

**Christmas Day (December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023)  
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



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## Opening Hymn: 382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

*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

**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.

**Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\***

**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.**

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\***

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;\*  
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!  
**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.**

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.**

## 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.  
Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free  
from the bondage of sin; through 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 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”  
<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.  
<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

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

## Epistle

*Hebrews 1:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

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

## Alleluia

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<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>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**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: 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory**

**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.

**☐** That the Lord would lift our hearts to hope and joy in the celebration of our Savior's birth; and that we would manifest this joy in witness to the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For churches, schools and every place where the good news of God-in-our-flesh is taught, that the voice of truth may be discerned from all error so we may know and confess with joy the good news of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That the Lord would preserve those threatened by persecution for the sake of Christ and grant them courage, comfort and peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the nations of this world, that they would be given a spirit of peace, so that conflicts would cease and all would see in the birth of Jesus the salvation of our God, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That the Lord would give peace to those troubled in mind and heart, deliver them from the taunts and temptations of the evil one, and enable us to show them compassion, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That the Lord would grant healing, relief, comfort and peace to all the sick, suffering, dying and those who grieve 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 the Lord would bless doctors, nurses, all medical professionals and caregivers in their service; and that all would rejoice in the good news of Christ, our light and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That the Lord would teach us generosity for the work of His kingdom; that we would return to Him tithes and offerings; and that by them, we may display before the world our trust in His provision and goodness, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all communicants, that we may receive the great love of God, which laid His Son in a manger and now lays His flesh and blood before us in the Sacrament; and that we may bow our hearts before Him with all those in heaven and on earth who adore Him, receiving His forgiveness and life with repentance and joy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord God, in the birth of Your Son You have called people from every time and place into His Body, the Church. We give You thanks for the believers who went before us, especially who were with us in Christmases past and who now live with You. Grant us sure confidence in Your promise of resurrection and eternal life, and bring us with them at last into Your presence; 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.**

## 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  $\text{✠}$  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

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

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain  
621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

*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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen, amen, amen.

## Hymn to Depart: 387 Joy to the World

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

TODAY	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 31, 7:00 pm**

**New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion**