

**Advent 3 (December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023)  
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



**Rev. Leonard Tanksley, Pastor: 260-246-7470  
Church & Study: 260-724-7533  
Email: leonard.tanksley@gmail.com  
Seminararian: Adam Thiel  
Seminararian: Nathan Kieser  
Secretary: Jen Fuelling: 815-216-8516  
Email: splchurchsec@gmail.com**

## Opening Hymn: 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord, from ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

**P** Jen, Claire, Ashley, and Dane is it your intention to serve Edwin and Everly as sponsors in the Christian faith? If so, then answer: Yes, with the help of God.

**R** Yes, with the help of God.

**P** God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

**C** Amen.

**P** Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. The apostle Peter has declared, "Baptism now saves you," and this promise of salvation is "for you and your children." In Baptism God puts His name on us with the water and His Word so that there may be no doubt that we are surely His by all that Christ has won for us through His saving death and resurrection.

**P** On November 17, 2023, Edwin Jeffrey and Everly Hope were baptized with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution and promise. This Baptism was administered at DuPont Hospital by me, the Reverend Leonard Tanksley

**P** The Baptism was witnessed by Jen and Dane Fuelling. Do you attest that this Baptism was administered as has been reported? Then answer: Yes, we do.

**R** Yes, we do.

*The pastor may place his hands on the head of the person whose Baptism is being recognized while saying:*

**P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ☩ everlasting.

**C** Amen.

**P** Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

*The person whose Baptism is being recognized may be welcomed with the following:*

**A** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother and sister in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**C** **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

*Stand*

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Edwin and Everly the new birth in Holy Baptism and made them members of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and heirs of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as they have now become Your children, You would keep them in their baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure they may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Heavenly Father, You sent Your own Son into this world as the child of the virgin Mary. We thank You for the life of this child entrusted to our care. Help us remember that we are all Your children and so love and nurture them that they may attain to the full stature intended for them in Your eternal kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Peace ☩ be with you.

**C** **Amen.**

*All return to their places.*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**Introit**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

**Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,\***  
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.**  
Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*  
that glory may dwell | in our land.  
**Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\***  
**and our land will yield its | increase.**  
Righteousness will go be- | fore him\*  
and make his foot- | steps a way.  
**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.**  
Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

## Kyrie

LSB 204

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .  
<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

<sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible  
and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before  
all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with  
the Father,  
by whom all things were  
made;  
who for us men and for our  
salvation came down from  
heaven  
and was incarnate by the  
Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us  
under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose  
again according to the  
Scriptures

and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of  
the Father.

And He will come again with  
glory to judge both the living  
and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no  
end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the  
Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the  
Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy  
Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism  
for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the  
resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to  
come. Amen.

*Sit*

Hymn of the Day: 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sermon

*Stand*

Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the Church, preparing to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, that remembering John the Forerunner's preaching of the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, we, too, may die to sin and rise to new life, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Church, that the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world would richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers; and for Matthew, our Synod president; Rick, our district president; Shayne, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ, including me, your unworthy servant, that they would remain faithful to not deny but confess Him, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Christ's gracious visitation; and that God would preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by His Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all in authority, that they would be given wisdom and insight until the day when Christ comes again in glory to usher in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties, including:

Kay Brown (Sister of Dave and Lynn Matthews) for strength as she receives therapy

Bob Hegerfeld

Ron Franz for strength and healing

Lynn and Lori Matthews

Troy Stults (Son of Andy and Brenda Wolf)

Eldora Fuelling

Cheryl Caffee

Shelly Gerke (Wife of Troy Gerke)

Jim Thieme

Glen Deatruck for healing from a fall

that they may be granted health and the certainty that our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when Christ returns to make all things new, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Church, as she eagerly awaits the return of her Bridegroom, that we would not grow weary, but be strengthened through the Word and Sacraments to ever hold fast to Christ's promise of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Offering

*Stand*

### Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

LSB 208

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those**



**who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## **Pax Domini**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 210*

**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

## **Distribution**

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

*Stand*

## **Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 211*

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,

**All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **Benedicamus**

*LSB 212*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

### **Hymn to Depart: 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending**

#### **In His Service Today:**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Leonard Tanksley

**Liturgist:** The Sem. Adam Thiel

**Organist:** Mrs. Jackie Sanderson

**Deacons:** Matt Braun (Head), Fred M. Fuelling, Louie Fuelling

**Elders:** Rod Busick (Head), Jim Fuelling, John Fuelling, Andy Wolf

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERINGS:** Home Purpose- \$12,044.57; Missions- \$140.00; Vanco- \$44.78.

**\*NOTE: Needed each week to meet the ministry needs of St. Peter: \$5,700.00.\***



You may also donate your offerings online by scanning the QR code with your phone.

**NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:** Our Missions budget 2023 balance remaining is \$4,580.00.

**THE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE** is accepting donations to help with the cost of new decorations. A basket is available in the Narthex.

**RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM INTO CHRIST** was held for Edwin Jeffrey and Everly Hope Liles this morning. Edwin and Everly were born on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. They were baptized at DuPont Hospital on November 17, 2023. Edwin and Everly are the children of Eric and Emalese (Fuelling) Liles and join big brother Emmett. Maternal grandparents are Jim and Becky Fuelling. Edwin's baptismal sponsors are Jen Fuelling, Claire Liles, and Ashley Bell. Everly's baptismal sponsors are Dane and Jen Fuelling.

### **Elections for the 2024 Council:**

**Vice-President:** Duane Franz (uncontested)

**Elders:** Fred D. Fuelling (Head 2025), Steve Fuelling (2 positions; uncontested)

**Deacons:** Nathan Scherer (Head 2024), Joseph Werling (Head 2025), Dan DeLong (3 positions; uncontested)

**Trustees:** Vern Witte (Head 2025), Greg Fuelling (2 positions; uncontested)

**School Board (1):** Fred M. Fuelling (over Dane Fuelling)

**Financial Secretary:** Josh Franz (uncontested)

### **ACCEPTED BIDS:**

**Janitor:** Jana Neher (\$300/month); Uncontested; Current rate was \$300/month

**Groundskeeper:** Chris Neher (\$400/month plus supplies and gas); Uncontested; Current rate was \$400/month plus supplies and gas

**Secretary:** Amber Shaffer (\$300/month) over Jen Fuelling (\$400/month); Current rate was \$400/month

**NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY:** Thank you for allowing me to serve the congregation since July 2012. I have been privileged to raise my children here as my helpers, allowing them to help me with the simpler tasks like folding bulletins and newsletters, stamping newsletters, filling the copier with paper, and changing or pulling numbers for the sanctuary. This job was a blessing to our family. I am thankful I could help St. Peter with the secretarial duties and helping advance some of the technology. I am sad to leave this position, but I am thankful for the past 11 years. My last day as St. Peter secretary will be December 31, 2023.

-Jen Fuelling

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** are available in the Narthex.

**CHURCH CHOIR:** The adult choir will rehearse in the church balcony every Wednesday, starting promptly at 7:30 pm. Please join us as we prepare music for the Festivals of the Church year!

**SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP THEME for DECEMBER - "COMFORT FOOD":** During the month of December we will be collecting COMFORT FOOD items. These items will be delivered to the Seminary the first of January. Some suggestions are but not limited to: pasta (all shapes), noodles, rice, chili mix, sloppy joe sauce, taco seasoning, refried beans, beans (black, kidney, etc), canned tomatoes, taco shells, mac and cheese dinners, canned meats (tuna, beef, chicken). Other items that are always in demand are breakfast cereal (excluding Chex). All your donations are greatly appreciated and are a great benefit to the students and their

families. Many report that 75-85% of their grocery needs are met at the Co-Op which relies solely on donations from individuals, congregations and organizations. Items can be placed in the gray and white bag at Church. Thank you for all your donations!

### **CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

TODAY	9:00 am	Divine Service with Holy Communion
WEDNESDAY	5:30pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Advent Midweek Service
	7:30 pm	Church Choir meets in St. Peter balcony
THURSDAY	9:00 am	Quilting
	9:30am	Pastor's Bible Study at Bingen
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Divine Service
	-----	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
MONDAY	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

## **Additional Christmas Worship Opportunities, 2023**

**Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 pm**

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm

Mid-Week Advent Service at 7:00pm

**Sunday, December 24, 7:00 pm**

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

**Monday, December 25, 9:00 am**

Divine Service of Holy Communion for Christmas Day,  
Festival of Our Lord's Nativity

**Sunday, December 31, 7:00 pm**

New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion