

WELCOME

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – DECEMBER 17, 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).

TODAY'S WORSHIP

The King comes to bring perfect joy! However, even in 'the most wonderful time of the year' we don't always feel joyful. In fact, this season can emphasize our feelings of loneliness, loss, and disappointment. Even so, we rejoice in knowing that the King has come to preach good news, bind up the brokenhearted, and comfort those who mourn. We rejoice in our King who brings joy!

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.



Holiday Service Schedule

Dec. 20 th 6PM	Midweek Advent Service, Meal 5PM
Dec. 24 th 4PM & 6PM	Christmas Eve Services
Dec. 25 th 9AM	Christmas Day Service w/ HC
Dec. 31 st 8:15AM	New Year's Eve Service w/ HC
Dec. 31 st 10:30AM	New Year's Eve Service w/ HC

(Please note, we will not have morning services on Dec. 24th)

DIVINE SERVICE

RITE 1
PAGE 41

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

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising | ELH 128:1-4

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.

KYRIE ELEISON (LORD, HAVE MERCY)

O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line: 'O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on'. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

us. O God the Son, Re - deem-er of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O God the Ho - ly Ghost,
true Com - fort - er, have mer - cy up - on us.

ABSOLUTION

Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis Deo is omitted during Advent due to the penitential focus of the season.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And with your spir - it.

PRAYER

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Evangelical Heritage Version © 2019

FIRST READING God Helps Us to Live with Joy in Every Circumstance | 1 Thess. 5:16–24

Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Keep away from every kind of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

SOLO

Comfort Ye My People | Handel

Comfort ye my people
Saith your God

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem

And cry unto her
That her warfare
Her warfare is accomplished
That her iniquity is pardoned
The voice of Him

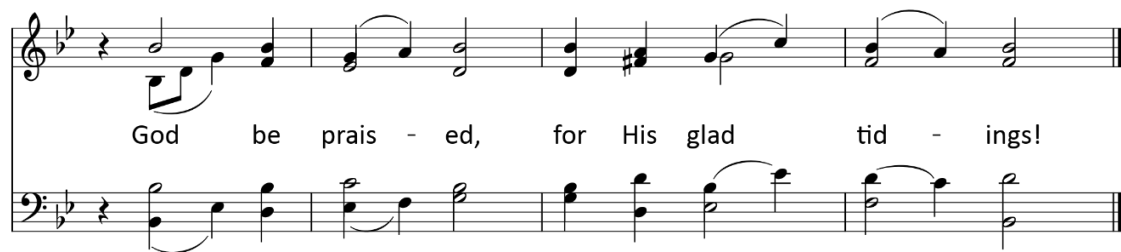
That crieth in the wilderness
Prepare ye the way of the Lord
Make straight in the desert
A highway for our God

Every valley
Every valley shall be exalted

And ev'ry moutain and hill made low
The crooked straight
And the rough places plain

GOSPEL John Testified About the Light That All May Believe in Him | John 1:6–8, 19–28

There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. . . . This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “Who are you then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” “No,” he answered. ²² Then they asked him, “Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the prophet said.” ²⁴ They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ So they asked John, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?” ²⁶ “I baptize with water,” John answered. “Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | ELH 109

SERMON

Good News for the Brokenhearted | Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD to display his beauty. . . ¹⁰ I will rejoice greatly in the LORD. My soul will celebrate because of my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation. With a robe of righteousness he covered me, like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest, and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.¹¹ For as the earth produces its growth, and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up, so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up in the presence of all the nations.

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH — ADVENT

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries You repeated and affirmed Your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through Your prophets of old, You continually directed the eyes of Your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise You, O Lord, for keeping Your promise and sending Your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use Your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent Your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of Your peace and the music of Your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see Your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Your grace, in Your power, and in Your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, Hal-low-ed be Thy name Thy king-dom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our dai-ly bread, and
for-give us our tres-pass-es, as we for-give those who tress-pass a-gainst us; And lead
us not in-to temp-ta-tion, But de-liv-er us from e-vil. For Thine is the
king-dom and the pow'r and the glo-ry for-ev-er and e-ver.
A - - - - - men.

PRAYER

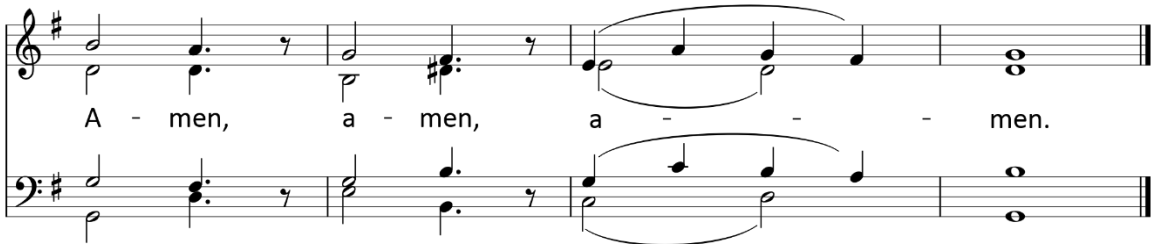
We thank You, Lord God the Father, that You have given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have borne in Your sacred body all our sins, and by Your blood have blotted out all our transgressions. We thank You, Lord, the Holy Spirit, that You have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation, except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. O God, grant us Your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit, that, in the power of our Redeemer's death, we may day by day put off sin, and never forsake the Lord Jesus Christ, until we see Him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ's name.



A - - - - men.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | ELH 110:1-4

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Offerings Last 3 Months	Sep	Oct	Nov	YTD
Offerings Received	\$ 43,797	\$ 52,919	\$ 52,181	\$ 275,923
Rolling Avg. Rec'd/Mo. YTD	\$ 56,941	\$ 55,935	\$ 55,185	
Budget Need/Month	\$ 62,532	\$ 62,532	\$ 62,532	\$ 312,658
Budget vs. Actual Difference	\$ (18,735)	\$ (9,612)	\$ (10,350)	\$ (36,735)

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE

Organist

Katie Hartwig

Solo

Tony Cordes | Vocalist

Lexi Fosburgh | Accompanist

Ushers

Nick Peters & Keith Wiederhoeft | 8:15

Jon Stadler & Rob Pipal | 10:30

Refreshments

Group 6



Marriage

MAINTENANCE

3-session course starting January 7th

Babysitting and time for a date included!
Babysitting for potty-trained children ages 3+

DATES & TOPICS

Sunday, Jan 7

Love Never Fails

Sunday, Feb 4

Seen and Unseen

Sunday, Mar 3

Marriage as a
Priority

TIME

4 - 5PM

Marriage Course

5 - 6:30PM

Date with your
spouse at location
of your choice to
discuss topic

LOCATION

Peace Lutheran

2090 Commerce Dr.
North Mankato

REGISTRATION

[peacemankato.com/
marriage](http://peacemankato.com/marriage)

Cost: \$30



CHRIST BREAKS THROUGH

MVL Christmas Concert
December 21st at 6:45 P.M.



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Divine Service	8:15am
Bible Story Time	9:20am
Sunday School	9:30am
Youth Bible Study	9:30am
Bible Class	9:30am
Divine Service	10:30am

TUESDAY

Solid Grounds	9:00am
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WEDNESDAY

Children's Choir	4:00pm
Advent Meal	5:00pm
Midweek Service	6:00pm
Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm

FRIDAY

Men's Bible Study	6:30am
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SATURDAY

New 2 You Day	9:00am
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NEWS & NOTES

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

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Rehearsal will be Wednesday, Dec 20th at 4pm. Kids for both 4pm and 6pm services. Contact Rachel at rachelkerkow@gmail.com with questions.

PEACE MT. KATO SKI DAY - CANCELED

Due to weather. Will be rescheduled in January.

CONGREGATIONAL OPEN FORUM JAN 21 | 11:30AM

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

PICK UP ENVELOPES AND CHRISTMAS CARDS

2024 offering envelopes and Pastor's Christmas cards are available on the table in the narthex.

2024 BIBLE STUDIES

Checkout the new Spring 2024 Bible Studies pamphlet available in the wall racks.

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.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Services - December 24th at 4pm and 6pm.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEALS

Group 3 is next up for Advent meals on 12/20. Please respond to the sign-up requests when you get them if you are in those groups.

BIBLE STUDY BREAK

Our 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

