

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024



St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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Welcome to St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sing! Shout! Rejoice! Exult! A string of ecstatic commands infused with an incomparable promise—the Lord has taken away the judgments against you! The Gospel in the flesh of Jesus is at hand. Human anxiousness subsides as God’s peace engulfs the hearts, minds, emotions, and wisdom of men. As the reign of Jesus is revealed, we are privileged to witness holy healing, cleansing, resurrecting, and preaching. Christ alone forgives and redeems us.

Holy Communion – Visitors who are not members of a Missouri Synod Lutheran church are asked to speak with the pastor or one of the elders before receiving the Lord’s Supper.

Contact Information – To request prayer or to set up an appointment, contact the church office at 853-3217 or stpeterhilbert@gmail.com. If you have concerns or spiritual needs, please contact Pastor Peterson or one of the elders.

Pastor Peterson: (920) 483-0956

Elders: Dan B.: (920) 418-3696 Dan K.: (920) 378-5096
Dean: (920) 915-8678 Dale: (920) 660-5124

Liturgy: Divine Service Setting Four p. 203

Hymns: 345, 333, 547, 550, 402, 352

Serving in our worship...

Preacher: Pastor Mark Peterson
Audio/Visual: Dan Bergelin, Dan Koffarnus
Altar Guild: Dean & Jan Bergelin

This Week at St. Peter
December 15-22, 2024

Sunday, 12/15		Sunday School
Tuesday, 12/17	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday, 12/18	10:30 a.m.	Midweek Advent Service
Thursday, 12/19	6:30 p.m.	Council Meeting
Sunday, 12/22		Fourth Sunday in Advent <i>(Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-56)</i> 8:30 a.m. Divine Service (NC)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. This is why the color of the season of Lent is used, purple or blue, the colors also of Lent, of forgiveness and repentance.

First Candle We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God

Last Candle (Christmas Eve/Day) Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.



Third Candle - The Candle of Love

P Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

P Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love.

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

(A person lights the Candles of Hope, and Peace)

P Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show Gods love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love here)

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

P Let us pray:

All: Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen.

Statement on Holy Communion

I believe that I am a sinner. I repent of my sin and ask God's forgiveness. With His help I will amend my sinful life. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and, under the form of the bread and the wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. I resolve to dedicate my life to the service of my Lord by regular group worship, sacrificial giving, thankful living and sharing the Gospel with others.

In the Lord's Supper, the risen Christ is at once the Giver and the Gift! By His promise, His very body and blood are really present, and thereby we come into immediate contact with the exalted Christ! As we do so, witness is also given to oneness in doctrine by those who receive the Sacrament together. For this reason, we practice close(d) Communion.

God's Word teaches the real presence of Christ's body and blood invisibly in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. We take seriously the spiritual care of those who commune at our altar. The Word of God states that no one offend against Christ and His Word by denying His true presence and its promise and seal of forgiveness. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (see 1 Cor. 11:27–29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of what is taught and believed at this altar (1 Cor. 11:26), any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession (beliefs) differing from that of this congregation (that is, belong to another church body or denomination) and yet desire to receive the Sacrament will want to first speak with the pastor before communing. As a courtesy, guests from sister congregations of the LCMS are asked to introduce themselves to the pastor before communing.

Introit

Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

P Rejoice in the Lord always;

C again I will say, **Rejoice.**

P Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C whose hope is in the LORD his God,

P who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

C who keeps faith forever;

P who executes justice for the oppressed,

C who gives food to the hungry.

P The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes
of the blind.

C The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD
loves the righteous.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Rejoice in the Lord always;

C again I will say, **Rejoice.**

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C righteous and having salvation.

P Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas and for everyone who ordered poinsettias. The poinsettias will be delivered and placed in church on Wednesday, December 18th.

Thank You – The ladies from WIM would like to thank all, who took part in our Christmas Social. Thank you for helping with set up, providing delicious food, and joining us for a time of food, fellowship, and fun! God's blessings in this Christmas season!

Silent Auction Results – We would like to announce the winner of the Nativity set. The winner is Harold Paulson. We would also like to thank the person who anonymously donated this beautiful nativity. Thanks to these gifts, we will have \$300 to go toward a special mission project.

Children's Christmas Bags – We will be handing out 'goodie' bags during the Christmas services. See the bulletin board 'tree' for items you can donate if interested. Place items in tub or refrigerator by Dec. 22nd.

Christmas and New Year's Services –

Christmas Eve Candlelight - 5:00 p.m. at St. Peter; 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke
Christmas Day Service - 8:30 a.m. at St. Peter; 10:30 a.m. at St. Luke
New Year's Eve – 5:00 p.m. at St. Peter

Aluminum Cans Recycling – Thank you to everyone who contributes to our church by donating aluminum cans. To receive the highest payment for these donations, bags of cans must be free from glass and other non-can items. If possible, please ensure cans are also securely enclosed in plastic bags. The payout from our most recent load was not deducted for glass and other non-can items, however, 40 lbs. of weight was deducted from the load due to bags containing water (ice). Thank you again for your donations.

Philippians 4:5–6 – “**The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**” Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.

Old Testament *Zephaniah 3:14–20*

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

Epistle *Philippians 4:4–7*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel *Luke 7:18–28*

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’”

²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”