

Welcome to Peace!

We are glad that you are here as we gather around the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ! If you have not already done so, we ask that you sign the Guest Book at the entrance to the church. Contact information can be written in the Fellowship Book located in the aisle side of each pew. If you do not have a church home and are interested in becoming a member here at Peace, please contact Pastor Gaunt 308-627-7238.

The Lord's Supper is a Gift . . . and as with all our Lord's gifts, we desire to give and receive them as He intends. The Lord's Supper is for our benefit, but it can be received unworthily. *"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 11:27). Therefore, in faithfulness to our Lord, and in love for you, Peace follows the practice of closed communion. If you are a fellow LCMS member, please let Pastor Gaunt know beforehand!

All Guests should visit with our pastor before coming to the Altar to receive the Lord's Supper. If you do not have opportunity to visit with our Pastor prior to the service, he is more than willing to visit with you during the week.

Prayers of the Church

Hospice, Surgery, or Hospitalization + Zachary Witt + Kay Krueger + Allen Glathar + Linda Parsons + Mabel Schmidt + Celeste Neimoth + Al Kress **Expecting** + Katie Blackwell + Sarah Allen (complications) + Kelli Chandler + Amanda Zeisler **Health Issues** + Margret Herbert + Randy Russell **Cancer** + Josh Schroetlin + Nickie Shellberg + Morgan Hanson + Kara Nissen + Judy Meier + Maria Gomez + Kent Cohagan + Barbara Classan + Andy Jacques + Marilyn Houston **Military** + Tyler Mars + Ross Peters + Gary Thompson

In His Service

Minister: Rev. Micah R. Gaunt
 Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt A/V: Mr. Tim Yurk
 Altar Guild: Jan. Mary W., Marge O. Feb. Ruth A., Ethel S.
 Ushers: Jan. Walt Irmer Feb. Roger Buck, Mike Nissen
 Elders: 01/26 Dustin R. 402-984-5725 02/02 Dale G. 308-641-6658
 Bus Drivers: 01/26 Harold H. 402-984-9666 02/02 Harold H. 402-984-9666

Gifts of Time and Treasure

Last Week's Attendance 98
Last Week's Offering \$ 4,445.00
Weekly Need \$ 3,475.00
 OTD II Capital Campaign: Remaining Loan Balance as of 12 31 19 is \$.00 balance

*For more Financial Information see monthly newsletter.
 A complete accounting of all financials are provided at each Quarterly Voters' Meeting.
 Contact our Treasurer, Jerry Blazer jblazer@imne.com Office Hours: 9a-12p-1p-4p Monday-Friday*

2020 Theme: All In-Being Present in an Age of Distraction

Jesus Came for Gentiles, Too

The Gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Gentile (Rom. 1:8-17). Even in the Old Testament, the Gentiles were beneficiaries of God's saving power. Though unimpressed at first with the Word of God, a Syrian commander is persuaded to receive that Word, and in the water he is cleansed and brought to faith in the God of Israel (2 Kings 5:1-15a). Evil is overcome by good (Rom 12:16-21). So also in the New Testament, a Roman centurion demonstrates great and humble faith in the Lord (Matt. 8:1-13). All he needs is the Word of Christ, for he trusts that Jesus' Word of healing has authority to accomplish what it says. And indeed it does. The centurion's faith is praised by our Lord above that of any Israelite. For the last shall be first, and the first last. Apart from faith in Christ, there is no salvation—not even for a Jew—but only weeping and gnashing of teeth.

From the Catechism:

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Take Home Questions: Is there anything you hear in church today that makes you think of the 1st or 2nd commandment? How do the men in the gospel reading call upon the name of the Lord? Where do we call on the name of the Lord in church? How does He answer? When will you call on the name of the Lord this week?

Readings for Next Sunday: Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

The Lord's Week

Sunday, January 26th	9:00am	Divine Service-Install Officers
	10:30am	Sunday School & Deb Johnson
		Family Budgeting
	12:30pm	Stewardship Meeting
Monday, January 27th	4:30pm	Board-Education
	7:00pm	L.W.M.L. Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, January 29th	6:00pm	Choir
		Midweek Classes
Sunday, February 2	9:00am	Divine Service
	10:30am	Sunday School & Bible Class
	4:00pm	Youth Group

Prelude & Ringing of Bells
 Hymn #571
 Confession & Absolution p. 184
Service of the Word
 Introit *insert*
 Gloria Patri
 Kyrie
 Gloria in Excelsis
 Salutation and Collect
 First Reading
 Gradual
 Epistle Reading
 Alleluia & Verse
 Holy Gospel
 Nicene Creed p. 191
 Hymn of the Day #401
 Sermon
 Offertory & Offering
 Installation of Officers
 Prayer of the Church
Service of the Sacrament p.194
 Preface & Proper Preface
 Sanctus & Lord's Prayer
 The Words of Our Lord
 Pax Domini & Agnus Dei
 Distribution & Hymns #625 #394 #620 #587
 Dismissal & Nunc Dimittis
 Thanksgiving & Collect
 Salutation & Benedicamus
 Benediction
 Hymn #528
 Postlude
 Announcements
 P: *Go In Peace*
 C: **Thanks Be To God!**

News and Notes of Interest

Please use new Narthex to enter and exit the Sanctuary!

INSTALLATION of OFFICERS: Just a reminder that the officers for 2020 for Peace Lutheran Church will be installed during the Divine Service on Sunday, January 26th. Please plan on attending if possible to participate in the installation process and remember to pray for each other during the year as we serve our Lord.

Valentine's Challenge Let's celebrate the week of Valentine's Day by serving our community! There are sign up sheets in the Narthex to serve at Crossroads or at the United Harvest Mobile food Pantry. There are also list of things that you can do as a family or with your friends on your own.

High School Youth! Join us February 28-29, 8pm-8am for the Winter 2020 Youth Lock-in at Zion Lutheran Church, Hastings. This overnight event, presented by Peace and Zion Lutheran Churches, will feature Dodgeball, Food, Basketball, Movies, Games, Worship, and more! Ingathering for Wellspring Pregnancy Center. For more information contact Pastor Micah Gaunt revgaunt@gmail.com 308.627.7238 or Pastor Paul Warncke pastorwarncke@hotmail.com 402.519.8924

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: 01/27 Tim Yurk, Kay Davis
01/29 Kevin Hart 01/30 Gwen Shuler

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES: 01/26 Jamie Thurin
01/27 Becky Hesterman 01/31 Aaron Nissen, Jaxton Nissen, Samantha Nissen, Victoria Nissen

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: None this week

PORTALS of PRAYER & HIGHER THINGS DEVOTIONS available in the Narthex, copies February 2 - 25, 2020. Study Notes for the Christian Layperson in bulletin.

BLOOD DRIVE On Friday, January 31st from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm the Heartland Lutheran National Honor Society Students will be hosting a Blood Drive for the Red Cross. Please donate and help them reach their goal of over 30 usable units. Please Contact the HLHS office at [308-385-3900](tel:308-385-3900).

THRIVENT Members are entitled to Thrivent choice dollars. You can go on line thrivent.com or phone 800-847-4836 to direct your dollars to Peace Lutheran Church. You must do this between Jan. 10-Mar. 31 for your previous year dollars. Questions, Glen Krueger.

FIRE BANQUET - Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Adams Co. Fairgrounds in Hastings. Proceeds go to benefit the two Lutheran schools in Adams County. Doors open 5 pm; the banquet is at 6:30pm live and silent auctions to follow. Tickets are \$60/each or a reserved table of ten for \$800. Zion-Hastings (462-5012), Christ Lutheran(744-4991), Ruhter Auction (463.8565).

LIFEQUOTE "The 'right' of abortion does not expand personal choice or freedom; it severely restricts it because it establishes the prior 'right' of the state to permit or to deny the right to life at will. Such a step, the legalization of abortion, is the beginning of the death of freedom and of man." *R. J. Rushdoony, theologian and philosopher - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

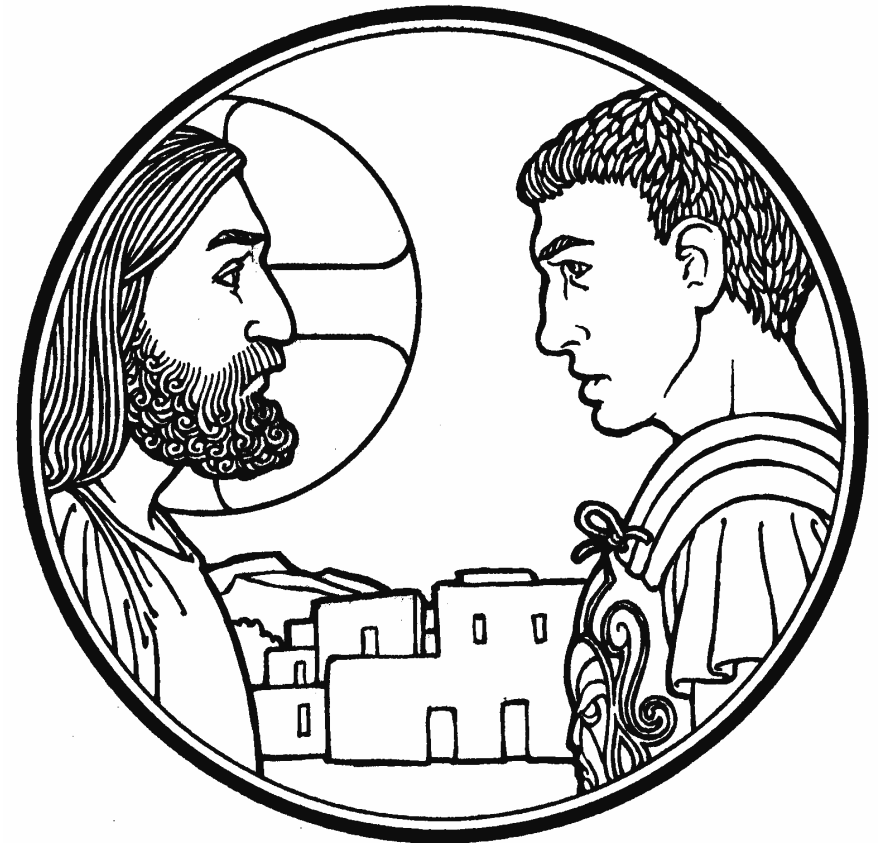
EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION OF LUTHERANS... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's teachings include: A Lutheran Response to a Post Christian Culture, The Words of Scripture: Love, Eternal Punishment, A Disney+ Miniseries "The Mandalorian" and more. You can listen live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

LCMS Third Sunday after Epiphany

Matt. 8:8 - "But the centurion replied, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.'" The Word of the Lord is powerful and effective. What God says, goes. "Let there be light." And there was light. His Word is still effective and creative for us: "This is my Body given for you." "Your sins are forgiven." This is why it is no burden for us to live according to the Word of God. We know that His Word is always aimed at our blessing.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26th
9:00am



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Old Testament: 2 Kings 5:1–15a

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ²Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me." ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. ¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him.

Epistle: Romans 12:16–21

¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:1–13

¹When [Jesus] came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ²And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." ³And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them." ⁵When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶"Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

- The centurion is not boasting but giving honor to Jesus. He is, in effect, saying: if I, a mere man have a powerful word, how much more powerful is Your Word—the Word of the true God.

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

- Joy and sorrow are mixed together in Jesus' statement.

¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,

- Jesus' words are a prophecy of the conversion of the Gentiles. This centurion is one of the first fruits of the Gentile world. A theme of the Epiphany season is world missions.

¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

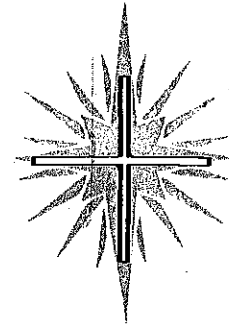
- Here is Jesus' sorrow and warning against unbelief, carnal security, and ingratitude.
- Here in this warning, is the opposite of what we saw with the leper. He was healed so he could have communion with God. But when people reject Jesus, the only thing awaiting them is hell, which is being cast from the presence of and communion with God.
- The spiritual and emotional pain and anger in the torment of hell.

¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

- Here is the reward of faith. Clinging to Jesus, faith receives His help, comfort, mercy and every good. It wants and hopes for nothing other than what the word promises.



www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish



THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Study Notes for the Christian Layperson

by: Rev. Gerhard Grabenhofer

Collect of the Day:

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Introit:

Psalm 97:1, 10-12 (antiphon: Psalm 97:6, 9) — *The LORD reigns*

Psalm:

110:1-4 (antiphon: v. 2a) — *The Messiah reigns*

Old Testament Reading:

2 Kings 5:1-15a — *Naaman cleansed of leprosy*

Gradual:

Psalm 102:15-16 — *The Gentiles, too, will fear the Lord and be brought into His Church!*

Epistle:

Romans 1.8-17 — *Not ashamed of the Gospel which saves all who believe*

Verse:

Psalm 97:1 — *Alleluia. The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!*
Alleluia.

Matthew 8:1-13 ESV

Author and Date:

The Holy Spirit caused St. Matthew Levi the Apostle and Evangelist to write this gospel around AD 50. This account takes after our Lord's Sermon on the Mount when "the crowds were astonished at His teaching, for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes." (Matthew 7:28-29) "And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people." (Matthew 4:23)

¹ When [Jesus] came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.

- After the Sermon on the Mount, where He had taught with authority and astonished the crowds [7:28-29], Jesus would now confirm the word He spoke with mighty works. By coming down, He not only showed Himself as the great Teacher of Israel but also her Helper who could and would help in all troubles. Jesus does not live in an ivory tower but in the realities of life in this sin contaminated world. He is not aloof from the sufferings caused by sin. They touch Him, but He touches them. This is a reflection of the Incarnation.

² And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."

- St. Luke (5:12) describes the man as in an advanced state of leprosy. How horribly God's creation was now deformed. Here is a physical manifestation of the inner spiritual condition of all people as they come into the world. Because a leper was separated from the community, he was also separated from the temple and synagogue, where God's Word would be proclaimed. Although breaking the law by approaching Jesus, faith moved him to approach Jesus. Perhaps he had heard from others about Jesus, or maybe at a distance he had heard Jesus preach.
- Because this is a temporal blessing, faith moves him to pray "if". In the humility of faith he leaves the decision to Jesus. He doubts neither Jesus' mercy nor His ability but leaves the whole matter in His hands.

³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will, be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

- Note the connection to the Collect: "stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to help and defend us." By touching him, Jesus' mercy and compassion triumph over the law.
- Jesus heals him by His own authority.

- Jesus was not defiled by touching the leper but the leper was made pure. Again there is a reflection of the incarnation: Jesus became man, touched our sinful nature, yet He Himself remained free from the stain/touch of sin.
- We also see a reflection of the Holy Supper where Jesus stretches forth His hand to us giving us His body and blood and our sin/leprosy is cleansed.
- ⁴ And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."
- We never leave Jesus' presence without Him achieving His purpose. By forbidding the cleansed leper from saying anything, Jesus was not only trying to prevent false worldly Messianic notions from spreading, but He wanted the man to ponder and reflect on what He had done. We, too, do well to ponder the blessings of God we have experienced.
- By following the Law of Moses in Leviticus 14, the miracle is proved as having happened. The man would again be received into fellowship with the community and temple.
- ⁵ When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him,
- The leper was an Israelite; the centurion a Gentile but one who knew God. St. Matthew is, beginning with the Wise Men, very keen on showing Gentile believers.
- ⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."
- Notice that this is not a request but a statement of need, relying on Jesus' mercy that He would do the right thing.
- ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed."
- By his response, the centurion doesn't look to his own unworthiness but to Jesus' mercy. Faith becomes strong in humility, recognizing we are not worthy of God's grace but still hopes for it, relying on God's Word and promise of grace. Faith recognizes that God's grace is for the unworthy and undeserving. Through His Word—as in the Gospel and absolution—Jesus shows His divine strength and power.