



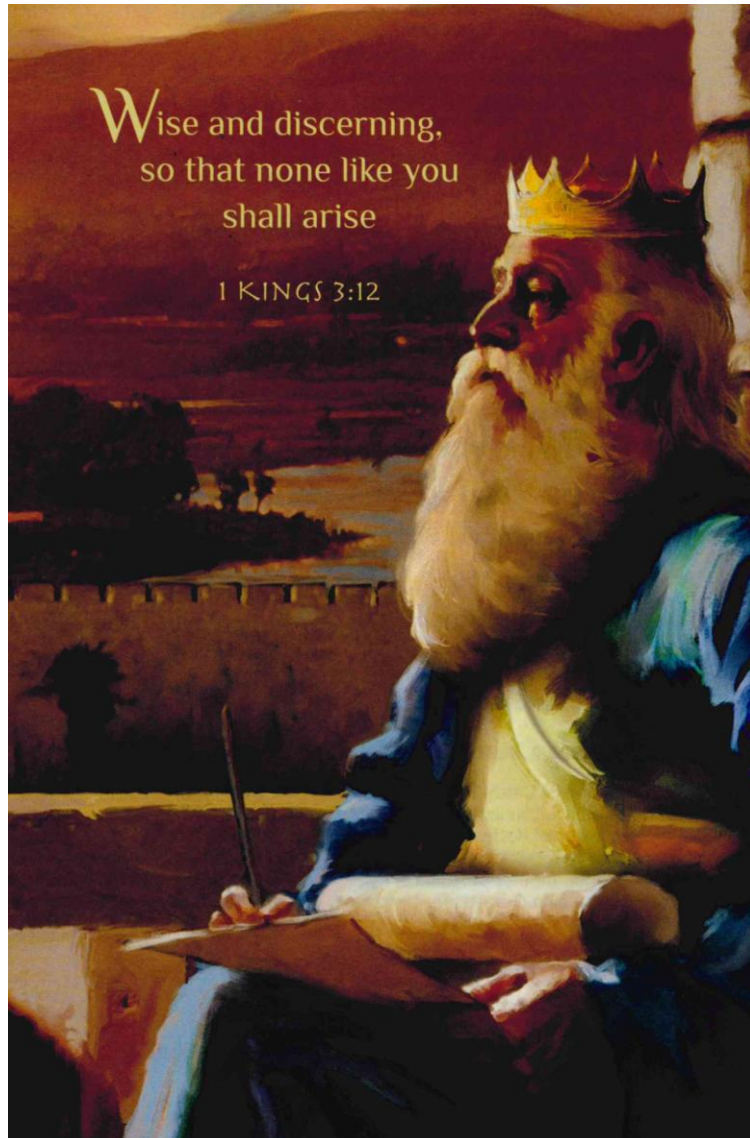
Reach out to all

Embrace His Gifts

Announce His coming

Commit to Christian Living

Honor His Word



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Ron Moritz, Deacon Ed Smallcombe

Communion Sunday, January 4, 2026

Opening Hymn: "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: Let us then confess our sins to God the Father.

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**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

**OT 1 Kings 3:4-15-** The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “[Ask for whatever you want me to give you.](#)” Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. “Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So, God said to him, “[Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, 12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. 13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. 14 And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.](#)” 15 Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

**Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-14 -** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup>For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup>he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. <sup>11</sup>In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup>in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

**Gospel: Luke 2:40-52 -** And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. <sup>41</sup>Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup>After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup>Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” <sup>49</sup>[“Why were you searching for me?”](#) he asked. [“Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”](#) <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.



And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

**Sermon Hymn: # 405 - "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"**

**Sermon: "Why He Did It" Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:18f**



Pray for our country, for our military, for our healthcare workers & first responders, for those that are sick, for those in need, for those who have lost loved ones, for our home-bound, for wisdom for our leaders, and for all of your concerns. Prayers of Strength and Comfort for the Ukrainian People and wisdom for all NATO Members. Pray for all your concerns.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Communion**



**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn: # "Joy to the World"**



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS – will meet today.**

**Jr. Bible Class:** Classes meets Jan.11 & 25<sup>th</sup>



**January - Domestic Assault Shelter**

Domestic Assault Shelter provides a safe haven for individuals and families in an abusive environment



**Mark Your Calendars**

January 11, 2026 We will de-decorate the church after service

**LWML/Ladies Aid** will meet January 14th at 10:00am.

**Church Council** meets January 18<sup>th</sup> after service.

**The Ground level door** will be open Sunday Mornings for those who wish to avoid climbing the hill. Also shortly after the service begins, both doors will be locked.



Pastor and Rosie thank the congregation for your generous Christmas gifts received on Christmas Eve. Serving St. Peter's is a privilege for which we both thank God. May He continue to grant His loving care as we serve Him together in 2026

