

From the Pastor...

December Newsletter—Advent Message

Here we are beginning a new Church Year, and as always we begin with Advent— ***the announcement of the coming Lord***. To hear a message we need “messengers”— “angels”. God still reaches out to us through messengers, whether they are heavenly or purely human, complete strangers or people we know well. I cannot tell you how comforting it is to know God is still reaching out to us, through His Holy Spirit, angels, friends and strangers alike.

God does still reach out to speak to us. And that is the message that is conveyed to us *the hearers* of the nativity stories today, as well as those in Jesus’ day. The word “angel” comes from the Greek word *angelos*, which means messenger. So, these angels, that appear to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds were God’s messengers. They, as Gabriel tells us, “**stand in the presence of God.**” Thus, their messages came from the heart of God. Their messages had similar or parallel stories in the Old Testament, reminding their hearers that God is still speaking and still faithful to his people. And so it is true today as well.

Year after year priests had gone in to the holy of holies in the temple waiting for a message of the coming Anointed One [English], the Messiah [Hebrew], the Christ [Greek]— **just to hear nothing! Silence!** 400 years have passed since God had spoken. In Gabriel’s message to Zechariah, who finds himself struck mute, (just what we needed—*more silence*), after being told he and his barren wife, Elizabeth, are going have a son (who will be John the Baptist), so we also can discover the gift of silence in Advent in order to contemplate what God has done and is doing in our lives. And out of that time of contemplation, we, like Zechariah, become equipped to find our voice to in turn become God’s prophetic messengers to the world.

Then we hear Gabriel’s message to Mary as it offers us the gift of knowing that we, like Mary, are favored by God. We are favored to be called to provide space within us to nurture the Christ Child born in and to us. We are given the gift of knowing, as Mary did, that God is with us guiding and encouraging us as we live out that call. Remembering—nothing is impossible with God.

And as the angel appears to the dreaming Joseph, we are offered the gift of believing the unbelievable when we listen to and follow the messages of the angels. We are also given the gift of courage to *act* in order to protect the Christ child who has been born to us and to the world.

We receive a special gift from the messages of the angels that appeared to the shepherds watching over their flocks by night. As we hear again from the *Sabaoth*, that is, *the armed and ready army of angels*’ heralding the birth of the one who came to bring light into the darkness of our lives.

We are given the gift of seeing how these humble shepherds, who are strangers to the holy family, become messengers in their own right when they

find Mary, Joseph, and the baby, and share the joy of what had been announced to them. To a young couple who had a less than perfect first Christmas (who wants to deliver their baby in a stinky old barn?) the shepherds bring the gift of joy and affirmation. The shepherds are so excited about what they have heard, that they can't help but run off and share the good news with all they encounter, as they leave Mary "to treasure up all these things and ponder them in her heart!" Thus, we are given the gift of knowing that we too can become more than hearers but, messengers of the good news we receive. We become angels to others.

Our Response to God's Love –

Last Sunday, November 24, 2024, Attendance: In Person 47; On phone 5; Online 5; Offering: \$3,867.00

SERVING SUNDAY, December 1, 2024 (*Thank you!*):

Elder:	Dirk Vavroch	AV Tech:	Mark Weintraub
Ushers:	Ronnie Counterman	Counters:	Joyce Carpentier, Janet Huwaldt
Reader:	Dave Edwards	Flowers:	
Organist:	Leonard Lutz	Snacks:	This Sunday: Church Next Sunday: Amanda Rotta
Altar Guild:	Margaret Schaaf, SuAnne Allesandro	Greeters:	Sue Offermann, Joyce Carpentier

— Upcoming Events —

- SCHOOL CLOSED** Mon, Nov 25th-Fri, Nov 29th
- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** Thurs, Nov 28th-Fri, Nov 29th
- CHOIR PRACTICE**..... Sun, Dec 1st, 11:30 am
- ADVENT SERVICE** Wed, Dec 4th, 4:30 pm
- SCHOOL CHAPEL**..... Thurs, Dec 5th, 9:15 am
- TREE TRIMMING AND DECORATING**..... Sat, Dec 7th, 10:00am



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT PEACE

Bible Study

Sunday mornings 8:30 am

Attend in-person in the Parish Hall ~~or via Zoom.~~

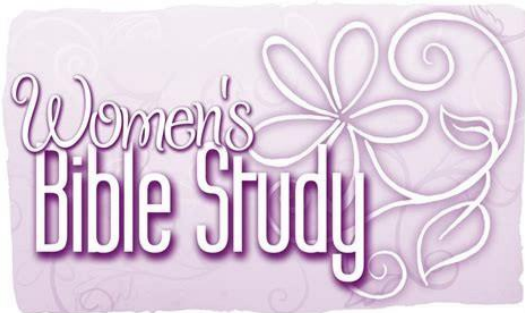
To Join the Zoom Meeting via the Internet, use this information each week:

Click [here](#) to Join (or launch Zoom and enter the ID and Passcode (below))

~~From any phone, dial 1 669 444 9171~~

~~Meeting ID: 860 6410 8815 & Passcode: 861083~~

Current study – Old Testament



Women's Bible Study

Mondays, 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall

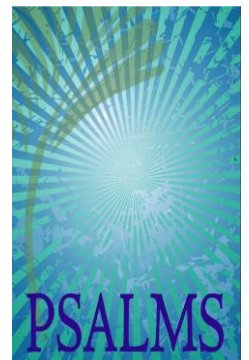
Good studies. Great discussion. Wonderful fellowship. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

Community Bible Study

Outside the Red Dirt Café, near Walmart

Time: Tuesdays, 7:30 am Topic: The Psalm of the Day

We study a selection of Wisdom literature (from Psalms, Proverbs, etc.) appointed as a reading for the day. After reading the text, we discuss its meaning and application. Men and women, believer and seeker, all are invited!



Rosa's would like to welcome
Peace Lutheran Church
Dinner will include homemade bread,
and the choice of the following entrees.

- CANNELLONI—25.00

two house-made pasta crepes filled with seasoned beef and parmesan,
topped and baked with shredded mozzarella served with our house
marinara

- SPINACH MANICOTTI—25.00

two pasta crepes filled with ricotta and spinach topped with marinara

- LASAGNA—24.00

layers of pasta and ricotta cheese with marinara or meat sauce

- SHRIMP SCAMPI—30.00

Prawns , onions,, fresh garlic, butter and wine on a bed of fettuccini
pasta

- FETTUCCHINI ALFREDO—25.00

chicken or broccoli in a cream sauce with fettuccini pasta

- CHICKEN PARMESAN – 28.00

breaded and baked chicken breast served with veggies and penne
pasta

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	2 12:30pm - Women Study 6pm - Literacy for Life	3 7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Doll Club 10am - Prayer Warriors	4 4:30pm - Advent Service	5 9:15am - School Chapel	6	7
8 Communion Sunday 8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	9 12:30pm - Women Study 4:30pm - LWML Dinner 6pm - Literacy for Life	10 7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Prayer Warriors 4:30pm - LWML Dinner	11 2pm - School Board 4:30pm - Advent Service	12 9:15am - School Chapel	13 7pm - Adeline Concert	14 2pm - Renewal of Vows
15 8:30am - Bible Study 10am - School Program 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	16 12:30pm - Women Study 6pm - Literacy for Life	17 7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Prayer Warriors	18 4:30pm - Advent Service	19 9:15am - School Chapel 1pm - Board of Directors	20	21
22 Communion Sunday 8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	23 School Closed	24 Church Office Closed 10am - Prayer Warriors 10:30am - People's Kitch 4:30pm - Christmas Eve	25	26	27	28
29 8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	30 School Closed	31 Church Office Closed 7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Prayer Warriors	1	2	3	4

Peace Christian Preschool

December Newsletter 2024



DATES TO NOTE:

Chapel Every Thursday at 9:15 am. Families are welcome to join us!

December 4, 11, 18 Advent Service in Sanctuary at 4:30 pm

December 15: Preschool Christmas Musical 10:00 am at Peace Lutheran Church

December 23 - January 3

School Closed
Christmas to New Year break

SCHOOL CLOSED FROM Dec.23-Jan. 3 for Winter break



12/17 Cyrus M.
12/20 Miss Ronette
12/21 Goldie B.
12/26 Thomas L.
12/30 Alaiya B.

Peace Christian Preschool Presents the Christmas Musical



WHAT IS THE REAL CHRISTMAS ALL ABOUT?
DECEMBER 15TH @ 10AM

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
PLEASE DROP YOUR CHILD OFF AT THEIR
AT CLASSROOMS AT 9:45 AM**



Come Join us
for the annual

Christmas
Pageant

DECEMBER 15TH AT 10:00 AM



*Peace Lutheran
Church & School*

*244 N. Oak Park Blvd.
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420*

Church Phone: (805) 489-2708

Church Email: office@peacearroyogrande.com

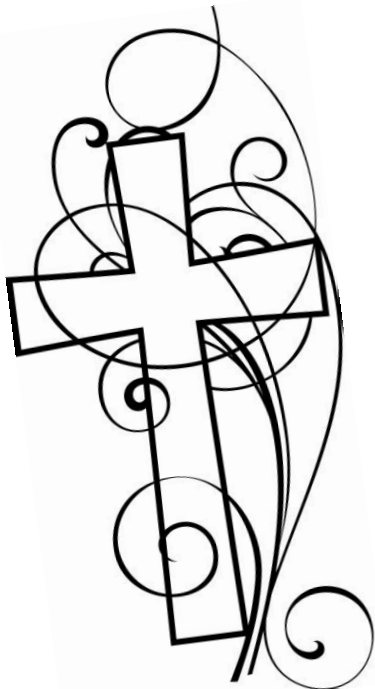
School Phone: (805) 489-9644

School Email: director@peacearroyogrande.com

www.peacearroyogrande.com

December 2024

Church & School Newsletter



Peace Lutheran Church
Mission Statement

In loving, caring fellowship, built upon the foundation of Word and Sacrament, we reach out with Gospel ministries to our community.