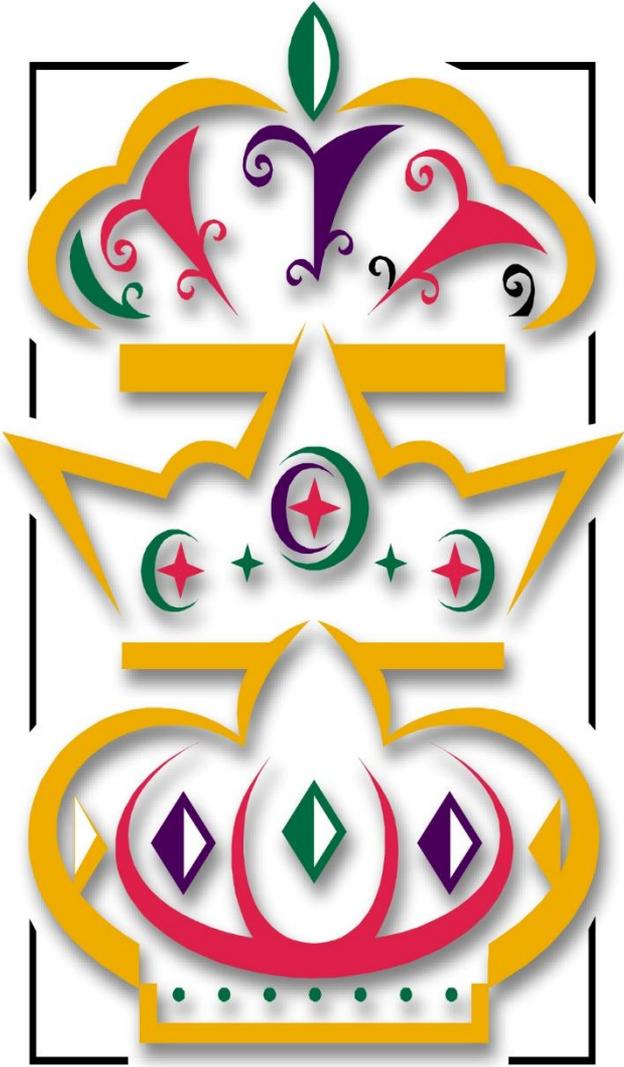


“WHERE IS THE CHILD WHO HAS



BEEN BORN KING OF THE JEWS?”

▪ MATTHEW 2:2, NRSV ▪

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 28, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church

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

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

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

December 28, 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 28, 2025

Musician	Colleen Schulze
Ushers	Sharon Starr & Family
Reader	Seamus Harrington

Next Sunday, January 4, 2026

Musician	Colleen Schulze
Ushers	Margaret Phillpott
Reader	Sophia Snyder
Fellowship	
Flowers	
Communion	Lynn Reams, Kay Glather, & Lou Ann Mergl

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

AS WE GATHER... The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God’s dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas!

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

OPENING BLESSING

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

People: Amen.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, “the fullness of time,” that is not true in our personal lives.

People: Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.

Leader: We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

People: Forgive our desires to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.

SONG OF CONFESSION (twice through)

“White As Snow”

“White As Snow” By: Leon Olguin © 1990 Sound Truth Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI License # 11470020

White as snow, white as snow,
Though my sins were as scarlet
Lord, I know, Lord I know
That I’m clean and forgiven,
Through the power of your blood,
Through the wonder of your love,
Through faith in you, I know that I can be
White as snow.
(Repeat)

Leader: God knows our fears, our failures to trust him for the future, and in Christ assures us of his forgiveness. I therefore in Christ’s place announce the free and full forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE

“Joy to the World” (v. 1, 2& 4) LBW (Green Book) 39

“Joy to the World” Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1784, Tune: George F Handel, 1685-1759, adapt. © 1978 by LUTheran Church in America, The AMERICAN Lutheran Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod CCLI License #11470020

Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, although we are fallen creatures, You have shown us Your great love.

People: Grant us to see Your Son, Jesus Christ, as both our Lord and our Brother and to call to You as dear children speak to their loving Father;

Leader: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 63:7-14

(Although Israel went their own way, God will help them.)

7 I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

8 For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior.

9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

10 But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

11 Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

12 who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name,

13 who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.

14 Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

(All God's promises are sure because we are God's children.)

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

(The holy family is protected from Herod.)

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt

¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.

²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

And you beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on
By prophets seen of old
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

SERMON

**“Sometimes Fancy Gifts Come in
Crumpled Wrapping Paper”**

Pastor Jeremy Lucke

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again,

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body

And the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

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

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Leader: Let us go to God in prayer for ourselves, for God's people around the world, and for all people in their various circumstances.

Lord, we pray for this New Year that is here, that You continue to bless us, Your people chosen before the foundation of the world, so that we may be a blessing to others. Fill us with the wisdom of Your Word. Lead and guide our visioning, goal setting, and planning so that we have a positive impact in our world both now and for eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we pray for all who lead—in government, in the public and private sectors, and in Your Church—that they lead with Your wisdom so that the decisions they make are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we pray for all who are hurting, grieving, and struggling in their heart, soul, strength, and mind, [especially . . .] that they experience Your dear, sweet love for them as You lead, guide, and provide for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we pray for those who are beginning this year with goals to read the Bible and learn more about You, that You connect them with Your people so that, as with Philip and the Ethiopian in the book of Acts, there is someone to help them what they are reading. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your dear love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and.....+ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“The First Noel” LBW (Green Book) 56

“The First Noel” Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain CCLI License #11470020

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
 Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
(Refrain)

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went
(Refrain)

This star drew near to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay
(Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense
(Refrain)

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY NEW CLASS..... 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."

EMPATHY 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.

BACKPACK WORK PARTY..... Come and join the fun as the Backpack Ministry gathers to prepare backpacks and items for those in need. The second gathering this winter is Thursday, January 1 at 11:00 am in the fellowship hall at Peace.

PEACE OFFICE CLOSED..... The Peace Office will be closed New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. If you are in need of pastoral assistance, feel free to contact Pastor directly.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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, Don and Bev (*healing and recovery*), Tim (*in prison asking for prayer*), Rich Hansen, John L., Dick, Jan and Fred, Caitlin (*pregnancy*), 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., Russ W., Janet R., Family of Peggy Kruegger as they mourn Don's death, Twylla R., Gary, Diane C., Oscar, Jean



