



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

*Building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word*

*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

1600 S. Main St. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160

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

Pastor Peter Lindemann

920-342-6924 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 305

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

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**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE** May the Holy Spirit cause the eyes of our hearts to anxiously watch for the Advent of our King.

**We are glad you are here!**

If you have any questions about our service or practice, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or the pastors.

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 OR FM 100.7 each 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** O Savior, rend the heavens wide; come down, come down with mighty stride; unlock the gates, the doors break down; unbar the way to heaven's crown. Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; grim death looms fierce before our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand from exile to our promised land. Amen.



## SERVICE THEME

*Remembering Why Christ Came*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Setting One | 154-171*

*Remain Seated*



### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*These sentences will be spoken and the Advent candle lit immediately following the tolling of the bell at the beginning of the service.*

#### Advent 1

M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

**C: We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.**

M: We hear his call to watch.

**C: We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*One Advent candle (the Prophecy Candle) is lit.*

*The service continues with the opening hymn.*

## OPENING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway | 302*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*The LORD promised that a descendant of King David would be our righteous Savior.*

Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time,

I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line.

He will establish justice and righteousness on earth.

<sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved,

and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

This is what she will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

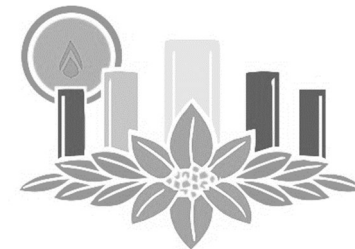
*Christ came the first time so that by his saving work we might be found blameless and holy when he comes again.*

Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, <sup>13</sup>so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

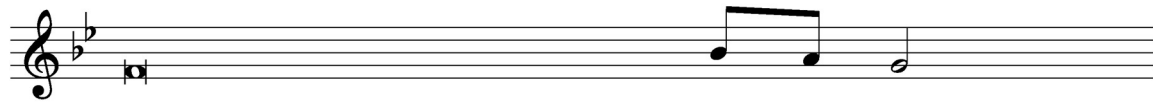


### Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Tone



See, your king comes to you, righteous and vic - to - rious,



lowly and riding on a don - key.

Refrain

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## GOSPEL (Sermon Text)

Matthew 21:1-11

*Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing he would soon be put to death. This is why Christ came.*

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>telling them, “Go to the village ahead of you. Immediately you will find a donkey tied there along with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup>Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did just as Jesus commanded them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their outer clothing on them, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their outer clothing on the road. Others were cutting branches from the

trees and spreading them out on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed kept shouting,

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>And the crowds were saying, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Savior of the Nations, Come* | 301

## Sermon “Why Do We Believe the Christmas Story?”

*Pastor Fred Toppe*

## NICENE CREED & PRAYER

*pages 162-163*

## GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

## THE SACRAMENT

*pages 165-170*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring* | 319

*Behold, a Branch Is Growing* | 360

## THANKSGIVING & BLESSING

*page 170*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes* | 313

**ORGANIST:** Amy Meyer

**GREETERS:** 8:00 ~ Vicki & Marv Mortensen

10:30 ~ Joan & Tom Mrazek

# Christmas Services & Concerts



- Dec. 2 Evening Circle's "Christmas Celebration" **6:00pm**
- Dec. 8 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Christmas **3:00 & 7:00pm**
- Dec. 11 Christ Child Concert **6:30 pm**
- Dec. 13 Joyful Witness Concert **7:00 pm @ St. Paul's, North Fond du Lac**
- Dec. 14 Joyful Witness Concert (repeat) **2:00 pm @ St. Paul's, NFDL**
- Dec. 15 St. Peter's Day School Prek-1st Christmas Service **10:30 am**
- Dec. 19 WLA's Christmas Concert **7:00 pm @ Winnebago Lutheran Academy**
- Dec. 20 WLA's Christmas Concert (repeat) **1:00 pm @ WLA**
- Dec. 22 St. Peter's Day School 2-8 Christmas Service **2:00 pm**
- Dec. 24 St. Peter's Christmas Eve Services **3:30 pm** or **6:30 pm**
- Dec. 25 St. Peter's Christmas Day Service **9:00 am**
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve with Communion **6:30 pm**

**\*\*\*Thursday & Sunday Services are as Regularly Scheduled\*\*\***