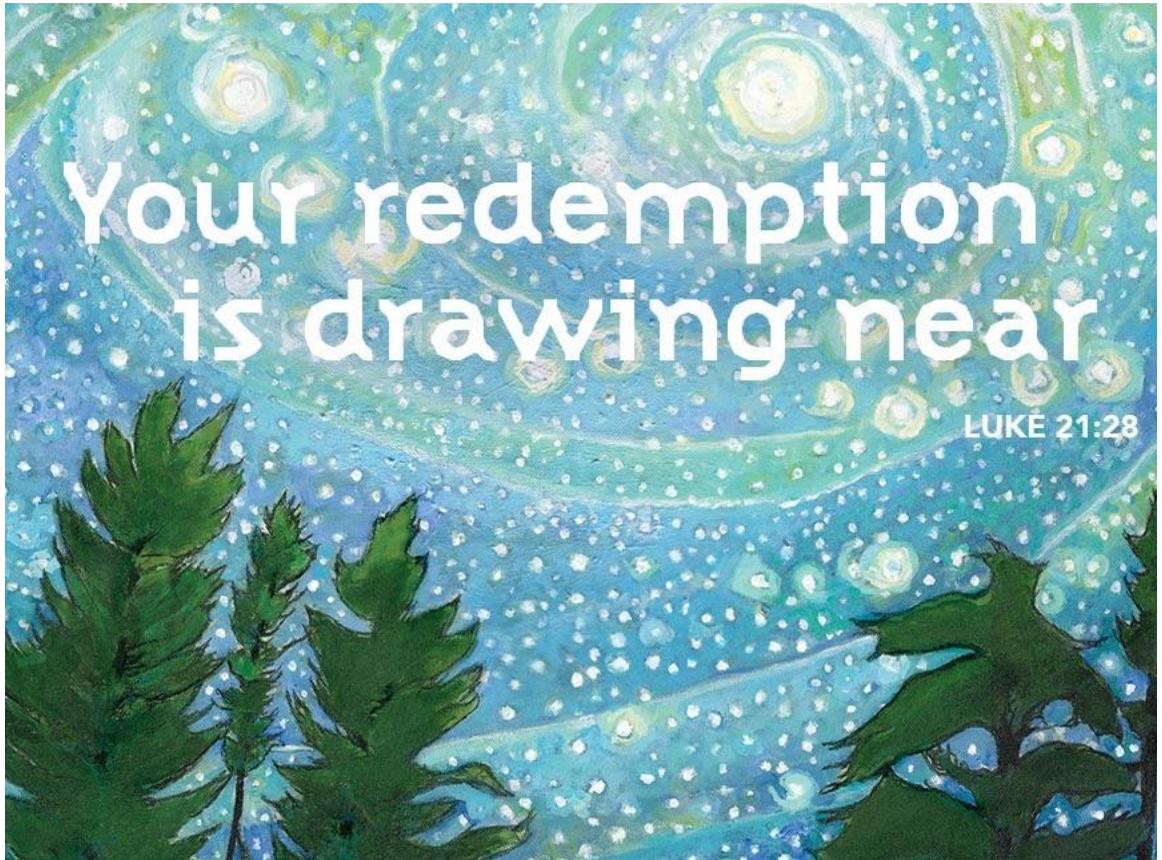


First Sunday of Advent



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2, 2018

Holy Communion

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming all to know and love Jesus.

123 South Seventh Street

St. Clair, Michigan

810-329-2174

Rev. Ken Staib, Pastor
586-648-6955 home
stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net

December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent
Renee Evans, organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v.1, 2, 4, 5, 7

ELW 257

GREETING

KYRIE

ELW P. 120

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Lost in the Night*

Finnish folk tune arr. Haugen

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 1

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *A Candle Is Burning*

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 the Lord 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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

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 compas- | sion 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 good- |
ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly 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.

¹²And 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven 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, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

ELW 254

CREED**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for trees, fields, and gardens. Increase our love for the land. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Grant healing to all who are sick, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts as we welcome all to know and love Jesus. Multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries, especially the Giving Tree and Christmas food baskets. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors, especially the St. Clair Ecumenical Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lead the congregations of our community to abound in love for you and for one another. We pray especially for Holy Family Episcopal Church, First Congregational Church, and First United Methodist Church. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light, and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE

ELW p.129

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 130

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 135

COMMUNION

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

ELW p. 135

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING OF COMMUNION

BLESSING FOR HANGING OF THE GREENS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

ELW 244

DISMISSAL

SERVING TODAY: Greeter: Carol Boden; Ushers: Ron Meiselbaugh & Dereck Maier; Acolytes: Olivia Jones & Isabelle Furtah; Scripture Reader: Chris Jebrael; Communion Assistant: Patty Yax; Projectionist: Ann Eisen.

MONEY COUNTERS: Diane Hodgins & Nancy Black

ATTENDANCE: Saturday 16; Sunday 64

BIRTHDAYS: 12/5 Vera Vogel **100 years!**

ANNIVERSARIES: 12/2 Nancy & Jere Diebold 18 years

12/6 Natalie & Jonathan Eifert 9 years

IN NEED OF PRAYER Dennis Rocker, Mary Forys, Janice Convis, Guy MacIntosh, Sue Kasemeyer, Paul & Ruth Reyelts, Delores Cook, Vi Dunn, Will Tanner, Clyde Moore, Louis Eisen, Loretta Lukasak, Suzanne Morris, Elizabeth MacDonald, Sharon Ann Wheeler, Patty Armstrong, Adeline Harsch, Pat Greenwood, Don Schroeder, Patricia Jones, Marc Dease, Stacey Yax, Ruth Morris, Bernie Nummer, Carole Stiefvater, Ed Myers, Jeremy Bryan, James Mitchell, Marlene Hand, Kenneth Eisen, Connie Felstow, Linda Leist. (Please call or email the office at stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net to update information.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome those who are visiting with us. Please take time to sign the registration book or the guest register in the lobby and introduce yourself to Pastor Ken. We hope that you will find our worship edifying and our congregation warm and receptive. We are glad that you are here.

DVD copies of the 9:30 a.m. worship service can be produced for those who are shut-in or others who would like a copy. Let us know in advance if there is a service that you would like recorded.

We are accepting orders for Christmas poinsettias that will decorate the sanctuary for the holidays. The cost is \$8. Ordering envelopes are available in your mailboxes and in the lobby.

Giving Tree: This year we are helping five local families with Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and Christmas gifts. We supply the entire holiday meal to each family along with children's gifts of coats, shoes, boots, pajamas, socks, underwear, pants, top, and a toy (or fun item). Gifts are due back on December 9. Envelopes for contributions to our food baskets are in your mailbox. If you can assist in any way, contact Robin Bell.

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Saturday, December 15 at 5 pm. Rehearsal for the program will be December 2 at 9:30 am.

We will put up the Christmas tree and all the trimmings on Sunday, December 2 after the 9:30 am service. Please stay to help if you can. Many volunteers will make the job go quickly.

St. Peter's is taking a trip to the Detroit Zoo on Sunday, December 9. We are going to see the Detroit Zoo Wild Lights (a Christmas light display at the zoo). The cost is \$14 per person ages 3 and up plus \$7 per car (carpooling would be a great idea). If you, your family, or your friends would like to go please sign up on the signup sheet or see Pastor Joyce. Money (for tickets and parking) are due to Pastor Joyce by December 8.

The congregation, youth, family and friends are invited to join the choir as we go Christmas caroling. We will meet at 6:30 pm on December 12 and carpool to several of our members' residences. Everyone is encouraged to join in the fun and share some Christmas cheer. After caroling, we will warm up in the Fireside Room with cookies and hot chocolate.

The St. Clair Singers will give their Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 2 at 4 pm at First United Methodist Church.

St. Peter's will host the St. Clair area Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 16 at 7 p.m. The purpose of the Blue Christmas service is to acknowledge that the holidays can accent our losses especially when loved ones are missing around holiday gatherings. The other congregations sponsoring this event are, First United Methodist, Holy Family Episcopal and First Congregational United Church of Christ. The community is invited to this special ecumenical worship service.

Middle school youth are invited to Junior High Charge, March 22-24, 2019, at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. Registration is open. Students 6-8 grade are invited to attend. If you are interested in going please see Pastor Joyce for more information.

Mobile giving is now live! To download the app search for **Tithe.ly** in the App Store or Google Play. Once the app is downloaded you can search for "St. Peters Lutheran". There are different destination options. The default is the General Fund, but there are options for seasonal giving envelopes, as well as memorials. Please make use of the MEMO option if you have any notes. The processing fees are higher for credit/debit card transactions. Consider using your banking info for lower fees. There is an option to "Cover Card Processing Fees". This simply means that you will pay the extra fees instead of it coming out of your offering amount.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Mallard's Landing 11 am	Council Meeting 7 pm	Prayer 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	Choir 7 pm	Pastor's day off	Worship, Communion 5 pm	Sunday School, Worship, 9:30 am New members received Zoo trip 5:30 pm



Sunday School Christmas Program, Saturday, December 15, 5 pm

Blue Christmas Service at St. Peter's, Sunday, December 16, 7 pm

Advent 4 Service, Sunday, December 23, 9:30 am

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, December 24, 3 pm and 5:30 pm Candlelight Service

There is no Saturday service on December 29.

Service of Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 30, 9:30 am