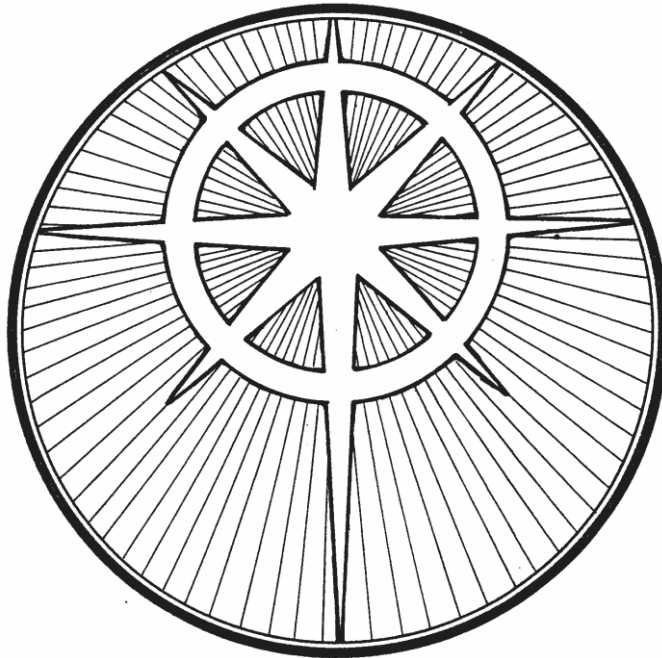


**The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 7th, 2024)
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)
1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



**Rev. Leonard Tanksley, Pastor: 260-246-7470
Church & Study: 260-724-7533
Email: leonard.tanksley@gmail.com
Seminarian: Adam Thiel
Seminarian: Nathan Kieser
Secretary: Amber Shaffer
Email: splchurchsec@gmail.com**

Opening Hymn: 412 The People That in Darkness Sat

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

I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of up- | rightness;*

you have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your com- | panions;*

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and | cassia.

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.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

Kyrie

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, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,

because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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: 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C 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

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Almighty God enthroned forever, You love righteousness and hate wickedness. For our sakes, You sent Your only begotten Son to suffer the wages of our sin, that we might be holy in Your sight. As You have poured grace and salvation upon us, so anoint us also with the oil of gladness and the hope of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy God, eternal Light, You made Paul a minister according to the gift of Your grace. Embolden our pastors to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Open our ears to hear and our hearts to believe their message that the King of kings has given His life for us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You prepared a place for Your Son, Jesus, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and in the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes and all who dwell in them, that Your Word would be heard and Your mercy be shown therein. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, bring an end to all threats of violence. Raise up leaders who will act with integrity, pursue justice and follow Your commands. Grant to all people the blessings of food, shelter, medical care and safety, and sustain those whose duty it is to protect and defend. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Give to the afflicted Your comforting presence, relief in their suffering and healing according to Your will. Sustain Your servants who trust in You including:

Kay Brown (Sister of Dave and Lynn Matthews)

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

Give hope to the weary and peace to the dying. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, You brought the Magi of old to worship Your Son, Jesus, and so You have brought us to worship Him also. Receive our gifts and give us Christ in His body and blood, that we may return home according to Your holy way. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You have anointed Your Son to be our Savior and have established His throne forever and ever. Grant that we who are called by His name would see His reign spread among all nations; 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 ✠ 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

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

409 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing

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: 339 Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors

In His Service Today:

Preacher/Celebrant: The Rev. Leonard Tanksley

Liturgist: The Sem. Nathan Kieser

Organist: Mrs. Vickie Hammond

Deacons: Nathan Scherer (Head), Louie Fuelling, Dan DeLong, Joe Werling

Elders: John Fuelling (Head), Andy Wolf, Fred Fuelling, Steve Fuelling

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERINGS: 12/24-Home Purpose: \$12,782.65, Missions: \$900, SPI: \$175, Bldg Fund: \$490, Vanco: 44.78. 12/31- Home Purpose: \$8,336, Missions: \$510, SPI: \$375, Vanco: \$44.78. Please note that total Mission offerings received in 2023 were \$8230. Our budget is \$11000 so a check was written from General fund for short fall of \$2770.

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.

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 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 January and February 2024 - "BREAKFAST FOOD":

During the months of January and February we will be collecting BREAKFAST FOOD items. These items will be delivered to the Seminary the first of March. Some suggestions are but not limited to: hot chocolate, coffee/tea, cereal, oatmeal, pop tarts, juice, muffin/pancake mix, syrup, jelly/jam and breakfast bars. 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!!

REMINDER: The Annual Report Deadline is this Friday January 12th. Please have all reports in to Amber Shaffer. Thank you!

February newsletter deadline will be Friday January 19th.

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 January 7th, 2024

TODAY	9:00 am	Divine Service with Holy Communion
MONDAY	7:00 pm	SPI School Board Meeting
TUESDAY	6:00 pm	Elder's Meeting
	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY	10:00 am	Bible Study
	7:30 pm	Church Choir meets in St. Peter balcony
THURSDAY	9:00 am	Quilting
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Divine Service
	-----	Bible Study

SAVE THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

MISSION Fundraiser

DINNER & SQUARE DANCE
with Bill Werling and the Breakaway Band

and

Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, President of the
Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk Siberia

Mirage Banquet Hall
1640 Winchester Street
Decatur, IN 46733

Saturday, January 13, 2024
5:00 p.m. – Doors Open for Dinner & Drinks (cash bar)

Square Dance Lessons for Beginners

5:45 p.m. – Comments from Siberian Lutheran Mission Society & Dr. Streltsov

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Dancing and Fellowship

\$20 per person
Cash Bar Available
(12 and under - \$10)

Sponsored by the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society
260-580-0812