

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

**OFFERINGS** 12/24 & 25 2011  
for Unified Budget: \$8,424  
\$20,030 MDF  
\$5,200 Building Projects  
\$71 Box Tops

**IN YOUR MAILBOX:** January Calendar & Newsletter; CLC December Mission Newsletter

**NEW ENVELOPES:** Everyone should have a new box of envelopes for the New Year 2012 in your mailboxes.

**PRAISE THE LORD:** We thank the Lord for His indescribable gift of His Son and for moving the hearts of His children to respond over the Christmas weekend to give of their abundance. Over \$ 20,000 was donated for the Mission Development Fund; over \$5,000 for the Building Projects and over \$ 8,000 for our Unified Budget. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights..." James 1:17

**CLC NEWS:** Pastor David Koenig has announced that he will be retiring from his full-time overseas missionary call. He feels that it is time for a younger man to take up the work in India. He has agreed to continue in the work until someone accepts the call to replace him. He has also agreed to work with the new missionary to help him get adjusted to the work and responsibilities in India. Pastor Koenig

has also indicated that he would be willing to serve in short term efforts overseas as the Lord wills.

We thank the Lord of the Church for Pastor Koenig's zeal and strength as He has used Dave to pursue our outreach opportunities not only in India but also in Africa and Myanmar as well as other areas. The Lord has remarkably opened doors in areas where we least expected them.

The Mission Board will be issuing a call for a full time missionary to India. This man will also work in Africa as the Lord directs.

John Schierenbeck

The CLC Board of Missions has extended a divine call to Pastor Michael Gurath to serve as full-time foreign missionary to fill the position that was held by Missionary David Koenig who has announced his retirement. This call will include work in both India and East Africa.

**2012 BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL GUIDE** This "Bread of Life" is made available by the Lutheran Spokesman. Copies are available on the entry table, free for the taking. Please take one with you and we pray you use it during the year reading God's Word. If we run out we will print more.

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT:** Got any new games for Christmas! Bring them along to play this Friday. 7:00 p.m. See you there!

**WHO WE ARE:**

**Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church is a confessional Lutheran Church.**

We proclaim to a world dead in sin that salvation is a gift of God's grace; that Jesus Christ paid the full sacrificial price—His very life—so that gift of salvation could be ours. More Information and Audio Sermons at [middletonlutheran.org](http://middletonlutheran.org)

**Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church and School**

Pastor: Mark H. Bernthal • School Teacher: Ms. Jennifer Ohlmann

Organist: Mr. Jarrod Lentz

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

3232 WEST POINT RD. MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN 53562

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

**Pre-service Preparation: Ps. 111**

**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Communion Liturgy, p. 15**

**Opening Hymn: . . . . . 96**  
**Before Sermon: . . . . . 138 v.1-5**  
**Offering Hymn: . . . . . 788**  
**During Distribution: . . . . . 315**  
**Closing Hymn: . . . . . 118**

**KEY THOUGHT:**

Let The Good News Of Your Savior's Birth  
Light Your Pathway Throughout The New Year!

**Scripture Readings:**

**Isaiah 45:20-25**

God extends a gracious invitation to the world to find salvation in Him, the only Savior. This is in stark contrast to the idols of this world which have no power to save. The LORD'S gracious words are truth and His mighty works are righteousness and salvation.

*20 " Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. 21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. 22 " Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For*

*I am God, and there is no other. 23 I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. 24 He shall say, ' Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him. 25 In the LORD all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.'*"

## Colossians 3:12-17

Paul exhorts the Colossian Christians to let their exalted position as elect children of God—new creatures in Christ—be reflected in their attitudes and behavior. The only place where they can obtain needed strength for living this new life of blood-bought children of God is in His holy Word. Therefore, let them receive it faithfully, teach it diligently, and sing about it joyfully!

*12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

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

Sermon Text: **Luke 2:25-38**

## THE TRUE SPIRIT AND JOY OF CHRISTMAS

**I: Leads to a life in Christ.**

**II: Leads to a confession of Christ.**

*25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 " Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your*

*salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." 33 And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." 36 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

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**PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!** We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. May the joy of the Good News of Jesus' birth fill your hearts and remain in your lives throughout your life. For Christ is not only the "reason for the Christmas season," but the Heart of our salvation all year long. Come, worship your Savior with us again. As you leave this morning, please also sign our guest register.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** The Lord's Supper is being celebrated this morning. We encourage all of our members to attend this meal of forgiveness from our Savior. Since it is a confession of oneness in faith and doctrine, we ask that only members of Peace Thru Christ or of a sister congregation in the CLC come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions concerning this practice called "Close Communion," please see Pastor Bernthal. Thank you.

#### This Week:

**Before Church** Absalom's Rebellion

**Bible Class:** Colossians 4:1ff

**Tuesday** 10:30 a.m. Bible Class at Oak Park Place

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

**Wednesday** 8:00 a.m. School Resumes

6:00 p.m. S.S. Teacher's Meeting

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

**Thursday** 4:00 p.m. Confirmation  
McDonald

**Friday** EPIPHANY

7:00 p.m. Family Fun Night

**Next Sunday**

9:00 a.m. S.S./Bible Class

10:00 a.m. Family Worship

11:15 a.m. Evangelism Meeting

**LAST SUNDAY:**

Christmas Eve 72 & Christmas Day 53