

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

CLC NEWS:

- Pastor Ben Libby has returned the call to Trinity, Spokane, WA.
- Pastor Mike Eichstadt, Messiah, Hales Corners, WI has returned the call extended to him by the CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions to serve as professor at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI.
- Pastor Paul Tiefel, Jr., Messiah, Eau Claire has been called by Bethel, Morris, MN.
- The CLC Board of Missions has called Pastor Andrew Schaller to serve as the CLC's third foreign missionary.
- Mr. Stephen Sydow has returned the all extended to him by Berea, Sioux Falls, SD.
- Pastor Norm Greve, St. Peter's, Iron River, MI has been called by Redeemer, Bowdle and Zion, Ipswich, SD.
- Principal Joshua Ohlmann, Grace, Sleepy Eye, MN has been called by Faith, Markesan, WI to be their upper grade teacher/principal.

**REPENTANCE:** The word "repent" is one of the most important words in Scripture. Next to the word "believe," the word "repentance" describes all that is necessary for salvation from sin and its punishment. Repentance involves a total change of heart and life. It embraces not merely a breaking of evil habits, but a change of mind, a change of heart. Joel 2:12-13: *"Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."* So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm." It consists of sorrow for sin, reliance on God's mercy and forgiveness through the merits of Jesus, an earnest resolve with the help of the Holy Spirit to amend one's life, and the fruits of repentance in a new life. Matt. 3:8: *"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance."*

# Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church and School

Pastor: Mark H. Bernthal • Organist: Mrs. Gail Schaefer

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[www.peacethruchrist.org](http://www.peacethruchrist.org)

Pre-service Preparation: Psalm 1

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Communion Liturgy, P. 1 W.S.

**Opening Hymn:** . . . . . 75

**Before Sermon:** . . . . . 63

**Offering:** . . . . . 59 (1, 5)

**During Distribution:** . . . . . 65/313

**Closing Hymn:** . . . . . 58 (1, 7, 9)

**Antiphon, Ps. 24** . . . . . Pg. 25 W.S.

### Scripture Readings:

#### Isaiah 40:1-11

The wilderness preacher—John the Baptist---is to prepare the way for the King's coming—a coming that will show the Lord's glory, as He had promised long ago. His coming will ransom Israel from all her sins, and give her everlasting comfort and peace.

*"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. 2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity*



is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand Double for all her sins." 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." 9 O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

## Romans 15:4-13

Christ is the One whose coming was foretold. What was written about Him in the past was written for our learning and blessing. We are called to glorify the Savior in our lives. Filled with joy and peace, may we overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Glorify God Together 7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. 8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." 10 And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" 11 And again: "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!"*

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**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Pastor John Johannes' memorial victory service will be held this afternoon at 4 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church in Fond du Lac. Visitation from 3-4. A meal will follow.

**MID-WEEK ADVENT:** The word ADVENT means "coming." During this four-week season we prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming.

- 1) His coming into the world as a human baby born in Bethlehem to take our place.
- 2) His coming into our hearts through faith.
- 3) His coming again on Judgment Day to take us to heavenly glory.

**Mid-week Advent Series:** Three Impossible Births.

Dec 4 – A Birth of Impossible Hope (Pastor Mark Bernthal)

Dec 11 – A Birth of Impossible Laughter (Pastor David Ude)

Dec 18 – A Birth of Impossible Deliverance (Pastor Rob Sauers)

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

**IN YOUR MAILBOX:** December Calendar & Newsletter

**IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:** Cleaners this week: A. Gerbitz B. Brandle  
Counters today: Matt Schaser & Gail Schaefer

**LAST WEEK:** Worship 39 S.S. 1 Bible Class 15 Thanksgiving Eve 30

**OFFERINGS 11/24** for Unified Budget: \$2,222

Love offering for Bruce Templeton: \$1,570

CLC CBP: \$100

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Looking for appropriate spiritual gifts for your loved ones? There are 2 devotional books available---GOD'S PROMISE KEPT VOL. II: The second book written by Pastor Emeritus Dale Redlin. There are only 2 copies left in the entry-way. And CHRIST: No Other Foundation written by Pastor Emeritus Dan Fleischer. This is a book of poems, devotions, and articles addressing the Church and Society in light of Holy Scripture. There are 4 copies available. Both books are \$15.00 each. Please pay pastor.

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### PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We warmly welcome our guests in our Savior's name. May our Advent worship be one which prepares the way for the Lord Jesus into our hearts through repentant faith. Please come and worship your Advent Savior with us again and please sign our guest register as you leave.

**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.

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#### This Week:

**Today** 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: The Captain and his Servant  
Bible Class: The People in David's Life and Yours--Absalom  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship • 11:15 a.m. Choir/Church decoration

**Tuesday** 10:30 a.m. Bible Class at Sage Meadow

**Wednesday** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Play Group  
7:00 p.m. Advent Worship I 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/Advent • 11:15 a.m. Choir  
11:35 a.m. Evangelism Meeting

**CHRISTMAS TREE/CHURCH DECORATIONS:** We plan to put up the Christmas tree and do church decorations after church today. Please stay and help.

*12 And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

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

Sermon Text: **Matthew 3:1-12**

Sermon Theme: **WHY ADVENT IS THE SEASON FOR REPENTANCE**

**I: There is no other way to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming!**

**II: There is no other way to escape the Judgment to come!**

*In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" 4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*