

IN OUR PRAYERS

- ✚ Death: Our sympathies to the family of **Denise Potter** who was received into the Church Triumphant on December 10th. Funeral will take place Monday, December 15th @ 11am.
- ✚ Baptism: Baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is **Kasey Gerald Nelson II**, son of *Samantha & the late Kasey Nelson*, stepson of *Jared Grim*. Witnesses are *Kenneth Nelson & Angela Miller*. We pray God’s blessings on *Kasey* as he becomes a new creation in God’s Kingdom.
- ✚ New Members: **Samantha Nelson, April Kelcherman, Brandon Johnson**

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

- Today: *Third Sunday in Advent*
Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time
Bible Study
- Monday: Ladies Bible Study 9:30 a.m. (Church Conference)
Prayer Shawl Circle 1:00 p.m. (Classroom 2)
Youth Group Meeting 6:00 p.m. (Youth Room)
Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m. (Office Conference)
- Tuesday: World Relief Quilters 9:00 a.m. (Craft Room)
Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m. (Classroom 3)
Church Council 7:00 p.m. (Church Conference)
- Wednesday: Chapel 8:05 a.m.
Midweek Bible Study 9:30 a.m. (Church Conference)
Choral Advent Service 6:00 p.m.
Trustees 7:15 p.m.
- Thursday: Handbells 6:00 p.m.
Mixed Choir 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday: Divine Service 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday: *Fourth Sunday in Advent*
Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time
Special Voters’ Meeting 11:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

- Preacher: Rev. Dr. William L. Morris
- Liturgist: Rev. Michael P. Speckhard
- Organist: Mr. Brian J. Heinlein
- Choir: Seraphim Choir
- Acolytes: Loretta Wardin (5:00pm); Nathan Bierlein (9:30am)
- Videographer: Scott Neumeyer



Our Communion Practice

We welcome those who are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations to commune with us. We believe that Christ gave us His true body and blood under the forms of bread and wine in the sacrament for the strengthening of our faith, for the assurance of our forgiveness, and for the grace of God to live a God-pleasing life. We come to the Lord’s Table repenting of our sins, believing in Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and with the prayerful intention to amend our sinful lives with the help of the Holy Spirit.

St. Peter Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

2461 N. Raucholz Road
Hemlock, Michigan
(989) 642-8188

Rev. Dr. William L. Morris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Michael P. Speckhard, Associate Pastor



THIRD SUNDAY IN
ADVENT

“Advent Expectations”

December 13 & 14, 2025

† Third Sunday in Advent †

Introit *Psalm 71:14-18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

I will hope con- | tinually*

and will praise you yet | more and more.

**My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of
salvation | all the day,***

for their number is past my | knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God | I will come;*

I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*

and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*

**until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to
all | those to come.**

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

Collect of the Day

P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten
the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live
and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 35:1-10*

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice
and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice
with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the
majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the
majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the
feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold,
your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will
come and save you. ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the
ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the
wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a
pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals,
where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a

highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the
unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the
way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be
there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be
found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of
the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy
shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and
sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Epistle Reading *James 5:7-11*

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See
how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient
about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be
patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be
judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of
suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained
steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have
seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and
merciful.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 11:2-15*

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent
word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to
come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go
and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are
raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And
blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning
John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken
by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft
clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more
than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’”

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no
one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the
kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the
Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the
violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied
until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to
come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING 4

ENTRANCE HYMN: #515

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, and
ABSOLUTION: p. 203

INTROIT (Inside Bulletin)

KYRIE: p. 204

SALUTATION and COLLECT: p. 205

OLD TESTAMENT READING
C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

EPISTLE READING
C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE: p. 205

HOLY GOSPEL
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED: p. 206

HYMN: #345

SERMON
Text: Matthew 11:2-15
Theme: **“Advent Expectations”**

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
P Lord, in Your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP PAD

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT: p. 208

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT
HYMNS: #346, #354, #338

NUNC DIMITTIS: p. 211

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT: p. 212

BENEDICAMUS/BENEDICTION: p. 212

CLOSING HYMN: #347

