

**Advent 2 (December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024)  
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



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## Opening Hymn: 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

*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** 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

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:\*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

**Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!\***

**O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!**

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.\*

Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.

**But my people did not listen | to my voice;\***

**Israel would not sub- | mit to me.**

Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,\*

that Israel would walk | in my ways!

**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.**  
The voice of one crying in the | wilderness: \*  
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

## 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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; 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

*Malachi 3:1–7b*

<sup>1</sup>“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Philippians 1:2–11*

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Stand

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 3:1–20*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I

tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

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

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

## Apostles’ Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day: 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

### Sermon

### Offering

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

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

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

**P** That our long-suffering Lord, who once called Israel to repentance, would open our hearts to hear His Word, receive His gifts and gladly submit to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For the Church and her ministry, that the Lord who sent John the Baptist to prepare His way would raise up pastors and missionaries and protect them as they make known His way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For families, that our Father who gathers us into His household would bless the households of this congregation; and that He would bless all within them so that their love may abound with knowledge, discernment and the righteousness of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For those who serve in the military that the Lord of hosts, who through John the Baptist counseled soldiers to conduct themselves according to His Word, would remember, protect and guide them to serve honorably, let us pray to the Lord:

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

**P** For those in need of healing, comfort and rescue, including:

Kay Brown (Sister of Dave and Lynn Matthews)

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

Keith and Suzy Scherer

Susan Gerke (Sister of Steve and Jim Fuelling)

Calvin Buuck as he recovers from surgery

And those we name before you in our hearts, that for the sake of Christ, who is mightier than all, God would deliver them according to His will and assure them of His faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who partake of the Sacrament of the Altar, that as John the Baptist prepared all flesh to see the Lord's salvation, so God would prepare our hearts to worthily receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those beset by temptation, that Christ who came to purify us would deliver us from the love of sin, which defiles us, and cleanse our hearts and works to be righteous before Him, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## 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.**

## Collect for the Word

**P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience

and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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: 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

### In His Service Today:

**Preacher and Celebrant:** The Rev. Leonard Tanksley

**Organist:** Mrs. Jackie Sanderson

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offerings: November 28<sup>th</sup>(Thanksgiving Day)- Home Purpose: \$4,120.00, Missions:\$270.00, SPI: \$100.00, and Vanco: \$44.78

December 1<sup>st</sup>- Home Purpose: \$3,093.00, Missions: \$450.00, SPI: \$25.00

**\*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.

**Total Missions received as of December 1<sup>st</sup>: \$11,754.00 out of our goal of \$12,000.00**

**Missions:** For 2024 there have been six organizations receiving the Mission offerings graciously given by this congregation. Each organization will receive \$2,000. For 2025 if anyone has an organization in mind that you would like to see as a recipient of our Mission offerings, please give suggestions to either Dave Bischoff or Duane Franz. Thank You!



**Advent Soup Supper:** is at 5:30pm on Wednesdays. Come and enjoy food and fellowship before the 7:00pm worship service.

**Birthday Wishes:** Please wish Gavin Gratz (December 2<sup>nd</sup>) a Happy Belated Birthday, and Adalyn Rumschlag (December 11<sup>th</sup>, granddaughter of Marjeana Lemler) a Happy Birthday. Both were accidentally left off the December Birthday Newsletter list.

**Results from the Voter's Assemble Election:**

President: Dave Bischoff

Elders: Matt Braun (head 2026), Rod Busick

Deacons: Mitch Billington (head 2026), Nathan Scherer

Trustees: Tony Ohler (head 2026), Marshall Scheumann

Treasurer: Marjeana Lemler

School Board: Shelby Billington

Recording Secretary: Lori Conrad

**SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP THEME for December and January** - "Breakfast: During the months of December and January we will be collecting "Breakfast items" for the Seminary Food Co-op. Suggestions are but not limited to: Hot chocolate, coffee/tea, cereal, oatmeal, pop tarts, breakfast/granola bars, juice, syrup, muffin/pancake mix, jelly/jam. Other items that are always in demand are breakfast cereal (excluding Chex) and tomato products. All your donations are greatly appreciated by the Seminary 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. Items can be placed in the gray and white bag at Church. **Thank you for all your donations.**

**The January Newsletter Deadline:** will be Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!

**Un-needed Items:** There are a few items in the basement of the church that are no longer needed- an old T.V., multiple chalkboards/room dividers, and a phone. All these items are grouped together; they are in between the trophy case and the green room divider. If anyone has a use for these items, please feel free to take them.

**Christmas Post Office:** Every year here at St. Peter Church, we have our own Christmas Card Exchange. You bring your Christmas cards for congregation members to church and place them into the "mailbox". There will be a free will donation can for "postage fee". The deacons and Ladies Aid will distribute the cards in alphabetical order on the tables in the narthex. Be sure to check the tables for your cards.

**Volunteers Needed:** SPI school is looking for help with the following: donation of cookies for our Christmas Program on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>, setting up the stage following the SPI JV Boys' Basketball Game on Monday, December 9th. Usually, games end around 6:30pm. We also will need help tearing down the stage following the completion of the Christmas Service on Sunday, December 15th. The link to sign up for

cookie donations is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44AAAA22A7FF2-53493343-spichristmas#/> Thank you!

**6<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE 2026 CLASS TRIP FUNDRAISER:** There is still honey available. Please see the student(s) at the table in back of church.

**Sermon Report Materials for SPI Students:** The clipboards and papers are in a box underneath the deacon's desk in back of church.

**Lunch Volunteers Needed:** SPI is looking for lunch volunteers. Responsibilities include: **Hours 10:30am-12:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays**, pick up meals from St. Rose school in Monroeville, IN at 10:45am, serve meals at SPI for both lunch periods, clean up lunch trays/pans after lunch. Contact Kelly Schlemmer (419)-203-8883 or [kschlemmer@yahoo.com](mailto:kschlemmer@yahoo.com) if interested.

**JV Boys Basketball:** SPI is excited to have a JV Boys Basketball team this year! If you can help with the home games, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44AAAA22A7FF2-53101984-spibasketball#/> to sign up. Thank you!

**SPI Christmas Program:** Please join us on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the SPI Gymnasium to hear the students tell the story of the birth of Jesus and Gods love for us.

**Emmaus Cookie Fair:** Mark your calendar for the annual Cookie Fair at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 8626 Covington Road Fort Wayne, IN 46804, on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. A wonderful variety of homemade Christmas cookies, fudge, and other favorite Christmas treats will be sold for \$8.00 per pound. These homemade goodies make a wonderful gift and an easy way to do your last minute "Christmas baking!" Free decorative tins will be available to make "gift wrapping" easy! In addition to the Christmas treats, we'll have Rada Cutlery, a variety of homemade jams & jelly, and kitchen hand towels available to purchase. Come get some delicious homemade goodies and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or hot chocolate!

**Christmas at the Embassy:** Come celebrate Christmas at the Embassy with Concordia Lutheran High School's Music Department! On **December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm**. Students and seniors are \$15.00, and Adults are \$20.00, tickets are available at the STAR Bank Box Office at the Embassy or at Ticketmaster.com. You'll be treated to an evening of Christmas music by our high school bands, choirs, and orchestra. What better way to get into the Christmas spirit? This year's theme is 'The Christ Child: Our Confidence and Joy Shall Be.'

**Christmas at the Wyneken House** - Join the Friends of Wyneken as they celebrate the holiday season with an open house at the historic Wyneken House on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-5:00 PM. Dozens of nativity sets from around the world dating back to the 1880s will decorate the house. The Wyneken House is located at 11730 NW Winchester Road, Decatur, Indiana.

**CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

TODAY	9:00 am	Divine Service
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Elder's Meeting
WEDNESDAY	10:00 am	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Midweek Service
THURSDAY	9:00 am	Ladies Aid Quilting
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Divine Service w/ Holy Communion

**Please Join Us for These Additional Worship Services**

**Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm**

Soup Supper begins at 5:30pm  
Mid-Week Advent Service at 7:00pm

**Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 pm**

Soup Supper begins at 5:30pm  
Mid-Week Advent Service at 7:00pm

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

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

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

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

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

New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion