



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

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Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE May God's Holy Spirit prepare our hearts to welcome our newborn King!

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 pastors.

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**SERVICE THEME** *A night of repentance and peace*

**OPENING HYMN** *Love Has Come* | **364**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## PSALM 90

M: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity you are God.

**C: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day, like yesterday that has gone by, or like a watch in the night.**

M: Surely, we are consumed by your anger, and by your wrath we are terrified. You have laid out our guilty deeds in front of you. Our hidden sins are revealed in the light of your face.

**C: For all our days pass away under your fury. We finish our years like a sigh.**

M: The days of our lives add up to seventy years, or eighty years if we are strong.

**C: Yet the best of them are trouble and sorrow, for they disappear quickly, and we fly away.**

M: Who can understand the power of your anger? But your fury is consistent with the fear that is owed to you.

**C: Teach us to number our days in such a way that we bring a heart of wisdom.**

M: Turn, O Lord! How long! Change your mind toward your servants.

**C: Satisfy us in the morning with your mercy, so that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

M: Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.

**C: Let your deeds be seen by your servants and your majesty by their children.**

M: May the kindness of the Lord our God rest upon us. Establish the work of our hands for us.

**C: Yes, establish the work of our hands.**

## HYMN

*Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year | 368 verses 1-3*

## ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

For everything there is an appointed time.

There is an appropriate time for every activity under heaven:

a time to give birth and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot plants,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones,  
a time to embrace and a time not to embrace,  
a time to search and a time to stop searching,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to rip and a time to sew,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his hard work? I have seen the task which God has given the children of Adam to keep them busy. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Yes, he has also put eternity in their hearts, yet it is not possible for man to understand the work that God has done from beginning to end.

## HYMN

*Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year | 368 verses 4-7*

## HEBREWS 13:10-25

We have an altar from which those who minister at the tent have no right to eat. For the high priest brings the blood of the animals sacrificed for sins into the Most Holy Place, and then their bodies are burned outside the camp. Jesus suffered outside the gate for this reason: to sanctify people by his own blood. So then let us go to him, outside of the camp, bearing his disgrace. For we do not have a permanent city here, but we are looking for the city that is coming. Through Jesus, therefore, let us constantly offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls as men who will give an account. Obey them, so that they may do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no benefit to you. Pray for us, because we

are sure that we have a good conscience, and because in everything we want to conduct ourselves in an honorable way. I urge you to do this even more, so that I may be restored to you quickly.

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, in connection with his blood, which established the eternal testament—may he equip you with every good thing to do his will, as he works in us what is pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Now I urge you, brothers, to bear with this word of encouragement, for I have written you only a brief letter. I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives very soon, he and I will see you.

Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. Grace be with you all. Amen.

## HYMN

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* | 493

## SERMON

### MATTHEW 25:1-13

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.



## GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

### PRAYERS

#### CONFESSION

M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in Your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring Your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before You. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide Your face from me, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.**

M: And so we confess:

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against You in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.**

M: Jesus says to His people, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**C: Yes, I believe.**

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

**C: O Lord, my God, I called to You for help, and You answered me. I thank You for the love You have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through Him You have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve You and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.**

M: Go in peace. The Lord is with you.

**ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* | **331**

**PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Let Us All with Gladsome Voice* | **332**



*A Blessed New Year in the Name of Our Lord!*

**ORGANIST**

Erin Achey

*The special bulletin cover is given by the Morenzen family wishing you all  
a Merry Christmas and God's blessings throughout the New Year.*