

## Announcements

### SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Jordan Fischer

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 21st – 118 (7:45) – 90 (10:30) Bible Class – 75

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### Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 22,182.00
Capital Improvement fund:	\$ 00.00
Sacred Appointments Fund	\$ 20.00
Memorials	\$ 00.00
Goehner Scholarship Fund:	\$ 2.00
International Mission Fund:	\$ 00.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 00.00
	<u>\$ 22,204.00</u>

### TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER 2025:

General funds received in December:	\$ 54,862.00
Capital Improvement funds received in December:	\$ 200.00
Sacred Appointments Fund received in December:	\$ 20.00
Memorials received in December:	\$ 00.00
Goehner Scholarship funds received in December:	\$ 602.00
International Mission funds received in December:	\$ 150.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 800.00
	<u>\$ 56,634.00</u>

## Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

### The First Sunday after Christmas


December 28, 2025

### THEME: Baptismal Comfort—We Are Adopted Sons!

It is evident that our Lord's guardian, Joseph, the husband of Mary, was a godly man who was led by faith in the sacred Scriptures. The Lord spoke to him in dreams through the words of the prophets. By the Lord's word he knew what to do. By faith in the Lord's word he acted. "Out of Egypt I called My Son" was a promise from the book of Numbers and the prophet Hosea. When Joseph sensed the danger of Herod's murderous intentions and received a vision from the Lord in a dream to flee to Egypt, he knew, on the basis of the Scriptures, that it was the right thing to do. Even his dreams were confirmed by the testimony of Scripture. It is the same for us. We know what to believe; we know what to do; and we know God's will is on the basis of the Sacred Scriptures. Even the capacity to cope with the horrendous evils of life is made possible by God's word that describes the very tribulation that we are called to pass through. When Herod's soldiers slaughtered the innocent children of Bethlehem and Judea, the faithful were called to remember what the prophet Jeremiah had spoken: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they were no more." It is not as if this passage of Scripture would take away all their sorrow; instead, this passage of Scripture would strengthen them to cope with unspeakable suffering by looking to God's Word for strength and to God's Son who bore such suffering to save us and give us hope in the midst of death and every sorrow.

**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 — Christmas 1 Bible Class at 9:15 — Nativity Testimony of St. Luke**
- **Wednesday:** **New Year’s Eve Divine Service at 6:30 pm**
- **Thursday:** **New Year’s 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 New Year’s Day Divine service at 9:30am.

**NO Didache** this Monday as we are on Christmas break.

**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 ***Christ’s Birth is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25***. Look for the Family Prayer lesson and podcast on the congregation website under the Family Prayer tab.

**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.

**Study God’s Word in 2026...** The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. You can listen by phone, (618) 262-0078. You can also listen at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org), the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

## 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 of envelopes. Additional envelopes will be available in the narthex and office. Thank you!

**Peace teachers and staff would like to give a heartfelt “Thank you!”** to the congregation for the generosity shown through the Giving Tree program again this year. Your support and gifts are greatly appreciated.

**The office is open until noon on December 29 and 30.**

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

**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](http://aplaceofrefuge.org).

**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.

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 First Sunday after Christmas  
December 28, 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** **874**

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”  
*Choir sings stanza 3*

**Introit** *sung responsively with the choir*

*Antiphon* (Hosea 1:11)

When Israel was a child, I | loved him,\*  
and out of Egypt I | called my son.

*Psalm* (Jer. 31:15–17)

**Thus says the Lord: “A voice is heard in | Ramah,\***  
**lamentation and bitter | weeping.**

Rachel is weeping for her | children;\*  
she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
because they | are no more.”

**Thus says the Lord: “Keep your voice from | weeping,\***  
**and your | eyes from tears,**

for there is a reward for your work, de- | clares the Lord,\*  
and they shall come back from the land of the | enemy.

**There is hope for your future, de- | clares the Lord,\***  
**and your children shall come back to their own | country.”**

**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 63:7-14**  
God’s mercy is remembered

**Gradual Hymn**

**389**

“Let All Together Praise Our God  
*Choir sings stanzas 2 and 4*

**Epistle**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

Christ was born in the fullness of time to redeem us.

**Choral Alleluia** *sung by the choir*

A child is born in Bethlehem,  
Therefore rejoice, Jerusalem. Alleluia!

He doth within a manger lie,  
Whose throne is set above the sky. Alleluia!

He let himself a servant be,  
That all mankind He might set free. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 2:13-23**

The Holy Innocents

**Nicene Creed** *confessed after the Holy Gospel*

**Hymn of the Day**

**Insert**

“Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band”  
*Choir sings stanza 1*

**Proper Preface**

It is truly good, 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, ever more praising You and saying: Holy, Holy, Holy...

**Distribution Hymns**

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” **352**

“By All Your Saints in Warfare” **517**  
*Stanzas 1, 9, 3*

“What Child Is This?” **370**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” **384**

**Hymn to Depart**

**387**

“Joy to the World”