



1st Sunday of Advent

November 30th & December 1st, 2024
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 S Michigan St.

Mission Statement:

**To worship and praise God boldly,
witness to God's Goodness,
and serve God with joy.**

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

THE CHURCH IS GATHERED TOGETHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**You are invited to stand as you are able.*

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG:

"The Hope of Your Coming"

Verse 1: Choir Only

Litany:

A Savior, the Messiah, is promised; the birth of the Child is prophesied in God's Word.

Oh, Lord, You are our Hope.

For what was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Oh, Lord, You are our Hope.

Our hearts long for the Hope that Your arrival will bring.

Oh, Lord, You are our Hope.

God's promises are true. We await the birth of Christ, the Promised Child, the Savior of the World. Hope is coming soon!

Oh, Lord, You are our Hope.

Repeat Verse 1: Choir and Congregation

May the hope of Your coming guide us from the dark. May the peace of Your promise rest upon our heart. May the joy of Your presence glow throughout the night. May the love, Your deep love, fill this room, fill this room with light.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*** GATHERING HYMN** **ELW #248**
"People Look East"

- 1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,

shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

- 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*** GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**
Amen.

THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live

in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10 (read responsively)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you

face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KID TALK

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (on Sunday)

Setting Three ELW pg. 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*** GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶

People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for your-

selves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Hillary

* SERMON HYMN ELW #723

"Canticle of the Turning"

- 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's
plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be
blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws
near,
and the world is about to turn.

- 2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of
the past
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to
shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong
to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

- 3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress
tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be
fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

- 4 Though the nations rage from age to
age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears
heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by
God,
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

* APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only
Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suf-
fered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried; he descended to
the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at
the right hand of the Father, and he will
come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resur-
rection of the body, and the life everlast-
ing. Amen.**

*** Prayers of Intercession**

After each prayer, please respond with the words "receive our prayer".

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CHRIST'S MEAL IS SHARED

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(ELW pg. 144 on Sunday)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** 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.

DISTRIBUTION (continuous)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Christ, Our Peace"

ACS #1037

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that divide us; Christ, our peace, come, make us one body in you.

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his peace. **Amen.**

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO BE THE
CHURCH

*** BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN**

ACS #905

"We Are Waiting for Jesus"

1. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

2. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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**Next Sunday's Readings: Malachi 3:1-4,
Psalm Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11,
Luke 3:1-6**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Our Prayers This Week:

Robert "Bud" Mertz, Chris Bohlen, Lynn Jenkins, Oaklynn Peterson, Sheryll Bunders, Fawneyes Lavalle, Creighton Groom, Rose Adkins, Jenny Sylvester, Carolyn Ricco, Janice Stuckey, Joe Schroeder, Christine Olson and family, Wayne Bailey and Kristen Bailey.

Saturday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers– John & Vickie Howe
Reader– Kelly Gochenaur
Acolyte– Brody Olson
Assisting Minister– Kelly Gochenaur

Sunday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers– Ron & Kathy Wikan
Reader– Lynn Rider
Acolyte– Harper Fritsche & Haze Breuer
Comm Servers—Lynn Rider & Lynda Beaty
Camera– John Kite
Easy Worship— Brittany & Lexton Stovey and Ruth Taylor

Coffee Hour:

December 1st: Gloria Bunders
December 8th: Jan Weisensale

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2025 offering envelopes are here.
Please pick yours up at the back of the church.

FAITH 5" Discipleship Practice

We encourage you to engage in a faith practice called "FAITH 5" with your friends or with your family as we continue to grow into faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

The FAITH 5 are:

- **SHARE** your highs and lows of the day
- **READ** a Bible verse or story from Sunday's worship or from a favorite devotional
- **TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows asking "What is God saying to my situation?"
- **PRAY** for one another's highs and lows
- **BLESS** one another
- December 15th: Christmas Program during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

Inter-Generational Ministry (1mo-101yrs)

- December 1st: Christmas Program Practice (Please plan for a later than usual dismissal.)
- December 8th: Rehearsal for Christmas Program (10:15-11:45 a.m. Please plan accordingly.)
- December 15th: Christmas Program during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

Confirmation Ministry for 6th-8th grades

- Confirmation class from 6:45-7:45 p.m., on Wed. with optional meal at 6:00 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Time to connect, serve, pray, have fun, grow in faith, and build friendships.

- **December 4th:** Youth Group Night at 7:45 p.m.

SERVING OPPORTUNITY: HELP GIVE RIDES TO CHURCH

We are looking for a couple more volunteers to drive some of our homebound to church on Sunday morning. We currently have two volunteers that take turns driving one of our members to church, however it would be wonderful if we could add a couple more people to our driving list. If this is something that you would be interested in helping with, please reach out to the church office at 608-326-6411 or stpeterpdc@hotmail.com.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

St. Peter's date to ring at Piggly Wiggly is December 7th. Thanks to faithful volunteers, all those times have been filled. Anyone still wishing to ring the bell and help collect funds for those in need within our community can sign-up for a time slot at either Prairie du Chien location; Piggly Wiggly and Wal-Mart, by visiting www.registertoring.com or call 214-797-9466 and leave a message for Leanne.

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM ADVENT EXPERIENCE

at Sugar Creek Bible Camp on Saturday, December 7th.

Begin your journey anytime from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The camp will be offering, once again, what is becoming a fun and simple holiday tradition. Visitors will journey through the Advent story by visiting different live action worship stations along the camp's valley; offering carols, scripture, prayer and a live nativity scene. There is no cost to participate, but free will donations toward the camp's ministries will be welcomed.

A WORSHIP WALK AT LA RIVIERE PARK

Save the date for a meaningful, Saturday morning Worship Walk at La Riviere Park on December 7th at 9:00 a.m. We will begin at the park picnic shelter, from there we will embark on a walk/gentle hike, guided by contemplative prayer practices. This will be an immersive forest experience, including time for meditation, song and Holy Communion.

SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

You are invited to prepare special music to share with our St. Peter family during worship this Advent and Christmas. Please discuss your ideas with Pastor Miranda or Pastor Hillary, and they will help determine how your gifts will best work with worship planning. Thanks!

SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

Join in a Bible discussion with other youth and adults following worship on Sunday mornings. We will meet at the front of the Sanctuary at approximately 10:15 a.m. Grab a chair, a coffee, and a treat and bring your ideas and questions to a meaningful discussion.

POTLUCK AND COOKIE EXCHANGE

Women of St. Peter join together for a potluck and cookie exchange followed by our WELCA general meeting on Tuesday, December 10th. The potluck will begin at noon with cookie exchange to follow and meeting at 1:00 p.m. Please bring two dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to exchange. Hope to see you there!

ARNOLD WEEKS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications and guidelines for 2025 are available now. If you would like an application, please contact the Church Office at 608-326-6411 or email the office at stpeterpdc@hotmail.com. You can also find it on our website: stpeterpdc.org. Students can be enrolled in a technical school, college, university, or seminary; and it is not required to be in a degree program. (High School students should wait until their first semester of college/university is completed before applying.) **Completed applications and transcripts must be submitted by December 31st.**

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Thursday, Dec 19th at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service
- Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Candlelight services

ANNUAL MEETING

Our congregation's annual meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2025 at 10:15 a.m. or shortly after worship. All committee reports need to be submitted to the church office by January 3rd.

GOOD GIFTS TREE ORNAMENTS

Look for the Good Gifts Christmas Tree in the narthex to purchase World Hunger Appeal tree ornaments.

This Week's Events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 5:15 p.m. Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. Worship also broadcast on the radio and Facebook.
- 10:15 a.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 1:30 p.m. Prison Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

- Pastors day off. Pastor Hillary is on call.
- 9:00 a.m. Yesterday's Youth at SCBC
- 4:00 p.m. NA Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

- 10:00 a.m. Text Study for Pastors
- 11:30 a.m. Endowment Committee Mtg.
- 12:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee—College Care Packages
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

- 9:15 a.m. (approx.) St. Peter Devotional
- 9:30 a.m. Communion at Pr. Maison
- 10:15 a.m. Communion at Bluff Haven
- 11:00 a.m. PDC Clergy Mtg.
- 6:00 p.m. Food for Confirmation
- 6:45 p.m. Confirmation Ministry
- 7:45 p.m. High School Group Night

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

- 5:00 p.m. Book Club at Library
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Walk at La Riviere Park
- 2:00-5:00 p.m. Road to Bethlehem at SCBC
- 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Worship with communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Communion. Worship also broadcast on the radio and Facebook.
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Discipleship
- 10:15 a.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S Michigan St.

Welcome! We are happy that you are worshiping with us today. Join us again soon.

Worship with us Saturdays at 5:15 p.m. & Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship is also broadcast live on the radio at WPRE 104.3 FM and 980 AM radio and Livestreamed on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterpdc>.

Visitors— We are so glad that you can join us today! We invite you to fill out a blue welcome card (found in the pew pocket) and place it in the offering plate at the back.

We practice open Communion here — All who seek the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers in this meal are welcome. Those not yet receiving Communion or those choosing not to today are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (we invite you to cross your arms in front of you to indicate your desire to receive a blessing). If you would like to receive Communion or a blessing and it is best for you to remain seated, please indicate this to the usher; and we will come to you.

Pastoral Care- If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, would like home communion, would like to visit with one of the pastors, or is in need of pastoral care; please call the church office at (608-326-6411). Or reach out to the pastors directly via a call or text: Pastor Miranda's cell phone number is 815-291-5793 and Pastor Hillary's cell phone number is 319-290-8641.

Sharing Your Offering- Thank you for your generosity that supports our ministries here at St. Peter and our mission partners. There are multiple options for sharing your offering.

- For in-person worship, we have an offering plate available on the usher table. We invite you to place your offerings there as you come or as you leave.
- You can mail your check to church: PO Box 37, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821.
- You can give through Simply Giving, an automated online giving program we have used successfully for years here at St. Peter. An authorization form can be found online on our website www.stpeterpdc.org/Donate or you can call the church office at (608) 326-6411.
- You can set up an offering at your bank using free Bill Pay service to have the bank print and mail your check to the church.
- You can give online at www.stpeterpdc.org on the Home page, scroll down to the "Give" button or select the Give tab at the top to be directed to Vanco/Simply Giving.

The Hungry Jar for December is: ***The Pastor's Discretionary Fund.*** Children are invited to help collect the Hungry Jar offerings during the Offering.

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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