



Peace Lutheran Church  
2540 Applegate Street  
Philomath, OR 97370

## *Peace Progress*

# January 2026



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# Peace Progress



## From the Pastor

Peace family,

2026 is going to be great! Why do I say that? The church family is growing. What a blessing it was to see 16 new members officially join the church in early December! Exciting plans are in place for 2026. The church council is working on new carpeting for the hallway and fellowship hall this year. Baptisms are being planned as well as weddings. To God be the glory!

These are great happenings on the horizon, but I don't believe they completely explain why 2026 is going to be great. Jesus is the one that defines greatness. He famously said to James and John, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant..... (Matthew 20:26)." The more we serve, the greater 2026 will be.

The term GOAT is famously used today. And when it comes to basketball it is clear (in my opinion) who that is: Michael Jordan. He won six NBA Championships with the Chicago Bulls. He averaged over 30 points per game while playing 37 minutes in each contest. Is that why he was great? Maybe not. I read recently that he only had the ball in his hands 5 to 6 minutes each game. What was he doing the other 30 plus minutes? Jordan was making his teammates better. He passed....played defense.....moved without the ball.....set screens.

Who is the GOAT at Peace Lutheran? Following Jesus' teaching, the GOAT are those who serve: ushers, fellowship hosts, flower providers, those setting up and cleaning up communion. The MVP on a particular Sunday may be the person that provides a ride for another member.

We are celebrating one of our beloved servants on January 25: Oscar Gutbrod. Oscar has served on the council at Peace for over 50 years! Oscar has chosen to take a break from serving in this way in 2026. But he will undoubtedly find ways to help—serving is just what Oscar does. In the twelve plus years that I have served Peace, Oscar has missed less church than I have. He is consistent. He makes us all better. He is a good listener. He isn't afraid of sharing his opinion. Considering Oscar's decision, Peace will be honoring him with a special fellowship on Sunday, January 25.

Consider serving to make 2026 great. You won't regret it. I've never heard someone say, "I wish I had served less." That would be one of the oddest things said.

Peace has opportunities! Look for the serving sign up sheet in the narthex on the Sundays of January. Thankfully, communion set up and clean up volunteers are set for the year. We do need people to usher, host fellowship, serve on the A/V team, read, and share flowers for the altar. If you haven't done it before, no problem. We will pair you up with someone that can show you the way. See Karyn or Pastor if you have any questions.

I am looking forward to a great year. I hope you are too!

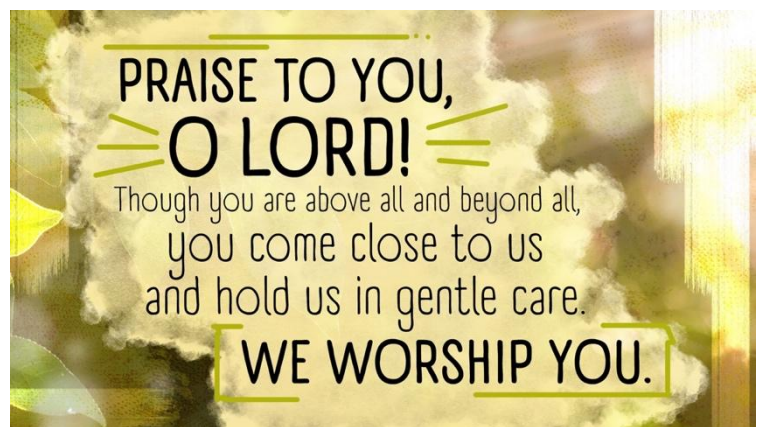
In Jesus' Joy,  
Pastor J

## PEACE BY THE NUMBERS

Date	Attendance in Person	Online Views	Offering
November 23	110	190	\$5,824
November 30	98	272	\$12,393
December 7	126	419	\$6,370
December 14	135	338	\$3,124
December 21	133	210	\$10,955
December 24	155	144	

## PLAN FOR WORSHIP

- January 4 – 10:00am Worship service with Communion. Epiphany.
- January 11 – 10:00am Worship service. First Sunday after Epiphany.
- January 18 – 10:00am Worship Service with Communion. Second Sunday after Epiphany.
- January 25 – 10:00am Worship Service. Third Sunday after Epiphany.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT COMMUNITY MEAL

Each Tuesday night from 6:40-7:15pm, the College United Methodist Church hosts a free community meal. Volunteers (all ages) are needed to help clean off tables, stack chairs and/or run a vacuum cleaner. This is a wonderful way to serve in our local community and connect with others!



The College United Methodist Church is located at 1123 Main Street, Philomath (next to the Historical Museum). Everyone is welcome to the free meal at 7pm.

No experience is needed, and you are free to come help on whatever dates works for you and your family. Go to the fellowship hall, and find either Diane Crocker or Carey Oien for direction on how to help. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Lucke or Diane Crocker.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR JAN/FEB

Join us for Adult Bible Study as we consider The Chosen, season 5. Elder Rick will lead these sessions in the sanctuary each Sunday beginning at 9 am. Season 5 details a turning point in Jesus' ministry. Jesus moves from public acclaim to a time of darkness as he journeys into Jerusalem. But what a difference the last week of Jesus' life made for us! Elder Rick will deepen our understanding of Passion Week, and we will be challenged in our journey of following Jesus. Bring your Bibles and an open mind for these sessions! All are welcome. Even if you miss a session, you can jump right back in. Each lesson "stands alone."



## FOOD BANK/JUNE KID'S CLOSET

Did you know that every year, the food and clothing donations you bring to church are given to Philomath Community Services? And did you know that we keep records of those donations? It's truly amazing to see how generous you have been when you look at the numbers over the last decade. Thank you for giving back to this community and caring for those in need.

~~Jim Holroyd

Year	Food bank Total (Lbs)	June's Kids Closet
2025	432.2	35
2024	632.4	44.1
2023	382.8	37.1
2022	350.4	23
2021	244	23
2020	167	17
2019	347	9
2018	262	52
2017 **	277	153
2016	566	41 Bags
2015	636	78 Bags
2014*	932	56 Bags

\*We started to record in May of 2014

\*\* in 2017 June's Kids Closet switched from Bags to Pounds



## PEACE CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Please join us for a special Fellowship celebration honoring Oscar Gutbrod following the Worship Service on Sunday, January 25th. Oscar has faithfully served on the Peace Church Council since 1972, contributing in numerous roles over the years. At the conclusion of his current term, Oscar has announced that he will be stepping down from the Council, and we would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for his decades of dedicated service. A hot meal will be served, and all are welcome to attend.

In addition, we would like to acknowledge several other valued members of the Church Council who will also be concluding their service at the end of this term:

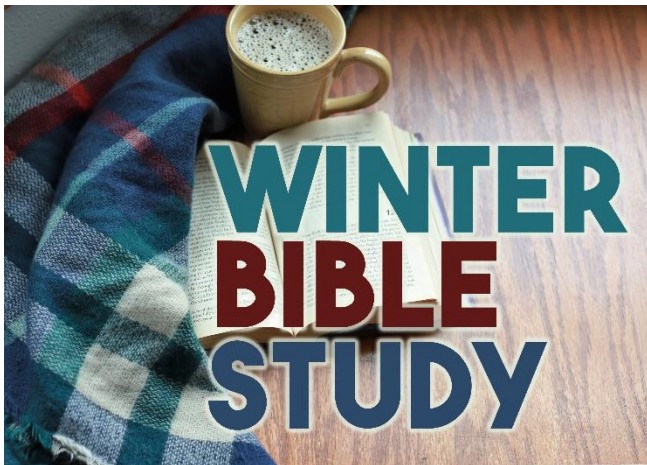
- Peggy Krueger, long-time President of the Ladies Guild
- Karyn Stanley, Sunday School Co-Superintendent
- Brian Santora, Trustee

We are deeply thankful for the commitment, leadership, and time each of these individuals has given to our church community.

Finally, please mark your calendars for the Annual Church Congregational Meeting, which will take place following the Worship Service on Sunday, February 1st, in the Fellowship Hall.



## EMPATHY BIBLE STUDY



Empathy is something we all need and it is something that we can all give. Empathy can help other people feel valued, cared for and understood. Pastor Lucke will be offering a four week course on the Gift of Empathy beginning the new year. The goal of these sessions will be to offer practical insights so that people can relate more empathetically and make a difference in the lives of those they encounter. All are welcome to attend.

These sessions will be held online via zoom. The sessions will meet at 10:00 am on the Wednesdays of January 14, 21, 28 and February 4. Let Pastor Lucke know by January 11 if you would like to attend so that he can share the zoom link with you.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST IN JANUARY

The Men's First Saturday Breakfast is scheduled for January 3rd. Be sure to mark your calendar for this special gathering. A hearty breakfast will be prepared.

### Schedule

- Coffee: Available at 8:00 AM
- Breakfast: Served at 8:30 AM
- Discussion: 9:00–10:00 AM

Wishing you all a very HAPPY NEW YEAR



## BACKPACK MINISTRY WORKING PARTY



On Thursday, January 1st at 11:00am, we will be having a backpack work party! The work party typically lasts about an hour and needs volunteers to help place warming items (hats, scarves, gloves etc.) into a backpack, as well as hygiene items and food/snack offerings. If you would like to bring something to contribute, men's warm socks or hoodies (new OR laundered & gently used) or individually wrapped snacks are always needed. There is no requirement for bringing items to help. On December 31, we will be setting up and would love some help between 2-3pm. Please see Diane Crocker if you have questions. Thank you!

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



### SUSAN DURHAM

Susan grew up on the east coast. She was born in Connecticut and spent a large part of her childhood there. After graduation from high school, she joined the Air Force. She served 25 years as a Research Scientist, specializing in Nano Technology. She received a Master's degree AND a PhD in Nuclear Engineering. After serving in the Air Force, she worked for the CIA as a research scientist. What an eclectic life this woman has lived!

She was married for 38 years. Her husband was a fighter pilot in the Air Force serving over 300 missions. She and her husband moved around the US enjoying each state they were in. Her husband passed away 2 years ago. Now she has her grand-daughter and her grand-daughter's fiancé living with her, which brings much joy and company to her. Her home is full with 3 beautiful dogs and 4 fantastic cats. She calls it her home of 7 animals, all loved to pieces.

Susan is very artistic, loves science and is an author. She has published a mystery novel, "The Last Best Lie," under the name of Kennedy Quinn, which did very well. It is a joy to have Susan in our church. Most of you know her as the "3D printer lady." She is generous and wants to share her many talents with us at Peace.

~~Peggy Krueger

## GOD HAS A PLAN

God has a Plan. I know first-hand from the first day I stepped into the old Peace sanctuary before the renovation. He had a Plan for me, and he showed me not once but in five different ways that day that he had guided me to Peace and that Peace was to be my spiritual home. I have now been at Peace for 18 years.

The same is true for our "Reverse Advent Christmas Food Baskets." When I asked you all to participate in this 4 years ago, I had never done it before and silly me, I just assumed that Love Inc would have a need, so I didn't call and clear it with them ahead of time. I called and they informed me that food baskets had been provided for everyone that they had on their list. They said they would still take them just in case. This call took place around 10 am. I arrived with our 3 baskets an hour later. When I got there, they asked how I knew that they would need these. I asked what they meant and they informed me that after I called, they received calls from 3 different families that needed food. God had a Plan.



Today I went to church to sort through all of your generous donations and prepare the "baskets" for tomorrow. While doing this, I discovered that many of you had brought extra items and some things that we

didn't even have on the list. When all was said and done, I had two grocery bags and a small box full of food left over. This had never happened before. In fact, in the past I have sometimes had to purchase a few items because a thing or two was missing. I was so surprised to find all of the extra items. I added a few of these items to our baskets, but I then had to decide what to do with the rest. Take it to the Food Bank or ????. Pastor then appeared. He had come out of a meeting. I told him how much you all had donated and how much extra I had, and he then informed me that he had received a call from a family that desperately needed food. He then asked if he could possibly give the extra food to this family. Of course he could! God had a Plan.

So as you go through life, remember, God Always has a Plan!

~~Cheryl Narver

## NEW PEACE WEBSITE

*Welcome to Our Revamped Online Portal!*

We are excited to announce that the new Peace website is now live and available for you to explore. We encourage everyone to visit the site and discover its updated features and information about our congregation. The website address is [peaceinphilomath.com](http://peaceinphilomath.com).

*Help Us Make the Website Dynamic!*

To create a vibrant and engaging online presence, we need your participation. One of the best ways to showcase the life of Peace is through photos of events and activities happening in and around our congregation. If you have pictures from recent gatherings, services, or special occasions, please share them with Dan by sending them to [peaceinphilomath.com](http://peaceinphilomath.com).



*Share Your Ideas!*

Your input is valuable as we continue to develop and enhance the website. If you have suggestions for other content or features that would enrich our online portal, please let Dan know. Together, we can ensure that the website truly reflects the spirit and activity of Peace Lutheran Church.

## CORVALLIS FOR REFUGEES UPDATE

Corvallis for Refugees has been a mission partner in 2025, and we look forward to continuing in partnership with their work in 2026. This year was a change and shift as the current administration stopped all new refugees from coming to the United States. This change directly impacted all organizations working to settle new refugee families here and that included Corvallis for Refugees. The mission shifted to focusing on the refugees already here by helping them with language development, becoming more a part of our community, and doing the necessary work to get green cards. We have one family in Philomath that is seeking more fellowship with people in Philomath. We will learn more about opportunities to partner with Corvallis for Refugees in 2026 to engage with this family! Exciting times ahead for the Peace community!

For now, please enjoy this update provided by Sarah Sims, Community Engagement Coordinator for Corvallis for Refugees.

*A Song for Everyone: Izzat and His Saz*

Izzat fled the violence in Syria with his family to Turkey ten years ago. They lived in poor conditions until their case for resettlement was selected in the United States. On a cold January evening, Izzat and his family landed at Portland International Airport. They were greeted by their Corvallis For Refugees case manager and volunteers—and winter coats!

Many refugees travel with prized possessions if they can pack them in time. Izzat brought his *saz*, a Kurdish stringed instrument. He initially learned at age 10, but treated it more as a toy than an implement of music. Later, he picked it up to learn and never put it down. The *saz* brought his family together in songs of different languages—Arabic, Turkish, and Kurdish. It served as a cultural reminder of where they came from, and where they are learning to adjust and live.

As Corvallis For Refugees prepared for their annual benefit event, they knew that Izzat's incredible talents needed to be on display. Izzat rehearsed for the largest event he'd ever play—for over 900 people across four different event seatings. Izzat sang, strummed, and finger drummed, moving everyone in the audience to songs like "This Country Is My Home." He is thriving because of communities like Peace Lutheran's generosity. His family is in stable housing because of rental assistance and support with employment provided by Corvallis For Refugees through the giving of donors. And Izzat is reminding us that beyond survival is thriving, where you can play a song for everyone, and experience joy through that sharing.



# MINISTRY PARTNER THANK YOUS



December 3, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church  
2540 Applegate St  
Philomath, OR 97370-9366

Dear Members of Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$480. We are so appreciative! We give thanks every day and especially in this season of advent for the many blessings that God and this wonderful community give to us! Your support and friendship are what makes Camp Lutherwood possible.

Our summer programming wrapped up in early August. We had an amazing team of 15 summer staff who were led by Steven Joinson, Director of Programs. Confirmation Camp kicked off our summer, bringing together 70 campers from 15 Lutheran congregations across Oregon and Washington to explore their faith with one another and ended with our fifth year of Compass Camp, designed for campers who have been impacted by trauma and/or who have been connected to the foster care system and who are in need of extra support while at camp. Between regularly scheduled youth camp programming, we hosted two Friends and Family Camp Weekends and Women's Weekend. From the rock-wall to campfire, there was so much fun to be had at Camp Lutherwood this summer! We are grateful for every camper who walked across our bridge this summer and the staff who poured their hearts into this place.

This fall brought a beautiful change in colors, temperature, and pace. We continued to welcome guest groups to camp to enjoy this space. In addition to guest groups, Branches Outdoor School held one week of fall outdoor school. Marco already has a full spring outdoor season booked despite the state's recent budget cuts to Outdoor School funding.

This spring will bring a couple of off-season programming including a Youth Justice Retreat over the MLK holiday weekend, a Spring Break Maker's camp for middle and high schoolers, and a session of Friends and Family camp over Memorial Day Weekend. Summer camp registration is open NOW! Visit [lutherwoodoregon.org](http://lutherwoodoregon.org) to see all the programs offered at Camp Lutherwood this spring and summer!

Thank you again for your generosity. Your continued partnership allows us to keep offering enriching camp experiences all year long!

With Gratitude,

Robin Eisenbach  
Executive Director

Thank you so much, Peace LC, for your continued support and friendship!

No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift. Camp Lutherwood Oregon is a registered 501c3 organization. EIN#93-0587009. Your gift may be tax deductible in accordance with the IRS regulations.



**YOUR GIFT RECEIPT**

Peace Lutheran Church  
2540 Applegate St  
Philomath, OR 97370-9366

Thank you for lifting up the bright light of Jesus for others to see.

I am so deeply thankful to God that He chose you to supply what the work of the LCMS requires. Although giving may seem a simple act, it speaks so forcefully about the kind of Christ-following disciples God has made each of you to be. "Love one another," was Jesus' commandment to his disciples. You are doing just that through this gift, and all other acts of selfless sacrifice you make for the sake of the Gospel message. Even in financially challenging times like these, you are confessing your trust and faith in Christ alone. And I appreciate you. Thank you.

**Please retain this document as record of this contribution.** Contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your gift or this receipt.

Sub cruce,

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison  
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



# We Care

125 NW Tenth St. Corvallis, OR 97330  
Non-profit 501(c)(3) agency  
IRS ID 93-0822417

November 23, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church  
2540 Applegate Street  
Philomath, OR 97370

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

We are sincerely grateful for your continuing support of the work We Care does in our community! As you know, your dollars make it possible for families and individuals to obtain or remain in adequate living accommodations, to have heat, water, medical attention or to provide for other emergency needs as they arise. We could not do this work without you!

Beyond monetary assistance, We Care provides a person who respectfully listens to their stories, tries to understand the difficulties they are facing and helps them think of a path to sustainability.

Thank you very much for your recent check dated November 11, 2025 for \$480.00. We appreciate your support of We Care and your commitment to strengthening our community and helping those in need.

In addition to your monetary support, being a Faith Partner with We Care, brings us hope, energy and a supportive community to walk with in our efforts to assist those in need in our community.

On behalf of those whom your participation will benefit, we Thank You!

If you have questions, please call Johanna Peterson at (541-740-3683).

Sincerely,  
We Care Board of Directors

*Johanna Peterson*

*Thank you!*



WISHING  
YOU A  
*Blessed*  
CHRISTMAS

Dear Peace Lutheran,  
From all of us at Love INC, we wish you a joyful Christmas season. Thank you for your partnership with Love INC and for the ways your church helps care for our community.

*Merry Christmas!*  
*Jen Hanson + the Love Inc Staff + Board*



# JANUARY

## *birthdays & anniversaries*

### **Birthdays**

- 2 Oscar Gutbrod
- 2 Andrew Schwartz
- 3 Jim Holroyd
- 8 Jason Baker
- 11 Terry Stouder
- 12 Joyce Long
- 17 Daniel Dusek
- 18 Wally Held
- 20 Betty Iverson
- 23 Courtney Croy
- 24 Jason Williams
- 25 Joyce Holroyd
- 25 Jeremy Galvin
- 28 Alicia Lucke
- 28 Byron Holroyd
- 28 Mari Glathar
- 30 Joe Payne
- 30 Donna Whitaker

### **Anniversaries**

- 8 Dick & Nancy Abernathy
- 19 Jeremy & Alicia Lucke
- 24 Lindsey & Becky Cramer
- 26 Scott Kinder & Donna Whitaker

\*\* Please let Karyn know about any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversary Lists. Thanks. \*\*

# January Volunteers

## January 4

Ushers	Margaret Phillipott
Reader	Sophia Snyder
Fellowship	
Flowers	
Communion	Lynn Reams, Kay Glather, & Lou Ann Mergl

## January 11

Ushers	Anne Schroeder
Reader	Alyssa Stanley
Fellowship	
Flowers	

## January 18

Ushers	
Reader	Kathy Hanna
Fellowship	Lindy Young
Flowers	
Communion	Callie Santora & Shirlene Humphrey

## January 25

Ushers	
Reader	Audrey Bond
Fellowship	George and Janice Abele
Flowers	

# JANUARY

**Save the Date**  
 February 1 – Annual Congregational Meeting  
 February 18 – Ash Wednesday  
 June 21 – Peace 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00 Men @ Imagine 11:00 Backpack Ministry	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast
				<b>Church Office Closed</b>		
4 8:30 Healing Service 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion	5 8:15 TOPS	6 12:00 Rotary Board Meeting	7 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 2:30 Dementia Warriors	8 7:00 Men @ Imagine 10:00 Ladies Guild Meeting	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service (Mite Box Collection)	12 8:15 TOPS 10:00 Pieces by Peace (Jani's House)	13	14 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 10:00 Empathy Bible Study 1:30 Dementia Warriors Leaders Meeting 4:00 Elders Meeting	15 7:00 Men @ Imagine 12:00pm Chamber of Commerce	16	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service with Communion	19 8:15 TOPS	20 12:00 Rotary Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	21 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 10:00 Empathy Bible Study 2:30 Dementia Warriors	22 7:00 Men @ Imagine 11:00 PCS Board Meeting	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service & Special Fellowship for Oscar	26 8:15 TOPS	27	28 7:30 Eat, Chat, Pray 10:00 Empathy Bible Study	29 7:00 Men @ Imagine	30	31