



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, 8:00 & 10:30 am
Phone: 922-1160 or 921-8075

Pastor Luke Boehringer: 579-8150

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

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE Today we rejoice that our Savior has come in fulfillment of all of God's promises.

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 pastor.

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 each Sunday at 8:00 am 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 pastor, 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 pastor 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 pastor before communing with us. Thank you.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel. Amen.

SERVICE THEME

A Savior is Born

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Setting One | 154-170

OPENING HYMN

Love Has Come | 364

SONG OF PRAISE

A Great and Mighty Wonder | 349 v 1, 2

**A great and mighty wonder, a glorious mystery:
a virgin bears an infant who veils his deity. (Refrain)**

**Refrain: Proclaim the Savior's birth "To God on high be glory
and peace to all the earth!"**

**The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,
and cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky. (Refrain)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:15-17

This prophecy speaks of the Jews being taken captive to Babylon and also of Herod's murder of the boys of Bethlehem. Rachel died in childbirth in Bethlehem (Genesis 35).

¹⁵This is what the Lord says.

A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning.
Rachel is weeping for her children.

She refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

¹⁶This is what the Lord says.

Stop your crying. Do not shed tears,
because your work will be rewarded, declares the Lord.
They will return from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷There is hope for your future, declares the Lord.
Your children will return to their own borders.

The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

Since we have been redeemed by God's true Son, we are now able to call God "Father."

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "*Abba, Father!*" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (spoken)

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Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Come to us, Emmanuel; come and set your people free.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (Sermon Text)

Matthew 2:13-23

God's plan was to save the world by having his true Son serve as our substitute, dying on the cross. And so God saves his true Son from an early death.

After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him."

¹⁴Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt.
¹⁵He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. ¹⁷Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more.

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, ²⁰"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead."

²¹Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. ²³When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let All Together Praise Our God | 355

"Welcomed by Those Not His Own"

Pastor Boehringer

NICENE CREED & PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

pages 162-164

GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

pages 165-169

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

What Child Is This | 344
Of the Father's Love Begotten | 358

THANKSGIVING & BLESSING

page 170

CLOSING HYMN

Across the Sky the Shades of Night | 367



A Blessed New Year in the Name of Our Lord!

ORGANIST

David Koepsell

GREETERS

8:00 ~ Ken & Jo Wendorff

*The special New Year's bulletins are given to the glory of our Savior
by Steve & Anna Schmoldt.*