

## Announcements

### SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Jordan Fischer

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 17 – 129 (7:45) 83 (10:30) Bible Class – 79

Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 17 – 204

Wednesday, December 20 – 126

Thursday, December 21 – Coffee Break - 33

### Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 12,052.00
Memorials:	\$ 50.00
Goehner Schl. fund:	\$ 100.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 5.00
African Mission fund:	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
	\$ 12,307.00

### TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DEC. 2023:

General funds received in December:	\$ 39,479.67
Music funds received in December:	\$ 1,500.00
Memorials received in December:	\$ 50.00
Goehner Schl. funds received in December:	\$ 125.00
Capital Imp. funds received in December:	\$ 120.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 1,130.00
African Mission funds received in December:	<u>\$ 425.00</u>
	\$ 42,829.67

## Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

### The Fourth Sunday in Advent

*Rorate Coeli (Rain down, you heavens)*

December 24, 2023

### THEME: *My Spirit Rejoices in God, My Savior!*

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 Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth 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 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 4  
**Nativity of Our Lord** — 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.  
**Bible Class 9:15** — The Nativity History  
**No Sunday School**  
**No Daily Chapel**
- **Wednesday:** **Didache Divine Service 6:30**—the Feast of St. John
- **Thursday:** **No Matins w/ communion**  
**No Coffee Break Bible Study**

**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 Nativity of Our Lord*. 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. The study will resume in January.

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

- **Christmas Eve Divine Services** at 4 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.

**Youth Group Meets on Sunday, January 7**

Our high school and college-aged youth will meet with Pastor Bender on Sunday, January 7 for lunch and study after the 10:30 service. Contemporary challenges to the Christian faith and spiritual support for each of our young adults is always the order of the day. Our gathering will conclude by 1:30.

**Special Guest at the Epiphany Service on Saturday, January 6!**

Our Epiphany Divine Service will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 6. Seminarian Sergiu Trifa from Romania will participate with Pastor Bender in the sermon for this festival. After the service we will have a light soup supper and Pastor Bender and Seminarian Trifa will lead a discussion about mission work and the Lutheran Church in Romania. Please join us. There is a soup supper sign up in the narthex so we can get an idea of how many to prepare for.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**Funeral Service for Lyle Wollin** will be held Friday, December 29. Visitation will be at 9:30am with the service at 11:00am at Peace Lutheran Church. Committal will be at 12:30pm at Wisconsin Memorial Park, 13235 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield with lunch to follow at the Family Center of Wisconsin Memorial Park. All are welcome.

**Holiday Office Hours:**

Office Open: 8am-12pm: Tuesday – Friday, December 26-29.  
Office Closed: Monday, December 25 and January 1.  
Regular hours resume on January 2.

**Parish Council** does not meet in December.

**Special Congregational Assembly** meeting is being called at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 7, for preliminary salary approval and for the potential of calling an Academy teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

**2024 offering envelopes** are available in the narthex. Please remember to pick up your box!

**International cook-off Sunday, January 21st after second service.** Put your ethnic cooking skills to the test with a fun & friendly competition. Sign up to cook a meal from the country of your choice for the chance to win a prize. If you prefer to sample the fare, sign up to vote for the best entry! For more information or to sign up, please see the bulletin board or contact Nicola Giordano at 414-915-1999.

**Fish Fry Drive-thru** — Friday, January 12, from 5:00-7:00. Tell your friends!

**Weekly RaiseRight Report:** Week of 12-17-23

Number of families participating: 13 (in-person) + 2 (online)  
Gross sales: \$2,830.00 Profit paid to Academy: \$332.69  
Attendance: 350 Total profits paid this fiscal year: \$2,998.74

**The next RaiseRight order** will be placed January 2, 2024.

**Joanne Fabric** is no longer available.

## Sunday Order of Service

The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Rorate Coeli (*Rain down, you heavens*)  
December 24, 2023

### Divine Service Setting Two Lutheran Service Book p. 167

“**And also with you**” 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 167. The propers for the day (readings, hymns) are listed below.*

**Prelude** “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland” - BWV 659 J.S. Bach

**Hymn of Invocation** 352  
“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

**Introit** *sung responsively with the 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 promise of the Prophet greater than Moses

**Gradual** *sung by the congregation.*

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.  
(Ps. 145:18, 21)

## Epistle

## Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always!

## Holy Gospel

## Luke 1:39-56

The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

## Hymn of the Day

385

“From East to West”

## Distribution Hymns

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” 356  
“O Sing of Christ” 362  
“We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth” 382

## Hymn to Depart

353

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

## Postlude

“Vom Himmel Hoch” - BWV 700

J.S. Bach