



Peace Lutheran Church

Tidings of Peace

December 2022

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Eastern Nativity Scene | Munir Alawi | October 22nd, 2017

God is not polite. Mary was a young teenager, doing young teenager things, when God interrupted her life with an unplanned pregnancy. God didn't ask her if he could rearrange her life. He didn't check with her parents to see if they were on board. He didn't talk to Joseph and warn him of what was to come. He just sent an angel to tell her that God had chosen her for the task of giving birth to and raising the Messiah.

It is never easy to have an unplanned pregnancy, but in Mary's world it was exceptionally hard. Premarital sex could

technically be punished with the death penalty. Even if she wasn't punished physically, the judgmental looks and words of neighbors and others would be a heavy burden to bear. Mary's task was so difficult that many women faced with similar circumstances feel their only choice is to tragically abort their preborn babies.

Even so, God's interruption of Mary was a great privilege. She was chosen to carry the chosen one of God, the Savior, the one who would reunite all humankind into one family.

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While God's interruption of Mary was unique in the sense that only she carried the incarnate God in her womb, I think we all are interrupted by God. God shows up in our lives and calls us away from our human plans and ambitions. I wanted to be a baseball player, but God interrupted, and I ended up in Taiwan, rural Mindanao, Alaska and even Washington. Sometimes a death of a loved one, a cancer diagnoses or an Alzheimer's diagnoses can interrupt life and send us on a difficult journey of trying to trust God in the darkness. On a smaller level, sometimes I have a plan for my day (as if I really own the day) and then God sends a neighbor who needs someone to talk to, or a struggling human being that needs to be loved. God interrupts our lives, and those interruptions are not always easy, but each interruption is a privilege. We are called to carry Jesus, not in our wombs, but in our lives.

Thank you, Jesus that you interrupt us with opportunities to share your love. Amen!
Have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!

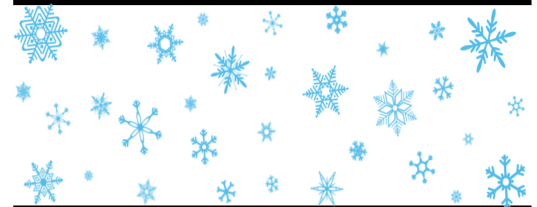


***Engage God
Engage Each Other
Engage The World***

In Need of a Scheduler

We are looking for an organized person to coordinate reading and communion assistant schedules. Interested?

Call Todd: 907-259-5115.



Would you like to receive a weekly prayer letter?

Email Todd:

Todd@peacemonroe.org



Fall Confirmation Classes

Ask Questions

Deepen Faith

Grow as a Disciple

- Eighth Graders, starting in the Fall
- Once a week
- Schedule to be arranged with families

Flexible times. Interested?
Call Todd: 907-259-5115.

Tidings of Peace

*The Official Newsletter
of Peace@Monroe*

We hope you find our newsletter to be both informative and insightful 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

Rebeca Castro
Church Office Administrator
& Newsletter Editor

Peace@Monroe

202 Dickinson Street
Monroe, WA 98272

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peacechurchmonroe@live.com



Leadership Team Highlights

Members: Brad Feilberg, Melissa Hackman (on leave), Michael Mates, Deanna Nowadnick, Shelley Wallace, and Laurie Yocum

Also attending are Pastor Todd, Church Office Administrator Rebeca Castro, and Preschool Director Linda Herman

In November we met together virtually and at church.

Devotion: Pastor Todd opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer focused on his recent trip to the Philippines. We continue to be blessed by his work, not only in our neighborhood and community, but also in the world.

Reports:

- Pastor: Todd highlighted ways in which we're *engaging God, engaging each other, and engaging the world*. We continue to pray about life in the church post-Covid and ways to help members connect and re-connect with Sunday morning worship and Bible study while reaching out to our neighbors too. We are blessed by worship opportunities with our Hispanic brothers and sisters. We're also having fun connecting with families after school in the parking lot. Next month we'll share candy canes.
- Treasurer: Brad shared October report. Deficits exceed planned shortages for August, September, and December. We knew we would need to borrow from cash reserves this year, so we're trying to proceed as carefully as possible. We want to be good stewards of your offerings and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance as we look ahead
- Preschool: Linda reported that classes are running smoothly. The school arranged for a new security system with five outside cameras and 10 inside. They also had carpets cleaned. Christmas programs will be December 13 and 14.
- Zion: Michael is our school board representative. The school is navigating the accreditation process and planning for future growth. Lots to think about!

Business Items:

- Church Maintenance: The city detected a water leak. Now we need to determine where...
- Election of Officers: In February we will have a congregational meeting to elect three team members. Shelley Wallace and Laurie Yocum would like to continue, but we may have an opening for someone feeling this special call to serve.

Announcements:

- Leadership Team Retreat: On Saturday, January 7th from 9:00 a.m. until noon, church leaders will gather to reflect on life in the church post-Covid. How can we help members connect and reconnect? How can we reach out to our neighbors with the Good News of God's love and grace? What do we need to do about financial shortfall?
- Brunch Church: Sunday, January 22nd at 10:00 a.m., we're cooking up a special morning of worship and breakfast. Mark your calendar!

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*



Worship (online and on the phone) Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Our services are also recorded.

Go to **YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church**
or **Facebook: Peace Church Monroe.**

You can also call in by request. (907)259-5115

Weekly bulletins are available on our website (peacechurchmonroe.org).
Children's messages are available, too. Share with your friends and family.



Christmas Eve Services

Sigmund's Christmas Story at 4:30 PM

Traditional Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM



Devotions & Prayer at 10 AM

Saturday's December 3 and 17.



Christmas Choir Practices

December Sundays after church at 11:15 am.

Come learn special music for the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

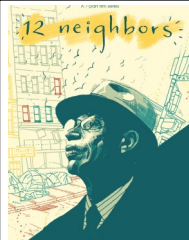


New Free Clothing Shopping Store

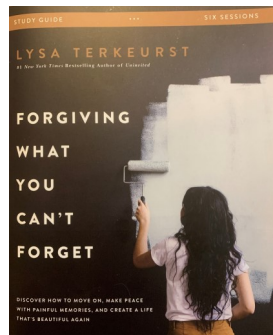
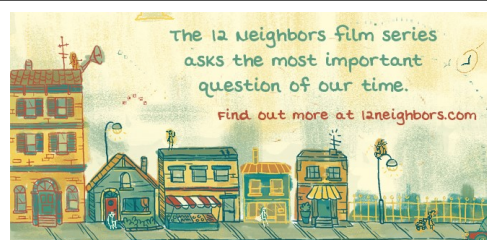
Community Closet of Monroe - United Grace Church
342 S Lewis St, Monroe WA 98272
(behind the United Methodist Church in the garage)



Newsletter Items Due December 20



12 Neighbors Bible Study Sunday's @ 8:45 AM



NEW - Women's Bible Study Monday's @ 6:30 PM Beginning January 2

Forgiving what you can't forget, by *Lysa TerKeurst*.

"In *Forgiving What You Can't Forget*, readers will find that Lysa TerKeurst has wrestled through the journey of feeling stuck in a cycle of unresolved pain, playing offenses over and over in your mind. And she's discovered that, to find life-giving freedom, you have to let go of bound-up resentment and resistance to forgiving people who aren't willing to make things right. . " Led by Cara Fleming



Women's Christmas Brunch December 10th at 11:00

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun!

You're invited to bring a friend and toy for our TOY DRIVE.

The main dish will be provided, but you're welcome to share your favorite holiday appetizer or cookies. Childcare will be provided, if helpful (but be sure to let us know). We are giving the toys we bring to our local "Young Mom's Group" from Take the Next Step! We will be playing a few games with small gifts!

December Birthday's

- 1 Maria Castro
- 2 Barbara Feilberg
- 5 Betty Hokana
- 12 Montana Howard
- 15 Lucia Castro
- 20 John Misner
- 21 Cara Fleming
- 29 AJ Carlson
- 31 Leanna Catledge



Parking Lot Event Wednesday December 8 @ 3:15 PM



Event once a month, sign up to help!
This month we will be welcoming all to stop by for candy canes when picking up children from school.

Interested in helping?

Call Todd: 907-259-5115

Email Todd: Todd@peacemonroe.org

Leadership Team Meeting

No meeting in December.

Tarps for Homeless

Thursday, November 17 from 2 - 4

Financial News

Special Offerings

Fiscal YTD

Advertising	\$ 270
Building Maintenance	\$ 960
Thrivent Choice	\$ 39
Total	\$1,019

Special Gifts

Fiscal YTD

Endowment	\$ 210
Memorials	\$ 20
Total	\$ 230



**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

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Given October 2022	\$ 13,519
Given Fiscal YTD (August 2022-July 2023)	\$ 34,590

2022-23 Budget (approved July 2022)

Foundation	\$179,532
Salary and Benefits	
Administration	
Building Loan	
Ministries	
Reaching Up	\$ 2,150
Worship	
Reaching Out	\$ 7,710
The World	
The Nation	
The Region	
Reaching In	\$ 5,250
Education	
Spiritual Growth	
Fun and Fellowship	
Supplies	

Total \$194,642

Assets (as of 10/31/2022)

Checking	\$ 57,006
Savings	\$ 18,899
Endowment	\$ 45,240

Income v. Expenses

Needed in October 2022	\$ 16,220
Given in October 2022	\$ 13,519
Needed Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 48,660
Given Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 34,590

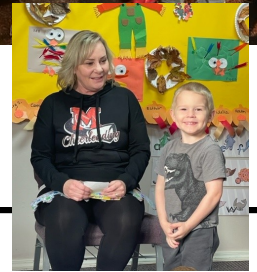
Loan Summary

Building Loan (as of 10/31/2022)	Paid off!!!
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Little Doves

Preschool and Kindergarten



Little Doves Preschool & Kindergarten

It's the holiday season and we are having so much fun with the children. Trunk or Treat was enjoyed by many families and the children had a blast trick or treating from car to car. For Thanksgiving we had a special snack for Friendsgiving with each other. Cranberry sauce was not a favorite but at least the children tried it. For Christmas we are doing many crafts, a Christmas Program for the families, and celebrating Jesus birthday with a birthday party and cake. The children love this time of year and are excited to celebrate Christmas. We celebrate Jesus coming to this world for us! Happy Birthday Jesus!



Linda Herman, Preschool Director:
littledovespreschool@gmail.com
(360-794-7230)



RightNow Media

"RightNow Media is like the Christian Netflix, with access to 20,000+ Bible Study videos, movies, and more!" There is material for all ages, and about just any subject. RightNow media is free to the congregation, and available for download through the App Store as well as Google Play. It is also available on fireTV, Apple TV, Android and Apple devices, Roku, and Chromecast. You can also use the Screen Casting option on your device to watch it on your smart TV.

To Sign up:

Visit <https://www.righnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/PEACELC>

Or Text "PLC" to 49775

You can also scan the QR code





Men's Breakfast

Sat 12/10 @ 8:00 a.m.

Buzz Inn: 18960 U.S. Rte 2 #112, Monroe

Bob Johnson: (425-870-0681)

Lunch bunch: To be announced.

Snow Days: The office will be closed on snow days.

To reach Rebeca: Call or Text 425-344-3445.



Engaging God

Engaging Each Other ~ Engaging the World

TIDINGS OF PEACE

Peace Lutheran Church

202 Dickinson Street
Monroe, WA 98272

Address Correction Requested

