

Begin  
the  
Year  
with



God

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation**

*Building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word*

1600 S. Main St. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 am

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor Luke Boehringer 920-579-8150 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 304

Emergency Contact: Pastor Dan Schmidt (920) 238-0541

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Courtney Meyer, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302

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**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE** May the peace of Christmas fill your heart in the New Year.

*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 the pastor.*

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 or FM 100.7 Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.
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**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 **please speak with the pastor before communing** with us. Thank you.

**A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** Jesus, your boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare. Dwell in my heart eternally, and reign without a rival there. To you alone, dear Lord, I live; myself to you, dear Lord, I give. In suffering, be your love my peace; in weakness, be your love my power; and when the storms of life shall cease, O Jesus, in that final hour be then my rod and staff and guide and draw me safely to your side. Amen.

**SERVICE THEME**

*Good News of Great Joy: Peace on Earth*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Setting One | 154-171*

**OPENING HYMN**

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen | 356*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; 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**

1 Kings 8:6-13

*King Solomon dedicates the temple, a place where the glory of the LORD would be revealed as the peace of salvation was proclaimed.*

The priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim, <sup>7</sup>for the cherubim were spreading their wings over the place for the ark, so that the cherubim covered the ark and its poles with their wings. <sup>8</sup>The poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. They are there to this day.

<sup>9</sup>There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets, which Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>10</sup>When the priests came out from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the House of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>The priests were not able to take their positions to minister in the presence of the cloud, because the Glory of the LORD had filled the House of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he dwells in thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I have truly built a majestic house for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

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

**SECOND LESSON**

Colossians 3:12-17

*As the peace of Christ rules our hearts, we are moved to live in peace.*

Therefore, as God's elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as

Christ forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Come to us, Em / manuel;  
Come and set your / people free.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL (Sermon Text)

Luke 2:22-40

*God allows elderly Simeon and Anna to see their Savior with their own eyes. This fills them with peace.*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>(As it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be called holy to the Lord.”) <sup>24</sup>And they came to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

<sup>29</sup>Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word,

<sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared before the face of all people,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

<sup>33</sup>Joseph and the child’s mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is

spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup>Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Let All Together Praise Our God | 355*

## “What Do You Want Your Last Words to Be?”

*Pastor Fred Toppe*

## NICENE CREED & PRAYER

pages 162-163

## GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

## THE SACRAMENT

pages 165-170

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain | 361*

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev’rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

*The Old Year Now Has Passed Away*

The old year now has passed away; We thank you, O our God, today  
That you have kept us through the year When danger and distress were near.

We pray you, O eternal Son, Who with the Father reigns as one,  
To guard and rule your Christendom Through all the ages yet to come.

Take not your saving Word away, Which lights and cheers our souls each day.  
Abide with us and keep us free From error and hypocrisy.

Oh, help us to forsake all sin, A new and holier life begin!  
Forgive the old year's sins, and bless The new year with true happiness,

Wherein as Christians we may live Or die in peace that you can give,  
To rise again when you will come And enter your eternal home.

There shall we thank you and adore With all the angels evermore.  
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith To praise your name through life and death.

**THANKSGIVING & BLESSING**

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**CLOSING HYMN**

*Across the Sky the Shades of Night | 367*



**ORGANIST:** John Nolte

**GREETERS:** 8:00~Travis & Brindah Birkholz, Carley & Mia  
10:30~Carly, Louis, Payton & Colton Ferren