

**Advent 3 (December 15th, 2024)
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)
1033 E. 1100 N., Decatur, IN 46733**



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Opening Hymn: 333 Once He Came in Blessing

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

Rejoice in the Lord | always; *
again I will say, | Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob, *
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them, *
who keeps faith for- | ever;

who executes justice for | the oppressed, *
who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind. *

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

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.

Rejoice in the Lord | always; *
again I will say, | Rejoice.

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.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
 shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
 O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
 he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
 you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
 “Fear not, O Zion;
 let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,
 a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;
 he will quiet you by his love;
 he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
 so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
 with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
 and gather the outcast,
 and I will change their shame into praise
 and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
 at the time when I gather you together;
 for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18–28

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

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

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For pastors and church workers, that God would send them as messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, making known His saving name; and that Christ would open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who suffer for the name of Jesus, that our heavenly Father, who rescues the daughter of Zion, would look on them with compassion, giving them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, providing for them when they suffer loss, granting courage when they are afraid, and delivering them from all evil, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our homes, that God would provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage, and equip parents to raise their children in love and faith; and that, for Jesus' sake, our homes would be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our republic in its need, that abandoning all anxiety, we would instead, by prayer and thanksgiving, make our requests known to God; for the authorities and those newly elected, that God would give wisdom, health and success to those who govern us; and for peace in our time, even as we rest confident in the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the anxious, that the God of all joy would forgive their doubts, reveal the causes of their doubts, and guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through whom all prayers are heard, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those in need, 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 Deatrick for healing from a fall

Keith and Suzy Scherer

Susan Gerke (Sister of Steve and Jim Fuelling)

Calvin Buuck as he recovers from surgery

let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who partake at the Supper of Christ's body and blood, that our Father would watch over them and preserve in them repentant and worthy hearts, firmly believing the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," 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.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
856 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve
917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name
resounding
Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

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.

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: 803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

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: Home Purpose: \$5,754.00, Missions: \$995.00, SPI: \$200.00, Vanco: \$95.28

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.

Mission goal met and currently \$12,740.

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!

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST BENEFIT

When: Saturday December 28th, 2024

Time: 7:00 am-1:00 pm

Cost: \$10/person (Kids Under 5 yrs Eat Free)

Location: St. Peter Immanuel Lutheran School 3845 E 1100 N Decatur, IN 46733

Dine In or Carry Out Available (No Drive Thru)

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE GRAINERY
(THE FRANZ FAMILY)**

THERE IS A SIGN UP SHEET IN BACK OF CHURCH FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP OUT AT THE PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST BENEFIT. WE WILL NEED HELP WITH SET UP & ALSO THE DAY OF THE EVENT. THANK YOU!

If you unable to volunteer your time, but would still like to help out, the following link is to sign up for specific donations for the pancake & sausage benefit.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44AAA22A7FF2-54025099-donations#/>

Advent Soup Supper: the last Advent Soup Supper is Wednesday December 18th at 5:30pm. Come and enjoy food and fellowship before the 7:00pm worship service. Thank you to those who have provided supper.

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 19th. 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. and multiple chalkboards/room dividers. 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.

6TH AND 7TH GRADE 2026 CLASS TRIP FUNDRAISER: There is still honey and 10 Christmas wreaths available. All the wreaths have red bows and are \$30. Please see Shelby Billington after church today if you would like one.

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 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/5080A44AAAAA22A7FF2-53101984-spibasketball# to sign up. Thank you!

SPI Christmas Program: Please join us TODAY Sunday December 15th 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.

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 TODAY Sunday, December 15th , 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 15th, 2024

TODAY	9:00 am	Divine Service w/ Holy Communion
	3:00 pm	Christmas Program at SPI Gym
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

Please Join Us for These Additional Worship Services

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