

WELCOME

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – DECEMBER 26, 2021

MEET US

Our family is loved by Christ and we love each other. We hold firmly to God's Word of truth, which convicts us of our sin and comforts us with God's forgiveness in Christ. We embrace the rich heritage of hymns and liturgy that has guided the worship of the Church for generations. We are passionate about Christian education, wanting young and old to grow in their knowledge of God's Word. As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), we enjoy fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

TODAY'S WORSHIP

God the Father made His Son like those He came to save. Jesus is true man. He is our brother. He knows our weaknesses. He has suffered the same temptations that we do but was not overcome by them. He perfectly carried out the Father's will and lived the holy life that God's law demands. Jesus also overcame sin by offering His life as the payment for our sins. Through His death, we are reconciled to God and claimed as members of His family.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Restrooms are located to the right as you leave the sanctuary and are equipped with child changing tables.

Parent Room is located on the left as you exit the sanctuary doors. This room is equipped with a livestream of the service.

For the hearing impaired, an induction loop is provided. Just switch your hearing aid to "T".

For other special needs or questions, our ushers are here to assist you. Don't hesitate to ask.



DIVINE SERVICE

ADAPTATION OF
THE LUTHERAN
"CHORALE" SERVICE
PAGE 107

WE COME BEFORE THE LORD

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

HYMN

The Happy Christmas Comes Once More | ELH 143:1-4

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us: have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord: Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men | ELH 148

PRAYER

Almighty God, in mercy You sent Your one and only Son to take upon Himself our human nature. By His gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of His glory; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Evangelical Heritage Version © 2019

OLD TESTAMENT READING

The Lord's servant is vindicated | Isaiah 50:4-9

⁴The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word. He wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned. ⁵The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back. ⁶I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit. ⁷The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have made my face hard like flint. I know that I will not be put to shame. ⁸The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand. Who can pass judgment on me? Let him approach me. ⁹Look, the LORD God will help me. Who then can declare me guilty? Look, all of them will wear out like a garment. A moth will consume them.

EPISTLE READING

A merciful and faithful High Priest | Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says: I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise. ¹³And again: I will trust in him. And again: Here I am and the children God has given me. ¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) ¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of

death. ¹⁶For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

HYMN

O Jesus Christ, All Praise to Thee | ELH 136:1-3, 5-7

GOSPEL READING

The boy Jesus in the temple courts | Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. ⁴³When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" ⁵⁰They did not understand what he was telling them. ⁵¹He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

CREEDAL HYMN

1. Creator of all things that are—
The tiny atom, mighty star—
"Let there be light!" a voice was heard,
The Father's all-creating Word.
That Word made flesh with us to dwell
Is Jesus, our Immanuel.
2. By God the Holy Ghost conceived,
From Mary human form received,
With us He lived, for us He died,
By Pontius Pilate crucified.
Raised from the dead victorious
This is Christ Jesus, God with us!

3. The Spirit of the Lord is sent,
Active in word and sacrament,
To bind the Church below, above,
In cords of sin-forgiving love
“Till, raised from death, we e’er shall dwell
With Jesus, our Immanuel.

SERMON

Jesus Is Our Brother | Hebrews 2:10-18

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise You for the special love You have shown us, Your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept Your word and sent Your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.

Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at Your servantlike heart, which moved You to do Your Father’s will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that You might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute.

O Holy Spirit, we thank You for Your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior. You have opened our eyes to see that, despite His humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem’s manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world.

God of our salvation, as You have brought us to faith in the Christ Child, so we ask that You would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know Him or who do not know Him in truth. Grant that the world’s attention to the Christ Child may not be only a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, bring sinners to faith that they may see Him as the answer to life’s problems here and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with You.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the extension of Your kingdom, and for the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

WE RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT

*Visitors, please speak with one of our pastors before receiving the Sacrament with us.
We welcome members of the ELS and WELS to join us at the Lord’s Table.*

EXHORTATION

LORD'S PRAYER HYMN

1. Our Father in heaven all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.
2. The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.
3. For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI HYMN

All My Heart Sings and Rejoices | ELH 115:3, 6

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

A Great and Mighty Wonder | ELH 113
Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising | ELH 128

WE GIVE THANKS

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

As Each Happy Christmas | ELH 117

PRAYER

We thank you, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Give Thanks'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - - - - - men.' are written below the treble staff. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the words.

BENEDICTION

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.



A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory | ELH 114

PRAYER

O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE

Organist

Katie Hartwig

Communion Assistants

Craig Ferkenstad & Eric Woller
Doyle Holbird & Jonathan Stadler

Ushers

Derek Harstad & Jeff Huber

Refreshments

Phil Wels & Mark Zenk

Peace Group 6

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Divine Service w/HC 8:15am

Divine Service w/HC 10:30am

FRIDAY

Divine Service w/HC 6:00pm

SUNDAY

Divine Service w/HC 8:15am

Divine Service w/HC 10:30am

NEWS & NOTES

For more detailed information concerning our news & notes, visit peacemankato.com/news

CHRISTMAS LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

Please pick up your Christmas letters on the table by the sanctuary doors. If you can't find your letter, please take one of the unaddressed letters next to the box and let the office know your address.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS

There will not be classes on December 26th and January 2nd. Classes will resume on January 9th.

TAKE DOWN DECORATIONS

Jan 4 | 10am

PEACE ADULT GROUP

Jan 15 | 3-8pm

Rock climbing at MNSU Climbing Wall followed by pizza at Jake's Stadium Pizza. Cost is \$15/person for climbing. Limited to 30 people. If interested, sign up here and give payment to Joni Moldstad: peacemankato.com/climbing.

ELS YOUTH RETREAT

Jan 28-29

Our 7-12th grade youth are invited to a youth retreat at Heritage Lutheran in Apple Valley, which includes a trip to Nickelodeon Universe. For more details and to sign-up go to: peacemankato.com/retreat.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please stop and pick up your 2022 offering envelopes, available in the narthex. If you can't find your box, please email Karen at karen@peacemankato.com or leave a note on her desk and let her know.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Risen Savior Lutheran School, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, Jesus Loves Me Learning Center, Bethany Lutheran College – peacemankato.com/news

ELS/WELS SINGLES GAME DAY

Food, fun, and fellowship on 1/15 from noon-3pm at Peace. Bring favorite game and ethnic dish to pass. Prizes for winners. Questions - rmoldstad@gmail.com

JESUS' LAMBS AT PEACE PRE-K

2-, 3- or 5-day sessions Ages 3-5
Director: Joslyn Moldstad 507-385-7752
peacemankato.com/preschool

CONTACT US

Office: 507-385-1386 Pastors:
Tim Hartwig & Matt Moldstad
karen@peacemankato.com

