

November 19th, 2023 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM

Gathering Music- Ringing of the Bells -Welcome and Announcements

We Prepare to Worship God

Prayer & Prelude

We Gather Around God's Word

A reading from Psalm 123

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 90)

One: Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Before the universe exploded and the earth was without form, you have been with us.

Many: Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

Many: Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

Many: Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

One: Please join me in our Prayer of Invocation

Generous God, pour your Spirit into us and bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. Make yourself known among us, O God, make yourself known to us. Amen.

*Opening Hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" No. 464

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Sovereign God, we confess that life is hard. We don't always make the best choices, and all too often we realize the options before us are lacking. We are overwhelmed with the magnitude of the world's problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Sometimes, we respond with our tribal allegiances first in mind. Bitterness and resentment are easy guides. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory.

* Words of Grace

Pastor: Sisters and Brothers, God is merciful and journeys with us as we navigate uncertain terrain. God is still at work in us and through us that we might have flourished and abundant lives in community with one another. Receive the grace and forgiveness God grants you to begin anew when our journey stalls or diverts from the path of the kingdom.

Many: God's grace is ours. Praise be to God! Amen.

*The Passing of Christ's Peace in Community

Special Music

"I Thank you, Lord"

Joseph Martin

Pastoral Prayer - a sharing of community and world prayers

Affirmation of Faith

One: We are not alone; we live in God's world.

All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Many: God's grace is ours. Praise be to God! Amen.

*Hymn

"When Love Is Found"

No. 499

We Engage God's Word

Scriptures

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Multigenerational Lesson

Sermon

"Use It Now!"

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to Generosity (responsive)

One: God trusts us with the resources necessary for all of us to be well and to have our needs met.

Many: Our God honors us by inviting us to participate in God's reign with the generous sharing of gifts. So let us offer our time, talent, and treasure to the kingdom of God. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology "Praise God from whom all Blessing Flow" No. 46

*Our Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (in unison)

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.

We Are Sent into the World

*Closing Hymn "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" No. 705

*The Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

*Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude (*If you are able, please stand at the pastor's invitation)

+++++

Rev. Stephen Stepp

Minister

Patricia Siekierke

Organist

Victor Abitz

Custodian

Rob Giese

AV Tech

Brenda Roehl

Liturgist



Reproduced with permission under license Images used during worship are in accordance with US Code Section 110 (3). CCLI License: 20808843; Streaming License: 20808836

Poinsettia & Gifts



If you wish to have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary for Christmas, please return this form to the church office **no later than Wednesday, November 29, 2023**. You may also sponsor a bulletin or give a cash gift. (Please note into which fund you would like your gift to go.)

Number of poinsettias at \$14.00 each: _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Sponsor a Christmas Bulletin \$25.00

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Gift of Cash or Check (amount): _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Fund: _____

**Please include your check/cash with this form.*

Thank you for returning your order forms and money early.

FYI The Building to Serve Fund is now called

Investing In the Future. The change was made to reflect our goal to pay off the building, and our hopes beyond that milestone. All moneys given to Investing in The Future will be counted the same as Building To

FREE THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

We are looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve this year's dinner. Preparations will be on Tuesday, Nov. 21 @ Immanuel Trinity Church. Serving on Thursday, Nov. 23 Check the signup sheet downstairs in the lobby or talk to Jean Stepp.

**WELCOME TO
CHURCH OF PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
November 19, 2023**

Church office phone: 921-8215

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Pastor Steve Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
or call for an appointment

IN OUR PRAYERS

Lucy Zahn	Janet Rymer	Bill Manka
Elise Sonnenberg	Del Weigel	Dave Borchert
Cindy Duffy	Janet & Eugene Willis	Joe Ule
Bob Hanke	Amy Jo	Doris Kastorff
Janelle Anderson	Les Abitz	Dorothy Gyr
Theresa Schultz	Kenny Steffen Jr	Wayne Katerski
Marilyn Peters	Diane Candlish	Edna Karl
Helen Oelke	Ruth Pedix	Donna Birkholz
Christine Weimer	Tyler Detweiler	Ron Rowe
Baby Archer	Tom Whittaker	Jan Whittaker
Elaine Miller	Shirley Hanke	Ernest Oelke
Nicole Schendel	Jason & Jennifer	Nancy Schaefer
Donna Blaine	Shirley Bell-Elsinger	Marvin Oelke
Susan Snider	Carol Carlson	Ron Wilson
Heather Reader-Schubert	Deb Baker	Greg Baker
Siera Williams and baby Morgan	Mary Steffen	Evelyn Yantz
Jim & Kathy Stephany	Bailey Gehrt	Debra Rammer
Mary Fleischman		

p.s. Beautiful Jesus, enable us to use our talents and treasures for God's mission!

CHURCH OF PEACE – FACTS AND FIGURES

OFFERINGS LAST WEEK: General Fund: \$2,327.50

Mission-Giving (OCWM): \$69.00; NIN: \$100.00;

E-giving: \$75.00; Building To Serve: \$3,000.00.

Attendance on Sunday November 12th: 71. Last year: 56.

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH OF PEACE

Sun	M	Tues	W	Th	F	Sat
Nov. 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 am Sunday School Coffee Hour Host: Pastor Steve and Jean	Loaves & Fishes 1:30 p.m. Bible Study Messenger articles due	6:30 p.m. Stewardship Team	Loaves & Fishes 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service	Happy Thanksgiving! (office closed) Thanksgiving Dinner From 11:00am-1:00pm.		
26	27	28	29	30	Dec. 1	2
9 a.m. Worship Service Coffee Hour Host: Worship Enhancement	Loaves & Fishes		Loaves & Fishes			Advent Decorating 9:00 a.m.



Volunteers wanted to help decorating the Church for Advent.

Day/Date: Saturday,

***December 2nd @ 9:00 a.m.**

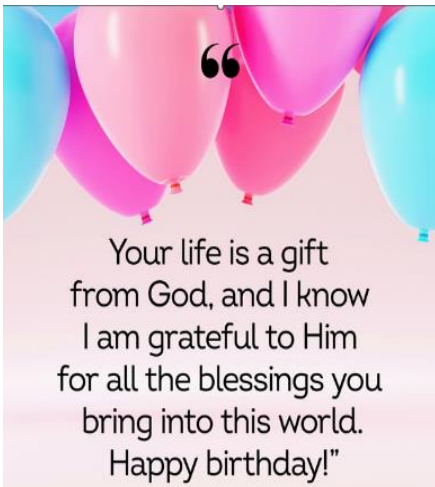
(*note corrected date)

“Many hands make light

Giving Tree 2023

Would you like to make someone's Christmas a little brighter? Church of Peace will be helping 2-3 families this year.

We will have a Giving Tree set up in the Narthex for you to choose a family member for whom to purchase a gift. The tree will be set up on



November 19 – Evelyn Schmitz

Carly Parker

Lisa Rohlf

November 21 – Ruth Pedix

November 22 – Sarah Knutson

Darwin Rose

Nicholas Wondra

November 25 – Donald Pike

Mike Riegert

Krista Schaefer

Christmas Eve is Sunday, December 24, 2023.

After much discussion the Church Council has decided to hold 2 worship services on December 24th.

***The first worship service will be at 9:00 am and will represent the 4th Sunday of Advent.**

***The second worship service will be at 5:00 pm and will be the celebration of Christmas Eve with Communion.**

We know this is a change from our normal Christmas Eve 4:00 & 6:00 pm services, but we hope that by choosing the time in between that we will see all those who attended last year's services come together for one big Christmas Eve service. If we do that, we could see over 200 people in church on Christmas Eve. What a joy that would be!

Thank you everyone for adjusting your schedules this year to help bring us together as one in Christ Jesus.

Praise be to God!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve