

# PEACE TALK

01

January 2024 Issue  
The official newsletter of  
Peace Lutheran Church

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**So much more!**

**NEW YEAR'S POSSIBILITIES**



## New Year's Possibilities

BY PASTOR ALEX SMITH

*2 Corinthians 5:16-18*

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.*

Happy New Year, all!

What are you hoping for in these fresh, coming days? Each time we turn over the calendar to a new year we can find ourselves energized by the possibilities of the future. And when I look around Peace, there are all kinds of things to look forward to!

For one, I am excited about all of the new memories that we will make with our building expansion, and all the ministry that we will be able to do together there as a community. For another, I give thanks for the addition of Pastor Elizabeth to our team, and I look forward to welcoming our fourth pastor to the Peace staff later this spring.

I am continually wowed by the number of outstanding volunteers who show up to share Christ's love at our God's Work. Our Hands. events, and I hope to see many more of you in this new year, giving something a try that you've never tried before. And, of course, I am excited about the renewed opportunities to share God's love together through worship and the Word. Because, even as things continue to change, it is God's own Holy Spirit that gathers, centers, and sends us out into the world.

I hope that worship, community, and service at Peace is a part of your rhythm in this new year! Whether you are a regular worshipper or have been away for quite some time, please know that you are welcome here, and that we can't wait to see you again. Come and join us!

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## Annual Meeting

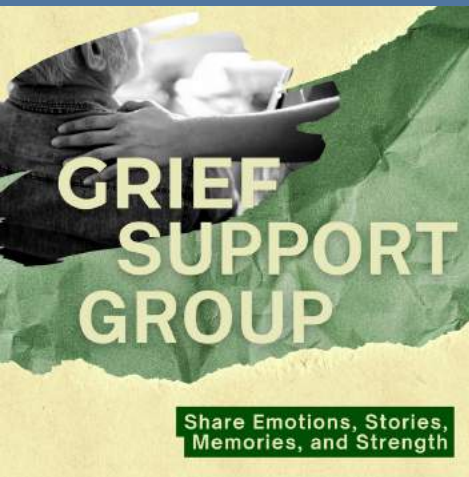
Sunday, January 28 | 12:30pm | Sanctuary

The Annual Meeting is the boring name we give the celebration of Peace's ministry! Join us as we celebrate where we have been and look forward to where the Holy Spirit is calling our great community.

A vote to call a fourth Peace Pastor will also take place during this meeting! Come learn about the pastoral candidate the Call Committee has chosen and have a voice in calling them to join our Peace community.

## Tuesday Support Groups

Beginning in January, Peace will begin offering monthly (4-6 weeks at a time) rotating support groups on Tuesday evenings here at Peace. These support groups will be led by a variety of our own lay leaders, Stephen Ministers, Faith Formation Directors, and pastors alike. Including familiar series like Grief Group, Divorce Care, and Cancer & Chronic Illness Support, we hope to provide a regular rhythm of community in Christ who can walk alongside you through our various challenges. Everyone is welcome to attend, including guests and friends of Peace!



### Grief Support Group

Begins Tuesday, January 9 | 6:00-8:00pm

Grief Support Group is a caring and supportive community for those who have experienced loss. We will continue the foundation from Grief Group (Holidays) with a new session on "Everyday Grief".

Join the pastors, Peace staff, and Stephen Ministry team for a four week series of 2-hour sessions on processing our grief during everyday life after the holidays. Everyone is welcome to attend; whether this is your first time at Grief Group or a return after many seasons of conversation.

Register at [PLC.Life](http://PLC.Life) and mark your calendars for Tuesdays at 6:00-8:00pm in the Shalom Room from January 9-30.

Looking ahead...

February's support group will be Cancer & Chronic Illness Support

If you're feeling called to be part of hosting or facilitating one of our support groups in a leadership role, please contact Pastor Alex ([pastoralex@peacelutheran.com](mailto:pastoralex@peacelutheran.com)) or Pastor Elizabeth ([pastorelizab@peacelutheran.com](mailto:pastorelizab@peacelutheran.com)) for more information and training.



# Chili Cook Off

Sunday, January 28 | 11:00am-12:30pm  
Fellowship Hall

Check out some great chili recipes while helping support our children and youth headed to camp and the ELCA Youth Gathering! Sample chili from three categories (Traditional, Non-traditional, and spicy). Cast your vote for your favorite by placing a donation in that table's jar.

**Winners will be announced at the end of the Annual Meeting.** Each family participating receives 100% of what they raise.

Come for the kids, stay for the chili!

Fundraiser for Peace Kids & Youth

## From the Library

### New Books in the Library in January

*The Story*, an NIV version of the Bible told in simple story form, makes it easy to comprehend the overall events and purpose of the Bible. With a forward by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee, this volume and its companion reference book can open new doors to understanding God's Word.

A picture book of Martin Luther's life and a DVD from PBS by Rick Steeves will shed light on the man who changed the world, especially interesting for those of us who call ourselves Lutheran.

Of special interest is the book *From Trafficked to Treasured*, the true story of Kelly Patterson's life here in rural America. She hopes to help others by sharing her life and give hope and direction to individuals and families who have been caught up in criminal sex trafficking right here where we live.

Also new this month, a book that teaches how to share the Gospel in sign language, great for all ages!

Thank you to the person who donated an entire 24 book set of Guidepost's series *Home to Heather Creek*, the story of grandparents called upon to raise their three grandchildren after the tragic death of their mother. Many difficult situations are met with faith and humor that encourages us to lean on God in hard times.

You can always check online as to what books and materials are available at [librarycat.org/lib/newpeacelutheran](http://librarycat.org/lib/newpeacelutheran) or just stop by on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings!

Library Coordinator,  
June Gillespie





CHURCH ON THE STREET PRESENTS

# LAUNDRY WITH LOVE



## Laundry With Love

A ministry of Church On the Street, Laundry With Love provides a meal and a whole lot of quarters for recipients who don't have the means any other way to access laundry. This is a chance to walk alongside those whose lives are a daily challenge.

### Quarter Collection

We're collecting quarters through Sunday, January 21. Fill up a quarter container found in the Gathering Area and drop them off at the same table! You can also give to the ministry online at [Give.PLC.Life](https://www.giveplc.life).

### Volunteer

Tuesday, January 23 | The Laundromat Co.

Peace is the volunteer congregation at Laundry With Love on Tuesday, January 23. Sign up for a shift today at [PLC.Life](https://www.plc.life) to provide a helping hand at the event!

## Youth Gathering Bonding

The next Youth Gathering Bonding will be Sunday, January 7 from 5:00-8:00pm.

Please contact Deacon Amanda ([amanda@peacelutheran.com](mailto:amanda@peacelutheran.com)) if you/your student(s) will NOT be in attendance.

## Youth Gathering Vitals



64 Youth Participants

10 Adult Leaders

One tAble participant

## PeaceNEXT Update

### Construction Nears Completion!

After one-and-a-half years our construction is almost done. We began using the new playground in September, we moved into the Music Hub in November, the Family Activity Center (and West Entrance) opens on January 6, and the new Gathering Place expansion will be ready by mid-March! These new spaces not only look great, but they will transform the shape of ministry at Peace.

### Amazing Generosity

What makes all of this more amazing is that we actually squeezed in two projects when we thought we could only do one! The first project was to construct two new spaces: the Music Hub (to the north) and Family Activity Center (to the southwest). The cost of constructing these two new spaces was roughly \$6.8 million.

But as we neared the end of construction, we realized that we had raised "just about" the resources needed for the greatly-needed remodeling project that would expand the space outside the Sanctuary by adding a Gathering Place. This area will be located between the kitchen and Sanctuary and set up with tables and chairs to encourage fellowship around worship and accommodate many of our funeral lunches. The cost of that project was about \$1.3 million. All that was made possible by the congregation giving so generously on the front end of the project!

### Thank You!!

A big thank you to those who have supported this project with your prayers and generous gifts. It is amazing what becomes possible when we work together! But we're not done yet...there is a monthly mortgage starting up in February, and if everybody does a little, that will be the easiest part yet!

Be a part of what God is making possible here at Peace! And thank you again for your generosity and making possible the ministry we share!

[peacelutheran.com/NEXT](https://www.peacelutheran.com/NEXT)





## Christmas Eve Meals

Thank you to the following volunteers for making Christmas Eve Meals happen!

Pam Falconer, Thomas Falconer, Kristi Hoff, Holly Kleinsasser, Linda Klos, Roger Klos, Duane Larson, Sheryl McGraw, Shirley Skoglund, Jeremy Skrenes, LuAnn Yoder, Bernice Gertz, Rodney Hoff, and Holly Marty.

## From the Funeral Committee

We'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who baked cakes and helped serve 1,783 people at 18 funerals this year!

What a great ministry and way to honor families who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This is no small undertaking and definitely would not be as easy without each of you who share your time and talents to provide a place for fellowship and reminiscing with family and friends. You all are deeply appreciated!!!

The Funeral Committee: Marilyn Boese, Shireen Ranschau, Mary Quanbeck, Betty Fokken, Arlene Sorensen

## Thank you from WELCA

The Women of the ELCA group thanks everyone who donated to the warm clothing for school kids drive in December.

Plus, a huge thank you for these beautiful handmade scarfs and hats!





# God's Work. Our Hands.

Contact Pastor Alex at [pastoralex@peacelutheran.com](mailto:pastoralex@peacelutheran.com)

## Monthly Mission Moment

Let's share a hot meal and clean laundry with our neighbors in need! Join us for Laundry With Love on Tuesday, January 23 from 3:00-8:00pm at The Laundromat Company (701 N. Cliff Ave, Sioux Falls). Volunteers are invited to donate food, quarters, or serve on one of the volunteer shifts. Sign up to lend a hand at [PLC.Life](http://PLC.Life)!

Laundry With Love is a ministry of Church On the Street that assists local community members with fresh, clean laundry and a free meal as a sign of Christ's abundant love and dignity for all people. Guests are invited to wash up to 3 loads of laundry while visiting with friendly church volunteers at the laundromat. We can wash clothes, sheets, blankets, and comforters, but we cannot wash rugs or pillows. Please note that one load is measured as one 4-load washing machine.

Please contact Pastor Alex for more information.ore information!

## Necessities for Neighbors

Sunday, January 7 | Hygiene products, diapers, TP, & more!

- Volunteers: 1:30pm, Fellowship Hall (park in East parking Lot)
- Guests: 3:00-4:00pm, Fellowship Hall (park in South parking lot)

Register to volunteer online on [PLC.Life](http://PLC.Life) today!

## Feeding South Dakota

Monday, January 8 | Fresh food and produce boxes!

- Volunteers: 5:15pm (distribution crew, 12 people, park on street by East lot)
- Guests: 5:30-6:30pm, East Parking Lot (please do not arrive earlier than 4:00pm)

Register to volunteer online on [PLC.Life](http://PLC.Life) today!

## Laundry With Love (COTS)

Tuesday, January 23 | Fresh laundry and a hot meal

- Volunteers: 3:00pm-8:00pm (Donate hot food, quarters, or serve on a two-hour shift)
- Guests: 3:00-8:00pm (You may wash up to 3 loads of laundry. Find the sign up link on the Laundry With Love Facebook Page — [facebook.com/LaundryWithLoveSiouxFalls](https://facebook.com/LaundryWithLoveSiouxFalls))

Register to volunteer for this amazing service online at [PLC.Life](http://PLC.Life) today!



Want to find out MORE about regular service and outreach events in our community? Connect with Pastor Alex at [pastoralex@peacelutheran.com](mailto:pastoralex@peacelutheran.com) or by calling the church office!





# Worship and Music

Contact Pastor Alex at [pastoralex@peacelutheran.com](mailto:pastoralex@peacelutheran.com) or Bob Levesque at [bob@peacelutheran.com](mailto:bob@peacelutheran.com)

## Past Services

Did you miss worship or have problems with the live-stream? Previous worship services are available anytime at [peacelutheran.com/Services](http://peacelutheran.com/Services)



## Sermon Series

January 6, 7, & 10 | The Baptism of Our Lord | Mark 1:4-11  
After celebrating Jesus' birth, we begin the season of Epiphany by celebrating the baptism of Jesus by the prophet John, and God's word of love and blessing upon him as the savior.

### Lifeline

As our healer and savior, Jesus Christ is our lifeline! Come and hear the good news that God's healing mercy and tender compassion is given FOR YOU, no matter what challenge in life that you face. This year we'll be exploring God's great story of salvation through the gospel of Mark, and the New Testament stories during this first season of Epiphany are all about Jesus' ministry of healing and restoration for the body, mind, and soul. As Jesus himself reminds us in Mark 2:17, this is great news—and not just for those who are perfect, but for those who are sick and in need of a savior. We hope that you'll come and hear this good news with us!

January 13, 14, & 17 | Sick! | Mark 1:29-34  
Epiphany 1

Jesus heals a crowd of sick people gathered around his friend Simon's home. In our own times of illness and disease, in every kind of form that might take, Jesus offers us a word of comfort and healing.

January 20, 21, & 24 | Paralyzed! | Mark 2:1-12  
Epiphany 2

Jesus heals a paralyzed man. In the times when we feel inhibited by the hurt, fear, and injury of this world, Jesus helps us find movement, healing, and new life once again.

January 27, 28, & 31 | Captive! | Mark 5:1-20  
Epiphany 3

Jesus heals a man possessed by violent demons. In the times when we feel like we are captive to powers of sin, death, and evil, Jesus helps us to discover freedom and liberation.



# Music

What a great season of joy we shared at Peace! With our Christmas concert, our Cantata, our Wednesday string group, our children's musical, and ALL our Christmas services, the month was filled with beautiful music! Thank you to ALL our talented musicians who shared their talents and brought joy to our church and community. A big thank you to our audio/video team who has made sure everything sounded great and looked great in worship and online. Lastly, thank you to Judy Lucas and her team of worship coordinators and volunteers. Worship would not happen so smoothly without you. We truly are a blessed church community!

As we begin 2024, now is the time to try new things. Why not join one of our music groups or consider doing something for special music during one of our worship services? I am sure you will be blessed by being able to share your gifts, and I am equally sure our congregation will be blessed by you. Be sure to sign up online, or speak to any of our music directors. If music is not your thing, I'm sure Judy Lucas would love to hear from you and would be able to plug you into one of our much needed worship volunteer positions.

## **Bob Levesque**

Worship Teams, Brass Choir, String Ensemble,  
Peace Symphonic Band, Peace Symphonic Orchestra

## **Darya Levesque**

Jubilation Children's Choir, Celebration Children's Choir, Special Music Coordinator

## **Nancy Lenander**

Adult Choir, Adult Bells, Youth Bells, and Children's Handchimes

Be sure to check the bulletin board across from the main bathrooms to see what special music will be happening in January.





# Children's Ministry

Contact Pam Tetzlaff at [pam@peacelutheran.com](mailto:pam@peacelutheran.com)

## Anniversary of Baptism

January 6, 7, & 10, 2024 | During each service

We will be celebrating those baptized in 2023 at all worship services. Watch for information on picking up a special package if you have a child that was baptized!

## 2024 Summer Camp

We are currently taking registrations for Lutherans Outdoors camps! Please head to [PLC.Life](https://www.peacelutheran.com/PLC.Life) to sign-up today!

## No Sunday or Wednesday School

January 14 & January 17



# Youth Ministry

Contact Deacon Amanda Randall at [amanda@peacelutheran.com](mailto:amanda@peacelutheran.com) or Holly Marty (DIY Confirmation) at [holly@peacelutheran.com](mailto:holly@peacelutheran.com)

## Confirmation

Traditional Confirmation

- **No Confirmation on Wednesday, January 17**
- 6th Grade
  - Wednesday, January 10 | Journey Together
- 7th Grade
  - Wednesday, January 3 | Journey Together
- 8th & 9th Grade
  - Wednesday, January 31 | Journey Together

DIY Confirmation

- 6th Grade | Sunday, January 7 at 11:15am in the Shalom Room
- 7th Grade | Sunday, January 21 at 11:15am in the Shalom Room
- 8th & 9th Grade | Sunday, January 28 at 11:15am in the Shalom Room







## Middle School

### Augustana University Faith Fest

Saturday, February 10 | 10:00am-10:00pm

It's time again to sign up for Augustana University's annual Faith Fest! Join us at the university for this 1-day retreat opportunity for 6th through 8th graders hosted by Augie students on Saturday, February 10.

This year's event will include service projects in the community, musical guest Tangled Blue, worship, crafts, and tons of games! A registration fee of \$75 per youth covers the cost of two meals, Faith Fest souvenir, and all program expenses.

Invite your friends and sign up online at [PLC.Life](http://PLC.Life) by **Friday, January 26!**

## High School

### Youth Group

Hey, high schoolers! Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm! Join us for fun, fellowship, and time to talk about how we live as God's people.

Join the GroupMe chat!



## Seniors Ministry

Contact Holly Marty at [holly@peacelutheran.com](mailto:holly@peacelutheran.com)

### Seniors Ministry Game Days

Thursdays, January 4 & 18 | 1:00-3:00pm | at Peace

Join us for a game of cards the first and third Thursday of the month from 1:00-3:00pm. The coffee will be on, treats prepped, and the games will be ready!

### Seniors Ministry Potluck

Monday, January 22 | 12:00pm | Shalom Room

Potluck suggestion by last name:

- A-M | Salad or Dessert
- N-Z | Hot Dish or Entrée
- Beverages, plates, napkins, and silverware will be provided

Program at 12:45pm will feature Peace's own Pastor Elizabeth Platts talking about "A Few of My Favorite Things"!





# Staying Connected

## Power of Prayer

This group will resume and be led by Pastor Elizabeth! We'll meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30pm in the C/E room - located in the new Music Hub. The first meeting will take place Thursday, January 25, 2024

We'll spend time engaging in prayer for each other, our world, and all those in need. We'll also use a study guide, that we'll choose at the first meeting, to delve deeper in the word. All are welcome to attend!



## The Wired WORD™

## Women's Weekly Study

Wednesdays | 6:30am | Online via Zoom

Would you like to attend an early morning study group in your pajamas? All women of Peace are invited to join us online at 6:30am every Wednesday via Zoom. We're always open to new members.

Currently, we're using a subscription study service called *The Wired Word*, which ties current events and people to scripture. There is no cost for materials; once you sign up, you will be emailed each weeks' reading and study questions. See you online!

## Forum

Study Group | Sunday at 9:00am | Shalom Room

Want to get a big picture overview of the Bible? Join us for this four-week series as we take a look at Crossways International Biblical Timeline! We'll look at the main themes and stories from Genesis through Revelation. Using a timeline (provided) and Bible, we'll explore God's Big Story.

Led by Pastor Elizabeth and Holly Marty. Meets Sundays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 9:00-10:00am in the Shalom Room.

## The Chosen Study: Season 3

Sundays | 3:30pm | Shalom Room or Online via Zoom

The journey continues! Encounter the story of Jesus in an all new way with this made-for-tv-series. Season 3 picks up from the Sermon on the Mount. For this season, we'll meet Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm, to view a new episode each week, followed by conversation and discussion from 4:30-5:00pm

If you haven't seen Season 1 or 2, they are free to watch at [watch.thechosen.tv](http://watch.thechosen.tv), on The Chosen app, or check out the DVD from the Peace library.

If you're not able to attend in person, watch the episode on your own and join us via Zoom for the conversation. Register online at [PLC.Life](http://PLC.Life) to receive email reminders and the Zoom link.

Sundays starting January 7 and continuing through February 25.







# Peace Staff

## Pastors

Paul Stjernholm  
Alex Smith  
Elizabeth Platts

## Directors

Pam Tetzlaff - Faith Formation: Children & Family  
Deacon Amanda Randall - Faith Formation: Teens & Young Adults  
Holly Marty - Faith Formation: Adults  
Bob Levesque - Worship and Music  
Dustin Pederson - Communication  
Lisa Fowler - Office Manager  
Teresa Neugebauer - Business Manager  
DeAnna Dreesman - Preschool  
Tara Foley - PeaceCARE and Kids World

## Staff

Gwyn Snaza - Receptionist (Monday-Wednesday)  
Connie Stout - Receptionist (Thursday & Friday)  
Reverend Chris Matson - Church On the Street  
Ron Stout - Transportation Coordinator  
Judy Lucas - Worship Coordinator  
Darya Levesque - Music Coordinator  
Judy Hilleson - Worship Host  
Audrey Prostrollo - Worship Host  
Belinda Prostrollo - Worship Host  
Miranda Fox - Worship Host  
June Gillespie - Library Coordinator  
Jose Nevarez - Custodian  
Jordan Simon - Custodian  
Kristen Seeman - Custodian

## Wedding Coordinators

Amy Stensland  
Sonja Steever

Saved by  
God's grace,  
we are called  
to be  
instruments  
of God's  
peace

## Music at Peace


Darya Levesque - Children's Music  
Nancy Lenander - Adult Choir, Youth Bells, Handchime Choir,  
& Adult Bell Choir  
Bob Levesque - Peace Brass, Peace String Ensemble,  
& Worship Teams  
Kyle Quanbeck - Organist  
Denise Edwards - Saturday Service Pianist



## Worship

In-Person & Online

Saturday  
5:30pm - Piano Led

Sunday  
8:00am - Organ Led  
9:00am - Band Led   
10:10am - Organ Led  
11:15am - Band Led

Wednesday  
7:05pm - Band Led

*Find online worship at [peacelutheran.com/Live!](https://www.peacelutheran.com/Live!)*