

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
1600 South Main Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin  
www.stpetersfdl.net

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 7:45 & 10:30 am  
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**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE** What a privilege it is to gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we benefit from the riches of God's grace.

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 each Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.
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  - Visitors, we are pleased that you have joined us this morning. Please fill out a Visitor Card and hand it to an usher. 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.
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**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*)

*This Christmas Eve we ask the question, "What child is this?" An angel answers this question. "A savior has been born to you." It is a stunning statement, for two reasons. First, this child looks nothing like what we would expect in a hero-savior. This child is weak, helpless, and mired in poverty. Second, he is your Savior. It is salvation we all need desperately. It was God's gift to us, a promise delivered at the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## Hymn 31

*The congregation is invited to sing stanza four.*

1. *O Lord of light, who made the stars, O Dawn, by whom we see the way,  
O Christ, Redeemer of the world: Come now and listen as we pray.*
2. *In lowliness You came to earth To rescue us from Satan's snares,  
O wondrous Love that healed our wounds By taking on our mortal cares.*
3. *To pay the debt we owed for sin, Your painful cross was made the price;  
From blessed Mary's womb You came, A victim pure for sacrifice.*
4. **But now you reign, the King of kings, Adored in highest majesty;  
Your very name is held in awe From pole to pole and sea to sea.**

## Isaiah 9:2-7

*This child is the Savior who brings light.*

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.  
For those living in the land of the shadow of death,

**C: the light has dawned.**

You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a Child is born.  
**To us a Son is given.**

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named:  
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

## Hymn 61

*Ladies are invited to sing stanza two.*

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**
2. *Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*
3. **Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

## Responses

*This child abides with us in our daily lives until we enter eternal life.*

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.  
**Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
**to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

to herald your love in the morning,  
**your truth at the close of the day.**

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

## Hymn 68

*Grandparents and children are invited to sing stanza two.*

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1. **Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
2. *The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*
3. **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.**

## 1 John 4:9-14

*This child sacrificed his life for you.*

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This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us so much,  
**we also should love one another.**

No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love has been brought to its goal in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

## Sins Forgiven

*This child sends away our sinfulness for his own sake.*

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Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,  
and in all that we have left undone.  
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Deliver us and restore us,  
that we may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,  
**and in him we are forgiven.**

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,  
**when we shall serve him in the newness of life. Amen.**

*Silence for thanksgiving and meditation.*

O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last,  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Hymn 67

*This child is Christ the King, the Word made flesh, and the Son of Mary.*

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1. **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!**
2. **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!**

3. **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!**

## *Sermon*

*His Light Conquers Us*

*Judges 7:19-20*

*Your rich and generous offerings are gathered and presented at the altar.*

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illuminate this night with your celestial brightness, that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy name,  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## *Hymn 57*

*This child's birth must be told everywhere.*

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.*

1. **While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.**

*Refrain.*

2. **The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.**

*Refrain.*

3. **Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.**

*Refrain.*

## *Luke 2:1-20*

*This child is born and the angels rejoice.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. And everyone went to register, each to his own town.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

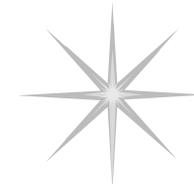
There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified!

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



## Hymn 54

*Gentlemen are invited to sing stanza three.*

1. Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
But there is room and welcome there for me,  
But there is room and welcome there for me.
2. In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
Sweet newborn babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
3. *How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.*
4. Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

## The Lord's Prayer

*This child makes us children of his heavenly Father.*

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.

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one,  
**fill us with such joy  
that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins  
and the hope of eternal life.**

And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn 60

*The light from the Christ candle is sent out into the congregation.*

1. **Stille Nacht, heilige nacht, Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hoch-heilige Paar Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar;  
Schlaf in himmlische Ruh', Schlaf in himmlische Ruh'!**
2. **Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**
3. **Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!**
4. **Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, Love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**



*The special Christmas Eve bulletins are given to the glory of our Savior by Corinne & Ben Zick.*

The poinsettias in the sanctuary and narthex  
are given to the glory of God by:

- Gib & Ann Trewin in memory of Robert & June Kartos & Marie Trewin
- The Fell Family in memory of Douglas Fell
- The Family of Bea & Bob Gorske in memory of Bea & Bob Gorske
- Loren & Joan Voss in memory of Pastor Verne & Kathie Voss
- Luke & Alyssa Kaspar in memory of Lois Kaspar
- Glenn & Jenna Beske in memory of David & Bonny Zarbock & Uncle & Brother David Beske
- Harry Rapp in memory of son Todd & daughter Tanya and wife Sandy Rapp
- David Oelke in memory of his mother & father
- Jeanne Colla in memory of her son, Michael Colla
- Mark & Bev Feucht in memory of Wes & Marcella Pade
- Mark & Heather Lueck in memory of Maverick Russart
- Joe & Nancy Birkholz in memory of Bob & June Kartos
- Vicki Brandau in memory of her beloved husband Joel Brandau
- Pastor & Mrs. Boehringer & Family in memory of Zechariah Frederick Boehringer
- Lucille Lohse in memory of Larry Lohse and Lawrence & Georgia Lohse
- Rick & Patti Kreis in memory of their parents, Bill & Sophie Kreis and Lyle & Donna Kegley and their daughter Amy Scott
- Marcella Meyer & Mike Meyer Family in memory of Royal Meyer
- Gary & Addie Jackson in memory of Carey Jean Jackson
- Mark & Betty Orvis in memory of Lorin Orvis and Joseph & Lucille Grailer
- Joy & Brian Schwark Family in memory of Barbara Schwark and David & Bonny Zarbock
- Phil & Carolyn Kramer in memory of their daughter Michelle and mother Gertrude Krueger

- Beverly Immel & family in memory of Bev's husband, George and daughter Cindy
- Don & Vonni Dunn in memory of Bill & Mary Lou Vilski
- Bev Bechler & family in memory of Donald (Butch) Bechler
- Gilgenbach family in memory of Richard Gilgenbach
- Will Family in memory of Wendy Tamm
- Dick Putz Family in memory of Lloyd & Virginia Putz, Cliff & Joyce Becker and Floyd Schwecke
- Dale Lubeck Family in memory of Loved Ones
- Vernon & Lila Immel in memory of their son Dean Immel and Allan Kiester, brother of Lila
- Jan Westphal & Family in memory of David Westphal
- Mark & Debbie Weber
- The Family of Mark Krewald in memory of Mark Krewald
- Karla Lockwood and John Pitzlin, Jr. in memory of their parents, Barb and John Pitzlin, Sr.
- Pete & Trish Reitz in memory of Trish Prickette
- Stacy & Samantha Behnke and Bob & Dorothy Messner in memory of Angie Behnke

