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Messenger of Peace is a publication of: Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wautoma, WI.
Purpose: Messenger of Peace serves the Peace Lutheran Church family with information about people and events that are part of the Peace ministry and with articles that encourage Christian living.
Articles: Please forward information and articles to Christine in the office by the 3rd Sunday of each month. Email it to: peacechurchwautoma@gmail.com.



Messenger of Peace

December 2020

Advent and Christmas Services and Events
Thursdays, December 3, 10, & 17
Midweek Advent Worship 7 pm
Sunday, December 6
Advent by Candlelight 1 pm
Sunday, December 20
Children's Christmas Service 9 am
Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm
Friday, December 25
Christmas Day Worship 9 am
Thursday, December 31
New Year's Eve Worship 7 pm

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So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

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Please remember the following things when you come to church:

Masks are required inside the building

If you don't have a mask, we have disposable and fabric re-usable ones

Please socially distance in the sanctuary

Families can sit together with no restrictions; Sit every third pew & stay six feet apart

Offerings

Leave your offering in the plates at the end of the aisle

Please use the hand sanitizer when you enter the building and whenever you touch any commonly touched surface. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and try to not touch your face.



Advent by Candlelight

December 6 at 1 pm

Let Your Light Appear



Please RSVP to Christine (787-3856) to guarantee a spot at Advent by Candlelight. Seating will be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.



From our Pastor

Remember God's Promise Kept with the Candy Cane



We see them every year at this time. They have become one of the enduring symbols of the Christmas season. We eat them. Sometimes we hang them on our Christmas trees or put them out in our yards as decorations. But like the Christmas tree and the wreath, the candy cane has a much deeper symbolism for us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior again this year. They can be a great help to us as we remember God's promise kept with a candy cane!



Take a good look at a candy cane. They bear a striking resemblance to a shepherd's staff. This reminds us of the first worshippers that first Christmas night, the joyful shepherds huddled around the manger of baby Jesus. Those shepherds' hearts were transformed by the message of the angels from fear to joy, and they boldly shared with others the good news of Christ's birth. Luke records for us in those familiar words, *"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'"* Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."* When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, *"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."* So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." That staff shape also reminds us of Jesus as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is our Good Shepherd who came to seek and to save the lost by laying down his life on the cross for his sheep to forgive their sins.

Turn the candy cane upside down, and what do you have? The letter J which is the first letter of the name Jesus, or Joshua, which literally means Savior. Jesus crushed the head of the devil. He has freed us from the prison of sin. As the angel said to Joseph, *"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

Look now at the colors of the candy cane. Behind those red stripes is the hard white base of the treat. It reminds us of our Savior-God. Jesus is the sinless, pure Son of God. He came to our world to live a life of perfect obedience to his Father's holy law in the place of each one of us. *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin."* Over the white candy base are painted red stripes. These remind us of the suffering Jesus came to endure that we might not ever know it. Jesus was tortured, mocked and crucified that we might never know the everlasting spiritual pain of hell. *"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."* The suffering of Jesus means we can find true joy and peace in this season of Christmas.

So the next time you see a candy cane, remember the promises of God kept for you at Christmas by the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. By his coming, the head of the serpent the devil has been crushed. Your sins have been forgiven. You now have a place in heaven. Remember God's Christmas promise kept for you every time you see a candy cane.



A Message from WELS President Schroeder

Thankful Even Now?

The apostle Paul was under arrest in Rome for the second time. His first arrest had ended in his acquittal and release from prison. The second time would end differently. Paul knew that it would end with his death at the hands of his Roman captors.

You might think that Paul's heart would be heavy and filled with fear, but Paul's second letter to his young coworker Timothy shows something different.

He wrote, *"I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did."* He thanked God for Timothy, for Timothy's faith, for the instruction given to Timothy by his mother and grandmother. He recalled his own suffering for the sake of the gospel and pointed to God's grace-filled with thanks for what God had done for him in Christ. He looked down at the chains confining him but said with gratitude, *"But God's word is not chained."* He looked back on some of the sufferings he endured as he proclaimed Christ—but thanked God for rescuing him from all of them and praised God for delivering him *"from the lion's mouth."* Even now facing death, he wrote, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day"* (2 Timothy 4:7,8). In the most difficult times, Paul wrote from a heart filled with sincere thanks to God for his gracious blessings.

The year 2020 has been unlike any in our memories. Yet just as the apostle Paul viewed his dire surroundings and his past struggles as opportunities to see and rejoice in God's grace, so we have much to be thankful for even in these difficult times.

God has worked in us a renewed appreciation for worship and fellowship with our fellow Christians. Congregational leaders across the synod developed innovative ways to ensure that worship and the weekly proclamation of the gospel could continue. Throughout the synod, God's people have not neglected their thank offerings that support the work of their congregation and synod. New mission opportunities continue to open up before us even as the nation and world have shut down. We appreciate the freedom to worship when in the past that freedom was easily taken for granted. We value more than ever the blessing of work and a job. Children are looking forward to school like never before. We've experienced family closeness and communication. We've been reminded of just how much we depend on God to keep us safe and healthy and what a blessing it is when he does. In a nation in political and social turmoil, we are motivated to express our values through our participation in the political process. And looking at all of those things that have gone so terribly wrong, we also hear the Shepherd's voice calling each of us to repent, to turn to him, and to treasure his daily forgiveness.

Yes, in many ways this has been a year we may want to forget. But in so many other ways, despite the chaos and confusion and uncertainty, we will say and sing again, *"Now thank we all our God!"*



News You Can Use

News from Synod and national & local news that affects lives of Christians.



So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Peace Church Council Members

Terry Proctor, President 920-420-8190
AllSeasonsQuality@att.net

Tom Klusmeyer, Secretary 920-312-1148
pastortom@campphillip.com

Fred Bohlmann, Maintenance Committee
414-975-2651 fsbohl1989@gmail.com

Bob Lang, Stewardship Committee
414-313-0662 bnlangs42@gmail.com

Kevin Bohn, Outreach Committee 920-765-2146
kbohn93@gmail.com

Jim Schroeder, Board of Elders 920-787-4331
schroederjimjan@gmail.com

Bob Wedell, Financial Secretary 715-228-3957
themayor@uniointel.net

Tom Welty, Education/Communication
715-927-0550 wthomaslinda@gmail.com



Jesus is Worth the Wait

Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. (Isaiah 25:9a)

If something is worth the wait, we'll wait for it. We'll wait 10 minutes at Starbucks. We'll wait 20 minutes in the drive through at Chick-fil-A. We'll grind through four years of high school to get to graduation. We wait for friends to be there for us when we need them. Because if something or someone is worth the wait, we'll wait.

But any kid at Christmas can tell you how hard it is to wait when eyeing up those gifts under the tree. Waiting demands patience and trust—trust in that product or the person you're waiting for—trust that they are worth the wait. If they're not, we'll take our business elsewhere. We'll find new friends. Because if something is *not* worth the wait, we won't wait for it anymore.

What about Jesus? Is *Jesus* worth the wait? It's hard to wait when we don't know *how long* we have to wait. It's hard to wait when things seem urgent and desperate, when we hurt, or when we are ridiculed for our faith. It's hard to wait when things are out of control and we can't see God's plan. The more we have to wait, the more we start to worry. Is Jesus really worth the wait?

Jesus—the promised Messiah *has* come into the world, suffered the punishment that brought us peace, and risen from the dead. He *has* defeated sin, death, and the devil. And he *will* deliver you. Our God fulfills his promises. His people never wait in vain. The very God who gave you life and breath—is the same God who took on human flesh to give up his *life* so that not even *death* itself can separate us from God. That Savior is the God we trust in. That Savior is worth waiting for always.

Prayer: Gracious God, you alone are our rock and our redeemer. Help us trust in you and your gracious promises as we wait for you to take us home to heaven. Amen.

<https://wels.net/teen-dev/td20191222/>



Church News

Updates Needed

Please notify the office know if you have any contact information changes this year: phone numbers, emails, or address. You can email at peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com or drop off a copy of your changes during regular office hours before January 5. Thanks for helping us stay current!

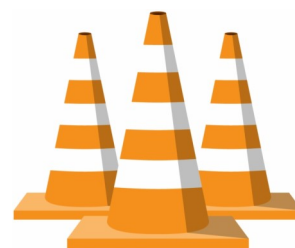
Peace Pantry Hours



The Peace Pantry is open during regular office hours during the week and by appointment. Due to COVID-19, those who utilize the pantry will receive pre-packed bags/boxes. Call Christine at 920-787-3856 for more information.

Stewardship Committee

Christian Stewardship means sharing God's gifts and talents that were given to us.



The Stewardship Committee, together with the Building Grounds Committee, is raising funds to re-pave our parking lot. Together we can raise enough money to beautify and provide a safe parking lot for our congregation and visitors.

Prayerfully consider making an offering to this important fund! Be sure to mark your offering "Parking Lot Fund" to ensure it gets to the right place. Please see Bob Lang (414-313-0662) or Fred Bohlmann (414-975-2651) for more information.

Serving in Christ,
Bob Lang, Stewardship Chair



Holiday Season Office Hours

Regular hours are: Tuesday-Friday 8 am-4 pm

The office will be closed: December 22-January 1 for Christmas

Please call Christine at 920-765-2147 if you need office assistance during that time.

Trunk or Treat

Peace held their first Trunk or Treat during regular trick-or-treating hours on November 1. We had over 200 kids swing through! Thanks to everyone who participated or donated candy!



While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



Church News

Pioneers News

Our October meeting was filled with learning about how U.S. elections work- we watched a School House Rock video about the Electoral College- and held a mock election. The Boy Pioneers learned about their walking sticks, concentrations (special topics they can learn about), and how to level up in the LBP program. The Girl Pioneers began work on their Special Achievement for the year- Food and Nutrition. They learned how to read a label and proper serving sizes. The Lutheran Pioneers meet the last Sunday of each month at 11:30 am. Lunch is included! If you know any child that would benefit from joining Pioneers, please encourage them to join- or to reach out for more information. Kids do not have to be a member of Peace to join!
Your Pioneers Leaders, Christine, Kevin, & Becca

Thanksgiving Food Drive

My thank you can't be loud enough to everyone who donated money and food for this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive! We were able to make boxes for ten families in our community! Thank you to those who helped deliver the boxes as well!

*"For I was hungry
and you gave me food to eat.*

I was thirsty

and you gave me something to drink.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me....

Just as you did it for one of the least of these

brothers of mine, you did it for me."

Matthew 25:35



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.



But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Christmas for Kids

Due to COVID, we will not have an in-person Christmas for Kids event.

But, we know how important it is for families, so we are offering a Christmas for Kids Curbside Pick-Up! Come pick up a bag for your child and have everything you need to do a Christmas for Kids party at home!

Pick up: Sat, December 19 from 3-5 pm

At: Peace Lutheran Church
335 West Prairie St, Wautoma

Teach your children
the true reason
for the season!

Call Heather Tews
with any questions: 262-312-8562



News About Our Church Family

Sunday School Corner

Every Sunday 10:15 am- 11:15 am

Sunday School is in full-swing! We are keeping our kids safe by encouraging socially distancing, not sharing supplies, and our wonderful custodian has been disinfecting our rooms each week. Our yearly Children's Christmas Service will be on Sunday, December 20 at 9 am. We will be rehearsing during Sunday School times on November 29, December 6, & 13. We will have one Saturday practice on December 19 from 9-11:30 am. We will not have Sunday School on December 20 or 27.

October Lessons for 4K- 6th Grade

Date	Lesson
Nov 29, Dec 6, 13	Christmas Rehearsal
Sat, Dec 19 9-11:30 am	Christmas Rehearsal
December 20	Children's Christmas Service
No Sunday School December 20 & 27	
January 3	Jesus heals the centurion's servant



Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Sunday School is an extension of the family. We are here to assist families in their job of teaching and preparing young Christians for life. We consider it a privilege to serve the families of our congregation and urge each of you to take an active role in the Christian education of the children in your lives.

Please speak with me, any Sunday School teacher, or Pastor for more information about Sunday School, to volunteer, or to donate to the Sunday School program.
Karin Hetcher (920-240-6201)
Sunday School Superintendent

Visit the Church Library

If you're looking for Advent and Christmas books, look no further! For babies and toddlers, we have many board books like "Touch and Feel Christmas" by Heather Hemming and "Angel! Angel!" by Cherie Pless Ditmann. For older children, check out "Mary, Did You Know?" by Mark Lowry. Adults: check out "Luther's Christmas Book" and "Celebrate Jesus! At Christmas: Advent through Epiphany." There are so many choices for all ages! Utilize our library and grow in faith!



Birthdays

- 12/5 Pam Leifer
Kenneth Doubek
- 12/8 Joe Siegel
- 12/11 Bob Boelk
Neal Roebke
- 12/13 Karen Klamm
Sandra Klamm
- 12/18 Delores Bliske
Mindy Hintz
- 12/19 Jim Lichtenberg
- 12/20 Heather Tews
- 12/23 Phyllis Schmidt
Everett Schulz
Tom Jones
- 12/24 Christine Anderson
Dawn Wedell
Karen Hetcher
- 12/25 Jesus
Christine Bohn
- 12/26 Gene Wedde
- 12/27 Russ Nero
Mackenzie Sigourney
- 12/28 Jim Mosier



Anniversaries

- 12/30 Rod & Judy Nelson (63)



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, that means the church does not have it. Please drop off dates at the church office, call 787.3856 or email peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.



Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.'