

## Announcements

### SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Jordan Fischer

Altar Committee: Cheryl Piper

Communion Committee: Sharon Martin, Mary Nitzsche, Nicola Giordano

Sunday 7:45am Elder: Keith Gierach

Sunday 10:30am Elder: Philip Gehlbach

Wednesday 6:30pm Elder: Tom Aidich

### LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, January 25th – (7:45) – 128 (10:30) – 103 Bible Class – 68

Monday, January 26 – Didache – 20

Wednesday, January 28th – 27

Thursday, January 29th – Chapel Matins – 26 Coffee Break – 33

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### Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 8,634.80
Capital Improvement fund:	\$ 00.00
Sacred Appointments Fund	\$ 00.00
Memorials	\$ 470.00
Goehner Scholarship Fund:	\$ 400.00
International Mission Fund:	\$ 00.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 00.00
	\$ 9,504.80

### TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN JANUARY 2026:

General funds received in January:	\$ 31,511.30
Capital Improvement funds received in January:	\$ 00.00
Sacred Appointments Fund received in January:	\$ 200.00
Memorials received in January	\$ 470.00
Goehner Scholarship funds received in January:	\$ 845.00
International Mission funds received in January:	\$ 00.00
Mercy funds received in January:	\$ 25.00
	\$ 33,051.30

## Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 2026

### THEME: We Share in the Blessedness of Christ

The beatitudes are among the most beautiful and well-known words of Jesus. Each beatitude begins with the word “blessed.” The state of “blessedness” always refers to the gifts of God’s grace. We are blessed because of what He has done for us and because of what He gives to us. But this blessedness begins with the blessed Man, our Lord Jesus Christ, who received everything from the Father as a gift that He might bless us with every spiritual blessing. In Holy Baptism we are united to this blessed Man, Christ Jesus, and by faith we share in the gifts of this blessedness. Jesus was poor in spirit; He mourned; He was meek; He hungered and thirsted for righteousness; He was merciful; He was pure in heart; He was God’s peacemaker; and He was persecuted for righteousness’ sake. By the grace of God we share in this most beautiful and blessed state which has God’s promise in Christ: the poor in spirit shall receive the kingdom of heaven; those who mourn shall be comforted; the meek shall inherit the earth; those who hunger and thirst shall be filled; those who are merciful shall obtain mercy; those who are peacemakers shall be called the sons of God; and the kingdom of heaven belongs to all who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake. It is a most beautiful and comforting assurance to know that we are blessed for Christ’s sake, even though we struggle with sin, temptation, and persecution, because the kingdom of heaven is ours and Christ’s righteousness covers us.

**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 — Epiphany 4**  
**Bible Class at 9:15 — Parable of the Great Feast**
- **Monday:** **Didache-Compline 6:00 pm**
- **Mon-Friday:** **Daily Chapel at 8:00 am**
- **Wednesday:** **Divine Service at 6:30 pm — Epiphany 4**
- **Thursday:** **Matins with Communion at 8:00 am**  
**Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:00am**

**“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.

**The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Plan to come to one of three services: 8:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.  
All three Ash Wednesday Divine Services include the imposition of ashes and the Service of Corporate Confession and Individual Absolution.  
Midweek services will continue to be at 8:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday through April 1.

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

**Didache Meets on Monday Evenings at 6:00**

This week’s lesson is *Holy Baptism – Parts 1 and 2—the Baptism of Our Lord*. Past lessons are available on the church website (under “Additional Recordings”) and at your favorite podcast provider.

**Family Prayer Devotional Studies** will continue to be recorded by Pastor Bender and posted online weekly. The lesson this week is *If Your Brother Sins — Matthew 18:14-20*. Look for the Family Prayer lesson and podcast on the congregation website under the Family Prayer tab.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ACADEMY AUCTION - MARCH 21, 2026!**

**It'll be the cat's pajamas!**

The Academy Auction will be held on March 21st from 4–8:30pm at Lake Country Lutheran High School. Save the date on your calendar and plan to attend this fun and important event in support of the Academy. This year's theme is **the Roaring 20's**.

**Make your reservation today** to attend the auction.  
Individual Ticket: \$33 — Table of 8: \$240 (\$30 per person)  
Prices increase after March 1st.

**Consider donating a basket to be auctioned.** Simply get a basket, choose a theme, fill it with goodies, and submit your basket with its contents online at [www.plaauction.com](http://www.plaauction.com) under “Donate Items.” Please drop the basket off in the church office by February 16th.

**2025 Contribution statements are available in the Narthex.** Please save us some postage and pick up yours today! If you have any questions about your statement, please reach out to Mary Schneider.

**Congregational Assembly** will be this Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. Nominations for President and Vice-presidents of Synod are on the agenda. Agendas are available in the narthex.

**Ladies of the Congregation**, through our Lord’s body and blood that he gives for us to eat and to drink at the altar each Divine Service, we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—what great gifts He gives! If you would like to assist in the preparation of Holy Communion, please reach out to Rosanne Fell or call the office to learn more about serving the congregation in this blessed labor of love.

**Weekly RaiseRight Report:** Week of 1/25/2025

Number of families participating: 6 (in-person) + 9 (online)  
Attendance: 256  
Gross sales: \$1,400.00    Profit earned this week \$51.63  
Total profits earned this fiscal year: \$4,661.39  
Profit paid to the Academy: \$4,419.40

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 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 1, 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** **394**  
“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”  
*Choir sings stanza 2*

**Introit** *sung responsively*  
*Antiphon* *(Ps. 1:6)*  
For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous, \*  
but the way of the ungodly shall | perish.  
*Psalm* *(Ps. 1:1-5)*

**Blessèd is the man who walks**  
**not in the counsel of the un- | godly, \***  
**nor stands in the path of sinners,**  
**nor sits in the seat of the | scornful;**  
But his delight is in the law | of the LORD, \*  
and in His law he meditates | day and night.  
**He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of | water, \***  
**that brings forth its fruit in its | season,**  
whose leaf also shall not | wither; \*  
and whatever he does shall | prosper.  
**The ungodly | are not so, \***  
**but are like the chaff which the wind | drives away.**  
Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the | judgment, \*  
nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous.

**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** **Micah 6:1-8**  
God pleads with Israel.

## Choral Response

“Blessed Are They” by John Leavitt

1. Blessed are they, happy are they, Blessed are they of God. Happy are those who are poor, For they shall be blessed of God. He gently will lead them; He gladly will feed them; their home is the heart of God, And blessed are those with sorrow and woe: His comfort and joy will o’erflow, The meek and the lowly, Blessed and holy: great is their gift from God.	2. Happy are those who desire The righteousness born of God. He blesses their hunger; He fills them with wonder; their rest is the peace of God. And blessed are those who mercy do show: His grace and compassion will know. The purest of children see now this heaven, held in the hand of God.
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3. Happy are those who love peace, For they are the sons of God. His light does shine through them; His truth will be in them, their life is the light of God. The world will now hate them; It hates Him before them; their part is the love of God.	4. Blessed are those who are poor; Happy are those who do mourn; Blessed are those who are meek; Happy are those whose hearts yearn; Blessed are those who show grace; Happy are those who are pure Blessed are those who seek peace. Happy are those who know God.
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**Epistle** **1 Corinthians 1:18-31**  
The message of the cross is the power of salvation.

**Alleluia-Verse** *sung by the choir*  
Alleluia!  
Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** **Matthew 5:1-12**  
The Beatitudes

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

**Hymn of the Day** **842**  
“Son of God, Eternal Savior”  
*Choir sings stanza 2*

**Distribution Hymns**  
“May God Bestow on Us His Grace” **823**  
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” **621**  
“O God of God, O Light of Light” **810**

**Hymn to Depart** **526**  
“You Are the Way”