

**The Nativity of Our Lord (December 24th, 2023)
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)
1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



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Opening Hymn: 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit

When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

**Why do the | nations rage*
and the peoples | plot in vain?**

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against his a- | noointed.

**He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.**

Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

**“As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”**

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.
When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:
C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.
O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.
Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to
the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in
darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of
deep darkness,
 on them has light shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation;
 you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as they are glad when they
divide the spoil.
⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
 and the staff for his shoulder,
 the rod of his oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day
of Midian.
⁵ For every boot of the tramping
warrior in battle tumult
 and every garment rolled in
blood
 will be burned as fuel for the

fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given;
and the government shall be
upon his shoulder,
 and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of his
government and of peace
 there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over
his kingdom,
 to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with
righteousness
 from this time forth and
forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts
will do this.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

- C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref. 2–4

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

**☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

☐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

☐ Lord, have mercy.

☐ On this most holy night, in awe at the wonder and majesty of the incarnation and in thanksgiving that the Savior of the nations has come, let us pray to the Lord:

☐ Lord, have mercy.

☐ That the proclamation of Christ's birth would sound forth throughout the world, that God would give faithful pastors to His Church to proclaim these good tidings, and that He would give His people willing ears to hear and believe, let us pray to the Lord:

☐ Lord, have mercy.

P For peace in all homes, that our heavenly Father, who revealed Jesus' identity and Mary's fidelity to Joseph, would richly preserve all families with His Word and grace to live in love for one another, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For good government, that God would move all authorities to govern in service to the will of David's Son and Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For generosity, that the Father who loves us and sent His Son as the propitiation for our sins would perfect His love in us to show kindness to those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For deliverance from affliction, that God, who sent Jesus to save us from sin's curse, would hear the pleas of all who call to Him for mercy 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

and that He would rescue them from trouble and preserve them in the hope of the resurrection in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For emergency workers and all whose vocations keep them from their families for our well-being this evening, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith and humility to receive the virgin-born Son of God in the signs where He is promised to be found: His Holy Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Almighty God, You have given Your Son, born of Mary, to be the Savior of the world. Send Your Spirit and abide with us, that we may confess Him and remain in Your love until He comes again in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

LSB 197

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 ✠ 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 ✠

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

LSB 197

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

Distribution

364 Away in a Manger

368 Angels We Have Heard on High

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

- C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

- 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.

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

- A** Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Hymn to Depart: 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3

In His Service Today:

Preacher/Celebrant: The Rev. Leonard Tanksley

Liturgist: The Sem. Brandon Sullivan

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

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.

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

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