

WELCOME

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – DECEMBER 24, 2023

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).

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP

Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord! There has never, in the history of the world, been good news that brought more joy! God has come into the world to redeem the world. This evening we rejoice with the angels and shepherds and all who have heard and have believed that Jesus is the promised Messiah and our Immanuel: God with us!

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

WE COME BEFORE THE LORD

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, who sent His Son into the world out of love,
In the name of the Son, born in Bethlehem to save us from our sin,
In the name of the Holy Spirit, who leads us to embrace the Christ Child in sincere faith.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - CHRISTMAS EVE

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

On this holy evening we also light the fifth and final candle, the Christ candle.

We are reminded that everything we have been preparing for and looking forward to during the season of Advent has been fulfilled in the Christ Child who is born for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful | ELH 133:1,3,4

CONFESSION OF SIN

Children of God, we have gathered together on this special evening to worship our King born long ago in Bethlehem. However, we have sinned and are not worthy to come into His presence. Therefore let us acknowledge our sin and ask for forgiveness.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from Your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus 'sake.

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. As sons of God and those receiving an inheritance, hear God's forgiveness spoken through his servant: I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CHOIR

Angels from the Realms of Glory | Montgomery & Smart

Arranged by: Dan Forrest

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth.
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplation,
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great Desire of Nations,
Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!

All creation join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising
To th'e eternal Three in One!
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King.

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Words by J. Montgomery

Tune by H.T. Smart

Text and tune are public domain

Arranged by Dan Forrest

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PROPHECIES OF THE COMING MESSIAH

I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel. *Genesis 3:15*

I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who dishonors you.

All of the families of the earth will be blessed in you. *Genesis 12:3*

I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth,

and he will speak to them everything that I command him. *Deuteronomy 18:18*

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and name him Immanuel. *Isaiah 7:14b*

For unto us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. *Isaiah 9:6-7a*

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. *Micah 5:2-3*

He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. This one will be their peace. *Micah 5:4-5a*

HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | ELH 135:1,3

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem,

because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. ⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem | ELH 137:1-2

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:8-14

There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing | ELH 125

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:15-18

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them.

HYMN

Away in a Manger | ELH 119

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:19-20

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN

What Child is This? | ELH 145

SERMON

Immanuel: God with Us | Isaiah 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, ¹¹“Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.” ¹²But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.” ¹³So Isaiah said: Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴Therefore

the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERING AND FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

OFFERING HYMN

I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes | ELH 127

1-2: All

3: Men

4: Women

5-6: All

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise You that You kept Your ancient promises by sending Your everlasting Son in human flesh.

On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.

You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate Your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by Your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from Your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of Your outstretched hand.

Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that You love and care for us always.

You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.

You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that You intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle, for we only have light and life from Christ. The ushers will then light their candles from his candle and proceed to light the candles of the congregation, row by row. Remember: Be sure to tip your unlit candle towards the lit candle to avoid spilling hot wax!

ENSEMBLE

Were You There on That Christmas Night? | Sleeth

1. Were you there, were you there
On that Christmas night,
When the world was filled
With a holy light?
Were you there to behold
When the wonder foretold came to earth?

2. Did you see, did you see
How they hailed him King,
With the gifts so rare
That they chose to bring?
Did you see how they bowed,
As they praised him aloud at his birth?

3. Did you hear how the choir
Of angels sang
At the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells
Of heaven rang
All through the night?

4. Did you know, did you know
It was God's own son,
The salvation of
The world begun?
Did you know it was love
That was sent from above to the
Earth.

"Were You There on That Christmas Night?"

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

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RESPONSES

Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples.

But the Lord rises upon you, and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to the Light, and kings to the brightness of dawn.

Go in peace and share the good news – the world has a Savior in the baby Jesus.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Peaceful Silent Night

Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all
This is a time for love this is a time for joy,
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, Peace on earth.

“Peace, Peace”
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HYMN

Silent Night! Holy Night! | ELH 140:1-3

- 1. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**
- 3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE

Organist	Katie Hartwig
Choir	Katie Hartwig Director Crystal Bean & Lexi Fosburgh Accompanists Sophia Kerkow Violin
Ensemble	Eric Woller, Ken Mellon, Anna McCue, Libby Kassuelke Adie Harstad Guitar
Children's Choir	Rachel Kerkow Director
Ushers	Eric Woller and Matt Bindert 4 PM Ben Kohls, Ian and Malachi Kohls 6 PM

Poinsettia from:

*Andrew & Rebecca Birkmaier
(1 red 4.5")*

*Matt & Joanna Bindert
(1 red 6.5")*

*Dean & Katie Botten
(1 red 6.5")*

*Dean & Katie Botten
(1 red 6.5")*

*Larry Buck
(1 red 4.5")*

*Karina Clennon
(1 white & 2 red 4.5")*

*Dewitt Family
(2 red 6.5")*

*Marc & Kris Flygare
(1 red 6.5")*

*Lynn Freyberg
(2 white 6.5")*

*Paul & Terri Fries
(1 white 6.5")*

*Tom & Lisa Hunter
(1 white & 1 red 4.5")*

*Trisha Jansick
(1 white 6.5" & 1 white 4.5")*

*Mary Kuan
(1 white 6.5")*

*Peter & Thalia Londgren
(1 white 6.5")*

*Joslyn Moldstad
(1 red & 2 white 4.5")*

*Daniel Mundahl
(1 white & 1 red 6.5")*

In memory of:

Craig Bindert

Krist & Hanna Hjelmeland

Odney & Alfred Botten

Al Clennon

Parents

Noel & Inger Freyberg

*Paul & Jackie Simmerman
Robert Fries*

*Ray & Rea Schwall
Jim & Eileen Hunter*

Rev. Jeff Londgren

*Rev. John A. Moldstad Jr.
Rev. John A. Moldstad Sr.
Wayne & Esther Wiechmann*

Palmer & Joyce Mundahl

*Novak Family
(1 white 6.5")*

*Rob & Lori Pipal
(2 white 6.5")*

*Tom & Connie Schulz
(1 white & 1 red 6.5")*

*Sarah Schwartz
(1 white & 1 red 6.5")*

*Jon & Linda Tibbetts
(1 white 6.5" & 1 red 6.5")*

*Stephanie Wentzlaff
(1 white 4.5")*

Lois Bruns

Larry & Jeanette Degner

*Walter & Viola Schulz
Ervin & Berdina Wrucke
Wayne Wrucke, Helen Wrucke*

Our Parents

Poinsettia from:

*David & Lisa Emmons
(2 white & 3 red 4.5")*

Joslyn Moldstad

*Alisha Schuch
(1 white 6.5")*

*Jordan & Laura Smith
(3 white & 3 red 6.5")*

*Keith & Joni Wiederhoeft
(1 white 6.5")*

In honor of:

*Gabrielle, Arianna, Natania,
Annaliese, Micah Emmons*

Archer David Moldstad

Gavin & Oliver Schuch

Parents & Grandparents

Grandchildren

You may take your plant(s) home anytime after our Christmas service.

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Divine Service 4:00pm
Divine Service 6:00pm

MONDAY

Divine Service w/HC 9:00am

WEDNESDAY

No Confirmation
No Choir

FRIDAY

No Men's Bible Study

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

MARRIAGE MAINTENANCE COURSE

Jan. 7th, Feb. 4th, & Mar. 3rd. Class from 4-5pm. Date night 5 to 6:30pm. Childcare is provided from 4pm to 6:30pm. Register at peacemankato.com/marriage.

CONGREGATIONAL OPEN FORUM JAN 21 | 11:30AM

The entire congregation is invited to participate.

Topics for discussion include an update on the work of our boards and a financial update.

PICK UP OFFERING ENVELOPES

2024 Offering envelopes are available on the table in the narthex.

MVL BOYS' BASKETBALL PEACE NIGHT – JAN 9 | 6PM

Boys' basketball versus Wabasso. JV starts at 6pm and Varsity starts at 7:30pm. Pick up your free tickets on the cabinet in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS WITH KINGSFOLD

We are pleased to welcome Kingsfold to play at Peace once again for our Christmas Day service at 9am.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion - December 25th at 9am.

New Year's Eve Services with Holy Communion - December 31st at 8:15 and 10:30am.

Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, we will not be having morning services that day.

Also note that we will only be offering morning services on New Year's Eve.

SENIOR EVENT JAN 11 | 11:30AM

"Getting Affairs in Order" led by Dan Loe. This presentation will focus on stewardship as we prepare to depart this life.

BIBLE STUDY BREAK

Regular Bible Studies and Sunday School will not be meeting between Dec. 24th and Jan. 4th.

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:
Matt Moldstad & Ben Wiechmann
office@peacemankato.com

