



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in-person or on-line we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.

Amen.



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 181.3

Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



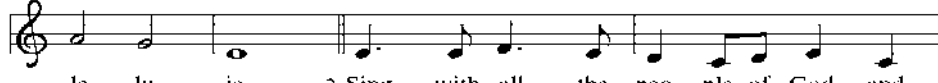
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*



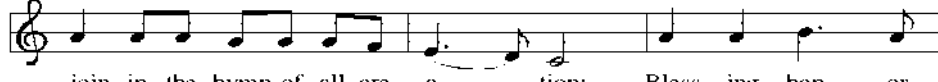
This is the feast of



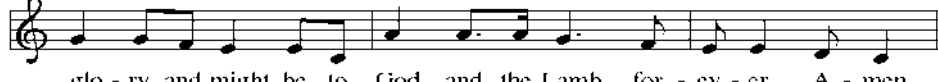
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

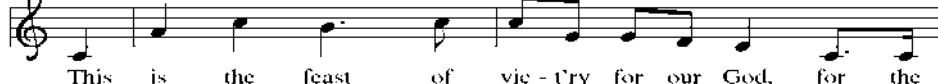


join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD,

and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹LORD, who may dwell in your ^l tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your ^l holy hill?
²**Those who lead a blameless life and do ^l what is right,
who speak the truth ^l from their heart;**
³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ^l to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ^l on a neighbor.
⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ^l fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take ^l back their word.**
⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ^l gainst the
innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be ^l overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW P.188

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

P. The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

RISE UP O SAINTS OF GOD

ELW #669



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Furness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
Text © Norman O. Furness, admin: Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

* Prayers are offered for the church, the world, and all in need.

Merciful God. *Receive our prayer.*

THE SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS *Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithely, or direct deposit from your bank.*

OFFERING HYMN

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

ELW #184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Liberating God,
You break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these

offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P.190



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

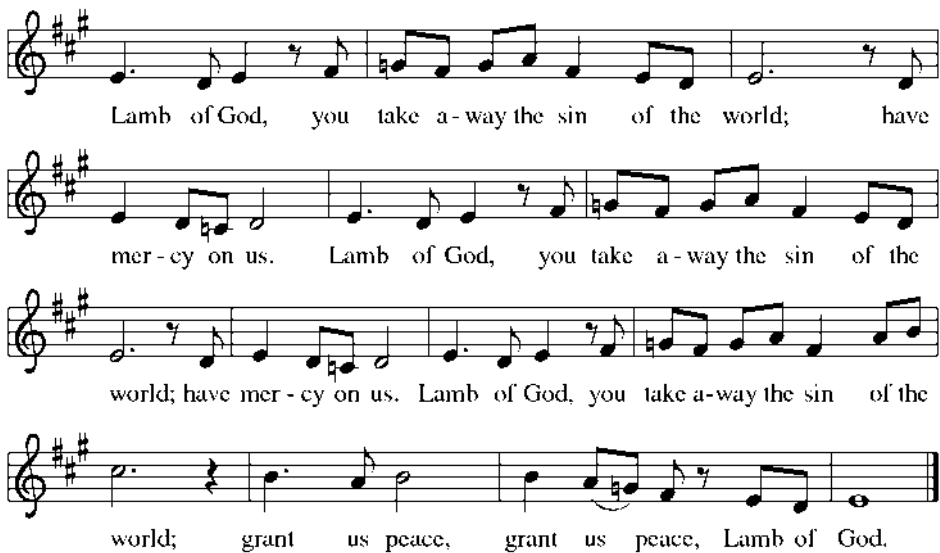
Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come the table is ready. All are welcome.
 Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW P.191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS

CONTEMPORARY SONG
I COME WITH JOY

ELW # 482

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy One,

we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

Amen.

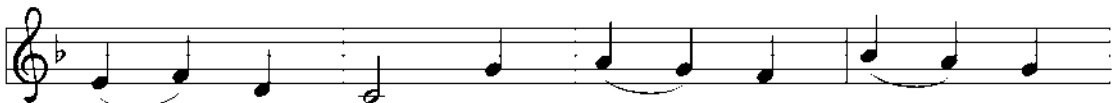
SENDING HYMN

THE SPIRIT SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE

ELW #551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, oss. b. 1939
Music: CHESTERFIELD, atr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABOUT THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, LARRY WEYHRICH, JUDY BARHOOVER,
MICK BUCHLER, TOM CHRISTELL

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, JAN. 29	IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM—9:30AM
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1	CHOIR REHEARSAL—7:00PM
SATURDAY, FEB. 4	DINNER CHURCH—5:00PM CANCELLED
SUNDAY, FEB. 5	IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM—9:30AM
	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—10:45AM

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29:

PRESIDING & PREACHING: REV. MARY E. ZUPANSIC

ASSISTING MINISTER: BECKY HENDRICKS

MUSICIAN: BRENDA PECK

USHERS: DOUG MCFARLAN

FLOWERS: TO THE GLORY OF GOD

CAMERA: JANET KOCIS

POWERPOINT: LINDA RICE

FELLOWSHIP:

2022 ANNUAL REPORTS

THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORTS CAN NOW BE PICKED UP IN THE NARTHEX. THE REPORT CAN ALSO BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE AS WELL AS IN NEWS YOU CAN USE.

TACKLE



HUNGER

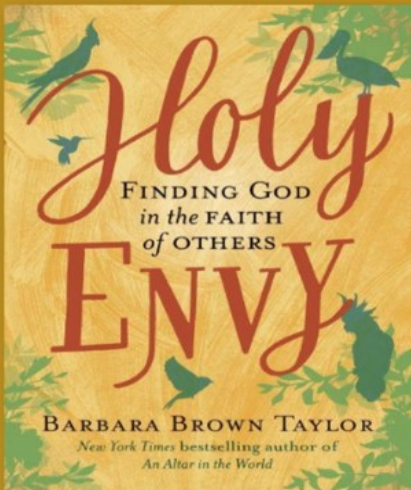
THROUGHOUT JANUARY WE WILL COLLECT
CANS OF SOUP FOR GRACE FOOD PANTRY.

MEMBERS OF PEACE ARE CHALLENGED TO BRING TWO CANS OF SOUP EACH WEEK UNTIL FEBRUARY SUPER BOWL SUNDAY ON FEBRUARY 12TH.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS

WE ARE TAKING ORDERS FOR 2023 ALTAR FLOWERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF A PERSON OR EVENT IN THE COMING YEAR PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS ON OUR WEBSITE IN THE MEMBERS' SECTION. FLOWERS ARE \$35.00



Sundays@6
Adult Faith Formation

*Beginning January 22
6 to 7 p.m. on Zoom*

For details contact
Debi and Pete Ellertsen
Edmund.ellertsen85@gmail.com
217-793-2587

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ON SUNDAYS FROM 6 TO 7 PM, WE ARE DISCUSSING "HOLY ENVY: FINDING GOD IN THE FAITH OF OTHERS," A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR. A THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANT WAS USED TO PURCHASE COPIES OF THE BOOK, WITH ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED).

BOOK STUDY

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN A DAYTIME BOOK STUDY OF "HOLY ENVY: FINDING GOD IN THE FAITH OF OTHERS," WEDNESDAYS AT 1:30PM, PLEASE TALK TO PASTOR MARY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2800 W JEFFERSON ST
SPRINGFIELD IL 62702



My Offering

2023
OFFERING
ENVELOPES
ARE
AVAILABLE
IN THE
NARTHEX

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

IF YOU PLAN TO USE OFFERING ENVELOPES AS YOU GIVE YOUR REGULAR OFFERING EACH WEEK, YOU MAY PICK UP A NEW PACKET IN THE NARTHEX.

2022 YEAR END STATEMENTS

THE 2022 YEAR END STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE NARTHEX.



**COLLECTING STUFFED TOYS & BLANKETS
FOR WHITE EARTH RESERVATION**

PEACE LUTHERAN IS COLLECTING STUFFED TOYS AND BLANKETS FOR THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT WHITE EARTH RESERVATION IN NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA. OUR COLLECTION IS DELIVERED TO THE RESERVATION BY HOPE FOR THE FIRST NATIONS, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION STARTED IN SPRINGFIELD IN 1997. DONATIONS MAY BE PLACED IN THE NARTHEX.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

THESE THREE EARLY CHRISTIAN MEN WERE MISSIONARY COMPANIONS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL. TIMOTHY BECAME BISHOP OF EPHEBUS, TITUS BISHOP OF CRETE, AND SILAS WAS IMPRISONED WITH PAUL AT PHILIPPI UNTIL THEY WERE DELIVERED BY AN EARTHQUAKE.

LYDIA, DORCAS, AND PHOEBE, WITNESSES TO THE FAITH FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023

WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN WERE IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN LEADERS FROM THE BEGINNING, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THESE COWORKERS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL. LYDIA, A SELLER OF PURPLE GOODS, LENT HER HOME FOR A CHURCH; DORCAS WAS KNOWN FOR CHARITABLE WORKS; AND PHOEBE WAS A DEACON IN THE CHURCH AT CENCHRAE.

THOMAS AQUINAS, TEACHER, DIED 1274 SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023

ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT AND CREATIVE THEOLOGIAN IN THE CHURCH'S HISTORY, AQUINAS WORKED TO BRING TOGETHER SCRIPTURE AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF ARISTOTLE. A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS (DOMINICANS), AQUINAS WAS ALSO A HYMNWRITER.

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023

FORTY DAYS AFTER THE BIRTH OF JESUS WE MARK THE DAY MARY AND JOSEPH PRESENTED HIM IN THE TEMPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH JEWISH LAW. THERE THEY WERE GREETED BY SIMEON, AN AGED PRIEST WHO OFFERED THE SONG "LORD, NOW YOU LET YOUR SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE," AS WELL AS BY THE PROPHET ANNA, WHO SPOKE OF THE REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL.

ANSGAR, BISHOP OF HAMBURG, MISSIONARY TO DENMARK AND SWEDEN, DIED 865 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

A MONK WHO HELPED BRING CHRISTIANITY TO SCANDINAVIA, ANSGAR RETURNED TO GERMANY WHERE HE WAS NAMED BISHOP OF HAMBURG. HE IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS LOVE FOR POOR PEOPLE.



Peace Lutheran Church
2800 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217-546-7646
E-mail: peace.lutheran@comcast.net

ANNUAL MEETING



WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, **FEBRUARY 5**, FOLLOWING THE 9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE. A ZOOM LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON.