



Words of Peace

December 2010

The Words Inside

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| A Word from the Pastors | 1-4 |
| A Word from the Council | 5 |
| Ministry Reports | 5-12 |
| Announcements and More Info | 12-16 |
| Calendars | 17-19 |

From Pastor Brent

A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER



In order to avoid a plagiarism charge, I admit this catchy title comes from the advertising slogan of a major auto manufacturer. But it resonates with me in this season of the church year, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas is, in one way, a way for us to remember what God has done, and is doing, in actualizing the plan of salvation for the sake of the world. In a world with barely controlled chaos, in lives filled with either the busyness of hectic schedules and mundane distraction or the void of meaning and purpose, this month is a call to recall with intention that God has broken in and through it all to deliver to us that which we need most...hope, faith, love...a Savior.

It's a time to remember that it's not the work we do, or the things we amass that shape our lives. It is the people that we care for, and the ones who have cared for us, that constitute the greatest good. We hold dear the treasured memories of family and friends from whom we've been parted...and though it may hurt...Christmastide is an appropriate time to recollect them with affection and thanksgiving. And there is no better time to be reminded that the ones who are around us now are the best gifts we've been given.

Jesus birth is the embodiment of God's grace to us...and St. Paul reminds us that now we are Christ's body in the world, and each of us members of it. So if there are parts of your family, or our family at Peace, that are divided, or not fully functional, or have gone missing, this December is a good time to begin the process of Re-membling...bringing together in unity and cohesiveness that which is meant to perform best when it is of one mind and one heart. No matter what your role is, each of us has a place in the body and we are all attached together...a babe's birth reminds us of that!

As long as I'm stealing from car commercials, another's tag is "a season of reason." I guess this is not meant for the luxury buyer, rather with an eye on economy. We would do well to remember for us, this is a season of reason as well. Jesus is the reason for the season, and God's economy is not frugal, nor is it free. God is lavish to us and the gifts given to us know no bounds...even eternity is ours! God has paid the price in full... it is the life of the babe grown up and going up to a cross. And that makes us reasonable...fully equipped to be God's reason for being in the world. It's the same reason we're here...it's the reasonability of Love.

Have a Blessed Christmas,
Pastor Brent

The Rev. Brent Thalacker
Senior Pastor in the Interim
pastorbrent@sharingpeace.org

The Rev. Nana Opoku
Assistant Pastor
nopoku@cox.net

The Rev. Abebe Tafesse
Pastoral Associate
almm99@yahoo.com

Ramsey L. Woodworth
Council President
woodworthrl@verizon.net

Dr. Adela Peeva
Music Director
Adela_peeva@yahoo.com

Paul Sticha
Director, Messengers and
Bell Choirs
psticha@cox.net

Claimed by God's grace and led by the Holy Spirit, we share the love and peace of Jesus Christ with each other, our community and the world. Be at Peace.

From Pastor Nana

How to be a 100% sure of heaven according to the Bible both Old Testament and New Testament.

Christmas is almost here. At Christmas many exchange gifts. God the creator of the world gives His only Son in exchange for our hearts. John 3:16-18 Says "For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him Shall Not perish but have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it but to save it. There is no eternal doom awaiting those who trust (believe) Him to save them, but those who don't trust Him have already been tried and condemned for not believing in the only Son of God". Also John 1:10-13 says "But although He made the world, the world didn't recognize Him when He came. Even His own land and among His own people, the Jews, He was not accepted. Only a few would welcome and receive Him. But to all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust Him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn – not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan – but from the will of God" Will you accept this all important Christmas gift of God? Many people say "No one can be 100% sure of going to Heaven". But the Bible clearly promises that we can be 100% sure of Heaven! Where does it say that? "I know my Redeemer liveth. And though after my skin worms destroys this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God (Job 19:25-26). 1 John 5:13 says "These things have I written unto you that believes on the Name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life. *First*, notice that it clearly says that you can know (not hope or guess) that you have eternal life. *Second*, notice that only those who "believe" can be 100% sure of salvation (eternal live in heaven). *Third*, since the Bible contains hundreds of verses in which God promises eternal life to those who believe and since we know God never breaks any promises He makes, then we can be 100% sure of Heaven.

Numbers 23:19 says "god is not a man that He should lie; He doesn't change His mind like humans do. Has he ever promised without doing what He said?" Okay, but how can we be 100% sure? Both the Old Testament and the New Testament clearly teach that we must do two things to be 100% sure of Heaven and guarantee us of eternal life. The Bible says that we must "believe" (faith, hope, trust) and we must "repent". Jesus Himself said: Repent ye and believe the Gospel (Mark 1:15).

You must believe (Believing is a confession from the heart).

Isaiah 53:6 says "All we like sheep have gone astray".

Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Believe you deserve death in Hell as a penalty for your sin.

"The soul that sinneth, it must die." (Ezekiel 18:20).

"For the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)

Believe you can't save yourself or earn your way to Heaven through good deeds.

"For we are all as an unclean thing and all our righteousness as filthy as rags." Isaiah 64:6.

"Not by works of righteousness which you have done but according to His mercy He saved us." Titus 3:5

"For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph 2:8-9).

Believe that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah and Savior.

"But thou Bethlehem...out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler. Whose going forth has been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2).

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem." (Matthew 2:11).

"the Lord shall give you a sign. A virgin shall conceive and bear a son. Call His Name Immanuel (meaning God with us)" (Isaiah 7:14).

Believe Christ love you so He died, was buried and rose again to pay for your sin's death penalty.

Ephesians 5:2 says "...Chris also hath loved us and hath given Himself for us...a sacrifice to God".

Isaiah 53:5-6 says "...He was wounded for our transgressions, He was buried for our iniquities, the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquities of us all."

"...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures...He was buried...and He rose again, the third day." (1 Corinthians 15:13-14)

Believe Christ is the only way to salvation and to God the Father.

Isaiah 53:12 "...He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"

Heb. 7:25 "He is able...to save them...that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

John 14:6 "Jesus saith...I am the way...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

You must repent. To repent means: You have changed your mind about what you believe and trust in for salvation (turn from trusting in your own Goodness and efforts to "earn" salvation, to trusting in Christ's goodness, death and resurrection to have salvation as a free gift by His grace.

Ezekiel 18:30-31 Says "Repent and turn yourselves from all transgression; and make you a new heart and a new spirit"

Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore and be converted that your sins maybe blotted out."

If you believe in Christ and repent in your heart, then right now you can call on Christ to save.

Psalms 55:16 Says "As for me, I will call upon God and the Lord shall save me."

Romans 10:13 – "For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved." *First* notice, it says "whosoever" which means anyone, including you. *Second*, it also says to call on the "Lord" to be saved. *Third*, it promises that whosoever call on Christ shall be saved. If you believe why not call on Christ and pray : "Dear Jesus, I believe that I am a sinner but you died to pay for all my sins. I call on you to save me from death and give me eternal life. Amen"

From Pastor Abebe

The Just Shall Live By His Faith

This year is going to end soon. The New Year will be ushered in on the New Year's Eve. How we lived this year may or may not determine how we should live in the New Year. But, "The just shall live by faith."

When the Spirit of God frequently repeats himself, He thereby appeals for special attention. This verse: "The just shall live by faith." Is repeated four times in the Bible. Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:36.

"A doctrine so often declared should be constantly examined and preached and unhesitatingly received by hearers." -Spurgeon

When I examined the verse, each one of them is connected with something that beset our minds most often. Habakkuk connects it with hopelessness or doubt; Paul in Romans connects it with faithlessness, in Galatians with religion or law, in Hebrews with backsliding i.e. leaving the Faith.

The teaching is clear. "The just shall live by his/her faith." Life is received by the faith which makes a man just; He is fully acquitted from condemnation: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ." (Rom. 8:1) Also from death.

continued

Claimed by God's grace and led by the Holy Spirit, we share the love and peace of Jesus

From Pastor Abebe

A man begins to live as one raised out of spiritual death as soon as he has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. No form of works or profession, or natural feelings etc can prove him to be clear of guilt or give him absolution; but faith does!

Life is sustained by the same faith that made him just. Some doubt that he who is forgiven and quickened lives ever afterwards as he began to live – by faith. Neither his devotion of service etc ever become his trust. He is nothing except so far as he is a believer.

We who believe live as a child, and as a servant, as a pilgrim progressing and believe it or not as a warrior contending.

We who believe live by faith in every condition: In joy and sorrow, in wealth and in poverty, in strength and in weakness – Paul adds in life or death.

We live best when faith is best. “He lives the life of Christ most blessedly when most intensely he believes in Christ.” -Spurgeon

Happy Christmas and New Year.

Abebe Tafesse

From Our Seminarian, Charles Featherstone

Blessings in Christ's name to all the Peaceniks!

And greetings from the great heartland (or at least somewhere not far from it)! Jennifer and I have missed all of you!

The month has gone well. Still busy with music, learning kid songs. Believe it or not, I did not know how to play Kumbaya or Old MacDonald Had a Farm or Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, and I have had to learn how, mostly because those songs were requested -- a quiet little blonde toddler wanted Twinkle, Twinkle and there was no saying no to that, and the pastor's grand-daughter had me playing Kumbaya for what felt like an eternity. (I have officially been pronounced a "push over" when it comes to kids.) Of course, there's Bible studies and singing and preaching and reading and leading worship and having more fun than I suspect I ought to have. Gotten the kids interested in music in a way many weren't prior to my being here, and I have been drafted to help with the Christmas show.

I also really appreciate this congregation's commitment to pastoral formation and education, and the pastor's experience in dealing with interns. I feel very confident about this experience, about myself in particular, but also a little more confident that I can trust the people in the church to tell me what I need to know when I need to know it. So, I think this is going to work. You all sent me with your blessings, and we have been blessed.

Jennifer has moved out here, and while she continues to work in Chicago on Fridays, she is looking for some part-time work here in Somonauk. She doesn't drive (though I have started giving her driving lessons), so it has to be something close. Someone suggested a substitute teacher's assistant or even substitute teacher, and so she's looking into that.

Not much more to report. The busy season of Advent and Christmas is upon us. I am teaching my Islam course here for Advent.

The Lord be with you all!
CHF

A WORD FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

RAMSEY WOODWORTH

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DECEMBER FAMILY MEETING

This year, for our annual Family budget meeting, the Council has decided to try the same approach as last year and schedule the meeting for sometime in January 2011 to avoid the time crunch of the year-end holiday period. We will set the exact date at the December Council meeting, the most likely candidate being Sunday, January 30.

Basically, there are two reasons for using the same scheduling approach this year. First, the process worked well last year. Many churches typically follow such a schedule to avoid over-crowding the Christmas season with church "business matters" and, as we thought about it, there were no real downsides in delaying consider of the 2011 Budget until early 2011. Second, this has been a year of significant change for Peace and our new Senior Pastor for the Interim just came aboard in early October. Not only has the need to give attention to these matters caused our usual budget process to be delayed a bit, but we wanted to give Pastor Thalacker time to get acclimated so he could be fully involved in the process.

Unlike last year, I want to stress that the delay until January is not due to an identified difficulty in coming up with a recommended balanced budget. At this point, sufficient number-crunching has not been done by the Council to make any financial forecasts, good, bad or indifferent, for next year. As I write, the results of our fall stewardship campaign are still being tallied and we have just begun to review the expense side of the budget. Please stay tuned for more news on this score as we get into this process in more depth in the coming weeks.

Finally, our thanks to John Clark and the Stewardship Ministry for a job excellently done on this fall's Stewardship Program – which received wide acclamation and kudos from all who attended.

Fellowship News



The **Advent Carol Festival** will be held **THIS Saturday, December 4, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.** Refreshments are still needed. Even if you did not sign up, please bring a sweet or salty snack. If you have any questions, please call Margarete Heber at (H) 703-256-0095 or (C) 202-549-5308.

Fellowship will hold a planning session on Sunday, 12/5, at 9:15 in the library, to discuss plans for fellowship events Jan. through March.

Please come and give your ideas.

If you can't come, email your suggestions for events to Sue Clark at chezclark@verizon.net.

Come for the fun of it!

Fellowship News

56 PLC Members and Friends Enjoy a Night of Bunko



If you can roll 3 dice, you can play Bunko



Claimed by God's grace and led by the Holy Spirit, we share the love and peace of Jesus

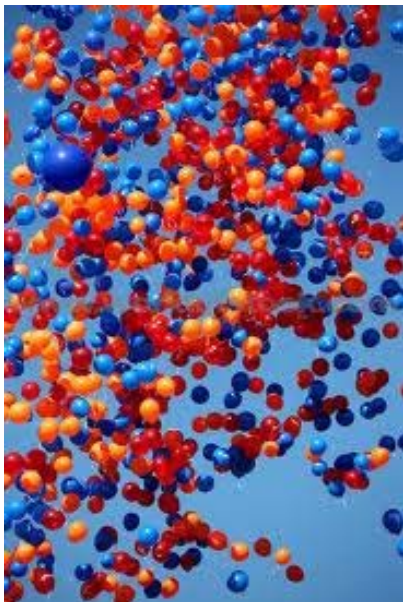


Winner of Most Bunko Games:
Gary with the Bunkomaster Elliott

Everyone is a Winner
at PEACEful Bunko



All Lutheran Women's Retreat



The 15th All Lutheran Women's Retreat, entitled *Laughter is a Gift from God*, was held in Harrisonburg, VA, October 22 through 24. This retreat is held every 2 years by and for Lutheran Women from the ELCA and Missouri synods. Attendees came from Northern Virginia, Tidewater, Richmond and further south. There were ladies from Maryland and as far as North Carolina. Debbie Marquardt, Mary Marquardt, and Susan DeHaven were among the 68 plus women, and at least 1/3 of them were new, with ages ranging from young adults to retirees.

It was a weekend of renewal with great fellowship, Bible study, sharing and joyful singing.

There were four sessions learning about *Laughter Is a Gift from God*, led by Pastor Jean Bozeman who is the assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod ELCA. We learned how to bring laughter and joy into our Christian lives and into our congregational life.

Pastor Bozeman was a repeat retreat leader and she is a delightful person who is truly full of laughter and joy. She had a picture of a Laughing Jesus on the front of the podium that set the mood for the retreat. We talked about it being okay to laugh and clap in church. One pastor said she thought it would be alright for her congregation to clap after her sermons. We need to be more joyful people.

Think about what we have done lately to make Jesus laugh. We also need to give more hugs. A hug is like a boomerang – you get it back right away-

Pastor Jean showed us many cartoons that expressed Christians laughing and living joyfully. She gave us all balloons and sent us out into the community on Saturday afternoon during our free time, and instructed us to give the balloons to someone we didn't know. We were to tell them we were having a good day and wish them a good day.

After a special dinner Saturday evening, three students from James Madison University entertained us with an excellent music program.

Sunday morning ended the retreat with a service of Holy Communion and sent us home with good memories of sharing with old and new friends, remembering the things we had learned about laughter and joy, bringing more of both into our daily lives.

We laugh 400 times a day as a child and 15 times a day as an adult. Christians need to be more like children as adults.

See you in 2012!
Susan DeHaven



Dream Green receives the 2010 Thrivent Just Say Thanks Award

A reception was held November 21 to honor the Dream Green group led by Sue Clark, Mike Gates and Sue Sticha for their creating the **Peace Community Garden** in 2010. Sue was pleased to announce that ACCA, the neighborhood and Peace helpers were recipients of bushels of produce this year. The \$100 award is an annual appreciation award given at Peace from the Alexandria Chapter of Thrivent Financial.

Peace Thrivent Advocates are Vicki Haugen and Ron Maree. Please contact them should you have an organization or group that needs support financially by a fund raiser or hands on service event.

Since the 2004 merger of Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood Peace has received thousands of dollars of donations to support "God's Work, Our Hands". Praise the Lord!

We welcome Sheri Swackhamer, our new Peace Congregational Financial Associate for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We hope to introduce her to the congregation in January. She can be reached directly at 703-304-7092 or by email at sheri.swackhamer@thrivent.com. The local Alexandria Associates office of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has just moved from King St. to 2121 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314. Look for an announcement soon announcing their open house celebration of their office relocation.



You have asked: **what is a synod?**

The English word "synod" combines two Greek words that literally mean "a way together." In and through synods, congregations and other ministries "walk together." Synods are an expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), just as are congregations and the churchwide organization. Synods coordinate the work of congregations within their territories and plan for the ELCA's mission in their area. There is great variety in size, geography, membership, staffing and ministries among the ELCA's 65 synods. Our synod is the Washington Metropolitan DC Synod. Just over 75 ELCA congregations make up the synod. Our synod's purpose is to engage our community in the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that all people may experience God's grace and fullness of life.

In this place and time, we strive to live out: **"God's work, our hands."**

Our synod's web site contains much useful information. See www.metrodcelca.org

Project Boomerang

Roberta's Trees and Angels

Roberta Ballenger (a member of Peace Prayer Shawl ministry) had an idea to raise funds to purchase yarn for our shawl needs. Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home told her of their Holiday Remembrance Service for those who lost a family member in the past year. Roberta designed a tree square and started making many white squares. As life sometimes throws us a curve, Roberta had a health setback. Her neighbor Sue Buchanan told us Roberta was worried about making deadline. So Roberta's tree pattern was distributed to those who could help. She made deadline with 114 squares. The funeral home attached Elaine's basket logo. Angels abound.....Praise the Lord!

Roberta's squares will be given in December to individuals who have lost a family member this past year. We continue to pray for Roberta who is battling cancer. And thank her for her wonderful idea to raise \$200 for purchasing yarn for Peace shawl needs. Praise the Lord for God's Work, Our Hands!



Thank you for the gift of Roberta and the members of the Peace Prayer Shawl Ministry!



The Scrappy Ladies delivered 655 Holiday and All-occasion cards to Tom for Walter Reed in November. And then we rested, and praised the Lord for our many blessings! Peace, blessings and joy, Vicki and Helen

A decorative border of musical notes surrounds a text block. The text reads: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord and come into his presence with singing." The Choir "Voices of Peace" extends a warm, ongoing invitation to anyone that likes to sing, to come and join us anytime even only for the Holiday season. Our choir performs a ministry: to beautify the church service and to offer up our voices to "sing praises to the Lord." We keep to a regular rehearsal schedule between 7:00 -8.00 p.m. Mondays in the Sanctuary. Please contact our Music Director Adela Peeva at 301 515 0604 or at adela_peeka@yahoo.com so she can get you on board.

The Lazarus Project ~ Haiti ~

A Ministry of Lutherans to Haiti
in Partnership with Food for the Poor, Inc.



LAZARUS PROJECT, HAITI: Thank you to everyone who brought in old suitcases for our trip on Dec 13-18. **We now have more than enough for this trip!** I will need more eventually, but if you can hold on to them until the next trip, I would appreciate it. If you just NEED to get it out of your house, let me know.

If you would like to donate anything for this trip please leave your items in the Fellowship Hall or drop your donation (made out to Peace, marked Haiti Expenses) in the collection. Thank you!

Needed Items:

motivational stickers

large plastic stencils for the Kindergarten and grade 1 teachers (i.e. alphabet, numbers, shapes etc.)

3" ribbon (for decorating... not for hair)all colors

garland for decorating....any colors

balloons

Rolls of string - for hanging decorations in the classrooms

4 legal size hangers for file folders

1 box hanging file folders legal size..multi-colored

4 letter size hangers for filing drawers for hanging file folders

2 boxes hanging file folders - letter size any color

colored chalk for blackboards

white chalk

Please visit www.LazarusProjectHaiti.org or contact Marni Maree for more information:
mmaree@cox.net, 703-569-5731.

Ministry to Others



The special offering for December is for ACCA, the Annandale Christian Community for Action, which is run by volunteers only, except for its child-care program. Peace is a charter member of ACCA. ACCA serves pre-screened Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads families in need of food and other vital necessities. ACCA, like every other organization serving poor people, is experiencing the problems of the current economy: more people need help and there is less money being given to help them. During the last five years church contributions to ACCA declined by 16%, individual contributions have declined by 28%, while family emergency expenditures almost doubled. ACCA has filled the gap with more grants and by using reserves. In December there is a challenge to help ACCA raise money. So whatever you give, through the church or on your own, will be matched by the grant and will raise more money to help people in need. During this Holiday season, please remember ACCA and help people in our community.

Announcements



COOKIES FOR WALTER REED HOSPITAL—We can help our injured soldiers feel a little more at home. Bring your cookie offerings to the church office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. or place them in the freezer in the kitchen with a label indicating "Walter Reed Cookies." With "Thanks" from the patients at Walter Reed.



CHRISTMAS JOY FOR THE SENIOR CENTER! BINGO PRIZES NEEDED Helga Recevuto volunteers at the Lincolnia Adult Day Health Care Center every Wednesday playing Bingo with the seniors. She is looking for scarves, purses, knick-knacks, stuffed animals, costume jewelry, and other small items that can be used for prizes. Please bring your donations to the church office or see Helga Recevuto or Liesa Kirste.



The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 11:30 am at the Hana Tokyo Japanese Restaurant located at 4603 Duke St., Alexandria, VA, in the Foxchase Shopping Center. Watch your chef prepare your lunch on a Hibachi grill.

Please note we are meeting on the second

Tuesday in December instead of the third Tuesday.

Lunch Bunch is a group of individuals of all ages who meet monthly for fellowship and food. A sign up sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call Elaine or Bob Peoples at 703-751-8937. See you there!

Poinsettia Order Form

| <i>Description</i> | <i>Color</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>15" to 16" in height with 4 to 6 blooms</i> | <i>Red or White</i> | <i>\$12.50 each</i> |

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*Please enter your dedication below.
The dedication will appear in
the Christmas Eve Bulletin.*

Please enter the Qty next to the box of the color of your choice.

Red Blooms
Qty: _____

White Blooms
Qty: _____



Order Totals: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Cash Check

***The order deadline is
Friday, December 11th.***

*Poinsettias will be delivered on the
17th of December and will
available to take home following
the Christmas Eve Service.*

FROM THE SYNOD OFFICE

Bethlehem Simulcast at National Cathedral to include Bishops Graham and Hanson—The fourth annual simulcast service between congregants in Bethlehem (Christmas Lutheran Church) and the D.C. area is set for Saturday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. at Washington National Cathedral and is open to all. Lutheran leaders scheduled to participate are Bishop Graham and ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, and Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Rev. Mitri Raheb of Christmas Lutheran Church. Episcopal leaders scheduled to participate locally include Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop John Bryson Chane, Dean Samuel T. Lloyd, and in Bethlehem, Episcopal Bishop Suheil Dawani.

Synod-Wide Together in Mission Launches New Year— The annual synod event sponsored by the Division for Congregational Life, "[Together in Mission](#)," is coming on Saturday, January 22, 2011, at King of Kings Lutheran in Fairfax, Virginia. The event will explore the synod's theme in 2011, "To See Ourselves As Others Do." Dr. Amy Oden, Dean and Professor of History of Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary, will bring the keynote address. Workshops to advance congregational life will be offered. Cost is \$25/person with a reduction for groups of six or more. Find a first-flyer online.

Lutheran Lay Fellowship Luncheon Lineup Lutheran Lay Fellowship (LLF) Luncheons are bringing in great speakers for upcoming events.

- Dec. 2 - the Rev. Thomas O'Brien, Good Samaritan, Lanham, on his recent trip to Tanzania.
- Jan. 6 - the Rev. Eric Shafer, Senior Vice President for Philanthropy, Odyssey Networks, with experience using electronic media to enrich spirituality and build bridges of understanding among people of faith.
- Feb. 3 - Deacon Katherine Miller-Holland, Director of Church and Community Ministries, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area.

Lunch (\$9) while listening to these inspiring presentations. RSVP to Vicki Porter (301-229-9884 or luncheon@lutheranlayfellowship.org) by 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the event. Luncheons are held at St. Luke Lutheran in Silver Spring at noon. Visit <http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.org/> for more information about LLF.

Advent Retreat at Mar-Lu-Ridge An ecumenical Advent Retreat will be held at Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center in Jefferson, Md. on Sat., Dec. 4. Rose Mary Eve Holter, a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia who has served as Director of Retreat Programs at Christian Brothers Spiritual Center, will lead, "Living in God's Extravagant Love: Christ in the Middle of It All!" The event runs 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 including lunch. Registration required. Call LaVern at 301-662-3574 for more information

Young Adult Retreat in Baltimore Young adults (age 18-30) from all over the East coast are invited to Project Connect's young adult Baltimore retreat on January 2-7, 2011. It will be a fun experience of Christian community, an opportunity to serve and be served, and a time to consider a variety of ways of serving through the vocation of public ministry. The "Two-Way Street Retreat" is timed to take place during winter break. Project Connect info can be found at <http://www.projectconnect.org>. Cost of the retreat including lodging, meals and registration is \$25. Contact Don Johnson at 603-539-7257 or contact@projectconnect.org with questions

Called to Common Mission Anniversary Celebration The 10th Anniversary Celebration of Called to Common Mission, the Lutheran Episcopal Full Communion Agreement, is set for Jan. 14-15 at St. Paul's Lutheran in D.C. Bishop Graham will be preaching at a celebratory worship service. Workshops and a keynote address on Anglican Lutheran relations by Kenneth G. Appold, James Hastings Nicholas Associate Professor of Reformation History, Princeton Theological Seminary, will also be featured. The event is sponsored by the D.C. area Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee. Full conference fee is \$35 before Dec. 15; reduction to attend keynote speech alone. Register at www.edow.org/events or call the Rev. Tom Andrews for information at 410-923-5656.

Shekinah for Junior High in March Shekinah is the Metro D.C. Synod youth ministry weekend event for junior high (7th and 8th grade) youth, held annually at the 4-H Center near Front Royal, Virg. Shekinah strives to fortify the faith of youth as we gather for a weekend of learning, fellowship, worship and service. This year's event will take place on March 18-20. Deadline for registration is coming in February. Check out details at <http://metrodc.youthgroupstuff.com/shekinah>.

High School Lutheran Summer Music Training and Performance Opportunity

The 30th annual Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) will be held June 26-July 24 on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. LSM fosters musical excellence in a caring community for high school band, orchestra, choir, piano and pipe organ students of all faith backgrounds. LSM 2011 will include a new elective, "Introduction to Pipe Organ." Learn more at

Madrigal Dinner in Burtonsville—A Madrigal Dinner will be hosted by Epiphany Lutheran in Burtonsville, Md. (14411 Old Columbia Pike, 20910) on Dec. 18 at 6:00 p.m. The evening will be filled with food, song and festivities. All are welcome to join in this fun celebration of the Season of Christmas. Tickets are \$7/adult, \$5 for children. For tickets and info, contact epiphanylutheran1@verizon.net.

Conference for Part-Time Musicians—"January Jubilee: A Day for the Part-Time Parish Musician" is being planned by the American Guild of Organists. It will be held Jan. 15 from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring (9525 Colesville Rd.). There will be 10 workshops, including Organ Literature, African American music, Service Playing, Public Relations, Pastor/Musician Relations, Choral Music Techniques, the Digital Organ, Handbells, and Wedding-Funeral Music. Bishop Eugene Sutton, Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland of the Episcopal Church, will bring a keynote address. Cost is \$15 including lunch. Deadline to register is Jan. 5. Find the brochure at <http://www.agohq.org/national/pdf/JanJubilee2011.pdf>.

Webcast Features Brueggemann, Gordon, Others on Scripture Reading—"How Do We Read Scripture?" is a conference offered thru webcast from Virginia Theological Seminary. Panelists include Walter Brueggemann, Steed V. Davidson, Mary Gordon, Teresa A. Okure and Gerald O. West. They will explore questions including: What concerns do scholars have when reading scripture? What does an ordinary reader bring? And how does our culture influence what truths we may find in scripture? The conference will take place on Jan. 20-21. Cost is \$40/person. Register at <http://www.vts.edu/icfl/registration>.

Virginia Synod "Power in the Spirit" Conference—"Power in the Spirit" is a popular inspirational conference sponsored by the ELCA Virginia Synod for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops and fellowship. "We Love to Tell the Story" will be held July 14-16 at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. Keynote speaker will be the Rev. Walter Wangerin, Jr., the Bible Leader will be the Rev. John Largen, and the Musician will be Kevin Barger. Additional details forthcoming.

Diaconal Ministry Course—"Diaconal Ministry: Discernment, History and Formation" is a course offered by the Deaconess Community of the ELCA and Southern Seminary on Jan. 11-20 at the seminary campus in Columbia, South Carolina. Tuition for all participants will be paid by the Deaconess Community. The course covers the history of the diakonia through the centuries, its present expressions and its future possibilities. Three credit hours offered. Limited campus housing available for \$325. Early registration advised. See <http://www.elca.org/deaconess/jterm> for more information.

Companion Synod Sunday to Highlight El Salvador—The 2011 Companion Synod Sunday is scheduled for Jan. 30. Featured will be El Salvador. The El Salvador Companion Synod Task Force is preparing items to celebrate our relationship with brothers and sisters in Christ in El Salvador through prayer, song and message. Contact co-chairs Jane Hanlon (janehanlon@aol.com or 703-830-5791) and Deena Bulick-Terry (deena222c@aol.com or 571-238-6284) for advance information.

El Salvador Thrivent/Habitat Trip—A trip to El Salvador to build with Thrivent Financial/Habitat for Humanity is planned for February 19-27, 2011. One synod congregation is already planning on participating, and additional teams are welcome. The nine-day volunteer work trip costs \$604 plus travel for Thrivent members (\$959 plus travel if not). No previous experience required for this opportunity to help build a home with a partner family in need of dignified, affordable housing. See online brochure for local arrangements, or visit www.thriventbuilds.com/worldwide for program information.

Regional ELCA Youth Leader Event Scheduled—A regional ELCA event, "Gathering in the East (GIE)," is being planned for leaders of youth and children in Regions 7, 8 and 9. It will be held April 1-2 at St. Paul's Lutheran, located near the University of Delaware in Newark. The GIE is committed to connecting, equipping and encouraging the people of God to serve in youth and family ministry settings boldly. For more information, visit <http://www.gatheringintheeast.org> or contact Barbara Harner, synod member of the GIE planning team, at bharner@comcast.net.

Trip to El Salvador with Companion Synod Delegation—A synod delegation will be visiting our Companion Synod of El Salvador next summer, and synod participants are invited to get involved and become inspired by the work being done by our brothers and sisters in faith in El Salvador. The trip will take place July 30-Aug. 8, 2011. Total cost is \$1,200/person (including airfare, lodging, food and transportation). An online flyer shares additional details. Call Kelly Baugh at 703-988-9973 if interested.

Organist (part-time) King of Kings Lutheran in Fairfax, Virg., is seeking a Church Organist. This part-time position requires a person who has experience playing the organ (Allen built electronic with two manual keyboards and 2.5 octaves of pedals) and piano. Candidates are expected to competently sight read. In addition, the potential candidate must be willing to play traditional as well as contemporary music and work in cooperation with the music team. Hours will include attendance at all Sunday, special services and events, as well as occasional rehearsals. Salary is commensurate with experience. Additional income opportunities are available. If interested, please send resumes to swanflor@yahoo.com or call 703-915-9209.

ACCA Child Development Center

2010 HOLIDAY BAZAAR



- Arts & crafts
- Food & refreshments
- Music
- Get to know our Center
- Meet your neighbors
- Build community

10 am – 4 pm

Saturday, December 18, 2010

7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

(Support the ACCA Challenge Grant)



Contact: 703-256-0100 / Email: events@accadc.org

***** FREE PARKING AVAILABLE *****

COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pastor Brent Thalacker | | Amy Acland | C: 571-244-6879 amy786y@gmail.com |
| pastorbrent@sharingpeace.org | | | |
| Office: | 703-354-5233 | Behailu | berhebehailu@hotmail.com |
| Cell: | 571-236-4976 | Estefanos | 703-354-1568 |
| Pastor Nana | nopoku@cox.net | Erin Messner | erinwspeedy@gmail.com |
| | 703-717-1655 | | 301-335-0445 |
| Ramsey | woodworthrl@verizon.net | Phyllis Carson | 703-750-2787 |
| Woodworth | 703-750-3856 | Terry Fraser | bmfraser@comcast.net |
| Marcia Miller | madmiller1@cox.net | | 571-431-6121 |
| | 202-615-3683 | | |

December Worship

| | | |
|--------|----------|--|
| Dec 4 | 4:00 PM | Advent Carol Festival |
| Dec 24 | 5:30 PM | Family Service ~ Children's Pageant ~ no Communion |
| | 8:00 PM | The Nativity of Our Lord Candlelight and Communion |
| Dec 25 | 10:30 AM | Christmas Morning Service |
| Dec 30 | 7-9 PM | "Announce Salvation" Isa 52:7 Guest speaker Rev. Ayalew, <i>Service in Amharic</i> |
| Dec 31 | 7-9 PM | "Announce Salvation" Isa 52:7 Guest speaker Rev. Amsalu, <i>Service in English</i> |
| | 9-12 PM | "Witness" Rev 11:12 Guest speaker Rev. Ayalew <i>Service in Amharic</i> |
| | 10 PM | Late Night Prayer Service |

December Events

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Voices of Peace | every Mon. at 7:00 p.m. |
| Bells of Peace | every Mon. at 8:00 p.m. |
| Bells con Brio | Every Tue. at 7:00 p.m. |
| Messengers of Peace | every Tue. at 8:15 p.m. |
| <i>Child Care Provided</i> | |
| Dec 4 | Advent Carol Festival |
| Dec 14 | Lunch Bunch |
| Dec 16 | WRAP |
| Dec 18 | Breakfast and Hanging of the Greens |
| Dec 24 | Children's Christmas Pageant |

More Peace events can be found at
www.sharingpeace.org

Upcoming







Save the Date:
Sunday, January 9, 2011
The Peace Family will have
ONE Worship Service at **10:30 AM**.
There will be **NO 8:00, 8:30, or 12:00**
services on January 9.
Together we will celebrate Christmas
in the Ethiopian tradition. Following
Worship we will share an Ethiopian meal.

For the Month...

| | 5-Dec | 12-Dec | 19-Dec | 26-Dec |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Assisting Ministers | Habtewold Mesfen | Godfred Effisah | Judy Gallagher | Paul Sticha |
| Lector | Susan DeHaven | David Marquardt | | Abena Opoku |
| Communion Assistants | Sue & Jim Buchanan | Phyllis Carson Jacque Hill | Debbie & Ray Marquardt | Susan & Stewart DeHaven |
| Ushers | Jim Buchanan Tammy Heppner Allian Pratt Helga Recevuto | Jim Buchanan Tammy Heppner Allian Pratt Helga Recevuto | Jim Buchanan Tammy Heppner Allian Pratt Helga Recevuto | Jim Buchanan Tammy Heppner Allian Pratt Helga Recevuto |
| Altar Care | Leisa Kirste Bea Simpson | Mary Manby Susan Duerre | Susan DeHaven Allian Pratt | Christine Howlett Cathy Kroohs |
| Early Service Cookies | Marcia & Doug Miller | Terry Wallace | Kay Dameron | Howard Piepenbrink |
| Communion Set Up | Jo Ann O'Loughlin Howard Piepenbrink | Jo Ann O'Loughlin Howard Piepenbrink | Jo Ann O'Loughlin Howard Piepenbrink | Jo Ann O'Loughlin Howard Piepenbrink |
| Serving on Sundays | Vicki Haugen | Debbie Marquardt | Sandy Wargowsky | Nadine Krutzky- Mitchell |
| Teller | Ron* & Linda Porten Donna Thiessen Amy Acland | Ray Marquardt* Karen Grubbs Kay Dameron | Ray Marquardt* Tammy Heppner Bill Duerre | Ed Axthelm* Mary Manby |

Claimed by God's grace and led by the Holy Spirit, we share the love and peace of Jesus

DECEMBER 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p>28 Advent First Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Informal Worship Service 8:30 AM Amharic Worship Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Worship and Praise International Service 7:00 PM Brass of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>29 7:00 PM Voices of Peace Rehearsal 8:15 PM Bells of Peace</p> | <p>30 9:45 AM INOVA Yoga 7:00 PM Bells con Brio 8:15 PM Messengers of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>1 6:30 PM Bible Study, Worship & Praise Midweek Service 7:00 PM Mason District Meeting</p> | <p>2  Summer and Fall Quilts delivered to shelters</p> | <p>3 1:00 PM Prayer Shawlers at Starbucks 10:00 PM Late Night Prayer Service</p> | <p>4  4:00 PM Advent Carol Festival 7:00 PM Bible Study (Amharic)</p> |
| <p>5 Second Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Informal Worship Service 8:30 AM Amharic Worship Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Worship and Praise International Service 7:00 PM Brass of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>6 7:00 PM Voices of Peace Rehearsal 8:15 PM Bells of Peace</p> | <p>7 9:45 AM INOVA Yoga 7:00 PM Bells con Brio 8:15 PM Messengers of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>8 6:30 PM Bible Study, Worship & Praise Midweek Service</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10 1:00 PM Prayer Shawlers at Starbucks 10:00 PM Late Night Prayer Service</p> | <p>11 7:00 PM Bible Study (Amharic)</p> |
| <p>12 Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Informal Worship Service 8:30 AM Amharic Worship Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Worship and Praise International Service 7:00 PM Brass of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>13 7:00 PM Voices of Peace Rehearsal 8:15 PM Bells of Peace</p> | <p>14 9:45 AM INOVA Yoga 11:30 AM The Lunch Bunch 7:00 PM Bells con Brio 8:15 PM Messengers of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>15 6:30 PM Bible Study, Worship & Praise Midweek Service</p> | <p>16 7:00 PM WRAP Women's Renewal at Peace</p> | <p>17 1:00 PM Prayer Shawlers at Starbucks 10:00 PM Late Night Prayer Service</p> | <p>18 8:00 AM Breakfast and Hanging of Greens 7:00 PM Bible Study (Amharic) </p> |
| <p>19 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Informal Worship Service 8:30 AM Amharic Worship Service 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Worship and Praise International Service 7:00 PM Brass of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>20 7:00 PM Voices of Peace Rehearsal 8:15 PM Bells of Peace</p> | <p>21 First Day of Winter 9:45 AM INOVA Yoga 7:00 PM Bells con Brio 8:15 PM Messengers of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>22 6:30 PM Bible Study, Worship & Praise Midweek Service</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24  Office Closed for Christmas 1:00 PM Prayer Shawlers 5:30 PM Family Service ~ Children's Pageant ~ no Communion 8:00 PM The Nativity of Our Lord Candlelight and Carols</p> | <p>25 Christmas Day 10:30 AM Christmas Morning Service </p> |
| <p>26 8:00 AM Informal Worship Service 8:30 AM Amharic Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Worship and Praise International Service 7:00 PM Brass of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>27 7:00 PM Voices of Peace Rehearsal 8:15 PM Bells of Peace</p> | <p>28 9:45 AM INOVA Yoga 7:00 PM Bells con Brio 8:15 PM Messengers of Peace Rehearsal</p> | <p>29 6:30 PM Bible Study, Worship & Praise Midweek Service</p> | <p>30 7:00 PM "Announce Salvation" Isa 52:7 Guest Speaker Rev. Ayalew <i>Service in Amharic</i></p> | <p>31 Office Closed 1PM Prayer Shawlers 7-9 PM "Announce Salvation" <i>Service in English</i> 9-12 PM "Witness" <i>Service in Amharic</i> 10 PM Late Night Prayer Service</p> | <p>1 New Year's Day </p> |

Claimed by God's grace and led by the Holy Spirit, we share the love and peace of Jesus

Place
Stamp
Here

**Peace Lutheran Church
6362 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, VA 22312**

Address Correction Requested

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Tune in to **WJLA Channel 7**
or **News Channel 8** for latest
status. There will also be a voice
mail message on the church
telephone 703-354-5233 should
there be a schedule change.



THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR “THE WORDS OF PEACE” IS DECEMBER 15TH — REALLY !

*(Comments, suggestions, articles, etc should be emailed to:
info@sharingpeace.org or placed in the secretary's mailbox.)*

Contact Info

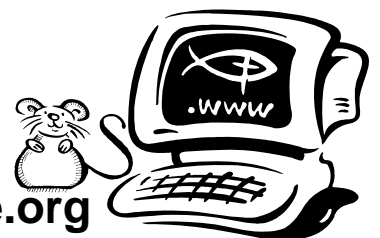
PastorBrent@sharingpeace.org
cell: 571-236-4976
info@sharingpeace.org
nopoku@cox.net
Phone: 703-354-5233
Fax: 703-750-6773

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Informal Worship Service
8:30 a.m. Amharic Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Youth Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
12 Noon Praise & Worship International Service
Nursery & Preschool Care Provided

Weekly Services

Wednesday Bible Study and
Worship & Praise Service 6:30 p.m.
Book of Faith Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Friday Prayer Service 10:00 p.m.
Saturday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. (Amharic)



www.sharingpeace.org