

## Announcements

### SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Kathy May

Altar Committee: Holly Schneider

Communion Committee: Del Duwe and Judi Smith

7:45 Elder: Lance Carus

Ushers: Matt Damato, John Trapp

Acolyte: Jake Mussomelli

10:30 Elder: Paul Kachelmeyer

Ushers: Mark Rubusch, Karl Stemke,

Acolyte: Cole Petersen

Ben Banasik

6:45 Wednesday Elder: Bryan Stoltenberg

Treats are given by the Meyles and Petersens.

### LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, December 11 – (7:45) 74 (10:30) 68 Bible class – 62

Wednesday, December 11 – (2:30) N/A (6:45) 50

Coffee Break Bible Study – 35

### OFFERINGS:

Last Week's Offerings

**General Fund:** \$5273.65

(Loose Plate \$11.15; Gen. Env. \$5262.50)

**Other Funds:** Mortgage \$120; Goehner

Scholarship Fund: \$25 \$145.00

**Last Week's Total:** \$5418.65

### TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER:

Other Funds Received in December: \$215.00

General Fund received in December: \$11,987.05

\$12,202.05

## Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

### Fourth Sunday in Advent

### Rorate Coeli – Heaven Come Down

Sunday, December 18, 2016

### TODAY'S THEME: OUR REDEEMER IS ONE WITH OUR FLESH

Priests and Levites were sent from Jerusalem to John the Baptist to inquire about his ministry and by what authority he was sent to preach and to baptize. The priests and Levites were custodians of the Old Testament temple worship and should have known what the Old Testament Scriptures and liturgy were preparing for. John clearly confessed that he was not the Christ, but rather "the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" John quoted Isaiah the prophet that the priests and Levites might know that he was the promised forerunner who was sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah's coming. John testified that the Messiah was the eternal Son of God by stating, "There stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me [or ranks higher than I], whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." By referring to the loosing of Messiah's sandal strap, John testified that Jesus was the true Redeemer Kinsman of His people, who would exercise the right of redemption by laying His foot bare in His death upon the cross. By the shedding of His blood He would redeem His people from their sins and crush Satan under His bruised heel (Gen. 3:15). John's testimony to Jesus and call to repentance continues to ring out today in faithful preaching that we might be prepared to receive Jesus in broken and contrite hearts.

**Pastoral Care and Guests at the Lord's Supper** We are concerned about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation. In Christ, Pastor Bender

**Guests—Welcome to Our Divine Service!** If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you. Please sign our guest register in the narthex



**Peace Lutheran Church and Academy**  
W240 N6145 Maple Avenue, Sussex, WI 53089  
Office: (262) 246-3200

The Rev. Peter C. Bender, Pastor — (262) 370-1189  
The Rev. Gary V. Gehlbach, Asst. Pastor — (262) 325-3032  
[www.peacesussex.org](http://www.peacesussex.org)

**Divine Service:** Sunday – 7:45 and 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday – 6:45 p.m.  
**Bible Class and Sunday School:** Sunday – 9:15 a.m.

**WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**—“*Whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*” (Romans 15:4). Each week the faithful gather to receive the Word of their Lord. Ongoing catechesis—passing on the Lord's Word by which faith lives—is the way of life for all the baptized.

**THIS WEEK:**

**Private Confession and Absolution:** *Sundays from 6:30 to 7:00 a.m., after chapel when school is in session, or by appointment.*

*Call pastor at 246-3200 or 262-370-1189*

**Sunday Divine Service 7:45:** Advent IV

**Sunday School 9:15** The Nativity of Our Lord

**Bible Class 9:15** Review of Philippians

**Lessons and Carols 10:30**

**Daily Chapel this week:** school is not in session

**Monday Youth Catechesis 4:30:** O.T. Catechesis

**Monday Didache 7:00** Lord's Prayer – The Syrophonecian Woman

**Wednesday Advent Divine Service at 2:30 and 6:45**

**Thursday Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:00:** no class this week

**Bible Class Today** 9:15 – 10:00, opens with Congregation at Prayer and then concludes our discussion of Philippians. Schedules for the Sunday Morning Bible Class are available in the narthex.

**FINAL ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE**— Divine Service this Wednesday at 2:30 and 6:45, focuses upon the theme “Come, Lord Jesus” and uses the Sunday epistle reading:

“**The Peace of God that Surpasses Understanding**” – Phil. 4:4-7

**26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

- **Today, December 18 at 10:30 a.m.** (No Communion)

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

- **Christmas Eve Divine Service at 4:00**
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 8:00 p.m.**
- **Christmas Day Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.**
- **New Year's Eve Divine Service, December 31 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **New Year's Day Divine Service, January 1 at 9:30 a.m.**
- **Epiphany Celebration, Wednesday, January 4 at 6:45 p.m.**

**EQUIPPING THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS...Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: A New Study on Marriage & Religious Affiliation, The Movie "Rogue One," Adam & Eve, Katie Luther, The Apostle Thomas

and more. You can listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

## News and Notes

**Last chance to buy Scrip before 2017** – The last Scrip order for 2016 will be placed tomorrow morning, December 19. The next order will be placed on January 3, 2017.

**No Board meetings and Council Meetings in December.**

**O Antiphon** print-out is available on the periodical desk in the narthex, for use with Congregation at Prayer during the last few days Advent.

**Office hours** – During the two weeks that the Academy is on Christmas break, the church office will be open only until noon.

**Many thanks** for all your prayers, cards, calls, and good wishes during my recent convalescence. – Jan Finke

**Wednesday after Christmas, Dec. 28** – No divine service.

**Altar Committee** – A few more women are needed on the Altar Committee to replace those who are no longer able to serve. Please contact Shirley Weber if you are able to help for a month.

**Upcoming Auction.** Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Goods and Services Auction on Sunday, February 26, 2017. Please sign up to donate an item or service for the auction. Auction donation forms are located in the Narthex at the SCRIP counter. **The deadline for auction items is February 10, 2017.** Bringing guests and friends to bid on items is a tremendous benefit to the academy. To make reservations, please pick up a reservation form at the SCRIP counter in the Narthex or in the office. Thank you.

**College Scholarships** – For information about LCEF scholarships, see <http://lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships> or the hallway bulletin board.

**Scrip Update for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year** (beginning July 2016)

Year to Date Profit: \$3,786.77

Last Week's Profit: \$191.33

Participating families last week: 14

## Sunday Order of Service

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
*Rorate Coeli – Heaven Come Down*  
December 18, 2016

### Divine Service Setting Two Lutheran Service Book p. 167

“And also with you” is the response in this service to the salutation, “The Lord be with you.”

*Please follow the order of service printed in the hymnal beginning on page 167. The propers for the day (readings, hymns) are listed below.*

**Hymn of Invocation** 355  
“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

**Introit** *sung responsively with the soloist*

*Antiphon* (Is. 45:8a)

Rain down, you heavens, | from above, \*  
and let the skies pour down | righteousness;  
let the earth | open, \*  
let them bring forth salvation,  
and let righteousness spring up to- | gether.

*Psalm* (Ps. 19:1,4- 6)

**The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God; \*  
and the firmament shows His | handiwork.**

Their line has gone out through | all the earth, \*  
and their words to the end | of the world.

**In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,  
which is like a bridegroom coming out of his | chamber, \*  
and rejoices like a strong man to | run its race.**

Its rising is from one end of heaven,  
and its circuit to the | other end; \*  
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

**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. (Antiphon is repeated.)

**Old Testament Reading** **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**  
The Prophet Greater than Moses

**Gradual** *sung by the congregation* (Ps. 145:18, 21)

The Lord is near to all who call up- | on Him, \*  
to all who call upon | Him in truth.  
My mouth shall speak the praise | of the LORD, \*  
and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and | ever.

**Epistle** **Philippians 4:4-7**  
Rejoice in the Lord always

**Alleluia-Verse** *Sung by the soloist*

Alleluia! You are my help and my deliverer.  
Do not delay, O my God! Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** **John 1:19-28**  
Jesus is the Redeemer Kinsman

**Hymn of the Day** 357  
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
*Stanzas 1-5*

**Distribution Hymns**  
“A Great and Mighty Wonder” 383  
“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” 375

**Hymn to Depart** 357  
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
*Stanzas 6-7*