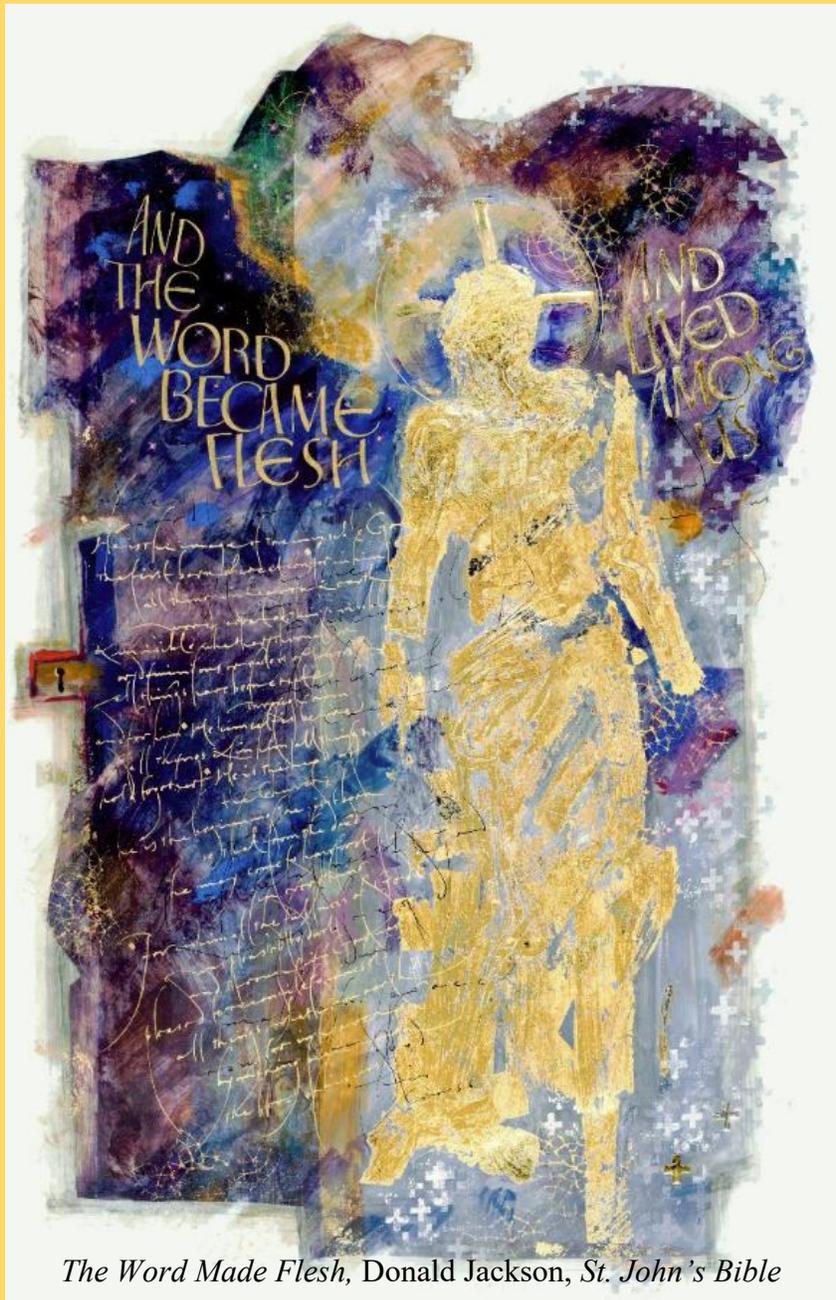


FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



The Word Made Flesh, Donald Jackson, St. John's Bible

DECEMBER 28, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington



*Welcome to Peace – your presence here enriches our community.
On this First Sunday after Christmas we follow the arc of the story of Christ's incarnation,
and through hymns and carols reflect on its meaning for us.*

We celebrate Christ's presence in the Sacrament of the Table each week at Peace. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

✝ GATHERING ✝

P – Presider C – Congregation A – Assisting Minister L – Lector
ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal WOV – With One Voice LBW – Lutheran Book of Worship

PRELUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze

Arr. Watson Forbes

JIM HUNT, VIOLIN & JANET CRUSE, PIANO

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

ELW #288

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Christ is born: Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✝ WORD ✝

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Helen Hundley

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Love Has Come

ELW #292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

Helen Hundley

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ELW #272

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love a right, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

THIRD READING: John 1:1-14, 16-18

Pastor Daniel Sorensen

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

ELW #295, vs. 1-2

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
 he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
 of things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
 evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
 by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
 and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
 evermore and evermore.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Helen Hundley

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:21-35

Larry Cruse

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism.
 His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized
 as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
 according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:36-40

Larry Cruse

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

ELW #295, vs. 3-5

- 3 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.
- 4 Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.
- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
evermore and evermore. Amen

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:41-52

Pastor Dan Sorensen

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. Their faithful adherence to the law provided a healthy environment for the young Jesus to grow into spiritual maturity.

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

LBW #74



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose glow shall wake the sky;
2 This child through Da - vid's cit - y Shall ride in tri - umph by;
3 Yet he shall be for - sak - en And yield - ed up to die;
4 But now, as at the end - ing, The low is lift - ed high;



The stars shall bend their voic - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The palm shall strew its branch - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The sky shall groan and dark - en, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The stars shall bend their voic - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.



And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, And straw like gold shall shine;
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, Though heav - y, dull, and dumb,
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry For ston - y hearts of men:
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry In prais - es of the child



A barn shall har - bor heav - en, A stall be - come a shrine.
And lie with - in the road - way To pave his king - dom come.
God's blood up - on the spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
By whose de - scent a - mong us The worlds are rec - on - ciled.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heidi Eilers

A Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Petitions are offered, ending with the response:

A God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

When all petitions have been offered:

P We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

+ MEAL +

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE.

Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Ave Maria

Charles Gounod, J.S. Bach
JIM HUNT, VIOLIN & JANET CRUSE, PIANO

OFFERTORY VERSE

ELW #279

♪ O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of glory,

C great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... praise your name and join their unending hymn:

[TUNE: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, ELW #270]

♪ **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored.
O how blest is he who comes, in the holy name of God.
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angles sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.
In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.¹
In the night he was handed over to death, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

C **Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

C **This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son, through whom all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty and Altender God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*traditional*)

P Trusting in the One who made his home with us, we pray the prayer of Jesus:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!

C **Thanks be to God.**

¹ This section of prayer from WOV, Leaders Edition, page 66.

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

COMMUNION HYMNS *Holy Child Within the Manger*

WOV #638

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
love an im - age like our own

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

What Feast of Love

ELW #487

- 1 What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!
- 2 What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous work is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

- 3 What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
 What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of god is given!

When all have finished communing:

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- A Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.
- C **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

- P The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
 + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
- C **Amen.**

SENDING

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
 Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
 behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
 rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
 and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

- A Glory to God in the highest!
- C **Peace to God's people on earth!**
- A Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Personent Hodie (Shout for Joy, Loud and Long)

Bell Choir



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastor Erik Kindem's mobile phone number:	206-930-3172
Pastor Erik Kindem's email:	Pastor@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org
Peace Lutheran web page:	www. PeaceLutheranSeattle.org
Kathleen Keyes Office Admin.	Office@ PeaceLutheranSeattle.org
Church Office hours:	Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm
Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director	206-427-6496
Jon Lackey, Minister of Music	Music@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org
Find us on at People of Peace Lutheran	

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Presider	Rev. Daniel Sorensen
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Guest Pianist	Janet Cruse
Peace Ringers	
Liturgical Assistant	Heidi Eilers
Percussion	Heidi Eilers
Violin	Jim Hunt
Acolyte	Jordan Troupe
Lector	Larry Cruse, Helen Hundley
Children's Sermon	Helen Hundley
Greeters	Helen Hundley, Marcia Olson
Ushers	John & Debi Flint
Altar Care	Liz & Randy Hernandez
Communion Assistants	Liz Hernandez, Wyatt Gray
Coffee Server	Betty Beller
Production Techs	Alex Wren, Alan Jarvimaki
Counters	Alan Jarvimaki, Keven Klinemeier
Nursery Attendant	Heidi Coy

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the Northwest region, and internationally through the ELCA!

Offering Income received December 2025

12/07/25	\$ 3,065.00
12/14/25	\$ 3,655.00
12/21/25	\$ 4,299.37
<u>Electronic</u>	<u>\$10,421.92</u>
Total	\$21,441.29

Your year-end gift will help us close the fiscal year with strength. Thank you!

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

What do you do with holiday meal leftovers? Ever pressed leftover stuffing into a hot waffle iron until it's crispy and golden and then topped it with a fried egg and leftover gravy? Or blended leftover roasted sweet potatoes into a pancake batter? You can! Creativity can turn Christmas leftovers into fabulous food *and* cut food waste. What a great way to transition into a new year. Share ideas with your friends and neighborhood (including those in the pew beside you!). Spark your creativity with online resources like <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/christmas-leftovers-recipes>. Happy eating! **Pray for Creation:** With all creation of land, sea, and sky, we praise our Creator with songs of joyful thanks for the gift of God's Son.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 AVAILABLE

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available for pick-up for those of you who do not donate electronically. They are on a counter in the narthex closest to the kitchen.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 IS OUR FIRST SUNDAY FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS!

Next Sunday is First Sunday Food for our Neighbors—a great way to share the grace and promise of Christmas. **January's special focus: shelf-stable proteins of all kinds: nut butters; tinned sardines, tuna, salmon; packaged cheeses; canned chili and stews, beans; Spam, corned beef, ham —and more.** Other foods welcomed, too, by our neighbors served by our Little Free Pantry, The Welcome Table, and the White Center Food Bank. Bring them to the chancel before next Sunday's worship service. We'll deliver them to our grateful neighbors. Thank you.

WORSHIP DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sunday, December 28 will be a service of lessons and carols with Eucharist, the Rev. Daniel Sorensen presiding. Janet Cruse will be at the keyboard.

Sunday, January 4th we celebrate the **Feast of Epiphany**. This first service of the New Year will begin in the Narthex with a blessing of the church as a "house of prayer for all people."

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 4PM

The annual *Service of Remembrance* to remember, honor, and pray for those who have died on the streets or as a result of being homeless will take place at Gethsemane Lutheran Church (911 Stewart Street, Seattle) and via Livestream (<https://www.urbanfaith.org/service-of-remembrance>) We will gather for a time Contact Pr. Kristy Daniels at PastorKristy@compasshousingalliance.org or (206) 474-1007 for more information or to add names to the list.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 25, 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Sunday, January 25, is our Annual Congregational Meeting and

the participation of all voting members is requested as we make decisions that will impact our ministries in 2026. To help make the day more manageable for families with younger kids there will be no education hour that day and the worship service will be shortened. The potluck will begin @11:30am, followed by the meeting proper. Following are some key dates to keep in mind as the day approaches.

- **JANUARY 4** – All reports from Peace ministries/committees/task forces are due in the church office (electronic form).
- **JANUARY 13** – Final Council meeting to review year end financials, prepare resolutions, and set the Order of Business.
- **JANUARY 18** – Bulletin of Reports for Annual Meeting are available in electronic form.
- **JANUARY 25** – Annual Meeting.



ELECTIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL COMING UP

Would you like to serve as a member of our congregation's Church Council? There are leadership positions on the Council opening up in January. The council meets once a month to support our ongoing mission, including the discussion of budgets, policies, and the operations of the church. Church council members are the governing body of the church in between congregational meetings. They work as liaisons between the council and all the church committees and ministry teams. The council is comprised of a group of individuals who work hard to maintain a positive, Christian experience for everyone who attends Peace Lutheran Church. We need you! We are in need of 4 new council members—2 three-year positions, 1 two-year position and 1 one-year position. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a church council member please contact Marcia Olson, Chris Kindem, Elizabeth Menstell Coyle. Nominees must have been a member of Peace for 1 year. Elections take place at the Annual Meeting on January 25th.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Please submit your 2025 annual reports to the office in digital form by Monday, January 5th.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering:

Georgia Apodoca; Marlen Boivin; Deric Bevier; Jan Burt; Cindy Collie; Vonda Cuchine; Justin Dexter; Jeffry Epley; Pio Escame; Stephen Fuller; Barb G.; Jon Gault; Nick Griffin; Donna Heiland; Cade Howard; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Mel Jacob; Peter Kalen; Ken Keyes; Kari Kindem; Gordon Knight; Jason Knudsen; Lu Kramer; John Lindsay; Dan M; Evelyn Martinez; Carol Mikesell; Katrina Moore; Ginger Nehrbass; Kathy Peters; Melissa Peterson; Michelle Pierce; David Porch; Gail Price; Wes Price; Kelly Renfro; Sarah; Robert Shampain; Aaden Smith; Nancy Spannaus; Sarah Taylor; Benjamin Toso; Tracy and Ralph; Kristy W.; Angela Walker; Pam Webber; Megan Webber; Jeannette Whitworth; Willy; Paul Winterstein.

Homebound: Connie Benjamin; Joyce Bitner; Bob Gaines; Lu Kramer; Marjorie Johnson; Inta Zagars

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.



As a Christian community, we recognize that our congregation is strengthened by diversity, the embrace of equity, and our commitment to anti-racism. We welcome and celebrate the inclusion of those of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression into the life and mission of our congregation. We invite

all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral homeland of the DUWAMISH PEOPLE. We recognize the DUWAMISH and other SALISH PEOPLES, the FIRST STEWARDS of this land, who have called this region home—and continue to call it home—from time immemorial. We join with them and with all people who see the Earth, its creatures, watersheds, and habitats, as part of an integral whole reflecting our Creator's intention for wholeness and balance.

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Cover Art: *The Word Made Flesh*, by Donald Jackson. Illumination for the *Gospel of John* in the *St. John's Bible*. The Gospel of John begins with the verse, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” (1:1) The reference to the Beginning hearkens back to Genesis and the Earth's formation, and artist Donald Jackson incorporates the Genesis story by having the central figure of Christ step from the dark unformed universe toward the bright organized world. In *The Art of The Saint John's Bible*, Susan Sink develops this idea:

“*The image of Christ seems to be stepping from the darkness which recalls the chaos and nothingness of the creation story and moves toward light and order. In fact, the texture behind Christ's head is inspired by an image taken from the Hubble Space Telescope and reflects the cosmic character of the event.*”

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