

**Advent 4 (December 24th, 2023)
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)
1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



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Opening Hymn: 900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Stand

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.
L Behold, the Lord comes to save us.
C O come, let us worship Him.

Venite

LSB 220

- C** O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving,
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
the strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, for He made it,
and His hand formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- L** Behold, the Lord comes to save us.
C O come, let us worship Him.

Sit

Office Hymn: 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a

tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

LSB 221

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

- C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- L** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Hymn of the Day: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sermon

Stand

Benedictus: 936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel

Sit

Offering

Stand

Kyrie

LSB 227

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

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.

Collects

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the holy Sacraments, making them perfect in love and in all good works, and establishing in them the faith once delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in Your Church that, by their devoted service, faith may abound and Your kingdom increase. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P In Your mercy strengthen newly established congregations, and support them in challenging times. Make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and let their faith and zeal for the Gospel refresh and renew the witness of Your people everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, including the president and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve this people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and order our days in Your peace. Prosper the labor of those who work to bring peace and justice to the nations of the world that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless the schools of the Church and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach and work in them. Grant Your wisdom in such measure that people may serve You honorably in Church and state, and that our common life may be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Sanctify our homes with Your presence, and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism, and enable their parents to bring them up in lives of faith and

devotion. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let Your blessing remain upon the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Take under Your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who put their hands to any useful task. Give them the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity 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 Deatrack for healing from a fall

Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near (especially *[name]*). Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors (especially *[name]*). Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for Grace

L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; 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 228

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 228

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.

Hymn to Depart: 370 What Child Is This

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: (12/10: Home Purpose- \$6,305.00; SPI- \$250.00; Vanco- \$44.78; (12/17): Home Purpose- \$3,681.00; 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.

THE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE will be taking down Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 7th at 1pm. Thank you!

NOTE: I will no longer be taking care of the church's flower gardens beginning this Spring but will continue with care of the old parsonage. -Jim Gariepy

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

Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute to Begin January 23, 2024

This year marks the 55th year for sessions of the Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute (LBI), which will take place January 23, 30 & February 6, 13, 2024 from 7:00-9:15pm at Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School (handicap accessible) on Highway 27 just north of Decatur. These continuing education courses, open to students and adults, are conducted by the LCMS churches of the Decatur circuit and taught by local pastors and seminary professors. The four courses offered this term include:

Rev. Dr. Jon S. Bruss - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
Topic: The Acts of the Apostles Through Four Windowpanes

Rev. Dr. Paul J. Grime - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
Topic: The Divine Service in Detail

Rev. Leonard E. Tanksley - St. Peter Fuelling, Decatur
Topic: The Joseph Narratives (Genesis 37-50)

Rev. Samuel S. Wirgau - Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian
Topic: Lutheran Doctrine: What We Teach and Why it Matters

Registration for the courses will begin at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 23. Fees are \$10.00 per person for adults and are free for college, high school, and elementary students. The public is cordially invited to attend.

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF DECEMBER 24th, 2023

TODAY	9:00 am	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	-----	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
MONDAY	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion
WEDNESDAY	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
	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion

Additional Christmas Worship Opportunities, 2023

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