

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Kathy May Altar Committee: Anne Schumacher
Communion Committee: Becca Ligrow, Joanne Smith
Sunday 7:45am Elder: Lance Carus
Sunday 10:30am Elder: Erik Krueger
Wednesday 6:45pm Elder: Kent Franklin

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sun, December 5: Early-130 Late-71 Bible Class-100
Wednesday Advent Midweek, December 8 – 144 (8:00, 2:30 & 6:45)
Thurs, December 9: Communion Matins-46 Coffee Break-46

Altar Flowers are given for all of God's blessings.


OFFERINGS:

Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 9,886.00
(Loose Plate \$2350; Gen. Env. \$7536)	
Capital Improvements fund:	\$ 100.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 110.00
Last Week's Total:	\$ 10,096.00

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER:

General funds received in December:	\$ 9,886.00
Capital Improvements funds received in Dec.:	\$ 100.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 110.00
	\$ 10,096.00



Peace Lutheran Church and Academy
W240 N6145 Maple Avenue, P.O. Box 123, 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.

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete (Rejoice)

December 12, 2021

THEME: Rejoice in the Lord Always!

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 Antipas 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!"

ADVENT MIDWEEK DIVINE SERVICES—THE GIFT OF PRAYER

Wednesdays in Advent at 8:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

December 15: "Pray for those Who Persecute You" Matt. 5:43-48
December 22: "Prayer for God's Final Judgment" 2 Thess. 1:3-12

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

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD—*Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them in Your truth; Your Word is truth." (John 17:17).* Each week the faithful gather to receive the Word of their Lord.

THIS WEEK:

- **Private Confession and Absolution:** *Sundays 6:30 to 7:00 a.m. or by appointment — Call Pastor at 262-246-3200 or 262-370-1189.*
- **Sunday:** **Divine Service** 7:45 & 10:30 — Advent 3
Sunday School Christmas Program 9:15
- **Monday:** **Chapel** – 8:00
- **Tuesday:** **Chapel** – 8:00
Youth Catechesis – 4:30
- **Wednesday:** **Advent Communion Service** at 8:00, 2:30, and 6:45
- **Thursday:** **Thursday Communion Chapel** 8:00
Coffee Break Bible Study 9:00 — Gospel of Matthew
Didache 7:00 — The Creed—Third Article
- **Friday:** **Chapel Matins** – 8:00

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FAMILY PRAYER AT HOME

This week's lesson: The Visitation—Luke 1:39-56

The next Family Prayer instructional meeting for parents and Sunday School teachers is Tuesday, January 4 at 6:30.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS SERIES: ST. PETER OPTION

This week's study focuses upon the Royal Priesthood of the Church.

DIDACHE DIVINE SERVICE FOR ADULT AND YOUTH CATECHESIS

This week's service: Lutheran Catechesis 11—The Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

31ST ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Sunday, December 19 at 4 p.m., the Children's Choirs of Peace will lead our traditional Christmas Lessons and Carols Service.

EPIPHANY CHORAL DIVINE SERVICE

On Wednesday, January 5 at 6:45 p.m., the Senior Choir will lead an Epiphany Choral Divine Service with Holy Communion. This special choral service features Christmas and Epiphany music for the Choir and congregation in celebration of the visit of the Magi and the revelation of the Son of God as the Savior of all mankind.

Christmas Poinsettias for the Altar - Please sign-up to purchase poinsettias for the altar. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. A total of 15 are needed. \$12 each. Make check payable to Peace Lutheran Church.

Offering envelopes are available for pick up in the narthex. If you haven't picked up the annual report and membership directory, please do.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- **Sunday School Christmas Program** Today, Dec. 12, at 9:30
- **31st Annual Service of Lessons and Carols**, Sunday, December 19, at 4 p.m. featuring all children's choirs
- **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 6:30 p.m. with individual absolution
- **New Year's Day Divine Service**, January 1 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Epiphany Choral Divine Service**, Wednesday, January 5 at 6:45, featuring the Senior Choir

NEWS AND NOTES

Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, December 14 at 4:30 p.m.

All Boards will meet Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Please note this is one week earlier than previously scheduled.

The meeting will begin jointly with a study led by Pastor on educational themes from Martin Luther and the Lutheran Confessions. This 30-minute study is open to anyone in the congregation. **Board of Elders and Board of Education** will remain together to discuss candidates for Ordained Headmaster/Associate Pastor. **The Board of Properties** will adjourn after the joint study to conduct their business at 7 p.m.

Fish Fry Drive-thru — Friday, December 17, from 5:00-7:00.

Parish Council meets Tuesday, December 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Sign-up charts for sanctuary candle and altar flowers for 2022 are posted on the board outside of the church kitchen. Please sign up to bring fresh flowers for the altar.

Save the date for the Academy Auction! The Academy Auction will be held on March 19th from 4-8:30pm at Lake Country Lutheran High School. Save the date on your calendar and plan to attend this exciting event.

Weekly Scrip Report: Week of 12-5-2021 (9 families participating)

Gross sales \$2,940.00

Profit paid to Academy \$39.89

Attendance – 373

Total profit this fiscal year \$2,016.93

Any Scrip orders you wish to have by 12/24, need to be placed by 12/12/2021. Orders placed after that cannot be guaranteed to arrive by 12/24. This also applies to ordering hard cards online and ship to home.

No scrip order will be placed the week of December 26.

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021 – *Gaudete (Rejoice)*

Divine Service Setting Two, LSB p. 167

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

Preservice Music

“Hark! The Glad Sound” by A. Mahnke

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” by D. Busarow and T. Albrecht

Hymn of Invocation

347

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Soloist sings stanza 3

Entrance Hymn

354

“Arise, O Christian People”

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

The comforting ministry of the Gospel is foretold.

Choral Response

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” – arr. John A. Behnke

Come, Lord Jesus, come!	Come, Lord Jesus, come!
Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,	Born Thy people to deliver;
Born to set Thy people free;	Born a child and yet a king,
From our fears and sins release us;	Born to reign in us forever,
Let us find our rest in Thee.	Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
Israel’s strength and consolation,	By Thine own eternal Spirit
Hope of all the earth Thou art,	Rule in all our hearts alone;
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,	By Thine all-sufficient merit
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.	Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Epistle

I Corinthians 4:1-5

The pastor is a steward of the mysteries of grace

Alleluia-Verse *Sung by the soloist*

Alleluia! Stir up Your might and come to save us. Alleluia!

(Ps. 80:2b)

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist points to Christ

Hymn of the Day

345

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

soloist sings stanza 3

Distribution Hymns

“Hark the Glad Sound”

349

“The Gifts Christ Freely Gives”

602

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

353

Hymn to Depart

849

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”