  
Coffee Setup:

### 11:00 Service

Elder: Tom Arbaugh  
Usher:  
Video:  
Acolyte:  
Greeter: Miller  
Coffee  
Counters: Ray/Karen Essell

### No Evening Worship

## December 29 Communion

### 8:30 Service

Elder: Ken Visel  
Usher: R. Ponitz / D. Betz  
Video: Nathan Biggs  
Acolyte: Jasmine Biggs  
Greeter: Eichenberg  
Altar Guild: Ruth Aufdemberge  
Coffee Setup:

### 11:00 Service

Elder: Edward Krzysik  
Usher:  
Video:  
Acolyte:  
Greeter: Lennon  
Altar Guild: Alice Jopps  
Coffee Setup:  
Counters: Jopps/Walworth

### No Evening Worship