Tidings of Comfort and Joy!

Dec. 3rd  Comfort and Joy in His Tender Announcement
Dec. 10th  Comfort and Joy in His Enduring Good Tidings
Dec. 17th  Comfort and Joy in His Power and Protection

Midweek Advent Meditations – 2014

Supper Fellowship 5:45 – 6:30 p.m.    Worship Fellowship 6:30 – 7:05 p.m.

Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.
This week:  2 Peter 3:8-14  It’s Coming – Be prepared!

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Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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The Candles of the Advent Wreath for Week One

The Prophecy Candle (blue) – symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of the two visible comings (advents) of the Savior.

The Color of Advent

**Royal Blue**  Advent’s call is: “The King is Coming! Prepare for Him!—Prepare through repentance of sins!” Thus, Royal Blue not only represents ROYALTY, but also HOPE—the “vision of looking to the future.” Blue is the color of the sky, and the hope of Advent looks forward to the return (second advent) of our Savior King on Judgment Day from above to take us to heaven and complete His full deliverance of us from Satan, Sin, and Death. At the same time, it commemorates our sure hope of salvation based on His first coming to redeem us. And so we ask Him to come into our hearts now to rule us and keep us safe in His kingdom.

+ A special welcome to any visitors or to friends of our members. +

May your soul be uplifted in our devotion!

Your Advent offering of thanks to our Lord will not be taken during the devotion time but, rather, as you leave tonight. Please place it in the offering plate.

Our Order of Devotional Worship

Welcome

Ceremony of Lighting the Advent Wreath (see inside the back cover of hymnal)

Opening Hymn ♪ CW#42 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Psalm 77: (select verses; spoken in unison)

1 I cried out to God for help.
2 When I was in distress I sought the LORD;
   at night I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted.
3 I remembered You, O God, and I groaned.
4 You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak.
5 I thought about the former days, the years of long ago.
6 I remembered my songs in the night. My spirit inquired:
7 Will the LORD reject forever? Has His unfailing love vanished forever?
12 Then I thought: I will remember the deeds of the LORD! I will meditate on all Your works and consider all Your mighty deeds.
13 Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?”
14 You are the God who performs miracles;
   You display Your power among the people.
15 With Your mighty arm, You redeemed Your people.

Our Confession of Faith  (Luther’s Explanation to the second Article)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true!
Carol-Hymn ♫ CW#703 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you merry, Gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
   For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day
   to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:
   O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
   O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. In Bethlehem, in Jewry, this blessed Babe was born
   and laid within a manger upon that blessed morn,
   the which, His Mother Mary did nothing take in scorn.    O tidings...

3. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
   and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
   this holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface:*    O tidings ...
   *(i.e. makes other days seem inferior)

Meditation  Isaiah 40:1-5   Comfort and Joy come from God’s Tender Announcement

Carol-Hymn: ♫ CW#11 vv.1-2,4  Comfort, Comfort All My People

Devotional Prayer

Moment of Silent Prayer

Lord’s Prayer: (spoken in unison)
   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.
   Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
   For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

Luther’s Evening Prayer: (spoken in unison)
We thank You, our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You
have graciously kept us this day. Forgive us all our sins and graciously keep us this
night. Into Your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all things. Let Your
holy angels be with us, that the wicked Foe may have no power over us. Amen.

Benediction (includes Luke 2:29-32, the words of Simeon to Baby Jesus)
29“Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, now dismiss Your servants in peace. 30For our
eyes have seen Your salvation, 31which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32a
Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of Your people Israel.”
   The Lord bless you and keep you.
   The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
   The Lord look on you with His favor and give you peace.

Congregation: (spoken) Amen!

Announcements

* Sing-along (optional to stay for) – Five more minutes of your Sacred Christmas
   Hymns/Carols requests (about three each week)
   + Your Advent offering of thanks to our Lord can be given as you leave tonight.
     Please place it in the offering plate. +

Thank you to tonight’s usher: Loren Mathison  Piano: Pastor R. Lehmann
**The Lord’s Weeks at Peace December 3rd-18th**

**Wednesday (3rd)**  
1st Wednesday in Advent  
9:00 a.m.   Wednesday Bible Readers – 2nd Peter  
4:00 p.m.   Confirmation Class: Bible History  
5:45-6:30 p.m. Advent Potluck Supper (please bring dish at 5:30 for setting up)  
6:30-7:05 p.m. Advent Devotional worship: Comfort and Joy in His Tender Announcement  

**Thursday (4th)**  
4:30 p.m.   Confirmation Class: Catechism I (make-up class)  

**Saturday (6th)**  
8:00 a.m.   Men’s Brkfst. Bible Study at Citrus Café  (Genesis 42-43)  
10:00 a.m.  Practice of Christmas service parts 5th-11th grade  
11:00 a.m.  S.A.C. committee meets to assemble Christmas baskets/boxes  

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**Sunday (7th)**  
2nd Sunday in Advent – Prepare! (John the Baptist Sunday)  
9:00 a.m.   Worship w. Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m.  Sunday School – The angel Gabriel visits Mary  Luke 1:26-38  
Adult-Teen Bible Class: 2nd Samuel – life of King David  
5:30 p.m.   Advent by Candlelight (You must be registered)  

**Monday (8th)**  
6:30 p.m.   Discipleship Committee meeting  

**Tuesday (9th)**  
4:30 p.m.   Confirmation Class: Catechism I  
6:30 p.m.   Chancel Choir rehearsal  

**Wednesday (10th)**  
2nd Wednesday in Advent  
9:00 a.m.   Wednesday Bible Readers – 2nd Peter  
4:00 p.m.   Confirmation Class: Bible History  
5:45-6:30 p.m. Advent Potluck Supper (please bring dish at 5:30 for setting up)  
6:30-7:00 p.m. Advent Devotional worship: Comfort and Joy in His Enduring Good Tidings  

**Thursday (11th)**  
8:00 a.m.   Pastor conducts worship service at Rock Haven  

**Saturday (13th)**  
8:00 a.m.   Men’s Brkfst. Bible Study at Citrus Café  (Genesis 44-45)  

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**Sunday (14th)**  
3rd Sunday in Advent – Behold! (Angel Tree gifts are due)  
9:00 a.m.   Worship (and WELS Connection)  
10:30 a.m.  Sunday School – Angel visits Joseph in a dream  Matt.1:18-25  
Adult/Teen Bible Study – 2nd Samuel – life of King David  

**Tuesday (16th)**  
(Hanukkah)  
11:00 a.m.  Ladies Visiting at Olive Garden (Hymn study CW#24 The Angel Gabriel)  
4:30 p.m.   Confirmation Class: Catechism I  
6:30 p.m.   Chancel Choir rehearsal  

**Wednesday (17th)**  
3rd Wednesday in Advent  
9:00 a.m.   Wednesday Bible Readers  
4:00 p.m.   Confirmation Class: Bible History  
5:45-6:30 p.m. Advent Potluck Supper (please bring dish at 5:30 for setting up)  
6:30-7:00 p.m. Advent Devotional worship: Comfort and Joy in His Power and Protection  

**Thursday (18th)**  
6:00-8:30 p.m. Christmas caroling to Shut-ins
An Advent Prayer
(as you await our worship; from Portals of Prayer)

Lord Jesus, angels over Bethlehem hailed Your coming, as did crowds in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. All heaven’s hosts and earth’s multitudes will welcome Your final coming. Make our hearts thrill at meeting You in bread, wine, and water. Keep us alert to ways we can assist others to welcome You as You come with forgiveness. Make Advent a blessing to us, and make us a blessing to many others. For Your name’s sake we ask this. Amen.

Announcements and Information

Advent by Candlelight — Sunday, December 7th at 5:30 p.m.
Women/girls only in Fellowship Hall. Must be signed up by TONIGHT

Wednesday Midweek Suppers and Devotional Worship - December 3rd, 10th, 17th.

Theme: Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Potluck Fellowship supper: 5:45-6:30 p.m. Advent Devotion: 6:30-7:05 p.m.
(in Fellowship Hall) (in church)

You are encouraged to bring friends to this simple hour-long supper AND devotion.

Dec. 3rd Potluck-Thank You! Comfort and Joy in His Tender Announcement
Dec. 10th Potluck- Sign up! Comfort and Joy in His Enduring Good Tidings
Dec. 17th Potluck- Sign up! Comfort and Joy in His Power and Protection

This midweek worship is not intended to replace our usual Sunday worship, but to enhance our “seasonal” preparation/focus; we will not be distributing the Lord’s Supper in them. We hope that members attending Wednesday evening meditations will also join us in regular liturgical worship on Advent Sundays where the themes are different.

There are NO Thursday services throughout all December.

Special Holiday Worship

*Sunday, Dec. 21st– 9 a.m. Sun. School/Teen/Chancel Choir Christmas Service

“Shepherds and Kings”

*Christmas Eve (Wednesday, Dec. 24th) – 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service
*Christmas Day (Thursday, Dec. 25th) – 9:00 a.m. Song-Service – “Nine Lessons and Carols”
* Sunday, Dec. 28th – Worship (Commemorative day of Herod’s wretched plan to kill Baby Jesus)
*New Year’s Eve (Wed., Dec. 31st) – 5:00 p.m. Confessional Devotion w. Holy Communion.
*NO worship on Thursday, January 1st, 2015
* Sunday, January 4th – Worship with Holy Communion

New Year’s Eve confessional service with Holy Communion.

It is intended to be a meditative and confessional service without a usual sermon—just a devotional message. We end the Old Year in repentance and start the New Year asking God’s guidance. Holy Communion will remind us of our Lord’s faithful and forgiving covenant. (NO THURSDAY WORSHIP ON JANUARY 1st.) Also, the communion worship service on Sunday, January 4th, will not be the same as the worship of December 31st.
**Caroling to Shut-ins:** The Chancel Choir is planning on visiting some of our shut-ins the evening of **Thursday, Dec. 18th**, leaving church at 6 p.m. If any members would like to join us, a sign-up sheet is posted on the back bulletin board so that we have an idea of how many *additional* singers to expect. An “afterglow” potluck will be held afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

**Angel Tree for ECHO** (in the narthex) We have one family from ECHO to buy gifts for; the Angel Tree has note cards with requested gifts for that family. When you purchase whatever gift(s) you choose, please have them wrapped (including a name tag) and placed by the tree by Sunday, Dec. 14th. Also, please note that, **in December, the Angel Tree has also become a Mitten Tree**, offering free mittens for young or old folk of our congregation—whoever may be in desire/need of a pair (knitted by our knitting group). You may also take an *angel* ornament.

**Holiday Baking?** Woodman’s, Pick-N-Save, and Kwik Trip scrip cards are available after our worship services. During the holiday period, Deb has $25 gift cards for these places—besides $50 and $100 cards—if people might like to purchase such cards for holiday gifts. Proceeds help support our *Education Fund (Woodman’s)* or the *Ladies Aid (Pick-N-Save)*. Kwik Trip scrip card proceeds are used for capital expenditures, and Kwik Trip “Moo-lah” dollars (the coupons you cut from milk/juice bags and donut boxes) are used for our *Education Fund*.

**Scrip News:** We have recently received notice that Kwik Trip scrip cards will bring us a reduced rate (from 10% to 5% of what we receive with your gasoline purchases) as of Jan. 1st. You may order extra Kwik Trip Scrip cards through Deb Lehmann *between now and then* to get the full 10% return for our Capital Expenditures fund. With Christmas up-and-coming, please consider thinking ahead and purchasing Kwik Trip scrip not only for you but for gifts to your kids or friends.

**Christmas Cards and Momentos of the Church** (by the library)

The Ladies’ Aid is selling *Christmas cards* as well as copies of their 50th *Anniversary Cookbook* ($10). The Youth program has *red, blue, or white* commemorative Christmas bulbs with the church logo on one side and a lithograph of the church on the other side. ($5 for 3; $2.00 for 1)

**Sacred Christmas Concerts of our area and Synod WELS Lutheran schools:**

- **Wis. Lutheran College** (Wauwatosa): Dec. 4th (Thurs.) – 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5th (Fri.) – 7:30 p.m., *(no free-will offering; tickets are $10)* Dec. 6th (Sat.) – 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7th (Sun.) – 2:30 p.m.
- **Martin Luther College** (New Ulm, MN) Dec. 6th (Sat.) – 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7th (Sun.) – 4:00 p.m. You will be able see this streamed live at mlc-wels.edu
- **Wis. Luth. High School** (Milwaukee): Dec. 13th (Sat.) – 7 p.m.
- **Wis. Lutheran Seminary** (Mequon): Dec. 14th (Sun.) – 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. You will be able see the 3 p.m. concert streamed live at wls-wels.edu
- **Luther Prep School** (Watertown): Dec. 14th (Sun.) – 3:00 p.m.; Dec. 18th (Thurs.) – 10:00 a.m. You will be able see the 3 p.m. concert streamed live at www.lps.wels.net/LPS-Livestream
- **Lakeside Luth. High School** (Lake Mills): Dec. 14th (Sun.) – 7:00 p.m.

**Chris Driesbach Advent concert** Chris is in the area presenting his Advent “While We Wait …We Hope” concert. Chris has performed twice here at Peace. Next Wednesday, Dec. 10th, he’ll be at St. Peter in Brodhead at 7:00 p.m. Prior to the concert, you can join the congregation at 6:00 p.m. for a "Soup and Sandwich" supper.