

Announcements

SERVING IN THIS WEEK

Organist: Kathy May

Altar Committee: Jeanine Walentoski

Communion Committee: Sharon Martin and Melody Ruhbusch

7:45 Elder: Lance Carus Ushers: John Bender, John Trapp
Acolyte: Jake Mussomelli

10:30 Elder: Paul Kachelmeyer Ushers: Karl Stemke, Ben Banasik
Acolyte: Charlie Dhein

6:45 Wednesday Elder: Bryan Stoltenberg

Treats are given by the Carus family.

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, December 10 – 110 (7:45) 105 (10:30) Bible Class 92
Wednesday, December 13 – 71 (2:30) 42 (6:45)
Coffee Break Bible Study – 43

OFFERINGS:

Last Week's Offering

General Fund:	\$7,202.41
(Loose Plate \$136.41; Gen. Env. \$7066)	
Other Funds: Mortgage: \$100;	\$125.00
Goehner Scholarship Fund: \$25	
Last Week's Total:	<u>\$7,327.41</u>

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER:

Other Funds Received in December:	\$345.00
Nigeria Funds Received in December:	\$100.00
General Fund received in December:	<u>\$16,087.51</u>
	\$16,532.51

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete – Rejoice

Sunday, December 17, 2017

TODAY'S THEME: REJOICE! THE LORD IS NEAR!


John the Baptist didn't have a very long ministry. He had no retirement. He had no pension. He preached for a few years preparing the way for Jesus' coming. He was imprisoned by King Herod Agrippa I and, shortly after the events of this Gospel reading, his head was cut off and presented to the king's brother's wife Herodias with whom Herod had been in an adulterous marriage. So goes the way of God's faithful prophets in this world. When they preach repentance, uncovering man's sin in order to proclaim to them God's salvation in Christ, they are persecuted and put to death. The imprisonment and death of John the Baptist teaches us that there are more important things in life than happiness and success, namely Christ. He is our Lord and Savior. He is the object of our worship and the focus of our hope. It is Christ alone who leads us by and through His suffering and death to the glory of eternal life with God. By all the things through which we suffer, faith is tried in a furnace, the dross is purged, and we are fitted for the kingdom of God. This is why the introit for this Sunday is the Word of God from Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"

Guests—Welcome to our Divine Service! We are pleased that you are with us. 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. Before you leave this morning, please sign our guest register in the narthex.

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

27th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

- **Today, Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m.**



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

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.

THIS WEEK:

Private Confession and Absolution: *Sundays from 6:30 to 7:00 a.m., after chapel, or by appointment -- Call Pastor at 246-3200 or 262-370-1189.*

Sunday Service 7:45 a.m. Divine Service

Bible Class 9:15: Sunday's epistle reading

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols

Daily chapel this week Monday to Thursday: 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Monday Youth Catechesis at 4:30: Lesson 14 - The Birth of John the Baptist Is Announced to Zachariah

Monday Didache 7:00pm Lesson 13 – The Lord's Prayer

Wednesday Advent Services 2:30 & 6:45: Joseph Hears the Angel

Thursday Coffee Break Bible Study Meets for Lunch at 11:15 At the Machine Shed Restaurant

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE— Advent Men of Faith

Prepare for our Lord's coming and for the celebration of His birth by attending Advent Midweek Divine Service this Wednesday, December 20, at 2:30 and 6:45, we hear “**Joseph Hears the Angel**” from Mt. 1(1-17) 19-25.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

DECEMBER 24 AND DECEMBER 31 WILL BE HELD AT 7:45 AND 10:30

Sunday morning, the 24th, celebrates the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

Sunday morning, the 31st, celebrates the First Sunday after Christmas.

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 5:00 p.m.**
- **New Year's Day Divine Service, January 1 at 9:30 a.m.**

Wednesday after Christmas, Dec. 27 – No divine service.

Thursday after Christmas, Dec. 28 – No Bible class.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE FOR NEWS INFORMATION & TRUTH... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Media Coverage of Religion, Pop American Christianity, Christ in the Old Testament, The Birth of Jesus Foretold, The Lutheran Confessions, Philip & the Ethiopian Eunuch, and more. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

News and Notes

The Mercy Fund

Our congregation has a designated fund to help Christians in need due to hardships that have come into their lives. The Board of Elders administers the fund and distributes support when needs arise and as funds are available. If you are so moved, consider a special gift to the mercy fund during this Advent and Christmas Season.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Please sign up to purchase poinsettias for the altar at the discounted price of \$10.00 each. Make check payable to Peace Lutheran Church.

Boards will not meet in December.

Treats: Please sign up in the hallway to bring treats for Sunday Bible Class in January.

Upcoming Auction. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Goods and Services Auction on Sunday, February 25, 2018. 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 6, 2018.** 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.

PLA Thought of the Week: Advent traditions at the Academy include classroom Advent wreaths, Advent calendars in the entryway, and our Christmas tree decorated by the Academy students. Come, Lord Jesus!

Scrip Update for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year (beginning July 2017)

Year to Date Profit: \$3,239.17

Last Week's Profit: \$248.39

Participating families last week: 26

The last Scrip order of the year will be placed on December 18. The next order will be placed January 2, 2018. This is due to Scrip holiday hours.

.Sunday Order of Service
Third Sunday in Advent
Gaudete – Rejoice
December 17, 2017
Divine Service Setting Three
Lutheran Service Book p. 184

“**And with thy spirit**” 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 184. The propers for the day (readings, hymns) are listed below.

Hymn of Invocation **347**
“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Introit *sung responsively with Pastor*

Antiphon *(Phil. 4:4-5)*
Rejoice in the Lord | always. *
Again I will | say, rejoice!
Let your gentleness be known to | all men. *
The Lord | is at hand.

Psalm *(Ps. 85:1-2, 6, 8)*
LORD, You have been favorable | to Your land; *
You have brought back the captivity of | Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of Your | people; *
You have covered | all their sin.
Will You not revive | us again, *
that Your people may re- | joice in You?
I will hear what God the | LORD will speak, *
for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints;
but let them not turn back to | folly.
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 **Isaiah 40:1-8 (9-11)**
The Ministry of John the Baptist Is Foretold

Gradual *sung by the congregation* *(Ps. 80:1-2)*
You who dwell between the cherubim, | shine forth! *
Stir up Your strength, and come and | save us!
Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel, *
You who lead Joseph | like a flock.

Epistle **I Corinthians 4:1-5**
Pastors are called to be faithful stewards of the means of grace.

Alleluia-Verse *The congregation sings the triple Alleluia before and after the verse of the day. Pastor sings the appointed verse.*

Stir | up Your strength, *
and come and | save us!
(Ps. 80:2b)

Holy Gospel **Matthew 11:2-11**
The ministry of Jesus fulfills the Old Testament promises

Hymn of the Day **345**
“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Distribution Hymn **354**
“Arise, O Christian People”

Distribution Hymn **349**
“Hark the Glad Sound”

Distribution Hymn **813**
“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

Hymn to Depart **339**
“Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors”