



***New Year's Eve
Scripture & Song Service***

Peace Lutheran Church
2090 Commerce Drive
North Mankato, MN 56003



Peace Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

“Serving Christ with united hearts and hands and voices”

Pastor

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Divine Service

Sunday – 8:30 & 10:45 AM & Wednesday – 6:30 PM

December 31, 2014

New Year’s Eve

Welcome to Peace! – The purpose of our congregation is to worship God, who gives life through Word and Sacrament; to serve one another in love and fellowship; and to proclaim forgiveness and salvation to all through Jesus Christ alone.

Before Worship

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet minutes in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

Prayer of the Day

Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and on the immensity of Your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of Your Son and walking in the way of His peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For the Children

A Cry-Room is available if your little ones need a moment. It is the first room on the left as you walk into the church building. Sound and video are piped into the room to enable you to hear and see the service.

Facilities

Restrooms are located down the hall and on the right side.

Divine Service of Scripture and Songs

The Invocation

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn - *"The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away"* TLH 125

1. The old year now hath passed away,
We thank Thee, O our God today,
That Thou hast kept us through the year,
When danger and distress were near.
2. We pray Thee, O eternal Son,
Who with the Father reign'st as one,
To guard and rule Thy Christendom
Through all the ages yet to come.
3. Take not Thy saving Word away,
Our soul's true comfort, staff and stay;
Abide with us and keep us free
From errors, following only Thee.
4. O help us to forsake all sin,
A new and holier life begin;
Mark not what once was done amiss,
A happier, better year be this.
5. Wherein as Christians we may live,
Or die in peace that Thou can give,
To rise again when Thou shalt come,
And enter our eternal home.
6. There shall we thank Thee, and adore,
With all the angels evermore;
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith
To praise Thy name through life and
death.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

- C. Lord of heaven and earth, we admit to you our sins, great and small, obvious and subtle. We have broken your holy law and have failed to live up to the righteous life to which you have called us. We have often neglected the neighbor close by and those in need around the world. We acquire rather than share. We demand rather than give. We get even rather than pardon. We put other gods before You. We seek lasting joy in things that have no abiding substance. We often failed to make good use of the time that you gave us during this passing year. We therefore stand before you in shame, knowing that we deserve your anger and punishment. We seek refuge only in Your compassion and the forgiveness earned for the world by Jesus Christ our Savior.
- P. It is my privilege to announce the grace of God to all of you. He has had compassion on us and has given His only Son to live for us, to die for our guilt, and to rise and grant His peace. Now for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Confession of Faith

What We Believe Of God the Father

By Martin Luther (Explanation of the First Article)

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; that He richly and daily provides me with food and clothing, home and family, property and goods, and all that I need to support this body and life; that He protects me from all danger, guards and keeps me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true!

Hymn: #184:1-2, "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

Sermon – Hebrews 13:5-8

Don't Be Afraid!

⁵...God has said,

"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you."

⁶So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

First Scripture Reading - Psalm 100

"Thanking God for Our Existence"

¹Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

²Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Hymn: #65:1,2,5, "Praise To The Lord, The Almighty"

Second Scripture Reading - Psalm 34:1-10

"Thanking God for His Protection"

- ¹I will extol the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
- ²My soul will boast in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- ³Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
- ⁵Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
- ⁶This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.
- ⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.
- ⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.
- ⁹Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- ¹⁰The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Hymn: #252:4-6, "I Walk In Danger All The Way"

Third Scripture Reading - Psalm 103:1-14

"Thanking God for His Forgiveness"

- ¹Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ²Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
- ³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
⁸The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
⁹He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
¹⁰he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
¹⁴for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

Hymn: #426:1,7, "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

Fourth Scripture Reading - Psalm 46

"God Is Our Place of Refuge in 2015"

¹God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
⁵God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
⁶Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
⁷The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
⁸Come and see the works of the LORD,

the desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Hymn:205:1,2,6,7, "If Thou But Trust In God To Guide Thee"

Fifth Scripture Reading - Romans 8:28-39

"Trusting God throughout the Coming New Year"

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn: #206:1,4-6, "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

The Offering

The members of Peace Lutheran Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

*"And my God will meet your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19*

Please fill out the Friendship Register.

Prayer for the New Year

Hymn: #384, "Our Father, Throned in Heaven Above"

Closing Hymn: #160:1-4,6,7, "O God, Our Help In Ages Past"

The Closing Benediction

Thank you to those who served in our service today:

Guest Preacher: Rev. Paul Fries;
Organist: Amanda Madson; The ushers.

To God be the Glory!

