

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1600 S. Main St.

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937-9235

www.stpetersfdl.net

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 7:45 & 10:30 am

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.

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

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**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE** May the peace of the Christ-child fill your heart!

*Thank you for joining us for worship. If you have any questions about our service or practice, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or a pastor.*

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- Visitors, we are pleased that you have joined us this morning. 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.

**HOLY COMMUNION** Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. For this reason we respectfully request that all of those who are not members of the WELS or our sister ELS please speak with one of the pastors before communing with us. Thank you.

**A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew, our sins forgive, our foes suppress, our rooted enmity subdue, and crown your gospel with success. Teach us in watchfulness and prayer to wait for your appointed hour, and fit us by your grace to share the triumphs of your conquering power. Amen.

**SERVICE THEME** Behold our Advent King.

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

*These sentences will be spoken and the Advent candles lit immediately following the tolling of the bell at the beginning of the service.*

#### **Advent 4**

**M:** We light four Advent candles as we behold Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**C:** **With eyes of faith we behold Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

**M:** We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**C:** **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

**M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C:** **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Four Advent candles (the Prophecy, Bethlehem, Angel, and Shepherd candles) are lit. The service continues with the opening hymn.*

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*The Common Service*

#### **OPENING HYMN**

*Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord | CW 28 v 1-4*

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept his word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year Stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord-  
Him of twofold race behold-Truly came, as long foretold.

Welcome, O my Savior, now! Joyful, Lord, to you I bow.  
Come into my heart, I pray; Oh, prepare yourself a way.

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **(spoken) Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord; let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

### LORD, HAVE MERCY

♪ **Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **(spoken) Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### SONG OF PRAISE

*Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord | CW 28 v5-6*

Crush for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to you in faith, Safely kept through life and death,

And, when you shall come again As a glorious king to reign,  
I with joy may see your face, Freely ransomed by your grace.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **(spoken) And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **(spoken) Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

*One thousand years before Jesus was born, the Lord promised King David that through the birth of our Advent King his throne would be established forever.*

<sup>8</sup>You are also to say the following to my servant David.

This is what the Lord of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. <sup>10</sup>I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The Lord also declares to you that the Lord himself will make a house for you. <sup>12</sup>When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup>My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. <sup>16</sup>Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

### VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia!

C: **♪Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

*After centuries of waiting, the mystery of the Gospel was fully revealed through the birth of our Advent King.*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you—  
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,  
according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages  
past, <sup>26</sup>but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known  
to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the  
obedience of faith—

<sup>27</sup>to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came | CW 24*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he to meek and lowly Mary,  
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

“I come from heav’n to tell the Lord’s decree: A blessed virgin mother you shall be.  
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleases God,” she said.  
“My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name.”  
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

M: The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 1.

C: **(spoken) Glory be to you, O Lord!**

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

*In fulfillment of God’s promise, King David’s descendant—the virgin Mary—would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and give birth to our Advent King.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.”

<sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible for God.”

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **(spoken) Praise be to you, O Christ!**

### **Behold The Virgin Birth!**

*Pastor Guse*

1. A display of God's power
2. A display of God's love

### **CREATE IN ME**

♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your  
Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy  
of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.**

### **PRESENTING OF OUR OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE SACRAMENT**

M: The Lord be with you.  
C: **(spoken) And also with you.**  
M: Lift up your hearts.  
C: **(spoken) We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.  
C: **(spoken) It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he,  
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C: **(spoken) Amen.**

### **O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin  
of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away  
the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | CW 38 v 1-8*

“From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

“To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,  
That in his kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us his glory share.

“These are the signs which you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”

How glad we’ll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done In sending us his own dear Son.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christchild lying there.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery That you might share your joy with me.

**BLESSING**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: ♪ **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*What Child is This | CW 67*

What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he’ll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high; The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!

**ORGANIST**

Ruth Koepsell

**GREETERS**

7:45 ~ Joe & Nancy Birkholz

10:30 ~ Diana Kent



**Weekly Announcements**

**SPREAD SOME SON-SHINE** Our members in care facilities are unable to have visitors due to the pandemic. We would like to send some cards to two each week to let them know we are thinking of them. Please help us brighten their days!

~Larry and Kathryn Zabel  
493 Taft St  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

~Carla Rae Stubbe  
703 S Main St Apt B  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

**NEW MEMBERS** In the Thursday service, Brian and Alaina Thompson, and their children Ryker and Lily , will be received as members of St. Peter’s by Affirmation of Faith. We welcome the Thompsons into the fellowship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and our congregation, and pray for God’s richest blessings as they make this beginning in their new church home.

**PIANO STUDENTS** will be playing some of the music on Christmas Eve and December 27, December 31, and January 3.

**ADULT CONFIRMATION** In Sunday's service, Nola K Stahmann will be received by the rite of confirmation. We welcome Nola into the fellowship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and our congregation, and pray for God's richest blessings as she makes this beginning in her new church home.

**DIVINE CALL MEETING** We will have a Divine Call Meeting January 3 after the second service.

**SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS** Because of the vacancy and the effect that COVID-19 has had on Sunday Bible Class, we will no longer meet until the appropriate time presents itself. We will continue to have Wednesday Bible Class at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm. Please consider attending. We will continue to have Public School Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings at 9:00. Adult Information Class will continue on Wednesday at 7:00 pm.



**CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS** The Board of Outreach has beautiful Christmas postcards available for members to use this Christmas season. These invitations have our full Christmas season schedule. You can pick them up in the church entryway. May we all use this opportunity to invite our family and friends to share in the joy of our Savior's birth!

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES** will be held Thursday, December 31 at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:45 and 10:30 am. All three services will be the same.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** have been put in your mailboxes. Please check your offering envelopes to make sure the number labeled on top of your box matches ALL of the envelopes inside your box. If they do not, please let Anna or Ashley in the office know, at 922-1160 or email [annagilgenbach@stpetersfdl.net](mailto:annagilgenbach@stpetersfdl.net) or [ashleywill@stpetersfdl.net](mailto:ashleywill@stpetersfdl.net). Thank you!



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** With the holidays and school not in session, we will be in the office limited hours, so please be sure to make an appointment with our Pastors and Faculty in advance. We will resume regular office hours when school is back in session on January 4.

*Last Week's Stewardship*

Worship: 106 + 111 + 113 = 330

Midweek Bible Class: 10 + 7 = 17

*Daily Bible Readings*

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 12/20 Isaiah 14:24-16:14 | 12/24 Isaiah 24, 25 |
| 12/21 Isaiah 17, 18, 19  | 12/25 Isaiah 26, 27 |
| 12/22 Isaiah 20:1-22:14  | 12/26 Isaiah 28     |
| 12/23 Isaiah 22:15-23:18 |                     |

*First Fruits to the Lord 2020:*

|  | <u>Last Week</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Thank offerings in support of the unified budget | \$51,422.29      |                     |
| Other receipts in support of the unified budget  | 2,804.00         |                     |
| Total receipts in support of the unified budget  | 54,226.99        | \$1,413,289.42      |
| Requirement to support proposed unified budget   | 31,127.02        | 1,556,351.00        |
| Overage (Shortfall)                              | 23,099.97        | (143,061.58)        |
| Improvement Fund                                 | 235.00           |                     |
| WLA Forward in Trust                             | 244.00           |                     |
| Honoring the Lord!                               | 518.00           |                     |
| Audio/Visual Fund                                | 250.00           |                     |
| Radio Ministry                                   | 2,500.00         |                     |

*This Week at St. Peter's*

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

|             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| MONDAY      | SPLS Christmas Break Begins   |
| THURSDAY    | 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship |
|             | 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship |
|             | 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship |
| FRIDAY      | 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship |
| NEXT SUNDAY | 7:45 am Worship               |
|             | 10:30 am Worship              |