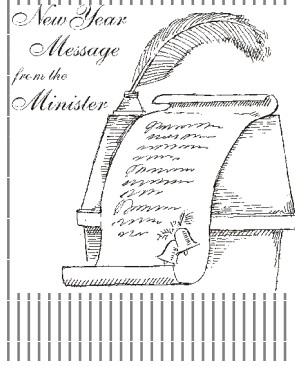


# FROM PASTOR NIELSEN JANUARY 2012



Dear Friends in Christ,

My family and I thank you for greetings, gifts, and good will shared with us this Christmas season. Thank you to all who helped make the Christmas celebration at Peace so delightful and meaningful with the Surprising Christmas Pageant, the caroling, the Peder Eide concert, and the Youth Drama at the candlelight service.

I am looking forward to the new year at Peace. A new year is an opportunity to try something new. The January calendar is full of new opportunities.

Our *Ministry Teams* (AKA committees) reorganize in January with new people. We have four ministry teams:

**Worship and Evangelism** seeks to invite and involve people in worship.

**Membership and Friendship** seeks to invite and involve people in membership.

**Discipleship and Education** seeks to invite and involve people in Bible study.

**Ministry and Mission** seeks to invite and involve people in ministry and mission.

*Ministry Teams* meet 6 to 8 times per year. This year teams will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM. Would you be willing to serve on one of these teams for 2012? Your participation will be much appreciated and will move Peace Lutheran Church in the right direction.

A second opportunity is *Financial Peace University* hosted by Midwest Bank, Reinke Manufacturing, and Peace Lutheran Church. This is a 12 week course on the basics of money management from a Christian perspective.

A third opportunity is *Crossways Bible Study*. We have a small but faithful group that will be moving into the second 10 week Crossways course which

covers Deuteronomy through 2 Kings. You are welcome to join us for a journey through the Bible that shows how it all fits together as God's story.

A fourth opportunity is the *Peace Prayer Group*. Last fall we began a prayer meeting we called *Hearts of Prayer*. We met monthly to pray and to reflect on our prayer lives. We were a small but faithful group. Beginning January 18, the *Peace Prayer Team* will meet twice a month on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 AM. If you are free at that time, you are welcome to join us as we explore the possibilities of prayer and pray for each other, the members of Peace, our mission partners, and the world. I am excited about several ideas for growing our ministry of prayer.

A fifth opportunity is *Sunday morning Adult Bible Class* which will begin a study in 1 Timothy. As usual, our discussions will spark more questions than we have answers, but it will make us all think about our call to live faith in daily life.

There are also *Men's and Women's groups* that welcome new folks.

*Brothers for Others* has just barely scratched the surface in a study on the Biblical response to poverty. *Men's breakfast* will begin a new study. *Morning Circle* is studying John with Max Lucado. *Prayerfully Simple* is studying the gospels with Beth Moore. All groups welcome you to come and check out the study and the fellowship.

No one can do everything. But everyone can do something in this new year to take a step forward in discipleship and service.

There are also two important events coming up that I urge everyone to take part in. One is the *annual meeting of Peace Lutheran Church*. We will discuss changes in our constitution, a possible projection system project, funding for cemetery maintenance, and the future of Peace Lutheran Church.

The second event is a drama presentation called "*Witnesses*". I have seen pieces of it performed and it is outstanding. It is a 75 minute program that will make you laugh and cry and hunger to know Jesus better. Invite you friends and enemies to this powerful event on Wednesday, February 1.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*