

December 2024
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YOU are Part of God’s Plan

“*In those days . . .*” So, begins a well-known passage of Scripture. Do you know what comes next? “*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree . . .*” (Luke 2:1). Some of us can quote the whole story by heart. Even though we have heard it year after year, some of us for many years, the story is still great to hear, still warms our souls, still stimulates our minds, still calms our fears.

Two seemingly unimportant people of little means obeyed that decree and traveled to the town of Bethlehem to register for the census. The woman, Mary, was about to have a child. She knew that her child was the Son of God, a child to be named Jesus. Joseph, her husband, knew he was not the father of the child, although that was how the world saw him. These were two of God’s faithful. They knew the prophecies regarding the Messiah. They had been visited by the angel and learned that they were to be part of the fulfillment of those prophecies. They did not know how things would turn out. They did not know all that God had in store for them. They just “obeyed and submitted to His authority” (Hebrews 13:17). They trusted God to guide and protect them with each step they took on His path for them.



Of course, God did just that. He provided a place for the Child to be born (Luke 2:7). He sent angels to announce the birth of the King and moved the shepherds to respond to the awesome news and go to worship the new Baby (Luke 2:8-20). He sent “Magi from the East” who brought “gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh” and then believed the warning God gave them in a dream and avoided the evil King Herod on their return trip (Matthew 2:1-12).

(Continued on Page 2)

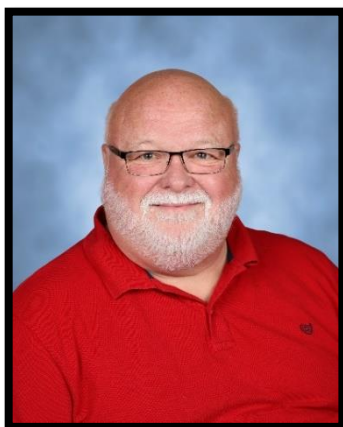
How many of these people involved in this amazing story realized the important and memorable parts they played? We cannot say for sure, but assume none could really comprehend the eternal significance of the events as they unfolded.



We, too, are involved in God's plans. Certainly, none can equal in importance the birth of Jesus, but nothing God does is without purpose. Are we listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us through God's Word? Are we, as we go about our daily routines, obeying our rulers, aware of being God's feet, hands and voice to carry out His plan? Do we bring our gifts, aware that God may use them according to a purpose we cannot even imagine? How exciting it is to think and know that we are God's instruments! What a loss of blessing it could be, if we do not let God use us.

As we live out our daily lives as Jesus' Disciples, *"let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith . . . so that we will not grow weary and lose heart"* (Hebrews 12:2-3), but instead look forward with enthusiasm and anticipation toward the unfolding of God's plan in our lives.

A Message from Our Deacon...



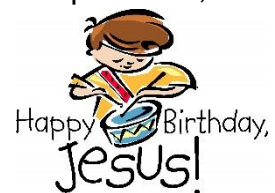
Here we go into December. This is a great month. We get to celebrate the birth of our Savior! So many great celebrations! Great parties and opportunities to meet with family. We get to watch our preschoolers tell us about Jesus. Our grade school children tell us what they know about Baby Jesus. I invite you to come with me to look into the manger to see our newborn Savior. The Creator of the universe takes on human form! We read in the Gospel of John 1:14, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."* The Word is another name for Jesus. He came and lived among us. WOW!

With all this excitement, there are many who REALLY struggle! Many are very lonely during the CHRISTmas holidays. We can come along side of our brothers and sisters at this time. We can offer our love and support. We at Peace are blessed to have this faith family!

Another reason I like this month is I see people being really nice to each other. Yeah, I know that most people get freaked out about the planning, the gift buying, the wrapping and all. However, many just seem to smile more, to hold a door open, and to treat others with respect. So, won't you be one of those? Especially to the people working in the stores.

Come along with me to Bethlehem. Happy birthday Jesus!

Serving Jesus and His people,
Deacon Jim Schurig



A Message from Our Principal...



Happy Advent! By the time you read this, our staff will have returned from the Connections Teachers Conference. This is a collaboration of all the Lutheran Schools in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. This year we were able to learn and worship with over 1300 Lutheran educators. I know it is events like this that remind me how special our calling is. Thank you again for supporting our school as we reach out to our students to spread the love of Jesus to these young ones. We have also started practicing for our Christmas program! I have always enjoyed this season as we prepare not only for Christmas, but we also prepare our hearts for HIS second coming.

We want to issue a special invitation to join us as we celebrate Christmas in our school programs this year! **The preschool program is Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30pm.** The following **Wednesday, December 18, is "Carol of the Belles," the K-8 program.** Join us for **the K-8 dress rehearsal at 10:00am or in the evening for the program at 6:30 pm.** I am sure your holiday will be blessed!

Chapel schedule:

December 4: Pastor Koy

December 11: 8th Grade Special Persons Day

December 18: Carol of the Belles, 10:00 AM for our 60+ Group, 6:30 PM for all

December 20: Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Singalong

December 21-January 2: Christmas Break.

Have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year from the faculty and staff of Peace Lutheran School. May we always keep Jesus at the center of our lives at this time of year and always.

Michael Nelson, Principal

A Message from the Editor...

Dear Readers,



From the Editor

Jackie Pilan

Merry Christmas! May the season of Christ's birth bring about a rebirth in relationships, and hopes and goals attained. Do not let the sometimes hectic shopping and entertaining get in the way of experiencing the miracles of Jesus' birth and never-ending blessings!

PS: The deadline for January's "Peace Lutheran Messenger" is **Friday, December 20.**

A Message from Our EC Director...

The Best Gift of All: A Christmas Message



As we approach the season of Christmas, we are often caught up in the hustle and bustle of shopping, decorating, and preparing festive meals. It's easy to get swept away in the excitement of giving and receiving gifts. Yet, amidst all the presents wrapped in shiny paper, there is one gift that truly stands out—the gift of Jesus Christ.

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, who came into the world not with grandeur or wealth, but in the humble surroundings of a stable. This child, born to Mary and Joseph, was the greatest gift ever given to humanity. His life, death, and resurrection offer us forgiveness, hope, and the promise of eternal life. Jesus is the ultimate gift.

In a world where we often measure the value of gifts by their price tags, we are reminded that the best things in life are not bought with money. The love, joy, and peace that come with knowing Jesus are priceless. His gift to us is not just something we receive once a year; it's a gift that continues to give every day.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let's remember that the best gift of all is not under the tree, but in our hearts. Let's take time to reflect on the wonder of His love and share that love with others. After all, the spirit of Christmas is found in giving—not just presents, but the love of Christ that we can share with those around us.

Our preschool 4s and Young 5s students will present **"The Best Gift of All" on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30pm in the church.** "The Best Gift of All" is not just a program—it's a chance for our students to share with you their excitement as they tell the Christmas story and for everyone to discover the most precious gift of all: the love of God, shared with us through the birth of Jesus Christ. We hope to see you there, and we encourage families to bring friends, neighbors, and anyone who would enjoy sharing in this celebration of Christmas!

May you experience the true joy of Christmas this year.

Merry Christmas!

May God bless you and your family this Christmas season.

Blessings,

Suzette Quail
Early Childhood Director



Decorate the Sanctuary

Help us decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 1, at 11:45am.



Board and Ministry News...

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF PEACE

**THE NEW PEACE LUTHERAN SHOP IS OPEN!
NEW CHURCH AND SCHOOL ITEMS
COMING SOON!**



The Peace Lutheran Shop is open! Place your orders any time. You can pick up your orders at the office. Limited samples are available in the office to view.

These items represent Peace, and make great gifts! The shop is open all year, but **please remember to order by December 9, 2024 to ensure your order is here by Christmas.** Check out our page at <https://www.peaceshelby.org/peace-lutheran-shop>. Place your orders here: <https://www.peacelutheranshop.com/>.



Save the Date! **Red Cross Blood Drive**

January 20, 2025

12:00-6:00pm

Peace is hosting a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on **MONDAY, January 20, from 12:00pm to 6:00pm.** Please consider donating blood. A single blood donation may help up to three different people.



GIFT GIVING PROGRAM INFORMATION

*Hebrews 13:16 " And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*

Peace Lutheran Church & School is partnering with Gifts For All God's Children to bless families in need. The goal is to ensure that needy children receive gifts at Christmas, allowing them to experience the love of Christ, and the joy of giving.

To participate in this program, please use the QR code, which will take you to the Peace link, showing the children and gift(s) needed. Select a gift and complete the information. Please return the wrapped gift(s) by Thursday, December 5th to your child's classroom or the school office. Detailed instructions are provided when you sign up.

Thank you so much for your interest in this very worthwhile program, bringing joy, hope, and Jesus to children.





**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 8 | 10:30 AM

BRUNCH TO FOLLOW

****NO 8:30AM SERVICE****
NO KIDZONE OR NURSERY

Christmas Concert
December 8, 2024


Join us on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8** for our **Christmas Concert**. Please note that there will not be an 8:30am service this day. Kidzone and Nursery will also not be available.

There will be a brunch following the service.

**4S & YOUNG 5S
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

“THE BEST GIFT OF ALL”

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 11
6:30PM**



**Preschool
Christmas Program**
December 11, 2024

Join us **Wednesday, December 11**, at **6:30pm**, as our preschool students present "The Best Gift of All." Our preschools present the true meaning of Christmas is not found in presents but in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Youth Reindeer Games
COMBINED JYM & HSYM EVENT (5th - 12th grade)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2:00PM-4:00PM

**NO SPEND GIFT EXCHANGE
GAME OR TOY YOU HAVE OUTGROWN**

FOOD, FUN AND GOD’S WORD

VISIT WWW.PEACESHELBY.ORG/YOUTH-MINISTRIES FOR DETAILS
CONTACT HOLLY WITH QUESTIONS




**Reindeer Games
Youth Event**
December 15, 2024

Join us on **Sunday, December 15**, from **2:00pm-4:00pm**, for Reindeer games and a gift exchange. This event is for High School (Grades 9-12) and JYM (Grades 5-8). We will do some things combined the first hour and then split up by age groups the second hour. Bring a game or toy that you have "outgrown" for a no spend gift exchange.

Christmas and New Year’s Office Hours

Office Hours: December 26 – 2025 – January 3, 2025, 8:00am-12:00pm
Closed: December 23-25 and January 1, 2025



60+ GROUP

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 18 | 10AM

SPECIAL SHOWING OF THE
K-8 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

LUNCH AT STEAKHOUSE 22
(NICK'S) TO FOLLOW AT 12:00PM

CONTACT HOLLY TO RSVP



60+ Group to Watch K-8 Christmas Program

December 18, 2024

Join the 60+ group for a special showing of the K-8 Christmas Program, "Carol of the Belles" on Wednesday, December 18, at 10:00am. After the program, we will gather for lunch at Steakhouse 22 at 12:00pm. Please RSVP to Holly for lunch.

K-8 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"CAROL OF THE BELLES"

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 18
6:30PM

K-8 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 18, 2024

Join us on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30pm, as our K-8 students present "Carol of the Belles." Travel with us back in time to the late 50's and see how we will be sharing the sweet Gospel message of the birth of Christ.

FAMILY EVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

12:00PM - 1:30PM



LIGHT BRUNCH SERVED
CHRISTMAS STORY & SPECIAL VISITOR



Comfort and Joy Family Event

December 22, 2024

"Good news of great joy that will be for all people." According to Jesus' birth announcement, joy is the outcome of Jesus' arrival - it is the gift of Christmas for Christmas! Join your Peace family for a light brunch at this **Family Christmas interactive event on Sunday, December 22, from 12:00pm-1:30pm**. There will be a special visitor from the North Pole handing out a gift to each person, young and old! There is no cost to attend!

There is no cost to attend, but we do encourage signing up at <https://www.peaceshelby.org/comfort-joy-family-event> to reserve your spot for this this fun Christmas event.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 24

ONSITE @ 4PM & 6PM | LIVESTREAMED @ 4PM



WAYS TO GIVE



IN-PERSON

Envelope



MOBILE

Peace Shelby App
or text GIVE2PEACE
to 206-859-9405



ONLINE

Peaceshelby.org

A DIFFERENT LOOK AT CHRISTMAS

by Beverly Porter

Why is Christmas always about buying gifts, either for someone in your circle of giving, or hoping for the gift you would like to receive? I have never heard an ad suggesting that the money you would have spent on Christmas gifts, instead be given to a homeless person. What a preposterous idea! The American economy depends on indulgence, Black Fridays and the "Day After Sales"

To be fair, however, most families have made attempts to make Christmas a little different some years. A few creative changes have been:

- Drawing names for gift exchanges
- Giving White Elephant or Recycled Gifts
- Progressive dinners
- Children only get gifts
- Gift cards only
- Decorating contests
- And the most radical one of all: replacing the real tree with an artificial one!



But what if we pursued my original sacrificial suggestion, making Christmas a time to elevate others above ourselves? You may tried some of these intentional plans and have some more creative ideas to add to this list:

- † Become a Salvation Army Bell Ringer
- † Give cookies or a hot drink to Salvation Army Bell Ringers
- † Pay for another's purchase, especially if he is struggling to pay the bill
- † Ask a new family or a family or individual who unable to be with their loved ones during this time to spend Christmas day with your family.
- † Pack a shoebox or take a name from a Giving Tree to give gifts to needy children
- † Send a beautiful floral arrangement to someone who would not be expecting a gift from you
- † Buy a meal or give a gift card to a person who is appealing to your generosity. Do this with no questions or assumptions. (This might be a hard one for some!)

I believe that looking for intentional ways to give, either big or small, would bring greater understanding to what Christmas is really about. God freely gave his most costly gift to an undeserving world, expecting nothing in return. Salvation, through His son, Jesus, is the highest example of taking the focus off self and giving completely to another. Who better can teach us about the true meaning of Christmas than the ONE who came as Christmas: a babe born to die so that we might have the greatest gift ever?

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." JOHN 3:16

Worship Services

On-Site Sunday Worship

8:30am Traditional
10:30am Contemporary

Online Worship

Streaming Sunday at 10:30am
on Peace's App, YouTube Channel and
Facebook Page

Sunday Bible Studies

Adult Bible Studies

9:45-10:30am

HSYM/JYM

9:45am

KidZone and Nursery

During the 10:30am Service

Wednesday Bible Studies

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

10:00am, Gathering Room

Wednesday Night Bible Studies

6:30pm, Bible Study
7:00pm, Zoom Study

Thursday Bible Studies

6:30pm, Women's Study,
Gathering Room

Saturday Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study
2nd and 4th Saturdays, 7:30am

Prayer Group

3:00pm, Mondays, at the
Klein Residence

Church Calendar

<https://www.peaceshelby.org/church-events-calendar>

To subscribe to or to unsubscribe from the .pdf e-news version of the monthly "Peace Lutheran Messenger," please send your request with your name and e-mail address to enews@peaceshelby.org.

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Office Hours

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