



December 21st, 2025 – Advent 3

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Peace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Welcome! Thank you for joining us this morning for worship. In our service, we gather to praise our God who in his great love for us has bought us back from sin, death, and the devil through the blood of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

About the Picture: The season of Advent focuses on the coming of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem.

Offering: The offering is collected as you enter into the sanctuary, in an offering plate located on a small table. Guests and visitors do not need to feel obligated to make an offering, though you are welcome to do so.

[Online Offering Portal](#)

The Service
Setting Two pg. 172

Hymn: 360 – Behold, a Branch Is Growing

1 Behold, a branch is growing
of loveliest form and grace!
As prophets sang, foreknowing,
it springs from Jesse's race
and now begins to flow'r
in midst of coldest winter,
at deepest midnight hour.

2 Isaiah had foretold it
in words of promise sure,
and Mary's arms enfold it,
a virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will
this child to her is given
at midnight calm and still.

3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, and yet true God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woes,
O Savior, King of glory,

who conquered all our foes,
bring us at last, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the
Holy Spirit

Amen

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and
the truth is not in us,

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

And will forgive us our sins

And purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

**And have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart

I have not loved others as I should.

**I deserve your punishment both now and
forever**

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

With his innocent suffering and death.

**Trusting in him I pray: God have mercy on me a
sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)(sung)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God (Gloria in Excelsis)(sung)

Glory to God in the Highest (Gloria in Excelsis p. 176, sung)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve

you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Psalms* 89**

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord, the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing of the Lord’s great love for- / ever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all gener- / ations.

I will declare that your love stands firm for- / ever,
that you have established your faithfulness in / heav’n
itself.

The heavens praise your / wonders, Lord,

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the / holy ones.

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord, the goodness of the Lord.

Who is like you, Lord God Al- / mighty?

You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness sur- / rounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to ac- / claim you, who walk in the light of your / presence, Lord.

They rejoice in your name / all day long;

they celebrate your / righteousness.

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.

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord, the goodness of the Lord.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — ²the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Stand

Gospel Acclamation (sung) *The offering is brought to the altar at this time. Our online [giving portal can be found here.](#)*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Come to us, Emmanuel; come and set your people free.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. The Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you O Christ.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 327 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Root of Jesse,
free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

3 O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

4 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

Sermon: Isaiah 7

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 will 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. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

**Come, dear Savior. We long for your appearing!
Come to cheer us with your promises, as you once
cheered your ancient people throughout their long night**

of waiting and watching.

Come to restore our hope. Rouse us from the slumber of despair; lift our hearts from petty, earthbound goals.

Direct our eyes above, from where you will soon come to make all things right again.

Come and work in us a godly grief and a genuine sorrow over sin. Forgive us for the shameful way we have dishonored you and the shabby way we have dealt with one another.

Through your mighty Word, stir up in us a ceaseless yearning to give ourselves to others, as you have given yourself for us.

Come also to rekindle our joy as we prepare to celebrate your first coming. Do not permit a frenzied busyness to rob us of your peace or to deprive us of times to ponder and to wonder at your Word. Set our hearts apart from the bustle and the clamor and the jostle of these days.

Fill us with the quiet delight of finding you in the manger, and keep hearts and minds undisturbed by the great throng that streams by uncaring.

We pray also for those enduring great sorrow, for those undergoing spiritual trial, and for those whose restless hearts have no knowledge of your coming.

Comfort, strengthen, and illumine them with the sweet peace born of your love, and keep them in the way of peace by your Holy Word.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Come quickly, dear Lord, and fill our longing eyes with the light of your coming! We wait, we keep watch, and in you we put our hope.

Amen.

***Hymn* 321—God’s Own Son Most Holy**

1 God’s own Son most holy
came a servant lowly,
came to live among us,
came to suffer for us;
bore the cross to save us,
hope and freedom gave us.

2 Still he comes in preaching,
truth eternal teaching:
“Turn away from evil;
turn to me, my people.
I pronounce you sinless;
trust in my forgiveness.”

3 Still he comes providing
proof of love abiding:
he whose death has freed us
gives himself to feed us,
thus to us extending
peace and joy unending.

4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,

from our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing
that, your grace receiving,
we may here confess you
till in heav'n we bless you.

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things
you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit
to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be
strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted
in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

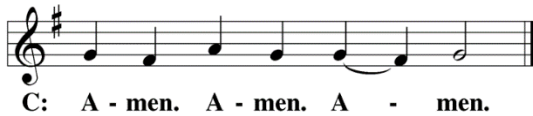
**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look with favor and + give you peace.



Be seated

Hymn: 333 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all the earth.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

WELS Connection follows worship

"The Service: Setting Two" and all hymn lyrics

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Thank you to Donna Wastrack for playing the organ, Dan and Deb Bierman, Ian Stepleton, and Dan Lueck for ushering, and Gary Ziesemer for running tech this morning.

THIS WEEK AT PEACE

**Sunday, December 21: Sunday School, 8 am; Worship, 9
am; Fellowship, Council Meeting**

Acolytes: Jonah & Layne
Wednesday, December 24: *Christmas Eve*
Worship, 6:30 pm
Choir, Chimes, and Sunday School
Thursday, December 25: *Christmas Day*
Worship, 9 am
Choir & Chimes
Sunday, December 28: Worship with Communion, 9 am;
Fellowship
Acolytes: Jackson & Larisa

COMING UP:

December 31: Christmas Eve Worship, 6:30 pm
January 4: Pastor Stelter farewell after worship, St.
John's, Princeton

December Birthdays! Happy birthday to our December members: Jerry Trapp, Sheila Pulice, Landon Lemke, Braxton Henke, Logan Lemke, Mary Madderom, Lilly Hiemstra, Aubrey Hiemstra, Bo Arndt, Dennis Guderjahn, Rebecca Stephenson, and Alayna Brehmer!
Did we miss a birthday? Fill out a friendship register, leave a note in Pastor's box, or email
PeaceChurchGL@gmail.com.

Rooster Round Up continues through the 31st at Crossroads. Round up or donate to support our school!

[Got Bulletin Announcements?](#) I only have the two. Yay!

OFFERINGS 12-14-25
Budgeted Expenses

General Fund \$14,169.00
Advent Envelopes \$500.00
Church Birthday/Anniversary Env. \$250.00
Organ Fund \$2,025.00
Plate Offerings \$52.75
Church-School Applied to Operating \$252.30
Wis. Lutheran Child & Family Env. \$50.00
Church Tech Fund \$25.00
Church Needy Families \$51.97
Total \$17,376.02

Our weekly budgeted need is \$9,626.00

Church Special Funds

Church Furnace Fund \$300.00
Church Outdoor Sign \$25.00
Roof Fund \$195.00
125th Church Anniversary \$5,000.00
Total \$5,520.00

School Special Funds

School Misc. Fund \$5275.00
School Family Financial Aid \$125.00
Total \$5,400.00

In Loving Memory of Jason Guderjahn
8/5/85 - 12/15-23
Pennies From Heaven, Love You Dad
To: Needy Families
From: Tristyn, Gage, Holdyn and Brisyn Guderjahn

In Memory of Yvonne Van Ornum
To: School Families Financial Aid

From: Willis & Bonnie Kummerow

To: School Misc. Fund

From: Gordy & Cheri Smith

In Memory of Yvonne Van Ornum,
Dorothy Ziesemer, and Audry Kelma

From: Pat & Nancy Hiembaugh

In Memory of Audry Kelma

To: Roof Fund

From: Jean Zeto

To: Roof Fund

From: Roger & Nancy Hienhard

To: School Misc, Fund

From: (Cousin) William Macotz

To: Roof Fund

From: Paul & Janice Obry

To: Ladies Aid

From Barb Rost

To School Families Financial Aid

From: Willis & Bonnie Kummerow

In Memory of Dorothy Ziesemer

To: Tech Fund

From: Paul & Janice Obry

In Memory of Cheri Deibert
To: Roof Fund
From Phil & Lynn Priebe