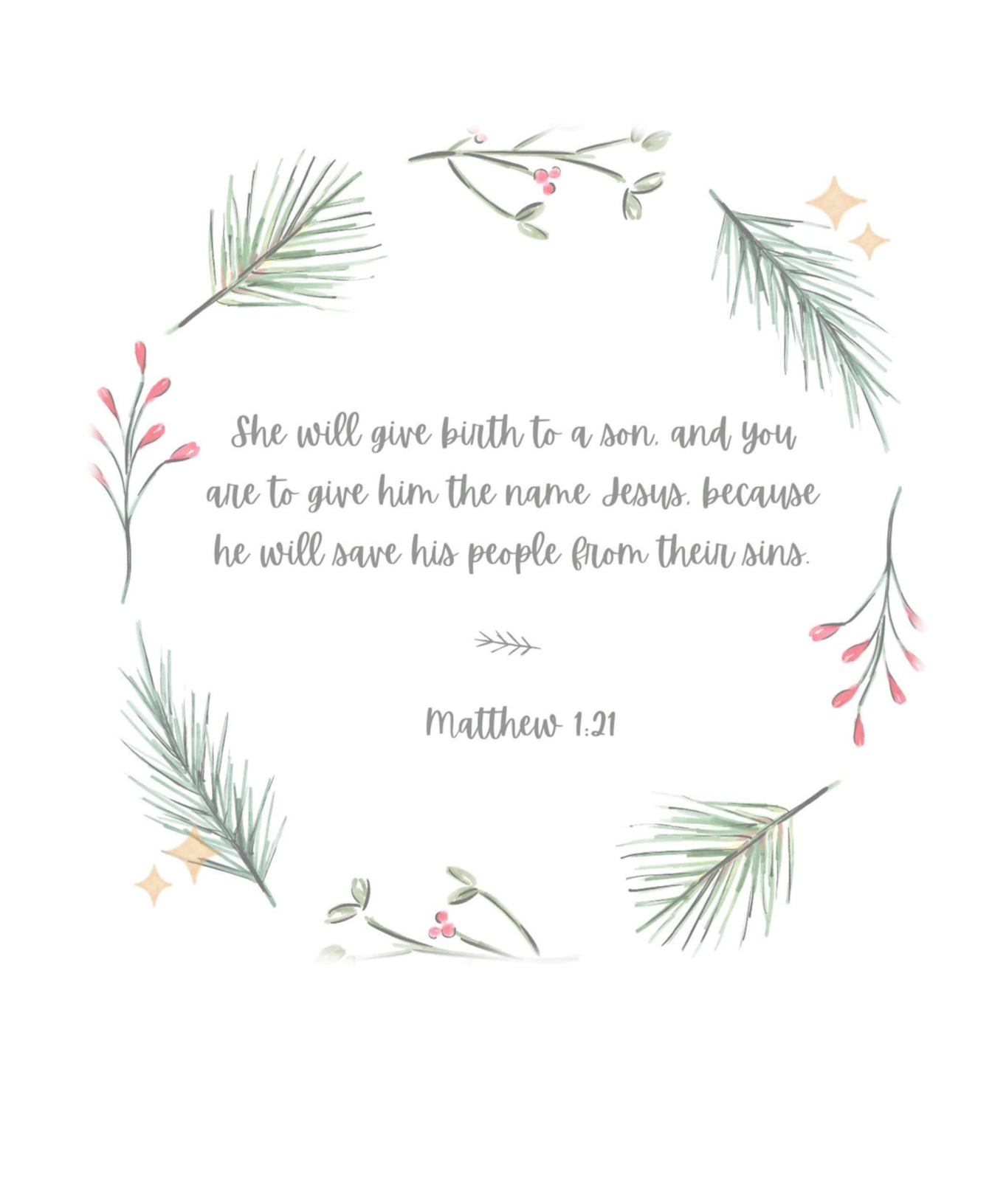




Love   
came at  
CHRISTMAS



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Christmas Day



She will give birth to a son, and you  
are to give him the name Jesus, because  
he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word!

1600 South Main Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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

SERVICE THEME

God Gives Himself as One of Us!

HYMN 353

Joy to the World

All Stanza 1 | Choir Stanza 2 | All Stanza 3

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

PSALM 96

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad,

let all that is in them sing to the LORD.

Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, praise his name;

proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering and come into his courts.

Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,  
he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad,  
let all that is in them sing to the LORD!

With no introduction:

4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the only hope of salvation for all people. Bless our worship as we kneel at Your humble manger bed, so that the good news of salvation through Your cross will fill our hearts and lives; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

To reveal Himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.

To reveal Himself to us, God hid Himself in human flesh.

Then Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” The Lord said, “I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy.” He said, “You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live.” The Lord also said, “Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen.”

... The Lord came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed: “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children’s children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation.”

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

**PSALM 98**

*Sing to the Lord a New Song*

*Refrain*

Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done mar-vel-ous things.

*Psalm tone*

**Sing to the LORD a | new song,  
for He has done mar- | velous things.**

**The LORD has made His sal- | vation known  
and revealed His righteousness to the | nations.**

**He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of | Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.**

*Refrain*

{Continued on next page}

**Shout for joy to the LORD, | all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with | music;**

**Make music to the LORD | with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of | singing.**

**Shout for joy before the | LORD, the King.**

**He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with | equity.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son  
and to the Holy | Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*Refrain*

Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done mar-vel-ous things.

**THE EPISTLE**

Romans 8:31-32

*If the Father was willing to give us the gift of His only Son,  
clearly there is no good thing He would withhold from us.*

What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Royal David’s City*

*by Joel Raney*

*Sing a song of hope, sing a song of peace. Gloria.*

*Sing a song of love. Sing a song of Christmas joy; hallelujah, Christ is born.*

*Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie.  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.*

*Mary was that mother mild. Jesus Christ, her little child. In royal David's city.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** (*sermon text*)

John 1:1-18

*In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen.*

*The Gospel is read responsively.*

PASTOR: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

**ALL: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

**He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**

**The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.**

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

**He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.**

**Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

**We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

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

**HYMN 339**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**SERMON**

**“Receive the newborn King”**

John 1:12

I. You who believe

II. Stop and gaze at Him

*Pastor Lindemann*

**SECOND HALF OF THE ATHANASIAN CREED**

*The first half of this statement of faith confesses the Holy Trinity, three Persons in one God.*

*The second half that we confess now proclaims the Incarnation of the eternal Son of God.*

PASTOR: It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation that one faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith:

**ALL: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.**

**He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and He is man, born in time from the nature of His mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as to His deity, less than the Father as to His humanity;**

**and though He is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one:**

**one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh is one human being, so God and man is one Christ.**

**He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**At His coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.**

**Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.**

**This is the true Christian faith.**

**Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.**

**GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING**

## HYMN 358

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

### 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.**

## HYMN 356

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

### PRAYERS & BLESSING

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 may we 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. **Amen.**

Now He, who by His incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## HYMN 363

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

December 26 Thursday Service, 6:30pm  
December 29 Sunday Services, 8:00 & 10:30am  
New Year's Eve with Communion, 6:30pm

***Gather with Us in Jesus' House Soon!***

### The poinsettias in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by:



*In Loving  
Remembrance*

- The Fell Family in memory of Douglas Fell
- Colleen & Ash Hanson in memory of Hollie Hanson
- Vicki Brandau in memory of Joel Brandau
- The Family of Mark Krewald in memory of Mark Krewald
- Addie Jackson in memory of Daughter, Carey Jean & Husband, Gary
- Loren & Joan Voss in memory of Rev. Verne & Kathie Voss
- Dave Oelke in memory of his Wife, Mother & Father
- Glenn & Jenna Beske in memory of David & Bonny Zarbock
- Glenn & Jenna Beske in memory of David Beske
- Joy & Brian Schwark in memory of their parents, Barbara Schwark and David & Bonny Zarbock
- Mike & Mary Daly in memory of Peter & Tina Gonnering
- Phil & Carolyn Kramer in memory of daughter, Michele and mother, Gertrude Krueger
- Linda Will in memory of Clarence & Ruth Will and Howard & Ann Meyer
- Ron & Marilyn Repp in memory of Great Granddaughter Bristol Bruesch
- The Butz Family in memory of Carol J. Butz
- Don & Vonni Dunn in memory of Bill & Mary Lou Vilski
- Stacy & Sammy Behnke and Bob & Dorothy Messner in memory of Angie Behnke
- Lou Lohse in memory of Larry Lohse
- Mark & Heather Lueck in memory of their grandson, Maverick Russart
- Courtney & Amy Meyer in memory of Jerry Gronholz

- Mark & Debbie Weber in memory of Orrin & Harriet Kletzine (Parents) and Terry Kletzine (Brother)
- Terry & Glenda Wickert in memory of Jack & Bernice Parman, Florence Kluball and Marilyn Wells
- Charlie Michler in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Michler, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Michler, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Michler, Miss Louise & Miss Margret Michler
- Pastor & Mrs. Luke Boehringer & Family in memory of Pastor Michael Zuberbier
- Luke, Sarah, Phoebe, Chloe, Mary, Boaz, Elizabeth, Josiah, Hannah, Gideon & Abigail Boehringer in memory of Zechariah Frederick Boehringer
- Kathleen Placek in memory of her parents, Ralph & Joan Leisten
- Barbara Krug in memory of her parents, Frank & Lois Krug
- Family of Lyle & Bea Gorske in memory of Lyle & Bea Gorske
- Family of Rich Walser in memory of Richard Walser
- Stacy & Sammy Behnke in memory of Angie Behnke
- Betty Schnettler in memory of Elmer Miritz and Brandi Schnettler
- Pete & Trish Reitz in memory of Trish Prickette and Sandy Reitz
- Lois Priebe in memory of Tom Priebe and Trish Babler
- Colleen Fink in memory of Lee Fink and Bob Fink
- Karla Lockwood & John Pitzlin Jr. in memory of their parents Barb & John Pitzlin Sr.
- Steve & Sue Koepsell in memory of DuWayne Zamzow
- Dick Putz Family in memory of Lloyd & Virginia Putz and Cliff & Joyce Becker
- Rose Orvis & Family in memory of Lorin Orvis
- Mark & Betty Orvis in memory of Joseph & Lucille Grailer

**ORGANIST:** Dr. Brent Nolte

**PIANIST:** Laura Nolte

**FLUTIST:** Brianna Nolte

*The special bulletin cover is given by Linda Will  
in memory of Ann Meyer & Ruth Will*