



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome. God's choice of the young virgin Mary to be the mother of our Lord Jesus is a reminder that God chooses "what is foolish in the world to shame the wise...and what is weak in the world to shame the strong;" (1 Cor. 1:27). God loves the lowly things and the lowly people of our world because they magnify the greatness of His power to lift up, to restore, and to redeem. "Oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!"

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

Communion Note: We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

The Preparation



Prelude: “Nun komm der Heiden Heiland” – Zachaw

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

(Silence for personal confession.)

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Litany – see insert

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord,
and come and help us by Your might,
that the sins which weigh us down
may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;
for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-5



¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*
with my mouth I will make known
your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

² For I said, “Steadfast love will be built
up for- | ever;*
in the heavens you will establish
your | faithfulness.”

³ You have said, “I have made a
covenant with my | chosen one;*
I have sworn to David my | servant:

⁴ “I will establish your offspring for- | ever,*
and build your throne for all
gener- | ations.”

⁵ Let the heavens praise your
wonders, | O LORD,*
your faithfulness in the assembly of
the | holy ones!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Epistle Reading: Romans 16:25-27 (see back cover)

Advent Verse: 357 vs 1, 7 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Acclamations (sung): **Glory be to you, O Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (inside the back cover of the hymnal)

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Sermon



Prayers After each petition of the prayer P: Lord in your mercy,
C: **Hear our prayer.**



Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For comfort:

Vaccaro family	Death of Joe	Wright
Melton/Yost families	Death of David Melton	Yost
Baker family	Death of Eleanor	Teschke

For those with health concerns:

Pastor John Babbitts	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Pat Dietz
Bob Latimer	Harry Tinsman	Phillip Trivett	Kay Compton
Marge Carr	Mina Ciqus	Brennan	Tom Reside
Annette Evans	John & Sue Bridenbough,	Rich Decee	

For those with cancer:

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Linda
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jane Chmieleski	Kathy
Edward Keenan	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Ann
Andrea (Andy) Hoteling			

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube
Daniel Gewecke (in Middle East)			

For those suffering around the world:

War in Europe	Prayers for peace and forgiveness
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	Prayers for health, safety, and provision
War in Middle East	Prayers for peace and forgiveness

Birthdays

Stephen Gewecke	Dec 25	Mariah Martinez	Dec 28
Charles Greenberg	Dec 25		

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory (p. 192)

Instrumental Offertory

Congregational Offertory: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation; and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 194

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right and salutary.... Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

C: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

C: (spoken) Our Father who art in heaven...

Words of Institution (Consecration)

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

Agnus Dei page 198 *(sung)*

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.
O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.
O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us Your peace. Amen

Distribution Hymn: 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

Post-Communion Canticle: Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace (p. 199 LSB)

**Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your Word,
for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people,
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving page 200

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, C: **and His mercy endures forever.**
P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving) C: **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus page 201

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**
P: Bless we the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction page 202

P: The Lord bless you... C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 368 Angels We Have Heard on High



Announcements

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: “Nun komm der Heiden Heiland” – Walther





Announcements – Week of December 24, 2023

**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week
Tues, Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 - 3:00 to help.**

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Jim Steimle (Communion Assistant), Jane Heebner (Reader), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Kevin Lauricella (Usher), Amy Van Hise (Communion and coffee).

Sunday Bible Study. There will be NO Bible class or Sunday School this Sunday. Blessed Christmas Eve!

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/LX0RRU0Jaik?feature=share> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. There will be NO Wednesday bible study this week. We'll resume on January 3, 2024! (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - www.stpeternj.org)

Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Shawl ministry team continues to meet every other week, creating gifts to share. Consider joining them in January!

Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

Service and Other

Mark Your Calendar! Our Voters' Assembly is scheduled for January 28, 2024. We'd love to see everyone there to see the presentation from NJDU participants- find out what's ahead in in 2024! Details to follow...



Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to next year’s collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For December we could use **small stuffed animals (need 20)**, **wiffle balls (need plenty)** and **fun Christmas tchotchkes** while they’re available, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex (next to the food pantry box).

Flowers. A Flower sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Flower contributions can be made in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God’s grace, or for a special occasion. The suggested donation is \$25.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. December’s collection is **BAKING AND COOKING PRODUCTS:** flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, vinegar, baking powder, baking soda, etc. You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the bulletin board sign-up.

Faithfulness Report 12/17 Attendance: 68
Gen Fund: \$ 15,955 Mortgage: \$75 Loan Angel: \$1,000

(Weekly contributions of approx \$6,000 are needed to meet our Congregation-approved 2023 budget.)

Website and Facebook. Our website is at www.stpeternj.org, and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church - the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>. Come check us out!

Weekly Schedule.

MONDAY (12/25) 10:30am Christmas Day service
TUESDAY - FRIDAY Pastor out of the office
SUNDAY (12/31) 8:15am Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

Other Important web links.

NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod lcms.org
LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief
“The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast lhm.org



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . . ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

Epistle: Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel

and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.