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JANUARY NEWS

2024

Peace Lutheran Church
Fremont, Indiana

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Fremont, IN 46737

Church Phone: (260) 495-4306

www.plcms.org

A member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Peace Resources

PHONE NUMBER — 260-495-4306

Office Extensions:

Secretary- 301
Pastor Teeple- 302
Kristin McGee- 303
Amber Vonderau- 304
Wee Creations Office- 350

**Church Text Messages
& Email App**

To sign up for church text messages:

Send a text to the number **81010**.
In the message type "**@peacefrem**".

You will receive a text
asking for your name.

Respond with your first and last name.
You will receive text messages regarding
church updates.

*If you have already
signed up, you do not need
to sign up again.*

**We welcome you to
join us for our
Worship Services**

Sunday

8:00am
9:15am Educational Hour
10:30am

Monday

6:30pm

WEBSITE — www.plcms.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES — at church:

Pastor Jeff Teeple – PastorT@plcms.org
Sara Miller – Director@weecreations.org
Kristin McGee – Admin@plcms.org
Jodie Church – JChurch@plcms.org
Amber Vonderau – Amber@plcms.org
Hope Korte – ComfortDog@plcms.org



RightNow Media – Please remember all the resources that are available to you and your family free of charge through RightNow Media! It is a clearinghouse of videos, Bible studies, and podcasts that help you grow in your faith toward God and love for others! If you haven't signed up (and even if you have!) be sure to access this amazing library of Christian material! (Checkout the link in our e-news to sign up!)



E-News – Just a reminder that we continue to publish our e-news and announcements every week. If you haven't signed up to receive e-news through your email, please email Pastor Teeple and he will get you signed up! If you did sign up and haven't seen it, please double check your SPAM folder; it is an email that comes from the secretary's email address: secretary@plcms.org

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Christian friends,

First and foremost, I want to share a profound thank you to everyone - both known and unknown - who shared holiday thoughts, cards, and gifts with my family and me! You are a blessing to us, and we thank God for all of you! Thank you - from the bottom of our hearts!

As we stand on the threshold of a brand-new year, there is an undeniable sense of anticipation and hope in the air. The dawn of 2024 brings with it the opportunity for new beginnings, fresh perspectives, and a renewed commitment to living our lives with purpose and vitality.

Vitality is a theme that resonates deeply with us Christians as we embark on this journey together. It goes beyond mere physical energy; it encompasses the vibrancy of our faith, the passion in our worship, and the fervor with which we embrace the calling that God has placed upon each of our lives.

Holy Scripture tells us in Proverbs 4:23 (NIV), "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." As we step into the new year, let us make it a priority to guard our hearts against negativity, doubt, and complacency. Instead, let us fill our hearts with the life-giving truth of God's Word, allowing it to fuel our spirits and infuse us with God's power and love in Jesus Christ.

One of the ways we can cultivate vitality in our lives is through intentional and heartfelt worship. Psalm 100:2 (NIV) exhorts us to "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Even more pointedly, Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) tell us: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." As we are gathered in worship by the Holy Spirit, we do so with hearts full of gratitude, expressing our love and devotion to our Heavenly Father. Worship becomes a powerful catalyst for vitality, rejuvenating our souls and connecting us intimately with the source of all life. When we choose not to worship, we are grieving the Holy Spirit who "calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies us" in this holy, Christian and apostolic church.

In addition to worship, the new year provides an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth. Consider dedicating time to acts of mercy, participating in a Bible study, or engaging in personal devotions that challenge and nourish your faith. The Apostle Paul encourages us in Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV), "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

Furthermore, we should be mindful of the importance of community. The body of Christ is designed to support, encourage, and uplift one another. In times of joy, our celebrations are more vibrant when shared, and in times of challenge, our burdens are lighter when carried together. The vitality of our church is intricately connected to the vitality of our relationships within the body.

As we launch into this new year, let us do so with hearts full of hope, minds focused on Christ, and a commitment to live with unyielding vitality. May our congregation be a beacon of light, radiating the life-giving love of Jesus to our community and beyond.

Wishing you a blessed and vibrant New Year filled with the abundant life that Christ offers.
Pastor Jeff Teeple

Kindness
is in your blood.



Help save a life.

Schedule your
blood donation
appointment today.



The Next Peace Lutheran Blood Drive
is **Thursday, January 25th** from
1:00pm-5:00pm. There are still plenty
of open appointment spots,
if you are interested in donating.
Just go to the link below and search
for our drive to see the available
times and schedule an appointment.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time?dt=WB:PL:DR:PM>

Come join us as we explore the beginning of "THE CHOSEN".



This four week journey begins **January 7, 2024 9:15am** in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Adult Bible Study will take a close look at the first four episodes of season 1. THE CHOSEN is an American Christian historical drama television series. THE CHOSEN wonderfully captures the struggles, joys and transformative moments that shaped the lives of those chosen to follow the Messiah. Each week, as time allows, we will discuss the character dynamics, the cultural differences and the timeless messages that resonate from the early moments in the life of Christ. It's not just about watching a series, it's about engaging with the word of God in a fresh and profound way. Please join us January 7, 14, 21 and 28, for a close look at THE CHOSEN.



The season of giving is upon us and we've heard the story of the Wise Men bringing their gifts to Baby Jesus! What might your Family Promise food donation have in common with this story??? Truly, both reflect acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity, emphasizing the importance of helping those in need or less fortunate!

With that, I thank those who made food, delivered food, or did both for our November Family Promise week! It went smoothly and was much appreciated. Our next opportunity comes the week of January 15th. Please watch for the sign up sheet in the narthex!

Due to our
construction project
beginning very soon,
Peace will not be
offering Upward
Basketball this winter
of 2024.



MEN'S DODGEBALL EVENT!

Calling all men to a first-ever dodgeball
happening in the gym on
Sunday, January 28 at High Noon.

Come together; take out your stress by
throwing a red ball at each other; and
then life will be more manageable.

Dodge, duck, dip, dive, and dodge!



Is Stephen Ministry your calling??

**STEPHEN MINISTRY INFORMATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024, at 9:15 AM**

On Sunday, January 21, 2024, during the Bible class hour, there will be an informational meeting to introduce those interested in becoming a commissioned Stephen Ministers. We will share information about what is involved with using your spiritual gifts to provide Christian care to those who are hurting. You will also get a chance to get answers to any questions that you might have. We would like to begin a new training class later this winter. We will meet in the empty office across from the copy room. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact one of the Stephen Leaders- Rick Kirkton or Ellen Luepke.

**LUTHERAN WOMEN IN
MISSION**

**Thursday, January 18
1:00 p.m. – Fellowship
Hall**



- Time together in the Word!
 - Be equipped in serving the Lord with gladness:
 - Learn about and learn how to help Elijah Haven Crisis Intervention Center's domestic abuse resources (newly available in Steuben County)
 - Continued craft project
- Questions? New ideas? Contact Sharon Aldrich or Elaine Elsner

Lutheran Women in Mission includes each woman of our congregation, encouraging her to use her unique God-given gifts as she joyfully proclaims Christ, supports local, regional, and global missions, and honors God by serving others.

The Lutheran Witness

It is time for our congregation to have the opportunity to subscribe to the LUTHERAN WITNESS. Read about exciting ways the gospel is brought to people everywhere, learn how Christians support those in need, share in the victories of fellow Christians, and be more informed about our church's activities. For \$19.20/year, you can keep in touch with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations in our district, in the United States and worldwide.

Return this form along with the subscription cost of \$21.00 by January 10, 2024.
(Please make checks to Peace Lutheran Church)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Renewal New Subscription

2023 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



OUR BABIES
JESUS

OUR WEE
TODDLER
LAMBS



OUR
BARNYARD
ANIMALS

Wee
Creationst

2023 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

OUR CHOIR
OF ANGELS



OUR
NATIVITY
CREW

PEACE LUTHERAN 2023 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



For unto us
a child is born!

Dove Tails

Happy New Year, friends! I hope you enjoyed the holidays celebrating Jesus' birthday. December for me was full of great smells, food I wasn't allowed to eat, and lots of activity.

My regular scheduled visits were extra fun. It seems like the Christmas season makes everyone a little happier. I also got to go on a few special visits last month. First was a visit to something called the I Belong Project. I got to spend time with 12 smaller humans who were waiting to find a "forever home". They all seemed very sweet and kind. I hope they find homes as nice as the one I have.

Next, I visited a school in a place called New Philadelphia, Ohio with my friends Claudia and Rosie. It didn't look new, and it seemed too small to be Philadelphia, but the humans there were very nice and said they were glad I came to visit. Some of them were sad because several smaller humans and a few grown-up humans had died in a bad bus accident. I did my best to make them feel better and know that my team and I care. The teachers at the school said we dogs made a big difference, and they couldn't believe how we helped. That made me feel really good. I slept all the way home from that busy day.

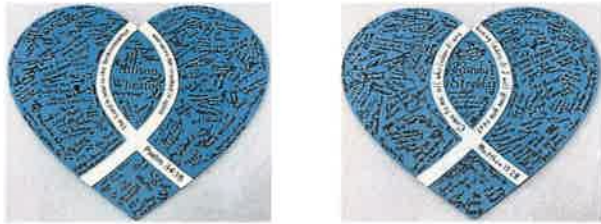
Then, I got to see my friends Claudia and Magdalene at a place called Madison, Indiana to visit another school. My Handler, Sue, and my friend Alan took me this time. A grown-up human and her three children died suddenly which made a lot of them sad. Just like in New Philadelphia, I did my best to make them feel better; and just like in every school I go to, they seemed really happy to see me. It was another long day, but everyone there made me feel special. I slept good after that one, too!

Lastly, I got some great news!! Pretty soon I'm going to get to go visit even more schools in our area. The people at something called "MSD of Steuben County" said they would like me to start visiting the young humans at their schools. I'm very excited to make a lot of new friends!

I hope God gives you lots of treats this year! Can't wait to see you at church!



HEARTS OF MERCY AND COMPASSION



The Hearts of Mercy & Compassion team, on behalf of our congregation, presented one large blue heart to the family of Randy Strebig and one to the family of Allison Wheaton. Randy and Allison made their final earthly flight and went home to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on November 26, 2023. The Hearts were awarded prior to the Celebration of Life service at Concordia Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne on December 10.

The Pastor's Fund

A very big thank you to all those who contributed to the Pastor's Fund this year!

The primary use of this discretionary fund is to allow the pastor to help others in difficult times. In 2023, we have been able to help over 25 families with various needs: housing, utilities, groceries, gas, and other essentials.

A secondary use of this fund to allow the pastor to help with other needs and opportunities that come up in the life of the congregation, which are not budgeted, to care for the staff of the church and Wee Creations. This frees the pastor to act ministerially whatever the circumstance.

Thank you for helping!
You are a blessing to others!

Thank You

Thank you for the "blue heart" for our work with Family Promise. The Bible verse on the ribbon, Micah 6:8, is Susan's favorite Bible verse. Your kind words moved us.
Tom and Susan Fisher

Thank you for the 70th Anniversary cards and prayers! We appreciate all the support for our marriage. Our hearts remain with all of you at Peace.
Jim and Sandra Von Seggern

SPECIAL GIFTS – 2023

Thanks to your generous support over the last year, as a congregation we were able to support the following CHARITIES with special gifts at the close of 2023.

Thanks again, for your amazing outreach.

To God alone be the glory!

Local Missions

Boomerang Backpack	\$1000
Cahoots Café	\$500
Camp Lutherhaven	\$1000
CASA of Northeastern Indiana	\$500
Compassion Pregnancy Center	\$500
Faith Community Health Clinic	\$1250
Family Promise	\$2000
Fremont Community Food Pantry	\$1000
Lutheran Senior Care Ministry	\$1000
Project Help of Steuben County	\$2000
Easter Seals RISE	\$500
Steuben County Council of Aging	\$1000
Turning Point	\$1000
Well Child Clinic	\$500
Women in Transition	\$500
Steuben County Special Olympics	\$250

Regional Missions

	\$1000
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families	\$1000
Lutheran Social Svc. of NE Indiana	\$500
Ray of Hope (Children Special Surgeries)	\$1000
Worship Anew	

National/International Missions

Alaska Mission for Christ	\$2000
Adopt a Student	\$2000
English District Mission	\$500
Lutheran Hour (LLL)	\$500
Lutheran World Relief	\$500

Grand Total
\$24,000

Site preparation for our building project has begun! This is a very exciting time for us at Peace!

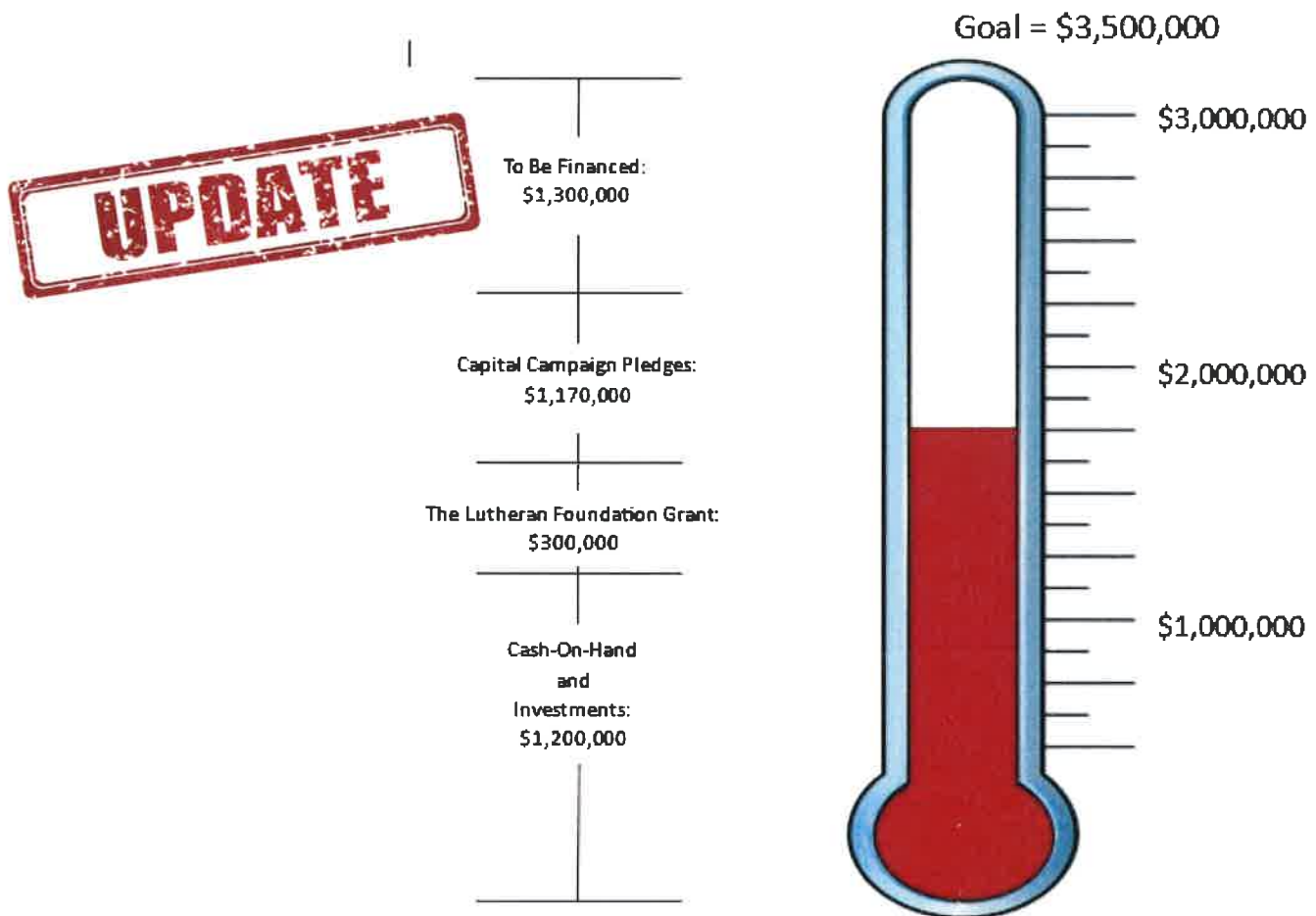
There might be some inconveniences at times, but we ask for everyone's patience and understanding as we all navigate through this together. We will do our best to keep everyone updated as things progress.



Effective immediately, our east entrance is no longer accessible; please use the west entrance until further notice.

Building Project Thermometer Information

Updated 12/29/2023



Breakdown of Funds Received (56% Complete):

- \$1,200,000 from Congregation (100% complete)
- \$ 300,000 from The Lutheran Foundation (100% complete)
- \$ 460,291 from Pledges (39% complete)
- \$ 5,088 from non-Pledge money to reduce financing
- \$1,294,912 needed for financing

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1/1	Alice Phillips Cindy White	1/17	Brad Fincher Brian King
1/2	Bob Mann		Harry Koester
1/3	Hannah Bruick Kara Laughlin	1/20	Pam Lehman Leeah Reidenbach
1/5	Steve Soldano	1/21	Kay Donaldson Dave Handlin
1/6	Don Schuller Pam Hall	1/25	Bob Shirey
1/8	David Phillips Hannah Hagerty Linda Raichart	1/27	Kim Hogan Delaney McGee
1/9	Emery Laughlin Grace Shelburne	1/28	Bonnie Schlegel Weldon Baas Traci Bruick
1/11	Ralph Traycoff Carter Vonderau	1/29	Ross Sumney
1/12	Dave Armstrong Brady Johnson Daniel Koch	1/31	Hank Helmke
1/13	Chris James		
1/14	Leslie Ann Engle		
1/16	Boston Baas Doug McNamara Connie Pociach		

ANNIVERSARIES

1/15/2011	Chad & Kris Murphy
1/18/2014	Jack & Wendy Yahne
1/20/1968	David & Karen Roudebush
1/21/1995	Dave & Jenni Sorg
1/26/1981	Steve & Stephanie Paradine

Altar flowers

1/7/24	Larry & Marie Font
1/14/24	Elaine Elsner
1/21/24	Rod & Lori Olson
1/28/24	Altar Guild



The 2024 Altar Flower Calendar is up in the Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up for the week(s) you desire.

You may also designate a special remembrance.

Cost is \$40.

Not able to be at church? Contact Carol Gepfert, or the church office to sign up.