

December 2026
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Advent: Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas



Advent is here! The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." During the next four weeks, we will prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent is also a season of anticipation. Like children waiting for Christmas morning, we wait with excitement and expectation. But our waiting during Advent is about something more than presents, decorations, or holiday parties. We are preparing to celebrate the greatest gift ever given — the gift of God's own Son, who came into the world to save us from our sins.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us look beyond the busyness of shopping, baking, decorating, and preparing for family gatherings. These things are all enjoyable, but let us not lose sight of the reason we celebrate. Christmas is about Jesus! It is about God's love for us, through the birth of His Son.

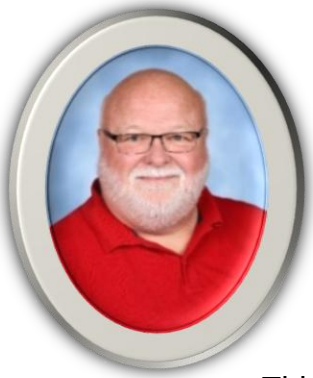
May this Advent season prepare our hearts, strengthen our faith, and fill our lives with hope, peace, joy, and love. And may the celebration of Christmas once again remind us of the greatest gift of all: Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

May God bless you and your family with a joyful Advent season and a blessed Christmas!

God's Peace,

Pastor Klemm

A Message from Our Deacon…

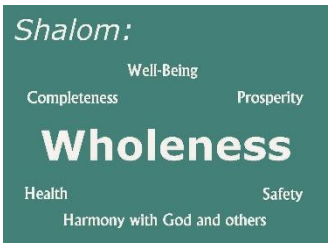


Buckle up! We are heading into December. The busiest month of the year! So many things to do! Cleaning, buying presents, wrapping, baking, cleaning again, family get togethers, work parties, and on and on.

During this month, we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus! The best story ever told! Consider that Jesus left His home in heaven to come and be born a baby. He was born to a young woman about thirteen or fourteen. His earthly father was a hard-working carpenter. God came to a poor family. He came here for you and me! He loves you and wants you to live with Him in heaven forever!

This month we have many opportunities to hear The Greatest Story ever told! Our children have been working hard on their Christmas programs. I encourage you to invite family and friends to worship with you.

Sadly, some of our friends will have an empty chair at their Christmas dinner table. Please be ready to love on those folks!



I wish you a blessed Christ-filled CHRISTmas! Shalom, Shalom!

Serving Jesus and His People!

Deacon Jim Schurig



A Message from Our Principal…



How fast the school year is going. I cannot believe that I am sitting here typing an article highlighting what is to come in December! So many things are coming up, and I am excited to be here to see them.

Before we look ahead, I do want to once again highlight our State Championship Volleyball Team. They lost only one game all year and came home as the best team in Michigan. Thank you to all the parents who sacrificed time for practice as well as our coaches and athletes as they worked hard all season long. Way to go girls!



We are also looking forward to presenting our Christmas Program for 2026. This year it has called "Away in a Mango," which is a play-off of Gilligan's Island. We have two performances this year, both on Wednesday December 16. We have a matinee that begins with our band at 9:30am and our evening performance that begins with the band at 6:00am. Our evening performance is going to be full, so anyone who can come to the matinee will help give more seats at night.



Christmas parties, Christmas programs, Santa Shoppes, basketball games, and so much more can fill our December calendars before we know it. We can spend so much time getting ready for the holiday, that we forget why we are celebrating in the first place. It is my prayer that all of us are able to keep Christ at the center of all of our celebrations this season. May the Light that shines in the darkness illuminate the end of your year and always.

This month we are highlighting our 1st grade teacher Mrs. Geffert. Mrs. Geffert brings 21 years of teaching experience—including 17 dedicated years here at Peace—to our 1st grade classroom. For Mrs. Geffert, the most rewarding part of teaching is watching her students make meaningful connections to their learning throughout the day. Her deep dedication to her students shines brightly, and the genuine love and care she has for them is evident in everything she does.

When asked what makes Peace so special, she shares that the school truly feels like a family where everyone cares for and supports one another. Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Geffert enjoys spending her free time camping. Thank you again for all you do, Mrs. Geffert.

Michael Nelson, Principal

A Message from Our E.C. Director…

Preschool News – Celebrating the Joy of Christmas!



We have decked the halls, made our lists, and checked them twice! We are ready for Christmas in preschool! Our classrooms are filled with holiday excitement, joyful songs, and little reminders of the true reason we celebrate this special season.

We are especially excited about our **Christmas Program on December 9, at 6:30pm**, titled "The Shepherd's Christmas!" We invite you to join us as our 4s and Young 5s students share the story of the very first Christmas through the eyes of the shepherds. There is nothing quite as precious as hearing the songs of praise and the message of Jesus' birth through the voices of children!

We are also looking ahead to our **Preschool and Kindergarten Open House on Tuesday, January 26, from 6:00–7:30pm.** Please help us spread the word to young families in our community! We welcome families to tour our campus, meet our teachers, and learn more about the wonderful opportunities our school programs offer. Your invitations and word-of-mouth recommendations make a difference as we share the blessings of a Christ-centered education with more families.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers for our preschool program. We are grateful for the role you play in helping provide an excellent academic and faith-filled experience for young children and their families. Together, we are preparing hearts and minds for today, tomorrow, and eternity!



From all of us at Peace Lutheran Preschool, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year! ♥

Blessings,

Suzette Quail
Early Childhood Director

A Message from the Editor…

Dear Readers,



Merry Christmas! May the season of Christ's birth bring about a rebirth in relationships, and hopes and goals attained. Do not let the sometimes hectic shopping and entertaining get in the way of experiencing the miracles of Jesus' birth and never-ending blessings!

Jackie Pilan

PS: The deadline for January's "Peace Lutheran Messenger" is **Sunday, December 20.**

Board and Ministry News…



TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

Join the Peace Lutheran Church and School family for an evening of food, fellowship, and friendly bidding on Friday, March 19, 2027, from 6:00-10:00pm, at the Shelby Banquet Center (50265 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Township, MI 48317).

Preparations for our auction are now underway and we want you to be part of the great things that are happening at Peace! We plan to continue the development of programs that foster growth and outstanding education for our students, and enhance the worship experiences and fellowship events at our church and school.

Every donation and every bid helps our family of faith, students, and community grow in faith, learning, and service.

Would you like to purchase tickets, be a sponsor, or donate items? Access https://www.peaceshelby.org/peace-full-auction-2027 today!

Please see our sponsorship flyer on Page 6 of this newsletter.



Kidzone and Nursery Reminder!

Please note that KidZone and our nursery will not be available on ***Sunday, December 28, 2026.***

If you would like to help with our KidZone or our nursery in the future, please contact Holly at hnelson@peaceshelby.org!

PEACE"FULL" BLESSINGS

SILENT & LIVE AUCTION FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2027

Sponsorship Levels

	Platinum Sponsor $1500+	Gold Sponsor $1000	Silver Sponsor $750	Bronze Sponsor $500	Panther Sponsor $250	Gift Sponsor $100
Event Program	★	★	★	★	★	★
Slideshow	★	★	★	★	★	★
Logo on Event Webpage	★	★	★	★	★	
Social Media	★	★	★	★	★	
Individual Social Media Highlight	★	★	★	★		
Complimentary Tickets	1 Table (10 tickets)	6 Tickets	4 Tickets	2 Tickets		
Raffle Tickets	50	40	25	10		
Signage	★	★	★			
Recognition by emcee at event	★	★	★			
Opportunity to hand out branded item	★	★				

SPONSOR HERE

*Ads due February 19, 2027

SHELBY BANQUET

50265 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Township, MI 48317

www.peaceshelby.org

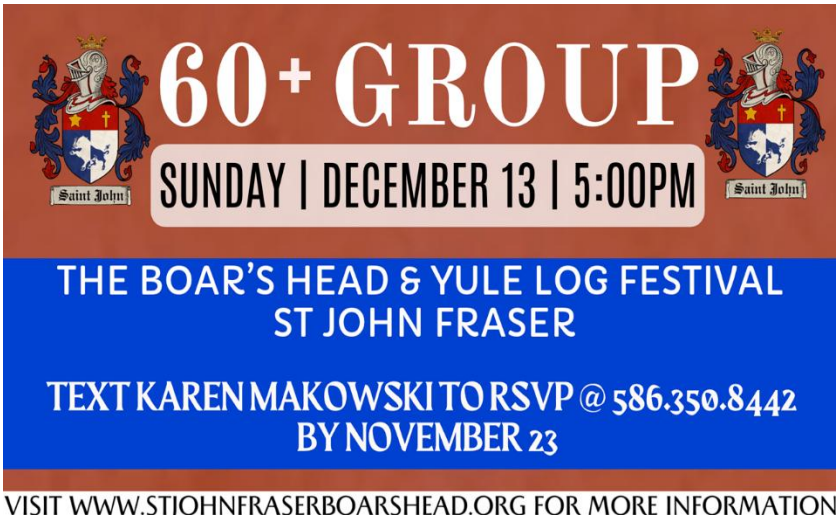


INVITING PEACE'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH MUSICIANS (GRADES K-12) TO PLAY OR SING SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR PRE-SERVICE AT OUR

CHRISTMAS CONCERT SERVICE

DECEMBER 13, 2026
10:30AM SERVICE

FOR DETAILS, PLEASE EMAIL HOLLY (HNELSON@PEACESHELBY.ORG)



60+ Group Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival

December 13, 2026

60+ Group, you are invited see a Christmas pageant during this annual Christmas event celebrating the traditional Lutheran Christmas from the 1400's **at St. John Fraser at 5:00pm, on Sunday, December 13**.

For more information, please visit their site at https://www.stjohnfraserboarshead.org.

Please RSVP to Karen at 586-350-8442.



60+ Group Christmas Play and Lunch

December 16, 2026

60+ Group, you are invited to watch a special showing of **our K-8 Christmas program at 10:00am, on Wednesday, December 16**, before gathering for lunch at Da Francesco's.

Pre-service music begins at 9:30am.

Please RSVP to Karen at 586-350-8442.





Pancakes and Peppermint

December 6, 2026

Join us for a joyful afternoon of delicious pancakes with Santa, creative holiday crafts, and heartfelt fellowship, hosted by our youth group. As we celebrate the Christmas season, we gather not just to enjoy good food and fun, but to remember the true reason for our hope—God's gift of love through Jesus Christ.

- Bring your family and friends and experience the warmth of community
- Our special guest is Santa Claus.
- Free Will Donation to Peace's Youth Group.



Christmas Concert

December 13, 2026

Join us on **Sunday, December 13, at 10:30am**, for our Christmas Concert. **Please note that there will not be an 8:30am service this day.** KidZone and Nursery will also not be available. There will be a brunch to follow the service.



K-8 Christmas Program

December 16, 2026

Join us on **Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30pm,** for "Away in a Mango," this year's K-8 Christmas program that combines a tropical island shipwreck adventure with the powerful message of Jesus' birth.

Band and Choir Pre-service Music begins at 6:00pm.

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.
—Hamilton Wright Mabie (Taken with permission from www.newsletternewsletter.com)


VeggieTales Christmas
YOUTH EVENT
SUNDAY | DECEMBER 20
HYSM - 2:00PM-4:00PM
JYM - 4:00PM-6:00PM
SNACKS, GAMES, MOVIE & MORE
YOUTH
GIVE JOYFULLY
BECAUSE GOD
HAS GIVEN
TO US
WHAT TO BRING:
Food Pantry items
for Samaritan's House
Ugly Mug Gift Exchange:
A random mug to give away.
Fill it with a small treat. Wrap it up!
CONTACT HOLLY WITH QUESTIONS


MISTAKES help us GROW
PEACE
Lutheran
Church & School
2027 OPEN HOUSE
TUESDAY
JANUARY 26
6:30PM - 7:30PM
PRESCHOOL AGE 2 -
KINDERGARTEN
6580 24 MILE ROAD
SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MI 48316
586.731.4120
WWW.PEACESHELBY.ORG

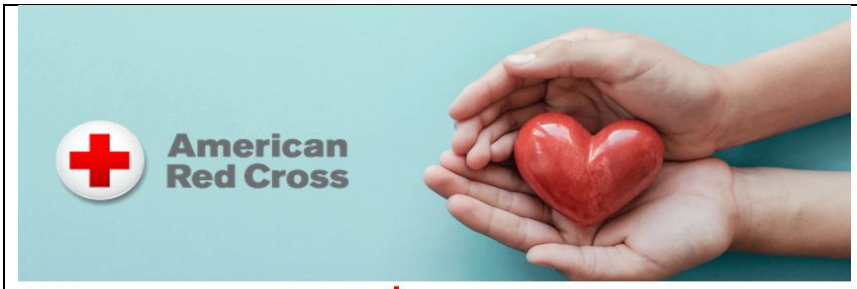


Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24, 2026

Join us for our Christmas Eve services, as we gather together to celebrate and reflect upon our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's birth. **Candlelight Services will be at 4:00pm & 6:00pm in-person, and live streamed at 4:00pm.**

We will have a goodie bag for each child in celebration of Christmas!



Red Cross Blood Drive

January 18, 2027

Peace is hosting a **Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on Monday, January 18, from 12:00pm to 6:00pm**. Please consider donating blood. A single blood donation may help up to three different people. Walk-ins are welcome. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) for availability or go to **ww.redcrossblood.org** and search sponsor code: peaceshelby. You may also call Peggy Bobel at 248-840-0553.





WhiteOut Jr. - Youth Winter Camp

Big Fun. Real Faith. One Unforgettable Winter Weekend.

Race down the tubing hill after dark, battle your friends on the broomball rink, and jump into games, challenges, and all kinds of winter fun! WhiteOut Jr. is packed with adventure, laughter, and plenty of chances to make memories with friends. But when the games wind down, we will make room for something even more important…

We all make mistakes, and sometimes we worry about what is coming next. At WhiteOut Jr., we will discover what it means to let Christ forgive our mistakes, trust God with the future, and follow His plans for our lives. Through worship, Bible messages, and small-group time, kids will learn that they do not have to carry their mistakes or figure everything out on their own. They can leave the past behind, trust God with what is ahead, and keep Christ at the center of it all. Register at https://www.peaceshelby.org/youth-ministries.

Dates: January 8-10, 2027 **Register by:** December 7, 2026
Where: Pine Ridge Bible Camp, 8415 17 Mile Rd NE, Cedar Springs, MI 49319
Cost: $145 (Initial registration is open now.) **Grades:** 3rd - 6th

*We will register as a group. Holly will get further details two weeks before camp.
** We will leave from Peace on Friday, January 8, at approximately 2:45pm. We will return Sunday, January 10, with an ETA of 2:30pm.

***Parents, if you are interested in chaperoning, please reach out to Holly for details.

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 14, 2026

for

WHITE OUT - YOUTH WINTER CAMP

January 22 - 24, 2027

OUTDOOR WINTER FUN & GOD'S WORD

GRADES 7 - 12

SIGN UP FOR YOUTH GROUP UPDATES
Visit www.peaceshelby.org for details.

WhiteOut - Youth Winter Camp

(Grades 7-12)

New year. Fresh start. New intentions.

Race down the tubing hill after dark, battle your friends on the broomball rink, and jump into nonstop games and challenges. WhiteOut is packed with adventure, laughter, and plenty of opportunities to make memories with friends. But when the noise settles, we make room for something deeper…

We all have things in our past we would like to erase—and things ahead we are not sure how to navigate. Through powerful worship, honest messages, and real conversations, WhiteOut will challenge you to let Christ wash away your mistakes, surrender your future to God, and trust the plans He has for you.

Come ready to leave the past behind, look toward what is ahead, and discover what it means to live with Christ at the center of it all.

Dates: January 22 - 24, 2027
Register by: December 14, 2026
Where: Pine Ridge Bible Camp, 8415 17 Mile Rd NE, Cedar Springs, MI 49319
Cost: $145 (Initial registration is open now.)
Grades: 7th-12th

*We will register as a group. Holly will get further details two weeks before camp.
** We will leave from Peace on Friday, January 22 @ approximately 2:45pm. We will return Sunday, January 24, with an ETA of 2:30pm.
***Parents, if you are interested in chaperoning, please reach out to Holly for details.


OPEN HOUSE
Preschool & Kindergarten
JANUARY
26
6:00 - 7:30 PM
We welcome you to our campus
to visit classrooms, meet teachers
and gather information about our curriculum.
We welcome families to attend
and explore the many ways we are
preparing hearts and minds
for the future.

The Board of Christian Care



The Board of Christian Care would like to wish you A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Thank you for making 2026 brighter with your generosity, love and prayers, The Friends of Foster Care, The Red Cross, and and Samaritan House are very grateful.

Do you know of a Peace college student or an active military service member? The Board of Christian Care would love to pray for and acknowledge them. Please send their name and address to christiancare@peaceshelby.org.

We are looking forward to 2027! If you would like to be a part of some upcoming opportunities, please contact us at christiancare@peaceshelby.org.

A Special Thank You!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Jeannie and I were touched and overwhelmed by the love and care we received during my recent hospital stay and recovery. The calls, meals, and prayers were such a blessing and demonstrated the heart of this congregation. We thank you and thank God for you!

George and Jeannie Nelson



Aging with Purpose

By Beverly Porter

For most of us, aging comes as a thief in the night. We look in the mirror one morning and a stranger looks back at us, and not too kindly. Where did these new wrinkles come from, the brown hair around the temples now beginning to gray, and most of all, a general appearance that says you are getting old?



The thief, disguised as aging, smirks over our shoulder and says, "Welcome to my world." We feel shocked and unprepared. This is what happens to our parents and grandparents, not to us. Well it does, so how can we age gracefully and with a purpose?

This sounds so easy...just change your thinking. Not as easy as it sounds. I remember the days (many days ago) when the cute McDonald kid behind the counter would not offer me the senior discount. No matter, I will gladly pay the normal amount for his ignorance and my deception. But then, several years later, the cute McDonald kid gave me the senior discount without even asking if I qualified. "Hey, if I want your senior discount, I will ask for it," I felt like saying. Instead, I glumly accepted my ticket into the Land of Aging. So now, we are back to the reality of accepting the inevitable and aging with a purpose.

I have a hydrangea tree that illustrates this concept of aging by learning from each stage of the yearly seasons from summer through fall. In early summer, the blooms are white, large and fragrant and I cut them and make a bouquet to enjoy in my home. By mid-summer, the blooms are changing into a dusty pink, and by fall, they are beige and have become dry. However, they have not lost their ability to provide enjoyment as flowers, for when cut, they make a lovely dried arrangement. Even when the dried flower becomes too brittle to remain intact, the seeds in some varieties are now available to plant new trees. As we can see, each season changes the appearance and texture of the flower but the flower adapts to the changes and continues to be useful, This flower is a mentor on how to adjust to the natural stages of aging.

Scripture has much to say about aging. How you decide to live your life will determine the outcome. Saul, the first king, did not age with a legacy of purpose, for much of his life was consumed with jealousy and attempts at murder. Even though he was chosen by God for leadership, he abused the opportunity. Noah, however, persevered at his long task of building the ark and aged with a purpose, even through much opposition. With the many examples in the Bible about aging, we want to view aging as a friend and not as a thief. Satan, the real thief, comes to steal, kill and destroy, and our proper attitude about aging is one of his goals. "Age is just a number" we so often hear as a mantra spoken to delay the inevitable. I had a dear elderly friend who did not keep her dark, leathery skin under wraps. She wore her age with confidence. In the Book of Titus, Older women are encouraged to be mentors to younger women in matters of faith and caring for their families. Older and more mature men are to teach the younger men disciplined lives. Attitude, on our part is important for we must let God show us that because He created us, we therefore are of value. Nature, observation of people, and most of all, scripture is where we learn how to Age With A Purpose.

He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. - Ruth 4: 15

With a long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation. - Psalm 91:16

Christmas Word Search



Joy to the World

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

O	B	W	I	S	H	A	B	P	P	L	X	S	I	V	F	A	I	M
I	A	F	L	O	T	T	N	I	E	C	U	G	G	S	F	D	C	M
N	U	G	H	T	X	L	F	L	F	F	R	N	A	E	U	D	M	D
F	T	N	E	V	D	A	E	F	V	D	A	I	M	L	O	S	M	K
A	G	I	C	G	T	A	M	Y	D	I	T	S	M	B	L	J	E	E
N	C	I	N	F	L	C	A	M	E	L	S	S	K	A	K	L	P	J
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B	B	L	C	L	O	Y	D	G	P	U	T	A	E	Z	R	K	R	P
R	E	G	N	A	M	I	R	D	S	E	F	P	C	R	W	T	I	Q
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ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE
INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE
MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN

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Worship Services

On-Site Sunday Worship

8:30am Traditional
10:30am Contemporary

Online Worship

Streaming Sunday at 10:30am
on Peace's App, YouTube Channel and
Facebook Page

Sunday Bible Studies

Adult Bible Studies

9:40-10:30am

HSYM/JYM

9:45am

KidZone and Nursery

During the 10:30am Service

Tuesday Bible Study

9:05am

Wednesday Bible Studies

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

10:00am, Gathering Room

Wednesday Night Bible Studies

6:30pm, Bible Studies
7:00pm, Zoom Study

Thursday Bible Study

6:30pm, Adult Bible Study

Prayer Group

2:30pm, Mondays, at the
Klein Residence

Church Calendar

https://www.peaceshelby.org/church-events-calendar

To subscribe to or to unsubscribe from the .pdf e-news version of the monthly "Peace Lutheran Messenger," please send your request with your name and e-mail address to enews@peaceshelby.org.

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Erin Olsen & Gail Willemsen, Kindergarten Teaching Assistants
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Contact Information

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Website: www.peaceshelby.org

Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm

Peace Lutheran Church and School
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