

PARTNERS

Peace Lutheran Church



January 2012

‘Something Great, Crucial and Momentous’

In a 1922 speech to a gathering of ministers in Schulpforta, Germany, Karl Barth, the early 20th-century Swiss theologian, described people who come to worship as perpetual questioners who nonetheless anticipate that *“something great, crucial, and even momentous is about to happen.”*

This is the core of Peace Lutheran Church, the thing that binds us together. We gather, not simply out of nostalgia or courtesy or routine, but with the expectation that something momentous is going to happen when we gather; that whenever the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, life happens!

During January, we gather for worship and also mark some important milestones and people in the life of faith. Then in mid-January, we begin a sermon series, *“Who Is This Man?”* Take a moment to read further details (below). See you in worship!
--Pastor Mark Nelson

Sunday, January 1, 9:30am

At the turn of the year, we consider beginnings and endings, knowing that all the world’s time begins and ends in God who has come to us in Jesus Christ.

Sunday, January 8, 8:45 and 11:00 am

The annual celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord. We recall Jesus’ baptism—and remember our own!

Sunday, January 15, 8:45 and 11:00 am

All the baptized of God have a calling in the world. On this day, we commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. and his calling as a renewer of society.

Sunday, January 22 and 29, 8:45 and 11:00 am

We begin a sermon series, *“Who Is This Man?”* In this Epiphany season, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus Christ to all the world. *He was born in a backwater town to an unwed mother. He announced a kingdom yet to come. He sought those society rejected. He had compassion for the broken. He healed the sick. He upset the establishment, convicted the powerful and brought hope to the hopeless.* He shaped Western civilization and changed the course of history. Two billion people claim to follow him. Yet, there are so many perceptions about him. Who is this man? The five-part series begins on January 22nd.

Congregational Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 29 between services at 10am. We will review our year as a congregation, rejoicing in God’s blessings to us. We will also look forward to 2012 and pray for God’s Spirit to guide us for ministry in this place. A preview of the meeting will take place during Adult Education hour, January 22.

Adult Education News

Sundays and Wednesdays- January-Lent

“Serious Answers to Hard Questions” Discussion Series - Ten Christian and Jewish theologians, world experts in their respective fields, were each asked to address a single perplexing issue, such as Religion & Science, Other Religions, Evangelism & Tolerance, The God of the Old Testament, The Gnostic Gospels, and Sins of the Church. The result is the “Serious Answers” course, which will encourage energetic discussion and sustained reflection by both believers and seekers. **This DVD series will be the centerpiece of Adult Education on Sunday mornings (10:00 AM) and Wednesday evenings (6:30 PM), with a different topic at each session.** Facilitated by Evan Hansen and Pastor Nelson. Begins Sunday, January 8.

Sunday, January 8

Evil—R. Kendall Soulen, Wesley Theological Seminary

Wednesday, January 11

Religion and Science—John Polkinghorne, Cambridge University

Sunday, January 15

Other Religions—Sathianathan Clarke, Wesley Theological Seminary

Wednesday, January 18

Evangelism and Tolerance—Scott Jones, Bishop; formerly Perkins School of Theology

Sunday, January 22

Preview of Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, January 25

The God of the Old Testament—Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Sunday, January 29

Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, February 1

Jesus and Christianity—Richard B. Hays, Duke Divinity School

Sunday, February 5

Resurrection—N.T. Wright, Bishop; formerly Oxford University

Wednesday, February 8

The Gnostic Gospels—Ben Witherington, Asbury Theological Seminary

Sunday, February 12

The Sins of the Church—Douglas M. Strong, Wesley Theological Seminary

Wednesday, February 15

Forgiveness—L. Gregory Jones, Duke Divinity School (Dean)

Wednesday Night Meals

Peace offers dinner on Wednesday nights beginning January 11. Come for fellowship, then stay for adult education! Cost is \$4/adults, \$3/children or \$10/family. Thanks to the Lee family for coordinating this ministry.

Loaves and Fishes

Thanks to the following volunteers who helped serves 150 people at Creekside Community Center on December 20.

Alex Kokkinen, Dana and Cindy House, Joy Keldahl, Steve and Kari Solfest, Art and Gloria Johnson, Steve and Krystal Brandes, Rhonda Hansen, Colleen Petroff, Pat Laybourn, Lou Vietti, Marc Hanson, Dan Sanders, Lee Truhlar, Joyce Nelson, and Emma Zamec.

We will next serve on Tuesday, February 21 at Creekside. Arrive at 5:15pm, serve at 5:30. Sign up at the information desk or contact Dave Dynneson with any questions, you may have—952-829-9317.



Loaves and Fishes Gift

It is with great joy that I share that Peace Lutheran's Service and Mission committee donated \$1,000 toward Bloomington's *Loaves and Fishes* this Christmas! Kathy, the manager of the Creekside site (where our congregation serves our famous Tater-Tot Hot dish every other month), assigned us to two of the largest single-parent families that they serve, saying that our presents may be the only ones they will get this Christmas. So I shopped for the five members of each family and bought Christmas gifts from their wish list. I included a game of their choice for the family to play together. With the remaining money, as Kathy requested, I purchased \$10 gift cards. I was able to purchase 29 pretty Nativity Scene gift cards from Walmart and 28 gift cards from Cub Food. That's \$570.00 in gift cards! When I brought Kathy all the gift cards, she gleefully exclaimed that this will be the first year ever that they will be able to give a gift card to every adult guest that comes to the Christmas Party! Then on Wednesday, December 14, during the 15th Annual Loaves and Fishes Christmas Party, I was blessed with the honor of handing out our gift cards, along with others that were donated. And, yes, every guest did receive a gift card! Their faces all lit up and they said “Thank you!” with their eyes, smiles, and words! At the party I was able to meet the two families we sponsored and pass along their gifts. They were so happy and grateful to receive them. Thanks to our congregation, some less fortunate members of our Bloomington community had a more blessed Christmas than they would otherwise have had. It was a joy to do the shopping and distribute the gifts on behalf of Peace Lutheran Church! Thank you for making this ministry possible,
Rhonda Hansen and the rest of the Mission and Service Committee

Peace Lutherans Good Gifts



There are gifts, and then there are "Good Gifts." Good Gifts keep giving for weeks, months, years, and in some cases, a lifetime.

During Advent this year, our members gave a multitude of Good Gifts, that in the words of our Presiding Bishop, will "make a real difference in the world as the church works to spread the Gospel, build and nurture the faith lives of others, reach out to the unchurched, provide educational opportunities and much more."

In total, our members gave over \$5,600 in 'Good Gifts' which included: An Alpaca, 12 chickens, 3 ducks, 16 goats, 8 pigs, 1 cow, 4 microloans, 7 pairs of shoes, 1 backpack of food, 1 bundle of shingles, a child immunization, 1 set of farm equipment, and 1 water well that will serve thousands. This was in addition to the 'barnyard' our Sunday School children have been working on. Their total was over \$681 and included 1-cow, 1 goat, 2 ducks, 2 pigs, and 3 chickens....a complete barnyard!

Christmas is indeed a time of giving and there is a joy in knowing that our gifts will make a difference in the lives of others today, and in the future. Thank you Peace members for making this Christmas special. Merry Christmas.

2012 Offering Envelopes

This year, Peace will be mailing your 2012 offering envelopes monthly, beginning in January. If you do an automatic payment, such as Simply Giving, or automatic withdrawal from your bank account, you will not receive envelopes.

Pastor's Column

The Roman god for the month of January was named Janus. Janus was two-faced, looking in opposite directions. January is like that.

Personally, we look back over the year 2011 surprised by what happened; disappointments, joy, and sadness. We also look ahead to 2012. We know that some good things will happen to us in the year to come. Maybe some of you are looking forward to the birth of children or grandchildren. You or someone you know may be going off to college or starting a new career. Perhaps there will be a wedding or a graduation or a retirement. Maybe you are looking forward to better health in the year to come or the simple joy of watching your children grow older. Yes, some good things are going to happen to you in 2012.

But we also know that there will be some trouble ahead. Someone we love might get ill. There will be both expected and unexpected deaths. Somebody is going to lose a job or suffer a financial setback.

At the beginning of every calendar year, the church commemorates the Baptism of our Lord; this year, January 8. As we enter this new year, it is good to remember the promise of Jesus' baptism and our own. In Jesus' baptism, God proclaims, "*You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.*" Jesus is loved and named and begins ministry in the world leading to the redemption on the cross for all of us.

In our own baptism, we, too, are loved and named. God says to you, "*You matter to God.*" Even when we feel pushed aside, even when the world rejects you, the fact that you are baptized means that you count in the eyes of God.

That is good news we need to hear as we begin a new year that will be full of both blessings and disappointments. More than anything else, we have the assurance that God will give us the

strength we need no matter what happens to us. We know that we count in the eyes of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Pastor Mark Nelson

LPGM Mission Minute

As one year comes to an end and another begins, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry gives thanks for all you do to further God's ministry in the world. Because of your support and encouragement, Christians around the world are able to do ministry in their local community and the good news about the baby Jesus is proclaimed to thousands of people who have never heard it before. Thank you for being a partner in ministry with us.

Christmas Bake Sale

On Sunday, December 18, the students began the process of raising funds for their summer trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area by holding a Christmas bake sale. The sale was quite successful, raising over \$670 towards the cost of the trip. We are very grateful for the hard work of the volunteer parents and students who prepared the baked goods as well as the generous gifts of the congregation who purchased them. We will continue providing tasty fundraising opportunities in the months to come, so just follow your nose to help the kids out!

Wedding Joy

Congratulations to Marles Rittmaster and Phil Lamers, who were married at Peace on December 31.



Financial Peace University

Are you interested in achieving financial peace? Peace will be offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University in January. Several members of Peace have attended the Financial Peace University series at other locations and speak very highly of it. It is a 13-week series that will encourage you to adopt some new behaviors regarding money. There is a \$99.99 cost for materials for each participant (or couple), but that fee allows them to attend other offerings of the series whenever they want and for as many times as they want. This would be a great gift for parents to give their adult children who are just starting out in their first full-time jobs.

Class will be held Mondays from 6:30-8:30pm at Peace beginning January 16. We will have sign ups at the information desk in the narthex. We will likely limit the enrollment to no more than 12 households. We want to keep the numbers such that folks can have good discussions of the material. Past attendees are emphatic that the group discussions, the insights learned from each other, and the weekly expectations of the class were as valuable as the lessons themselves in helping them develop new behaviors and habits to put them in control of their money. Contact Sue at the church office at 944-6510 with questions.

Thank you!

Thank you to Robbie Sanders and Lil Farrar for resupplying our baptismal cloths and applying with their beautiful stitch work!

Thanks to Joe, Kim and Victoria Albert for their toy donation to the nursery. It is much appreciated!

Adult Ladies' Craft Night

Do you knit, sew, embroider or make paper crafts? Do you have a hankering to use your glue gun, or work on your mending? All adult women are invited to join the Peace Scrapbookers on their next scrapping night.....and you can bring whatever craft you want! The night is **Saturday, January 7**, 7pm-10pm in the Fireside room. Bring your own beverages or snacks, along with your favorite project. Questions? Call Denise Thoen 952-942-5936.

Ya, Ya, Yarn Sisters

We had so much fun we are doing it again! Have a interest in knitting or crocheting? Come to Peace House on **Saturday, January 14** for an open house from 1-4pm and join other Peace members and friends and share your skills and projects! If you have always wanted to learn to knit or crochet now is your chance. Contact Joy Kjeldahl with any questions you may have at 952-943-1146.

Donations needed

We need your help with our January Worship at the Perk. We will be doing a highly interactive gathering at Jefferson High School cafeteria that we need to cover the floor. So, we need some help accomplishing that goal and more! Here are our specific needs: We need one roll of Husky Painters Plastic-they have rolls that are 12' X 400.' We also need 10 canvas drop cloths. They can be used or new. The bigger the better. Finally, we will need about 10 volunteers to help set the night up. Contact Jason Kramme if you are interested.

Book Club

The Peace Book Club has selected "A Peace of My Mind" by John Noltner for the January selection. John will be joining us and share



his insights. We will meet on **Monday, January 23rd** at 7pm at the church. New members welcome! Come when you can! If you would like to purchase a book, contact Lori in the church office. Contact Marilyn Carlson with any questions you have—952-941-9148.

Looking for something to do?

We need you! We have openings for service assistants, hosting and altar flowers! Just call or email the church office and let us know your interest!

- Service assisting includes ushering, greeting and communion assisting. We can work with your schedule!
- Hosting involves helping with treats on Sunday morning.
- Honor a loved one or special occasion with flowers! Sign-ups are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Call the office 952-944-6510 or email sue.larson@peacebloomington.org.

We'd be happy to answer any questions you have! We will have a training session on Saturday January 21, time will be announced closer to the date.

2012 Adult Daytime Event Update

Adult Daytime Ministries will not have a January event, but will resume in February.

Summer Camp Options for youth!

Vacation Bible School!

This year we will hold VBS the week of June 25-29. Mark your calendars! The curriculum this year is called "Sky." The kids will learn that everything is possible with God from friends like Orville the Pig, Pat the Bat, Rockette the Squirrel, Scout the Eagle, and Apollo the Frog. Don't miss it!

Middle School

Summer Trip! If you are entering grades seven through nine, you are invited to go to Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp with us July 15-20! During your week at Wapo you will stay in a cabin with 14 kids and 2 counselors. Each day includes a Bible study, worship, cabin activities, field games, and campfire. During your daily scheduled free time you can enjoy swimming, arts and crafts, hanging out with new friends, kayaking, canoeing, treats at the canteen, paddle boating, ultimate frisbee, disc golf, Gaga, soccer, 9-square, water balloon volleyball, basketball, carpetball, foosball, ping-pong, guitar lessons, fishing, mighty mighty scoop noodle challenge, rat-a-tat-tat, medic, snoodles, and more! Daily all camp activities include capture the flag, servant fair, beach bash, banquet, and masterpiece skit night.

The cost is \$390. \$100.00 is due with your registration. You can find registration forms at the information desk in the narthex as well as a sign-up. Registration forms are due **Wednesday, February 29**. We will have fundraisers throughout the spring to offset the cost of the trip. Make sure to follow this website and our Peace Youth Facebook page to stay in the loop.

We will have a representative from Wapo here to talk about camp on **Wednesday, February 8** during confirmation.

Senior High Summer Trip to the Boundary Waters!

This summer we are taking 14 ninth through twelfth grade students to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for a week of camping July 28-August 3. Our outfitter, The Boundary Waters Experience, is a Christian camping ministry that creates the best possible wilderness adventures. While on the trail, groups will experience the 1.2 million acre treasure of pristine wilderness that is overflowing with over 1,200 lakes, rivers, and streams. In this beautiful classroom, groups will engage with nature, grow in faith, and share with one another. Each expedition promotes community, compassion, and personal growth in following God in the way of Jesus Christ.

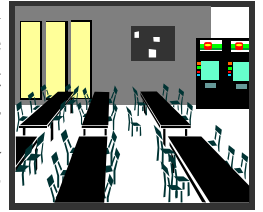
We will have a special presentation by a Boundary Waters Experience trail guide in between services on **Sunday, January 15**, at 10:00 in the Fireside Room.

Christmas Program Wrap-up

On Sunday, December 19 the children of Peace performed "A Journey to Bethlehem," a Christmas program. Needless to say, the kids did a wonderful job of telling the story of how God came to dwell among us as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. This event was made possible by the hard work and effort of the kids as well as a core of wonderful volunteers. Special thanks go to Karen Larson, MaryLynn Mennicke, Miranda Kvanli, and Jon and Anita Young for the coordinating this project. Also, this could not have been done without the help of the committed parents of Peace who helped carry, sort, and organize all of the costumes and props. We look forward to building on this program in the years to come and seeing more kids and families take part!

Worship at the Perk

A high school cafeteria can be one of the most socially dysfunctional places in a community Monday through Friday.



The tragic irony about that reality is that the high school cafeteria plays host to the largest gatherings of Christian teens. Why does the lunchroom, and many other areas like it, continue to be so broken? What would we have to do to fix it?

Join us on Sunday, January 29 from 6:45-8:00 PM at Worship at the Perk as we "Transform the Lunchroom." Make sure to wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty!

Jacob's Ladder(ski) a success

On Sunday, December 18, the students from Peace, Oak Grove Presbyterian, St. Luke, and YoungLife participated in a ski-a-thon to raise money for a well in Africa. The event, Jacob's Ladderski, was a project by Worship at the Perk an inter-church sr. high ministry run by Peace.

Prior to the event the students collected donation commitments for each time they went down the ski hill at Hyland Ski and Snowboard area. In all, we had 24 students complete 501 runs! We collected \$880 the night of the event as well as donations through the offering of Peace members that morning. We were also blessed by a generous gift from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Thrivent offered to match funds up to \$1,600.

It was a great event that we hope to continue in the years to come, but next time hopefully there will be more snow!

Service Assistant Schedule

Date	Service	Usher	Communion Asst	Greeter	Lector	Hospitality
1/1	9:30am	Linda Wallace	Bob and Marilyn Wig	Bob and Doris Earl	Anita Platt	Pastor Mark Nelson and Marcie Horner
1/8	8:45am	Ken and Ann Ashton-Piper	xx	Gene and Deb Cross	Anita Platt	Terry and Pat Rosborough
	11:00am	Corrine Heine/ Bridget Thomson	xx	Virginia Johnson	Alice Richter	x
1/15	8:45am	Ken and Kristen Kokkinen	Katie Reinighaus/ Maddie Saldin	Carl and Susie Reinighaus	Jim Gardner	Peace Book Club
	11:00am	Carrie and Scott Moe	Brenna Noltner/ Stephanie Kaare	Kevin and Venita Ditlevson	Clint Moe	x
1/22	8:45am	Dawn and Chelsea Alger	x	Smoky and Lee Truhlar	Allison Alger	Bob and Doris Earl
	11:00am	Ken and Kathy Anderson	xx	Richard and Pat Laybourn	Jordan Jasorka	x
1/29	8:45am	Dave and Denise Thoen	Riley Thoen/Peter Christensen	Kurt and Nancy Woodrich	Jesse Upton	Open
	11:00am	Paul and Traci Goodwin	Bridget Goodwin/ TBA	Mike and Stephanie Lindberg	Noah Keith	

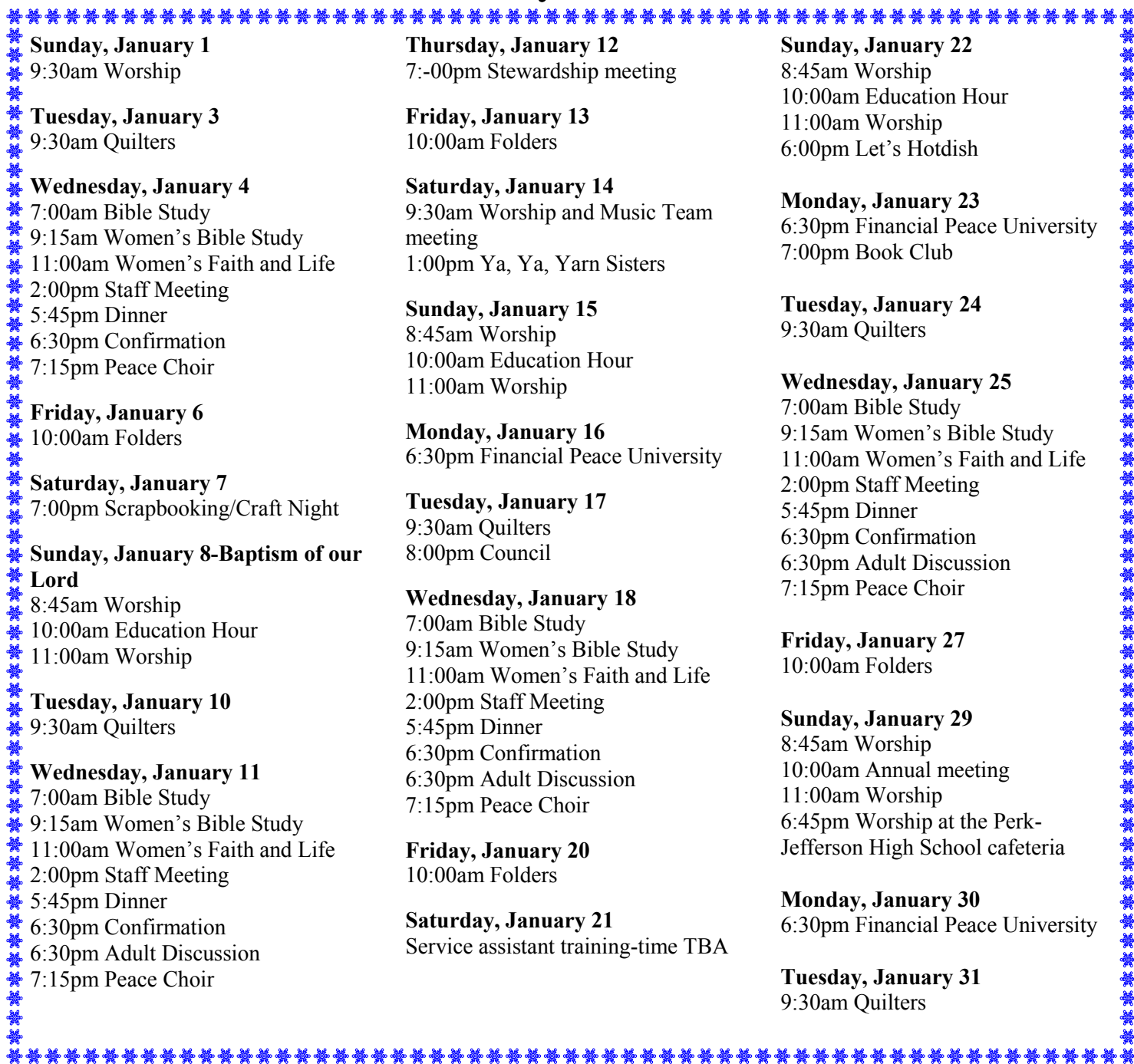
Sunday Morning Hospitality

We invite you and your family (and maybe a couple of your friends?) to volunteer to provide the goodies and host the fellowship time between services. More details are available at the sign-up desk. If you would like to participate in this Sunday morning ministry, please sign up for a date at the information desk or contact the church office at 952-944-6510 for more information.

Financial Status — November 2011

	Budgeted Giving	Actual Giving	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Difference: Actual Giving to Actual Expenses
November	50,371	44,654	50,371	38,443	6,211
Year-to-date	554,078	503,680	554,078	506,337	(2,657)

January Calendar



Sunday, January 1

9:30am Worship

Tuesday, January 3

9:30am Quilters

Wednesday, January 4

7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff Meeting
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Confirmation
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Friday, January 6

10:00am Folders

Saturday, January 7

7:00pm Scrapbooking/Craft Night

Sunday, January 8-Baptism of our Lord

8:45am Worship
 10:00am Education Hour
 11:00am Worship

Tuesday, January 10

9:30am Quilters

Wednesday, January 11

7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff Meeting
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Confirmation
 6:30pm Adult Discussion
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Thursday, January 12

7:-00pm Stewardship meeting

Friday, January 13

10:00am Folders

Saturday, January 14

9:30am Worship and Music Team meeting
 1:00pm Ya, Ya, Yarn Sisters

Sunday, January 15

8:45am Worship
 10:00am Education Hour
 11:00am Worship

Monday, January 16

6:30pm Financial Peace University

Tuesday, January 17

9:30am Quilters
 8:00pm Council

Wednesday, January 18

7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff Meeting
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Confirmation
 6:30pm Adult Discussion
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Friday, January 20

10:00am Folders

Saturday, January 21

Service assistant training-time TBA

Sunday, January 22

8:45am Worship
 10:00am Education Hour
 11:00am Worship
 6:00pm Let's Hotdish

Monday, January 23

6:30pm Financial Peace University
 7:00pm Book Club

Tuesday, January 24

9:30am Quilters

Wednesday, January 25

7:00am Bible Study
 9:15am Women's Bible Study
 11:00am Women's Faith and Life
 2:00pm Staff Meeting
 5:45pm Dinner
 6:30pm Confirmation
 6:30pm Adult Discussion
 7:15pm Peace Choir

Friday, January 27

10:00am Folders

Sunday, January 29

8:45am Worship
 10:00am Annual meeting
 11:00am Worship
 6:45pm Worship at the Perk-Jefferson High School cafeteria

Monday, January 30

6:30pm Financial Peace University

Tuesday, January 31

9:30am Quilters

Altar Flowers



Would you like a way to honor a loved one and help decorate the sanctuary at the same time? Bring flowers to display on the altar during both Sunday services! Please consider taking part in this unique opportunity year-round to honor a special occasion or remember a loved one. Sign-up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.



Remember a loved one. Sign-up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Partners is a monthly publication of:

Peace Lutheran Church

8600 East Bush Lake Road
Bloomington, MN 55438

Phone: (952) 944-6510
An ELCA Congregation



www.peacebloomington.org

Your Church Staff:

Mark Nelson: Senior Pastor

pastor.nelson@peacebloomington.org

Jason Kramme: Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Director

jason.kramme@peacebloomington.org

Lori Thomson: Administrator

lori.thomson@peacebloomington.org

Sue Larson: Communications Specialist

sue.larson@peacebloomington.org

Miranda Kvanli: Children, Youth and Family Intern

miranda.kvanli@peacebloomington.org

Bill Linder & Bev Porter: Building Maintenance

Jon & Anita Young: Worship Leaders

Your Church Council:

Leslie Pratt *President*

Ann Ashton-Piper *Vice-President*

Bob Petroff *Treasurer*

Annette Wildenauer *Secretary*

Inga Borggreve

Dave Eide

Melissa Hoepner

Dan Larson

Kim Myhre

Worship:

Sundays 8:45am and 11am

January 1-9:30am only

The Mission of Peace is to:

Celebrate God in our lives.

Grow in faith together.

Serve others in the spirit of Christ.

Share the Good News that God loves us all!