



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

1600 South Main Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160

Member Church of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

By God's grace we are building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word!

Pastor Luke Boehringer 920-579-8150 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 304
 St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Courtney Meyer, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302
 Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

- Tune into KFIZ FM 100.7 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 our pastor before communing with us.** Thank you.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SERVICE THEME

Good News of Great Joy: God Became Man!

OPENING HYMN

Adult Choir will sing stanza 2

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | 363

Please stand.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

DIALOGUE

Praise be to the Lord, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.**

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

**Our eyes have seen his salvation,
which he prepared in the sight of all nations.**

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord,
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

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.

Being in very nature God, he did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | 350

- Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”**
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
- Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,**
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
- Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!**
Light and life to all he brings, risen 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!”

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2–5a

Bethlehem was a little town. Yet, it will always be known as the birthplace of the God-man.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.

His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

Therefore the Lord will give them up,

until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.

Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

ADULT CHOIR

“What Child Shall Come?”

by Patrick Liebergen

What Child shall come that lonely night and bring God’s love forever? Will all behold the shining light and sing with joy together? “This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary! Sing we noel, sing we noel.

What Child shall come to set us free, the promise of salvation? And bring for all eternity God’s peace to all creation? Emmanuel, the Lord and King! Emmanuel, rejoice and sing! Sing we noel! Sing we noel!

What Child shall come that night? Come to dwell? Sing we noel! The Lord Emmanuel.

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 4:4–7

The Son of God was born of a woman so that he might redeem us and make us heirs of our heavenly 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, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “Abba, Father!” So 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. **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (spoken)

Galatians 4:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL (sermon text)

John 1:1–18

The mystery of the Incarnation—God became man; the Word became flesh.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband’s will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testified about him. He cried out, “This was the one I spoke about when I said, ‘The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.’” For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father’s side, has made him known.

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

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father’s Love Begotten | 358

Adult Choir will sing stanza 3

“God Has Been Made Known To Us”

Pastor Fred Toppe

CONFESSION OF SINS

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

Cleanse me from my sins.

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

Jesus says to his people, “If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven.”

Do you believe this?

Yes, I believe.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

pages 165-169

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

I Stand beside Your Manger Here | 334
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | 331

THANKSGIVING & BLESSING

page 170

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World | 353



ORGANIST: Erin Achey

GREETER: Sue Repp

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

- Ann Trewin in memory of Gib Trewin, Bob & June Kartos and Marie Trewin
- Stacy & Sammy Behnke in memory of Angie Behnke
- The Fell Family in memory of Douglas Fell
- Mark & Debbie Weber in memory of Orrin & Harriet Kletzine and Terry Kletzine
- Glenn & Jenna Beske in memory of David Beske and David & Bonny Zarbock
- Joy & Brian Schwark in memory of their parents David & Bonny Zarbock and Barbara Schwark
- Don & Vonni Dunn in memory of Bill & Mary Lou Vilski
- Dave Oelke in memory of his Mother & Father
- Rose Orvis in memory of Lorin Orvis
- Terry & Jill Reynolds in memory of Jeanne Colla & Michael Colla
- Michele Reinhold in memory of Parents & Grandparents
- Vicki Brandau in memory of Joel Brandau
- Lori Hardie in memory of Kurt Hardie
- Jan Westphal & Family in memory of David Westphal
- Barbara Krug in memory of Frank & Lois Krug
- Paula Walser, Brett, Shelby, Bea & Easton Walser and David, Colleen & Hayden Walser in memory of Richard Walser
- Family of Bea & Bob Gorske in memory of Bea & Bob Gorske
- In memory of Flora & Willard Huizenga and Violet & Robert Ellis, parents of Bill & Chris Huizenga
- Suzanne Kollmann in memory of her parents, Robert & Clara Schwertfeger and Sister & Brother in Law, Kathy & David Henke
- The Hanson & Toerpe Families in memory of Hollie Hanson
- Phil & Carolyn Kramer in memory of daughter, Michele and Mother, Gertrude Krueger
- Karla Lockwood & John Pitzlin, Jr. in memory of their parents, Barb & John Pitzlin, Sr.

- Joe & Nancy Birkholz in memory of Bob & June Kartos
- Lois Priebe in memory of Tom Priebe & Trish Babler
- Gary & Addie Jackson in memory of their daughter Carey Jackson
- Mark & Heather Lueck in memory of their grandson Maverick Russart
- Lucille Lohse in memory of Lawrence & Georgia Lohse and Larry Lohse
- In memory of Patricia Thornburg
- Ron & Marilyn Repp in memory of their great granddaughter, Bristol Bruesch
- Mark & Betty Orvis in memory of Joseph & Lucille Grailer
- Pete & Trish Reitz in memory of Sandy Reitz & Trish Ann Prickette
- The Family of Mark Krewald in memory of Mark Krewald
- Terry & Glenda Wickert in memory of Jack & Bernice Parman and Marilyn Wells
- Dick & Bev Putz in memory of LaDonna & Floyd Schwecke
- Dick Putz Family in memory of Cliff & Joyce Becker and Lloyd & Virginia Putz
- Luke, Sarah, Phoebe, Chloe, Mary, Boaz, Elizabeth, Josiah, Hannah & Gideon Boehringer in memory of Zechariah Frederick Boehringer
- The Boehringer Family in memory of Pastor Michael Zuberbier
- Lee, Colleen & Yvonne Fink in memory of Bob Fink
- Rick & Patti Kreis in memory of their parents Donna & Lyle Kegley and Sophie & Bill Kreis and their daughter Amy Scott
- Dewane & Mary Scheidt in memory of Pastor Zuberbier
- Sharon Kurtzahn in memory of Jerome Geiger
- Mark & Bev Feucht in memory of Wes & Marcella Pade



The special bulletin covers for Christmas Day are given to the glory of our Savior by Courtney & Amy Meyer in memory of Elmer Meyer.