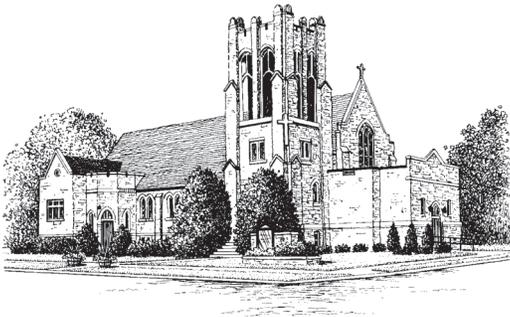




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ST. PETER'S NET

JANUARY 2018

New Year's Resolutions

Happy New Year!

Resolutions probably abound in your life, your families', and among your friends. Yet, so many of them will fail, or be put on hold for another year at least. Yet, despite all this we continue to resolve to do more and more each year.

The new year seems to provide new sparks in us, a new hope, and a passion to make ourselves better. It is only in recognition of our sin that we can begin to be better. Why? Because our sin leaves us dead this recognition leaves us turning nowhere within ourselves but only to cross of Christ. The Lord is not one who sits far off and twiddles His thumbs, but gets Himself dirty and takes on human flesh that He may take on our sin and death on the cross and give us life in the resurrection. This is our only hope and comfort.



He makes us His children in Baptism and declares that we are cleansed from sin and heirs of His Kingdom.

In this light here are some "resolutions" for all to consider:

1. More regularly go where Christ has promised Himself to be – in the Word and Sacraments, that is, the Divine Service. Offered here Sundays at 8am and 10:30am, and Mondays at 6:30pm.
2. Pray for one another. Start with the prayer list each week in the bulletin. Not just those you talk to or your close friends, but the one who you really don't talk to or even don't get along with.
3. Show mercy to one another. Find a way to serve in a new way. Again not just your friends but to all those with needs. And don't assume you know the needs but ask and pray, you may be surprised the way the Lord uses you.
4. Continued and more regular fellowship. Koinonia, the Greek word often translated as fellowship, literally means a participation. That we continue to participate in the life of the church, which flows out into witness and mercy into the community.

Pastor Amen

Music Ministry



From the Cantor

January 2018 Hymn Study

"To Jordan's River Came Our Lord", LSB 405, written by James P. Tiefel

With Christmas still fresh on the mind, the calendar quickly changes to a new year. How quickly the church calendar goes from the birth of Jesus, to him being 12 years old, to him being 30, all in the span of twelve days! Parents certainly appreciate that their own children don't grow so fast. But, for the purposes of the story of salvation, this is the cycle the church uses to tell the glorious story of Christ.

James Tiefel is the author of this hymn. He is pastor and professor in the WELS, currently serving as the Dean of the Chapel and Director of the Seminary Chorus at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI. He has been teaching there since 1985. He wrote this hymn in the early 1990's, while serving on the WELS hymnal committee. He was dismayed at the lack of hymns for Epiphany-tide and Jesus' baptism. So, he filled in the void with this new gem of a hymn. We sing it this year on January 7 when we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord.

To Jordan's river came our Lord,/
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,/
The God from God, the Light from Light,/
The Lord of glory, pow'r and might.(st.1)

God came to be our substitute, to be one of us. He, who is superior to us in every way, became like us in every way, including baptism. Now we know that baptism is not just a washing with water, but a removal of sins. So why would the sinless Son of God need baptism?

The Savior came to be baptized--/
The Son of God in flesh disguised--/
To stand beneath the Father's will/
And all his promises fulfill.(2)

The Son placed himself "beneath the Father's will". He placed himself under the law that he might fulfill the law in every way. This was the only way he could be our perfect, complete substitute. Christ came to take the place of sinners, to take our place, bearing the punishment of God for sin, but also upholding the law of God in its fullness. And here at Christ's baptism, we observe the 3 persons of the Trinity with our senses in a way that is unique in Scripture.

As Jesus in the Jordan stood/
And John baptized the Lamb of God,/
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,/
Descended on him from above.(3)

Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound/
Came God's own voice with words profound/
"This is my Son," was his decree,/
"The one I love, who pleases me."(4)

The Father's word, the Spirit's flight/
Anointed Christ in glorious sight/
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall/
To save the world and free us all."(5)

The language here shows quite distinctly Father (voice), Son (Christ), and Spirit (dove). Yet the mind-boggling fact that all 3

persons of the Trinity were at the same time also fully present in the person of Christ is also true for "in him all the fullness of God lived in bodily form".

This event certainly must have been dazzling and powerful for those observing. Seeing a man baptized by John was nothing special. People came every day for that. Yet here is one whom John himself called "the Lamb." Then that thunderous voice echoed in the ears of all present, with the words, "This is my Son". Who could or would think anything other than that this is God himself speaking? Finally, a pure white dove descends subtly and quietly bearing witness to this baptism.

Stunning, yes...but convincing? The disciples needed reminded by Jesus all throughout his ministry. Even John would send his disciples later to ask if Jesus was the Christ. As we live, Satan desperately tries to use doubt to take us away from our belief.

We must be careful to remember that Jesus didn't come to fix worldly problems, but to fix THE biggest, spiritual problem. Christ came, not to make our lives easy, but to remove the curse of sin that we cannot rid ourselves. And because of that, we can sing the last stanza with joy in our hearts.

*"Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!/
This man is Christ, our substitute!/
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,/*
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme."(6)

No more doubts! No more fears! For Christ, whose baptism here the Trinity witnessed, came and was that substitute we needed. His baptism marked the beginning of that public ministry which would lead inevitably to that hill on a Friday three years later. He the Redeemer of the world paid the full cost and was the complete substitute for every one of us. May the remembrance of Jesus' baptism give you confidence in your Lord, and remind you of *your* baptism, where God says to you, "You are my child".

In His service,
Cantor Jeremy Zieroth



"I love bowling night at church."

Jesus Christ, the same Yesterday, Today and Forever

Now begins the New Year-2018! Everything is fresh and bright and shiny. The Christmas gifts are still new and maybe even still exciting. The start of a new year is a time when many people contemplate a life change, a resolution, saying, "This year, things will be different". Maybe you are one of those people—that isn't a bad thing, goals are a great thing to have and even better when you can accomplish them! Maybe you are not one of those people, but for some reason the New Year still always seems to hold the promise of new and better, of change. Change can be a wonderful thing, the seasons change, children grow, someone may learn a new craft or trade, someone else may move to a bigger house. Change can be fun, it can be a sign of health, and it can be a sign of growth. After all, God created the seasons to change, the flowers to bloom, the sun to sink and the moon to rise for the changing of the days. But there are some things we do not want to change.

We would not want to outgrow our clothes, we don't want our car to break down, we don't want to lose our job, we do not want our parents to die, we do not want our spouse's love for us to weaken; sometimes change is harsh and it hurts. Any number of these changes may happen to any number of us in this year to come and if they do, we may question where to turn. Where do we go when the world becomes shifting as sand and things all around us are changing? Well, the answer is, the same place we have always turned. To God. To His mercy through Christ.

During this time of Epiphany which begins January 6th, we will hear of Christ's miracles in the Gospel text. We will hear of how He, because of His compassion and mercy, casts out demons, heals the sick, cleanses the lepers, and heals the paralytic. We will be reminded that Christ is the one who heals our hurts of mind, body and soul. We will know that it is through His death on the cross for us that His compassion and mercy continue forever because God is unchanging. His love, mercy and compassion last to eternity. If the difficult changes do come this year, let us remember that, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress" (Psalm 46:1,2, 7).

From the
Deaconess Intern



The Apology of the Augsburg Confession

As we continue looking at the various documents that make up the Lutheran Confessions, as found in the Book of Concord, we'll focus this month on the Apology of the Augsburg Confession. Here "apology" doesn't mean that the reformers apologized for what they wrote in the Augsburg Confession; rather, it comes from the same word as "apologetics;" it's a defense of what they wrote earlier. For more on the Augsburg Confession, see November's newsletter article.



After the Lutherans presented the Augsburg Confession to Emperor Charles V in 1530, explaining their position of grace alone through faith alone as founded on Scripture alone, the empire's papal theologians responded with a long document, known as the *Pontifical Confutation*. They read this document to the Lutherans and refused to give them a copy. Not only this, Lutherans were expected to accept all its conclusions and the conditions it imposed, no arguing and no questions asked. This was unacceptable. While the document was read to them, the reformers made copious notes. In response, Philip Melancthon drafted his *apology*, his defense of Lutheran teachings. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession was soon printed in German and spread like wildfire. Lutheran princes from all over the Holy Roman Empire signed the document, showing their support.

The Apology of the Augsburg Confession is the longest and most extensive document in the Book of Concord. It takes each article of the Augsburg Confession and explains it in detail, refuting the errors put forth by the Roman Church and setting forth the truth as it is found in Holy Scripture, which is the only authority we Lutherans recognize for our doctrine. Melancthon was careful to cite many theologians throughout the history of the Church that confessed just the same. Most importantly, he ties all articles back to the chief teaching of the Church, the Doctrine of Justification: that God has reconciled man to Himself by grace through faith, not on account of our works, but on account of Christ's dying on the cross and rising to new life. This doctrine, which shows how the sinner is reconciled to God, forms the very core of the *Apology*, just as it forms the very core of the Christian life. Though lost and condemned, "by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast," (Eph. 2:8-9).

Thanks be to God for the life and salvation He gives us, purely as a gift. Thanks be to God for the faithful men who boldly proclaimed the Gospel, placing the saving work of Christ at the center of our teachings. May we continue to bring that same saving Word of God out into the world, proclaiming His eternal Gospel, His enduring word of forgiveness and peace to all.

Deaconess Brittni



Do you have a special occasion coming up? If so, you may want to take a moment to browse the table of cards set up in the narthex.

There is a wide range of cards to fit every occasion and all proceeds go to the *Christian Women's Council* to help support all their good works. You may leave your cash or check in the basket on the table.

Vicar Brown



NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!



What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!

Make a "Happy New Year!" Mobile

What you'll need:

- scissors
- white school glue
- glitter
- markers, crayons or colored pencils
- ribbon
- colored construction paper
- paper punch



Here's what to do:

1. Use markers, crayons or colored pencils to make a construction paper sign. Write 2018 on one side and "Happy New Year!" on the other side.
2. Decorate with glue and glitter.
3. Punch 1 hole in the top center of your sign. Make 3 evenly spaced holes along the bottom.
4. Tie a piece of ribbon to the top hole of your sign for a hanger.
5. Cut out 6 (or more) fun-looking shapes about the size of your hand.
6. On each shape, write a hope for the New Year (things you want to improve about yourself, things you want to do, places you want to go, people you want to help, etc.).
7. Punch a hole in the top and the bottom of 3 paper shapes and in the tops only of the other 3 shapes.
8. Cut 6 different lengths of ribbon – one for each paper shape.
9. Hang the 2-hole shapes from the holes in the bottom of the sign. Hang the other shapes from the bottom of those shapes.
10. Hang your mobile.

St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool

WMELS Accredited

5 stars with Wisconsin's Young Star

4-K Host Site for Poynette School District

December was so much fun!! We enjoyed talking so much about Jesus and what Christmas truly means. The children practiced so hard for their Christmas program. They proved to be a bit shy for the performance, but we can not thank you all enough for your children and entrusting them in our care.

December was also filled with many fun art projects which the children really enjoying doing. We are hoping for some snow soon to help make the outdoors a bit more fun too!



High School Youth



Summer Trip, July 3-8 to Minnesota.

See Pastor to sign up for our summer trip, Higher Things, also visiting Mall of America (there will still be fireworks). Signups need to be in by Jan 31st. **Adults: We also need 1 female chaperone, please consider joining us for this great week!**



DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Jan 7/8 Baptism of Our Lord Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Romans 6:1-11 Mark 1:4-11	Sermon: Baptism of Our Lord Order: DSIII, p. 184 Hymns: 395 - 405 - 400, 401 - 578 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Adult Choir
Jan 14/15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 1 Samuel 3:1-20 Psalm 139:1-10 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Sermon: Rev. Jim Laatsch Order: DSIII, p. 184 Hymns: 807 - 402 - 688, 827 - 396 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Lower Sunday School
Jan 21/22 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62 1 Corinthians 7:29-35 Mark 1:14-20	Sermon: Gone Fishin' Order: DSIII, p. 184 Hymns: 833 - 839 - By Request Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Upper Sunday School Choir (8a)
Jan 28/29 4th Sunday after Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	Sermon: The Exorcist Order: DSIII, p. 184 Hymns: 549 - 842 - 620, 849 - 541 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Handbells

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY CLASS

Are you afraid to open the credit card bills from Christmas shopping? Do you get that pit in your stomach every time to get a bill in the mail? Is there too much month left at the end of the money? Do you want to get out of debt and build wealth to leave an



inheritance to your children's children? Want to have Financial Peace in your LIFE? Want to strengthen your MARRIAGE or SINGLE life? Learn how to handle finances the biblical way.

Based on some of the 200 verses in the Bible that mention money and how to manage your finances for God's glory, THIS CLASS has something for you to learn no matter what age. This is the class that we should have taken when we started our first job.

Classes start TUESDAY January 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm at St. Peter's for 9 weeks. Materials can be purchased at church office for \$110, while supplies last, or from fpu.com, class name "Peter." <https://fpu.com/1056412> For more information, please contact the class leader, Jim Atkinson 697-7052 jim@atkinsonrealtor.com



january 

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28th

1:00 p.m.

- ◆ ***Election of Officers & Board members***
- ◆ ***Adoption of the 2018 Budget***
- ◆ ***Other items of business***

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES - DECEMBER 12, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by President Bill Steffenhagen.

Opening Devotion by Pastor Amen from Mark 1. We start this season with the beginning. "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" - we prepare our hearts, body, and mind to be brought back to the beginning - to the story of Jesus' coming and bringing forgiveness.

Agenda : Need to add to New Business: Budget update, Annual Meeting date, and gifts. Tom Crum made a motion to accept the agenda with the added items. Steve Paskey seconded and it carried.

Secretary's report: Approved as printed. Motion by Tom Crum, second by Bob Kronberg. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's report : presented as read. Total contributions for general fund for November is \$13,152.00 and for Special Purpose \$7,521.00. Motion to approve by Dan Schmidt, second by Cameron Gramse. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report : presented as read. Current available for expenses is \$10,125.06. Two repair bills coming due this month, maintenance on the Aprilaire cleaner in the Parsonage and repair of the garage door at the Parsonage. Motion to approve by Bob Kronberg, second by Cameron Gramse. Motion carried.

Board of Elders : Tom thanked everyone again for stepping up to help out when needed. Altar Guild has ordered Poinsettias to decorate the chancel area for Christmas, they can be sponsored by members of the congregation for \$8 each. Military Care reported that Christmas packages are being sent. Christian Women's Council is hosting the fellowship after each of the four Midweek Advent services and so far seems to be going well. Cantor reported that the various music groups are gearing up for Christmas and that there will be a number of solos being performed over break.

Board of Trustees report given by Steve Paskey. The Christmas trees are up. It was noted that the ceiling in Pastor's study was falling, so an investigation was enacted and conclusion was that a pipe connected to the AC drain that is in attic had broken probably due to freezing and had been leaking. The problem was identified and has been repaired. Now we are waiting to repair the ceiling tiles.

Board of Christian Education report. Tiffany Amoriello has returned from maternity leave so staffing is returning to a more normal routine. The Child Care will present their Christmas program during the Midweek Advent service on December 20th. Everything with the preschool partnership is going well. Sunday School lower grades presented their Christmas program, "The Colors of Christmas" on December 10th. The midweek catechism classes are both finishing up their study of the Apostle's Creed. Seventh and eighth grades are taking care of the usher duties and ringing the bell during the Midweek Advent services while the 5th & 6th grades are setting up and serving the cookies and hot

chocolate for the Christian Women's Council. The HS Youth had a fun night setting up and decorating the church and trees on December 3rd. There was pizza and snacks afterwards. They will be having their usual 5th Sunday Brunch with Pastor Amen on Dec 31st, consensus is that they will be dining at *Noodles & Co.* Sunday Bible Study is prepping for the Midweek Advent services with their lessons. Deaconess Brittni led the Ladies Bible Study through the Book of Ruth and Vicar Brown led the men through Hosea and now they are studying pre-Nativity events.

Pastor's Report – St. Peter's hosted the November circuit meeting where Pastor Amen was re-elected as Circuit Visitor. Vicar Brown and Deaconess Brittni are making more visits on their own. Vicar Brown did his first ever preaching at a Midweek service and will continue to pick up more responsibilities there. The program for the older Sunday School is coming along nicely. They will perform "Light A Candle" at the 6:30 pm Christmas Eve service. Deaconess Brittni reported that the Giving Tree program went very well as did the book drive. All of the tags on the tree were taken and returned.

Membership Changes – Cameron Gramse made a motion to transfer out Gerald "Red" and Sally Moeller to Triune Lutheran (LCMS) in Sharon, WI. Dan Schmidt seconded and motion carried.

Old Business – Nominating committee has filled most of the positions, they are still looking for one Elder, a Council secretary and someone to take on the Financial Secretary.

New Business – Bill Hageman gave a budget committee update. Pastor will be on a mission trip to Texas during the January regular council meeting so Steve Paskey made a motion to set the date for the Annual Voters' meeting on Sunday, January 28th at 1:00 p.m., Bob Kronberg seconded and the motion carried. Pastor, Cantor, Vicar, Deaconess Brittni, and Lynnette were asked to step out for a short session about Christmas Thank You's. After a bit of discussion, Dan Schmidt made a motion to proceed with Thank yous to all of them as well as for each of the five Child Care Center employees. Phil Kruger seconded and motion passed.

Adjourn – motion by Bill Hageman, second by Phil Kruger to adjourn at approximately 7:45pm. Closed with Lord's Prayer. Elder meeting follows.

Respectfully submitted: Lynnette Taylor, *Acting Secretary*



JANUARY

635-4825

Kelly Hageman



**FINANCIAL REPORT
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:**



Balance on Nov 30, 2017.....	\$16,282.24
Receipts for Dec (est.)	\$15,212.00
Expenses for Dec (est.)	(\$16,487.82)
Shortage/Overage.....	\$15,006.42
Sound System Funds Needed: (\$991.89)	



A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
QWCDREYATMIOC�HFASWCOR
MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL
ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

_____! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



Valentine and Easter items will begin to appear on the shelves in January. The store is located at 201 Cottage Grove Road (just off Monona Drive). The hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. The phone number is 223-1228. Donations are welcome when the store is open.

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

Thank you!

**JANUARY
Elders**

Jan 7	8:00 a.m.	Cameron Gramse & Mike Manke
	10:30 a.m.	Bill Hageman & Greg Frank
Jan 8	6:30 p.m.	Vint Quamme
Jan 14	8:00 a.m.	Phil Kruger & Bill Hageman
	10:30 a.m.	Tom Crum & Greg Frank
Jan 15	6:30 p.m.	Vint Quamme
Jan 21	8:00 a.m.	Dale Johnson & Cameron Gramse
	10:30 a.m.	Tom Crum & Bill Manthey
Jan 22	6:30 p.m.	
Jan 28	8:00 a.m.	Phil Kruger & Dale Johnson
	10:30 p.m.	Mike Manke
Jan 29	6:30 p.m.	Bill Manthey

**JANUARY
USHERS**



Jan 7 & 14

Early	Late
Jeff Anderson, Chr. (434-9764)	Robert Kronberg, Chr. (920-992-5272)
Dave & Wesley Sandstrom	Nathan Campbell
Austin Anderson	David Steinke
Craig Wendt	Vint Quamme
Glenn Puntney	Tom Crum
Riley & Cody Puntney	Vint Quamme, Jr
Todd, Justin, Hayden Taylor	Noah & Haydin Campbell
Logan Sandstrom	

Jan 21 & 28

Chr ()	Chr ()
John Caldwell, Chr. (635-4762)	Herb Miller, Chr. (635-4557)
Mike Manke	Paul Yamriska
Don Thurston	Andrew & Josh Yamriska
Mark & Fred Manke	Charles Hilgendorf
Tom Manke	Joseph Pingel
Kraig See	Andrew Klahn

1/2 Cynthia Hemp
 1/7 Pamela Childs
 1/8 Judy Smith
 1/18 James Dobratz
 1/25 Joyce Herwig



