

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Staci Anderson 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 19: Early - 123 Late - 87 Bible Class - 91
Wednesday Advent Midweek, December 22 – 120 (8:00, 2:30 & 6:45)

OFFERINGS:

Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 10,574.00
(Loose Plate \$971; Gen. Env. \$9603)	
LCEF fund:	\$ 1,197.06
Capital Improvements fund:	\$ 10,020.00
Goehner Schlr. fund:	\$ 300.00
Sacred Appts.	\$ 250.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 275.00
Nigeria fund:	\$ 825.00
Last Week's Total:	\$ 23,441.06

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER:

General funds received in December:	\$ 30,585.00
LCEF funds received in Dec.:	\$ 1,197.06
Capital Improvements funds received in Dec.:	\$ 10,520.00
Goehner Schlr. funds received in Dec.:	\$ 375.00
Sacred Appts. funds received in Dec.:	\$ 250.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 535.00
Music funds received in December:	\$ 100.00
Nigeria funds received in December:	\$ 1,125.00
	\$ 44,687.06

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr

The First Sunday after Christmas
December 26, 2021

THEME: A Witness to Christ

The Martyrdom of St. Stephen is celebrated on the day after Christmas. The feast day reminds us of why the Son of God was born and how His martyrdom upon the cross is the source of our salvation. The sermon of St. Stephen is an example of how Christ's death and resurrection, and the call to repentance and faith, is to be preached from the Old Testament Scriptures. Stephen's sermon helps us to understand what the important stories and themes from the Old Testament are. Stephen's message was firm and unyielding as he exposed the sin of impenitence, but it was delivered without hatred for his countrymen. He preached in this way because, like his Lord, he desired to save his hearers. Stephen's face shone with the glory of God's love for unworthy sinners. The content of Stephen's sermon made his hearers angry. They were so imbued with self-righteousness and pride that they refused the message of God's love in Christ and desired to kill anyone who dared suggest that they were sinners in need of salvation. Stephen delivered his call to repentance with compassion, mercy, and love in his heart for his hearers in the same way that Jesus had preached. Like His Lord who wept in love over Jerusalem, prayed for the forgiveness of His enemies, and commended Himself to the Father in death, so Stephen commended himself to his Lord and prayed that the sins of his persecutors might not be charged against them. Persecution, suffering, and even martyrdom for the cause of the Gospel give faithful testimony to Him who by His persecution and martyrdom won salvation for the world. In faithful suffering at the hands of persecutors, Christ's undeserved love for the lost is manifest in His Church and before the world for the salvation of many.

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—*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 — Christmas 1
Special Congregational Assembly Call Mtg. 9:15
- **Monday:** **No Chapel – Chapel resumes January 3**
- **Tuesday:** **No Youth Catechesis – Class resumes January 4**
- **Wednesday:** **Divine Service** 6:45 — Christmas 1
- **Thursday:** **No Chapel or Coffee Break Bible Study**
No Didache – Class resumes Thursday, January 6
- **Friday:** **No Chapel Matins**

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FAMILY PRAYER AT HOME

This week's lesson: The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-20

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

Class resumes Thursday, January 6

EPIPHANY CHORAL DIVINE SERVICE—JANUARY 5

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.

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:

- **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

Special Congregational Assembly Call Meeting for the purpose of calling an Associate Pastor/Ordained Headmaster is scheduled for Sunday, January 2 at 9:15 a.m. The Boards of Elders and Education, working jointly over the past several months, are prepared to recommend to the congregation that we call a candidate from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, to be our Associate Pastor and Headmaster. All voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this call meeting. An agenda and minutes are available in the narthex.

Thanksgiving to God for generous support

Over the last year, the congregation established a capital improvements fund to set aside revenue to be used for major capital improvements. We received substantial gifts and have been setting aside money each month from the General Offerings for this fund. The Lord has richly blessed us in 2021, enabling us to fund the new HVAC system for the Academy, and in early 2022, we will be able to replace the furnaces and air conditioning for the Church. These are major expenses, and we give thanks that we have had the funding to make these repairs and improvements. As you can imagine, the capital improvements fund has been significantly depleted. As you are able, offerings to the capital improvements fund are always appreciated.

Holiday Office Hours:

Office Closed: December 27, and 31.

Office Open 8am-12pm: Tues–Thursday, December 28-30.

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 12-19-2021 (18 families participating)

Gross sales \$4,215.00

Profit paid to Academy \$387.77

Attendance – 345

Total profit this fiscal year \$2,521.52

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

BP scrip cards are currently unavailable.

Taco Bell is no longer a cash and carry item.

Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

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.

Stand and face the processional cross

Processional Hymn 378

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Introit *sung responsively*

Antiphon (Rev.7:14b)

These are the ones who come out of the great tribu- | lation, *
and washed their robes
and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Psalm (Ps. 31:1, 3, 5)

In You, O LORD I put my trust; Let me never | be ashamed, *
Deliver me in Your | righteousness.
For You are my rock and my | fortress; *
Therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and | guide me.
Into Your hand I commit my | spirit; *
You have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

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.)

First Reading Acts 6:8—7:60

St. Luke records the confession and martyrdom of St. Stephen

Stand and face the processional cross

Alleluia-Verse *sung by the pastor*

Alleluia. Precious in the sight | of the Lord, *
is the death of His saints. Alle- | luia.

(Ps. 116:15)

Holy Gospel

Matthew 23:34-39

Jesus speaks about the countless persecuted and martyred prophets.

Hymn of the Day 517

“By All Your Saints in Warfare”
Stanzas 1, 4, 7, 3

Offertory Hymn 370

“What Child Is This”

Distribution Hymns 433

“Glory Be to Jesus”

“The Infant Priest Was Holy Born” 624

“Jerusalem, O City Fair and High” 674

Hymn to Depart 386

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”