

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Kathy May

Altar Committee: Melinda Burger

Communion Committee: Sharon Martin, Melody Ruhbusch, Mary Nitzsche,
Jennifer Scheler

Sunday 7:45am Elder: Lance Carus Acolyte: August Christopherson

Sunday 10:30am Elder: Philip Gehlbach Acolyte: Clint Duessler

Wednesday 6:30pm Elder: Philip Gehlbach

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, December 10– 144 (7:45) 74 (10:30) Bible Class – 158

Wednesday, December 13 – 139

Thursday, December 14 – Communion Matins – 41 Coffee Break - 36

Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 14,063.66
Goehner Schlr. fund:	\$ 200.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 200.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 25.00
African Mission fund:	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
	\$ 14,638.66

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DEC. 2023:

General funds received in December:	\$ 26,442.67
Music funds received in December:	\$ 1,500.00
Goehner Schlr. funds received in December:	\$ 200.00
Capital Imp. funds received in December:	\$ 320.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 1,125.00
African Mission funds received in December:	<u>\$ 450.00</u>
	\$ 30,037.67

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete (Rejoice)

December 17, 2023

THEME: *Rejoice in the Lord Always!*

John the Baptist did not 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!" return all the more. In other words, when we see the signs which cause the world great distress, we are called to be encouraged that the Lord is fulfilling His Word just as He said. "This generation"—the church—"will by no means pass away till all things are fulfilled. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." That is wonderful comfort for the redeemed of the Lord!

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 LCMS 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, Senior 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 — *“Sanctify them by 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
Bible Class 9:15 — **The Redemption of God's Order in Christ - Husbands**
Lessons and Carols — 3:00pm
NO Daily Chapel
- **Wednesday:** **Advent Divine Service 8:00am, 2:30 & 6:30pm**
Jesus Heals the Deaf Mute
- **Thursday:** **NO Matins with Communion**
Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:30

Advent Responsive Prayer:

The Spirit and the Church cry out: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

All those who await His appearance pray: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

The whole creation pleads: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Family Prayer Devotional Studies will be recorded by Pastor Bender and posted online weekly in preparation for each Family Prayer lesson. The lesson this week is *The Birth of John the Baptist*. Look for the Family Prayer lesson and podcast on the congregation website under the Family Prayer tab.

Family, Life, and Marriage Retreat During Sunday Bible Class

The study is meant to be encouraging to marriage, family, the vocation of being single, and what it is to be human. This “retreat in the Word” is for everyone! Recordings will be made, and handouts will provide a resource for continued study and encouragement in the Word of God.

Advent Services—Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. 2:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Lord Jesus! — Advent is the season of comings. The ministry of the Holy Spirit played a vital role in the coming of our Savior in the flesh, and He continues to play a vital role in how Jesus comes to us every day. By the Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives we are prepared for Christ's Second Coming in glory. There are three divine service opportunities each Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. as part of Chapel; 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

December 20—**Jesus Heals the Deaf Mute – Mark 7:31-37**

Tired of Secular Christmas Music?

Come to Lessons and Carols

This year's lessons and carols service at 3pm this afternoon will give the congregation lots of opportunities to sing with the choirs many of the Church's great carols: The Sussex Carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem, God Rest You Merry Gentlemen, Away in a Manger, O Come, All Ye Faithful, and more. Join us for the **33rd Annual Service of Lessons and Carols** this afternoon at 3pm. Preservice music will begin at 2:40pm.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- **Christmas Eve Divine Services** at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- **Christmas Day Divine Service** at 9:30 a.m.
- **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Divine Service** Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.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**, Saturday, January 6 at 5:00 p.m.

NEWS AND NOTES

Holiday Office Hours:

Office Open: 8am-4pm: Monday – Friday, December 18-22.

Office Open: 8am-12pm: Tuesday – Friday, December 26-29.

Office Closed: Monday, December 25 and January 1.

Regular hours resume on January 2.

Board of Elders will not meet this week

Board of Properties meets Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Education meets Tuesday, December 19 at 7:15 p.m.

Parish Council will not meet in December.

Sign-up charts for sanctuary candle and altar flowers for 2024 are posted on the board outside of the church kitchen. Please sign up to bring fresh flowers for the altar.

Weekly RaiseRight Report: Week of 12-10-23

Number of families participating: 23 (in-person) + 4 (online)

Gross sales: \$2,355.00 Profit paid to Academy: \$271.94

Attendance: 366 Total profits paid this fiscal year: \$2,666.05

\$10 gift cards are available. See the order form at the RR counter or online/in app.

The final RaiseRight order for 2023 will be placed tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 18, 2023.

Joanne Fabric is no longer available.

Sunday Order of Service

The Third Sunday in Advent - Gaudete (*Rejoice*)

December 17, 2023

Divine Service Setting Two Lutheran Service Book p. 167

Liturgical Practice: We will observe the “Presiding Minister” and “Assisting Minister” directions in the *Lutheran Service Book*. The “Presiding Minister” typically speaks the sacramental portions of the liturgy in the stead of Christ: the Absolution, the Reading of the Gospel, the Sermon, and is the celebrant at the Lord’s Table. The “Assisting Minister” typically speaks the sacrificial portions of the liturgy and gives voice to the response of the congregation to the Word of God.

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

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

Introit *sung responsively with the 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 40:1-11**

The comforting ministry of John the Baptist is foretold.

Gradual *sung by the congregation*

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!

(Ps. 80:1-2)

Epistle **I Corinthians 4:1-5**

Ministers are called to be faithful stewards of the means of grace.

Holy Gospel **Matthew 11:2-11**

Jesus works the signs of the Messiah in His preaching and miracles.

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

Distribution Hymns

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” 344
“Arise, O Christian People” 354
“Hark the Glad Sound” 349
“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” 348

Hymn to Depart 342
“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”