



Reach out to all

Embrace His Gifts

Announce His coming

Commit to Christian Living

Honor His Word

Pure and blameless for the day of Christ

PHILIPPIANS 1:10



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Ron Moritz, Deacon Ed Smallcombe

December 8, 2024

Opening Hymn "Prepare the Royal Highway"

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 Second Sunday in Advent

O.T.- Malachi 3:1-7 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵ “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

⁶ “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.

Philippians 1:2-11 - ²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. ²¹ Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. ²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Gospel- Luke 3:1-14 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’” ⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe one holy and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Sermon: "Joseph: A Faithful Servant of God"



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.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn: - "Hark the Glad Sounds"

SERMON REVIEW FOR December 8, 2024

"Joseph: A Faithful Servant of God"

Introduction: Some background on Joseph Often called the "S_____ Partner." Yet, a man used by God in special ways.

I. His faithfulness toward G_____

- A. God spoke to Him at least T_____ times.
 - 1. His action called for strong faith.
 - 2. He didn't realize he was just the right man
- B. When God spoke he responded I_____

II. His Faithfulness toward his S_____

- A. He is called a "J_____ man."
 - 1. His options under the Law
 - 2. Proves he is a man of I_____
- B. Paul's reminder to husbands in Ephesians 5
 - 1. "Head" means O_____ (not boss)
 - 2. Joseph's quiet, spiritual strength— An example of Christian men.

III. His faithfulness toward his C_____

- A. His first two qualities prepared him for fatherhood
- B. Every time he is mentioned, he's doing something for his child
- C. Fathers 'give' much to their children on Christmas
What do we 'give' of ourselves the rest of the year?



ADULT BIBLE CLASS meets downstairs in Zimmerman Hall.

JR. BIBLE CLASS: Class will meet on , Dec 15th & 29th

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.

Need a Calendar for 2025? It will make a Joyful Christmas Gift.

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. 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 Comfort Dog Ministry.



There is a box out in the narthex for new unwrapped Toys for Tots to go into. The Three Rivers Lion's Club is sponsoring that event if you would like to help



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



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 a loved one.

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."



It's time to re-subscribe or subscribe to **THE LUTHERAN WITNESS** at a discounted rate. The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The new subscription year doesn't begin until March 2025, but orders need to be into the church office by December 15, 2024 to take advantage of a discounted District rate of \$21.99/year. Each issue of *LW* includes the *Michigan in Touch* supplement. Please **make checks payable to St. Peters and put in the Treasurer's box in the office.** Late orders will be charged an additional \$2. If you have any questions about subscriptions, see Terri Dickerson.

LWML NEWS

Ladies Aid: Next meeting will be on December 10, 2024 @ 10:00am. Christmas In-Gathering for Three Rivers Food Site To assist our local Food Site, our Ladies Aid will be collecting 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. If you wish 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. on the table in the Narthex if you wish to take one.

