

**The Nativity of Our Lord (December 24th, 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
2nd Year Seminarian: Nathan Kieser
1st Year Seminarian: Joshua Camp
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

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 2:1-14

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

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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.

Lord God Almighty, on this most holy night we wonder at the majesty of the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ. With joy we greet our newborn King, the Savior of the nations. Let Your Church throughout the world proclaim His birth. Give her faithful preachers to proclaim these glad tidings and ears to hear and believe them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember all families, Lord. Make each household a place of prayer and devotion to Your Word. Bless parents of young children with patience. Give comfort to the childless. Abide with the fatherless, widows and orphans, the lonely and those separated from their families. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember this country, O Lord. Grant our leaders wisdom and justice as they exercise Your authority to punish wrongdoers and protect the righteous. Use all citizens to speak in defense of the defenseless. Abide with those who labor on behalf of others, especially all who must work this night for our protection. Bring wars to an end, defend the innocent and bring Your healing peace to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Send Your Spirit to us, O Lord, in rich measure, that all who commune may do so in true faith for their souls' well-being and strength. Let us take to heart the glad tidings of great joy that today, in bread and wine, we will receive Christ's body and blood for our forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

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 those who were with us in Christmases past and who now live with You. Grant us sure confidence in the 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 ✠ 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.**

Distribution

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2–4

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

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. 2–3, 1g

In His Service Today:

Preacher and Celebrant: The Rev. Leonard Tanksley

Organist: Mrs. Kris Bischoff

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missions: For 2024 there have been six organizations- Immanuel House, Lutheran Military Vets and Families Ministries, Tanzania Mission(sponsored by Bingen Lutheran Church), Siberian Mission, Indiana District, Fort Wayne Seminary- 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/5080A44AAAA22A7FF2-54025099-donations#/>

2025 Offering Envelopes: The offering envelope boxes are going to be distributed. If you do not receive one but would like one, please let Josh Franz or Pastor know. Thanks!

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.

St. Peter Church Christmas Decorating Committee: The 2024 Christmas Committee will be taking down decorations on **Sunday January 12th at 1:00pm.** This year's committee is:

2nd Year

Cy & Maddie Hurst
John & Jody Hurst
Jon & Jenny Keller

1st Year

Allison Kukelhan
Royce Kukelhan
Marjeana Lemler
Doug, Doyle, & Dan Fuelling

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.**

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.

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!

The remaining games on the schedule are:

January 6th, at SPI vs. Zion Decatur at 5:30pm

January 9th, at SPI vs. St. Joe 5th at 5:30pm

January 21st, at SPI vs. Ossian at 5:30pm.

If you can help with the home games, please visit

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44AAAA22A7FF2-53101984-spibasketball# to sign up. Thank you!