

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January 2020

From the Pastor. . . “A Look Back at the 2010’s”

Not only do we see the start of a New Year on January 1, 2020, but we will also see the 1st day of a New Decade. The 2010s are in the rear view mirror. Think about some of the changes the 2010’s brought us.

- * The number of smart phone users grew from 62.6 million to 265.9 million
- * Instagram photo sharing became a dominate force in social media
- * Bing watching TV shows has become a new form of entertainment
- * YouTube serves two billion people monthly and redefines what it means to be a celebrity
- * Superheroes are everywhere, even though the Avengers didn’t make their first appearance until 2012.
- * Gay marriages were made legal in all 50 states by a ruling of the Supreme Court in 2015

The changes that I’ve noted reflect the rising importance of screens and social media. We’ve seen and increased focus on entertainment, the importance of self-determination and the desire for someone or something to help us. We are living in the midst of a cultural, social, digital and spiritual revolution.

The more things change the more the ONE remains the same. The letter to the Jewish Christians in the New Testament tells us, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*” (Hebrews 13:8) We can always count on Jesus. Nothing can ever separate us from God’s love for us in Jesus the Christ. (Romans 8:38-39)

The 2010’s also saw a dramatic increase in the number of people in the United States who have no religious affiliation. Their number grew from 17% of the adult population to 26%. The number of professing Christians dropped from 77% to 65%. Some people have migrated to House Churches where they gather in homes for food and faith discussions or worship. Other people are turning to the internet for their worship life. Even more have just dropped out.

These things tell us we need to find new ways to communicate the unchanging Gospel message to a rapidly changing world. The Christian community needs to find ways to engage our digital culture. We need to look for ways to share the love of God and the new life He gives with people who are searching for meaning, purpose and direction.

I can’t predict what 2020 will bring. But I can promise that God will be with us. He will help us face the challenges before us and help us be His P.R. agents. That will require that we take the focus off of what we want the church to do for us as we work together to see what we can do for the people around us. Jesus tells us, “Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:16) It’s time that we make letting the light of God’s love shine through us in the New Year a top priority.

Happy 2020!



Peace Lutheran Church
8260 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-424-0899
peacelutheran@peaceaa.net
<https://www.peaceaa.net/>

Peace Facebook Page:
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

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Sunday Worship Schedule

Morning Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Sunday School & Bible Classes: 9:45 AM

Youth Praise Band, Sundays at 5:00 PM

Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Confirmation & Youth Meet: 6:45 PM

Message Series for January 2020 “Wisdom for the New Year”

The start of a New Year and a new decade in a rapidly changing world requires faith and faithfulness, wisdom and the Holy Spirit’s guidance. The focus of the Sunday messages for January, 2020 will be “Wisdom for the New Year” beginning with the Wise Men who followed the Star to Bethlehem to worship Jesus and continuing with the wisdom God gives us for life in the Book of Proverbs.

Please join us as we look to God’s Word and Spirit for Wisdom and guidance.

January 5 th	<i>Follow the Star</i>	Matthew 2:1-12
January 12 th	<i>Smart Stuff</i>	Proverbs 1:20-33
January 19 th	<i>Where Wisdom</i>	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
January 26 th	<i>Quid Pro No!</i>	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Take Out Faith

How do we connect our Sunday worship services with the rest of our lives? How can we talk with family and friends about the weekly message or the importance of our Christian faith? These are not easy things to do when people will argue about anything from religion to politics, to right or wrong. But people cannot argue with our experiences or our feelings.

We take out Pizza and other types of food. Why not “Take Out Faith,” take it out of the church building. “Take Out Faith” is an attempt to help us be able to talk with others about the importance of our faith. We will be putting up a slide after the Pastor’s Message and with the announcements at the end of the services with the title “Take Out Faith.” It will encourage you to talk about an experience you have had in your life related one way or another with a thought from the message. Then it will give a suggestion about how you can talk about your faith experiences or feelings. We will start out the first few weeks by giving you a few examples of how this might work and then encourage you to try it out with someone near you before you leave the worship service.

Don’t leave your faith behind when you walk out the doors of the church. Take your faith with you, talk with others about it and see what a difference it can make in your life and in the lives of the people you talk with.



Christmas decoration takedown and storage will happen January 5 after the 11:00 service.

We need many hands to keep the work light for all.



Sunday and Wednesday Morning Bible Classes

The Sunday morning (9:45 AM) and Wednesday morning (10:00 AM) Bible Classes lead by Pastor Larry will continue the “That the World May Know” series that uses videos with Ray Vander Laan followed by study and discussion. The study takes us to different places in the land of Israel and looks at how to bring God’s Shalom (Peace) to a world in chaos.

Dates	Title	Key Location
January 5 & 8	When Storms Gather	The Sea of Galilee
January 12 & 15	Piercing the Darkness	Kursi in the Decapolis
January 19 & 22	Gates of Hell	Caesarea Philippi
January 26 & 29	City of the Great King	The Jerusalem Temple

Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study, 10:00—11:00 am

A new year - a new habit. Women, Join us Thursdays beginning January 2 for the study of His Word beginning in Joshua. Women’s Bible Study will meet on Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00. Fellowship before or after study time is encouraged. Dorothey Paulun is usually at Peace by 9:30. New faces and children are always welcome.



Confirmation Classes & Middle School Youth in January—Sundays at 6:45 pm

January 5	No confirmation classes
January 12	The Divided Nation, Prophets and the Exile
January 19	Parent lead youth activity
January 16	From the Old to the New Testament

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!

January Schedule:

- December 31 - January 1 Overnight New Year’s Lock in
- January 5
- January 12
- January 19 Pastor’s night with the youth
- January 26

Peace Directors and Elders

The members of the Board of Directors are elected by the members of Peace at the Annual Voter's meeting in December. Each Director serves a two year term. The terms are staggered so that there are always Directors serving with prior experience on the Board. Their duties are to oversee the business of the church and to be accountable to the Voters. The 2020 members of the Board of Directors and their remaining terms of service are as follows:

President: Matt Burr (1 year)
Vice President: Todd Stites (1 year)
Treasurer: (2 years)
Secretary: Rebecca Luken (2 years)
At Large: Jessica Towers (1 year)
Head Elder: Carroll DeLancey

Thanks to Nate Lamb, outgoing Treasurer

The members of the Board of Elders are also elected by the Voter's of Peace. Their primary responsibility is to oversee the spiritual and worship life of Peace and to provide support and oversight of the Ministry staff. The Elders also serve on two year, staggered terms. The members of the Board of Elders are as follows:

Carroll, DeLancey, Head Elder	Tom Arbaugh
Mark Bacon	Edward Krzysik
Craig Lennon (new) 1st year	John Forrester (new) 1st year
Todd Biggs (new) 1st year	Brad Helmke (new) 1sy year

Thanks to Charlie Yuan and Ken Visel, outgoing Elder's

Please keep these men and women in your prayers as they serve together to lead Peace in our mission to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to grow together in faith in God's family.

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:

- UMAISE Wheelchair Basketball – snacks & equipment – any time in January or February
- All Pro Dads Breakfast, Jan. 19th
- Reclaiming a Lost Generation simulcast / food, Feb. 1st
- Valentines VA collection, Feb. 16th
- Easter Egg Hunt, April 4th
- Easter Brunch April, 12th
- Peace 3-6 year old Soccer / food & replacement equipment, April 18th



The 2020 Budget was Approved at the December 22nd Voter's Meeting



2020 Offering Envelopes will be placed in your Peace Pockets. Please begin using these in January 2020.

If you have any questions, or did not receive envelopes, please contact Jane Harlow at jharlow@umich.edu.

Kindrid! An Easy, Free Electronic Offering Program Set up an account today!

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>



Winter Gym Use at Peace when Dexter Schools not in session

Dexter Schools are on break through Jan. 5th. Families/individuals are welcome to use the gym

for play time during the break or any other time when Dexter is not holding class.

If you are interested in using the gym, please call the church office (734.424.0899) to see if someone is available to open it.

If you have a key, the alarm may be set and you will need to disarm. When you are finished using the gym, please sweep the floor, make sure the lights are off and lock the door.

If you would like to schedule the gym for any events during the year, or when the church office is closed, please email Damon Cappelli at cappelli27@yahoo.com.

NOTE: Please ensure you schedule the gym with Damon or the church office to make sure your desired time slot is open. We have many groups/individuals using our facilities!

Donate to Peace!

Peace opens its facilities to a variety of groups, agencies and sporting events at no cost. You can help us pay for the utilities and other related costs. Please donate using this PayPal QR code. Thanks!



Pick Up Basketball 7:00 PM Wednesdays in January on the 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

To our family at Peace. . . .

Thank you for your kind thoughts, prayers and gifts we received this Christmas.

We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

The Staff of Peace Lutheran Church



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

The team will practice at Peace Thursday evenings, 6:00—7:30pm, 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.

Peace Call Committee Update

I would like to thank the 39 people who had the interest to attend the presentation by Rev. Rob Kasper on December 18th at Peace. Rev. Kasper presented the results of the survey we passed out back in November 2019. One hundred fifty one people completed the survey. The surveys demonstrated what our strengths are and our weaknesses are here at Peace. Out of this survey there was a list of 18 personal skills our new pastor would require. Rev. Kasper ranked the top 6 as he interpreted from the survey results. We had open discussions and those present had the opportunity to rearrange the priority of these skills. The Call Committee will use these personal skill rankings as we review the call list that will be presented to us by the District.

Rev. Kasper gave an estimated timeline that we would probably get a call list about the end of January and hopefully we would be able to make our first call right after Easter. Please pray that God will enable us to work through this process diligently and spiritually to work toward this estimated time-line.

Carroll DeLancey, Head Elder

Thoughts from your Head Elder

May God bless you and fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Courson made a statement at our December Elder and Director meetings that is disheartening to me. The normal church attendance in the country is once or twice a month. My heart is warmed that I see a lot of the same faces every Sunday here at Peace.

I stop to think of all the activities people have these days to spark their interest that pull them away from regular worship of our Lord. These social activities become more important than our spiritual wellness and we sort of drift away from regular attendance at church. This not only impacts your spiritual life but the church as well. It takes more than the pastor to conduct a worship service. It takes acolytes, lay readers, musicians, video technicians, ushers and Elders. I pray that God will fill each one of us with the Holy Spirit and give us the desire to help serve our Lord in some fashion.

A regular attendance will insure there is somebody at each worship service to perform these acts of love for the church. I would hope that as we live our daily lives we would earnestly pray "which is most important and beneficial for me, this social activity or my spiritual well-being and love for my Lord". Please also pray about where you could volunteer to help further God's Kingdom here at Peace. We need to take ownership of our lives and love for the Lord.

Thanks for your time in reading this article.

Carroll DeLancey, Head Elder

Pastor Courson's Blog and Monday—Saturday Daily Readings—New Year, New Beginnings!

During the month of January Pastor Courson begins reading in the Book of Genesis. *Read a chapter a day, skipping Chapters 5 and 10, which are genealogies.* Pastor Courson will post thoughts about the daily readings in his blog: <http://www.larrycourson.wordpress.com/>

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

January 2020



January Readings

1. Genesis Chapter 1
2. Genesis Chapter 2
3. Genesis Chapter 3
4. Genesis Chapter 4
5. Genesis Chapter 6
6. Genesis Chapter 7
7. Genesis Chapter 8
8. Genesis Chapter 9
9. Genesis Chapter 11
10. Genesis Chapter 12
11. Genesis Chapter 13
12. Genesis Chapter 14
13. Genesis Chapter 15
14. Genesis Chapter 16
15. Genesis Chapter 17
16. Genesis Chapter 18

17. Genesis Chapter 19
18. Genesis Chapter 20
19. Genesis Chapter 21
20. Genesis Chapter 22
21. Genesis Chapter 23
22. Genesis Chapter 24
23. Genesis Chapter 25
24. Genesis Chapter 26
25. Genesis Chapter 27
26. Genesis Chapter 28
27. Genesis Chapter 29
28. Genesis Chapter 30
29. Genesis Chapter 31
30. Genesis Chapter 32
31. Genesis Chapter 33

Lydia Weinburger	1/2
Brian Hackett	1/4
Cathy Ponitz	1/4
Ann Miller	1/5
John Hendricks	1/9
Jim McCrea	1/9
Rachel Melody	1/9
Rebecca Arbaugh	1/12
Ann Schebor	1/14
Erik Cabble	1/18
Emilie Polens	1/18
Shannon Cummings	1/21
John Engstrom	1/22
Bill Koch	1/22
Sam Pappas	1/22
Laura Zahn	1/22
Bill Miller	1/23
Richard Simmons	1/23
Kendall Korcek	1/27
Alice Jopps	1/30
Brady Arbaugh	1/31
Avery Stites	1/31
Alice Talbot	1/31

Official Acts ~
Funeral: Geroge Wiertella, December 12, 2019

Peace Board of Directors
Matt Burr, President
matthew.burr@gmail.com
Todd Stites, Vice President
todd.stites@gmail.com
Treasurer
Rebecca Luken, Secretary
rluken06@gmail.com
Jessica Towers
jetowers@gmail.com
Carroll DeLancey, Head Elder
carrolldelancey@aol.com

Board of Elders
Tom Arbaugh
thomas.arbaugh@hotmail.com
Mark Bacon
mbacon_48103@yahoo.com
Todd Biggs
tritodd@hotmail.com
Carroll DeLancey, Head Elder
carrolldelancey@aol.com
John Forrester
jmfplan@comcast.net
Brad Helmke
bhelmke@gmail.com
Edward Krzysik
edwardkrzysik0@gmail.com
Craig Lennon
craig.lennon@comcast.net


Pastor Larry & Joan Courson 1/29 37 Years



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

◀ Dec 2019	January 2020					Feb 2020 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Youth Lock-In	1 Youth Lock-In Ends	2 6:00 pm Brownies 6:00 pm Special Olympic Basketball	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 7:00 pm AA Grp	4
5 Communion Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 am Sunday School & Bible Class 12 Noon Take Down Christmas Decorations 5:00 pm Youth Band Band 6:00 pm Evening Worship 6:45 pm Youth Activity 7:00 pm 12 Step Grp	6 10:30 am Jackson Trippers 5:30 pm Wheelchair Basketball	7 5:00 pm Foster Parent Training Spanish Classes 6:30 pm Beginning 7:30 pm Advanced	8 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Pick Up Basketball	9 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm Foster Parent Training 6:00 pm Special Olympic Basketball	10 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 7:00 pm AA Grp	11 6:00 pm Dinner & Bible Study
12 Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 am Sunday School & Bible Class 5:00 pm Youth Band 6:00 pm Evening Worship 6:45 pm Confirm. Class 6:45 pm Youth Activity 7:00 pm 12 Step Grp	13 5:30 pm Daisies 5:30 pm Wheelchair Basketball 7:00 pm Director's Meeting 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	14 8:30 am—Noon Pastor attends Circuit Pastor Mtg. 9:00 Am Quilters 5:00 pm Foster Parent Training 5:15pm Cub Scouts Spanish Classes 6:30 pm Beginning 7:30 pm Advanced 7:00 pm Dexter Co-op Board Mtg.	15 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pick Up Basketball	16 Dexter Coop Day Off 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm Foster Parent Training 6:00 pm Brownies 6:00 pm Special Olympic Basketball	17 Dexter Coop Day Off <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 7:00 pm AA Grp	18
19 Communion Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 am Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 am All Pro Families Breakfast 5:00 pm Youth Band 6:00 pm Evening Worship 6:45 pm Confirm. Youth Activity 6:45 pm Youth Activity 7:00 pm 12 Step Grp	20 Dexter Coop Day Off 5:30 pm Wheelchair Basketball	21 Spanish Classes 6:30 pm Beginning 7:30 pm Advanced	22 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Pick Up Basketball	23 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Special Olympic Basketball	24 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 7:00 pm AA Grp	25 6:00 pm Dinner & Bible Study
26 Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 am Sunday School & Bible Class 5:00 pm Youth Band 6:00 pm Evening Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class 6:45 pm Youth Activity 7:00 pm 12 Step Grp	27 5:30 pm Daisies 5:30 pm Wheelchair Basketball 7:30 pm Elder's Meeting 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	28 9:00 Am Quilters 5:45pm Cub Scouts Spanish Classes 6:30 pm Beginning 7:30 pm Advanced	29 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pick Up Basketball	30 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Brownies 6:00 pm Special Olympic Basketball	31 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 7:00 pm AA Grp	Feb. 1 8:30am-1:00pm <i>Reclaiming a Lost Generation</i> Simulcast With Lunch

Peace Helper List for January 2020

Sign up online:

<http://goo.gl/APhYGZ>

January 5 - Communion

8:30 Service

Elder: Mark Bacon
Usher: Randy Ponitz & Todd Biggs
Video: Cathy Ponitz
Acolyte: Cayden Cappelli
Greeter: Aufdemberge
Altar Guild: Diane Bacon
Coffee Setup:

11:00 Service

Elder: Craig Lennon
Usher:
Video:
Acolyte:
Greeter: Waldron
Altar Guild: Natasha Lennon
Coffee Setup:
Counters: Roberts / Woodruff

6:00 pm

Elder: Brad Helmke
Video:
Acolyte:
Greeter:
Altar Guild: Jessica Towers

January 12

8:30 Service

Elder: Todd Biggs
Usher: R. Ponitz & C. DeLancey
Video: Nathan Biggs
Acolyte: Jason Biggs
Greeter: Biggs' Family
Coffee Setup:

11:00 Service

Elder: Tom Arbaugh
Usher:
Video:
Acolyte:
Greeter: Nancy Woodruff
Coffee Setup:
Counters: Ted/Ruth Aufdemberge

6:00 PM Service

Elder: Brad Helmke
Video:
Acolyte:
Greeter:

January 19

8:30 Service

Elder: Todd Biggs
Usher: Randy Ponitz & Barry Stone
Video: Cathy Ponitz
Acolyte: Charlotte Wetzell
Greeter: DeLancey
Altar Guild: Eileen DeLancey
Coffee Setup:

11:00 Service

Elder: Tom Arbaugh
Usher:
Video:
Acolyte:
Greeter: Arbaugh
Altar Guild: Jane Harlow
Coffee Setup:
Counters: K. Piatek / P. O'Hara

6:00 PM Service

Elder: Brad Helmke
Video:
Acolyte:
Greeter:
Altar Guild: Joan Courson

January 26

8:30 Service

Elder: Carroll DeLancey
Usher: Randy Ponitz & C. DeLancey
Video: Nathan Biggs
Acolyte: Jason Biggs
Greeter: Ramos
Coffee Setup:

11:00 Service

Elder: Craig Lennon
Usher:
Video:
Acolyte:
Greeter: Becky Klaus
Coffee
Counters: Ray/Karen Essell

6:00 PM Service

Elder: Brad Helmke
Video:
Acolyte:
Greeter: