



**GREET. GATHER.
GROW AND GO
IN GOD'S GRACE**

Peace † Grue

**God's Country News
An ELCA Parish**



FEBRUARY 2025



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**HAPPY
GROUNDHOG DAY**

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2025

tentative

Weekly services will be held at 7:00pm each
Wednesday evening, alternating churches,
with light supper served beginning at 5:30pm.

Ash Wednesday Services

March 5th: Grue at 7:00pm with
imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

March 12: Presbyterian Church

March 19: Peace

March 26: OSTML

April 2: Grue

April 9: Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday: Peace

Good Friday: OSTML

Order subject to change.

A soup luncheon and abbreviated service
will be held at noon each week at Peace.

All are welcome at either service.
Contact Ione Quam 218-747-2838 or Linda Bahnson
218-685-4301 or 218-405-0250
If you would like to volunteer.



Dear friends in Christ at Peace and Grue,

Luther flaunts it rather than hides it: The Christian way of life leads to repentance and promises resurrection every day. Life on these terms is rigorous and demanding. It consumes the resources of faith at an astonishing rate. It is not surprising, then, that weariness, doubt, and unfaithfulness are familiar companions to Christians. No Christian can escape these enemies. It takes a strong and healthy faith to contend with them. A faith that needs regular nourishment. For this reason Christians regularly gather with other believers to speak and hear the gospel—the message about the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. In doing so they remind themselves of the promises attached to the sacrament of Baptism. When they are hungry and in need of solid food, they turn to the other sacrament, a meal provided by Jesus Christ himself. This meal, like a meal eaten by the side of the road, is food for travelers who are on the way from repentance to resurrection, from death to life.

Christians have many names for this meal. It is sometimes called the Sacrament of the Altar to emphasize the importance of Christ's sacrifice for our sin. It is referred to as Holy Communion to accent the intimate bond created between those who come to the meal and its host. In recent years, some Lutherans have begun to use the term "Eucharist," a Greek term for "thanksgiving." The name for this sacrament most often used in the New Testament is the Lord's Supper. This name identifies the two main components of this sacrament. First it identifies whose supper it is: the LORD'S supper, not ours. Second it is the Lord's SUPPER: It is a meal eaten in faith in God's promise to save.

The New Testament teaches that on the night before he was put to death, Jesus took bread and a cup of wine and promised his followers that he would be with them in these things. As with the water of Baptism, bread and wine would be no more than ordinary food without this promise to save. This saving presence is there for us even if we should despise or not believe the promise of this meal, because the word and the promise depends on God not on us and our ability to create what we think is faith or trust. How Jesus will be present he does not say, and speculation about that often creates more difficulties than it resolves.

Jesus meets us for a specific purpose. He comes to feed and nourish us in the faith that in his death he has won the forgiveness of our sins and the sure hope in the resurrection from the dead. When he said of both the bread and the wine, "Do this in remembrance of me," he was not simply asking us to remember him. He is proclaiming clearly to us the saving events of his death and resurrection. As St. Paul wrote, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Yes, just a bit of bread and a sip of wine. No doubt it is hard on us proud beings to be reduced to this, and to think that our eternal salvation hangs in the balance. But so it is and so we come together actually to proclaim it. But don't overlook that last part: until he comes. For there lies the real aim of the meal that was interrupted by death, as all things will be interrupted by death. But this meal we are promised will be concluded. So come, eat, drink, and proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

And with that we come to the end of our review of the five main parts of Luther's Small Catechism.

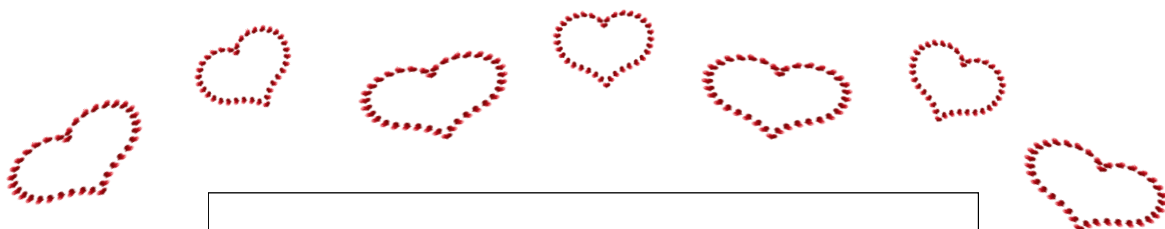
Pastor Dan



2025 PEACE CHURCH ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

February

- 2 Noah Anderson/Isaiah Anderson
- 9 Coffee Cup Sunday
- 16 Liam Hanson/Jaxon Hanson
- 23 Gavin Balgaard/Gage Norby



READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February 2	February 9
First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm Psalm 71:1-6 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Gospel Luke 4:21-30	First Reading Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] Psalm Psalm 138 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Gospel Luke 5:1-11
February 16	February 23
First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm Psalm 1 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Gospel Luke 6:17-26	First Reading Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Gospel Luke 6:27-38

Feb. Birthdays

February 1st

Cindy Vorland

February 2nd

Ray Dahlen

Carol Koefod

Janet Novak

Dallas Sorenson

February 4th

Megan Olson

Danza Johnsrud

Roberta Kalvik

February 5th

Henry Duenow

February 7th

Connor Samuelson

February 8th

Katie Merrick

Jackson Merrick

February 9th

Anthony Ness

Curtis Runnigen

Kris Roley

Easton Nelson

February 10th

Charles Schultz

February 12th

Bryce Johnson

Wes Evavold

February 16th

John Lindemeyer

Levi Rossum

Brooklyn Wagner

February 17th

Carol Dahlen

Victoria Stierlen



February 18th

Kevin Fick

February 19th

Brenda Lillemon

Bentley Olson

February 20th

Aanika Anderson

Leah Fick

February 23rd

James Martinson

February 26th

Noah Anderson

Wendy Walvatne

February 27th

Joshua Evavold

February 28th

Mary Johnsrud

*If I don't have your
birth date or if I have it
listed incorrectly please
e-mail or call me -
peace@prtel.com /
747-2273
Melissa R*

God's Country News
Articles are DUE by the
15th
of each MONTH



Peace Bible Study
February 18th 9:30
A.M. @ Peace

GRUE Bible Study
resumes in April



Peace - FEBRUARY - Sunday School at 9:30

2	9:30 a.m.
9	9:30 a.m.
16	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - President's Day weekend
23	9:30 a.m.

Grue - FEBRUARY- Sunday School at 10:15

2	10:15 a.m.
9	10:15a.m.
16	10:15a.m.
23	10:15a.m.

Feb. 16th, Potluck following worship
Free Will Offering will benefit California fire families

Luther Crest Bible Camp

Attention Parents and/or Grandparents



WELCA & Friends will help fund your child's
 Luther Crest Bible Camp registration.

Please call or text Janet Novak at
 612-385-2730 if interested ASAP.

Early Bird Specials,
 Register by Feb. 15th

luthercrest.org



Thank you to Jody Dahlen and family for helping with worship and fellowship time during the month of January,

February 16 will be a free will potluck following worship as a WELCA fundraiser. Bring a favorite family dish to share and enjoy the additional fellowship time. The second potluck will be March 16.

The 2025 WELCA books are ready and you can yours up in the Narthex.

The Synod WELCA newsletter was just printed highlighting the Synod Conference last September. Carol Balk is our new NW Synod WELCA President. Carol will be visiting all of our Synod Conferences during the Spring and Fall Gatherings. Two items she is asking our WELCA groups to add to our budget for the year: 1. Katie's Fund, established in honor of Martin Luther's wife, Katie Von Bora is an endowment that supports ministry for leadership, global connections and living theology. 2. ELCA World Hunger, celebrating its 50th year this year and reminds us that there are 37.9 million people living in hunger in our country of America. Peace WELCA does send funds to the NW Synod each year and, even though, we do have a challenging budget for this coming year, we will be mindful of these two funds when we disburse funds at the end of the year.

Christmas 2024 is past; however, as Pastor Dan indicated in his first message of the new year, Christmas is not over, it should be a part of us all year. So even though we are a month into the new year, there was an article describing a Christmas song in the Otter Tail Country Living magazine I would like to share with you. A Tapestry of Tradition and Faith. As we sing along to the British Christmas song of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" during the holiday season, we are not merely reciting a repetitive list of presents. Instead, we are weaving through a tapestry of religious symbolism and tradition, reminding us of the essence of Christmas beyond material gifts. It is a celebration of faith, love and the enduring values that have shaped cultures and communities for centuries.

1. Partridge in a Pear Tree : The partridge symbolizes Christ and the pear tree represents the cross, signifying salvation.
2. Two Turtle Doves: These doves are reminiscent of the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing the harmony between the two.
3. Three French Hens: These hens stand for the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity.
4. These birds are believed to represent the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. Five Golden Rings: The rings symbolize the first five books of the Old Testament, also known as the Torah.
6. Six Geese a-Laying: These geese represent the six days of creation, emphasizing God's great power.
7. Seven Swans a-Swimming: The seven swans are often associated with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit in Christian theology.
8. Eight Maids a-Milking: These maids represent the eight beatitudes, teachings of Jesus that offer happiness and blessings.
9. Nine Ladies Dancing: These ladies are representative of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
10. Ten Lords a-Leaping: The ten lords represent the Ten Commandments, fundamental principles guiding moral behavior.
11. Eleven Pipers Piping: These pipers signify the eleven faithful apostles who remained loyal to Jesus after Judas' betrayal.
12. Twelve Drummers Drumming: The twelve drummers represent the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed, a statement of Christian faith.

So, the next time we find ourselves humming this festive tune, let's remember the meaning behind each verse, and let the Twelve Days of Christmas inspire us to embrace the spirit of generosity, kindness and faith that truly defines this magical time of the year.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you.

Val Fick
WELCA Co-President

Peace Annual Meeting

Peace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting-January 26, 2025

Meeting called to order by Duane Spielman-President

Pastor Dan opened with Devotions.

No additions to the agenda.

Annual Meeting minutes from 2024 were presented. M, S, C to approve as written.

Pastor Dan gave his yearly report. Other committee and team reports can be viewed in the provided annual report.

Nominating Committee: Janet Novak volunteered. The committee needs additional members. If you are interested, please let a council member know.

Delegates to Luther Crest: Val Fick and Janet Fick.

NW MN Synod: No nominations from the floor. If you are interested, please let the church know.

Church Council: Dee Holte has agreed to serve. M, S, C to accept her nomination. Another council member is still needed.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Tim Cunningham presented the 2025 Parish budget. M, S, C to approve as written.

2025 Peace Church budget was presented. M, S, C to approve as written.

Elroy Anderson Endowment Fund: Val Fick provided an update. The committee reached out to Pemberton Law Firm for assistance. Meetings will be forthcoming.

M, S, C to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Dahlen

Acting Peace Church Council Secretary

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Cheri Balgaard is the winner of the winter themed quilt at Second Chance Thrift in January.
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PRESIDENT'S DAY WORD SEARCH

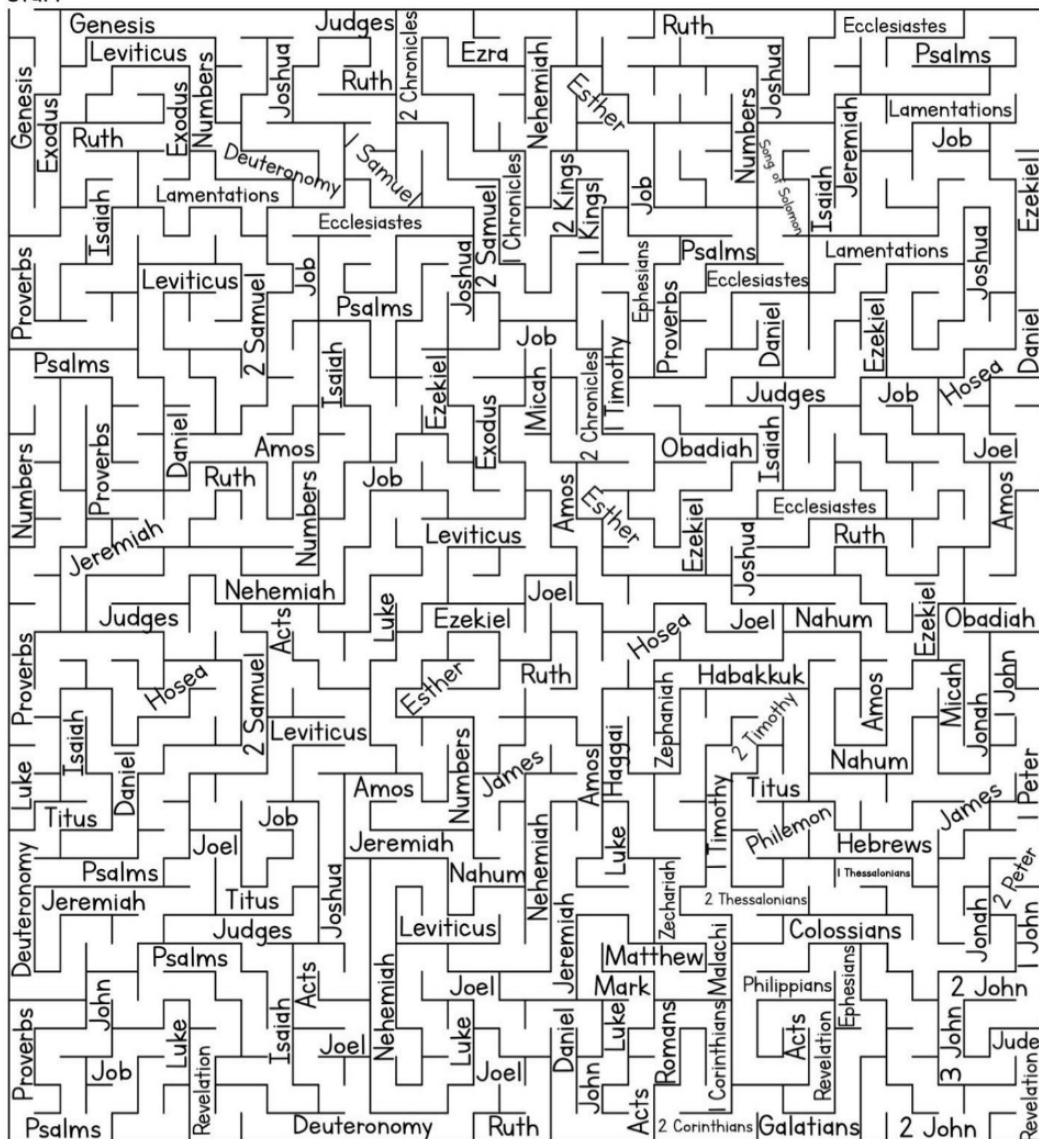


Bush	Kennedy	Carter	Lincoln	Clinton	Reagan
Coolidge	Nixon	Eisenhower	Obama	Ford	Truman
Grant	Roosevelt	Harding	Taft	Hoover	
Jackson	Wilson	Jefferson	Mckinley	Johnson	

BOOKS OF THE Bible Maze


To complete the maze, follow the books of the Bible in order from start to finish.

start



finish

God's People in Service
FEBRUARY 2025
Peace † Grue Lutheran

GRUE 9:00 a.m. Early Service SS 10:15 a.m.	February 2 Green Holy Communion Annual meeting	February 9 Green	February 16 Green	February 23 Green
Janitors/Ushers	Les & Kathy Evavold, & Annah Evavold and Evelyn Schamber			
Reader				
Music	Denise Juven	Cindy Vorland	Contemporary	Denise Juven
PEACE 10:45 a.m. Late Service SS 9:30 a.m.	February 2 Green Holy Communion	February 9 Green Coffee Cup Sunday 	February 16 Green	February 23 Green
Music	Brenda Risbrudt	Cindy Vorland	Contemporary	Brenda Risbrudt
Ushers	Sam Balgaard family	.....	Harlan & Mary Ann Balgaard	Harlan & Mary Ann Balgaard
Readers	Candy Catoe	Val Fick	Carol Koefod	Jody Dahlen
Psalms Reader	Noah Anderson	.....	Liam Hanson	Gavin Balgaard
Acolytes	Isaiah Anderson Noah Anderson	.....	Jaxon Hanson Liam Hanson	Gage Norby Gavin Balgaard
Communion Helper (set up, serve, clean)	Harlan and Mary Ann Balgaard & Candy Catoe	.....	.....	.....
Cookie Servers	Harlan & Mary Ann Balgaard	Harlan & Mary Ann Balgaard	Potluck	Harlan & Mary Ann Balgaard

Serving Team Peace Lutheran Month of February 2025


Chairpersons: Harlan & Mary Ann Balgaard

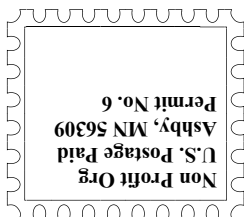
*Ushers are reminded to pick up bulletins and trash and replace hymnals in racks prior to leaving the sanctuary.

MAKE SURE THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF AND
ALL DOORS ARE LOCKED!

Peace † Grue Lutheran Parish – February 2025

PARISH OFFICE 218-747-2273, Cell# 218-770-8457 Email peace@prtel.com
 306 Larson Avenue, Box 157, Ashby, MN 56309 Church website: www.peacegrue.org
 PASTOR Dan Hermanson 612-877-0722 Email: dlhermanson@hotmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
GRUE Church Service 9:00 A.M., S.S. 10:15 A.M. PEACE Church Service 10:45 A.M., S.S. 9:30 A.M. PQ - Peace Quilting - 1 st & 3 rd Wed., at 9:00 am						1
2 <i>Note time change</i> Peace service 9am, SS 10:15am Grue service 10:45am, SS 9:30am Grue Annual meeting	3	4	5 PQ Confirmation 5:30 - 6:30 PM	6	7	8
9 Grue service 9am, SS 10:15am Peace service 10:45am, SS 9:30am	10	11	12 Confirmation 5:30 - 6:30 PM Parish /Peace Grue Council meetings 7:00 pm at Peace	13	14 	15
16 Grue service 9am, SS 10:15am Peace service 10:45am, SS 9:30am Potluck – free will offering	17 President's Day -church office closed	18 Peace Bible Study 9:30 a.m. GRUE Bible Study resumes in April	19 PQ Confirmation 5:30 - 6:30 PM	20	21	22
23 Grue service 9am, SS 10:15am Peace service 10:45am, SS 9:30am	24	25	26 Confirmation 5:30 - 6:30 PM	27	28	



RETURN SERVICE REQUEST



God's Country News
Peace-Grue Lutheran Parish
306 Larson Ave
PO Box 157
Ashby MN 56309



PEACE  GRUE LUTHERAN PARISH

OF THE ELCA

Office 218-747-2273

E-mail peace@prtcl.com website www.peacegrue.org

Pastor Dan Hermanson 612-877-0722

Email: dlhermanson@hotmail.com