

A Christmas Story Sing-Along

St. Peter's Christmas Program also featuring the youth band.

A congregational sing-along
of the birth of Jesus Christ.



December 17th, 2023, 9:00am
3rd Sunday of Advent

worship notes:

Welcome to our church family today as we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ through our Sunday School Christmas program. Today, the music is found in the **ELW (red)** hymnal, and in your bulletin. Children's activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary. Hearing devices can be found as you enter the sanctuary. An usher will be happy to help! We pray that you will experience God's redeeming love and grace as you worship with us. Please stay and enjoy coffee and conversation after worship in the Fellowship Hall!

about the readings today:

The readings for today's 3rd Sunday of Advent will not be read during worship but are listed after the service (and in the QR box next to it). "Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

418 Sumner Street E, Northfield, MN 55057

Pastor David Weeks

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9 am – 2 pm | 507.645.8252
northfieldstp.org | facebook.com/northfieldstp



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

GATHERING

PRELUDE Kings”

The Prelude, as the first act of worship, is a time for people to become quiet and focus their hearts and minds for what is to follow, inviting worshipers to transition their busy lives into a sacred space of communion with God and neighbor.

“Good King Wenceslas, I Saw Three Ships, We Three

Madelyn Terpstra
from *PreTime Piano Christmas* arr. by Nancy and Randall Faber.
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“The First Noel” St. Peter's Youth Band

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Light”

“You Are the

by Nate Houge
©2009 Lutefist. www.natehouge.com

Chord progression: C F Em G C G C

Je - sus Christ you are the light; Light of the world.

Chord progression: 9C F G C G C

Je - sus Christ you are the light; Light of the world.

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION + FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. *(silence for reflection)*

Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and c covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,

OPENING HYMN		“He Came Down” ELW#253		SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM		“A Christmas Story Sing-Along”	
GREETING		The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.		St. Peter's Sunday School Christmas Program also featuring the Youth Band. A congregational sing along (see the carols below) of the birth of Jesus Christ. Other songs sung by the children: Away in a Manger and Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star			
KYRIE		“Lord Have Mercy” Pg. 8		O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW#279, stanzas 1 & 4			
				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.			
				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; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!			
PRAYER OF THE DAY		Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.		Angels We Have Heard on High ELW#289			
READING				1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.			
FIRST READING		Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11		2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.			
SECOND READING		1 Thessalonians 5:16-24		3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.			
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION		“Alleluia, Alleluia” Pg. 8		Silent Night ELW#281			
GOSPEL		John 1:6-8, 19-28		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.			
Before: Glory to you, O Lord		After: Praise to you, O Christ		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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.			

***Joy to the World* ELW#267, stanzas 1, 2 & 4**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,

HYMN OF THE DAY ***"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"* ELW #249**

NICENE CREED **ELW Pg. 104**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
after each petition: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING ***"Il Est Né"***
harp: arr. Sylvia Woods
©1984 Sylvia Woods Music Publishing. Permission granted by arranger.
flute/piano: arr. Ernie and Becky Brock
(from *Christmas Music for Flute and Lever Harp, vol. 1*)
©1992 Vanderbilt Music.

OFFERING PRAYER
God our provider, **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION ***please follow along: ELW pgs. 144-145***

***"Holy, Holy, Holy"* Pg. 9**

LORD'S PRAYER
ELW p.112
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.

- COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**
- All are invited and welcome to participate in Communion.
 - Communicants should approach the altar down the center aisle, and return by the side aisles. Ushers will guide you.
 - Non-alcoholic juice is available. Gluten-free communion wafers are available.
 - Please notify the ushers if you would like Communion from your seat.

COMMUNION MUSIC: ***"Lamb of God"* Pg. 10**

"What Child is This?"
arr. Mary Kay Bougie
©2023. Permission granted by arranger.
Jake Larsen, trumpet

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
arr. Joyce Rice
from *Two Harps Plus*. ©1999 by Joyce Rice. www.joycericepub.com. Permission granted by arranger.
Alaia Douah, piano; Madeleine Douah, harp; Kennedy Larsen, flute.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

***“All Earth is Hopeful”* ELW#266**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

arr. Michael Mazzatenta
from Rejoice, Rejoice, Songs for Advent and Christmas.
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accompaniments to *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night* arr. Lloyd Larson
from *The Canadian Brass Trumpet Christmas Descants*
©2001 Hal Leonard Corporation.

Mass - O Come, Emmanuel

by Kevin Weed
based on the traditional *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

LORD HAVE MERCY

Em $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Em $\frac{E\flat}{D}$ C $\frac{G}{B}$ Am7 D G $\frac{G}{B}$ Am $\frac{A7}{C\sharp}$ Dsus D

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

A m A7
C# D sus D E m Bm
D C A m D sus D G sus G

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

D Em Em \overline{D} $\frac{A}{C}$ D G D G C Am $\frac{Em}{B}$ Bm Em **Fine** Repeat if desired.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Em Am
C Bm
D D G **D.S. al Fine**

The first system of the musical score is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (half), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Above the staff, the chords are indicated as Em, Am/C, Bm/D, D, and G. The system concludes with a double bar line and the instruction 'D.S. al Fine'.

Use
proper
verse:

music © 2011 by Kevin Weed - www.kevinweed.com

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KevinWeed.com
Mass O Come Emmanuel

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord. Lord ____ God ____ of hosts. Heav-en and earth ____ are

full ____ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of ____ the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins ____ of the

world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world, grant ____ us peace.

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Prayer Ministry

Contact the church office to submit names of people to be included in our Sunday prayers. Please provide an update if situations improve or renew request bi-monthly.

Today we pray especially for:

Bob A. (brother of Joyce), Paula B. (daughter of Judy), Bernice C., Tom D. (brother of Julia), Carl E. (friend of Pete & Susan), Lyle G., Angela H. (friend of Doris W.), Donna H. (friend of Karen), Ron H., Daryl K., Tami L., Christopher L. (son of Sonja), Inez N., Nell P. (sister of Diane & Pete), Scott Q. (relative of Carmen), Jaynie R. (daughter of Jeff & Stephanie), Kathy S. (sister of Sheryl), Roya S. (great niece of Pete and Diane), Karen W. (cousin of Carmen, Char), Mark W. (brother of Claire)

(last names are withheld for on-line privacy.)

*If you would like a visit or phone call from Pastor David,
please contact the Church Office at 645-8252.*

Today’s Worship and Fellowship Leaders

Reader: Pete Pedersen

Special Music: Children’s Christmas Sing-Along + Youth Band

Ushers: Janet Gilbertson + Joan Paulson

Communion Servers: Evonne Clay, Carmen Sevcik, Doris Hill

Hospitality: Nick + Emily Paulson

Live Stream: Bill Bleckwehl

Would you like to follow along with today’s readings?

For today’s lesson and
gospel texts,
scan with your smart
phone’s camera:



Thank you!

Thank you for all you do to serve Jesus here at St. Peter’s.
In addition to giving in worship, you may mail or drop off.
your offering, set up auto payment through Vanco or bill pay,
or use the included QR code for Vanco.



2023 Christmas Program Cast:

Narrators: Emerson & Madilyn Terpstra

Registrar: Henry Sevcik

Innkeeper: Eli Kopack

Mary: Danielle Crase

Joseph: Matt Crase

Baby Jesus: Rylee Crase

Main Angel: Adeline Sevcik

Angels: Rylee & Myla Culhane, Sophie Sevcik, Quinn Crase

Shepherd: Emerson Terpstra

Sheep: Tanner & Theo Peterson

Wisemen: Eli Kopack, Karlie & Lilly Paulson

Star: Harvey Blood

Camel: Henry Sevcik

Sunday School Music Director, Zoe Vorbach

Program courtesy of ministry-to-children.com

SPY YOUTH BAND

Kennedy Larsen, grade 11, flute

Logan Miller, grade 11, percussion

Keith Harner, grade 11, trombone

Alaia Douah, grade 9, clarinet & piano

Jake Larsen, grade 9, trumpet

Sam Harner, grade 8, baritone

Madeleine Douah, grade 8, trumpet & harp

Tia Randall, grade 6, clarinet

Maria Panora, Conductor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Service of Peace + Healing | Wednesday, December 20th | 4pm

Death...divorce...illness...sometimes it's hard to get through this month of December when we do not feel cheerful. The Advent Service of Peace & Healing may help. Listen to beautiful music; light a candle; observe the winter solstice and the turning of the year to more light; come for optional anointing for healing of yourself or others. Grief can take many forms - this "blue Christmas" service may help us lament, cry to God, and support others in their journey. Music for Celtic harp, classical guitar, and cello begins at 3:45 p. m. The service begins at 4:00 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 418 East Sumner St., pastors David Weeks, Rachel McIver Morey, and Richard Collman presiding. Sponsored by St. Peter's, United Methodist Church, and the Northfield Grief Support, Coalition, and Outreach.

Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer | December 20th | 6:30pm

Join us on Wednesday, December 20th for Advent worship at 6:30pm.
Theme, O Antipas – O Key of David.

Christmas Eve Worship | December 24th | 3:30pm + 5pm

Join us for Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, December 24th. Worship services at 3:30pm + 5pm. 3:30 worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Both services will end peacefully in candlelight.

Sunday Worship | December 31st

Join us at worship on December 31st - the 1st Sunday of Christmas! We will be featuring some of our bell choir music as well have a Christmas Carol Request Sing-Along. Start thinking of a carol you would like to sing. See you on the 31st!

Giving Tree

Is there someone to whom you want to give a Christmas gift, but they really don't need anything? Do you want your gift to be an expression of your Christian faith? Of course, you do. Check out our Giving Tree in the narthex with ELCA Good Gifts ornaments. Buy honeybees, goats, meals, pigs, chickens, etc. and give financial offering in someone else's name. You can also go online to www.goodgifts.elca.org for more information.

2024 Estimates of Giving

Thank you to all who have returned their 2024 Estimated Giving card. We would appreciate hearing from more of you in the next few weeks in order for our Church Council to create a 2024 Ministry plan (budget). You can return your Estimate to the church office or the offering plate. Thank you for your prayers and financial support of the ministry of St. Peter's Lutheran.

End of the year...

As 2023 ends on Sunday, we will close our books for 2023 on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Checks will need to be dated in 2023. Thank you.



Kids' Corner

Advent 3

- Today is the **3rd Sunday** in **Advent**.
- Jesus is the **light** of the **world**.
- The **candles** in the **Advent wreath** give us light.
- A wreath's circular shape shows God's **never-ending love** for us.

Which images provide light? Circle and color the things that give us light.



Decorate the invitation and give it to a friend or neighbor.



