



Herald of Peace

JANUARY

Peace Lutheran Church,
1301 Ave. D, Billings, MT 59102

(406) 252-5504
peacelutheranbillings.com

Leadership Directory

Pastor: **Rev. Seth Rumage**
pastorrumage@gmail.com

Office 406-252-5504 Cell 406-298-2672

Administrative Assistant: **Kim Braaton**
peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

Office 406-252-5504

Bells of Peace: Julie Draeger
Altar Guild Treasurer: Molly Johnson
WELCA Treasurer: Connie Hausauer

Church Council

President: Jeff Murray
Vice President: Weyland Zeller
Secretary: Holli Miller
Treasurer: Steve Frank

Bob Bakko— dr.bobbakkolcpc@gmail.com
Steve Frank— frankystorm01@msn.com
Holli Miller— h.miller1@bresnan.net
Jeff Murray— jeffreytmurray@yahoo.com
Jody Pierce— bjpierce@hotmail.com
Holli Suek— hollybehlke@gmail.com
Louis Taylor— eiltaylor@gmail.com
Weyland Zeller— weyland.zeller@gmail.com

Peace Office Hours

See Schedule on page 4
Call Ahead Before Stopping By

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm
In-Person and on Facebook

Sunday: 10:00 am
In-Person

Sunday: 11:00 am, 5:30 pm
Community Channel 7



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Over the last few weeks, we have been following a worship and sermon series prepared by *A Sanctified Art*, titled *What Do You Fear?* I have received wonderful feedback from you all, both positive (in that many have found this series to be meaningful for them) and with constructive criticism (ways that future series can be even better). Thank you to everyone who has engaged the series and shared their thoughts and experiences.

When Pastor Ryan, Pastor Ken and I first started looking at the series to do together, we felt that some of the wording and themes were a little heavy-handed. Despite some of these misgivings, we decided to push on and give the series a good ol' college try. What I learned during this series is that boldly naming the realities of our lives can be more helpful than hurtful. As humans, we often try to push away the realities of the fear we feel in response to various circumstances. Yet, by giving voice to these fears, we can bear them together and take away some of the power they hold over us.

This reminder that we do not bear our fears alone is so timely. We began Advent just a week and a half after the longest Federal Government shutdown in history ended. Many people were still trying to get back on their feet as federal benefits were slowly being phased back in. Peace, as well as its ELCA sister congregations in Billings, provided significant help to people in need of food, toiletries, and financial assistance. The people suffering did not need to carry their fear alone.

Christmas Eve was once again nestled in the realities of life. Families gathered together to celebrate, even as they experienced conflict and other stressors. Reports of violence in our community, nation, and around the world showed that the birth of our savior did not bring quick fixes to our individual and communal sins.

Continued on Page 4

Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for in July

For the Church

Yehiel Curry – Presiding Bishop, ELCA
Ben Quanbeck – Montana Synod Bishop

For the world

Peace in Ukraine
Victims of violence and war in Israel and Gaza
Peace in the Middle East
President Donald Trump and officials at all levels of government

For illness or injuries of members

Gertie Gross	John & Rosanne Modde
Jim & Geri Frasch	Hank Tungstall
Darlene Thompson	Marlene Thomson
Lawanda Sherseth	Eva Wilker
Gayle Bummer	Kathi & Erik Aslakson
John Baber	

For illness or injuries of family and friends

Pam – Lois Gorseth's friend, cancer treatment
Kelly Miller – Pastor Kim Wilker's daughter, cancer
Gary Boje – Darlene Thompson's brother, recovery
Denise – Bonnie Hovik Clausen's daughter in law
Garry Fink – cancer treatment
Laura Fisher – Jodi Peterson's cousin, cancer
Josh Wilker – son of Kim & Terri, reentry after prison
Drew Echales – friend of the Rumage family, medical diagnosis
JC – John Modde's Son, lung cancer
Renae Killmer—Marlin & Muriel Overstreet's daughter, cancer
Nancy—Molly Johnson's mother, recovering from fall
Tommy Murphy—Nephew of Susan Andersen, Medical Reasons
Carol and Gary - siblings of Lois Gorseth - recurring cancer
Adrian Mantei - Connie's son, recovering after hospitalization
Patty- Susan Finn's Sister-in-law, lymphoma
Pierson Oberlander– child in NICU

For those who are grieving

The friends and family of Erl Barsness who passed on
Monday, December 29th, 2025



Prayer Concerns is a published list of those on the prayer chain, who have given permission to publish their names. If you are interested in praying for these, as well as others, please join the prayer chain. They have leaders who call or email. Please call lone Bloom at 406-671-4030

PEOPLE OF PEACE

As Peace grows, we want to help people get to know each other. Whether you just joined the church or have been worshipping here for years, we can all learn more about who we are!

Scan the QR Code to fill in the survey! For those who would like to participate, but do not use technology, please reach out to the church office, to Joan Brown, or to Holli Miller to let us know that you would like to be interviewed.



Completed profiles will be shared in each midweek newsletter, and will be posted on the wall in the upstairs hallway. Thank you to everyone who has responded! We look forward to hearing from more of you soon!

ANNUAL MEETING



The Peace Lutheran Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **January 25, 2026** **after Sunday morning worship.**

We will hold the meeting in the sanctuary and livestream the meeting on our Facebook Page.

Lunch after the meeting will be catered by Roni Sider.

All are welcome to attend! Only congregational members will be allowed to vote.

Congregational News

Peace Quilters News!

The quilters at Peace meet each Wednesday morning, 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the basement at Peace. If you are interested in quilting or learning how to tie quilts, come and join us. We take a break for coffee and a visit around 10:30. The quilts you have seen displayed in the basement reception hall are examples of our handiwork. This past year we made 183 quilts which you saw displayed on the church pews at the beginning of May. Three have been given to community causes and 180 have just been sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the world where there is a need.

This is an important ministry the Members at Peace are sharing with the greater community.



1/1	Madelyn	Kline
1/4	Luella	Ketterling
1/5	Robert	Peterson
1/6	James	Kintzing
1/6	Connie	Mantei
1/8	Erica	Hayashida
1/11	Patti	Hewett
1/13	Johanna	Pates
1/13	Halvor	Quanbeck
1/14	Susan	Andersen
1/19	Brian	Dukart
1/20	Robert	Snyder
1/20	Gary	Elsom
1/20	Landrie	Willis
1/23	Larry	Andersen
1/23	Daniel	Quanbeck
1/25	Michelle	Stockton
1/26	Malachi	Morton-Yates
1/28	Heidi	Kimmet
1/29	Cinda	Robbins
1/30	Dwight	Olmstead
1/31	John	Greenfield

Continued from Page 1

The joy of the holiday, balanced with the grief, the loneliness, the pain we carry, was on display. To this reality, we spoke the hope that Jesus brings in his birth and the persistence of faith in the face of our fears. The people who walked in darkness saw a great light, the light of Christ who bears the sins of the world.

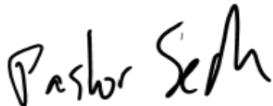
On the first weekend of the New Year, we will conclude this series with our celebration of Epiphany. We'll hear the story of the visit from the wise men, how they travelled together to share the anticipation of meeting the newborn king. We'll hear again how Herod meant to trick them, but that God sent them home by another road, so they could carry the hope they had found to the people of the day. We'll have a liturgy around Star Words, a concept that these words can help shape our experience of the year, a word that travels with you to inform your spiritual growth through the year. We will finish the way we started, remind each other that we do not walk this path of life alone.

As we begin another circuit around the sun, I'd like to bless you with the words we have closed our Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany worships with:

In a fearful world,/ may you look for God's spirit./ May you reach for each other's hands./ May you choose courage whenever you can./ And in all things, may you remember/ that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls,/ the one who sends,/ and the one who journeys with— go in peace and/ be not afraid./ Amen.

Peace,

 **Peace Staff Weekly Office Hours**

Winter 2025

Staff Key=

Pastor Seth

Kim Braaton

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 AM					
9:00 AM					
9:30 AM					
10:00 AM					
10:30 AM					
11:00 AM					
11:30 AM					
12:00 PM					
12:30 PM					
1:00 PM					
1:30 PM					
2:00 PM					
2:30 PM					
3:00 PM					
3:30 PM					
4:00 PM					
4:30 PM					
5:00 PM					
5:30 PM					
6:00 PM					
6:30 PM					
7:00 PM					
7:30 PM					

Congregational News

Staff E-mail Addresses

Pastor Seth Rumage

pastorrumage@gmail.com



Administrative Assistant Kim Braaton

peaceoffice1301@gmail.com

facebook

Find Peace Lutheran on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranBillings>

Watch worship live or on your own time. Keep up-to-date with goings on at church. Even send a message to chat with Pastor Seth!

Also check out our website at <https://www.peacelutheranbillings.com/> Find monthly newsletters and calendars, information about worship, food pantry, and youth ministries!

Peace Lutheran Financial Update

	Income	Expenses	Difference
October 2025	\$27,135.08	\$21,288.77	5,846.31
2025 Year-To-Date	\$207,651.17	\$213,822.36	-6,171.19

October was our second biggest giving month (after August- \$28,000+) in 2025! Thank you to everyone who has given to the general fund and especially to designated offerings such as the Food Pantry and to Youth Fundraiser (individual checks and Lutefisk Dinner). Much of the uptick in designated giving happened in November with the uncertainty regarding SNAP benefits and the Federal Government shutdown. We do not measure designated giving on this table, as this reflects just the general fund. If we did show a measure of designated giving, it would be through the roof!

You also see that our budget deficit has been shrinking through the Fall Months. It is our expectation that as we move into the Holidays, with year-end giving and generosity, we will likely see a much smaller deficit at end-of-year, or even another surplus! Thank you for your continued generosity to the church.



Do you want to support Peace Electronically? Follow this QR Code to be taken to our giving portal!

Christikon Clips

January 2026

Information for our Congregations



2026 Camp registration opens January 6th

Visit our website at www.christikon.org in January to explore next summer's programs and register. We look forward to welcoming you to Christikon during our 75th year!

2026 Summer Staff Applications are Now Open

The application is live on our website, and our Executive Director is out recruiting through February. If you—or someone you know—might be interested in serving on staff, visit <https://christikon.org/employment/> to learn more and apply.

Save the date: Christikon Benefit Auction – April 26, 2026

We are currently seeking donated items. Do you or someone you know offer a service, have a cabin or vacation condo, extra airline miles, sports tickets, or event tickets you'd be willing to contribute? We would love to hear from you—please call or email the office.

Why Christikon?

Too few young people (and adults!) have meaningful outdoor experiences. Christikon offers spirited adventure within an intentional Christian community that opens hearts to the life of faith. Consider joining the Christikon life this summer—it might just be the gift your spirit needs!

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ—
exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.**

CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org

director@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

WORSHIP THEMES**January 3 & 4, 2026**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1: (1-9) 10-18

January 10 & 11, 2026

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 17 & 18, 2026

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-19, John 1:29-42

January 24 & 25, 2026

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be "caught" in the net of God's grace and mercy.

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23





Join the Peace Lutheran Council on Saturday, January 17, 2026 and Sunday, January 18, 2026 after worship for our annual Coffee with the Council! We will discuss the budget, annual report, and the next week's Annual Meeting. We will have the Annual Report Booklets available for this meeting.



The Deadline for Committee and Ministry reports for the Annual Report Booklet is

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 12:00 noon.

Please have all materials to the office by that time so that we can include information in the booklet for Coffee with the Council the following weekend.



Youth Wednesday Evenings

Beginning in January 2026, we are shifting our focus on Wednesday Evenings. Our hope is to create a space where kids of all ages and their parents and other adults are able to participate in activities together.

The Schedule is as follows:

- January 7: Craft Night
- January 14: Movie Night
- January 21: Game Night
- January 28: Music Night

Wednesday Meal Prep

We are always looking for people to provide food and/or help prepare our Wednesday Evening Refuel Meal. This can mean purchasing take out or delivery, buying food and dropping it off, or preparing food that has been donated. If you would like to help, please sign up on the sheet on the youth board next to the nursery, or contact Pastor Seth.



Wednesday Meal Schedule

Please check sign-up sheet for available dates

- January 7:
- January 14:
- January 21:
- January 28:

New Wednesday Evening Schedule

With the changes noted above, we are shifting our Wednesday schedule in the New Year.

- 5:30 - Youth Activity for All Ages
- 6:30 - Refuel Meal

At this time, we will not be holding a specific meeting or lesson for the older youth at Peace. If need becomes apparent in the future, we will hold on to the possibility of returning to the schedule of Peace Youth at 7pm.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our volunteer needs on Wednesday evenings are shifting. Each week, we will have a focus of an activity—see schedule to the left. If you would like to prepare a craft, a music night, a lesson that you would like to share, please let Pastor Seth or a member of the Education/Youth & Family Ministry Committee know! This could be as simple as pumpkin painting we did in October, or as elaborate as making paper mache Advent wreaths in December. If you have ideas and would like help implementing them, we can work with you!

Please see the youth board next to the nursery or talk to Pastor Seth or a member of the committee to sign up!

Confirmation Class Needs

The Confirmation Class has been meeting on Sundays after worship from 11:30 am—1:00 pm. We need adults who will volunteer to be the second adult in the room with Pastor Seth during these times. This may include some help with setting up lunch and participating in the lesson. Please let Pastor Seth know if you are interested and available to help in this way!

January Confirmation Lessons

In January, we will begin our study of scriptures! We are looking forward to learning more about the Bible and its stories, lessons, and relevance to us today. Here is the lesson schedule:

- January 4 - No Class, Pastor Seth out-of-town
- January 11 - Old Testament Overview
- January 18 - Old Testament: Creation & Fall
- January 25 - No Class, Annual Meeting

January Godly Play

Godly Play will resume in January! We have been enjoying this new curriculum and the kids are engaged in the stories and activities we are sharing. Keep on the watch for more materials for adults and parents to follow along with what we are learning in our Godly Play Sessions!

We will hold Godly Play on January 11, 17, and 24.

Update on Youth Director

The changes we are making in January are to facilitate the Education/Youth & Family Ministry Committee's decision not to pursue hiring a new Youth Director at this time. We are attempting to provide meaningful ministry with volunteers helping Pastor Seth. If you are interested in helping, please talk with Pastor Seth, a member of the committee, or see the youth board.



Our New Member Orientation is
scheduled for
January 10 & 17,
from 3:30 - 4:45pm.

We will welcome new members in
worship on January 17 & 18.

Please let Pastor Seth know if you
are interested!



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
FINDING NEW WAYS TO
SERVE YOUR CHURCH?**

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE HAS
BEEN HARD AT WORK PREPARING A
SLATE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, MINISTRY
DELEGATES, AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS TO BE PRESENTED AND
VOTED ON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN
JANUARY.

WE HAVE ROOM FOR FOUR MORE
COUNCIL MEMBERS, ONE MORE
ENDOWMENT TRUSTEE, AND
DELEGATES TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY
IN BILLINGS THIS MAY.

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR SETH IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING IN ANY OF
THESE CAPACITIES!

Women of the ELCA



Women of the ELCA Circles:

Everyone is welcome!

Ruth Circle

Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.

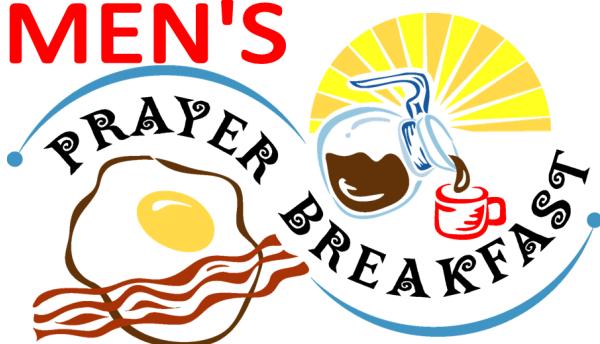
Pizza Hut 2530 King Ave W

Katie Circle

Meets second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in

the Fellowship Hall

MEN'S



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets
Wednesdays at 6:30 am in the
Fellowship Hall.

New-comers and one-timers are
always welcome.

Bring yourself and your appetite—
food and Bible study resources will be
provided!

Delegates to Ministries

Christikon

Katrina Rumage
Kristi Bummer

Endowment Trustees

Kristi Bummer
Dave Draeger
Greg Popp
Chuck Sider
Melissa Sider

Lutheran Center

Pastor Seth Rumage*
Jeff Murray*

Shepherd Cluster

Dave Draeger
Julie Draeger

St. John's Ministries

Mary Mosdal
Jerilyn Dukart

Synod Assembly Delegates

Louis Taylor*
Nancy Taylor

†Designates Committee Chair

*Designates Congregation
Council Member

Congregational Committees

Abundant Life

Bob Bakko*
Mike Brown
Jeff Murray*
Bob Peterson†
Danny Quanbeck
Rhonda Sappington

Congregational Life

Joan Brown
Molly Johnson
Holli Miller†*
Jeff Murray*
Deb Sider
Melissa Sider

Education/Youth

Jan Bakko
Julie Morton-Yates
Ruby Olmstead
Jody Pierce*
Katrina Rumage
Melissa Sider
Holly Suek*

Mission and Service

Ann & Erl Barsness
Paula Jackson
Rick & Barb Olson
Linda Strosky
Weyland Zeller†*

Mutual Ministry

Mike Brown
Holli Miller*
Bob Peterson
Sharon Schatzke
Chuck Sider

Nominating

Jeff Murray*
Jody Pierce*
Rhonda Sappington
Geroge Simek
Peggy Welliever

Personnel

Bob Bakko*
Melissa Sider

Property

Jeff Murray†*
Paul Strosky
Louis Taylor*

Scholarship

Wendy Goodheart
Holli Miller*
Melissa Sider

Worship

Ann Barsness
Julie Draeger
Wendy Goodheart

January Serving Committee

Molly Johnson, Chair
Keith Johnson
Bob & Jan Bakko
Rhonda Sappington
Nola McCafferty
Debbie Smith
Janice Benge
Lori Hartford



Peace
Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
			OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE	OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY	12:00p Al-Anon Meeting 2-4p Food Pantry	5:00p Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online] 5:15p Godly Play
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
10:00a Worship Service with Holy Communion [In person and on line] 11:30a Confirmation 1:30p Al Anon	1-3p Food Pantry 5:30p OA meeting Pastor's Day Off	9:00-10:00a Prayer Group 11:30a Ruth Circle (King Ave. Pizza Hut) 6:30p Katie Circle (Peace Fellowship Hall)	6:30a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Peace Quilters 5:30p Peace Pals 6:30p Refuel Meal 7:00p Peace Youth	9:00a Bible Study (Peace Fellowship Hall) 10a-12p Food Pantry 12:00p OA Meeting	12:00p Al-Anon Meeting 2-4p Food Pantry	5:00p Worship Service with Holy Communion [In-Person and Online] 5:15p Godly Play
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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Peace Lutheran Church

Non-Profit Organization

1301 Avenue D

Billings, MT 59102-3196

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

JANUARY
