

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Kathy May

Altar Committee: Gayle Cardo

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

Sunday 7:45am Elder: Keith Gierach

Sunday 10:30am Elder: Philip Gehlbach

Wednesday 6:30pm Elder: Lance Carus

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, December 7th – 135 (7:45) 74 (10:30) Bible Class – 65

Monday, December 8th – Didache – 25

Wednesday, December 10th – 8:00 – 37 2:30 – 28 6:30 – 60

Thursday, December 11th – Chapel Matins – 32 Coffee Break – 41

Scan to donate:



Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 15,385.00
Capital Improvement fund:	\$ 200.00
Sacred Appointments Fund	\$ 00.00
Memorials	\$ 00.00
Goehner Scholarship Fund:	\$ 400.00
International Mission Fund:	\$ 150.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 00.00
	\$ 16,135.00

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER 2025:

General funds received in December:	\$ 23,485.00
Capital Improvement funds received in December:	\$ 200.00
Sacred Appointments Fund received in December:	\$ 00.00
Memorials received in December:	\$ 00.00
Goehner Scholarship funds received in December:	\$ 400.00
International Mission funds received in December:	\$ 150.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 00.00
	\$ 24,235.00

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

THEME: Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind Be Opened!

Everyone needs comfort and strength from the Word of God, especially ministers who are called to preach the Word. John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus with the question, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Jesus’ response to this question took John and his disciples back to the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. He would give sight to the blind, the lame would walk, the lepers would be cleansed, the deaf would hear, the dead would be raised up, and the poor would have the Gospel preached to them. “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see.” The content of Jesus’ preaching (repentance and the forgiveness of sins) and the signs that He performed, not only fulfilled the Scriptures and proclaimed Him to be the Messiah, but they also gave hope and encouragement to John and his disciples. Now that John’s ministry of preparation was ending, his disciples would be directed to Jesus as the fulfillment of their hope and the source of eternal comfort.

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!**

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.

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. 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 — “*Whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*” (Romans 15:4). 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, by calling or texting Pastor Bender at 262-370-1189*
- **Sunday:** **Divine Service at 7:45 & 10:30 — Advent 3**
Bible Class at 9:15 — Sunday School Program
- **Mon-Friday:** **Daily Chapel at 8:00am**
- **Monday:** **Didache Adult Catechesis 6:00pm**
- **Wednesday:** **ADVENT Divine Service at 8:00, 2:30 & 6:30**
- **Thursday:** **Matins with Communion at 8:00am**
Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:00 am

The Nativity of Our Lord Sunday School Program is today.
3-yr-olds through 8th graders will present The Christmas Story during the Sunday School hour.

Sunday Bible Class—The Lutheran Day School and the Three Estates
Our strategic plan for Peace Lutheran Academy entails a significant catechetical study for the whole congregation on the Three Estates: Church, Home, and State. Like the season of Advent, the season of waiting, this study IS coming soon.

Family Prayer Devotional Studies will continue to be recorded by Pastor Bender and posted online weekly. The lesson this week is ***The Visitation—Luke 1:39-45 (46-55) 56.*** Look for the Family Prayer lesson and podcast on the congregation website under the Family Prayer tab.

Coffee Break Bible Study meets Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. We are studying the Gospel of Luke.

Didache Meets on Monday Evenings at 6:00

This week’s lesson is ***The Creed – Third Article—The Ministry of the Holy Spirit.*** Past lessons are available on the church website (under “Additional Recordings”) and at your favorite podcast provider.

35th Annual Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols—December 21
Join us next Sunday, December 21, at 3pm. for this annual celebration of the unfolding of Scripture leading up to Christ’s nativity and the great carols that surround them. All of our choirs will be singing, together with instrumentalists who are working very hard to honor Christ and proclaim the Gospel to you! Join us for this wonderful celebration.

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

Wednesday Advent Midweek Services prepare us for the celebration of our Lord’s nativity, His second coming, and His daily coming in Word and Sacrament. ***December 17— Watch and Pray—Luke 21:25-38.***

Christmas Eve Divine Services: Our children’s choirs sing for the 4 p.m. service, and the Senior Choir sings for the 8 p.m. candlelight service.

Christmas Day Divine Service is at 9:30 a.m.

New Year’s Eve Divine Service will be at 6:30 p.m. and will include the Service of Corporate Confession and Individual Absolution.

New Year’s Day Divine Service: The Circumcision of Our Lord and Naming of Jesus at 9:30 a.m.

NEWS AND NOTES

Adorn the Altar with poinsettias for Christmas! A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board. 15 plants are needed, and they are \$12 each. Make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church.

LYAL Christmas Party at Luther Memorial Chapel Dec 20 at 5 p.m.

The Lutheran Young Adult League invites men and women aged 21 to 35 to meet new people, create friendships, and have fun. The Christmas party will be a semi-formal event and will include a **catered meal** for all attendees. Please RSVP TODAY : <https://lyalchristmasparty.rsvpify.com/>

The office will be closed December 24, 25, and 26 for Christmas.

The office will be closed December 31 & January 1 and 2 for New Year.

The last day to order RaiseRight physical gift cards for arrival by Christmas is tomorrow, December 15. You can place a personal order online for “ship to home” until December 18. The next order after 12/15 will be placed on January 5, 2026. eGift cards can be purchased online or through the app anytime.

This is the last week \$10 and under gift cards are available for ordering.

Weekly RaiseRight Report: Week of 12/08/2025

Number of families participating: 11 (in-person) + 8 (online)

Attendance: 342

Gross sales: \$2,658.00 Profit earned this week \$821.31

Total profits earned this fiscal year: \$4,218.93

Profit paid to the Academy: \$3,302.51

If you would like to sign up on the RaiseRight app, please contact Julie Goltermann or the church office to get the enrollment code.

Sunday Order of Service
The Week of the Third Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2025

Divine Service Setting Two
Lutheran Service Book 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.

Hymn of Invocation **350**
“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

Introit *sung responsively with the choir*
Antiphon (Phil 4:4)

Rejoice in the Lord | always; *
again I will say, | Rejoice.

Psalm (Psalm 71: 14:18)

I will hope con- | tinually*
and will praise you yet | more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation | all the day,*
for their number is past my | knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God | I will come; *
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*
until I proclaim your might to another generation,
your power to all | those to come.

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 35:1-10**
The signs of the Messiah’s ministry of forgiveness.

Choral Response

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

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| 1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprun!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a Flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night. | 2. Isaiah had foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night. |
|--|---|

3. This Flow’r whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev’rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev’ry load.

Epistle **James 5:7-11**
Wait patiently for the coming of the Lord.

Alleluia-Verse *sung by the choir*
Alleluia! Behold, I send my messenger be- | fore your face,
Who will prepare your way before you. Alle- | luia!

Holy Gospel **Matthew 11:2-15**
“Are You the coming One or do we look for another?”

Apostles’ Creed *confessed after the Holy Gospel*

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

Proper Preface
It is truly meet, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through
Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming
Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of
the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the
wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore ...

Distribution Hymns
“Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment” **511**
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” **357**
“Sing Praise to the God of Israel” **936**

Hymn to Depart **339**
“Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors”