



Peace Lutheran Church Tidings of Peace

December 2024

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It was Christmas, but it didn't feel like Christmas. Kim and I were on a team of five young people who had recently arrived in what was then called Zaire to share music, drama, and puppets (yes, Sigmund was with us) with our African brothers and sisters. We were living in a simple mission compound with a large group of African Christians. There was no snow or anything we recognized as Christmas decorations. My family was somewhere on the other side of the world

celebrating with all the trimmings and family warmth that I remembered from my childhood. I had tried to go to the market to buy my young wife a Christmas present, but I didn't think she would appreciate roasted termites or corn and there wasn't much else to choose from. The church had a 7-hour Christmas service, but we couldn't understand a word. We gave up after a couple of hours. It was the least Christmassy Christmas I had ever experienced.

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Tidings of Peace

*The Official Newsletter
of Peace@Monroe*

We hope you find our newsletter to be both informative and in-sightful with interesting news and notes on life together as God's people. If you have suggestions for the newsletter or would like to submit an article for publication, we'd love to hear from you.

Todd Roeske
Pastor

Tarrell Johnston
and Rebeca Castro
Church Office Staff
and Newsletter Editors

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I wish I could tell you that I had a grinch-like or Linus moment in which the music rang out from heaven and reminded me about the true meaning of Christmas, but the fact is that it just felt empty. I felt like I had just skipped a Christmas. Even at Christmas time, life doesn't always have hallmark happy endings. Sometimes things just suck.

This year, we are going to celebrate Christmas at Peace. I hope that our celebration will be a blessing to you and your family as you remember that Christmas is about God leaving his place as the king over the entire universe and joining our world in the guise of a little illegitimate Jewish baby. I hope that you are blessed with a meaningful celebration surrounded by friends, family and traditions that fill you with joy. Yet I know that not everyone will have a joyous Christmas. Some of you will feel the pain of estranged relationships. Others will grieve those loved ones that happened to die during the holidays. Others will feel a deep sense of loneliness and sadness. But no matter how you feel, whether this season

fills you with deep sadness, exuberant joy, or something in between, the Truth of Christmas still stands. God entered our world in the person of Jesus to make sure that no matter how this world goes, we have the promise of a much better eternal world to come.

Blessed Christmas to each one of you!

Todd 907-259-5115

P.S.- I did have one present that unchristmasy Christmas. My amazing wife bought a piece of cloth at the market and hand sewed a shirt. The shirt still lives on 38 years later. Kim repurposed it as part of a gift bag that every Christmas reminds us of that Christmas long ago in Zaire.

***Engage God
Engage Each Other
Engage The World***



CHRISTMAS & MORE

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 22	10:00 AM	Nine Lessons and Carols Service
December 24	4:30 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24	7:00 PM	Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with a visit from a Shepherd

ADVENT SERVICE

December 4	Serving at Community Dinner
December 11	Caroling at Brookdale/Regency
December 18	Serve Refreshments for Zion Families

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2024 CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

4:30 PM at Peace Lutheran Church

All children and teens are invited so bring your friends too!

The First Christmas is a one-act play adapted from the original by Louise Egan.
Be a reader or wear a costume.

Practice times at Peace are:

Monday, December 2 at 4:30 PM

Monday, December 9 at 4:30 PM

Sunday, December 15 at 4:30 PM

Join us for pizza following each practice.

Please fill out this quick survey to help us with planning.

[2024 Peace's Kids' Christmas Eve](#)

(See Flyer Attached)

GLOVES FOR THE UNHOUSED

We will be collecting insulated waterproof gloves for the upcoming
December Unhoused Christmas Party

[Waterproof Winter Work Gloves](#)

Donations are also greatly appreciated (approximate cost of one pair is \$10)

We would like to collect 30 pair or more.

Donations are needed by December 8th.

More information to come!

Worship ~ Study ~ Commune ~ Serve



Worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Spanish Services at 1:00 p.m.

Bring the joy of the Lord. It's great to be together.

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

You can join us on **Facebook: Peace Church Monroe**

Scan the QR code to receive updates.

You can also visit our website (peacechurchmonroe.org).

Invite your friends! Invite your family!



PARKING LOT EVENT

Thursday, December 12 @ 3:15 PM

"Candy Canes and Hot Chocolate"

Donations and/or volunteers appreciated!



CAROLING AT BROOKDALE / REGENCY

Wednesday, December 11

Meet at the church at 5:15 PM.



SATURDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturday Bible Study Finale will be on December 7th from 9:00 AM-noon.
Bring a brunch treat to share. We will then take a break for the holidays and resume our gatherings in January 2025.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A WEEKLY PRAYER LETTER?

Email Pastor Todd (todd@peacemonroe.org).

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Sunday School Teachers

Are you able to help? We need a **Sunday School teacher** for one Sunday each month during children's church (during worship).

A **teacher** is also needed on fifth Sundays (March 30, June 29, and August 31).

Join us! We work together and substitute teachers are available to help as needed. All materials and training are provided.

Call or text Kim at 907-259-5683 to learn more.

Readers and Communion Assistants

Available to help with **Sunday morning readings**? Assist with **communion**?

Contact Jill Burrington Brown (jill.burrington.brown@frontier.com) or the church office (peacechurchmonroe@live.com).

Altar Guild Volunteers

We're also looking for **additional help setting up and cleaning up for communion** on Sunday. Volunteers also help with decorating the sanctuary on occasion.

If you can help, please leave a message for Karen Johnson at the church office (peacechurchmonroe@live.com).

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

Make a sermon suggestion or ask an anonymous question in the box under the offering box in the back of church or text: 907-259-5115

DISCOVERING PEACE

An in-depth study of the Christian faith for those considering membership or who want to review what our church teaches.

Interested?

Talk to Todd 907-259-5115

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Mondays: 9:00 AM-12 Noon

Tuesdays: 9:10 AM- 11:40 AM

Thursdays: 9:10 AM-10:45 & 11:00-12 Noon

Fridays: 9:10 AM-10:40 & 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Financial News

Special Offerings

Fiscal YTD

Building Maintenance	\$ 60
Thrivent Choice	\$ 20
Total	\$ 80

Special Gifts

Fiscal YTD

Asia Misson Grant	\$14,000
Missions	\$ 8,616
Total	\$22,616



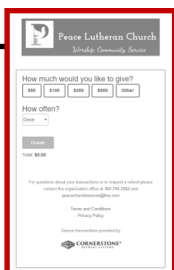
*...also excel in this grace
of giving.
2 Corinthians 8:7*



**Would you like
to give your
offerings online?**

Just go to [https://
give.cornerstone.cc/
peacemonroe](https://give.cornerstone.cc/peacemonroe)
or access the link
at peacemonroe.org.

It's easy!



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TREASURER'S REPORT

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever.**

Psalm 107:1

Given September 2024	\$13,438
Given Fiscal YTD (August 2023-July 2024)	\$131,019

2024-25 Budget (approved July 2024)

Foundation	\$161,208
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Salary and Benefits

Administration

Building Loan

Ministries

Reaching Up	\$ 2,900
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Worship

Reaching Out	\$ 5,287
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The World

The Nation

The Region

Reaching In	\$ 2,800
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Education

Spiritual Growth

Fun and Fellowship

Supplies

Total \$172,195

Assets (as of 9/30/2024)

Checking	\$ 54,935
Savings	\$ 18,910
Endowment	\$ 45,240

Income v. Expenses

Needed in September 2024	\$ 14,350
Given in September 2024	\$ 13,438
Needed Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 28,700
Given Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 38,969



Little Doves

Preschool



During the month of November the children had fun creating many Thanksgiving crafts. They are all so thankful for their Moms, Dads, and families!
We are thankful for all God has done for each one of us! He loves us so!

Now we are working hard on practicing our songs for the two Christmas programs that will be on December 11 and 12! So exciting to sing about Jesus and Christmas! It is such a fun time of the year for all the children. Christmas crafts, songs, goodies, and party make this month extra special. We love celebrating Jesus' birthday! May you all have a wonderful Christmas and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Linda Herman, Director (360) 794-7230
littledovespreschool.com



Men's "Iron Sharpens Iron" Group

Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.
At Brad's House (13305 Wagner Rd, Monroe)

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 14 at 8:00 a.m.
Buzz Inn, Monroe



Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, December 11 at 11:45 a.m.
Location to be determined. Announcement to come.
Contact Ken and Nancy for more.



Engaging God

Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World

