

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Jordan Fischer

Altar Committee: Melinda Burger

Communion Committee: Rosanne Fell, Robin Oehlert, and Joanne Smith

Sunday 7:45am Elder: Lance Carus

Sunday 10:30am Elder: Joseph Schneider

Wednesday 6:30pm Elder: Matthew Voss

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, December 28th (7:45) – 114 (10:30) – 77 Bible Class – 79

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Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 36,207.00
Capital Improvement fund:	\$ 40.00
Sacred Appointments Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Memorials	\$ 200.00
Goehner Scholarship Fund:	\$ 0.00
International Mission Fund:	\$ 562.20
Mercy fund:	<u>\$ 1000.00</u>
	\$ 43,009.20

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER 2025:

General funds received in December:	\$ 91,069.00
Capital Improvement funds received in December:	\$ 240.00
Sacred Appointments Fund received in December:	\$ 5020.00
Memorials received in December:	\$ 200.00
Goehner Scholarship funds received in December:	\$ 602.00
International Mission funds received in December:	\$ 712.20
Mercy funds received in December:	<u>\$ 1800.00</u>
	\$ 99,643.20

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Second Sunday after Christmas


January 4, 2026

THEME: The Boy Jesus in the Temple

“See how His mother and Joseph did not find Jesus among relatives and acquaintances. Neither will we find Him there, for He says, ‘A man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ And they sought Him three days without finding Him. Yet on the third day they did find Him, as it is written, ‘Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.’ But where did they find Him? In the temple, of course, for He is Himself the true temple of God, as He said of His body, ‘Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.’ So they found the Temple within the temple on the third day, as they will find Him again in His Temple, that is, in the flesh, at His resurrection from the dead the third day. And He sits in the temple amid the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions; for He must ever question Israel whether there is faith or not, since without faith it is impossible both to please Him, and to answer His questions. But faith knows that Joseph is not the father of this Boy, the Virgin-born, who must obey His true Father, for He said, ‘I must be about My Father’s business.’ What is His Father’s business? See, it is Jesus’ self-revelation and answers, to which we will all do well daily to attend.” — from Every Day Will I Bless Thee, Meditations for the Daily Office, by Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr., published by the CCA

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 2**
Bible Class at 9:15 — Nativity in the Gospels
- **Mon-Friday:** **Daily Chapel at 8:00 am**
- **Monday:** **Didache Adult Catechesis 6:00 pm**
- **Wednesday:** **Epiphany Divine Service at 6:30 pm**
- **Thursday:** **Matins with Communion at 8:00 am**
Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:00 am

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 Epiphany of our Lord—Matthew 2:1-12***. Look for the Family Prayer lesson and podcast on the congregation website under the Family Prayer tab.

“Wonderfully Made” – the Theology of the Body at Youth Group
today after the 10:30 service. Copies of the book by Dr. John Kleinig remain available for our youth and others who desire one.

Didache Meets on Monday Evenings at 6:00

This week’s lesson is ***The Lord’s Prayer – Introduction to 2nd Petition—Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray***. Past lessons are available on the church website (under “Additional Recordings”) and at your favorite podcast provider.

Coffee Break Bible Study resumes on Thursday at 9:00 a.m., and we will continue our study in the Gospel of Luke.

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, 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!

Board of Elders meets Tuesday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Education meets Tuesday, January 13 at 7:15 p.m.

Board of Properties meets Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Anyone who purchased an altar poinsettia may take it home today. Sleeves are available in the Gerhardt room.

Sign-up charts for the sanctuary candle and altar flowers for 2026 are posted on the board outside of the church kitchen. Please sign up to bring fresh flowers for the altar.

Fish Fry is this Friday, January 9, from 5:00-7:00. Help support the Academy. Tell your friends!

Sign up for the RaiseRight App to make supporting the Academy even easier! Choose from the full variety of cards available, both physical and electronic. For eligible cards, reloading and ship-to-home are options available in the app as well. Contact Julie Goltermann or the church office to obtain the enrollment code.

Sunday Order of Service

The Week of the Second Sunday after Christmas
January 4, 2026

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 376
“Once in Royal David’s City”

Introit *sung responsively with the cantor*
Antiphon (John 1:14)

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His | glory,*
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of | grace and truth.

Psalm (Ps. 147:1, 5, 11–12)

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,*
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Je- | rusalem!*

Praise your God, O | Zion!

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 1 Kings 3:4-15
Solomon prays for wisdom.

Gradual *sung by the congregation* (Is. 9:6; Ps. 98:1a)

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
the government shall be upon his | shoulder.
And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, | Mighty God,*
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
Sing to the Lord a | new song,*
for he has done | marvelous things!

Epistle **Ephesians 1:3-14**
A baptismal doxology

Alleluia-Verse *sung by the congregation* Luke 2:40

Alle- | luia!*

Alle- | luia!

The child grew and became strong in | Spirit,*
filled with wisdom and the grace of God was up- | on Him.

Alle- | luia!*

Alle- | luia!

Holy Gospel **Luke 2:40-52**
The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Nicene Creed *confessed after the Holy Gospel*

Hymn of the Day 410
“Within the Father’s House”

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 Our Gladness Banish Sadness” 371
“Oh, Blest the House” 862
“From God the Father, Virgin-Born” 401

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