



December 31st, 2023, 9:00 am 1st Sunday of Christmas

worship notes:

Welcome to our church family today as we rejoice in the presence of the risen Jesus Christ. Today, the music is found in the **ELW (cranberry hymnal)** and the **ACS (purple hymnal)**. 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 psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

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
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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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.

“The Rocking Carol”

arr. Anna Laura Page
Czech Carol. ©2018 Choristers Guild

GATHERING CAROL

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” ELW #284

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C: He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

P: At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C: With the heavenly host we sing. “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”

P: In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C: With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

OPENING CAROL

“Love Has Come” ELW #292

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

SECOND READING **Galatians 4:4-7**

GOSPEL ACCLAMTION **“Go, Tell it on the Mountain” ELW #290**

GOSPEL **Luke 2:22-40**

Before: **Glory to you, O Lord** *After:* **Praise to you, O Christ**

CHRISTMAS CAROL HYMN SING

request your season's favorites!
see suggested hymn numbers **ELW 239-300** *or* **ACS 901-913**

CAROL OF THE DAY **“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” ELW #272**

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

after each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

CAROL **“The Bells of Christmas” ELW #298**
(St. 1-3)

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

OFFERING/SPECIAL MUSIC **“Still, Still, Still”**
arr. Anna Laura Page
Austrian Christmas Carol. ©2018 Choristers Guild.

OFFERING PRAYER
God of abundance, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

OFFERING CAROL **“Filled With Hope and Gratitude” ACS #907**

LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

CLOSING CAROL

“Let All Together Praise Our God” ELW #287
(St. 1, 2, 4, 6)

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah Medley”
arr. Catherine Rollin
(from “Christmas Medleys & Variations) ©2002 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Celebrating December Birthdays

Today we celebrate our December birthdays in the congregation. Please join us for coffee and birthday cake in the fellowship hall after the service

Volunteers Needed Today

We are looking for 5-6 volunteers to help take down our Christmas decorations, i.e. trees, garland, wreaths, creche, banners, and Advent wreaths, in the sanctuary, narthex, and fellowship hall. We plan to begin taking down decorations around 10:20. With enough volunteers we should be able to finish in about 30 minutes.

Take Heart

Our former St. Olaf intern, Maddi Froiland along with her mother, Rev. Dr. Lisa Bates-Froiland, are working on a project with Jesuit priest Garrett Gundlach of Racine, WI to distribute 8,000 olive wood hearts that were used in a worship service on Dec 28, 2023, at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to commemorate the Slaughter of the Innocents (long-standing date on the Christian Church calendar). Maddi lives in Jerusalem, and visited the Bethlehem woodworking factory in December, and saw first-hand the beautiful work they do. St. Peter's has ordered 100 of these hearts, available for you to purchase at \$3 each. We will use them in our Ash Wednesday service (which falls on Valentine's Day) and then distribute them to those who have purchased them. Please consider purchasing a heart to support the work of Palestinians in the Holy Land. More information to come soo

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), Angela H. (friend of Doris W.), Donna H. (friend of Karen), Ron H., Daryl K., Tami L., Christopher L. (son of Sonja), Doug P., (brother-in-law of Joyce + Borris), 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)

(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: Carmen Sevcik
- Special Music: Bell Choir + Christmas Carol Sing-Along
- Ushers: Borris + Joyce Mokoff
- Hospitality: Phil + Joanne Olson
- Live Stream: Naomi Zeigler

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.



Kids' Corner

Christmas 1

- Today is the 1st Sunday after Christmas.
- Jesus came to earth to teach everyone about **God’s love**.

Praise God!

On the first Christmas, angels praised God for sending Jesus. Use the angel code to find four ways we celebrate God’s greatest gift - Jesus!

