

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
1600 S. Main St. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937  
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 Luke J. Boehringer: 579-8150  
For hospital visits or emergencies, please call Pastor Zuberbier at 517-8808  
St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Benjamin J. Raddatz, 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 the Christ-child strengthen us in the green pastures of his Word.

*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.

**A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** O Lord, in prayer you spent the night, then sent the twelve at morning's light. Our hearts at your request are stirred to ask for heralds of your Word: Send preachers forth and each one bless with courage, zeal, and holiness. Keep pastors faithful, strong, and true, not working for themselves but you. Endow them with the grace they need, the lambs to serve, the sheep to feed, the precious flock to lead and guide – the Shepherd thus is glorified. Amen.

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**HYMN**

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* | **CW 52**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## SONG of PRAISE

*The Old Year Now Has Passed Away* | **CW 71**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Eternal Father, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever: the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LESSON

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

*We move into the future trusting that our God guides the future for the good of his people.*

PASTOR: <sup>1</sup>For everything there is an appointed time.

ALL: **There is an appropriate time for every activity under heaven:**

<sup>2</sup>a time to give birth and a time to die,  
**a time to plant and a time to uproot plants,**

<sup>3</sup>a time to kill and a time to heal,  
**a time to tear down and a time to build,**

<sup>4</sup>a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
**a time to mourn and a time to dance,**

<sup>5</sup>a time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones,  
**a time to embrace and a time not to embrace,**

<sup>6</sup>a time to search and a time to stop searching,  
**a time to keep and a time to throw away,**

<sup>7</sup>a time to rip and a time to sew,  
**a time to be silent and a time to speak,**

<sup>8</sup>a time to love and a time to hate,  
**a time for war and a time for peace.**

PASTOR: <sup>9</sup>What does the worker gain from his hard work? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the task which God has given the children of Adam to keep them busy. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything beautiful in its time. Yes, he has also put eternity in their hearts, yet it is not possible for man to understand the work that God has done from beginning to end.

LADIES: <sup>12</sup>I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy good things while they live. <sup>13</sup>Also, when anyone eats, drinks, and experiences the good things that his hard work leads to—this is God’s gift.

GENTLEMEN: <sup>14</sup>I know that everything God does will last forever. Nothing can be added to it or taken away from it. God acts so that people will fear him. <sup>15</sup>Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been. God makes whatever has already passed come again.

PASTOR: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR: Alleluia! Come to us, Emmanuel;

ALL: **come and set your people free! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Luke 13:6-9

*A parable that reminds us of our Lord’s gracious patience with us year after year as the Holy Spirit nourishes us to produce fruits of repentance in our lives.*

<sup>6</sup>He told them this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none.

Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil? <sup>8</sup>But the gardener replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. <sup>9</sup>If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN of the DAY**

*Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter* | **CW 70**

**“An Old Name for a New Year”**

*Pastor Boehringer*

**Sermon Text**

Luke 2:21

After eight days passed, when the child was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**CREED in SONG**

*We All Believe in One True God* | **CW 270**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**



**THE SACRAMENT**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

♪ **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.**

**PRAYER of THANKSGIVING**

*Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them.*

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, Redeemer, and Messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased.

**He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you. As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood.

**Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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.**

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

♪ **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**

*Please remember that all WELS Communicant Members who receive the Lord's Supper are asked to fill out a Communion Card each time they attend. Visitors are asked to write their home church on the back of the card. Thank you.*

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising | **CW 42***

*A Great and Mighty Wonder | **CW 36***

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

#### **HYMN**

*To God the Anthem Raising | **CW 73:1,4** (sung to the tune of CW 14)*

**To God the anthem raising, Sing, Christians, great and small;  
Sing out, his goodness praising, Oh, thank him, one and all!  
Behold how God this year, Which now is safely ended,  
Has in his love befriended His children far and near.**

**O Father, Lord of heaven, For all your gifts of love  
Which you to us have given We lift our thanks above.  
In Jesus' name we here, To you our prayers addressing,  
Still ask you for your blessing: Grant us a joyful year!**



*A Blessed New Year in the Name of Our Lord!*

#### **ORGANIST**

David Koepsell