



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
A
ADVENT

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December 21, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church

2540 Applegate Street
Philomath, OR 97370
(541) 929- 5504

Pastor Lucke's e-mail: pastorlucke@gmail.com

Peace Lutheran Office e-mail: peaceinphilomath@gmail.com

Peace Lutheran website: <http://peaceinphilomath.com>

December 21, 2025

We welcome you in the name of the Lord Jesus. We are honored with your presence. If you do not have a church home, you are invited to join us regularly. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jeremy Lucke or one of the Ushers as you leave today and sign the guest book in the entryway. We continue to observe the guidelines for health safety. If you have any questions, please see an usher. Everyone is welcome.

The ringing of the bell and the lighting of the Christ candle mark the beginning of our service and a time for quiet meditation, prayer and inward reflection as we begin our worship.

Children are welcome at our worship services. If you prefer, Peace Lutheran has a playroom equipped for children three years old and younger. The room is unstaffed and can be accessed in the fellowship hall where the service is also being live streamed for your convenience and enjoyment.

Holy Communion is celebrated every first and third Sunday and will follow the order of service in the bulletin. If you are a baptized Christian and share our faith in Jesus as Savior and have been instructed in the meaning and use of the Lord's Supper, you are invited to partake. We have pre-wrapped communion wine or juice and wafers. We also have gluten-free wafers available. If you desire a gluten-free wafer, ask the server. May the body and blood of Jesus, present in the bread and wine, be a blessing to you.

There are times during the service when you will be asked to stand if you are able. Please feel free to remain seated if standing is difficult.

Offering. Peace Lutheran Church understands and teaches that Offerings are voluntary and to be from the heart. Whether we give or do not give does not determine our salvation. Whether we give

much or little does not determine our standing before God. Sharing an Offering is an opportunity to quietly practice generosity with our neighbors.

Serving You

Pastor	Pastor Jeremy Lucke
Music Director	Colleen Schulze
Choir Director	Diane Crocker
Supt. Of Sunday School	Anne Schroeder & Karyn Stanley
Admin Assistant	Daniel Dusek
Parish Nurse	Kathy Durling
Webmaster	Jim Holroyd
Audio-Visual	Johnathon Holroyd, George Abele, Nicholas Abele, Merv Munster, Callie Santora, Oscar Gutbrod, Sam Worth, Rick Durling, Jim Holroyd, Debbi Weiler, Dan Dusek, Seamus Harrington, Archer Schroeder
Praise Team	Rick Durling, Patrick Kamins, Ginny Tonelli, Karyn Stanley, Nora Stanley, Diane Crocker, Anne Schroeder, John Mergl

Today, December 21, 2025

Musician	Colleen Schulze
Ushers	Audrey Bond & Margaret Phillpott
Reader	Debbi Weiler
Fellowship	Elaine Schwartz & Ellen Holroyd
Flowers	Bill & Cheryl Narver
Communion	Debbie Weiler & Maggie Baker

Next Sunday, December 28, 2025

Musician	Colleen Schulze
Ushers	Sharon Starr & Family
Reader	Seamus Harrington
Flowers	

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

AS WE GATHER... It's time to get off the guilt trip and get on the grace trip. This happens when we claim the truth in Hebrews 1:3, "After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

RINGING OF THE BELL.....After the ringing of the bell, we take a few moments to prepare our hearts and minds in silence for today's worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL ANTHEM

"He is Born"

French Carol arranged by Jack Schrader

*He is born, the divine Christ child;
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!*

*He is born, the holy child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.*

*Through long ages of the past
Prophets have foretold his coming;
Through long ages of the past,
Now the time has come at last.*

*He is born, the divine Christ child;
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!*

*He is born, the holy child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.*

*Oh, how lovely, oh how pure
Is this perfect Child of heaven;
Oh, how lovely, oh, how pure,
Gracious gift of God sent down.*

*He is born, the divine Christ child;
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!*

*He is born, the holy child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.*

*Jesus, Lord of all the world,
Coming as a child among us;
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
Grant to us y our heav'nly peace,
Your heav'nly peace,
Your peace.*

*He is born, the divine Christ child;
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.
He is born, He is born,
The holy child.
Christ is born.*

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us!

People: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”

The first (hope), second (peace), third (joy) and fourth (love) candles are lit during the Advent Song.

ADVENT SONG

“Light One Candle”

“Light One Candle” Copyright ©1976 by Hinshaw Music, Inc. CCLI License #11470020

Light one candle for hope,
One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace,
One bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy,
One bright candle for joy,
Ev'ry nation will find salvation
In Bethl'em's baby boy.

Light one candle for love,
One bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev'ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Leader: In our first lesson, through Jeremiah, God says, "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:34) Forgive us, Father, for we are prone to bury our guilt in our hearts.

People: But then it comes back to hurt us and haunt us.

Leader: Forgive us, Father, for we are prone to blame our guilt on someone else.

People: But this burdens other people and often destroys relationships.

Leader: Forgive us, Father, for we are prone to beat ourselves up with guilt.

People: But this leaves us down, depressed and despondent.

Leader: And stuck in a pit of despair.

ALL: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

~~~ Silence for reflection ~~~

## HEARING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*Leader: Hear the best news you will ever hear! Christ Jesus provided purification for all your sin. In His name, you are forgiven. You are absolved. And you are free!*

**People: He who promised is faithful and He will do it!**

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## SERVICE OF THE WORD

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### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Leader: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Leader: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, You have provided a magnificent solution to all of our guilt through Christ's shed blood on the cross, once and for all, for us; we believe it, receive it and celebrate it; in Jesus' name.*

**People: Amen.**

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## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

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### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

<sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE LESSON**

**Hebrews 1:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

<sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 1:67-79**

<sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

<sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

<sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

*Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **SERMON SONG**

## **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

### **LBW (Green Book) 60**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847 CCLI License #11470020

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king.”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,

Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king.

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SERMON

“Traveling Lighter this Christmas”

Pastor Jeremy Lucke

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**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life + everlasting. Amen.**

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OFFERING

*We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—  
ourselves, our time, our possessions.*

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## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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*Leader: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.*

*~~~~ A brief time of silence is observed ~~~~*

*Leader: Heavenly Father, throughout this Advent season we have heard that Christ has come in the flesh, that He comes to us today in Word and Sacrament, and that He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be kept firm in Your Word and faith until we are received into Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Leader: Merciful Lord, we pray for fathers, mothers and children; for husbands and wives; for friends and neighbors; for laborers and employers; for teachers and students; and for all who serve in godly vocations. Let us delight in Your loving kindness and joyfully serve our neighbor with good works. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Leader: God of justice, You establish earthly government and teach us to obey those who rule over us. Send Your blessing upon all who make, administer and judge our laws, that Your people may serve You in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Leader: O Lord, surround and sustain those who are ill or suffering with the love of Christ [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Bring them healing in accord with Your own perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Leader: Almighty God, fill us with joy as we approach Your altar to receive the body and blood of Christ. Give us the peace that surpasses understanding, the gladness no man can take from us, and the hope that does not fade away; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**People: Amen.**

# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
And the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen**

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#### **“Just As I Am”**

**TOSB 119**

“Just As I Am” Charlotte Elliott; William Batchelder Bradbury Words: Public Domain ; Music:  
Public Domain CCLI License #11470020

Just as I am without one plea  
But that Thy Blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God I come I come

Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee Whose Blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God I come I come

Just as I am though tossed about  
With many a conflict many a doubt  
Fightings and fears within without  
O Lamb of God I come I come

Just as I am poor wretched blind

Sight riches healing of the mind  
Yea all I need in Thee to find  
O Lamb of God I come I come  
Just as I am Thou wilt receive  
Wilt welcome pardon cleanse relieve  
Because Thy Promise I believe  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**“Prayer of St. Francis”**

**TOSB 174**

“Prayer of St. Francis” Music by Sebastian Temple; Arranged by Betty Carr Pulkingham CCLI  
License #11470020

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred,  
let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord.  
And where there’s doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there’s despair in life,  
let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness...only light.  
And where there’s sadness ever joy.

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are par-doned.  
In giving to all men that we receive,  
And dying that we’re born to eternal life.  
And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

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**CLOSING BLESSING**

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*Leader: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.*

**ALL: He who promised is faithful and He will do it!**

**CLOSING SONG**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”  
LBW (Green Book) 71**

Angels We Have Heard on High Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus" 1862. Tune: French carol  
CCLI License #11470020

Angels We have heard on high,  
Singing sweetly o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tiding be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**SILENT PRAYER**

*Jesus, bring an end to my guilt trip and place me on the grace trip, now and forevermore! Amen.*

**DISMISSAL**

*Leader: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!*

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**POST-SERVICE MUSIC**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS.....** We count on hope, peace, joy and love being yours this Christmas as we celebrate Christ's birth. Come and celebrate with us at Peace! Here are some ways to join in our worship celebrations (in person or through our livestream):

- Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve at 7 pm: Candles, Carols and Communion service
- Sunday, December 28 Christmas Worship at 10 am
- Sunday, January 4 Epiphany Celebration at 10 am

**WEBSITE.....** Have you checked out Peace's new website? It is found at the same address: <https://www.peaceinphilomath.com/>. Direct links to the latest services, calendars and announcements are found there.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER.....** Devotions for the new year are now available in the narthex at church. Portals of Prayer are a simple way to connect God's Word to our lives. Take one. Take two and share with a friend.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY.....** There will not be children or Adult Sunday School next Sunday, December 28. A new Adult Study will begin in the new year on January 4 at 10:00 am. Elder Rick will be leading discussion on "The Chosen" season 5. There is no need to see previous episodes as each lesson is a "stand alone." Do you want to know more about the life of Jesus? Do you want to learn more about how His way can impact your life in 2026? Come and participate! All are welcome.

**OFFICE CLOSED.....** Peace's Office will be closed on December 24 and 25. It will also be closed on December 31 and January 1.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

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**Homebound:** Bill Harris, Karla Rhoads, Joyce Hall, John and Lucy Leach, Grace Maddux, Joan McDonald, Twylla Randall, John Filbert, Kathy Barrett, Karen Marquez, Beverly Hellesto, Margaret Dusek, Mirdza Abele, Trish O’Neil, Junia Simonson

**Sick and Recovering:** Bev Hardy (*Karen M.’s mother--health concerns*), Nicole (*friend of Daniel*), Jimmy, Erin and her family, Cathy M. (*cancer diagnosis*), Holly and Jon B., Courtney, Janine, Oscar, Joe, Jeanine (*chemo treatment*), Don and Bev (*healing and recovery*), Tim (*in prison asking for prayer*), Rich Hansen, John L., Patrick (*surgery on Dec. 16th*), Dick, Jan and Fred, Caitlin (*pregnancy*), Denise, Mindy (*surgery*), Vaylani, Jack and Nelda (*neighbors of Abernathys*), Summer (*friend of Cheryl*), Diane (*eye surgery--friend of Sharon*), Craig (*pastor in Spokane--cancer diagnosis*), Daniel and Hilario (*a family impacted by deportation*), Ed B., Kathy W. (*cancer diagnosis--relative of Joyce H.*), Sandi L., Kirsten W.

