

**Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements**

special block rate for our group available now. Be sure to mention "retreat" to get the block rate. Deadline for both retreat registration and hotel reservations is Friday, February 22, 2019.

**URGENT NEED FOR SPONSORS:** The CLC KINSHIP Committee is seeking sponsors to support overseas orphans and seminary students. There are both students and orphans that will not have financial support starting in January if we do not find new sponsors. Please give this prayerful consideration. For more information, please see, email, or text Dan Roehl (danroehl@hotmail.com 507-381-2042).

**NEW YEAR'S EVE:** Our New Year's Eve Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated. Close out the old year and welcome the new with worship and praise to our Triune God and partaking of our Lord's Supper and a hymn sing afterward.

**WANTED:** Any new phone numbers, new addresses, or e-mail addresses for our 2019 church directory. Please give them to pastor before the New Year. Thanks!

**NEEDED--USHERS:** Any male communicant member who is not presently serving as an usher but who would like to help serve in 2019, please see Pastor Bernthal before the New Year's list is typed out. Please do so by the New Year. Thank you!

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church is a **confessional Lutheran Church**. If you are interested in learning more, please call Pastor Bernthal at **608-233-2244** or e-mail him at [mbern@juno.com](mailto:mbern@juno.com)  
More Information and Audio Sermons at [middletonlutheran.org](http://middletonlutheran.org)



Peace Thru Christ Church/School is a Member of  
**The Church of the Lutheran Confession.** [www.clc.org](http://www.clc.org)

# Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church and School

**Pastor: Mark H. Bernthal • Organist: Mrs. Karen Schaser**

Church/Office **(608) 233-2244** Parsonage **(608) 442-9986**

3232 West Point Rd. Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

[middletonlutheran.org](http://middletonlutheran.org)

**Third Sunday in Advent • December 16, 2018**

**Pre-service Preparation: Psalm 98**

## **THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Worship Supplement, p. 12**

**Opening Hymn: . . . . . 55**

**Before Sermon: . . . . . 394**

**Offering: . . . . . 439 (1-2, 5-6)**

**After Prayers: . . . . . 66**

**After Benediction: . . . . . 48**

**Antiphon Ps. 96 . . . . . pg. 26 W. S.**

### **Scripture Readings:**

#### **Isaiah 61:1-3**

Although these words are prophecy, and although they point forward to an event in the future, they speak with the certainty that an action and a transaction has been completed and stands as finished. Jesus said in Luke 4, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." The One anointed to preach Good News is Jesus

Christ. He is the speaker. He is the heart of the Good News! He is also the center of the Christmas celebration. We see bumper stickers that say, "Put Christ back into Christmas!" Such a slogan reminds us that it is all too easy to be engaged in the externals of the holiday and lose the meaning. Yet, such a slogan is an overstatement. Christ is CHRISTmas! He never left! He remains! May our desire ever be to "Come and adore Him!"

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."*

## **John 1:6-8; 19-28**

John pointed away from himself and confessed freely: "I am not the Christ." He describes his role as being "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." When the crowds asked him where he received his authority to baptize, John answered, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." Focus on Jesus!

*6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord," ' as the prophet Isaiah said." 24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John*

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**IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:** Cleaners this week: A. Meyer B. Brandle  
Counters today: John Birkholz & John Gerbitz

**LAST WEEK:** Worship 35 S.S. 1 Bible Class 18 Advent 27

**OFFERINGS** 12/9 & 12 for Unified Budget: \$7,627\*

\*We praise our Heavenly Father for moving the hearts of His children to show their thankful love so generously this past week with over \$7,000 in offerings. Praise be to God!

**IN YOUR MAILBOX:** Christmas letter from Pastor & Ruth

**CHRISTMAS BAGS:** If you would like to donate items for the Christmas bags, please bring them by next Sunday. The bags will be packed after church next Sunday. We plan on making 10-12 bags.

### **CLC NEWS:**

- Our Redeemer Lutheran, Red Wing MN, has called Pastor Edward Starkey, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran, Corpus Christi TX.
- Bethel Lutheran, Morris MN, has called Pastor Richard Kanzenbach, pastor of Morning Star Lutheran, Fairchild WI, Peace with God Lutheran, Onalaska WI, and Trinity Lutheran, Millston WI.

**2019 MISSION HELPER TRIP:** Applications for the 2019 CLC Mission Helper Trip to India are being accepted. The application deadline is January 7th. Space is limited so it is best to apply early. Apply online and find more information at: [www.MHT.LutheranMissions.org](http://www.MHT.LutheranMissions.org) or contact Todd Ohlmann at [thohlmann@gmail.com](mailto:thohlmann@gmail.com)

**MIDWEST CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT:** This retreat sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, will be held March 22-24, 2019, at the Riverport Inn & Suites, Winona, MN. Registration is \$75 and opens on January 1, 2019 and will be limited to the first 120 applicants. Register at [www.ladiesretreat.clclutheran.net](http://www.ladiesretreat.clclutheran.net). Choose the "Midwest Spring Retreat." Hotel reservations (separate from retreat registration) can be made by calling (507) 452-0606, with the

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### This Week:

**Today** 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Naaman & Elisha  
Bible Class: Galatians 2 • 10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
11:10 a.m. Choir • 11:35 a.m. Evangelism Meeting  
5:25 p.m. Christmas Caroling

**Tuesday** 10:30 a.m. Bible Class at Artisan • 6:30 p.m. Hannah's Helping Hands

**Wednesday** 9:30-11:30 Children's Playgroup • 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship 3 • 8:15 p.m. Choir

**Thursday** 10:45 a.m. Bible Class at Heritage

**Next Sunday:** 9:00 a.m. S.S./Bible Class • 10:00 a.m. Family Worship • 11:10 a.m. Choir/Christmas Eve Practice/Fill Christmas Bags

**Next Monday:** 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

**Next Tuesday:** 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Come tonight to participate in Christmas caroling to the residents of Artisan and Heritage. Join us in singing praises to our new-born King. Please meet at church by 5:25 p.m.

**HANNAH'S HELPING HANDS:** The Ladies will be meeting for their Christmas gathering at their monthly meeting, this Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. We encourage all ladies to come.

### MID-WEEK ADVENT:

This year's Advent mid-week Series is: "What's in a Name?"  
Isaiah 9:6. This Wednesday we hear about:

Jesus is our Mighty God (God's Power in Accomplishing our Salvation)---Pastor Rob Sauers

Dec. 23: Jesus is our Everlasting Father (God's Eternal Love is the Source of Salvation)---Pastor Mark Bernthal

We pray your Advent worship prepares you for your Christmas celebration and worship of the Christ-Child.

*answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

**The Sermon:** read/listen to sermons at [www.peacethruchrist.org](http://www.peacethruchrist.org)

Sermon: **I Thessalonians 5:16-24**

## KEEP FOCUSED ON CHRIST!

I: He will Change Your Life!

II: He will Free You from Evil!

III: He will Preserve Your Faith!

*16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*

### PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We thank God you are here this morning worshipping your Lord and Savior. What a blessing when we keep our eyes of faith focused on Jesus. He not only frees us from sin, death, and the devil, but He through His Word and the Holy Spirit changes us and preserves our faith. We invite you to come again and focus your eyes and heart upon Jesus and His Word. May this be how we prepare for the celebration of our Savior's coming as a little child, for then we will also be prepared for His coming again on Judgment Day. Speak to Pastor Bernthal if there is any way we can serve you. Please come again during this Advent season and worship your loving Savior with us and please sign our guest register.

