

**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

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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 God's Holy Spirit continue to restore unto us the joy of his salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**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 pastors.*

**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 one of our pastors before communing** with us.

**A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** O Advent King, our sins forgive; come in our lives and hearts to live, and let our humble souls become a temple worthy of your name. Then in the last and dreadful day, when earth and heaven shall melt away, your flock, redeemed from sinful stain, shall swell the sound of praise again. Amen.

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**SERVICE THEME**

*Christmas Results in Great Joy*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Setting Two | 172-187*





### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*These sentences will be spoken and the Advent candles lit immediately at the beginning of the service.*

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

**C: We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people’s prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

M: We hear his call to see the light.

**C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our confidence and joy.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

*Three Advent candles (the Prophecy, the Bethlehem, and the Angel candles) are lit.*

### OPENING HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates | 305*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; 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

Zephaniah 3:14-17

*We can rejoice, because the LORD has saved us and delights in us.*

Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup>The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel’s king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. <sup>16</sup>In that day Jerusalem will be told, “Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.”

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

### SECOND LESSON (sermon text)

Philippians 4:4-7

*What is the reason for our enduring joy? The LORD is near to us.*

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 179

Matthew 11:10



#### Refrain



#### Tone



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## GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

*Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.*

So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

<sup>11</sup>He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

<sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup>To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

<sup>14</sup>Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* | 324

## SERMON

### “The Lord Is Near”

1. The Lord listens
2. The Lord acts

Philippians 4:4-7

*Pastor Lindemann*

## NICENE CREED

*pages 180-182*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

## THE SACRAMENT

*pages 183-187*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* | 363  
*O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly* | 366 v 1-2

CLOSING HYMN

*O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly* | 366 v 3-4



**ORGANIST:**

Brent Nolte

**GREETERS:**

8:00 ~ Mike Dowland

10:30 ~ Courtney, Chris, Brayden, Sophia & Aubri Stolper

# Holiday Services & Concerts



- 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**  
@ Winnebago Lutheran Academy
- 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 Service with Communion **6:30 pm**