

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Kathy May

Altar Committee: Melissa Brendel

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

Sunday 7:45am Elder: Mark Schneider

Sunday 10:30am Elder: Philip Gehlbach

Wednesday 6:30pm Elder: Tom Aidich

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sunday, August 16th – 102 (7:45); 97 (10:30); 63 (Bible Class)

Wednesday, August 19th – 24

Scan to donate:



Last Week's Plate Offering

General fund:	\$ 3,785.00
Capital Improvement fund:	\$ 00.00
Sacred Appointments Fund	\$ 00.00
Goehner Scholarship Fund:	\$ 25.00
International Mission Fund:	\$ 25.00
Mercy fund:	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
	\$ 3,935.00

TOTAL PLATE OFFERINGS GIVEN IN AUGUST 2026:

General funds received in August:	\$ 28,082.00
Capital Improvement funds received in August:	\$ 00.00
Sacred Appointments Fund received in August:	\$ 50.00
Goehner Scholarship funds received in August:	\$ 250.00
International Mission funds received in August:	\$ 25.00
Mercy funds received in August:	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
	\$ 28,507.00

Needed for general ministry for 2026-27: \$594,500

Received fiscal year-to-date from all sources: \$78,310 (13%)

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

THEME: Jesus Is the Christ, the Son of the Living God!

Peter's confession of faith concerning Jesus was: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." After Peter made this confession, Jesus instructed him concerning where it came from and what it would mean for him, the office of the Holy Ministry, and the Church of Jesus Christ. First, although it could be said that this was Peter's confession of faith; he sincerely believed it; he spoke the words; "This is what I believe," he would have said, yet this confession and the faith of the heart out of which it arose was entirely a gift of God. It was not Peter's own creation. "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." Whenever any of us, as Christians, confess the true faith it is "our personal confession" but it comes entirely from God and we, as Christians, all really confess the same thing. Second, the Rock upon which Jesus would build His Church was NOT the person of Peter (Roman Catholicism and the institution of the papacy), nor was it the faith of Peter's heart (much of Protestantism). Instead, the Rock upon which Jesus builds His Church is the CONFESSION of the truth of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. In other words, the Church is created and sustained by the Word of God alone, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the truth that comes from God alone. It is, therefore, only the confession of the truth of God's Word that guarantees the Church's existence and the power and efficacy of the Church's ministry—the Office of the Keys.

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 — “*Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it*” (Luke 11:28). 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**
Bible Class at 9:15 — Pentecost 13 Propers
- **Wednesday:** **Homeschool Catechesis at 5:00**
Divine Service at 6:30 — Pentecost 13

The Lutheran Day School: Its Theological Foundation and Practice (part 2) A study of the Three Estates—Family, Church, and State will be the focus of our Sunday Bible Class on **September 20, 27 and October 4.**

Sunday Morning Bible Class: Didache and the Augsburg Confession, beginning **October 11 through May.** This adult catechesis class will link together an in-depth study of *Lutheran Catechesis* with an in-depth study of the Augsburg Confession, the seminal confessional document of the evangelical Lutheran Church.

If you do not own *Lutheran Catechesis*, the Catechumen Edition is available to members for \$20. Prior to beginning the study, we will also have some sample copies of *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions – A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord* in standard size and pocket size to look at, and we will be able to order them at a discount for those who need a copy.

Coffee Break Bible Study will resume on September 3.

Bible Class for the Whole Family During the summer, children should attend Bible Class with their parents. This is a wonderful way to stimulate discussion in the faith at home. Throughout the summer we take a deeper look at each week’s appointed Sunday readings. Also, please continue to use the online Family Prayer lessons under the Family Prayer tab on our website with your family at home over the summer hiatus.

Sunday School is for the whole family! Lessons are posted under the Family Prayer tab on our website for your family to meditate upon during the week. There are printable lessons with related artwork as well as recordings by Pastor Bender to help guide the study. The lesson this week is ***The Confession of Peter — Matthew 16:13-20.***

NEWS AND NOTES

From Pastor Gehlbach to the Saints at Peace

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, After much prayer and consideration, this past week I notified the officers and boards of the congregation that I will retire as teacher, headmaster, and assistant pastor on June 30, 2027. My family and I will maintain our membership at Peace. I will be working with the members of the parish to ensure a smooth transition for the congregation and academy. I want all of you to know that it has been a joy and privilege to serve you in the precious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s name, *Pastor Gehlbach*

Donate an item or basket for Place of Refuge’s LifeWalk silent auction. If you have an item or gift basket to donate, please inform Beautiful Savior at office@bslcmequon.com or 262-242-6650. **To register for the walk, go to www.aplaceofrefuge.org/life-walk-registration.**

Back to School – Peace Lutheran Academy is about to start its 2026-27 academic year! Our teachers this year are Pastor Gehlbach, Angela Volquardsen, Anna Hahn, Beth Bender, Jennifer Duessler (art), Kathy May (music), and Pastor Bender.

Please note these important dates as classes begin:

- **Opening Service and Installation of Teachers** is ***today*** in the **early service**. Please keep our faculty in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead.
- **First Day of School** is ***tomorrow, August 24.*** The school day will start with daily chapel at 8:00 a.m. The school day will finish at 3:30 p.m.

Board of Education meets **Tuesday, August 25** at 6:00 p.m.

Parish Council meets **Tuesday, August 25** at 7:00 p.m.

Weekly RaiseRight Report: Week of 8/16/2026

Number of families participating: 8 (in-person) + 7 (online)

Attendance: 221

Gross sales: \$1,625.00 Profit earned this week \$33.76

Total profits earned this fiscal year: \$1,051.06

Profit paid to the Academy: \$492.87

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

\$100 Pick ’n Save gift cards remain unavailable, but extra \$50 Pick ’n Save cards are stocked for cash & carry orders.

There is 1 \$100 Kohls gift cards available. We would like to sell it, and then we will only carry \$25 cards on hand.

Sunday Order of Service
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 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 **647**
“Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”

Introit *sung responsively with the pastor*

Antiphon *Psalm 115:18*

But we will | bless the Lord*

from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the Lord!

Psalm *Psalm 2:6-7; 117*

As for me, I have | set My King*
on Zion, My | holy hill.

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son;
today I have be- | gotten You.”

Praise the LORD, all | nations!*
Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures
forever. | Praise the LORD!

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 51:1-6**
The promise of the Gospel is the Rock of our salvation.

Gradual *Sung by the congregation* *Psalm 34:9, 19 alt.*
Fear the LORD, | you His saints,*
for those who fear Him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Epistle **Romans 11:33—12:8**
Present yourselves as living sacrifices to God.

Holy Gospel **Matthew 16:13-20**
Peter’s Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed *confessed after the Holy Gospel*

Hymn of the Day **645**
“Built on the Rock”

Installation and Blessing of Academy Teachers *(7:45 service)*
After the sermon

Common Proper Preface I

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, who, on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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
“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” **575**
“Oh, Blest the House” **862**
“The Church’s One Foundation” **644**

Hymn to Depart **953**
“We All Believe in One True God”