



Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

January 29, 2017

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**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

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**January 29, 2017**

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1600 S. Main St.

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937-9235

[www.stpetersfdl.net](http://www.stpetersfdl.net)

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 p.m. ~ Sunday, 7:45 & 10:30 a.m.

Phone: 922-1160 or 921-8075

Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier: 517-8808

Pastor Matthew M. Guse: 517-9000

For hospital visits or emergencies, please call Pastor Zuberbier at 517-8808.

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Andrew Mildebrandt, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302

Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

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**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE** May God's Holy Spirit bolster your faith so that you may boldly confess your faith before others!

**VISITORS** We are pleased that you have joined us this morning to lift your voice with ours in praising the only true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If you are from this area and are looking for a church home, please feel free to inquire about our congregation through the pastors, one of the ushers, or one of the members. If you are a visitor from out of town, please be sure to introduce yourself to one of the pastors after the service. We welcome all of you to come and worship with us again.

**RADIO MINISTRY** Our congregation has a radio ministry to serve our sick and homebound and to reach the souls of our community. Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 each Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONE** and all other electrical devices to help minimize distractions during Divine Worship. Thank you.

**TO ASSIST YOU** Just ask an usher! We have six **large print hymnals** available. **Personal public address systems** are available for the hearing impaired. **Children's bulletins** suitable for preschool-age through grade 4 are available. A **cry room with audio feed** and a **window into the sanctuary** is available for parents who find it necessary to carry their children out of the sanctuary during the service. It is located to the left as you enter the narthex. **Family restrooms** are available in the multi-purpose room off the narthex or on the right side of the large hallway leading to the school wing.

**A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** Confirm in us your gospel, Lord, your promise of salvation. And make us keen to hear your Word and follow our vocation: To spend our lives in love for you, to bear each other's burdens, too. And then, at last, when death shall loom, O Savior, come and bear your loved ones safely home. Amen. (See also the prayers on pages 10-11 of *Christian Worship*.) (See also the prayers on pages 10-11 of *Christian Worship*.)

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**SERVICE THEME** In humble trust we commit our way to the LORD as we confess our faith before a hostile world.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP** Thursday: *Evening Prayer*, page 52 in the front of the hymnal  
Sunday: *Morning Praise*, page 45 in the front of the hymnal

**HYMNS OF THE DAY THURSDAY** 591; 380; 592  
**HYMNS OF THE DAY SUNDAY** 380; 392; 327

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**PSALM 47** page 85 in the front of the hymnal

**LESSON** Daniel 3:13-27  
*The three men in the fiery furnace serve as an example of trust in the face of persecution.*

Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach,

Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

**VOICES OF FAITH IN THURSDAY SERVICE** "The Lamb of God"

Verse 1: Perfect lamb, for sinners lost, It's your blood that pays the cost, Makes atonement for my life, Covers all my guilt and strife, God demands for sin, blood to spill for him, God has given me a sacrifice that's free.

Refrain 1: *It's the Lamb of God, It's the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world. It's the Lamb of God, the holy Lamb of God, Who takes my sin away.*

Verse 2: Priests and Levites: "Who are you? Are you the Messiah?" John: "I am not." Priests and Levites: "Are you Elijah? Why baptize if you aren't The Prophet?" John: "I'm the voice you hear in the desert: Make straight the way for the Lord today. He surpasses me and the world will see."

Refrain 2: *He's the Lamb of God. Look, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! He's the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who takes my sin away.*

Verse 3: Who am I? I am a sinner. God demands my blood be given. For my sinful thoughts and actions, For my life and my transgressions. By the grace of God, he substitutes the blood, Of his sinless Son for ev'ryone.

Final Refrain: *Praise the Lamb of God! Praise the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! Praise the Lamb of God, sinless Son of God, Who takes my sin away! Praise the Lamb of God, the sinless Son of God, Who takes my sin away!*

**ADULT CHOIR IN 10:30 SERVICE**

“Give To My Eyes, Lord”

By Ronald Corp

Give to my eyes, Lord, the blessing of seeing your face in all around me, the light of your glorious grace. Help me to see the needs of your people and be ready to go, Lord, wherever your Spirit leads me.

Give to my hands, Lord, the blessing of doing your will, bringing your touch where it’s needed to soothe every ill. Help me to heal the pain of your people and be ready to serve, Lord, wherever your Spirit leads me.

Give to my feet, Lord, the blessing of walking your way, going wherever you lead me throughout the whole day. Show me the paths that lead where your people need me, mine your own footsteps, wherever your Spirit leads me.

Give to my mouth, Lord, the courage to speak of your cross, boldly proclaiming your death was a gain not a loss. That through your blood, true justice and mercy may be building your Kingdom, wherever your Spirit leads me.

Give to my heart, Lord, the grace to rejoice in your love, showing forgiveness and mercy and grace from above. That by your word I’ll share in the joys you give free, help me to go, Lord, wherever your Spirit leads me.

Jesus, Lord, take me, I offer my whole life to you and by my service I’ll show that I’m faithful and true. Help me to live and praise you; please Lord set me free that you may use me, wherever your Spirit needs me.

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**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

*Those who are reviled by the world for the sake of the Gospel rejoice in the reward that Christ won for them in heaven.*

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**SERMON TEXT**

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

*Those who have nothing to boast about in the world have everything to boast about in Christ.*

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

**Boast in the Lord!**

*Pastor Guse*

1. He has given you a reason.
2. His glory never fails.

**ORGANIST** Ruth Koepsell

**GREETERS**

7:45 ~ Bonnie Baerwald

10:30 ~ Randy and Joyce Westphal

*This Week at St. Peter’s*

[www.stpetersfdl.net/calendar](http://www.stpetersfdl.net/calendar)

TODAY	9:00am	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School/DoC
	11:30am	WLA’s Let’s Celebrate until 4:30pm
	6:30pm	Adult Bells
MONDAY		Pastor’s Conference at NFDL
TUESDAY	7:00pm	Communicating Christ
WEDNESDAY	10:00am	Midweek Bible Class
	6:00pm	Adult Choir
	7:00pm	Midweek Bible Class
	7:10pm	Voices of Faith
THURSDAY	6:30pm	Worship
	7:00pm	FDL City Spelling Bee
FRIDAY	6:00pm	LGP Father/Daughter Dance
SATURDAY	8:00pm	Alcoholism Awareness Support Group

*Daily Bible Readings*

01/29 Leviticus 2 & 3	02/02 Lev. 9, 10
01/30 Lev. 4:1-6:7	02/03 Lev. 11
01/31 Lev. 6:8-7:38	02/04 Lev. 12:1-13:46
02/01 Lev. 8	

*Last Week's Stewardship*

Worship: 228 + 147 + 184 = 559  
 Midweek Bible Class: 01/18: 12+12= 24

Bible Class: 48  
 Sunday School: 13

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
First Fruits to the Lord:		
Thank offerings in support of the unified budget	\$20,620.93	
Other receipts in support of the unified budget	2,240.00	
Total receipts in support of the unified budget	22860.93	\$89,831.87
Requirement to support the unified budget	29,278.07	117,112.28
Overage (Shortfall)	(6,417.14)	(27,280.41)
Improvement Fund	100.50	
WLA Forward in Trust	65.00	
Honoring the LORD!	246.00	
Ministerial Education TA	3.00	
Parking Lot/Athletic Fields	85.50	

*Our Parking Lot/Athletic Fields (soccer and softball) project cost is \$153,565.77. To date, \$147,621.62 has been received, leaving \$5,944.15 to be gathered.*

*There is a Giving Center next to the Cry Room for those who would like to give their gifts of love to the Lord via credit or debit card. Please immediately deposit your transactions into the designated wooden box.*

**FORWARD IN CHRIST** The February issue of *Forward in Christ* is available in the narthex.

**MEMORIALS** Family and friends have given \$227 to Honoring the Lord, and \$50 the Church Music Fund in memory of Bonny Zarbock.

**BAKE SALE** The Gleaners held their annual bake last month and matched the funds received from the sale. The combined \$600 of sales and matching will be given toward our deficit reduction. Thank you to all of our Gleaners for baking and everyone who purchased the delicious baked goods!



**FAMILY DEVOTIONS:** As you have probably noticed, there are quite a few new families that have joined St. Peter's. These families include many young children. The Board of Adult Discipleship would like to assist these young families in the spiritual education of their children.



We would like to encourage our older members/families to scour their well-used libraries and cull out the spiritual material you used when your families were younger. Little Visits with God, My First Bible, would be excellent examples. Bring these books to church and place in the provided basket. After a couple of weeks, the donated material will be offered to our younger families.

**LET'S CELEBRATE** is this Sunday, January 29 starting at 11:30am. Join us at the Academy for an afternoon of celebration! Come for lunch and stay for pie. It's a great day to celebrate the countless blessings God has showered on WLA!



**FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE:** St. Peter's Lutheran Girl Pioneers would like to invite you to their Father Daughter Masquerade ball, Friday, Feb. 3rd from 6-8pm. This is open to all the families of our congregation and all ages. Please RSVP to Brindah Birkholz at [brindahbirkholz@gmail.com](mailto:brindahbirkholz@gmail.com)

**WLA OPEN FORUM** Grace, Oshkosh will hold an open forum Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 for Association families to the north. WLA will host an open forum in the Academy's auditorium at 6:00pm, February 22. Please join us for discussion on WLA's bright future!

**BOY'S CLUB** "Sons are a heritage from the Lord." Psalm 127:3  
 Josh Guell is organizing an event to bring all of our St Peter's boys, Kindergarten through 5th grade, together for a time of faith and friendship. The open event will take place on February 14 from 6:00 to 7:00pm in the commons and gym. At this initial gathering, we will glean interest and direction of a possible new Boy's Club. All fathers and sons are encouraged to attend, as we would like to know your input and level of involvement. Please email Josh Guell with questions at [guell42@yahoo.com](mailto:guell42@yahoo.com).

**BOWLING** Please join fellow members of the congregation on Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 for an afternoon of bowling at Parkway Lanes in Fond du Lac. For \$5 you can bowl for two hours. Bowlers of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. Please sign yourself or your group up in the narthex so we can reserve the appropriate number of lanes.