

## Christ Lutheran Church

2020 W. Malone St.  
Peoria, IL 61605

Rev. Karl F. Eckhoff, Pastor  
(309)637-5309 office  
www.christlutheranpeo.org  
keckhoff@christlutheranpeo.org

## Christ Lutheran School

1311 S. Faraday St.  
Peoria, IL 61605

Terry Mooney, Principal  
(309)637-1512  
www.clspeoria.org  
school@clspeoria.org

## Christ Lutheran Preschool

2020 W. Malone St.  
Peoria, IL 61605  
(309)637-4755

www.christlutheranpeo.org/preschool  
preschool@clspeoria.org

*Boldly living  
Christ's extreme love;  
Building Faith  
and Community*

### HOSPITALIZED:

**CONTINUED PRAYERS:** Rev. Rodger Abatie, Rev. Louis Knief, Jayme Knapp, Jason Knapp, Brandon Neiman, Linda Wood, Mike Clayton, Shawn Foote, Abigail Young, Eddy Jones, Pat Kretzmann (Rebecca Best's mother), Rev. Wayne Ahrens (son-in-law of Pastor and Hilda Knief), Donna Hawbecker, Bud Neptun, Larry Hartness, Jan Long, Shirley Swanson, Steve Von Behren, Louie Heuermann, Carol Walton, Ronald Hunt (friends of Marilyn Berkshier and Laura Baize), Deb Mingu, sister-in-law of Joe and June Bembenek; Vera Zentko, Tommie Washington, June Bembenek, Barb O'Dell, Lori Burkley, Johnny Burkley, Carroll Cook (Chelsea Cook's father), r those in the military, for our Church Boards and their members, for Christians being persecuted worldwide. **THE BOARD OF ELDERS REMINDS YOU** that if you wish to have your prayer request added to the Christ Lutheran Prayer Chain, please contact either the church office (309)637-5309 or laura.baize@christlutheranpeo.org) or our Lay Minister, Al Schneider (309)231-6469 or aschneider@sbcglobal.net). ***If you would like to be on the prayer chain and receive emails about prayer requests, please email Laura or call the church office.***

### THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING (DEC 21- DEC 27)

<b><u>MON 12/21:</u></b>	Bell Choir .....	6:45 PM
<b><u>TUE 12/22:</u></b>		
<b><u>WED 12/23:</u></b>	Adult Choir .....	7:00 PM
<b><u>THU 12/24:</u></b>	Christmas Eve Worship .....	5:00 PM
	Christmas Eve Worship .....	7:00 PM
	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!!</b>	
<b><u>FRI 12/25:</u></b>		
<b><u>SAT 12/26:</u></b>		
<b><u>SUN 12/27:</u></b>	Holy Communion.....	8:00 AM
	Holy Communion.....	9:30 AM
	Holy Communion.....	11:00 AM

### 2020 BOARD OF ELDERS

Joshua Eckhoff, Chairman .....	(309)678-9660
Chad Whitehead, V. Chair .....	(309)256-5971
Tommie Washington.....	(309)648-9626
Kirk Wessler .....	(309)256-9093
Terry Mooney, Jr. ....	(309)472-8052
Luke Grebe.....	(309)868-2299
Larry Von Behren .....	(309)260-4305
Dario Lamberti .....	(309)370-3510

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2020 W. MALONE  
PEORIA, IL 61605  
(309)637-5309

WWW.CHRISTLUTHERANPEO.ORG

**DECEMBER 20, 2020  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

*Scripture of the Day*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

**WELCOME TREASURED MEMBERS AND HONORED GUESTS!**

We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But the greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. And this mystery is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth, singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

**NOTE TO OUR GUESTS:** Since Holy Communion is a public demonstration of unity in faith, those who commune should express their acceptance of the faith and teaching for which we stand. Our welcome to visitors is heartfelt. Visitors from another Lutheran church or Congregation are asked to please approach our Pastor, if you have not already done so, before attending communion this morning. Also, if you're not a member of an LCMS church but would like a blessing, cross your arms across your chest to receive the blessing. Individual cups are available, in addition to the common cup, as you approach the Altar. **Non-alcoholic white wine** is available in the center of the tray.

**VISION STATEMENT:** Christ Lutheran Church will continue its Christ-centered, life directed focus, responding to the needs of its members, emphasizing local and worldwide witness, and acting as a catalyst for the improvement of the neighborhood.

**THE NEW HOPE-FULL LIVING AND PORTALS OF PRAYER** devotionals are available today at the back entrance of the church.

**LAST WEEK:** Tithes and Offerings: \$8,012.00; MTD: \$19,010.00. Improvement Fund: \$110.00, MTD: \$710.00. Attendance: 107.

**THIS IS THE 4th SUNDAY OF OUR PLEDGE YEAR**

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER—2 Samuel 7:4 – “But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. . .”** Nathan thought David's idea was great, so he blessed it with the Lord's name. But, later that night, the Word of the Lord set him straight. The Word of the Lord must be the basis for what we think, say, and do in God's Kingdom – not our own desires or whims.

**SCHEDULING FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES IS NOW CLOSED.**

Laura will take calls/emails/texts for a list to determine if we need to schedule another service which would most likely take place after the 7:00 service. If you have scheduled extra seats for your family and those will not be used, please let the church office know ASAP. Thank you!

**PACKETS FOR ADVENT** are available on the table at the back door of the church. Sunday School “classes” are scheduled to start again on January 10<sup>th</sup>, so please use these materials throughout the Christmas season for your children. These materials are also emailed to you along with the bulletin and service each week. Please feel free to take one to share with a friend or family member or forward the link from your email!

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE TODAY** for pick-up. Please CHECK YOUR INFORMATION and notify the church office if anything needs to be changed! Thank you!

**THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH** for the cards and prayers during this time of my illness. ~Tommie Washington

**DIRECTORY CORRECTION**—Grant Siebels, 4622 Weaver Ridge Blvd, Peoria, IL 61615; grantsiebels@gmail.com.

**ORDER OF SERVICE****Opening Hymn***Angels from the Realms of Glory***Invocation****Confession and Absolution****Prayer of the Day****Choir***“Waiting for Emmanuel”***The Holy Gospel***Luke 1:26-38***Apostles' Creed****Sermon – Rev. Karl Eckhoff***Behold the King of Whom We Sing  
O, Holy Night***Prayer of the Church****The Lord's Prayer****The Words of Our Lord****Pax Domini****Communion Distribution****Hymns***O Holy Night***Post Communion Thanksgiving****Benediction****Hymn***A Great and Mighty Wonder**Pianist: Miss Aimee Traenkenschuh*

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20, 2020

### AS WE GATHER

We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But the greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. And this mystery is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth, singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

**HYMN** "Angels From the Realms of Glory" [LSB 367 v. 1, 4, 5]

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth:  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. [Refrain]

5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.

**People: At the Lord's own invitation and command, I confess all my sins to God, the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended Him and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of the forgiveness of God made known to the whole world in the mystery of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. Amen.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Strengthen Your gift of faith in us, and keep us by Your power to be Your own; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 1:26–38 (The birth of Jesus foretold)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CREED** Apostles' Creed

**SERMON**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, as we draw closer to the grand celebration of the incarnation and birth of Your beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we thank You for making known the mystery of Your love from the very first promise to Adam and Eve, through the continued witness of the holy prophets, apostles, and evangelists, and finally through Your living voice through the ministers of Your Church to this day. Grant that Your living Word ever call us and all sinners to repentance and faith in Your only-begotten Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Keep all You have called to preach and teach and care for Your people in true faith, guard them against the attacks of the evil one, and give them health and joy in their ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Send Your Spirit over the whole world that those who lead in the authority of government acknowledge Your laws and will, making for times of peace that we may live faithfully in safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: By Your Holy Word and Sacrament, strengthen us to obedient living. Send Your grace, mercy, peace, and love to surround our families, inspire those of various vocations in the world, comfort, defend, and heal all those in times of illness or distress. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Individual petitions may be added here.

Pastor: By the mystery of our Lord's incarnation, His life of obedient faith, and His substitutionary death on the cross, establish us in the one true faith, and strengthen us in lives obedient to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"O Holy Night"

Verse 1

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Verse 2

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our friend  
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend

Verse 3

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us Praise His Holy name  
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

**HYMN** "A Great and Mighty Wonder" [LSB 383 v. 1, 2, 4]

1 A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant  
With virgin honor pure!

Refrain:

Proclaim the Savior's birth:  
"To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth!"

2 The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky. [Refrain]

4 Since all He comes to ransom,  
By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Beth'lem,  
The Savior and the Lord. [Refrain]