

In Touch

News of Peace Lutheran Church
Waldorf, MD 20602
January, 2012



A Letter from Pastor Craig... I Found It!

The hat I was looking for is no longer lost! I found it! If you're reading this online, you can see the picture of it (and my Christmas Eve hat) in living color.

Turns out, it was never lost. It was right there behind me the whole time - in the back of my car... exactly where I'd left it. I just hadn't looked hard enough. It had been a few feet away from me, going wherever I went, there when I went to bed at night, and waiting for me to come out of the house in the morning.

I would have found it sooner, probably, if the weather had been colder or if I didn't have any other winter hats. But, I wasn't that motivated to look for it. Until my ears got cold.

I treat God that way, too. Like a hat that I fold up and put out of sight when I don't feel like wearing it (not the right style) or don't need it (I'm not uncomfortable).

Allow me to play with the metaphor a little (and feel free to send me your own metaphors or comments): The hat I was missing is made of synthetic "polar fleece" material. It's made from re-cycled plastic, weighs less than the



lightest wool, but is very warm. Mine is also camouflage colored: it blends right into the background. And, it has a message: it was made by the Peace Stitchers who give these "Chemo Hats" to cancer patients, so the hat reminds me of all our friends and neighbors who wear hats like that because their cancer treatments have taken their hair.

As I write this (on the third day of Christmas), I'm reminded that it wasn't obvious to anyone - even his mother, Mary - that the little baby was special. In spite of how artists have portrayed him, Jesus didn't have a halo around his head. He blended in.

And, his best friends tended to leave him alone until they wanted/needed something. They let

him sleep in the back of the boat until the storm blew up and they wanted him to do something about it. (Mark 4)

One time, when Jesus was talking about what was going to happen to him, two of his disciples seemed not to be paying much attention, until they decided it was a good time to ask to be his right and left hand men when he came into his glory.

He told his disciples that, if they wanted to follow him, they'd have to "take up their cross." When he was arrested, they deserted him.

I tend to look for Jesus the way I look for my hat: only when I want to feel warm and comfortable. Like my hat, Jesus isn't "lost" just because I don't find him when I take a quick look. Jesus – and my hat – were and are there all the time. I just wasn't paying attention.

Thank you, Jesus, for being... for keeping me warm... for reminding me to think of and care for those who hunger or thirst, are lonely or sick, are strangers or in prisons. Thank you for blending into my world so that I can still be surprised when I encounter you.

Love,
Craig

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN JANUARY

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Peace Prays, 9:00 am; and Prayer Group, 9:30 am

4 – Chemo Hat Work Day, 9 am-3 pm

6 – Epiphany Party, 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall

7, 11, 21, 25 – Food Pantry

8 – Annual Meeting, 12:30 pm

21 – Progressive Fast Food Feast, 5:00 pm

24 – Angel's Watch Meal Day

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

- Council continued to prepare the 2012 budget based on expected income (i.e., pledges made by the congregation) and anticipated expenses.
- At the Dec. 8 council meeting, plans were made to meet prior to the Christmas holiday to finalize the budget and vote to recommend it to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- Proposed revisions to the bylaws were presented for discussion.
- The Nominating Committee is still looking for volunteers to fill several leadership positions.

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year begins with the season of Advent. In Advent, we look forward to the twofold coming of Christ [the nativity 2000 years ago and His coming again on the Last Day].

Advent gives way to **Christmas**, when we remember the birth of Christ. At Christmas, we remember [“And the Word became flesh and lived among us ... (John 1:14)”] Made Flesh in order that Christ will offer Himself on the Cross (as the perfect Sacrifice) for our sins.

Throughout the Christmas season, we speak of the growing light of Christ who has come to shine in our dark world.

The color **White** symbolizes **Light**. It is used for the most important festival commemorating Jesus Christ, namely, the Christmas season. This theme of light anticipates the next season of the Church year, **Epiphany**, which celebrates the arrival of the Magi to worship the newborn King. Christ reveals that He is the **light** to enlighten the Gentiles.

*“As with gladness men of old,
did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord,
May we evermore Be led by thee.”*

*“Go tell it on the Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!”*

COME, CELEBRATE EPIPHANY

Friday, January 6, 2012

6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

- Appetizers/Beverages
- Special Desserts by Maggie Garner
- Make some new friends (with our new members)
- Learn about small groups at Peace
- Take a look at “Unbinding the Gospel” (the book and the process)
- Everyone is welcome - come join the fun!
- Nursery will be available
- Add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex

This is a great family opportunity to meet and get to know more of your Peace family. Ring in the New Year by joining us for fun, food, and friends. Questions? Talk to Pastor Craig or Dean Pedersen.

THE CHURCH YEAR

The Church year differs dramatically from the calendar year that we are accustomed to. As you have read in the Sunday bulletins, the Church

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Jan. 8, 12:30 pm

- † Enjoy seeing old friends & meeting new members over a light lunch prior to the meeting
- † Vote to elect new council members, ministry leaders, & some new officers
- † Vote on 2012 Budget
- † Vote on changes to our constitution
- † Vote on by-laws
- † Hear the latest developments on our new Fellowship/Education building

FOOD PANTRY REPORT

The Peace Food Pantry has been very busy this year. We have already served at least 300 more people than 2010. Please consider lending us a hand. Even one hour would help. Sorting, bagging, shopping, and distribution all take time and energy. For more information or to volunteer, contact Carole Crawford at tipkayla@hughes.net or call 301-274-5869.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS JANUARY 2112

1 st Sat.	1/7	1. C. Crawford 2. S. Price-Walker 3. J. Brannon
2 nd Wed.	1/11	1. P. Pedersen 2. P. & D. Czupryna 3.
3 rd Sat.	1/21	1. K. Ulbright 2. M. Robinson 3. B. Brandkamp 4. L. Jewell
4 th Wed.	1/25	1. J. Allen 2. J. Bryant 3. P. Pedersen

ESL NEWS

On Wednesday, December 2, we completed our ESL fall semester, averaging five (5) students per class. With the help of *Jacqie Allen*, *Judy Rudolf* and *Charlie Warren*, serving as volunteering tutors, we taught Basic and Intermediate English to help students with grammar, speech, pronunciation, filling out forms, banking, and American currency. With the continued support of all the members at Peace, especially *Pam*

Sparks and the *Social Concerns Ministry*, we plan to continue this very much needed and appreciated program in 2012. Our winter semester starts on Wednesday, Jan. 11 and runs until March 28, 2012. We look forward to another successful learning year in 2012. If you're interested in helping out and can share a few hours of your time and talents, please contact Jaime at sgtlq@comcast.net or 202-439-1347 for more information. Thank You and God Bless.

Jaime A. Lleras, ESL Coordinator

CHEMO HAT WORK DAY JANUARY 4, 2012

Join us in the New Year to make fleece chemo hats for patients experiencing hair loss. These hats will be delivered to oncology and radiation centers in Waldorf, La Plata and Charlotte Hall. Stop in to visit or to help - for any length of time. Bring your lunch. See Leah Fowble for more information.

Who? YOU! No experience needed

When? 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Where? In the Narthex

Please donate lightweight costume jewelry pins for embellishments. Patterns are always available for fleece, knitted and crocheted hats.

FOR ALL WOMEN OF PEACE

How about starting the new year off with a great resolution that will be easy to keep? Resolve to become part of the women's group as we study the Women of the New Testament. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. This new series will prove to spark exciting dialogue and the lessons are designed to be easy to lead, and completed on one session. Contact Karen Gesl for a book (\$6.95).

“THE WONDER” WAS A WONDER

An Open Thank You to all participants, from the Worship & Music Team

Worship and Music wants you to know how beautiful your production of “The Wonder” was. It was clear that many people collaborated to make this glow with the spirit of the season and the gift God has given to us in His Son.

No doubt, this will be something that the even youngest cast members will recall with a smile. The music selections, instrumental accompaniments and ensemble works heightened the experience and gave so many the opportunity to add to the wonderfulness of the Wonder. The Peace Singers sang powerfully and helped the younger singers to reach deeper for that extra oomph.

From our perspective it appears that many, many people took part in this effort. We know that in order for that to have happened, the planners had to have expended hours of time behind the scenes. The stage props enhanced the performance without becoming obstructive in the worship space.

What a tremendous group of workers we have here! Thanks be to God for the Spirit-filled, wonderful Wonders at Peace Lutheran!

MADE FOR WALKING!

Report: Walk to End Homelessness in Charles County

A total of **775 walkers** participated!

Registrations and donations totaled **\$26,000**.

Of that total, **\$4,105** came from Peace with **42**

walkers. The Social Concerns Ministry thanks all of the walkers, and those who contributed but didn't walk, for your support of the Safe Nights program in Charles County. See you next year.*



* CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Please send your short thoughts (or quotes from others) about walking to the newsletter editors at: newsletter@myplc.org

We will feature the best of them in upcoming newsletters, to inspire us until next year's Walk!

PLEASE PUT ON YOUR

HAVE ANY

ABOUT HOW U CAN SUPPORT THE 2012 YOUTH

105

SHOW?

January 2012

Becky Conrad, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

youth@myplc.org

301-843-1832



Youth News

Thursday Night Youth Meals Resume

We will gather again for our first Thursday night Youth Meal of the year on Jan. 5.

Ice Skating

We will meet at Capital Clubhouse in Waldorf on Saturday Jan. 7. Time to be determined. Youth families: watch your email for updates on time and price. If you would like to be added to the youth email list, please contact Becky Conrad.



Annual Youth Progressive Fast Food Feast

Saturday, Jan. 21... mark your calendar for a night of fun! One of our more unique traditions, the annual Progressive Fast Food Feast is also a favorite. Each year we contact local fast food businesses and plan our route for the night. We top it all off with a “bring your own topping” ice cream party back at Peace. It truly is a once a year only affair, mostly because that’s all most of us could tolerate! So, please come join us either for the food, the fellowship, or to watch how much high school boys can eat in one night!

2012 Youth Talent Show and Auction

Saturday March 24, 2012

Youth are donating all proceeds this year to the Peace Capital Appeal.

Thursday Nights at Peace: Youth Meal, grades 6 and up invited. No meetings, no parents, dinner provided ☺

JANUARY 2012 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & HELPERS

		JAN 1	JAN 8	JAN 15	JAN 22	JAN 29
ALTAR CARE						HEALING SERVICE
	8:30	A. Bell	B. Van Sickle	M. Wiersma	S. Herrin	J. Diehl
	11:00	J. Bryant	D. Foster	E. Draughn	D. Mullaney	B. Capps
GREETER						
	8:30	A. Reece	L. Fowble	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
	11:00	J. Hanson	M. Morgan			
USHER						
	8:30	S. Herrin, L. Finamore	C. Drew, M. Wiersma	B. Dewey, L. Finamore	M. Garner, L. Garner	S. Herrin, L. Finamore
	11:00	B. McGee, C. Williams	F. Thomas, PJ Conrad	M. Morgan, M. L. Davis	PJ & B. Conrad	J. & A. Aanestad
ACOLYTE						
	8:30	Dean F., Sydney F.	Sarah S., Brook S.	Megan T., Julia T.	P. Festa, Molly C.	M. Wiersma, G. Wolford
	11:00	David B., G. Wolford	P. Pedersen, Thomas B.	Kinsey P., Kate P.	Thomas B., Dean F.	P. Pedersen, David B.
ASSISTING MINISTER/CANTOR						
	8:30	G. Williams/A. Murphy	K. Smith-Hupp	G. Simpers	G. Wolford	G. Simpers
	11:00	G. Williams/A. Murphy	G. Wolford	G. Simpers	P. Pedersen	G. Simpers
CRUCIFER						
	8:30	G. Williams	Open	None	None	None
	11:00	G. Williams	Open			
LECTOR						
	8:30	D. Mullaney	E. Draughn	B. Thomas	M. Robinson	L. Finamore
	11:00	E. Draughn	P. Pedersen	S. Altman	B. Simpers	P. Pedersen
CHILDREN'S SERMON						
	8:30	C. Endicott	K. Gesl	G. Williams	G. Collinson	S. Altman
	11:00	C. Endicott	T. Murphy	D. Foster	T. Murphy	G. Williams
CHILDREN'S TIME						
	8:30	J. Fronck	N. Welsh	B. Quasius-Dewey	G. Collinson	M. Robinson
	11:00	J. Jones	G. Williams	J. Boling	J. Fronck	J. Jones
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS						
	8:30	M. L. Davis, D. Mullaney	C. Crawford, C. Drew	M. L. Davis, M. Wiersma	J. Bryant, D. Mullaney	M. L. Davis, E. Draughn D. Mullaney, S. Altman
	11:00	D. Foster, C. Warren	M. L. Davis, D. Pedersen	S. Altman, P. Pedersen	C. Warren, D. Foster	C. Crawford, J. Bryant P. Pedersen, D. Foster
TELLERS						
		J. Stamos, T. Wells	C. & C. Drew	E. & C. Bender	E. Layton, D. Mullaney	A. Foster, L. Fowble

The assignments listed above are as of 12/28/11. Please consult the appropriate coordinator with any questions.

Task Coordinators

Altar Care— Elsie Draughn; Greeters—Jim Hanson; Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, & Eucharistic Ministers— Ginny Wolford;
Assisting Ministers, Cantors, Crucifers, Crucifers, & Children's Sermons—Gretta Williams;
Children's Time—Jill Fronck; Tellers—Amanda Foster

To donate altar flowers and/or an eternal flame candle, look for information and a sign-up sheet on a clipboard in the narthex/lobby.