

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

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Friday, December 15 – Lessons & Carols 198

Sunday, December 17– 120 (7:45) 193 (10:30) Bible Class 85

Wednesday, December 20 – 70 (2:30) 51 (6:45)

OFFERINGS:

Last Week's Offering

General Fund: \$7,711.40

(Loose Plate \$2,436.40; Gen. Env. \$5275)

Other Funds: Mortgage: \$230; \$260.00

Mercy Fund: \$30

Nigeria: \$50 \$50.00

Last Week's Total: \$8,021.40

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER:

Other Funds Received in December: \$605.00

Nigeria Funds Received in December: \$150.00

General Fund received in December: \$23,798.91

\$24,553.91

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rorate Coeli – Heaven Come Down

Sunday, December 24, 2017

TODAY'S THEME: MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD!

This Sunday's Gospel is the story of the Visitation. After the angel Gabriel had announced to the Virgin Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God and Jesus was conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit, Mary departed from Nazareth to visit her cousin Elizabeth in Judea who was pregnant with John, the forerunner of the Christ. These two women give us an example of what it means to live humbly by faith in the Lord's Word. They were receivers! That's what a Christian is. We live from the Lord's Word. Faith receives what the Lord says and yields to His will: "Let it be to me according to Your Word." The life of faith to which these two women were called would not be easy. Elizabeth was an older woman. Mary was young and bore the stigma of a suspicious pregnancy. They were each called to believe the Lord's word of grace in their unique offices as women and mothers. Instead of arguing and rebelling against the Lord for the inconvenience and hardship these children would bring into their lives, they accepted the Lord's will with joy and praise of the God who was so generous to them and to all people in fulfilling the promises of the Gospel. We who are called to live in our vocations by the grace of God in the Gospel of His Son can take up Mary's song, the Magnificat, and sing it as our own joyful confession of faith in Him: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name."

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



Peace Lutheran Church and Academy
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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 7:45/10:30 a.m. Advent IV

Bible Class 9:15: Sunday's epistle reading

Christmas Eve Divine Service 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service 8 p.m.

Christmas Day Divine Service 9:30 a.m.

No Daily chapel this week

Wednesday Divine Service 6:45: No service this week

Thursday Coffee Break Bible Study No class this week

SERVICES ON SUNDAY MORNING

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

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

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- **Christmas Eve Divine Service at 4:00 p.m.**
- **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.

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.

Office hours – During the week that the Academy is on Christmas break, the church office will be closed Monday, December 25 and open only until noon Tuesday through Friday.

Sunday School Teachers Meeting January 2 at 7pm.

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: Academy students spent their last day before Christmas break, caroling to some of the shut-ins of the congregation, finding out who was their Christkind, having a homemade pizza lunch, and enjoying their Christmas party! A blessed Christmas to all!

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

Year to Date Profit: \$3,505.27

Last Week's Profit: \$266.10

Participating families last week: 25

The next scrip order will be placed January 2, 2018. This is due to Scrip holiday hours. Cash-and-carry Scrip is available this week while supplies last.

Sunday Order of Service
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Rorate Coeli – Heaven Come Down
December 24, 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 357
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Introit *sung responsively with Pastor*

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 like Moses will arise.

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

You are my help and my de-| liverer;
do not delay, | O my God.
(Ps. 40:17b)

Holy Gospel **Luke 1:39-56**
The Visitation

Hymn of the Day 385
“From East to West”

Distribution Hymn 383
“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

Distribution Hymn 248
“The Magnificat”

Distribution Hymn 358
“From Heaven Above”

Hymn to Depart 370
“What Child Is This”