

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Jordan Fischer

Altar Committee (Jan): Holly Schneider

Communion Committee (Jan): Joanne Smith, Becca Ligrow, Rosanne Fell

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

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

Wednesday 6:30pm Elder: Kent Franklin

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, December 24 – 95 (7:45) 65 (10:30) Bible Class – 87

Christmas Eve: 121 (4:00) 87 (8:00)

Christmas Day: 170

Wednesday, December 27 – 30

Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 45,280.00
Capital Imp. fund:	\$ 220.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 1,300.00
African Mission fund:	<u>\$ 350.00</u>
	\$ 47,150.00

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DEC. 2023:

General funds received in December:	\$ 84,759.67
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:	\$ 340.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 2,430.00
African Mission funds received in December:	<u>\$ 775.00</u>
	\$ 89,979.67

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

THEME: *Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace!*

Forty days after our Lord's birth He was presented in the temple at the time of Mary's purification from childbirth. At this visit the holy family meets the aged Simeon who prophesies that having received the Lord's Christ he is now able to depart this life in peace. Simeon speaks of Christ's death when he tells Mary that a sword will pierce through her own soul. Simeon's song, the Nunc Dimittis, is sung by us at the conclusion of the reception of the Lord's Supper. As Simeon received the Lord Jesus at His presentation in the temple, so we receive the Lord Jesus in the Lord's Supper and are prepared to "depart this life" according to God's will with the full assurance of sins forgiven "for [our] eyes have seen the Lord's salvation." The aged woman Anna, who had engaged in humble service in the temple for years, also rejoiced in the Lord's presentation and confessed Him to all who longed for redemption and salvation. Simeon and Anna give us a picture of what it is to be a Christian. We cling to Christ for salvation and boldly confess Him to the world in our vocation.

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**— Christmas 1
Bible Class 9:15 — The Nativity History
No Sunday School
- **Daily Chapel** **Tuesday to Friday at 8:30**
- **Wednesday:** **Didache Divine Service 6:30** — Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
- **Thursday:** **Matins with Communion at 8:30**
Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:30

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 Epiphany 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 January 7.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- **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. with Chili and Soup Supper to follow.

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.

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.

NEWS AND NOTES

Thank you! The staff and faculty of Peace deeply appreciate the kindness you have shown to us through Advent and Christmas, with your cards and gifts. But even more, we rejoice in your reception of the blessings that Jesus, our Savior gives here in the Divine Service and the catechesis.

Holiday Office Hours:

Office Closed: Monday, January 1.
Regular hours resume on January 2.

Parish Council will meet in special session on Tuesday, January 2 at 7 pm.

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.

Fish Fry Drive-thru is next **Friday, January 12**, from 5:00-7:00. Help support the Academy. Tell your friends!

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.

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

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:

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 First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 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.

Hymn of Invocation **367**
“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Introit *sung responsively with the pastor*

Antiphon *(Ps. 93:5, 2)*

Your testimonies are | very sure; *
holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, for-|ever.
Your throne is established | from of old; *
You are from ever-|lasting.

Psalm *(Ps. 93:1, 3-4)*

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with | majesty; *
the LORD is clothed, He has girded Him-|self with strength.

Surely the world is es-|tablished, *
so that it can-|not be moved.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
the floods have lifted | up their voice; *
the floods lift | up their waves.

The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many | waters, *
than the mighty waves | of the sea.

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 11:1-5**

The Spirit of the Lord rests upon Jesus

Gradual *sung by the congregation*

You are fairer than the | sons of men; *
grace is poured up-|on Your lips.
I recite my composition concern-|ing the King; *
my tongue is the pen of a ready | writer.

(Ps. 45:2a, 1b)

Epistle **Galatians 4:1-7**

In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son

Holy Gospel **Luke 2:22-40**

Jesus is presented in the Temple

Hymn of the Day **389**

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

Distribution Hymns

“In His Temple Now Behold Him” **519**

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” **358**

Stanzas 1-3, 9-15

“In Peace and Joy I Now Depart” **938**

Hymn to Depart **937**

“Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace”