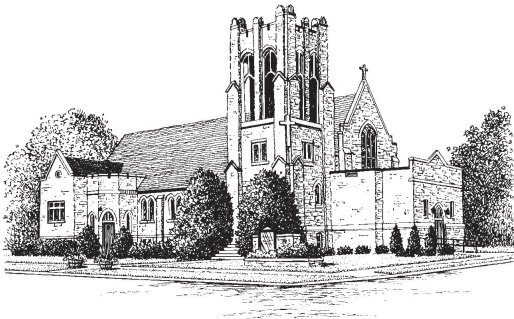




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ST. PETER'S NET

DECEMBER 2014

Linus Van Pelt: Theologian

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. *Luke 2:8-14*



These are verses spoken by the noted theologian, Linus Van Pelt. He quoted this passage after all of Charlie Brown's friends told him had ruined Christmas because he bought the wrong tree. The tree he bought was small and scrawny; it didn't look good enough for his friend's taste. Exasperated Charlie asked, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" We can get caught up in the same situation as Charlie Brown. We may go on an epic search for must have kids toy of the year. We may run to the grocery store and find they are out of the right kind of hash browns your mother's famous cheesy potato recipe. Or the Christmas cards aren't out soon enough. Like Charlie we might scream, "What is Christ-

mas all about?" We can look to these verses above.

When we read these verses, we realize that the angels came to shepherds, not kings or princes. Shepherds were on the lower rung on the social ladder in ancient Middle East. They were usually uneducated individuals and very poor. The angel came to those that were looked down upon in society when he announced that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. Both of these events show that Jesus came for everyone and in the eyes of God we are all important. Everybody needs to hear this message.

I jokingly call Linus from the comic strip *Peanuts* a "theologian"; but in a sense he is. There are people that will watch the "Charlie Brown Christmas Special" that have never heard this words before. There are people that would never open a Bible, which will hear these words of scripture for the first time. To them, Linus is a theologian; you may be a theologian too. You may be the one person at your work, exercise class or even at school that people see as a theologian. They may never open a Bible, but you can reach them with God's word. People need to know the true meaning of Christmas; you just might be the only one that they will listen too. So as we come into this Christmas Season, remember what all is about. When the stresses come, when your friends ask, "What is this all about?" Tell them and tell yourself: "**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord**". That is what this day is all about.

Merry Christmas,
Vicar Mark Hartsough
 Matthew 16:15

Music Ministry



This Advent, our Thursday services will each include the hymn *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*. While the hymn committee for Lutheran Worship paired this text with the somber tune PICARDY, which is also used for the hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*, the committee for both Hymnal Supplement '98 and for Lutheran Service Book paired the text with the now more universally used tune HELMSLEY.

This popular Advent Carol is rightly and wrongly attributed to the great hymn writer Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley. It was actually first written by John Cennick [1718-1755] who was a friend of the Wesleys. Cennick had been converted during the early years of the evangelical revival in England. He was a teacher, itinerant preacher and member of early Methodist movement. He wrote quite a number of hymns, but "Be Present at Our Table Lord" is only one that appears in our hymnal (LSB 775)

In 1752 John Cennick published an Advent hymn, 'Lo, he cometh'. It wasn't his best work as the opening verse read; *Lo, he cometh endless trumpets /blow before his bloody sign! / Midst ten thousand saints and angels/ see the crucified shine./ Alleluia! Welcome, welcome, bleeding Lamb*. The hymn came to the attention of Charles Wesley who set about re-writing it for his Hymns of Intercession for all Mankind, published in 1758. Wesley transformed the hymn, changing it almost beyond recognition. 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending' is typical of so many of Charles Wesley's hymns. It is rich in Biblical imagery and takes words from the Book of Revelation as its inspiration; 'Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.' [Revelation 1.7]

The hymn is used in our hymnal with only two minor changes from Wesley's original text. In the first stanza, last line originally read, "God appears on earth to reign." We now sing "Christ appears on earth to reign." And stanza 4, instead of singing "Everlasting God, come down" we now sing "Thou shalt reign and thou alone." The purpose of these changes is to not confuse the persons of the Trinity as original had possibility of doing.

Charles Wesley is thought to have written over 6,500 hymns and is often referred to as the 'Prince of English hymnody'. He was the great poet of the Evangelical Revival in England and the Methodist movement. He became an itinerant preacher in England and America, though he remained a member of the Church of England throughout his long life. His hymns helped to ensure the success of the revival movement in the 18th century. Wesley himself set the hymn with the tune HELMSLEY. Unfortunately, in Wesley's day, the tune was unknown and little happened with it. Ralph Vaughan Williams discovered the tune in 1905 and re-wrote the harmonies into the glorious hymn we have today. In fact, with only a minor alteration, Williams setting is the one we still use today.

As we learn this hymn this Advent, may you focus on the Christ, our Savior. While we certainly await his second coming when we and all believers will find our eternal rest in His kingdom, we certainly also celebrate His first coming at the first Christmas. If this first coming had never happened, salvation would not have been won for us on the cross, sin and the grave defeated by His raising from the dead. So we celebrate with joy that God's plan of salvation is completed!

In His service,
Cantor Jeremy Zieroth



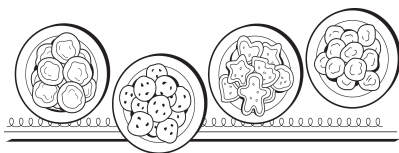
12/1	George Plenty
12/2	Ruby Schmidt
12/2	Robert Stoltenberg
12/3	David Tomlinson
12/7	Vicki Stewart
12/11	Cynthia Thurston
12/14	Polly Woodward
12/24	Bill Steffenhagen

Upside down?

Even amid increased secularization, God makes the core Christmas message known. Take, for example, the story of a "winter pageant" a mother attended at her son's grade school. Songs of reindeer, snow and Santa included one titled "Christmas Love," in which the youngest performers held up letters as the song progressed: "C," "H," etc.

When a little girl unknowingly held her "M" upside down, the older kids snickered and the adult audience smiled acceptingly. But as the song drew to a close and all the letters were revealed, surprised recognition struck the Christians in the room.

"CHRISTWAS LOVE," read the string of student-borne letters. God's truth had penetrated the human clutter and confusion around Christmas — as it has power to do throughout our lives: "Christ was love." And of course, he still is.



SAVOR THE SEASON

December 6th
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
St. Peter's

Cookie Walk

Join us for our Christian Women's Council Annual Cookie Walk, Pie & Craft sale. They are serving hot apple cider while you browse the many Christmas cookie selections.



Call Committee

We have received our initial call list. The committee is working to trim it down to a manageable size. They are planning a meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 to begin that process.

~~Call Committee Chair - John Peshorn

"Away in a Manger" PLATE



Make this special plate as a gift to give this Christmas.

What you need:

- Clear glass plate
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush and water
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Turn plate upside-down on table. Paint one of your palms brown, and press it on the center of the plate.
2. Rotate the plate so fingers point down. Using yellow paint, make a straw bed in the palm.
3. Mix white and brown paint for Jesus' face. Use white paint for a swaddled body.
4. Paint a yellow star above Jesus and a yellow border around the plate rim.
5. When paint is dry, turn plate over. With the marker, draw dots for Jesus' eyes and write the words of Luke 2:12 around the plate rim.

Holiday Candle

On Thanksgiving, we share a special meal with family and friends. Make this holiday candle as a festive centerpiece for your table.

What you need:

- Paper towel
- One 8-oz. clear plastic cup
- Petroleum jelly (Vaseline)
- Paper or plastic disposable bowl
- About 8 oz. of a variety of dried beans, peas, corn, etc.
- Bottle of white glue
- Plastic spoon
- An 8- to 10-inch taper or dinner candle
- Adult to help



What you do:

1. Using the paper towel, rub a generous amount of petroleum jelly on the inside of the cup (bottom and sides).
2. In a bowl, pour the dried-bean mixture.
3. Squeeze enough glue into the bean mixture to generously coat it. Stir the mixture with the spoon.
4. Spoon about half of the bean mixture into the greased cup. Then place the candle, with any plastic wrapping removed, into the center of the mixture. Next, fill the cup with the rest of the mixture. Smooth the top to make it flat, making sure the candle stays straight.
5. Squeeze extra glue around the hole made by the candle. Let the bean mixture dry completely, which could take a day or longer.
6. When the bean mixture is dry, gently pull the candle. Both the candle and beans should come out as one. (If they don't, pour more glue and wait another day.)
7. Place your candle on a small plate for a festive Thanksgiving centerpiece.

St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool

WMELS, Pre-K and NAEYC Accredited

5 stars with Wisconsin's Young Star

4-K Host Site for Poynette School District

By Connie Hendrickson, Director

Each year we get reminded that Christmas should not be just about giving and receiving presents. But, if we truly think about Christmas, it is indeed all about gift giving!

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift every given, by the greatest gift-giver of all, our blessed God and Father.

"This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ."

~Frank McKibben

Wishing all of you a blessed and gift-filled Christmas!

From our St. Peter's staff: Jan Ryce,
Carol Schulz and Connie Hendrickson.



The next 50% off sale will be Friday, December 26th and 27th. The store will be open Christmas Eve from 9a.m. - 2 p.m. and closed Christmas Day. The regular hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please note the new opening time. The store is located at 201 Cottage Grove Rd (just off Monona Dr). The phone number is 223-1228. Donations are welcome when the store is open.



Members of St. Peter's work on the first Friday (December 5th) and the third Wednesday (December 17th) of each month. Please call Alice Hanson if you have any questions or would like to become part of the *House of Thrift* team.

Thank you!



Parents and College Students:

Please let us know what your college address is going to be so that we can keep in touch through the coming year! Just email the Church Office:

stpeterluth@gmail.com

DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

<p>December 4 Midweek in Advent 1</p> <p>Isaiah 24:19-23 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Mark 13:1-10</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Pastor Zimmermann Sermon: <i>Our Two-Minute Drill</i> Order: Advent Service Hymns: Carols by Request - 341 - 331 - 933 - 336 (st. 1,2)</p>
<p>December 7 2nd Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Pastor Zimmermann Sermon: TBA Text: TBA Order: <i>DSI</i>, p 151 Hymns: 347 - 344 - 343, 346 - 725 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Upper Grades Sunday School (8:00)</p>
<p>December 11 Midweek in Advent 2</p> <p>Isaiah 26:19-21 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Mark 13:21-18</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Vicar Hartsough Sermon: <i>You've Got a Ticket to Ride</i> Order: Advent Service Hymns: Carols by Request - 357 - 352 - 933 - 336 (st. 1,3)</p>
<p>December 14 3rd Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-25</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Vicar Hartsough Sermon: TBA Text: TBA Order: <i>DSIII w/o communion</i>, p. 184 Hymns: 354 - 345 - 338 - 349 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Lower Grades Sunday School (8:00)</p>
<p>December 18 Midweek in Advent 3</p> <p>Isaiah 35:1-10 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Mark 13:32-37</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Pastor Brogaard Sermon: <i>Faithful Watching and Waiting</i> Order: Advent Service Hymns: Carols by Request - 512 - 350 - 933 - 336 (st. 1,4)</p>
<p>December 18 4th Sunday in Advent</p> <p>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89:1-5 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Pastor Brogaard Sermon: TBA Text: TBA Order: <i>DSI</i>, p 151 Hymns: 356 - 357 - 855 (st. 1, 8, 3-4), 549 - 383 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Handbells</p>
<p>December 24 Christmas Eve (10:00pm)</p> <p>Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Pastor Zimmermann Sermon: TBA Text: TBA Order: <i>Candlelight Communion Service</i> Hymns: 376 - 368 - 377 - 366 - 362 - 361, 370, 364 - 363 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Handbells, Adult Choir</p>
<p>December 25 Christmas Day (9:00am)</p> <p>Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 2 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Pastor Brogaard Sermon: TBA Text: TBA Order: <i>Service of Lessons and Carols</i> Hymns: 379 - 375 - 385 - 380 - 386 - 387 - 388 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth</p>
<p>December 28 1st Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 111 Galatians 4:47 Luke 2:22-40</p>	<p>Worship Leader: Vicar Hartsough Sermon: TBA Text: TBA Order: <i>DSIII w/o communion</i>, p 184 Hymns: 379 - 389 - 546 - 367 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth</p>
<p>December 31 New Year's Eve (6:30pm)</p>	<p>Order: <i>Communion Service</i></p>

COUNCIL NOTES – November 11, 2014

At 6:30 p.m. Elder Steve Paskey called the November 11, 2014 meeting of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Council to order. Members present were David Hutchinson, Dale Johnson, Greg Latzig, Tyson Miller, Steve Paskey, Keith Podoll, Shannon Rohrbeck, Sandra Sandstrom, Jennifer See, Mary Witt, Mark Witt, Elizabeth Hutchinson, Jeremy Zieroth, Lynnette Taylor, Vicar Hartsough and Pastor Brogaard. Greg Frank, Cameron Gramse, Mike Post, Glenn Puntney and Stephen Saager were excused; Bill Manthey, Vint Quamme, Charlotte Reddeman and Corinne Tuschl were absent. The opening devotion was given by Vicar Hartsough from Romans Chapter 13, and in reference to Veterans Day. Soldiers are servants and they do their work for what is good and just to maintain peace and security.

The **agenda** was presented. A motion was made by Mark Witt to approve the agenda, Keith Podoll seconded and the motion carried.

The **Secretary's minutes** were read. A motion was made by Jennifer See to approve the minutes, David Hutchinson seconded and the motion carried.

The **Financial Secretary's Report** was presented by Mary Witt. October contributions are on pace and ahead of last year at this time. Total offerings for the month of October were \$18,324.00. A motion was made by Jennifer See to approve the report, Shannon Rohrbeck seconded and the motion carried.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Jennifer See. Jennifer reported that we have paid out \$15,000.00 to missions for our yearly commitment. There is \$17,769.63 available for expenses as of November 1, 2014. It was brought to the Councils attention that it might be a good idea to think about possibly moving some funds from the General account into a heating reserve. Currently finances are in overall good standing. A motion was made by Keith Podoll to approve the report, Tyson Miller seconded and the motion carried.

The **Board of Elder's Report** was presented. Tyson Miller reported that there have been some issues with the usher lists that have to be addressed. The Christian Women's Council is currently taking orders for their Thanksgiving pie sales. The Cookie Walk is planned for December 6th. Cantor Jeremy Zieroth reported that Christmas is here and bells and choir are working hard in preparation for the season. Jeremy also has some instrumentalists lined up for upcoming services. One Sunday school program has been picked out for Christmas. Vicar Hartsough reported that services are flowing much smoother. The Vicar will be attending a symposium on suicide and his next youth group will be discussing this sensitive topic. The last group had nine in attendance. Plans are also being made for the Bible Bowl in March which will be on the Book of Luke. A Thanksgiving and Advent schedule will be mailed to members very soon. A special thank you went out to the Vicar Hartsough, Cantor Zieroth and Lynnette Taylor for all the work they have been doing to make everything run so smoothly. A motion was made by Mark Witt to approve the report, Mary Witt seconded and the motion carried.

The **Board of Trustees Report** was presented by Keith Podoll. Brad Zimmermann still has some Christmas trees that he will donate. A trailer will be lined up to pick them up and they will be put up on November 30th so they will be ready for the youth to decorate them. The roping will be put up in the balcony on December 3rd. The Nativity scene will also be put up. A bid came in on the door at \$2488.00 from a company called Access Door and More LLC. The bid could be lowered if some of the existing parts can be used. The water fountain has been installed. Pella has not gotten

back to Keith yet about the windows. Snow plowing has also been all lined up for the season. A motion was made by Jennifer See to approve the report, David Hutchinson seconded and the motion carried.

The Board of Christian

Education Report was presented by Sandra Sandstrom. The Child Care Center is currently doing fine but looking forward to three more children coming to the center in December. Cameron Gramse has agreed to take the open position on the Board of Education. The youth will be trimming the Christmas trees and on November 23rd the youth will be taking a look at the issue of suicide. There are plans to attend a presentation of the live nativity at Bethlehem, Sun Prairie. Bible classes are ongoing. The Sunday session is conducted by the person who is preaching, the Tuesday Bible class has five women in attendance and approximately the same for the Friday morning men's session. A motion was made by Shannon Rohrbeck to approve the report, Keith Podoll seconded and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report-Pastor Brogaard reported that the vacancy Pastors meet with Vicar Hartsough each Wednesday and everything is going well. They are already looking past the end of the year to get ahead of the game and be prepared. There are some baptisms scheduled in the near future.

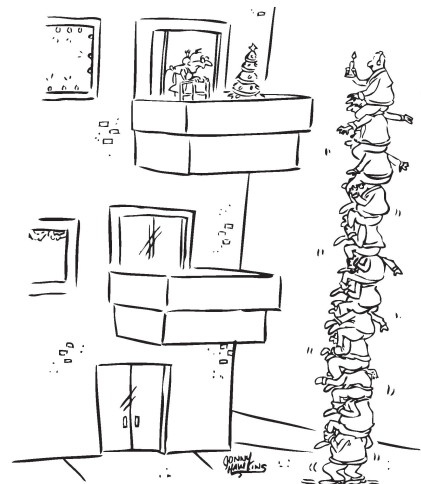
Membership Changes

-None to report.
Old Business- It was reported that John Peshorn, the head of the call committee, has contacted District President Wille's office in regards to getting a report from him and when we can expect it. The nominating committee will be meeting to give their findings on filling the positions that will be open on the council. The Budget Committee will be meeting soon to compile their report to present to the council and then to the Congregation at the annual meeting.

New Business

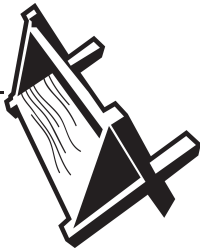

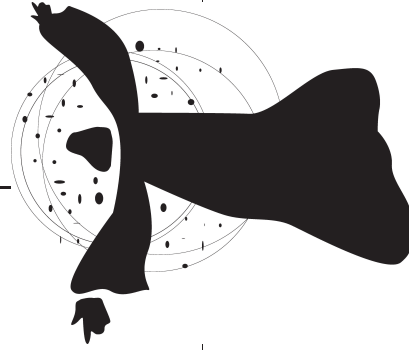
-None to report.
At 7:10 p.m. a motion was made by Jennifer See to adjourn, Keith Podoll seconded and the motion carried. The Lord's Prayer followed.

~Elizabeth Hutchinson, Secretary



Cass Park Church's carolers were always ready to make necessary adjustments.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2014

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2 1:00 PM Bible Class 7:00 PM Call Committee Meeting	3 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	4 6:30 PM Advent HC Service	5 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class 9:00 AM Thrift Store	6 St. Nicolas, Bishop 9:00 AM Christmas Rehearsal (all grades)
Advent 2	7 8:00 AM HC Service 8:00 AM Upper Gr Sing 9:15 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM HC Service	8 1:00 PM Bible Class 6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Elders	10 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	11 6:30 PM Advent Service	12 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class	13 9:00 AM Christmas Rehearsal (all grades)
Advent 3	14 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:30 AM Young Children's Christmas Service 10:30 AM Divine Service	15 1:00 PM Bible Class	17 9:00 AM Thrift Store 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	18 6:30 PM Advent HC Service	19 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class	20 9:00 AM Christmas Rehearsal (gr 3-8)
Advent 4	21 8:00 AM HC Service 9:15 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM HC Service	22  1:00 PM Bible Class	23 6:30 PM Carol Service 10:00 PM Candlelight Service	24 9:00 AM Festival Service No Evening Service Child Care & Church Office Closed	25 No Men's Bible class Child Care & Church Office Closed	26 9:00 AM Christmas Rehearsal (gr 3-8)
Christmas 1	28 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service	29	29 New Year's Eve 6:30 PM HC Service	30	31 6:30 PM HC Service	27 

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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