

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Founded 1856
1343 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, ME 48170
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



Luke 3:16 John (the Baptist) answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

Service Notes: Psalms 34, 42-43, 51, 84, 116, and 150 in the front of the hymnal will aid you in your meditation before receiving the Lord's Supper. Prayers for worship preparation are on pages 10 and 11. A form for Communion preparation is on page 156.

- Guests, please sign the guest registry in the narthex.

- If you have a prayer request or would like Pastor Schaefer to visit or call you, please talk to him (734-658-5735).

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. Our guests are kindly asked to note that it is our practice to first become a member of our communion fellowship before communing with us. Please speak to our pastor about becoming a member of our communion fellowship.

THE COMMON SERVICE (page 15)

ADVENT WREATH CANDLES LIGHTING: (Cantors) "Light a Candle, in the Night" as the candle is lit:

Original Words: Emily E. S. Elliot, 1864; Tune: MARGARET by Timothy R. Matthews, 1876. Both public domain. Edited Words and Arranged Music: Lloyd Larson ©2011 Lorenz Publishing Co. Reprinted, podcast, and recorded with permission under One Licenses: #A722670 and #R101103, respectively. All rights reserved.

Light a Candle in the night, prepare the way of the holy light. God with us
Emmanuel,

3.unending love with us to dwell. Child of love,

come in Your glory, heaven's gift, the wondrous story.

Messiah King shall come to earth. Prepare your heart for His holy birth.

OPENING HYMN: #552 vs. 1, 12, 3 'By All Your Saints Still Striving' commemorating John the Baptist (v. 12) Public Domain

552

By All Your Saints Still Striving

St. John the Baptist



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, For
 2 All praise for John the Bap - tist, Fore -
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



all your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 run - ner of the Word, Our true E - li - jah,
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blessed. You
 mak - ing A high - way for the Lord. The
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



rose, our King vic - to - rious, That they
 last and great - est proph - et, He saw
 all the ran - somed num - ber Who stand



might wear the crown And ev - er shine in
 the dawn - ing ray Of light that grows in
 be - fore the throne As - cribe all pow'r and



splen - dor Re - flect - ed from your throne.
 splen - dor Un - til the per - fect day.
 glo - ry And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio B. Nelson, 1823–1913, st. 1-4, 6-27, alt.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 5.
 St. 1-4, 6-27. From *The Hymnal 1982*. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used by
 permission of Church Publishing Inc., New York, NY.
 St. 5 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: KUORTANE (76 76 D) Finnish folk tune, c. 19th century.

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.



CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I

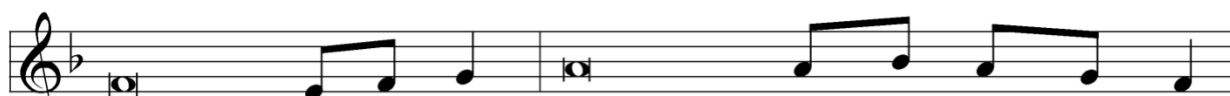
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

GLORY BE TO GOD (*Gloria in excelsis*)



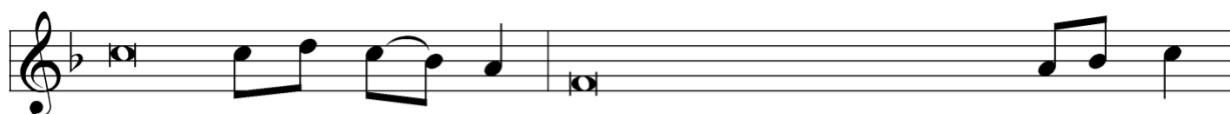
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
 you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

PSALM OF THE DAY: #130 Congregation sings **HYMN**

#305 'From Depths of Woe I Cry to You' Stanza 4: ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A722670. All rights reserved.

305 From the Depths of Woe I Cry to You



1 From depths of woe I cry to you; Lord, hear me,
 2 Your love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
 3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
 4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord As one who



I im - plore you. Bend down your gra - cious ear to me;
 my trans - gres - sion. The best and ho - liest deeds must fail
 my own mer - it; It rests up - on his faith - ful Word
 longs for morn - ing; No watch - er waits with great - er hope



My prayer let come be - fore you. If you kept
 To break sin's dread op - pres - sion. Be - fore you
 To them of con - trite spir - it. That he is
 Than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as



rec - ord of my sin And held a - gainst me
 none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear your
 mer - ci - ful and just— This is my com - fort
 Is - rael in the Lord; He sends re - demp - tion



what I've been, How could I stand be - fore you?
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
 through his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY (Cantors)

Alleluia! I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia! (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:7-18

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do? ¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who

has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with “unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

The Lutheran Study Bible, English Standard Version, ©2006 Concordia Publishing House.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son
of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from
true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from
heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin
Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

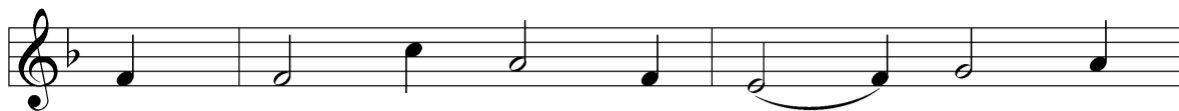
**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life (+) of the world to come. Amen.**

BE SEATED

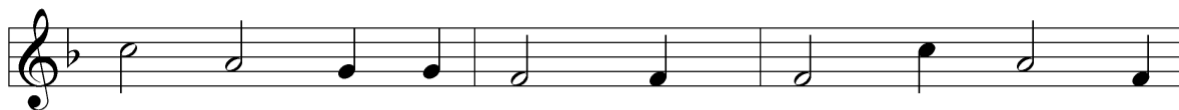
HYMN OF THE DAY: #14 “Arise, O Christian People” Setting:

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Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in -
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



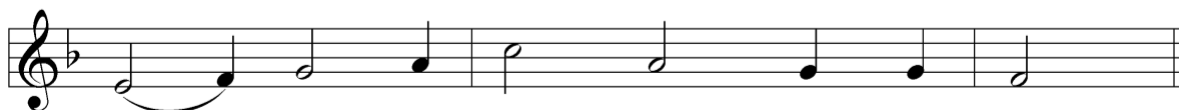
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

SERMON

STAND

PSALM 51 RESPONSE (page 20)



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - ADVENT (Page 123)

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M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from (+) evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

BE SEATED

Please use this time for personal preparation or meditation before the Lord's Supper. A form to assist you is on page 156 in the front part of the hymnal.

NOTE: *Please be prepared to receive the host in your outstretched hand, rather than in your mouth.*

STAND



THE SACRAMENT (Page 21)

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is the new testament in my (+) blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace (+) of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

'O Christ, Lamb of God' from the Common Service ©1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A722670. All rights reserved.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM: (Cantors) *The Lutheran Hymnal* #62 'Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel'

Text: Latin ca. 12th century, *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*. Tune: Veni, Emmanuel (Latin title), *Plain-song melody* (English title) composed in Köln, Germany. Translation: John Mason Neale, 1851, 1859. All Public Domain.

1. Oh Come, Oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!
2. Oh come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#20 "When All the World was cursed" Translated Text: Paul E. Kretzmann,
The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn: #272 ©1941 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted and podcast with
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#12 "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" Public Domain

20

When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem -
 2 Be - fore Saint John was born, He leaped in joy - ful
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who bears the world's trans -
 4 Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re -



na - tion, Saint John the Bap - tist came With
 meet - ing, Con - fess - ing him as Lord Whose
 gres - sion, Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The
 joic - ing, The word pro - claimed by John, Our



words of con - so - la - tion. With true fore - run - ner's
 moth - er he was greet - ing. By Jor - dan's roll - ing
 dev - il's dread op - pres - sion. Be - hold the Lamb of
 true re - pent - ance voic - ing, That glad - ly we may



zeal The great - er one he named, And him, as
 stream, A new E - li - jah bold, He tes - ti -
 God, Who takes a - way our sin, Who for our
 walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way Un - til we



yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 fied of him Whom proph - ets had fore - told.
 peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 live with him In his e - ter - nal day.

12 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 pris - on held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, abr., alt.

Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

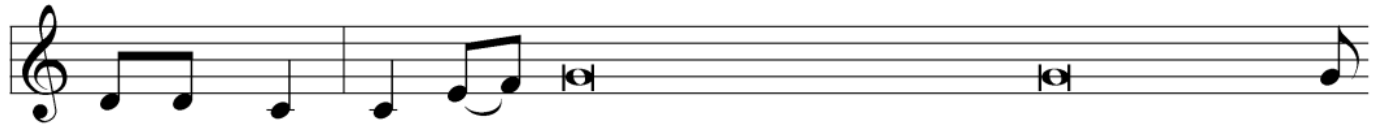
THANKSGIVING (page 24)

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc dimittis*)



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-

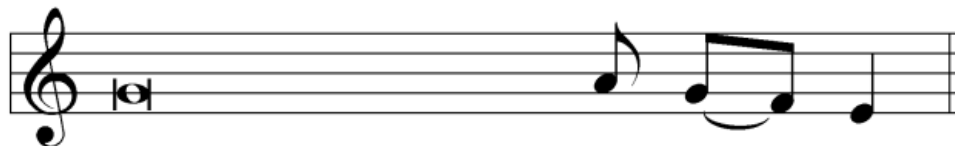


pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: 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 favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Cover Art Source: Found via www.picryl.com, public domain search engine. John the Baptist depiction from 1486 Waldburg – Gebetbuch (Prayer Book) 068, Württemberg National Library, Stuttgart, Germany.

OFFICIANTS:

Preacher and Celebrant: Pastor Paul Schaefer

Communion Assistant: Steve Wendland

Organist: Mrs. Jan Jacobi; Cantors: Sarah Burcon and Carol Schwartz

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

- Today - 9:30 AM Divine Service
- 10:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Class
- Wednesday - 9:30 AM Online Bible Class
- Thursday – 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday - 9:30 AM Divine Service
- 10:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Class
- December 22: Altar Guild: Arlette Stobbe; Ushers: #3
- December 24, 7 PM: Altar: none (no communion); Ushers: #4
- December 24, 11 PM: Altar: Ushers; Ushers: #1
- December 25, 9:30 AM: Altar: Ushers; Ushers: #2

Needed: Christmas cookies for shut ins. Please bring them by Thursday, Dec. 19, 9:00 AM to church basement for package assembly. Join us in assembling!.

PASTORAL CARE & MERCY – Please remember with prayers, cards and visits those whose needs have been reported.

<p>Church Office: 734-453-3393 https://saintpeterplymouth.org stpeterlutheran@hotmail.com</p> <p>Pastor: Rev. Paul Schaefer Cellphone: 734-658-5735 Email: Peschaef5@gmail.com</p> <p>Music Director: Julie Webber Church Secretary: Tracy Pitt</p>	<p>St. Peter's Preschool https://saintpeterpreschool.org stpeterspreschool@hotmail.com</p> <p>Director: Rebecca Lohrmann</p> <p>Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) (Saginaw) 989-793-1041</p> <p>Hope Christian Academy (Westland) 734-525-0160</p>	<p>President: Bruce Winkler Vice President: Richard Cording Council Secretary: Jim Cutler Treasurer: Seth Anderson Financial Secretaries: Steve Jacobi and Van Varner Board Chairmen: Elders – Ron Bude Stewardship/Education - Scott Beckerman Trustees – Nils Peterson</p>
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