

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Kathy May Altar Committee: Sherry Prowatzke
Communion Committee: Rosanne Fell, Robin Oehlert, Anna Steinhilb
Sunday 7:45am Elder: Lance Carus
Sunday 10:30am Elder: Philip Gehlbach
Wednesday 6:45pm Elder: Paul Kachelmeyer

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, December 11 – 145 (7:45) 87 (10:30) Bible Class – 121
Wednesday Advent Midweek, December 14 – 152 (8:30, 2:30 & 6:30)
Thurs, December 15: Communion Matins - 51 Coffee Break -37

Altar Flowers – given in memory of Marlene Schaefer

Last Week's Offering

General fund:	
(Loose Plate \$220 Gen. Env. \$13,026.66)	\$ 13,246.66
Capital Improvement fund:	\$ 7,100.00
Goehner Scholarship fund:	\$ 150.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 50.00
Nigeria fund:	<u>\$ 5,250.00</u>
Last Week's Total:	\$ 25,796.66

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER:

General funds received in December:	\$ 26,836.66
Music funds received in December:	\$ 200.00
Capital Imp. funds received in December:	\$ 7,220.00
Goehner Schl. funds received in December:	\$ 200.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 900.00
Nigeria funds received in December:	<u>\$ 7,350.00</u>
Total Offerings received in December:	\$ 16,910.00

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rorate Coeli – Drop Down Ye Heavens!


December 18, 2022

THEME: Let the Clouds Rain Down Righteousness

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.

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
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. Brennick T. Christiansen, Assoc. Pastor — (262) 236-6104
The Rev. Gary V. Gehlbach, Asst. Pastor — (262) 325-3032
Divine Service: Sunday – 7:45 and 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.
Bible Class and Sunday School: Sunday – 9:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD—*Jesus prayed, “Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it” (Luke 11:28).* 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 4
Bible Class 9:15 After the Flood - the Tower of Babel
- **Wednesday:** **Youth Catechesis** at 4:30
Advent Communion Service at 8:30, 2:30, and 6:30
- **Thursday:** **Coffee Break Bible Study** 9:30 — Gospel of Matthew

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: GENESIS! The Genesis study will resume on January 8. There is no Bible Class on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FAMILY PRAYER AT HOME

This week's lesson: Christ's Birth Is Foretold to Joseph
The Family Prayer lesson and its accompanying podcast devotion are posted on the website weekly.

“Family Prayer/Sunday School Devotional Studies” will be recorded by Pastor Bender and posted online weekly in preparation for each Family Prayer/Sunday School lesson. Look for our posting each week on the congregation website under the Family Prayer tab.

The Great O Antiphons may be used to supplement your daily prayers leading up to Christmas. They began on Saturday, Dec 17th and continue through the morning of Christmas Eve. Copies are available in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- **32nd Annual Service of Lessons and Carols - today,** Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Advent 4 Midweek Service – St Thomas, Apostle,** Wednesday, December 21st at 8:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- **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. with individual absolution
- **New Year's Day Divine Service,** January 1 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Epiphany Divine Service,** Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30 p.m.

NEWS AND NOTES

The 32nd Annual Service of Lessons and Carols is today, Sunday, December 18, at 3pm. All the choirs of the congregation will lead the congregation in meditations upon the great texts of Scripture that lead up to and include the birth of Christ. The choirs will sing from the chancel, so there will be extra room for everyone to hear, see, and enjoy the service. Preservice music will begin at 2:45pm.

Christmas Poinsettias for the Altar - Sign-up to purchase poinsettias for the altar and chancel. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Fifteen plants are needed (\$12 each). Make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church.

All Boards and Parish Council meet Tuesday, December 20th at 6:00 p.m. The meeting begins jointly in the nave with opening prayer and study. Each board will begin its meeting at 6:30 p.m. The Parish Council will convene at 7:30 p.m.

Thank you to all who showed their support and appreciation for our Academy teachers with a Christmas gift from the Giving Tree.

Holiday Office Hours:

Office Open: 8am-4pm: Monday - Friday, December 19-23.
8am-12pm: Tuesday – Friday, December 27-30.
Office Closed: Monday, December 26 and January 2.
Regular hours resume on January 3.

2023 Envelopes and Member Directories are available in the narthex. Please remember to pick up your copy.

Sign-up charts for altar flowers and sanctuary candles for 2023 are posted on the board outside of the church kitchen. Please sign up to bring fresh flowers for the altar.

Weekly RaiseRight Report (formerly Scrip): Week of 12-11-2022
Number of families participating: 28 (in-person) + 4 (online)
Gross sales: \$8,980.00 Profit paid to Academy: \$284.62
Attendance: 371 Total profits paid this fiscal year: \$2,658.79

Walgreen eGIFT cards are available to order online or through the app.
Order forms for \$10 and under cards are available at the RR counter.

The final RaiseRight order of 2022 will be placed tomorrow, Dec 19th. Routine weekly orders will resume Jan 3rd.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Rorate Coeli – Drop Down Ye Heavens
December 18, 2022

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 **754**
“Entrust Your Days and Burdens”

Introit *sung by the soloist.*

Antiphon (Is. 45:8a)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness
Let the earth open and bring forth salvation.

Psalm (Ps. 19:1)

The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the firmament showeth His handiwork.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

(Antiphon is repeated.)

Old Testament Reading **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**
Our Lord is the Prophet greater than Moses.

Intervent Chant *sung by the soloist* (Ps. 145:18, 21)

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him,
to all that call upon Him in truth.
My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;
and let all flesh bless His holy name.

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

Alleluia Verse *sung by the soloist* (Ps. 40:17b)

Thou art my Help and my Deliverer,
make no tarrying, O my God. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel **John 1:19-28**
The testimony of John: Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer.

Hymn of the Day **357**
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Stanza 1: All	Stanza 5: Men
Stanza 2: Women	Stanza 6: All
Stanza 3: Men	Stanza 7: All
Stanza 4: Women	

Distribution Hymns

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”	352
“In Thee Is Gladness	818
“O God of God, O Light of Light”	810

Hymn to Depart **343**
“Prepare the Royal Highway”