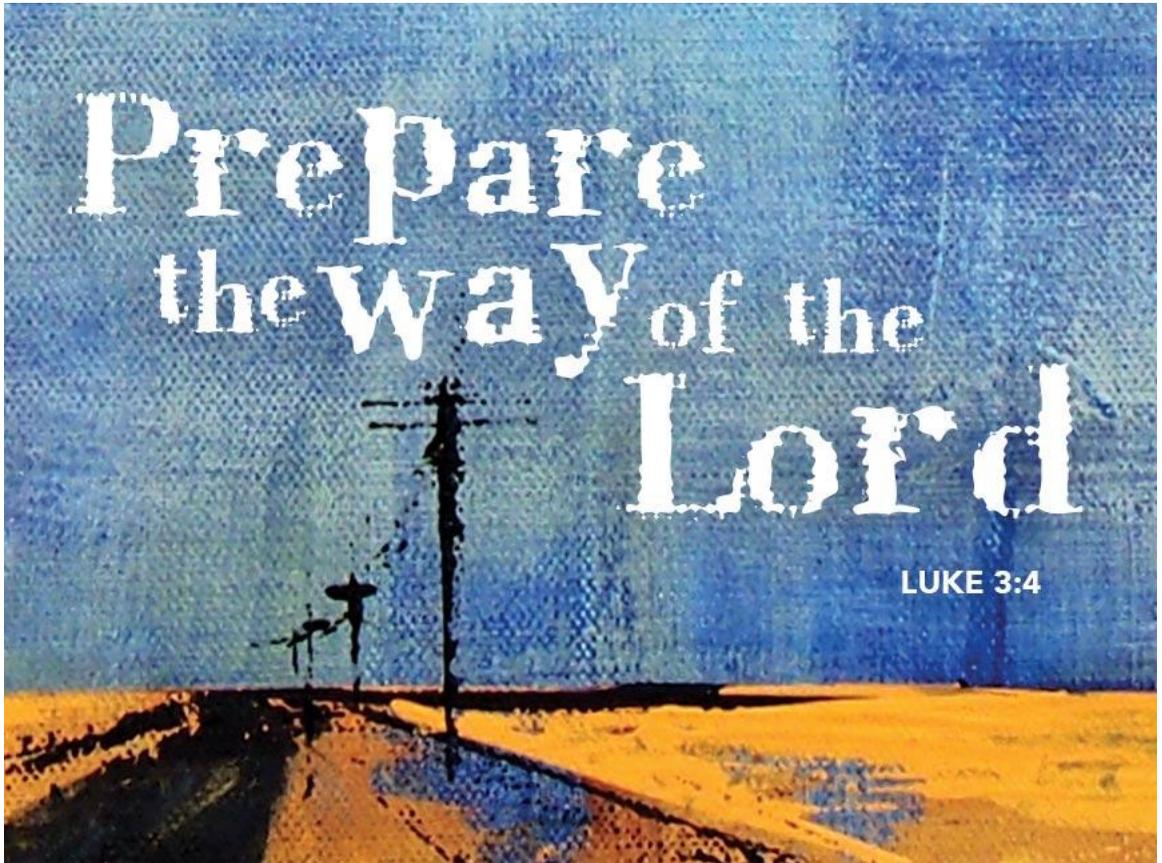


Second Sunday of Advent



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 9, 2018

Service of the Word

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 9, 2018
Second Sunday of Advent
Renee Evans, organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING SONG *Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW 264

GREETING

KYRIE

ELW p. 213

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 2

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *A Candle Is Burning*

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

ELW 250

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 216

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

ELW 256

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God. Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Protect the creation, life-giving God. Sustain the mountains and hills. Restore the rivers. Give us wisdom and compassion to care for your creation in all its forms and richness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Purify the hearts of all people, life-giving God. Remove the hate that lives within us and among us. Mold us into peacemakers. Raise up leaders rooted in your love and fed by your word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort all who hurt, life-giving God. Wrap them in your tender care. Remember the forgotten and send us out to share your love with them. Be with the wandering, the worried, and the woeful. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and those we name before you in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Provide for the needs of your people, life-giving God. Inspire us to share what we have been given so that others may have food to eat, clothing to wear, a place to live, and clean water to drink. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless this congregation, life-giving God. Give strength and joy to worship leaders, musicians, and our altar guild as they prepare the way for the celebration of the Christ child's coming among us. Help all the baptized to live out their baptismal promises, especially those who affirm their baptism this weekend. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember the generations who have shown us your faithfulness, life-giving God. Shine your light on those who mourn and prepare us for that day when we will see you face-to-face. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 219

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ELW 239

SERVING TODAY: Greeter: Anna Fisher; Ushers: Jon Jones & Bryan Neiman; Acolyte: Zach Mathews; Scripture Reader: Ashley Mathews; Projectionist: Del Vogel

MONEY COUNTERS: Diane Hodgins & Nancy Black

ATTENDANCE: Saturday 15; Sunday 105

BIRTHDAYS: 12/13 Clyde Moore 89 years
 12/14 Leonard Rose 89 years

IN NEED OF PRAYER Dennis Rocker, Mary Forys, Janice Convis, Guy MacIntosh, Sue Kasemeyer, Paul & Ruth Reylts, 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.)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Prayer 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Caroling 6:30 pm	Choir 7 pm	Pastor's day off	Sunday School Christmas Program 5 pm	Worship, Communion 9:30 am Youth to Tim Horton's 10:45 am Blue Christmas 7 pm

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 will receive the following on Sunday as new members of St. Peter's: Darlene Snider, Suzanne & Gary Novak, Larry Keeler, Adelle Schwan, Matt & Autumn Eisen, Norma Harris, Cathy Ingles, Robert Coffey and Kaylee Downing. Please join us for cake and fellowship after the service as we welcome our new members.

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.

Join us next Saturday for the Sunday School Christmas Program, December 15 at 5 pm.

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 youth group Christmas party will take place on Wednesday, December 19th at 6:30 PM. This is for anyone in grade 6-12. Please bring a \$5 white elephant gift. If you have any questions see Pastor Ken or Pastor Joyce.

On Sunday, December 16 anyone in grades 6-12 is invited to Tim Horton's after worship. Please bring money to buy your own drink and lunch if you would like.

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.

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.

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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 5322 Palms Road (Between Meisner and Springborn Roads—www.stpaulscasco.com) will host Christian Schoen, organist, on December 15th at 2:00 PM for a Christmas Organ Recital and Community Sing. Christian is a former member of St. Paul's and the son of local residents, Paul and Susan Schoen. A freewill offering basket, will be at the door for those attending that would like to provide donations for the St. Clair Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Your 2019 offering envelopes are available in your mailbox today.

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

