



January 2025 Newsletter



Family Bible Night 2025

We are looking forward to Family Bible Night (FBN)! This year we are going to go through a video series from The Gospel Project. This seven-part video series gives an overview of the book of Genesis and is titled: "The God Who Creates." The book of Genesis lays the foundation of all of Scripture, and this series seeks to trace the storyline of Scripture throughout the entirety of the Bible. The videos are excellent! I'm confident that you will see something new this year in Scripture!

Our time together will include watching the video, and then having a time of discussion together. You do not need to read a book. Simply come! An overview sheet and discussion guide will be provided for you. There is an optional student e-book available with additional lessons to complete during the week expanding on the weekly meeting. It will require individual log-in to Lifeway and can be found here:

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/ebook-gospel-foundations-volume-1-bible-study-book-P005803687> eBook - Gospel Foundations - Volume 1 - Bible Study Book | Lifeway

We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30, beginning January 8. Nikki Hall is leading the children's activities. We look forward to having you join us for a wonderful time together in the Word!



Reading Through The Bible in 2025

The 2025 Bible Reading program is on-line! We hope you'll join us in this journey. As Pastor has mentioned, if you aren't able to read every day, or keep up with the schedule, that is OK! You will, without a doubt, find that any amount of time spent in God's Word is beneficial.

Everyone who is currently in the reading group should see a request to join the new program. If you would like to join for the first time, follow the link to our 2025 group: <https://tinyurl.com/3ebb7c3f>

You will need the YouVersion Bible App on your phone or tablet (either iOS or Android platform; it won't work on a PC.) Following the link should prompt you to add the app if you don't have it already. We are again using the BibleProject One Story That Leads to Jesus reading program.

Let Michelle (michelle.staffan@gmail.com) know if you have issues joining the group. We eventually got *most* people who wanted to be included attached to it last year. HAPPY READING!!

Enter the New Year!



Pastor Steven Carlson

We are entering the New Year of 2025! I wonder what God has in store during this coming year. What journeys will you take, physically and spiritually? What “new land” is God going to give you to possess? What challenges will you face? Where will the Lord lead you this year?

As the Old Testament book of Joshua begins, the Israelites are camped by the Jordan River, waiting to cross into the Promised Land. But there are three main immediate challenges. Moses has just died, they need to cross the Jordan River, and the fortified city of Jericho is on the other side standing in their way and potentially keeping them from entering the Promised Land. They see only challenges and impossibilities. Into these fears, God comes and speaks to Joshua, these words:

“Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, ... no man will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:2-6,9)

These are amazing promises to Joshua, and to all the people! I don’t want to spoil the story for you, but if you read the first six chapters of Joshua you will find that God appoints and strengthens Joshua to lead the people, the waters of the Jordan River open for the people to pass through, and Jericho is miraculously defeated! It sounds easy and simple in hindsight, but every challenge had to be faced with courage and obedience to God.

I am also reminded of this exchange between Frodo and Gandalf in J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Fellowship of the Ring” as they are facing great evil, knowing great courage and sacrifice will be required.

*“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo.
“So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”*

Perhaps you are already facing immense challenges for this coming year. Perhaps you are feeling alone. Perhaps you are looking at a river at flood stage, or enemies who look down at you from their strong fortress. Listen to God’s Word to you! Every plan, every place, every promise that He has for you; is for your possession this coming year!

Cross the river and enter the Promised Land of 2025 in the strength of the Lord!

Blessed New Year!

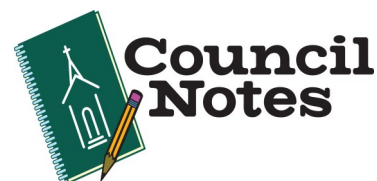
Pastor Carlson



Please join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting. It will be held on Sunday, January 26th at 9:30 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. Each ministry chairman will report on the activities that they were involved in during the past year. We will take a look at what the Lord has done at Peace Free Lutheran Church in 2024 and prayerfully prepare to follow the Lord as He leads in 2025. All members are encouraged to come and participate in this important meeting.

FROM THE COUNCIL

1. Pastor Carlson noted that the congregational sharing at the Thanksgiving Eve service was well received. The Sunday School Christmas program was a big success with 150 attending. People loved the Advent Devotionals. The adult Sunday School is in 1 Thessalonians. We have received new members and continue to have many visitors. We will be starting a 2025 Bible Reading project in January. Pastor was also able to attend the CW/Lithopolis Clergy Ministerium meeting last month
2. The Finance Chairperson reported that our 2024 income is up. Our expenditures continue to be less than income at this time. The Rase Scholarship fund is still doing well and made some gains.
3. The Stewardship Chairperson reported that the 2025 donation envelopes were processed and will be put on the table in the back of the church on the 29th.
4. The Parish Life Chairperson reported that the Christmas party was a success. We had 60 people in attendance. There was a lot of great food and the White Elephant game was a lot of fun. The team also served punch/cookies after the Children's Christmas program.
5. The Social Concerns Chairperson reported that all presents for our Adopt-A-Families were delivered. We are still trying to schedule Rick Crysler from Foundation Dinners to come and speak here at Peace. A 2025 sign up sheet for Foundation Dinners is now available in the church. Kristin from PDHC will join us on January 19th for Sanctity of Life Sunday. We will participate in the baby bottle program as well.
6. The Education Chairperson gave a big thanks to those who made the SS Christmas program a success! Family Bible Night is tentatively planned to start on January 8 and run for 7 weeks. Sunday School and confirmation are going well, as are the Men's and Women's Bible studies and the monthly Home Bible studies.
7. The Property Chairperson reported that the following items were completed: a) dishwasher and kitchen faucets in parsonage replaced, b) Four cap shingles on the back of the church were replaced after the wind-storm, c) the stone on top of the church sign in front will be replaced in the spring, d) regular boiler maintenance was completed, with accepted recommendations of additional items to fix, and e) Koorsen Fire and Safety completed the fire extinguisher inspections in the church and PCC.
8. The Evangelism Chairperson reported that we are planning to have Creation Ministries speak around the October 19th timeframe.
9. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th at 9:30am.



January lectors

January 5

8:00am—Shari Householder
10:30am—Debbie Crawford

January 12

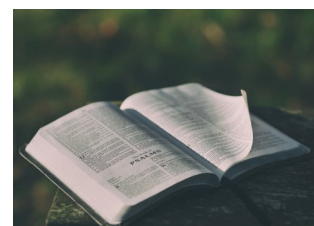
8:00am—Charles Dietz
10:30am—Stephanie Fox

January 19

8:00am—Tim Haverfield
10:30am—Brian McKinley

January 26

8:00am—Micah Haverfield
10:30am—Debbie Baker



**Peace Free Lutheran Church
Financials Through December 2024**

**General Fund Income: \$243,389
General Fund Expenditures: \$221,492**

**You may request a copy of the
Council Minutes and Financial
reports**

Dear Congregational Family,

We are so thankful for you!!!! Words cannot express our gratitude for you and the way that you have surrounded us with love, prayers, and help along the way! Thank you again for all your cards this Christmas season, and gifts to us! Our prayer in coming to Peace, was to be a blessing to you, but you have been such a blessing to us!

God has done many miracles along the way. Let me share one. We had thought that our house in PA would have sold early last summer, but it lingered along in a puzzling way. I was not worried, but it did not make sense to me. Our plan had been to buy a house early last fall, but we were unable to do so, as for a long list of reasons our house did not close until November 1st.



It was on November 7th that Jen was diagnosed with breast cancer. Later that month, the church council graciously voted to allow us to continue to stay in the parsonage. This has been an enormous blessing as it allows me to continue working full schedule while also being accessible to any immediate needs at home. Having our family right here at the church has also allowed Sadie and Sam to simply walk across the parking lot and participate in every church service and event! Sam, daily comes to the PCC and immensely enjoys those who sign up to come and play games, etc. with him.

If our PA house had sold sooner, we undoubtedly would have purchased a house just prior to Jen’s diagnosis, and then would have been trying to move, and balance a ministry schedule from some distance away.

It is truly a blessing to be (literally) in your midst!

God bless you this New Year!
Pastor Carlson



The 2025 offering envelopes are available on the back table in the Sanctuary. Please be sure to use the new envelopes in 2025 (in other words, don’t use leftovers from the 2024 packet) as some of the numbers have changed. If you use offering envelopes or would like to start using them and they have not been provided, please contact the church office.



We will be taking down the Sanctuary and PCC Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 5th, after the second service. Please give us a hand if you are able!

A New Year Prayer (taken from Christian Clippings)

<i>Dear Master,</i>	<i>I do not ask to understand</i>	<i>I want to know</i>	<i>And then the year</i>
<i>For this coming year</i>	<i>The way Thou ledest me,</i>	<i>Thy guiding voice,</i>	<i>I now begin</i>
<i>Just one request I bring;</i>	<i>But this I ask;</i>	<i>To talk with Thee each</i>	<i>A happy year will be</i>
<i>I do not pray for happiness</i>	<i>Teach me to do</i>	<i>day.</i>	<i>If I am seeking just to do</i>
<i>Or any earthly thing.</i>	<i>The thing that pleaseth</i>	<i>Dear Master, make me</i>	<i>The thing that pleaseth</i>
	<i>Thee</i>	<i>Swift to hear and ready to</i>	<i>Thee</i>
		<i>obey</i>	





Altar Flowers

The 2025 Altar Flower sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. In addition to dedication information, if you would like a specific flower color, please also write that in. As a reminder, the Flower Boutique will now bill the church instead of sending bills directly to those who are signed up each week. If you have flowers for the week, just send your payment of \$40 to the church, or place it in the offering plate with a note that it is for altar flowers. Please call the church office if you have any questions.



Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

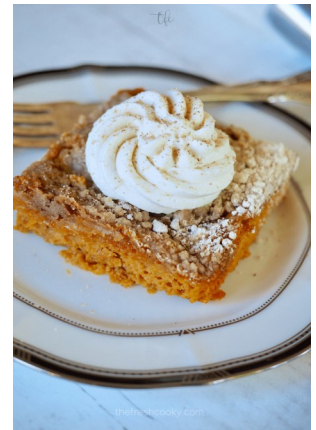
The Pregnancy Decision Health Center will kick off its Sanctity of Human Life baby bottle campaign on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is on Sunday, January 19th. The event will run for approximately one month. We will be receiving the baby bottles from PDHC around the middle of January with more details as well. Our local PDHC representative, Kristin Garrabrant, will be speaking to us on Sunday the 19th as well. Please join with our Social Concerns Ministry to help raise awareness and support for the free, life-affirming, and life-saving programs offered at Pregnancy Decision Health Centers.



Pumpkin Dump Cake

From the kitchen of Margot Fenner

- 15 oz can of pumpkin pie filling
- 12 oz can of evaporated milk
- 4 large eggs
- 1 box of spice cake mix
- 1 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- whipped cream/ice cream (optional)



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and spray a 9x13 inch baking dish with cooking spray or non-stick spray.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together pumpkin pie filling, evaporated milk, and eggs.
3. Pour mixture into a 9x13 pan, then sprinkle the dry cake mix evenly over the top of the pumpkin mixture.
4. Drizzle the melted butter over the top of the cake mix as evenly as possible. Sprinkle pecans on top.
5. Bake for 50-55 minutes until the middle has a very slight jiggle — it will set up as it cools. Cool for at least 30 minutes before serving. This dessert may be served warm with ice cream or whipped topping, or you can refrigerate until firm and serve.

ENJOY!



Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

Thank
You!



The Sunday School students and helpers would like to thank Rose McKinley for suggesting the wonderful "The Bells Tell the Story" program, and for providing guidance and BELLS(!) for our Christmas program this year.

I want to extend a thank you to each of you for your thoughtful well wishes and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. I'm happy to share that I have healed well and am experiencing significant improvements in the symptoms I was facing before the surgery. Knowing I had such a caring group of people behind me made all the difference. Thank you once again for your kindness and encouragement! - Tommy Fox

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the Christmas gifts we received from our Peace family. Your generosity is much appreciated! God's blessings, Pastor Carlson, Janelle, Tim, Debbie, Marsha, Michelle, Jan, and Greg

Thank you so much for the cards and the prayers for me and my family on the passing of my sister Ruby. I really appreciate every prayer and card I got. I truly love my church family. Thanks again, Bonnie and Mike.

We sincerely appreciate all the kind and thoughtful cards, prayers, phone calls and emails we received from the congregation over the last several weeks. It means more than we can put into words. Thanks for always thinking of us. God's blessings to you all! Lloyd and Betty Wasem

HARK! To all our family and friends, NOEL greetings from our newborn King. JOY comes when angels sing GLORY, for Jesus, as the shepherds rejoiced. The STAR lit the way for 3 wisemen, MERCY brings compassion and kindness. GRACE carries forgiveness and love, HALLELUJAH fills His promise to all. JESUS says "I COME TO BRING SALVATION TO ALL, IN MY NAME". A happy and blessed Christmas season to all from Larry and Jan Dowler.

First Service (8:00 a.m.)

January 5 Will Voigt

January 12 Mary Voigt

January 19 Fred Voigt

January 26 Makenna Cassidy

January Acolyte Schedule

Second service (10:30 a.m.)

Eli Hess and Becky Mosher-Wheeler
will alternate



Happy New Year ♡ *Happy New Year* ♡ *Happy New Year*



Food, crafts, and various games, made for an afternoon of fun at the Youth Christmas party. Thank you to Sarah and all who made this a special afternoon!



Our youth did a spectacular job showing us how the “Bells Tell The Story” of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Many thanks to Sarah, Emily, and Michelle for all of their efforts in bringing us this special program!



Christmas Party 2024

Many thanks to Tina Jones and her awesome Parish Life crew for an outstanding Christmas Party! The food was great and the White Elephant game was a lot of fun. This year we had 60 revelers having a great time sharing the holiday spirit!





Spend the Year in Scripture

The One Story That Leads to Jesus reading plan will guide you through the entire Bible in one year. Each day, you'll read a few chapters—or occasionally skim through large genealogies or census sections—as you make your way from Genesis to Revelation.

Meditate on the Psalms

Each day's reading features a psalm for you to meditate on through quiet reflection and prayer. By the end of the year, you'll have read through this entire book of biblical poetry more than twice.

Videos for Learning

Before you dive into a new book of the Bible, we'll share an overview video that outlines the structure of the book and its central themes. In addition to these overview videos, we have also included many of our newest theme videos that explore topics found within each reading section. Follow the hyperlinks found in the readings for easy access to the videos.

Extra Reading Opportunities

Our team is working on a growing collection of articles, guides, and other resources to help you learn more about specific ideas introduced throughout the Bible. We've hyperlinked these resources throughout the reading plan to give you the option to dive deeper into a book or theme.

Overview Posters

Want to download or print a copy of each book's overview? Overview posters are available [here](#).

To support our work and learn more about our growing library of free resources—online Bible classes, podcasts, apps, articles, and more—visit bibleproject.com.

No.	Month	Day	Book	Ch.	Psalm	Video	Book Guide	Article
Creation and the Fall								
1	January	1	Genesis	1-3	1	Genesis 1	Genesis	Creation Through the Lens of Ancient Cosmology
2	January	2		4-7	2	Torah Series: Genesis 1-11	Psalms	Were Adam and Eve Priests in Eden?
3	January	3		8-11	3	OT Overviews: Genesis 1-11		What Are Sin, Iniquity, and Transgression in the Bible?
Abrahamic Covenant								
4	January	4		12-15	4	Abraham and Melchizedek		Abraham, Melchizedek, and Jesus
5	January	5		16-18	5	The Covenants		
6	January	6		19-21	6			
7	January	7		22-24	7	The Test		
8	January	8		25-28	8	Image of God		Ruling the World Through Weakness in Psalm 8
9	January	9		29-31	9	Torah Series: Genesis 12-50		
10	January	10		32-34	10	What is the Bible?		
11	January	11		35-37	11	The Story of the Bible		
12	January	12		38-40	12	Literary Styles		
13	January	13		41-42	13	Ancient Jewish Meditation Literature		
14	January	14		43-45	14	Character		God Has A Name ... Many Actually!
15	January	15		46-47	15			
16	January	16		48-50	16	OT Overviews: Genesis 12-50		
The Exodus From Egypt								
17	January	17	Exodus	1-3	17	Torah Series: Exodus 1-18	Exodus	
18	January	18		4-6	18	Moses and Aaron		
19	January	19		7-9	19			When Pharaoh's Heart Grew Harder
20	January	20		10-12	20			
21	January	21		13-15	21			Biblical Storytelling Techniques: Repetition & Themes
22	January	22		16-18	22	OT Overviews Exodus 1-18		
The Covenant at Mount Sinai								
23	January	23		19-21	23	OT Overviews: Exodus 19-40		The Five Key Covenants God Makes With Humans in the Bible
24	January	24		22-24	24	Torah Series: Exodus 19-40		Rosh Hashanah: How the Jewish New Year Connects to Jesus
25	January	25		25-27	25	Royal Priests of Eden		
26	January	26		28-29	26			
27	January	27		30-31	27			
28	January	28		32-34	28	Visual Commentary: Exodus 34:6-7		
29	January	29		35-40	29	Compassion		
30	January	30	Leviticus	1-4	30	Grace	Leviticus	Why Leviticus Is Worth Your Time
31	January	31		5-7	31	Slow to Anger		

January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship Services 8:00am and 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am	6 Leitch Home Bible Study 7:00pm	7 Women's Day- time Bible Study- Lunch at Senior Center- 11:30am Bible Study in PCC- 1:00pm	8 Family Bible Night 7:00pm	9	10	11 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 8:00am Deacon's Meeting 10am
12 Worship Ser- vice 8am, 10:30am; Sunday School 9:15am Parish Life 11:30am Youth Second Sun- day Grp 12pm Jauert Home Bible Study 7:00pm	13 Stewardship Mtg 6:30pm	14 Women's Day- time Bible Study - Lunch at Senior Center- 11:30am Bible Study in PCC- 1:00pm Women's Evening Bible Study 6:30pm	15 Family Bible Night 7:00pm	16	17	18
19 Worship Services 8:00am and 10:30am; Sunday School 9:15am Haverfield Home Bible Study 6:00pm	20	21 Women's Day- time Bible Study - Lunch at Senior Center- 11:30am Bible Study in PCC- 1:00pm Council Meeting 7pm	22 Family Bible Night 7:00pm	23	24 Newsletter Submissions Due	25 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 8:00am
26 Worship Services 8:00am and 10:30am Annual Congrega- tional Meeting 9:30am	27	28 Women's Day- time Bible Study - Lunch at Senior Center- 11:30am Bible Study in PCC- 1:00pm Women's Evening Bible Study 6:30pm	29 Family Bible Night 7:00pm	30	31	

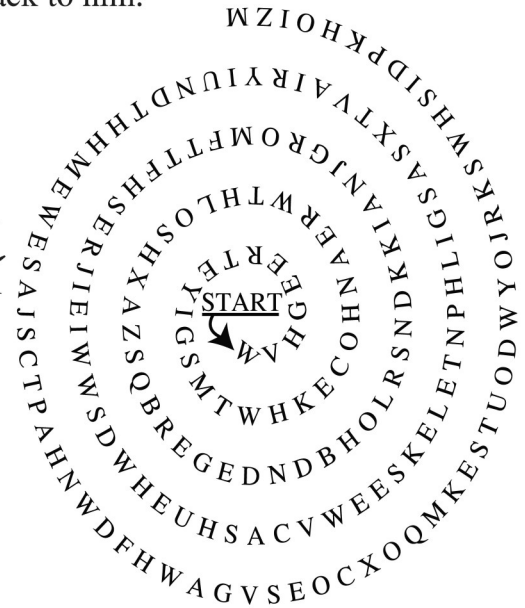
King Herod was upset at the thought of the “king of the Jews.” He planned to find the child and kill Him. He sent the Magi to find the child and report back to him.

Follow the spiral path of letters. Every other letter will reveal what happened. Write the letters on the lines.

“W _____

_____ ? _____

_____.”



Add and subtract words and letters to fill in the blanks.

1. - hir + - c =
2. - agn + - oe + - car + - n + - og =
3. - pi + - w + - ove =
4. - ie + - hd + - g + - t + - ar =
5. - l + - sta + - chuc =
6. - c + - lov + =
7. - g + - ke + - eanus =

The 1) _____ led the Magi to the house where Joseph, Mary and Jesus were. They went inside and 2) _____ Him. They presented gifts of 3) _____, 4) _____ and 5) _____. God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. So they went home another way. An 6) _____ appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus and escape to 7) _____.

Name _____

Thanks
be unto God
for his
unspeakable
gift.





JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS

6th Eric Barnhart
8th Jen Carlson
8th Olivia Householder
8th Jan Rice
9th Barb Jauert
10th Leila Clark
11th Peyton Noland
13th Jeff Kaiser
14th Blair Sell
16th Diane Boczek

17th Jeff Pluta
17th Iris Patenaude
18th Benjamin Voigt
20th Faith Houck
26th Janna Gugliemotto
28th Matthew Coleman
29th Wendy Leitch
30th Rosalyn Hall
30th Linda Frank

