

Peace Lutheran Church - Rogers City, MI

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Pastor of Visitation – St. Matthew Lutheran Church Walled Lake, MI

Our Mission *as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word.*

Our Vision: *Equipping our Members to Take the Message of Jesus Where They Live, Work & Play*

Informal/Contemporary Service – 11:15am

Third Sunday After the Epiphany – January 21, 2024



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As We Gather

Welcome - It is truly a pleasure and honor to be gathered with you to praise and glorify God on this Sunday morning in January. We sincerely invite and lovingly encourage all who are searching for a church home to join us in the joy of our journey and become actively involved with us in this challenging, rewarding adventure with Christ and His church here in this place.

Through the Epiphany Season we are reminded, that to our Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day, yet we live each day knowing that all time is in His hands. Until He calls His people to heaven, we rejoice for the time to gather where His Spirit is, to be blessed by His Word and Sacrament, to rejoice in His mercy and forgiveness, and then to make use of our time to His witnesses to others. Our lessons from God's Word today focus on Christ's call to be His fishers-of-men, and how He expects great things from us, His Body of Christ, because He's blessed people like you and me, with all our weaknesses and fears, with His grace gift of faith that empowers us to trust in His promises and the power of His Holy Spirit. Pray for His Holy Spirit to fill us with the faith, the hope, and the love that we – ***The Body of Christ with all our imperfections, can truly be Christ's fishers of men and strive to do plenty to make HEAVEN FULL and hell empty!***

WELCOME and GATHERING SONG

Do Something

INVITING GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG US – Please join in on the **BOLD** words.

For people in darkness and for people in despair, Christ is the Light and Christ is the Hope.

For people anxious, grieving and burdened with a load of care, Christ is a Calm Assurance, a Comfort and a Friend to share the load.

For all people gathered here and everywhere, Christ is for US. May we – the Body of Christ, hear and heed His call to COME to Him, to KNOW Him and to MAKE HIM KNOWN to others.

Lord, our Light and Hope and our Salvation, we come to worship You and begin our worship in Your powerful name - in the name of our Triune God - Father, † Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SONG OF REFLECTION

If We Are the Body

LESSONS FROM GOD’S WORD Psalm 62: 5-8, 12; 1 Corinthians 7:29, 31, 35; Mark 1:14-20

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us...to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love...This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short...For the present form of this world is passing away...secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. Psalm 62: 5-8, 12; 1 Corinthians 7:29, 31, 35

Jesus Begins His Ministry and Calls the First Disciples

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. Mark 1:14-20

MESSAGE: The Body of Christ Strives to Do Plenty to Make HEAVEN FULL and Hell Empty!

Question to consider: *Am I living in such a way that allows God to use me as His messenger, one of His fishers of men?*

Will you pray daily the following prayer? *Lord Jesus, empowers me to be one of Your fishers of men, living a life of loving service to You by sharing Your saving love with others. Amen.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

The Commission

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS – Please join in on the **BOLD** words.

O Almighty God, we come to you because You first came to us through the saving power of the Gospel, the very source of our faith and salvation. We thank and praise You that in Christ You stepped into our world of hopelessness to put to death the love of the world so that the love of the world wouldn’t put us to death. For this new life in Christ, we worship and adore You.

Yet, Lord, we confess that even though You have given us the message of the Gospel, we’ve been reluctant to bring Your truth and grace to all people. For this we seek Your forgiveness.

Lord, Your Word reminds us, *"The appointed time has grown very short...The present form of this world is passing away,"* and You, O Lord, have given us each new day and hold all time in Your hands, yet we have not used our time wisely. For this we seek Your forgiveness.

Lord, Your invitation, *"Follow me,"* keeps ringing in our ears for we know You desire us to take seriously Your Gospel message and the mission of Your church. We pray, Lord, that we do not tune out its message and meaning for our lives, but rather as Your fishers of men, tune in to its urgent call.

Just as You, Lord, called to Simon and Andrew, *"Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men,"* You, O Lord, have also called us to follow You and be Your fishers of men. Yes, we thank You for the gift of the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus' love, forged for us upon a cross and guaranteed by an open tomb that You have entrusted us...

But far too often we bury it in our churches and in the privacy of our homes and hearts, while others in darkness and despair search and hunger for its light and hope. Where we refuse to share the Good News of Jesus' love entrusted to us, forgive us, O Lord. Amen.

The God who hates sin, loves you and me, the sinner. Though we deserve God's present and eternal punishment, God has relented by sending His Son to bear our sin and to be our Savior. Christ has taken our punishment on the cross, paid the price of our sins through His perfect life, sacrificial death, and resurrection, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a fellow sinner and saint and servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our Conqueror over sin, death, and the devil, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Through God's gift of forgiveness, He empowers us to be Christ's fishers of men, living lives of loving service to Him, to one another, and to others as we *"let our lights shine before others, so that they may see our good deeds and give glory to your Father in heaven"*

(Matthew 5:14,16).

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

We boldly confess together that to be the Body of Christ, His fishers of men, we must rely on His Spirit's power and blessing.

We believe in God the Creator, His Son and the ever-present Spirit.

We believe God gave birth to the church with the gift of the Holy Spirit - stirring the disciples and us to tell the Good News, heal the sick, feed the hungry, take care of the poor, welcome the stranger and be a community of forgiveness and joy.

We believe the Spirit is still moving, still acting, still turning the world right side up with Christlike love. We believe the Spirit gives us different gifts to use, all for building up the church and showing the world a community of compassion and care.

We believe the Holy Spirit will not be contained in dull, lifeless forms, but surprises us and empowers us to do daring things for the Lord of the Church, to risk loving, and to venture boldly into God's world, for Christ's church is faith-graced, love-laced and Spirit-based. Amen.

OFFERING *An offering basket is available at the entrance.*

Our tithes and offerings are brought forward and placed on the altar.

For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. 1 Chronicles 29:14

PRAYERS – Please join in on the **BOLD** words.

O Lord, in all times and in all places, You promise to hear our prayers and to answer them according to Your will. In this season of Epiphany where the light shines on our Savior, the Word made flesh, continue to reveal to us through Your Word the mercy and grace found wholly and solely in Jesus Christ alone, the Light of the world. As You work Your will and send the salvation message through Your people, we are sometimes asked to go where we'd rather not go.

Yet, You called us through Your grace gift of faith and the working of Your Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations. Grant to us a confident and bold faith to live as Your witnesses to the ends of the earth, beginning in our homes, our church and community, and among all our neighbors and friends that they come to know You as the one true God who sent His Son into this world to redeem the world.

As the present world is passing away and time is short, we see the brokenness and results of sin in our daily lives. For those who are suffering with physical pain, mental illness, emotional stress, and broken relationships and those who are sad and lonely...*[special prayers offered]*...Comfort these loved ones with the assurance of Your never-failing presence and peace and grant wholeness and healing in Your time

We give You thanks, Lord God, in all circumstances, for we know that *You are working all things together for the good of those who love You and have been called according to Your purpose* (Romans 8:28).

As Jesus called His disciples to become fishers of men, they responded immediately to drop their nets and follow. Give us such an urgency to also hear and heed the call and to follow in faith where Christ leads.

As we do not know the hour of Your return, give an eagerness to our lives as faithful stewards of Your God-given gifts of our time, treasures, and abilities, that we use them to Your glory and for Your church and for the sake of others.

Lord, as You still come to us in our time of need, You come in the body and blood of our Savior given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. Equip us for the continued journey through our days that we remain firm in faith and bear fruit that will last until You call us home.

Empower us as Your fishers of men to boldly let our lights shine as we declare the wonderful deeds of Christ our Savior who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light, for it is in His ministry and mission we labor, and it is in His strong name we pray: *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.*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG

Send Me

Communicants are invited to come forward in single file by way of the center aisle and to return to your seats by way of the side aisles. You are invited to come all the way to the foot of the step and to remain as long as you desire. Those desiring to receive the Common Cup, please call this to the attention of either Pastor or the Elder and simply wait for Pastor to return to you.

A statement of our Communion practice here at Peace may be found at the conclusion of this order of service.

As you prepare for Holy Communion, you may wish to pray the following:

O Lord God, through Your grace gift of faith, You called us to be Your dear children. Prepare our hearts and minds to receive Your precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins and grant us grateful hearts that sincerely thank You for this Sacred Meal and gift of forgiveness. Amen.

Following Communion, you may wish to pray the following:

Lord Jesus Christ, You have given Your body and blood to us for the forgiveness of all our sins. Now keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. Preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for Your namesake. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith until life everlasting and to go from here empowered by our Lord Jesus Christ to be His faithful Body of Christ, His fishers of men, sharing with others the Good News of Jesus' saving love. Amen.

CLOSING BLESSING

May the love of our Lord Jesus draw us to Him; the power of God the Father strengthen us in His service; the joy of the Holy Spirit fill our hearts, minds, lives and souls;

And may these blessings of Almighty God - the Father, the † Son and the Holy Spirit be with us now and remain with us forever. Amen! Lord, fill us with Your courage and love to be Your fishers of men, striving to do plenty to make HEAVEN FULL and hell empty! AMEN and AMEN!

SENDING SONG

Nobody

† † † † † † †

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Regarding Holy Communion:

The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, is celebrated here at Peace in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another.

Our congregation believes that participating in the Lord's Supper acts as a statement that those communing agree with everything our church body teaches. Out of loving care and concern, we want to do all that we can to make sure those who participate in our Communion celebration don't violate their own conscience or a public confession of faith made through another church body by making that joint statement of faith with us.

For that reason, we ask those who don't know and agree with the teachings of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to not commune today. If you'd like to come forward during Communion to receive a blessing from Pastor but not participate by taking the bread and wine, please do so. You may indicate this choice by folding your hands during the distribution.

If for any reason you wish to stay in your seat during Communion, that's okay, too. You won't be alone. Anyone wishing to have the bread and wine brought to their seat, perhaps because of a physical or other challenge, may speak to Pastor or another church member before the service.

Please sing, pray, and worship with us, and, if you'd like more information about Lutheran teachings or Communion practices, contact the Church Office (989) 734-7621 or

office@peacecms.org or check out our website www.peacecms.org .