

DECEMBER TIDINGS

Volume 79, December 20(2024)

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Tuesday 8AM-11AM

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Peace Church—Elkader



"Peace United Church of Christ is a multigenerational community of faith. We welcome people of all ages, races, and life situations to join us in



From the "Pen" of Pastor Paula

THAT TIME OF THE YEAR!

It's that time of the year to reflect on all that we are grateful for in the past year and plan for a new year ahead. As 2025 nears, we look at our commitments of time, talents and treasures in our personal and professional lives. It is equally important to consider our spiritual life, our church community and our commitment to that part of our lives as well. We can act on this commitment in a number of ways:

- a. Participate regularly in worship in person or on line;
- b. Join a committee or serve on the council;
- c. Join in a study group;
- d. Pray for Peace church and the people of the wider community and world;
- e. Serve in different ways in the community at large;
- f. Make a financial pledge for 2025 as a sign of commitment in the future of this church.

In the weeks and months ahead, may our hearts overflow with gratitude and our spirits fill with hope for the future that lies ahead.

Blessings of Peace, Love and Joy to You!

**JESUS
IS THE
LIGHT
OF OUR
CHRISTMAS
THE
JOY
OF OUR
HEARTS
AND THE
HOPE
OF OUR WORLD!
Pastor Paula**

*May His truth and grace light your home
and warm your heart this Christmas
and always!*

Christmas Blessings from

Pastor Paula and Nova—the PK

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:00AM First Sunday in Advent — Hanging of the Greens — Potluck</p>	<p>2 4:00pm Stephen Ministers Happy Birthday, Dean Gray</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Happy Birthday. Maxine Kuehl, Gloria Elvers, Jade Kushe</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Worship with Communion Happy Anniversary Dale & Cheryl Scott</p>	<p>9 5:30 PM: Church Council</p>	<p>10 Happy Birthday Susan Johnson</p>	<p>11 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir Happy Birthday Terry Baumgartner, Melissa Buckman, Fred Cornwell</p>	<p>12 Peacemakers Happy Birthday Delores Klink, Dirk Buckman</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Happy Birthday, Tim Olson</p>
<p>15 Third Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19 Happy Birthday Neal Perry 1:30 Elkader Care Center Worship 5-6:30 Grace Café</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Worship—7PM Happy Birthday John Gnagy</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Christmas Day Dinner at Noon (No Bell & Chancel Choir)</p>	<p>26 Happy Birthday, Carol Kruse, Stephanie Dennler, Ayden Schutte, Pastor Paula (Office Closed)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Happy Birthday Bruce Landis, Donna Buckman</p>
<p>29 First Sunday After Christmas 9:00 AM Worship Happy Birthday Juanita Doeppke, Isaiah Burns</p>	<p>30 Happy Birthday, Kim Frentress</p>	<p>31 Happy Birthday, Duane Klink</p>			<p>* Coffee Fellowship after Worship Services on Sunday Mornings</p>	<p>Office Open Mon, Wed, & Thurs, Fri from 9 AM to noon Tues 8AM to 11AM !</p>

January Tidings Deadline

January Tidings newsletter deadline will be Friday, December 24. Please submit updates and articles by this date. Please email: peaceucc@alpinecom.net or call 563-245 2126. Thanks for all your time and involvement in Peace UCC!

Council Minutes– 10/14/24

November 11, 2024 Attending: Pastor Paula, Steve, Jay, Mike Absent: Marlis, Theresa Call to order by Jay at 5:37

Minutes approved- moved by Steve and seconded by Mike

Financial Report – not available

Pastor's report: Ditto from last month!

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds Nothing from Ethan Koehn about stairwell – he has looked at it. Jay, Mike, Dave Mlehe, and Gary have covered the window wells with plexiglass

Worship and Altar Committee Meeting as needed. Who could share information with council – Sue Stott, Sue Gnagy, Joanne Gray – Jane will email

Christian Ed What to do about Sunday School for under 5th grade – Congregational church is not an option due to conflict with Sunday service. Bible Study is doing well – working on a project

Missions Consist of members that help with with Grace Café Contact Joanne Gray and Elaine Knoke Martin– Jane will email

Memorial Request

\$8312 for Mark Kuemple - Will endowment contribute \$1524 Balance

\$1186.63 to Lifeline for audio visual

Display \$1194 and (Blinds for pastor's office, Bell choir lights and charger – unsure)

\$149.95 to replace purple altar cloth

Moved by Steve, seconded by Mike - approved

Old Business Still working on new phones and computer gurus Problem with buffering on the computer in balcony – part of Lifeline system. System is under warrantee . Approved Diane Finley's request Christmas Dinner

New Business

Ecumenical ministry service 3 pm Nov 24 Need a few volunteers. Need new council members, Jane and Jay are retiring Need to begin working on a budget for next year Meeting is adjourned 6:08 pm

IMPORTANT COUNCIL NEWS: The Peace Church council is looking for 3 people to serve on the council—Theresa Freitag has resigned due to workload, Jay Moser and Jane Metcalf terms are up! Please consider volunteering!!

Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree for Shepherd of the Hills “Christmas for Kids” will be in the Narthex through Sunday, December 8th Please bring your donations of toys, clothes and/or money and place under our tree. Our elves will deliver the goodies to Saint Olaf in time for their Christmas give away.

Grace Café

Our next Grace Café is Thursday, December 19th from 5-6:30PM. We will be serving ham, Joanne's company potatoes, sweet potatoes, salad, ice cream and Christmas cookies. This is a free meal though should you decide to donate, all proceeds above food costs go towards the mission work of Peace UCC. We will provide take outs and deliver within the city limits. Please call our church office (563-245-2126) if you would like a delivery. Everyone is welcome to join us for this meal of fellowship and fun!

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 1st is the first Sunday in Advent and will be time to make our church sparkle with Christmas spirit. Following worship, we will be hoping all our church elves will help to make our sanctuary more beautiful with the Christmas spirit. Everyone is welcome to help if only to supervise and tell the elves the perfect place to hang the ornaments. We will follow will a potluck meal with the meat being provided.

Prayer Requests

Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Dave & Diane B-H, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Wayne Frentress, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Karla, Ruth Grau, Gerry Kramer, Gary & Nancy Kuehl, Marlene Marmann, Marilyn Nielsen, Ruth and Jenny Olson, Lucena Phelps, Sharon Reichert, Payton Renschler, Harry Robbins, Joan Strauss, Teena, Father James, Dennis Glesne,

Care Center/Assisted Living Residents

Karen Glesne, Joyce Hoth, Connie Koehn, Marlene Marmann, Marilyn Nielsen, Eydie Seeland, Gary & Nancy Kuehl

Attendance & Worship Offerings

November 3, 2024	56	\$2364
November 10, 2024	61	\$2315
November 17, 2024	69	\$2127
November 24, 2024	NA	NA

Clayton County Food Shelf Needs

Baking Mixes, Flour, Sugar, BakingSoda, Powdered Sugar, Brown Sugar.

Items always Needed:

Canned food, paper goods, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, dish detergent, powdered laundry detergent, baby diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, baby powder, tuna, peanut butter, mac & cheese.

HISTORY LOVERS! - Do you have an interest in the church history with a passion to bring it up to current state?

Here is an opportunity for you!! The memorial committee recently purchased a new mounted photo display, replacing the broken one in the Narthex. The original pictures, which end in 2016, were restored in the new frames..BUT...there is room for more! We are looking for interested persons to bring the church history up to date! If you have an interest in being on a working group to do this important task, please contact Elaine Knoke Martin at martinelaine76@yahoo.com | or 563-446-2135.

Sign up for Weekly Volunteer Opportunities by scanning this QR Code



Time & Talent

Bread for the Journey

Readings for 12/1/24

Jeremiah 33:14-16: Psalm 25:1-10:I.Thessalonians 3:9-13: Luke 21:25-36

Readings for 12/8/24

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1: 68-79; Phillipians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Readings for 12/15/24

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Phillipians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

Readings for 12/22/24

Micah 5:2-5a: Luke 1:39-55; Hebrews 10:5-10

Readings for Christmas Eve

The story of Christmas told in a series of lessons and carols

Readings for 12/29/24

I.Samuel 2: 18-20, Psalm 148: Colossians 3:12-17: Luke 2:41-52

Opening/Closing

12/1	Sue Stott
12/8	Gary Kuehl
12/15	Sue Stott
12/22	Bruce Landis
12/29	Carl & Laura Moser

Usher/Greeter

12/1	Gerald & Arlene Reimer
12/8	Deb DeShaw & Diane Finley
12/15	Kenny & Penni Leonard
12/22	Barb Chandler
12/29	Steve & Ann McCorkindale

Reader

12/1	Sue Stott
12/8	Mary Webber
12/15	Kristina Miller
12/22	Bruce Landis
12/29	Penni Leonard

Fellowship

12/1	Sue Stott
12/8	Seney/Burns
12/15	Glawe/Moser
12/22	Volunteer Needed
12/29	Volunteer Needed

Communion Prep & Clean Up

12/1	Bruce Landis
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Food Shelf Donation Driver

Melissa Patrick

If you can Not volunteer on the date, Please call Or email the office.

Thank you for volunteering !

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2024



Christmas is right around the corner. I am busy getting things organized and families ready to shop at our Christmas for Kids event. Last year we served 514 children so I expect this year will be just as busy. We are asking for your support with new/unwrapped gifts that will be distributed to families in need. One of the most needed age groups is the teenagers. Yes, they are hard to buy for but they too need our support. Suggested items are fishing poles, gaming items, cologne, ear buds, headphones, sports items, hair products, hair straighteners/curling irons, hair dryers, nail polish, craft projects.

We will set up the auditorium on December 12-13. This is when we are open to the public to drop off their donations. The event will be December 18-19. All families will be by our referral process and will shop by appointment. If you are wanting to help and donate your time, please let me know. It is amazing how it all comes together. The generosity of our community is very overwhelming.

Clothing Center Updates:

We are getting some wonderful donations. Some of the items we are still in need of are: pots and pans, bath towels, wash cloths, baking dishes/pans, small kitchen gadgets, bedding(all sizes) sheets (all sizes/flat/fitted). Girls clothing from NB-size 18 youth. (Pants/shirt), Men's jeans (all sizes). We appreciate a scheduled appointment to donate as this allows us to plan our day/ schedule volunteers/schedule more donations. We do not require a set "time" just a day that the donation will be brought. Thank you for your continued support!

Shepherd Conference News:

If you are wanting to serve on the SOTH board, we will have openings for secretary (2 yr term) property (2 yr term) and the Synod Representative (3 yr term). If you have an interest in joining the board, please let me know by January 3rd, 2025.

Conference Assembly will be February 16 @ 2:00 pm with a snow date of February 23rd 2025. This year St. Paul Volga, Iowa will be hosting the conference.

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify **Crisis or Operating Fund!**

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

**Christmas for Kids
December 18th -19th**

**Conference Assembly
February 16th (Tentative)
St. Paul, Volga**

*Any event may be subject to change

Shepherd of the Hills:

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**Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**

Christmas Care Baskets

Sunday, December 8th, after worship we will be assembling our care baskets for our shut ins and those in need of a Christmas hug from Peace UCC. This is always a fun morning of wrapping up some Christmas cheer! Grace Café will be buying the fruit and soup for the base of the baskets but we will need cookies and candies to add. Also, we will need to gather all the elves to help assemble and deliver our baskets of cheer. Please come and join us. What a wonderful way to share the Christmas Joy!

Caroling

A caroling we will go! We are going caroling again this year! We will welcome everyone that can carry a tune (or try) to come and join us! (Even if you can't carry a tune we don't care). As of this writing we do not have a date set yet but as soon as we do we will sing it out to you! PS the elves tell us they will feed you some hot soup when we are done singing!

CHRISTMAS DINNER-

Peace Church will once again host a Christmas Dinner. To complete the meal we need food donations of salads and desserts. Our menu will be ham, cheesy and sweet potato casseroles, vegetables, salads, and of course desserts! A clipboard will be sent during church if you can help by cooking or working. If you have no plans we would love for you to join us Christmas Day at noon. This is open to the public so share with your friends. Please call for reservations by Monday, Dec. 23rd—Deb DeShaw @ 245-2498, JoAnn Butikofer @ 245-2635 or Diane Finley @ 245-2682. Leave a message if there is no answer. Thanks for your support!

Now Hiring!!

If you or someone you know would be interested in filling the Church Secretary position, please contact the church at 563-245-2126.

We are looking for someone to work part-time, mostly mornings during the week to fulfill secretarial duties which include answering phones, checking and sorting mail, updating the website, scheduling live streams, updating church records as needed, answering emails and inquiries, ordering supplies, creating monthly newsletters, and other duties as requested.

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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ELKADER, IOWA 52043-0268
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CAR-RT-SORT
NON-PROFIT
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