



**Christ the King Sunday**  
*(The last Sunday of the Church Year)*  
November 26, 2023  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Hutchinson, MN

**6:30pm & 8:30am HYMN 905 (Maroon): Come, Thou Almighty King**  
**10:30am SONG: 10,000 Reasons**

### **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **OPENING SENTENCES (from Psalm 95)**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**  
**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the depths of the earth;**  
**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,**  
**and his hands formed the dry land.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**For he is our God,**  
**and we are the people of his pasture,**  
**and the sheep of his hand.**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution.

**Almighty God, our Lord and King, we confess to You that we have strayed like lost sheep and deserve nothing of Your kindness toward us. We have sought our own way and it has led us only to guilt and death. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts and minds, and restore us as Your children. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may follow Jesus Christ alone, trust in His redeeming work, and live lives worthy of our baptismal calling.**

Because of the sacrifice of His beloved Son for the sins of all people, God has promised His forgiveness. 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. **Amen.**

*Readers: 6:30pm Annette Koehler; 8:30am Sandra Hall; 10:30am Jeff Miller*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 24:11-17, 20-24**

<sup>11</sup> “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. <sup>14</sup> I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>16</sup> I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

<sup>17</sup> “As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats.

<sup>20</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup> Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, <sup>22</sup> I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. <sup>23</sup> I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken. (NIV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For he “has put everything under his feet.”<sup>g</sup> Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. <sup>28</sup> When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**▲ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to His name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to His name.**

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:31-46**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

<sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

<sup>44</sup> “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

<sup>45</sup> “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

<sup>46</sup> “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (NIV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*The final three weeks of the Church Year are traditionally concerned with “the last things.” The lessons of the Church bring a special opportunity to reflect on the end of time and on the end of our earthly lives.*

*In the Apostles’ Creed, we affirm our belief in the resurrection of the body, which is God’s good but temporary gift to us while we are living on earth. With all who have died in the faith before us, we await the coming of the Lord.*

*In these final weeks of the church year, we are reading one article of the creed each week, along with a portion of Luther’s Small Catechism. We encourage you to read the rest of Luther’s explanation as a part of your Bible study this week.*

## **The Apostles’ Creed: The Third Article**

In the Third Article, we affirm our confession of the last things and add our “Amen” to all we have professed that we believe.

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

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

6:30pm & 8:30am HYMN 821 (Maroon): Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

10:30am SONG: Hallelujah

MESSAGE "A Surprise Ending?" (Matthew 25:31-46) Pastor Bode

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it along to others. As it is passed back to the center aisle, please take the opportunity to note the names of others seated in your pew.*

## PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

### 10:30am SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

SONG: Let Us Break Bread Together

SONG: What Feast of Love

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

HYMN G603 (Green): Lead On, O King Eternal



# Upcoming Event!

Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – Carols and Bells  
5:30pm Baked Ham dinner & 6:30pm Handbell program

December 3 – PRAYZ team sings at 10:30am  
December 3 at 2pm – Crow River Singers Concert

December 3 & 10 – 11:30am Congregational Meetings

December 6, 13 and 20 – Wednesday Advent Services.  
11:30am, 4:30pm (Peace Center), 6:30pm

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – Cookie Sale

December 16<sup>th</sup> – Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10am-12 (noon), plus pizza party  
December 17<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am Children's Christmas program

Saturday, December 23: No Worship.

\*Sunday, Dec. 24 services: 9:00am worship, Fourth Sunday of Advent  
No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study

\*Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Candlelight Services at 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm.

\*Christmas Day, Dec. 25: 9:00am

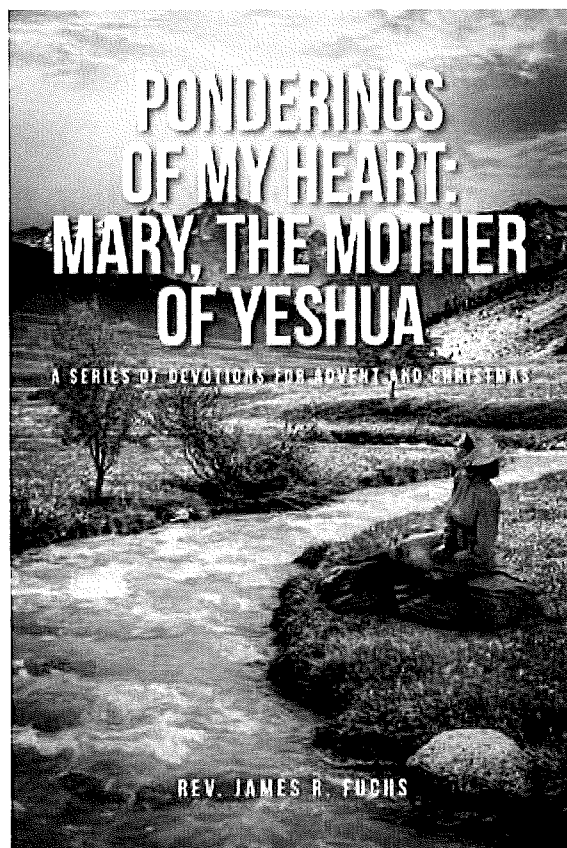
\*Communion at all Christmas Eve and Day services

December 30-31 Normal worship times: 6:30pm, 8:30am, 10:30am (communion at all)  
No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study

January 7, Epiphany – Sunday School Sings at 10:30am

## Ponderings of My Heart: Mary, the Mother of Yeshua: A Series of Devotions for Advent and Christmas

Rev. James R Fuchs has published an Advent – Christmas devotional *Ponderings of My Heart: Mary, the Mother of Yeshua*. Each daily devotional shares an imagined narrative from Mary's perspective, a reflection of how this applies today and closes with a prayer. The reader is invited to consider how their faith journey might reflect Mary's dedication and trust in our God.



**Overview** "Throughout the Bible, Yahweh calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Mary is no exception. In the Nativity story, a humble, young Jewish girl is called to do that which socially could get her shunned or stoned to death. The real miracle is not a virgin birth but that Mary said "yes." This was truly an "ohhh" moment. Even when she questions or doubts, she boldly demonstrates her trust in God. As we follow Mary on this journey to Epiphany, may we be inspired to say "yes" to our calling.

Originally written as an Advent to Epiphany devotional, Mary's ponderings are applicable to our daily journey. Each day begins with an interpretation of Mary's thoughts and emotions, followed by modern application and concluding with a prayer. Discover your "ohhh" moments as you walk with Mary."

**About the Author** - "Reverend James Robert Fuchs comes from humble beginnings as a first-generation American, whose parents were refugees from Crimea and Germany. Both parents' families are of Jewish heritage but converted to Christianity while in the old country. James spent his formative years in a rural Midwest Parsonage, raised on sound Christian

theology and insight to his Jewish heritage.

Although he graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1971, his path led him into a successful business career. Ordained in 2010 by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, he applies his business experience to intentional interim ministry, mediation, reconciliation and arbitration. He is continuing his training in conflict resolution, mediation, reconciliation, and arbitration with the Ambassadors of Reconciliation and is a candidate for certification by the Institute for Christian Conciliation."

This book is available online at Barnes and Noble, iTunes, Google Books and other vendors, either in paperback or digital format.

September 22, 2023

To Peace Lutheran Church Congregation,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that a Nominating Committee has been seated and we are beginning the work of establishing the slate of candidates who will run for open seats on the Church Council and the Board of Elders. All elected positions serve two-year terms. The election will be held at the annual Voter's/Congregational Meeting on/about January 2024. The actual date for the meeting will be posted once it has been set.

The Church Council consists of a total of nine members; four officers, and five at large council members. The church council is the governing body of the Peace Lutheran Church congregation. The Church Council has the authority to enforce the Constitution and Bylaws, and develops policies as required to execute the goals approved by the Congregation.

There are five Church Council seats up for election this year. They are as follows: President, Vice President, and three At-Large seats.

The Board of Elders consists of ten male members of the Congregation who serve staggered two-year terms. The Board of Elders elects their own Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. The Board of Elders nurtures and encourages the spiritual growth of the Congregation and supervises, advises and assists the pastors in worship, preaching, congregational care, administration of the sacraments, and church discipline.

There are five Board of Elders seats up for election this year. Given that the Board of Elders elects its own officers, all seats up for election are At-Large seats.

The Nominating Committee asks you to prayerfully consider serving PLC in an elected capacity. If you are interested in doing so, please contact a member of the committee to express your interest.

Thank you and God bless you!

PLC Nominating Committee

Chuck Jones, Vice President, PLC Church Council  
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Robbie Peterson, Chairman, PLC Board of Elders  
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Pastor Glenn Meyer, Intentional Interim Pastor  
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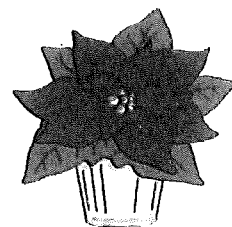
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Josh Schmidt  
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# Poinsettias

Peace members and visitors will again be enjoying beautiful decorations during the Christmas season. **This year we will need only 25 poinsettias to decorate our church for the Christmas season.** The cost of a plant is \$12.00.



If you would like to buy a poinsettia plant as a memorial, or perhaps to honor a special person in your life, or give a donation for a project or ministry such as **TTNG** (7 yr. Debt Free Initiative), **General Fund**, or **Other**, please fill out the form below and return to church along with your donation **by December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Your name and the name of the person in whose memory or honor you are giving a poinsettia or donation will be listed in the bulletin.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Poinsettias x \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to \_\_\_\_\_

TTNG (7 yr. Debt Free Initiative), Organ Repair, General Fund or Other

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** In Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Given by \_\_\_\_\_