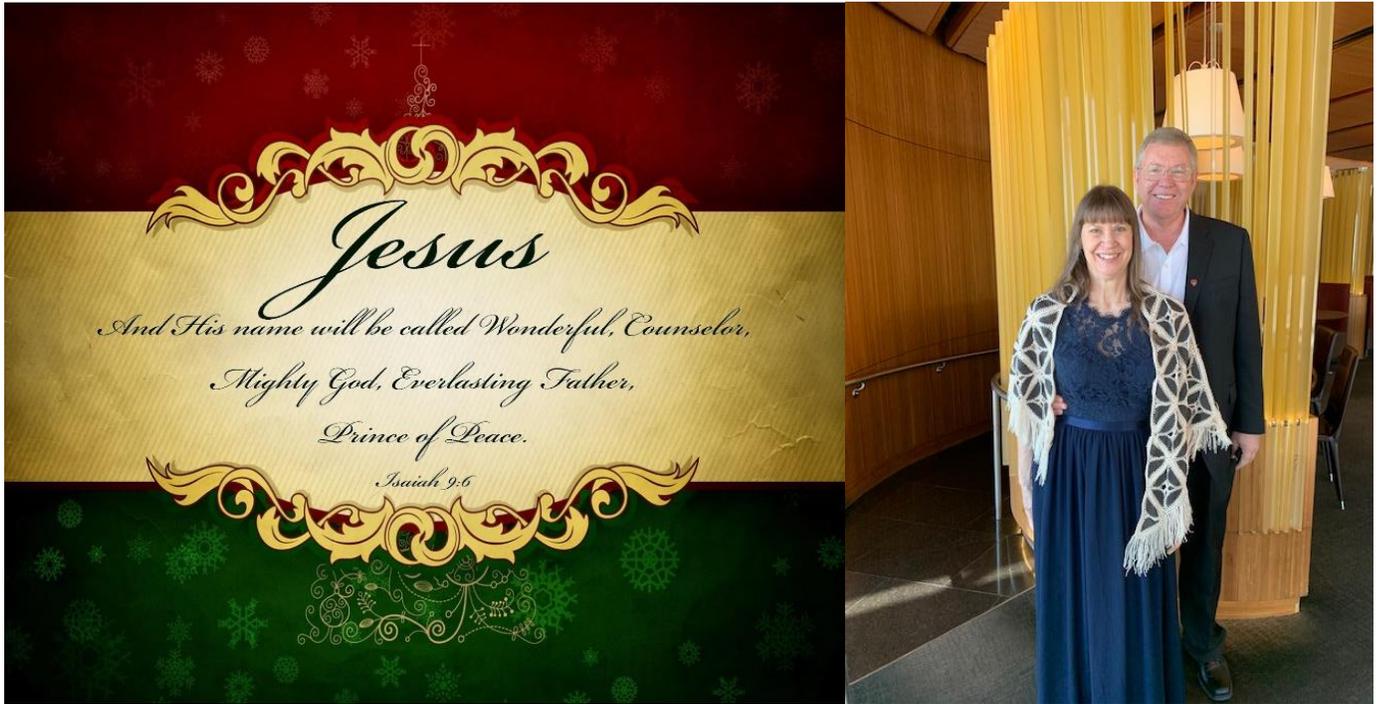


# 2021 Christmas Letter

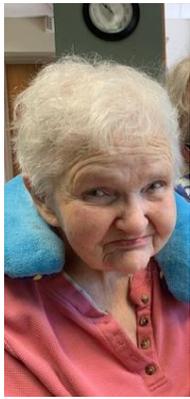
## Pastor and Barbara Strackbein



Our choir at Holy Cross Lutheran Church will be singing a beautiful song at our Children's Christmas Eve Service this year, "Jesus, Is Our Christmas Peace." That is what Isaiah was saying in the picture to your left. The angel's message to Joseph about Mary in Matthew 1:21 explains the words of Isaiah by explaining what the name Jesus means. **"You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."** Without Jesus' birth, perfect life, taking the punishment of hell on the cross for our sins, and rising again, there would be no peace with God. No peace when our conscience accuses us. No peace when we meet him after we die. No peace when we face huge disappointments in life. We have rebelled against God and Christmas is simply the fulfillment of God's plan to fix the consequences of that rebellion. That plan was for God to become man and as our substitute, take the payment for sin we deserved. This is why we celebrate Christmas. This is what moves Barbara and Pastor to love and serve Him. If He loved us enough to suffer hell for us, will he not also continue to love us and through faith be with us in this life and the next? Absolutely!

Having peace with God through faith in Jesus our Savior, Barbara and Pastor had a very blessed year. Peace through Jesus is what moved us to praise God in worship, sing to Him in our choir, serve our congregation, reach out to the community, battle covid infections, visit family members, face Barbara's declining health involving several ER trips, bimonthly plasma exchanges and blood transfusions. Having peace with God through faith in Christ we are truly blessed right here, right now! And when this life comes to an end? That is a blessing we are looking forward to with anticipation.

It is our prayer that all of you receiving our Christmas letter have this peace through faith in Christ. If you don't, re-read Isaiah's message above. It is the key to joy in life and in death. It is the key to having a blessed Christmas.



*Pastor's Mom*



*Barb's Mom*



*Ben and Sarah's family*



*The Strackbein Clan*



*Isaac and girlfriend Desiree*



*Peter with Samuel and Christina*



*Daniel with Mom and Dad*



*Tom and Amy's family with Barbara*



*Peter and Rachel's children with Abuela*