



# Peace Progress

Editor, Kay Glathar

December 2016

## A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Family of Peace,

We are entering the flu season. If you do catch the flu, expect some of these not so pleasant symptoms: headache, runny nose, temperature and general ache. Because of these symptoms, our family has gone early and received our flu shot. No way are the Lucke's slowing down this season because of the flu!

I would, however, like to point out a virus this season that is worth catching. Its peak season falls in the month of December. The virus is called Advent. Symptoms of this once a year outbreak include inner hope, peace, joy and love. There is a high chance that many could come down with this virus and experience some of these other symptoms (as described by Faithinkubators):

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry.
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.

As your pastor, I highly suggest that you catch this Advent virus—it will show itself each Sunday lead-

ing up to Christmas beginning November 27<sup>th</sup>. To put yourself in the best position to do so, prepare each week for church by reading the paragraphs below for each Sunday. You can also find the virus during our Advent mid-week services November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm—our order of worship will be Marty Haugen's Hol-



den Evening Prayer.

I greatly look forward to seeing these symptoms manifest themselves in you! May the Lord Jesus be our greatest visitor in our homes and church this Advent and Christmas season!

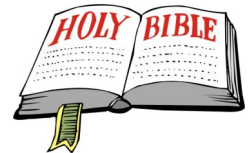
In peace,  
*Pastor J.*

## Preparing for Worship

Scripture lessons for December:

### November 27:

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 21:1-11



**A Thought for Preparation:** If we cannot predict the events of a single day, what makes us think we can predict when the world will end? God has a private calendar and we are not privy to it. Therefore, it is our responsibility to be ready for the end, all the time. This doesn't mean we focus on the end only. If we lived like that nothing would get done. There is nothing wrong with being involved with the cares and responsibilities of the day. We do, however, need to be wary of becoming so immersed in the things of this life that we forget preparations for the next.

*(continued on page 2)*

**December 4:**

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12



**A Thought for Preparation:** God created the world to live in joy, peace, hope and harmony. This has always been God's intention and the ideal plan for humanity. Unfortunately, since the entrance of sin on the scene, quite the opposite has been true. We often live in misery, war, despair, and discord. As God's people, we are to set the example for the rest of the world by preparing our own hearts in such a way that the world may see and know God's loving will for all people.

**December 11:**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
James 5:7-11  
Matthew 11:2-15



**A Thought for Preparation:** What are doing in your life and in your home to show your trust in God as you prepare for the Messiah's return? We want to see Jesus as the true Messiah, the true guest, the true company this season. If Jesus is God in the flesh, then we will have no greater visitor this season. If Jesus is soon here, then we had better prepare for our great company. The house must be cleaned inside and out. We had better not just stuff the trash in the closet, but throw it away. So, too, our hearts must be cleaned inside and out. We better not just stuff anger, hatred, grudges, and broken relationships in the closets for the next two weeks. It is time to deep clean!

**December 18:**

Isaiah 7:10-17  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

*(continued)*

**A Thought for Preparation:** All of our lessons today describe individuals who were resistant to God's plans for their lives. Ahaz, piously refused to ask God for a sign but was given it anyway by Isaiah. Joseph, engaged to a pregnant teenager, had determined to divorce Mary because the child wasn't his. Many of the people called by God for specific purposes didn't want to do what God wanted them to do: Noah, Moses, Gideon, Jeremiah and Peter. What does this tell us as we prepare for Christmas? We need to be open to God and His plans. Our Creator is speaking to us all the time. How ready and willing are we to listen?

**December 25:**

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-6

**Two Special Events!**

1. Disney's Beauty and the Beast will be performed at Philomath High School Dec. 1, 2, & 3 from 7PM—9PM.
2. 13th Annual Christmas Concert - A Friends of the Family Community Event will also be on Dec. 1 from 7PM—9PM at Austin Auditorium, Giustina Gallery in Corvallis. Free to the public. Donations Welcome. Sponsored by Friends of the Family Ministries.

**Attendance and Grace of Giving**

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
10/23/2016	120	Offering	\$2,028
10/30/2016	114	Offering	\$4,661
11/6/2016	131	Offering	\$5,094
11/13/2016	122	Offering	\$1,615
11/20/2016	120	Offering	\$1,843

**Holiday Cheer**

Dear Members of Peace,

Through its Holiday Cheer program, Philomath Community Services (PCS) provides hygiene baskets and gifts for children aged 0-18 years to families in need. We are asking if your congregation would be willing and able to donate items to complete 3 hygiene baskets. Someone from Holiday Cheer can collect the items from you the week starting December 5 or the items can be brought to Philomath Community Services up through December 9.

Hygiene basket contents:

- 1 – sturdy laundry basket
- 1 – liquid laundry detergent
- 1 – dish soap (sink not machine)
- 2 – hand soap (bar)
- 1 – hair shampoo
- 1 – hair conditioner
- 1 – hand lotion
- 1 – toothpaste
- 1 – dental floss
- 4 – toothbrushes
- 2 – men's deodorant
- 2 – women's deodorant
- 1 – pack razors (dozen)
- 1 – pack toilet paper (6 rolls)
- 2 – roll paper towels

Thank you for your consideration to this request. PCS is grateful for any donations your organization is able to provide.

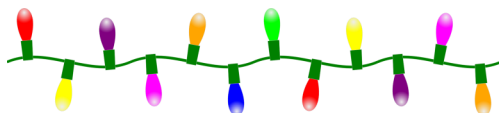
Sincerely,

Chris Beeton

(541) 929-7173 [home]

cenb@copper.net

Philomath Community Services volunteer

**Thank You for Pastor's Appreciation**

Dear Peace family,

What a pleasant surprise to receive your thanks and gifts for Pastor Appreciation month in October.

*Thank You*

Alicia and I will put the gift certificates and monies to good use and in remember our Peace family. We do not take this for granted.

We often take time to remind ourselves of how much we cherish your friendship and love as we serve at Peace. Please receive this note and know how much we count our blessings because of you.

Thank you again for your most gracious gift.

Warmest regards,

Pastor Lucke and family

**Preparing Peace for Christmas**

Each family has its own tradition and customs for preparing for Christmas. In Finland, the people deep clean their homes, scrub pots and pans, and wash windows. The Finnish finish off their work by placing a cross on their door to show that they are ready for Christ's coming.

Peace too, has its own tradition. Come and be a part of this tradition on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM as we get ready for Christmas. We will start with pizza. Bring a side dish to share and a drink for yourself. After dinner (at 6:45ish), we will have a white elephant gift exchange. Wrap a gift (under \$10 please) that you do not cherish and bring it for someone else—in the process you will receive someone else's white elephant gift! Once we are done, we will move to the sanctuary to stand and decorate the Christmas tree. All are welcome!



### Ladies Guild

Guild is recuperating from a very busy November. We had a great Bazaar. Thank you to everyone who contributed to its success. You know who you are! We are ending the year with the election of officers and our own Christmas party. Everyone is to bring a pair of socks to exchange. They can be Christmassy, fancy, useful, funny, whatever. So wrap up a pair and join us on **December 1 at 1:00 for a short business meeting followed by our party. Remember every woman who attends Peace is also a member of Guild!**

### Men's Breakfast

Mark your calendar for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Once again it is time for our First Saturday Breakfast. It's always a good time for fellowship. The topic for this month is very timely, "The Influence of Social Media on Elections." We will begin with a hearty breakfast of fruit, bacon, sausage, eggs and potatoes. Coffee is on at 8:15 or before, breakfast is served at 8:30 and our discussion will go from 9:00 -10:00. We're always looking for cooks that do not mind being there around 7:30 or so. Let me know. I hope you can make the breakfast or just come for the discussion. Please let me know whether you plan to attend, so enough food is purchased. Thanks. Oscar Gutbrod 541-231-3954

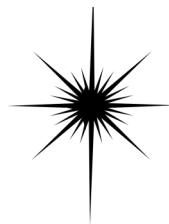
### 2016 Giving Trees

The Vina Moses Center is once again providing our congregation with a tree that has tags labeled with either a boy or a girl and their age. Members are invited to take one or more tags and purchase a gift for a child corresponding with the sex and age of the child. The gifts are to be returned to the church unwrapped with the tag attached to the gift. Vina Moses volunteers will pick up the gifts and the tree no later than December 14th. The last Sunday gifts can be returned is **December 11th**. Please consider donating a gift to make a needy child's Christmas a little better.



### Peace Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11th, will be the annual Peace Lutheran Christmas Pageant performed by our Peace Lutheran children. The children have been practicing each and every Sunday and are looking forward to sharing the Christmas Story. All Peace members, families and friends are welcome to attend for this important message.



Finger food snacks for after the program are welcomed for after the program. The program begins at 10:00AM and will replace the regular Sunday worship. Please join us and support these delightful children that have been working so hard.





## LutherFest 2017 Ticket Sales Open Dec. 1

Lutherfest 2017, the fifth annual Luther House Beer and Cheese pairing benefit, is just around the corner – Sunday, February 26, from 2:00-4:30 pm at the Boulder Falls Event Center, Lebanon, Oregon.

Again this year guests will be treated to six seated-and-served pairings of Oregon artisan cheeses and craft beers accompanied by fresh Pacific Northwest appetizers. You'll be able to pose for your free memory photo, chat with vendors, mingle with friends, learn about craft brewing and artisan cheese-making in Oregon, hear testimonials from active Luther House students, possibly win a gift basket, and visit vendor tables after the party (bring your charge card or debit card with you). A new feature this year is the Lutherfest Traveling Trophy that will be awarded to the congregation with the most guests present.

Individual tickets remain a great value at \$50. Buy a Table of 8 for \$350 (a savings of \$50). Because of our generous sponsors – Grace Lutheran Foundation (Corvallis), St. Mark Lutheran Endowment (Salem), Faith Lutheran Endowment (Albany), Atonement Lutheran Endowment (Newport), and Ron and Virginia Mohr of Thrivent Financial – every dollar in ticket sales will directly support student programming and outreach in 2017. **Ticket sales open December 1. Only 220 tickets are available. Online purchases only** at [lutherfest.luther-house.org](http://lutherfest.luther-house.org).

Here's your opportunity to get that holiday gift for the person who's hard to please. Or, invite seven friends and enjoy an afternoon together. Or, treat yourself to a delicious afternoon sampling local fare. Or, just support Luther House because you care about our ministry on campus. Whatever your reason, we're grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you at the party.

Questions? Call [541-753-5213](tel:541-753-5213) or email [info@luther-house.org](mailto:info@luther-house.org).

