



Herald of Peace

December 2020

Peace Lutheran Church,
1301 Ave. D, Billings, MT 59102

(406) 252-5504
peacelutheranbillings.com

Making Christ Available to All by Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out

Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Leadership Directory

Pastor: Rev. Will Sappington
prsappington@gmail.com
office 252-5504 Home 647-8568
Office Manager: Dean Jenson
peaceoffice1301@gmail.com
252-5504
Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger
peacelcyouth@gmail.com
office 252-5504 cell 698-5576
Intern Pastor: Josh Wyman
internpeace@gmail.com
252-5504

Treasurer Steve Frank
Worship Accompanists Robin Goodheart
Sue Vigesaa
Bells of Peace Julie Draeger
Altar Guild Treasure Molly Johnson
WELCA Treasurer Connie Hausauer

Church Council

Dewey Anderson
Mike Brown
Robin Felton
Wendy Goodheart
Holli Miller
Tony Pecarina
Jody Pierce
Dan Quanbeck
Bryan Peterson
Nate Sider
Linda Strosky
Nancy Taylor

Worship Schedule

Saturdays: 5:00 pm
Sundays: 10:00 am
Education Hour: 11:00 am
Sunday Channel 7 at 9:00 am



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Shipwrecked at the Stable

God entered into our world not with the crushing impact of unbearable glory, but in the way of weakness, vulnerability and need. On a wintry night in an obscure cave, the infant Jesus was a humble, naked, helpless God who allowed us to get close to him.

– Brennan Manning from “Watch for the Light:
Readings for Advent and Christmas”

What is your mental image of the place where Jesus was born? I bet yours is like mine. There are animals, but they are exceedingly clean and if they smell at all they smell good. The only sounds are hushed tones. It is very peaceful and very under control. What do you want to bet it wasn't like that at all?

I've witnessed three births and I wouldn't use peaceful or under control to describe any of them.

The quote above comes from one of my favorite authors. It is included as part of a collection of Advent and Christmas readings called, “Watch for the Light.” Brennan Manning's piece is called Shipwrecked at the Stable. If we think of the birth of Jesus as some safe and controlled event we are tempted to not notice the shipwrecks at the stable. Namely, the shep-



Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for November 2020

We Believe in Prayer For praise and thanksgiving ...

Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Laurie Jungling - Bishop - Montana Synod;

For people around the world in need ...

Needs of our neighborhood coping with

Covid - 19 virus

President Donald Trump (requested by Peace member)

Christine & Scotty Soileau – Quantico, VA. (member of Peace)

For illness or injuries .. of members

Nancy Whitmer

Ron Zech

Howard Albers

Doris Berg

Frank Mosdal - hospice care

Kathy Gilbertson

Hank Tungstall - healing

LaWanda Sherseth - healing

Annette Reich - Tender Nest

John Modde - recovery

Kathleen Gregg - healing

Larry Heiser –

For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.

Karen Anderson - healing

Denise- Bonnie Hovik Clausen's daughter in law

Kim Anderson - friend of Jo Pates, Illness

John & Rosanne Mode - John's son JC kidney cancer starting Chemo

John & Rosanne Modde - Rosanne's Wayne , bone cancer

Jon - healing

John, for peace and healing

Mary - comfort

Dorothy

Briana, Lucas, Todd and Kendra

Jim Zeiler, brother of Sharon Hedden, healing

Jenny - Rick & Barb Olson daughter, cancer

Malcom - 6 yrs. old with a brain tumor

Rako Zech & family, Ron's Zech son - cancer diagnosis

Gary Fink - healing

Ann Strecker - friend of Rick & Barb Olson - healing

Laura Fisher (Jodi Peterson's cousin) cancer

Shawn Hanser

Bud Leuthold - friend of Joy Lindberg leukemia

For those grieving...

Ken & Marge Peterson, Bryan & Jodie Peterson & family on the death of Ken's mother Muriel Peterson

Dewey & Doris Anderson, on the death of

Dewey's brother Walfred Anderson

Ken Hoefner, family and friends on the death of Carol Hoefner

April Stark family and friends on the death of

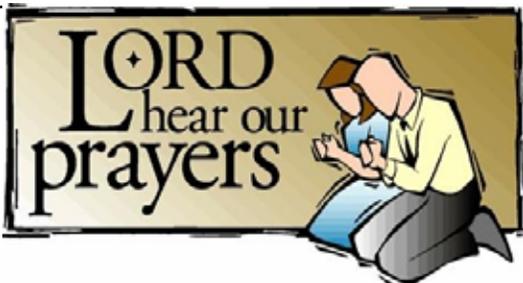
Jane Stark Oct. 31st

With sincere gratitude

Dear Peace Lutheran Church, I'm so grateful for this boxes every year. Thank you for an amazing goodie box. My family and I have really enjoyed them. Have a blessed day. Kaylee Welch

Thank you so much for the Halloween goodies this year. With how hard the pandemic has made school, it was a sweet treat to have some of the things I can't normally buy because I need to save my money. I have already eaten most of the snacks within the first week! Again thank you so much. Kira Kristjanson

Prayer Concerns is a published list of those on the prayer chain, who have given permission to publish their names. If you are interested in praying for these, as well as others, please join the prayer chain. They have leaders who call or email. Please call Lone Bloom at 652-2441 or Lisa Grimsley (698-4121).



Congregational News

A Day in the Life of the Intern

When I was growing up, the weekend after Thanksgiving was a special day in the Wyman household. With our bellies still full from the previous night's feast, we would head down to the basement, and haul the seemingly unending amount of Christmas decorations upstairs. Over the next three days, our house would transform from a normal Minnesota home, to a winter wonderland where every square inch was covered in something relating to Christmas. Boughs of Garland hung from every banister, light up reindeer strewn throughout the front yard, nativity sets in every room, and Christmas trees on every floor. The day after the house was all set up, presents would begin to appear beneath the trees. We weren't allowed to touch the presents, but we could look at them for as long as we wanted. I spent countless hours trying to figure out what could possibly fit into a box of a particular size, wondering what the present would be. The anticipation killed me, and I only had to wait a month.

The Hebrew people who had awaited their coming Messiah had to wait a little longer than a month. It had been hundreds of years since they received the last prophetic word that we have written in the Hebrew Bible. It had been almost 1,000 years since the reign of King David, and the promise that was made to him. And who knows how long it had been since the promises were made to Abraham. These people had waited a long time for their Messiah to come. They may not have known exactly what it would look like, or how it would come, but they had faith that it would in fact come. And eventually, in a little town in Bethlehem, their waiting was finally over.

Our world has been in a season of waiting for a long time too. We have been waiting for a vaccine to come. Waiting for a time when we can safely see our friends and family. Waiting for things to go back to normal. And while our waiting may not quite be over, we are people of promise. We celebrate this Christmas season in the darkest, coldest, hardest part of the year because we are a people who believe that Christ shows up in the most difficult situations. Even if we may not know exactly what it will look like, we know that there is hope on the other side. When things seem hard, and you're not sure how you are going to make it work, look to Mary, the young virgin girl who felt overwhelmed by what she was called to do. We know that even when things seem dark, the light of Christ shines out of a manger. When things aren't going perfectly according to plan, we know that our promised Messiah was born among the animals. We may not know when, or what it will look like, but we have a God who promises to show up. We have a God who will come to us, and meet us where we are, so that we are not alone. We have a God who promises life, and life abundant, even when the brokenness of the world seems to be overwhelming. This is who we are waiting for, this is who is coming, this is who is here.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

-John 1:5

In order to complete 2020 Annual Report all those wishing to submit items must submit them by December 10th. Please submit through E-mail (peaceoffice@bresnan.net) or typed to be scanned to the church office. Thank You



THE LIGHT *shines*
IN THE DARKNESS AND THE
DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.
→ JOHN 1:5



Congregational News

con't from pg. 1

herds, the parents, you, and me. We come to the stable pretending to have it all together, but if we're honest we are all wrecks.

Brennan Manning was a man of faith and a man who knew addiction. He wrote of a time in the early 1970s when he was "an alcoholic, a drunken bum in the gutter." In a time when his friends and family would no longer be near him there was one friend who would fly from Mobile, Alabama to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to sit with him in the gutter.

He put his arm around me... he didn't give me any lectures, he didn't give me any ultimatums... just put his arm around me and said, "Brennan I love you" and "You're going to be ok"

Twice a month for 18 months he did that... just sitting with me, buying me some breakfast, just holding my hand — and for me, Paul Sheldon was the human face of Jesus Christ.

Manning knew what he needed and reached a point when he couldn't pretend about his status as a shipwreck. As I get older I'm finding myself recognizing how out of my control everything is and on my best days I'm honest about it. I'm a shipwreck too. I need those around me to be the human face of Christ to me. I need to remember that in Christ's incarnation we have a God who invites us to get close. God doesn't need me to dress up for that to happen.

This year of all years as we've been doing our best to stay socially distant so that our neighbors and loved ones will be healthy, doesn't it feel amazing to think about the love of God drawing close to us? That is exactly what God did in the incarnation of Christ. And that is what God does for us each and every day. We have a God that does not value power over proximity. What does it mean to you that God for us was introduced with such vulnerability?



My prayer is that you have people who are the face of Christ to you in your weakness and vulnerability. My prayers is that you hear the words, "I love you. You're going to be okay."

This year I won't see you in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. I won't get to see your faces lit up by candlelight as the temperature rises and we sing Silent Night. We'll plan to do that next year. This year I'll meet you at the stable on Christmas Eve. We'll be standing together wherever we may find ourselves. If we're honest about it we'll see that we are shipwrecks desperately needing the love of God. The simple words we share will be: I love you. You're going to be okay. We're going to be okay because God is with us.

Will +

Mission and Service News

Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

Our committee hopes you have a wonderful holiday season. Please consider where you can lend your time and talents this time of year to serve those in need.

Here is the Mission and Service Reaching Out opportunities for December.



St. John's Mending Project- We have Peace members volunteering their mending skills and sewing PPE gowns.



Thanksgiving Baskets- A big thank you goes out to all of the families who donated towards the baskets, helped shopped, and helped with deliveries.



General Holiday Volunteer Opportunities- In order to keep our congregational members safe during the ongoing pandemic, the Mission & Service committee will not be facilitating group volunteer events in December. Individuals can still volunteer on their own for opportunities with organizations such as Family Promise (259-2269) and Salvation Army (245-4659). You can always support Family Promise financially as well.



Family Promise Christmas Gifts- Our congregation has adopted a family to support this holiday season. Please see Pastor Will's mid-week update for additional information. The deadline to support this cause is December 13th.



School Kits to Lutheran World Relief- The Quilting group and the Mission & Service committee continues to collaborate on this project along with congregational assistance for an extended period of time into 2021.

Prayerfully consider serving others with the opportunities above. God bless, and may everyone have a safe and reflective holiday season celebrating the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ!



Peace Quilters

I have been working from home on quilt tops and school kit bags during the past weeks. While there is always something to do, I miss seeing everyone in person and it seems staying home will continue for some time yet. When I talked with some of the other quilters we decided it would be best if we waited until at least January to resume meetings at the church.

I have completed 16 school kit bags and have filled them from the donated items in the gray tub. There is still need for more bags. If anyone would like to sew one, the directions are with the tub. Any twill type fabric or light-weight corduroy fabric is good. I have extra cord so just put the sewn bag in the tub and I will finish it.

Elaine

Worship News

December Worship Themes

All worship is online.

Join us as we move from prophecy to proclamation!

(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)

December 5th & 6th

Second Weekend of Advent

"God is Merciful"

Readings: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Luke 11:13; **Joel 2:12-13, 28-19**

There is a promise the prophet Joel shares with us about who God is and who we are as God's people. There is a hope for a new future and brighter days. Come and hear.

December 12th & 13th

Third Weekend of Advent

"Good News"

Readings: Psalm 126; Luke 4:16-21; **Isaiah 61:1-11**

"That sounds too good to be true." How often have you heard this phrase? Isaiah is painting a picture that for many sounds as if it is too good to be true. For others it sounds like the opposite of what they want. How do you hear this word from the Lord?

December 19th & 20th

Fourth Weekend of Advent

"Defying Expectations"

Readings: Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26; **Luke 1:26-46**

Today, we hear about Mary learning that she would give birth to a son, who she would name Jesus. This was not what Mary was expecting, how does she respond? Would God really use her to fulfill the promises of the Hebrew Bible?

December 26th & 27th First Weekend of **Christmas**

"Lessons and Carols"

Join us virtually for a special service of Lessons and Carols with Communion.

Christmas Eve Festival Worship

On Christmas Eve morning we will premiere our Sanctuary Festival Worship Service. This is the service you know and love with carols, communion, and candles. We invite you to participate with us virtually as you break bread and light a candle to celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will be available on Facebook and on our website.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Outdoors

On Christmas Eve we will have two 15 minute services of carols, readings, and candles. 5pm for last names A-L and 6pm for last names M-Z. Masks are required. If the temperature is unsafe for exposure we will cancel.

People of Peace,

As with most things this year we are going to have to do our Annual Meeting and Coffee with the Council conversations in a different way. Please take a look at the proposed budget for 2021 and write down any questions you may have. In the second weekend in January we will have a Zoom Coffee with the Council where you can raise your questions. If you cannot join by Zoom please reach out to me or any Council member. In our January conversation we will have the updated numbers for the 2020 fiscal year.

Will +

In Person Worship Suspended

At the November Council meeting it was voted unanimously to suspend in person worship as Covid cases climb alarmingly. This decision will be revisited each month at the regular Council meetings. We will continue livestreaming worship and broadcasting on Community 7.

Education and Youth News

Peace Pals

As of now, we are not planning on meeting for Peace Pals for the remainder of 2020. Although, we are working on something special for the Peace Pal kids in 2021. Thanks for being patient. Stay safe and do what you can to help your neighbor!

Youth Group Update

There will be no in-person Youth Group through 2020. We will keep you updated as we move forward. Thank you for your patience!

Confirmation

We are shifting gears for Confirmation. On November 11th, we started an online version of Confirmation in Google Classroom. Each week, there will be a new slideshow lesson and video presentation. Throughout each month, there will be check-ins with the group and 1 on 1 with Vanessa. We are planning to do Confirmation in this way at least through 2020.

The awesome thing about Confirmation being online is that anyone can join us! No matter what age you are, if you'd like to join us for Confirmation or have questions, you can contact Vanessa at peacelcyouth@gmail.com to get more information.

Children's Message

Friends! It's been a while since I have done Children's Messages during our Worship Services. I'm happy to tell you that the Children's Messages are back! If you miss the Message, you can always find it on our past live streamed services on our website and Facebook page.

Dinner Prayer

Since we haven't been able to eat dinner together, I thought I would remind you of our awesome Dinner Prayers that we used to sing! Here is one of them!

Flintstones Dinner Prayer

(To the Tune of the Flintstones Theme Song)

God is great

And God is good

And let us thank Him for our food!

God is great

And God is good

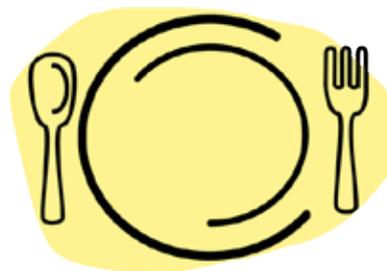
And let us thank Him for our food!

Amen.

Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-men.

Amen.

Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-men.



Christmas Grab Bag!

All Youth Kids! Be on the lookout for a Christmas Grab Bag from Vanessa. I wish we could do our normal Christmas activities, but this Christmas Grab Bag will not disappoint. Crafts, activities, treats, and more! If you're interested in receiving a bag, make sure you let Vanessa know at: peacelcyouth@gmail.com



Congregational News



This Advent season we invited you to virtual worship using *Holden Evening Prayer*, tune in 7pm Wednesday evenings. Go to Website peacelutheranbillings.com and join in the live stream of worship

“Traditions.”

December 2 - Carols Luke 1:46-55

December 9 - The Tree: Life Revelation 22:1-5

December 16 - The Wreath John 12:44-46

December 23 - The Calendar Luke 11:9-13

Worship News

Christmas Eve Festival Worship

On Christmas Eve morning we will premiere our Sanctuary Festival Worship Service. This is the service you know and love with carols, communion, and candles. We invite you to participate with us virtually as you break bread and light a candle to celebrate the birth of Christ. The service will be available on Facebook and on our website.

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In As Much Tree!

This year we are sponsoring a family of 6 who are in the Family Promise program. Will you join us in making this a joyous Christmas for this family?



Keyori, 11 years Juniors size 9 pants, juniors medium shirts, socks, shoes size women's 7 shoe/boot, art supplies, colored pencils, markers, makeup

D'Sean, 10 years boys 14 pants, shirts 14/16, shoes, boots men's 6.5, skateboard, sled

Maricole, 3 years Girls 4T pants, 4T shirts, socks, shoes size Toddler 8, Frozen toys

Dana, 4 years pants size 6, shirts size 6, boys underwear, socks, shoes 12 Toddler, Avengers toys, wrestling toys

Bobbi, Adult Pants women's 14, XL shirts, socks, shoes size 9 women's perfume, jewelery, slippers

Vincent, Adult Men's pants 40X 32; shirts 3XL; men's large underwear boxer briefs, socks, shoes 13 mens, tool set, cologne,



All donations need to be to Peace by December 13th. Thank you!

Community News

Words from the Bishop:

“Patience is a Virtue”

During my brief time in the military, an often-used phrase was “Hurry up and wait!” We were always hurrying to get somewhere and then when we got there, we’d have to wait. We’d get roused out of bed at five in the morning, rush around to dress and get our beds made, run outside, and then stand in formation for a half hour waiting for someone in charge to show up. We’d run to the cafeteria and then have to wait in line forever to get our food. The lines were the worst because standing in line always meant waiting for something without having anything else to do but stand in a line. It was easy to lose patience with the whole system standing in that boring line. But I’m guessing that all that “hurry up and wait” was trying to teach us the patience often needed during times of battle.

These days it’s hard to have patience about anything. We live in a hurry-up culture, where we are promised that we will “get it now, get it fast and get it our way.” And it is amazing how many ways that promise is kept. But if that promise isn’t kept, our anxiety skyrockets and we act out in unloving and destructive ways to ourselves and others. We’re seeing this even as I write while we still wait for election results to be made official in our nation. Patience, it seems, is no longer a virtue in our world.

But for followers of Christ, patience is still an important part of the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22) In fact, the words patient, patience and patiently are used 35 times in the New Testament, each time as an aspect of Christ-like love. Again and again, followers of Christ are called to be patient, especially as we await the coming of Christ.

Patience, however, does not mean to sit and do nothing as we wait. We see this truth in the parable from the gospel this week as the first two servants go forth and invest the gift they’d been given even as they await the return of their Lord while the third servant does as little as possible. (Mt 25:14-30)



Patience means to be active in this world, living in hope-filled faith in God, taking faith-filled risks that are responsive to the Spirit’s presence in our lives. Patience is daring to stay in the place we are, as hard as it can be sometimes, and seeking God’s glimpses of life in the situation while trusting that something hidden will become manifest to us. It does not mean staying stuck in death-filled places where there is no hope, but unless one’s life is truly at stake, it does mean sticking it out as we live God’s activity in the present world, nurturing the times in the same way a mother nurtures a child growing in her.

This kind of Holy Spirit presence, waiting yet active in the already/not yet, can’t be done alone. We need the support, encouragement, love and forgiveness of God and of one another.

And how might we encourage one another in patient living in Christ? Here are three ideas for practicing patience together. First, by simply breathing with one another in silent meditation. Second, by praying to God with each other for the patience we need. And third, by practicing gratitude, intentionally looking for, naming out loud with someone, and thanking God for what God is already doing in our lives. Remember that patience in Christ requires practice: the more we do it, the better we get at it.

So as the book of James reminds us: “Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.” (James 5:7-8)

Struggling in Christ’s patience alongside of you,

Bishop Laurie

Congregational News

Church E-mail Addresses



Pastor Will

prsappington@gmail.com

Church Office

peaceoffice@bresnan.net

Intern Pastor

internpeace@gmail.com

Youth Director

peacelcyouth@gmail.com

Check out the web site:

peacelutheranbillings.com. Web site is updated with, up to date calendar, newsletter in color, Youth page, and photo page.



Church Council Minutes

The approved church council minutes are available at the bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Find us on facebook:
Peace Lutheran Church, Billings MT

Simply Giving Program - Would you find it helpful to have your offerings taken from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors a program called Simply Giving which offers this service for people who wish to have offerings transferred electronically to Peace Lutheran Church account. For those who travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with their intended offerings, and it will keep you from having to make up the difference later. Contact the church office for more details.



Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee is responsible to touch the lives of the people of Peace Lutheran Church by involving them in the life and ministry of the church. One of the most visible responsibilities is fellowship following worship services. We moved from asking service committee members to bring cookies, etc., to providing doughnuts. So, the duties have been reduced and only one or two people are needed for each Sunday. We will continue to assign monthly service committees as we have done in the past. If we have a potluck or other congregational function during the month, the committee may be asked to help. A committee chairperson will be assigned each month and will ask committee members to help with the fellowship/coffee following Sunday worship.

December Serving group

Debbie Hedrick, chair
Bernie Hedrick
Jan Gameon
Lois Gorseth
Joy Lindberg
Robin/John Felton
Jane Stark
Vergenne/Dennis Just
Bonnie Clausen/Ron Zech
Katie Wolverton



The Church Office has a new e-mail address.

peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

Congregational News

Currently Suspended

2020 Circles & Bible Studies:

Everyone is welcome!

Martha Circle

Meets Third Wednesday, at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship hall

Deborah-Katie Circle

Meets 2nd Saturday at 10:30 am
at Peace

Ruth Circle

Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 am
at Hardees on 24th

Peace Lutheran Church Council

President - Tony Pecarina

Vice President - Dewey Anderson

Secretary - Linda Strosky

Dewey Anderson - Abundant Life, Property

Mike Brown - Property

Robin Felton - Education/Youth

Wendy Goodheart - Worship

Holli Miller - Congregational Life

Tony Pecarina - Education/Youth

Jody Pierce - Education/Youth

Dan Quanbeck -

Bryan Peterson - Mission & Service

Nate Sider - Education/Youth

Linda Strosky - Mission & Service

Nancy Taylor - Mission & Service



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Meets every

Wednesday at 6:30 am in the
Fellowship Hall. New-comers

and one-timers are
always welcome

Meeting on Zoom

Boards/Committees

St John's Ministries

Rich Robbins

Rhonda Sappington

Christikon

Kaia Sappington

Mike Brown

Erl Barsness

Lutheran Center

Rhonda Hanson

Debbie Sider

Endowment Trustee

Ed Popp

Molly Johnson

Bernie Mason

Rhonda Hanson

Dean Welliever

Nominating Committee

Dean Welleiever

George Simek

Chuck Sider

Linda Strosky

Holli Miller

Questions about Council Activities? If

you have any questions or comments
regarding any council action - pending or
complete - please contact

President Tony Pecarina

Vice-President Dewey Anderson



**Catch
Worship
Service
Broad-
cast on
Community
Channel 7
Sunday Mornings
at 9:00 am**

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

December 17th

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2021

| CATEGORY | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | October | Year to Date Actual | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>%</u> |
| REVENUES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted Offering | 271,626.47 | 305,000.00 | 317,000.00 | 317,000.00 | 217,705.52 | 301,111.29 | 298,758.58 | 271,626.47 | 248,023.80 | 69% |
| Interest Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 54.33 | 364.72 | 109.37 | 77.09 | 107.16 | 0% |
| Building Use Donation | <u>2,658.00</u> | <u>2,631.00</u> | <u>1,665.50</u> | <u>786.00</u> | <u>786.00</u> | <u>1,665.50</u> | <u>2,631.00</u> | <u>2,658.00</u> | <u>2,614.00</u> | <u>47%</u> |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 274,284.47 | 307,631.00 | 318,665.50 | 317,786.00 | 218,545.85 | 303,141.51 | 301,498.95 | 274,361.56 | 250,744.96 | 69% |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | | | |
| PERSONNEL | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pastor Salary/Housing | 62,607.00 | 64,486.00 | 65,776.00 | 67,092.00 | 55,656.48 | 64,485.98 | 65,106.96 | 63,282.79 | 59,448.22 | 85% |
| Pastor SS Offset | 4,423.04 | 4,555.79 | 4,646.93 | 4,739.90 | 3,931.84 | 4,555.72 | 4,422.86 | 4,294.16 | 4,200.04 | 85% |
| Auto/Pastoral | 2,800.00 | 2,800.00 | 2,800.00 | 2,800.00 | 2,691.45 | 1,466.16 | 2,322.03 | 1,618.55 | 2,046.40 | 96% |
| Pension and Medical | 37,129.00 | 39,240.00 | 40,933.00 | 43,156.00 | 34,512.91 | 39,954.18 | 37,128.24 | 33,059.07 | 31,913.16 | 84% |
| Substitute Pastor | 2,100.00 | 150.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 1,245.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0% |
| Intern Pastor | 13,000.00 | 13,000.00 | 13,000.00 | 13,000.00 | 9,388.84 | 11,980.68 | 12,894.69 | 11,201.50 | 13,928.94 | 72% |
| Conference & Convention | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 584.44 | 961.28 | 976.34 | 527.66 | 0% |
| Pastor's Continuation Study | 1,800.00 | 700.00 | 700.00 | 700.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 183.53 | 529.94 | 31.90 | 0% |
| Office Manager | 28,736.00 | 29,599.00 | 30,191.00 | 30,795.00 | 29,008.81 | 33,329.62 | 30,528.77 | 30,444.12 | 27,363.26 | 96% |
| Office Manager Pension | 3,446.00 | 3,531.00 | 3,440.00 | 3,245.00 | 2,573.08 | 3,291.02 | 3,358.10 | 4,905.06 | 3,554.38 | 75% |
| Office Manager Insurance Offset | 5,628.00 | 5,964.00 | 6,456.00 | 6,768.00 | 5,380.00 | 5,964.00 | 5,628.00 | 4,284.22 | 2,499.90 | 83% |
| Maintenance Person | 1,616.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 236.87 | 793.04 | 3,244.50 | 1,617.22 | 1,109.35 | 12% |
| Worship Accompanist | 4,700.00 | 4,700.00 | 4,700.00 | 4,700.00 | 1,800.00 | 2,350.00 | 2,925.00 | 4,250.00 | 2,695.00 | 38% |
| Youth Director | 13,271.00 | 25,000.00 | 25,500.00 | 26,010.00 | 21,576.72 | 24,096.80 | 13,770.92 | 13,383.78 | 12,600.10 | 85% |
| Youth Director Pension & Medical | 0.00 | 8,290.00 | 8,450.00 | 8,325.00 | 6,981.88 | 9,179.90 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 83% |
| Youth Director Insurance Offset | 1,018.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,017.90 | 1,017.90 | 1,017.90 | 0% |
| Music Assistance | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 125.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0% |
| FICA | 4,405.86 | 5,202.35 | 5,328.17 | 5,437.97 | 4,557.27 | 5,058.53 | 4,492.42 | 4,229.41 | 3,719.85 | 86% |
| Workers Compensation | <u>531.73</u> | <u>540.00</u> | <u>542.00</u> | <u>1,059.16</u> | <u>949.73</u> | <u>510.30</u> | <u>499.34</u> | <u>487.84</u> | <u>355.47</u> | <u>175%</u> |
| Total Personnel | 188,361.64 | 210,908.14 | 215,813.10 | 221,178.03 | 179,245.88 | 207,900.37 | 189,854.79 | 179,581.90 | 167,111.53 | 83% |
| BENEVOLENCE | | | | | | | | | | |
| ELCA - Montana Synod (6%) | 16,297.59 | 18,300.00 | 19,020.00 | 19,020.00 | 13,418.00 | 17,467.00 | 17,559.00 | 15,995.00 | 14,663.00 | 71% |
| Quarterly Gift (5%) | 13,581.32 | 15,250.00 | 15,850.00 | 15,850.00 | 9,543.00 | 11,802.00 | 11,308.00 | 11,206.00 | 8,794.00 | 60% |
| Family Promise | 1,000.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,125.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,000.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 75% |
| Habitat For Humanity | <u>1,000.00</u> | <u>2,000.00</u> | <u>1,000.00</u> | <u>1,000.00</u> | <u>500.00</u> | <u>2,000.00</u> | <u>1,000.00</u> | <u>2,000.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>50%</u> |
| Total Benevolence | 31,878.91 | 37,050.00 | 37,370.00 | 37,370.00 | 24,586.00 | 32,769.00 | 30,867.00 | 29,701.00 | 23,957.00 | 66% |
| PROPERTY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Office Equipment | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 3,500.00 | 1,000.00 | 5,485.51 | 0.00 | 149.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 157% |
| Church - Maintenance | 8,000.00 | 13,000.00 | 13,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 3,604.59 | 10,584.85 | 11,582.15 | 7,132.37 | 6,187.62 | 28% |
| Janitorial Service | 5,200.00 | 5,200.00 | 5,500.00 | 5,500.00 | 4,000.00 | 5,300.00 | 5,300.00 | 4,800.00 | 5,180.00 | 73% |
| Real Estate Taxes | 550.00 | 580.00 | 610.00 | 610.00 | 282.89 | 557.55 | 540.72 | 511.43 | 485.51 | 46% |
| Bi Annual Deep Cleaning | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 | 675.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0% |
| Insurance - Church | 4,709.00 | 5,084.00 | 5,845.00 | 6,315.00 | 5,821.20 | 5,084.00 | 4,709.00 | 4,481.00 | 4,303.00 | 100% |
| Office Supplies | 3,100.00 | 3,100.00 | 3,700.00 | 3,700.00 | 2,451.79 | 3,602.07 | 3,102.34 | 2,727.65 | 3,362.25 | 66% |
| Church - Utilities | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 | 7,899.86 | 10,510.80 | 10,630.49 | 11,105.89 | 11,793.06 | 66% |
| Service Agreements | <u>1,214.77</u> | <u>1,255.12</u> | <u>1,315.00</u> | <u>1,315.00</u> | <u>1,275.16</u> | <u>1,234.59</u> | <u>1,195.35</u> | <u>1,156.92</u> | <u>1,118.35</u> | <u>97%</u> |
| Total Property | 37,773.77 | 43,219.12 | 46,970.00 | 41,940.00 | 30,821.00 | 37,473.86 | 37,885.04 | 31,915.26 | 32,429.79 | 66% |

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2021

| CATEGORY | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | October | Year to Date Actual | | | | | % |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---|
| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | | |
| <u>EDUCATION/YOUTH</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Refuel Meals | 500.00 | 650.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 185.37 | 589.89 | 600.91 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 37% | |
| Confirmation | 600.00 | 600.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 180.00 | 790.80 | 192.33 | 688.33 | 215.20 | 15% | |
| Vacation Bible School | 1,250.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 109.00 | 1,528.90 | 1,659.42 | 1,154.02 | 1,292.53 | 5% | |
| Sunday School | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 179.99 | 585.44 | 333.94 | 103.78 | 439.44 | 36% | |
| Adult Education | 700.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 113.92 | 84.68 | 0.00 | 89.01 | 0.00 | 57% | |
| Bibles | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 99.84 | 162.31 | 39.98 | 32.98 | 93.37 | 33% | |
| Continuing Education | 100.00 | 100.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 93.00 | 53.63 | 0.00 | 0% | |
| Mission Trip | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0% | |
| Youth | <u>1,200.00</u> | <u>1,200.00</u> | <u>2,000.00</u> | <u>2,000.00</u> | <u>591.50</u> | <u>1,811.15</u> | <u>1,375.54</u> | <u>1,244.87</u> | <u>750.65</u> | <u>30%</u> | |
| Total Education/Youth | 5,650.00 | 6,050.00 | 7,800.00 | 7,300.00 | 1,459.62 | 6,053.17 | 4,795.12 | 3,366.62 | 2,791.19 | 19% | |
| <u>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gifts | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 99.98 | 625.00 | 608.97 | 50.00 | 0% | |
| Funeral Luncheon | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0% | |
| Miscellaneous | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 171.00 | 404.97 | 311.91 | 0% | |
| Church Directory | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 482.25 | 0.00 | 0% | |
| Devotional Books | 450.00 | 470.00 | 470.00 | 520.00 | 506.40 | 492.60 | 381.60 | 381.60 | 381.60 | 108% | |
| Consecration Brunch | <u>900.00</u> | <u>900.00</u> | <u>900.00</u> | <u>1,000.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>900.00</u> | <u>935.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0%</u> | |
| Total Congregational Life | 1,750.00 | 1,670.00 | 1,670.00 | 1,820.00 | 506.40 | 1,592.58 | 2,112.60 | 1,877.79 | 743.51 | 30% | |
| <u>ABUNDANT LIFE</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stewardship Supplies | 1,000.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 400.00 | 377.96 | 369.96 | 451.22 | 489.63 | 288.87 | 76% | |
| Advertising/Gazette/Locator | 1,100.00 | 1,200.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,658.50 | 1,199.00 | 1,087.64 | 767.52 | 0% | |
| Evangelism Supplies | 500.00 | 650.00 | 1,000.00 | 800.00 | 168.00 | 804.00 | 668.00 | 635.00 | 250.00 | 17% | |
| Peace Web Site | <u>78.00</u> | <u>78.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>200.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>604.50</u> | <u>0%</u> | |
| Total Abundant Life | 2,678.00 | 2,428.00 | 2,000.00 | 1,400.00 | 545.96 | 2,832.46 | 2,318.22 | 2,212.27 | 1,910.89 | 27% | |
| <u>MISSION AND SERVICE</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Family Promise Hosting | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 185.81 | 135.28 | 83.18 | 0.00 | 67% | |
| Service Days, Supplies & Postage | <u>250.00</u> | <u>250.00</u> | <u>250.00</u> | <u>100.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>81.12</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>60.20</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0%</u> | |
| Total Mission and Service | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 266.93 | 135.28 | 143.38 | 0.00 | 25% | |
| <u>WORSHIP</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christian Copyright License | 1,100.00 | 1,100.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,250.00 | 1,241.00 | 1,174.96 | 1,177.71 | 1,136.00 | 1,126.05 | 103% | |
| Worship Supplies | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,300.00 | 1,300.00 | 714.50 | 1,123.22 | 1,019.58 | 1,123.05 | 1,126.05 | 55% | |
| Media Ministry | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 466.70 | 210.00 | 0.00 | 64.90 | 1,126.05 | 93% | |
| Music Supplies | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 | 192.43 | 78.49 | 101.77 | 215.29 | 0% | |
| Instrument Upkeep | <u>100.00</u> | <u>100.00</u> | <u>100.00</u> | <u>100.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>81.25</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>230.00</u> | <u>0%</u> | |
| Total Worship | 2,850.00 | 2,850.00 | 3,250.00 | 3,300.00 | 2,422.20 | 2,700.61 | 2,357.03 | 2,425.72 | 3,823.44 | 75% | |
| <u>FINANCE</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Check charges | 900.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,533.36 | 1,040.56 | 1,260.67 | 937.46 | 419.29 | 128% | |
| Accounting | <u>2,040.00</u> | <u>2,040.00</u> | <u>2,040.00</u> | <u>2,040.00</u> | <u>1,530.00</u> | <u>2,040.00</u> | <u>2,040.00</u> | <u>2,040.00</u> | <u>2,040.00</u> | <u>75%</u> | |
| Total Finance | 2,940.00 | 3,040.00 | 3,240.00 | 3,240.00 | 3,063.36 | 3,080.56 | 3,300.67 | 2,977.46 | 2,459.29 | 95% | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>274,282.31</u> | <u>307,615.26</u> | <u>318,513.10</u> | <u>317,648.03</u> | <u>242,750.42</u> | <u>294,669.54</u> | <u>273,625.75</u> | <u>254,201.40</u> | <u>235,226.64</u> | 76% | |
| NET INCOME (LOSS) | 2.16 | 15.74 | 152.40 | 137.97 | (24,204.57) | 8,471.97 | 27,873.20 | 20,160.16 | 15,518.32 | | |



December 2020

1 *World AIDS Day* Pray for compassion, understanding and healing for individuals, families and communities worldwide that are living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. Give thanks for the dedicated service and skill of doctors, pastors, public officials, health care educators, care providers and researchers who treat the infected, bring hope to the discouraged and weary, and respond to the disease's spiritual, physical, emotional and social impacts.

2 The Spirit is at work in times of anticipation and yearning, reminding us of God's promises and activity, helping us stay calm and patient, and redirecting our attention from ourselves to our neighbors in need — nearby and around the world.

3 Give thanks for the new ELCA social message "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy." Pray that it will help us understand how government is a gift from God but can also be abused and misused. Ask the Spirit to guide us as we prayerfully reflect on how we can view civic engagement as Lutherans.

4 What do you anticipate and watch for during this season of Advent? Pray for what you yearn and hope for, and give thanks that God is faithful to God's promises, especially through the gift of life to the world through Jesus Christ.

5 As we are immersed in the joy, festivities and busyness of Advent and Christmas, pause to pray for our global neighbors who have suffered through devastating natural disasters and need our support, generosity and assistance. Pray particularly for the many nations that have experienced drought and for those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey and Greece, Typhoon Goni hitting the Philippines and multiple hurricanes impacting Mexico, the Caribbean region and the United States.

6 Pray that the Spirit will give us a measure of John the Baptist's boldness, commitment, humility and resolve as we share the good news of Jesus Christ and the promise of God's love and mercy with everyone we encounter or approach throughout our baptismal journey.

7 Give thanks for caregivers, staff and nurses in senior communities, nursing homes, rehabilitation hospitals, and memory-care and assisted-living facilities. Ask God to grant them strength, wisdom, skill and a spirit of hope and joy as they go about their difficult and often tiring work.

8 Pray for patience, caution and concern for our neighbor during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic; pray that the Spirit and our siblings in Christ will help us cope with and adjust to the implications of the pandemic for this season in which we are accustomed to gathering in person for meals, celebrations, worship, family gatherings and community events.

9 Pray that God will help us lead lives of holiness, godliness, peace and active engagement with the world as disciples of Christ who wait patiently for the day of the Lord.

10 This has been, and continues to be, a very difficult year of coping with and recovering from natural disasters across our country and around the world. Pray that the presence and hope of God will be evident where there is despair, grief and uncertainty over how to begin rebuilding and healing. Pray that neighbors, communities and nations will work together to provide assistance, resources and relief workers where the needs are most critical.

11 Ask for God's forgiveness and take to heart God's word of love, peace, healing and guidance that restores our faith and spirit as children of God.

12 Give thanks for the church traditions that remind us of God's actions throughout history and inspire our faith, generosity and commitment to serve our neighbors in need. Pray that we will carry these meaningful traditions forward and create new rites and traditions that inspire and strengthen all generations in today's changing contexts.

13 Pray that we might passionately witness to the light of Jesus Christ and boldly invite others to believe and to be baptized into the body of Christ and the community of all believers.

14 ELCA Good Gifts provide an opportunity for you to support the ministries and programs — domestic and global — that mean the most to you and the people you love. Give thanks that our church believes God is calling us into the world together and that, through our generosity and love, we can make a difference.

15 What do our gifts mean, and what impact do they have? Pray for thoughtfulness when we buy gifts, for awareness of who we include and exclude, and for mindfulness of how the money we spend during this time of thanksgiving might fulfill God's loving, merciful and generous promises.



December 2020

16 *Los Posadas* This traditional celebration, popular in Mexico and observed by some ELCA congregations, uses lighted paths and processions to follow Mary and Joseph's journey through Bethlehem in search of lodging. Pray that our recollection of Mary and Joseph's experience might prompt us to welcome strangers, immigrants and neighbors in need.

17 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Pray that we will support and encourage each other in these good works and disciplines that keep our spirits, minds and bodies healthy and whole.

18 Pray that, in anticipation of Christmas, we will invite others into the joy of our meals, celebrations, community events and faith. Pray that the Spirit will move us to reach out with acts of love, hope, inclusion and good news to people who are alone, incarcerated or homeless.

19 "The Lord has done great things for us." Rejoice, laugh and shout with joy!

20 Pray that we will be receptive to angels and divine beings sent by God to guide us and bring us good news, as the angel Gabriel did to Mary and Elizabeth. Pray that we will hear God's assurance that "nothing will be impossible with God" and that our response will echo Mary's: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

21 *Winter solstice* On this day with the least amount of daylight, observed as the beginning of winter, pray that we will be drawn to the eternal light of Christ born into the world — a gift for all people and all generations that illuminates God's redemptive love for us and God's desire and intent for how we might live together.

22 Remember in prayer the approximately 26 million refugees, immigrants and asylum-seekers around the world and at our borders, awaiting entry into safe, welcoming countries and communities so that they can rebuild their lives without threats of conflict, persecution, violence or economic crisis. Pray for their safety, that their spiritual, physical and emotional needs will be met, that they will find caring advocates, and that their faith and hope will be strengthened and sustained by siblings in Christ and our faith communities.

23 With prayerful sighs of relief and expressions of gratitude, give thanks for God's covenant to grant human-kind love, forgiveness, new life and redemption through the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

24 Remember and give thanks for the people in your life who taught you the nativity story and recounted the promise God made to us and fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

25 *Christmas Day* Give praise and thanks for God's boundless love, mercy and grace, revealed to the world and all humanity through the light of Jesus Christ — son of God, son of humanity; our source of truth, salvation, new life and wholeness.

26 *Beginning of Kwanzaa* Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration of African culture and traditions that stresses family, community and shared principles. Give thanks for the rich and meaningful traditions, celebrations and practices of our African American siblings and the global African community.

27 Pray for the Spirit to help us understand and have faith in Jesus as the son of God, born to walk among us, live through our daily struggles and needs, teach us God's ways and word, and restore our relationships with God, one another and creation.

28 Pray that we will carry forward the story and significance of Jesus and their implications for our daily actions, relationships and decisions as loved and reclaimed children of God. Ask the Spirit to guide us in responding to God's call to proclaim the gospel, make peace, work for justice, propagate hope and serve our neighbors in need — without partiality, foot-dragging, embarrassment or expectation of reward or credit.

29 Let our prayers, creation and all living things give glory and honor to God, our creator, sustainer, guiding light and redeemer.

30 Pray that the light, celebration and blessings of community we experience as followers of Christ will continue far beyond the Christmas holidays and permeate our daily lives as we participate in God's life-giving work and witness in the world.

31 *New Year's Eve* AA new year can offer hope and enthusiasm for starting anew, or it can bring fear and despair stirred by our human weaknesses and failures. Ask God to help us achieve our new endeavors and resolutions and regroup ourselves in God's grace, forgiveness and newness when we fall short of our expectations and goals. Ask the Spirit to help us encourage, assist and surround with grace people who stumble or whose confidence is unsteady.

Peace Lutheran Church

Non-Profit Organization
1301 Avenue D
Billings, MT 59102-3196

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*God's Work.
Our hands.*

