



**JAN 1**  
Sandy Keefover

**JAN 2**  
Kenneth Inks  
Ryan Tessororf  
Sadie Mimick  
Scott Boettcher

**JAN 3**  
Chuck Sahs

**JAN 4**  
Darin Hall  
Edie Aerni  
Emilee Sander  
Taylor Vopalensky  
Tina Rutten

**JAN 5**  
Amber Miller  
Brenda Groothuis  
Joel Epley  
Kelly Frenzen

**JAN 6**  
Becki Niedbalski  
Conrad Saltzgaber  
Esmee Schaecher  
Lynn Guilliat  
Pam Gertsch

Sylvia Coffey  
**JAN 7**  
Chris Wisehart  
Elijah Kershaw  
Ginger Westfall  
Larry Rezac  
Natalie Higginbotham

**JAN 8**  
Jean Britt  
Marilyn Barton

**JAN 9**  
Betty Hitz  
Brynn Sloma  
Caleb Nicolay  
Linda Price  
Lorraine Wenske  
Taylon Traub-Way

**JAN 10**  
Amber Trosper  
Pete Balerud

**JAN 11**  
Carol Willoughby  
Sam Rodriguez

**JAN 12**  
Joyce Holtkamp  
Michelle Hernandez  
Mitchell Sander

**JAN 13**  
Claire Meier

**JAN 14**  
Andrew Sander  
Joey Long

**JAN 16**  
Arlene Wilke  
Kristy Hoover

**JAN 18**  
Caiti Campbell  
Gage Traub

**JAN 20**  
Cherie Stadler  
Kathy Redel

**JAN 22**  
Karen Weber  
Kyle Anderson  
Susan Wilke  
Trevor Maschmeier

**JAN 24**  
Colson Nicolas  
Cullan Gustafson  
Gayle Meints  
Shantelle Adkisson  
Wes Bergland

**JAN 25**  
Andy Luce  
Gail Henke

**JAN 26**  
Dylan Lauridsen  
Jody Helms  
Leona Kant

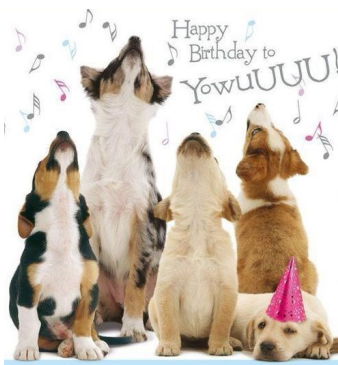
**JAN 27**  
Dana Dankert  
Joel Cutsor  
Kaylee Lehr-Hirschbrunner  
Warren Hellbusch

**JAN 28**  
Corey Olson  
Peyton Halvorsen

**JAN 29**  
Bob Emerson  
Bob Werner  
Tami Whitmore

**JAN 30**  
Tammy Gross

**JAN 31**  
Evan Micek  
Norman Frerichs



# Connections

January 2024

A FAMILY ENCOURAGED • A COMMUNITY EMBRACED • EVERYONE SAVED



2720 28th St  
Columbus, Nebraska 68601  
(402) 564-8311  
[www.peacecolumbus.org](http://www.peacecolumbus.org)  
FaceBook: Peace Lutheran Church  
Instagram: @peace.columbus  
YouTube.com/c/peacecolumbus



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Joining Jesus on HIS Mission

*Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." John 1:46*

As a kid, I would enjoy when missionaries would come to the church to speak about sharing Jesus with the people of Chad, Cameroon, Taiwan, or some other far-off land. I would dream of doing that someday, but was uncertain about leaving my home to learn another language, another culture, and giving up all I had. Maybe for a week or two, but not for years.

That is how most of us picture a missionary, isn't it? But God has called each of us to be a missionary wherever we live, to the people around us! As our society becomes less "Christian" in belief and in practice, we have a huge opportunity in front of us to be missionaries in our hometown. We don't need to travel around the world, the world has come to us.

This mission is not OUR mission, something WE do, but it is joining Jesus in HIS mission. He does the work, we simply join Him where He is at work and allow Him to use us as His instrument to do whatever He leads us to do. It's as easy as Philip saying to Nathaniel, "Come and see!" Nathaniel went, and saw, and became a follower of Jesus.

January 6th and 7th we will be starting a congregation wide series focusing on Joining Jesus in His Mission, starting with a 5-week sermon series on Simple Practices for Joining Jesus Every Day.

You can also be part of a Connect group going through the Joining Jesus video small group study to help you and the group to Join Jesus in tangible ways. Sign up for a connect group at [www.peacecolumbus.org/cg](http://www.peacecolumbus.org/cg).

Finally, you can purchase the book to dig in even deeper. Let the church office know if you'd like a book, and we will add it to the group order.

My prayer is that God would lead each of us to Join Jesus on His mission to our community, because there are many of our neighbors who need to know Him and the hope we have.

*Pastor Cory Buema*



**JANUARY  
WOMEN'S  
CONNECT**

**SUNDAY  
JANUARY 7TH  
6:30 PM**  
Fellowship Hall

**Jesus**  
NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

**THANK YOU!**

*Thank you to those who were responsible for putting together the fun and yummy food boxes! Thank You! We will have our box ready for any of the AMAZING volunteers who stop in to enjoy a snack break. We very much appreciate your generosity!*

*Lisa Rosendahl, Casa Connections & Susie Jacercki*

**God of Hope**

FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY & PEACE  
ROMANS 15:13

**Morning Prayer**  
Dear Heavenly Father, as I begin this day, I ask for Your strength and guidance. Help me to face the challenges ahead with courage (Deut 31:6) and grace. May Your Holy Spirit be my constant companion, (John 14:16) leading me in the path of righteousness. (Ps 23:3b) In Jesus' name, I pray.

**Voices of Peace**  
Practice Wednesdays  
6:00 pm  
Choir Room

We Wish You A **Happy New Year**  
Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.  
Isaiah 43:19

# COMMUNITY

Congratulations to the congregation of Peace Lutheran on the successful food drive with the "Give Thanks and Give Back November Food Shelf Challenge."



581 individual food items for the Platte County Food Pantry is a great collection! We at Thrivent are excited to direct a donation in the amount of \$500 to the food pantry as a generosity multiplier for your work. Thank you for encouraging the congregation to #LiveGenerously this holiday season!

Stacia Vawter • Platte County Food Pantry • Nebraska Region

January 7th, 2024 • 9:15 am

**SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING**

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Special Voter's meeting is to vote on the Renovation Presentation.

**He Is My Rock** & salvation, my stronghold, I will never be shaken. PSALM 62:2 9:6-7

**WOMEN'S Creative CONNECTIONS**  
Thursdays @ 9:00 am • Peace Chapel

**GATHERING Grounds**  
PROCEEDS GO TO: **CAMP LUTHER OF NEBRASKA**

**MEN'S CHOIR**  
Practice TUESDAYS 5:30 pm Choir Room

**SECOND Serving**  
"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink" Matthew 25:35

**JANUARY**  
☑ Canned Chicken  
☑ Noodles  
☑ Chicken Broth  
☑ Crackers

# NOTES FROM THE STAFF

## Official Acts – November 2023

Membership	1182
Baptisms:	3
Confirmations:	0
Transfers in:	0
Deaths:	0
Transfers out:	0
Releases:	0
Conf. Members:	934
Bapt. Members:	1182

Official Acts – November 2023	2023 TOTAL	2023 Avg/WK	2022	2022 AVG
NOV In-Person: (5 wks)	1135	284	1111	278
On-Line Views:	158	40	211	53
YTD Avg Weekly	266		277	
Worship: 264				
Goal: 311 average per weekend for 2023.				

## Official Acts—November 2023

**Funerals:**  
Funerals: Shirley Staab, (d) 10/29/2023 (f) 11/4/2023

**Baptisms:** Taycser Gary Sharman , 11/4/2023, Parents: Derek and Shayla Sharman

Kahlani Elizabeth Mead, 11/18/2023, Parents: Issac Wurdeman, Stacy Mead

Kole Edgar Mead, 11/18/2023, Parents: Issac Wurdeman, Stacy Mead



**PEACE STAFF**

Church Office: Joyce Peterson  
402-564-8311 • church@peacecolumbus.org

Lead Pastor: Rev. Cory W. Burma  
402-860-0443 • cburma@peacecolumbus.org

Director of Discipleship: Cami Hamer  
chamer@peacecolumbus.org

Vicar Joel Ripke  
jripke@peacecolumbus.org

Daycare Director: Lisa Thomas  
firststeps@peacecolumbus.org

Business Manager: Linda Schmidt  
business@peacecolumbus.org

Communications Coordinator: Tracy Buzynski  
communications@peacecolumbus.org

**WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Saturday 5:00 PM**

**Sunday 8:00 AM**

**Sunday 10:30 AM**  
Livestreamed

**CHURCH BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION**

Robbin Cutsor (402) 270-3305  
robbincutsor@yahoo.com

Amber Kohl (402) 276-4304  
amberjkohl@gmail.com

Jim Kramer (402) 270-3151  
drjim@bettertrick.com

Jeff Luebbe (402) 276-3156  
jlluebbe1@gmail.com

Troy Urkoski (402) 613-0140  
troymu22@hotmail.com

Tyson Wagoner (402) 630-5229  
tysonwags@hotmail.com

Darcy Wiselhart (402) 910-8467  
dawiselh@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

November 2023 Financials  
Peace Lutheran Church

Income	Actuals	Budget
Offerings	\$51,665	\$54,815
Other	\$812	\$2,748
Total Income	\$52,476	\$57,563
Expenses		
Personnel	\$27,497	\$26,802
Ministry	\$16,169	\$18,141
Facil./Adm.	\$10,081	\$7,729
Total Expenses	\$53,747	\$52,672
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$(1,270)	\$4,891
First Steps Daycare	Actuals	Budget
Income	\$20,842	\$26,433
Expenses	\$25,304	\$27,376
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$(4,462)	\$(943)
Combined Net Gain/(Loss)	\$(5,732)	\$3,948
YTD Church	\$(39,413)	\$(161)
YTD Daycare**	\$(16,557)	\$(5,416)
YTD Overall	\$(55,969)	\$(5,576)

\*\*This year's daycare budget deficit of up to \$23,101 will be covered by Reserve Funds carried over from the daycare surplus in the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

Why Didn't I Pray First?!

By Tracy Buzynski

Have you ever been in a difficult situation, and then when it is over think to yourself...

WHY DIDN'T I PRAY FIRST?

Prayer is after all, simply having a conversation with God. The Triune omnipresent God who knows all, sees all — already knows how I will react. Why should I bother telling Him? Because He wants relationship with you, His precious son or daughter. He wants you to bring Him into your situations, big and little, good and bad. He wants to walk through life with you day by day, even minute by minute.

That's how the impossible miracle outcome happens in impossible situations. When you invite Him into your everyday moments, He moves. When you make room for Him, He helps. When you look for Him, He shows up.

So the next time you have to handle something that is bigger than you or smaller, have a convo with the ONE who knows it all and is the BEST help for all situations and watch how he moves mountains for you to overcome the impossible!

*"Be unceasing and persistent in prayer; in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."* 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

PRAYER changes THINGS... It WORKS! 

MINISTRIES

Comfort Dog Ministry  
What's happening...



Team Eden would like to wish all members of our Peace family a Blessed Christmas as we join in celebrating our Savior's birth.

During this past month, Team Eden has traveled

to four out of town events. The first occurred on Dec. 5th in Crete, Nebraska at the Doan University "Distress Fest." At this event three dogs were present to help college students relieve the stress of semester final exams. An estimated 500 students interacted with the Comfort Dogs during the event. On December 8th, Teams Eden, Nicodemus and Priscilla gathered at Concordia University in Seward for their Pet Therapy event. Here we again met with students either studying for finals or finishing class projects. Eden interacted very well with the students and our teams had very good conversations with them.

Our team also traveled to the Madonna Rehab facility in Lincoln and visited with an individual who is undergoing therapy as a result of a recent stroke. The last out of town visit was to York on December 11th for an event entitled "Kyle's Coffee in Kyle's remembrance and as a reminder of the importance of suicide prevention and as a reminder of the importance of suicide prevention. (This was the 7th year of the annual event.)

Team Eden also completed its regular visits to the Immanuel Lutheran School, Brookestone Acres, Emerald Care, Prairie Village and ReaLife retirement homes.

Blessings,  
Warren Hellbusch & Top Dog

Our next Comfort Dog meeting will be  
**Tuesday, January 9th**  
**7:00 pm**  
In the Peace Chapel

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH



LCC's Mission

...to share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need.

Lutheran Church Charities: LCC's Mission

Share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need.

Originally headquartered in Addison, Illinois, and currently in Northbrook, Illinois, Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) was founded in 1947 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry to help support Christian human care ministries of the Church. LCC works throughout the United States and Internationally in bringing the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those Suffering and in Need.

Areas that LCC helps those in need include Disaster and Crisis Response, K-9 Comfort Dog Ministries, Hearts of Mercy and Compassion, Prison Ministry, Vehicle Donations, and More. To learn more about LCC, visit <https://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org/>



Across all the ministries at LCC is the desire to *BE THERE* to share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need.

Amid life's storms, our steady presence becomes a beacon of hope, a reminder that God's love is unwavering. Join us in answering the call to be a source of strength and comfort.

Together, let's cast aside fear and doubt, and **BE THERE to bring light to the darkest corners of crisis.**

All Mission donations received in the month of January will go to LCC's Mission.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP



JOINING  
JESUS  
ON HIS MISSION

SIMPLE PRACTICES FOR  
JOINING JESUS  
EVERYDAY

January - SERMON SERIES

Jesus has called us to join Him in His mission. That sounds kind of scary, doesn't it? And difficult, right? Actually, it's scary only because we haven't done it before, and difficult because we make it that way. Our sermon series this January gives simple ways that by His grace, we can practice joining Jesus in our everyday life. It's simpler than you can imagine, and not frightening at all. After all, we are joining Jesus in HIS mission, not ours!

Join us this January in worship to learn more! And, to dive even deeper, join a Connect group!

- JANUARY 6 — 7  
SEEKING THE KINGDOM
- JANUARY 13 — 14  
HEARING FROM JESUS
- JANUARY 21 — 21  
TALKING WITH PEOPLE
- JANUARY 27 — 28  
DOING GOOD
- FEBRUARY 3 — 4  
MINISTERING THROUGH PRAYER

## YOUTH



### Join Us for ReFUEL!

Wednesdays • 6:00—7:00 pm

ReFUEL begins again January 10th

- ReFUEL is a weekly educational opportunity for children to learn more about their faith, God, and the Bible.
- ReFUEL is open to Pre K 3 year olds who are potty trained through 6th grade.
- Check-in is from 5:50—6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall ReFUEL meets 6:00—7:00 pm.
- Check out is from 7:00—7:10 pm
- Sign up by going to [www.peacecolumbus.org/children](http://www.peacecolumbus.org/children)



**Middle School Youth Night  
Peace Chapel**

**All 7th and 8th  
graders are welcome!**

Come for a Bible Study, games, snacks, and more. Youth nights this month are...

**JAN 14th & 28th  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Peace Chapel**

**Joyful Sound  
Children's  
Choir**

Wednesdays before ReFUEL.  
5:30-6:00 pm  
Starts again JAN 10th.



**Wednesdays  
7th & 8th Grade  
6:00 — 7:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall**

**NO CONFIRMATION ON  
January 3rd**

## IN THE FIELD



### Barb Rebentisch, LCC Missionary to Taiwan

Barb has been in the USA since November 7th. Family gathered with friends and extended family for memorial services in both Minnesota and Iowa. She has a busy two months ahead of her as she will be flying to Taiwan on December 27th, then to conferences in Indonesia and Ft. Wayne, Indiana.



Barb writes:

*"I have been very grateful to see several former missionary friends and some of my wonderful supporters. We have experienced the peace of God which surpasses understanding and are touched by all of the prayer support you have offered during this difficult time. Your strong partnership in the spread of the Gospel is always making a difference. When Jesus comes back, we will be incredibly surprised. We serve a faithful God who is holy and totally unlike us. Our Lord promises His Word never returns empty, and He always hears our prayers."*

*Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But have courage! I have overcome the world." John 16:33*

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • P.O. Box 66861 • St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

IN THE FIELD



Cundiff Family Update

Dear friends in Christ,

Christmas in Latvia is similar to how many in the US celebrate it. It is very much connected to the sentimentality and aesthetics of the holiday, but there is very little connection to the Christian nature of it. In many ways, Christmas has become disconnected from the birth of Christ into a celebration all its own. Nonetheless, the work of the Church is to faithfully and joyfully proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was incarnate and born for our sake. By taking on our human nature, he redeemed us through the cross. This is a message that many here in Latvia, like in the US, know intellectually but do not truly understand.

Please pray for the work of the Church throughout the world and especially for the endeavors

of our missionaries as we seek to preach Christ incarnate and crucified for the life of the world, even those who do not really know him any longer. Our Lord is faithful, and he will create the harvest where and when it pleases him. May our Lord bless your own celebration of his birth, and may we all take the opportunity to speak of him to all who will listen.

In Christ’s Service,  
  
Pastor Cundiff



- PLEASE PRAY FOR:**
- Continued good health.
  - Our missionaries in the field who are celebrating many milestones and events away from family and friends in the US.
- PRAISE GOD FOR:**
- The unity that he brings to his people through faith, regardless of language. Our supporters for helping to make this mission possible – we cannot stress our gratefulness enough!

YOUTH



PEACE HIGH SCHOOL  
**YOUTH GROUP**

**LARGE GROUP**  
**JAN 10th**  
**7:15 —8:30 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
(First WED of the mo.)

**Pizza Rolls  
and Sides**

**Service Project: Making Thank You  
Bags for Teachers**

**Food • Games • Bible • Fun!**

High School


**SMALL GROUP**

(9th —12th Grades)

Meet at Small Group  
Leaders Homes on  
**WEDNESDAYS.**

See Calendar for dates.

**7:15— 8:30 pm.**




**CONNECT GROUPS**

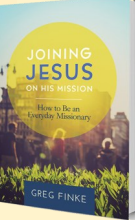
Connecting with Christ and one another

Connect Groups begin again the week of January 7th! Join a Connect Group as we dig into “*Joining Jesus on His Mission.*” Each group will take a look at weekly readings that follow our church sermon series. More information about group times can be found on the board in the Narthex and on the church website or sign up for a connect group at [www.peacecolumbus.org/cg](http://www.peacecolumbus.org/cg).

You can purchase the book to dig in even deeper. Let the church office know if you’d like a book, and we will add it to the group order.



Please pray that the YOUTH leaders bringing the message to the YOUTH in Norris are being fully equipped with the visions and plans of the Lord for this trip.



**\$16**



# January

A FAMILY ENCOURAGED  
A COMMUNITY EMBRACED  
EVERYONE SAVED

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Communion will be served at all services on the 1st and 3rd weekends.	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024	2 Morning Bible Study 7:00 am Brookestone Acres 3:00 pm	3 NO Joyful Sound NO ReFUEL NO Confirmation	4 Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am	5 Office Closed	6 Private Party 10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm
7 Worship 8:00 am Special Voter's Meeting 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Women's Connect 7:00 pm	8 Esther Circle 9:30 am Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Compassionate Friends 7:00 pm	9 Morning Bible Study 7:00 am Columbus Circuit Mtg 9:00am Real Life 10:30 am Men's Chorus 5:30 pm Comfort Dog Meeting 7:00 pm	10 Joyful Sound 5:30 pm ReFUEL 6:00 pm Voices of Peace 6:00 pm HS LARGE Group 7:15	11 Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am NE District DCE Mtg Cub Scouts 6:00 pm Bells of Peace 6:30 pm	12 Office Closed	13 Private Party 10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm
14 Worship 8:00 am Connect Group 9:15 am PINK Meeting 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Middle School Youth Night 6:30 pm	15 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	16 Morning Bible Study 7:00 am Prairie Village 2:30 pm Men's Chorus 5:30 pm Church Board Meeting 7:00 pm	17 Meridian Gardens 2:00 pm Joyful Sound 5:30 pm ReFUEL 6:00 pm Voices of Peace 6:00 pm HS Small Group 7:15	18 Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am Bells of Peace 6:30 pm	19 Office Closed	20 Worship 5:00 pm
21 Worship 8:00 am Connect Group 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	22 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	23 Morning Bible Study 7:00 am Men's Chorus 5:30 pm	24 Joyful Sound 5:30 pm ReFUEL 6:00 pm Voices of Peace 6:00 pm HS Small Group 7:15	25 Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am Cub Scouts 6:00 pm Bells of Peace 6:30 pm	26 Office Closed	27 Worship 5:00 pm
28 Worship 8:00 am Connect Group 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Middle School Youth Night 6:30 pm	29 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	30 Morning Bible Study 7:00 am Men's Chorus 5:30 pm	31 Joyful Sound 5:30 pm ReFUEL 6:00 pm Voices of Peace 6:00 pm HS Small Group 7:15	ReFUEL 5:50 Check In ReFUEL 6:00—7:00 pm 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:00—7:00 pm Check Out from ReFUEL 7:00—7:05		<b>Connect Groups</b> Sunday • 9:15 am Monday • 6:30 pm Tuesdays • Noon & 7:00 am Wednesdays • Noon, 6 & 7pm Thursdays • 6:30 pm