



- Reach out to all
- Embrace His Gifts
- Announce His coming
- Commit to Christian Living
- Honor His Word

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St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Ron Moritz, Deacon Ed Smallcombe

Communion Sunday, December 15, 2024

Opening Hymn- "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

THE INVOCATION

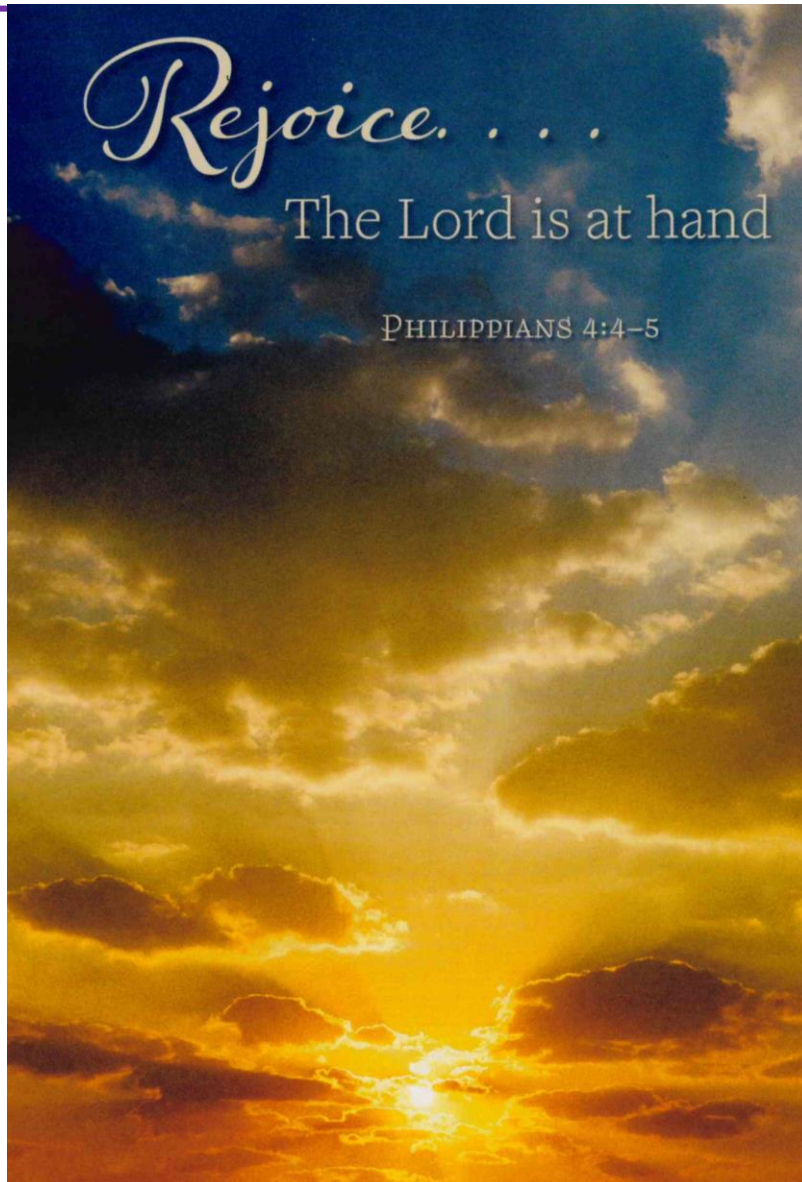
P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: Let us then confess our sins to God the Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.



2nd Sunday in Advent

O.T. – Zephaniah 3:14-20: Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! **15** The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. **16** On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. **7** The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” **18** “I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. **19** At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. **20** At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the Lord.

Epistle – Philippians 4:4-7 **4** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus..

Gospel- Luke 7:18-28: John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’”

²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy^[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ²³ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

²⁴ After John’s messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ²⁵ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’”

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn: "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"

**Sermon: "Joseph: "When is a Feast NOT a Festival"
Zephania 3:14-18**



Pray for our country, for our military, for our healthcare workers & first responders, for those that are sick, for those in need, for those who have lost loved ones, for our home-bound, for wisdom for our leaders, and for all of your concerns. Prayers of Strength and Comfort for the Ukrainian People and wisdom for all NATO Members. Pray for all your concerns.



Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

SERMON REVIEW FOR December 15, 2024

When is a Feast Not a Festival

How do you feel two weeks before Christmas?

I. The setting of Zephania's prophesy

- A. Transition between religious A_____ & R_____ (evil King Amon followed by good King Josiah)
1. For 70 years religion was little more than R_____.
 2. Josiah discovered the P_____ of God.
- B. Key verses
1. V.15 "Lord will take away your P_____" (Festival worship celebrated God's F_____!)
 2. V.18 "Sorrows of the Feast removed"
- N.T. proclaims forgiveness is C_____ through the repetition of annual S_____, while N.T. proclaims forgiveness is C_____ through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- C. Essence of Christian Worship is:
1. Removal of the B_____
 2. Celebration of what God has D_____.

II. Application of Biblical Truth to our 3rd Sunday of Advent

- A. Modern Christmas creates a practical D_____
- Do we anticipate with Joy or cringe with frustration?
 - Is it just a Feast or Truly a Festival?
- B. God's Word show us how to turn a holiday into a H_____ Day.
- Not a day off but a day D_____
- Never too busy to stop and R_____
- Don't allow things to do make you forget what Christmas has D_____
- Going through outer motions, or concentrating on I_____ joy.

Today, Adult Bible Class meets today after the Service



JR. BIBLE Class meets today & Dec 29th.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5iFQgWQEMw>

During our Voter's meeting October 27th it was decided to collect money to be sent to the Nazareth

Lutheran Church in Baltimore MD. This is the former church of Jean Schulze, a member of our church. They are having some hard times financially as they try to keep the Spanish Ministry going. If anyone is interested in making a donation please mark it on your envelope "Nazareth Lutheran Church". We will be collecting donations now until December 31st.



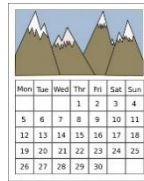
On Sunday's where there is severe weather, Church may be cancelled. Notice of a cancellation will be on WWMT-TV-Channel 3. Also to those who we have an email for an email will be sent. .



Through the winter months the ground level door will be open on Sunday mornings for those who wish to avoid climbing the hill

Need a Calendar?

Jude's Calendar will be here soon. The cost is only \$10 donation each. Please call Ed or Karen Smallcombe to order at 269-718-2467 or add your name to the order sheet hanging near the mail slots.



Comfort Dog Ministry.

Payment can be made wither in person on a Sunday at church or you can mail in your order to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, PO Box 327, Three Rivers, MI 49093. Please let us know how many you would like. Please make checks payable to : St. Peter's



a loved one.

Christmas poinsettia's sale If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia for the altar on Christmas please fill out the form that is on the table below the mailboxes and deliver the form to the offering plate by Dec 15th It can be bought in honor or memory of

**St. Peter's Annual Mission of the Month for December
COMMISSION ON AGING**



The St. Joseph County COA serves as the focal point for services and activities for older adults. Some services provided are home care assistance, transportation to medical appointments, respite care, home repair, arts & crafts, meals at home and many more.

LWML NEWS

Our next Meeting will be January 14, 2024 @ 10 am

Poinsettia Star

The poinsettia star that Vera Smallcombe's husband made is now part of the Altar Guild. The Star will remain at St. Peters: "Star in honor of God the father who wants our hearts; God the Son who is in our hearts; God the Holy Spirit who guides our hearts; and Vera Smallcombe whose heart is always with us.

Christmas In-Gathering for Three Rivers Food Site

To assist our local Food Site, our Ladies Aid will. items from 11/24 thru 12/22. We will be collecting cereal of any kind along with canned goods such as vegetables, soups, juices, ravioli, spaghetti, chicken, tuna, and boxed meals. If you are donating from your pantry, please make sure dates have not expired. There is a tub in the Narthex for these items. As the tub fills, they will be donated to the Food Site.

Sock-A-Way Dimes Collection

This is an annual collection whereby our LWML donates to various charities in St. Joseph County. Although we do a annual collection in December, you may donate throughout the year. We will be collecting these monies thru Sunday, 12/22. Please put your filled sock in the large LWML purple/white box on the table in the Narthex. If you wish to keep your sock, you may put the monies in a plastic Ziploc bag marked "sock" and put in the LWML box. New socks and instructions will be on the table in the Narthex if you wish to take one. these monies thru Sunday, 12/22. Please put your filled sock in the large LWML purple/white box on the table in the Narthex.

