

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 14th – 152 (7:45) 71 (10:30) Bible Class – 131

Monday, December 15th – Didache – 17

Wednesday, December 17th – 8:00 – 49 2:30 – 28 6:30 – 57

Thursday, December 18th – Chapel Matins – 31 Coffee Break – 39

Scan to donate:



Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 9,195.00
Capital Improvement fund:	\$ 00.00
Sacred Appointments Fund	\$ 00.00
Memorials	\$ 00.00
Goehner Scholarship Fund:	\$ 200.00
International Mission Fund:	\$ 00.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 800.00
	<u>\$ 10,195.00</u>

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER 2025:

General funds received in December:	\$ 32,680.00
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:	\$ 600.00
International Mission funds received in December:	\$ 150.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 800.00
	<u>\$ 34,430.00</u>

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

THEME: His Name Jesus for He Will Save His People from Their Sins

Joseph, the Guardian of Jesus as he is often called, had a difficult vocation. He was called to be Mary's husband and Jesus' earthly father. This calling meant a life of suffering and self-denial. This is always what true faith calls us to: a life of sacrificial love in which we deny ourselves. This is the shape of our lives as Christians because our life is lived by faith in the God and Savior who lived in selfless love for us. The Child conceived in Mary's womb was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary was not an adulteress. His name would be called "Jesus" because He is the Lord who would save His people from their sins by becoming one with them in their flesh and blood. All this was done to fulfill the Scriptures, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which means that God is with us in the poverty and humiliation of our human condition to redeem us by the sacrifice of Himself. Joseph had no strength to fulfill His vocation within himself, but He was strengthened by the Holy Scriptures and the message of God's selfless love for him and for all his people. This is our strength too in our vocation. The Gospel not only saves us from our sins, but it also strengthens and keeps us in the love of Christ in the earthly vocations to which our Lord has called us.

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 4**
Bible Class at 9:15 — Pre-Nativity Testimony of St. Luke
- **Monday:** **Didache Adult Catechesis 6:00 pm**
- **Wednesday:** **Christmas Eve Divine Service at 4:00 & 8:00 pm**
- **Thursday:** **Christmas Day Divine Service at 9:30 am**

NO Daily Chapel this week or next as the Academy is on Christmas break.

NO Coffee Break Bible Study this week or next. Join us instead for Christmas Day and New Year’s Day Divine services at 9:30am.

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 Birth of John the Baptist—Luke 1:57-66 (67-79) 80.*** Look for the Family Prayer lesson and podcast on the congregation website under the Family Prayer tab.

Didache Meets on Monday Evenings at 6:00

This week’s lesson is ***The Creed – Third Article—The Day of Pentecost.*** 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—Today!

Join us today, 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.

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.

Music for the Christmas Season... “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come,” “O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is,” “Once in Royal David’s City,” “Silent Night, Holy Night,” “Joy to the World.” Beginning Christmas Eve, you can listen to sacred music for the Christmas season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org,

NEWS AND NOTES

New Giving Envelopes for the New Year: Samples have been mailed to members. Double check the number you received in the mailing with the previous year’s envelope number and let us know if there is a discrepancy. Please put both your name AND envelope number on the first couple envelopes. Additional envelopes will be available in the narthex and office. Thank you!

A Place of Refuge continues to search for volunteers to help with many aspects of their ministry including technology and promotions. If you or anyone you know would like to help this shelter for mothers and their unborn (and newly born) babies, or to make a donation, please visit aplaceofrefuge.org.

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.

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

Office hours will be 7:30 – noon December 29 and 30.

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

The final RR order before the new year has been placed, but cards are still available for purchase at the Scrip Counter, online, and in-app. The next order placed through Peace will be January 5, 2026. This may affect "ship to co-ordinator" online orders, but not "ship to home" and in-app orders.

Weekly RaiseRight Report: Week of 12/14/2025

Number of families participating: 16 (in-person) + 6 (online)

Attendance: 348

Gross sales: \$4,366.00 Profit earned this week \$179.67

Total profits earned this fiscal year: \$4,398.60

Profit paid to the Academy: \$3,302.51

Sunday Order of Service
The Week of the Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, 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 **338**
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Introit *sung responsively with the pastor*

Antiphon *(Isaiah 64:1)*

Oh, that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Psalms *(Psalm 130:5-8)*

I will hope con- | tinually*
and in his | word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the | morning,*
more than watchmen for the | morning.
O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is | steadfast love,*
and with him is plentiful re- | demption.
And he will redeem | Israel*
from all his in- | iquities.

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 7:10-17**
The prophecy of the virgin birth.

Gradual *sung by the congregation* *(Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26)*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle **Romans 1:1-7**
The Gospel was preached in ages past by the prophets.

Alleluia-Verse *spoken by the pastor*

Alleluia! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel **Matthew 1:18-25**
Christ's Birth Is Foretold to Joseph.

Apostles' Creed *confessed after the Holy Gospel*

Hymn of the Day **359**
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

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 with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying: Holy, holy, holy...

Distribution Hymns

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” **352**
“O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild” **546**
“The Infant Priest Was Holy Born” **624**

Hymn to Depart **381**
“Let Our Gladness Have No End”