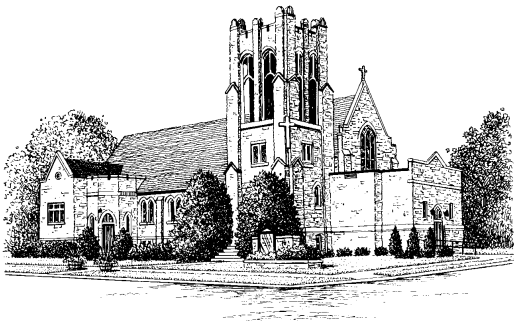


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ST. PETER'S NET DECEMBER 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward be-

ing. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. "No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, "If I just had this much then I would be happy."

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the

Continued

cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God’s great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God’s gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

Printed from: LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Music Ministry



For this month’s hymn study, we look at the ever popular, but very traditional hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (LSB #357). This hymn, as usual, is the hymn of the day for Advent 4. This year it is December 19/20.

We are lousy at waiting in 21st century America. From the plethora of fast-food choices, to TV “on demand”, to our smartphone eliminating nearly every opportunity for boredom, to same-day pickup, we seldom have to wait for anything. Our lives sprint from one engaging activity to another so much so that the idea of anticipation has become for us the most unusual of all spiritual disciplines.

This is one reason why we’ve lost some of the wonder of one of the greatest Advent hymns of all time, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. The hymn presupposes the spiritual truth that waiting is not only necessary at times, it is also beneficial. There can be no faith without anticipation. God’s people have always understood this...they were forced to. The great narratives in scripture give us the exciting highlights, but if you read in-between the lines you’ll find that

most of salvation history is about waiting.

The hymn is based upon the Great “O” Antiphons of Advent— seven ancient scriptural prayers of waiting (a translation is provided in the Lutheran Service Book, 357). One antiphon was traditionally sung each day from December 17th to the 23rd. The opening stanza in modern hymnals is in fact the last antiphon to be prayed, “O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior: come and save us, O Lord our God.” The seven antiphons, originally prayed or sung in Latin, retained their popularity even into the reformation period. For example, English reformer and dramatist John Bale (1495-1563) structured a seven-part Reformation drama called “God’s Promises” upon them—so they have a long, rich and diverse history in the church.

Each Antiphon consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill a scriptural promise or prophecy. There is a beautiful logic to them They begin in the remote vastness of the Eternal Wisdom (stanza 2 in our hymnals) continue through Moses and the Law, remembering David and his promised descendant who would rule Israel gloriously. They pass through the Babylonian captivity and the conviction of the later prophets that the Messiah was to be more than an

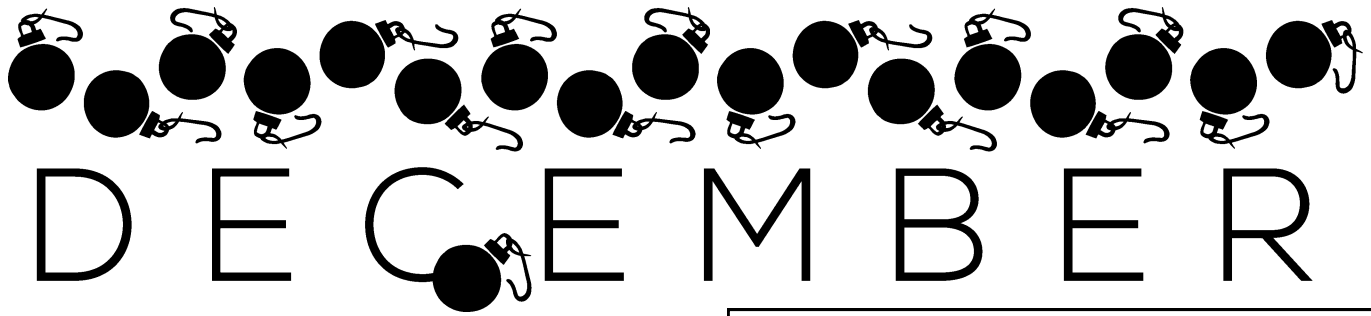
earthly king, declaring that he would be King and Savior of all people, and even more, proclaiming him Emmanuel, God with us. You will notice that the antiphons proceed on an ascending scale of excitement, reaching a crescendo as they usher in the joy of the Feast of the Nativity.

But in each antiphon, we return to the theme of waiting. They are prayers that God would come and teach, redeem, deliver, rescue, enlighten, save, and dwell with His people. These petitions are only possible for people who wait—who understand that God’s promises in Christ are always now, but not yet; here, but still coming. It’s a discipline we would do well to rediscover. Immersing ourselves in these ancient prayers will not only build-up our faith, it might actually slow us down in this busy time of year.

Blessings on your Advent. May you keep Christ as the center of your Advent and Christmas worship. See you in church!



In His service,
Cantor Jeremy Zieroth



DECEMBER



ADVENT

a season of preparation

THE LORD COMES TO HIS TEMPLE

From Luke 1

Wednesdays
December 1, 8, 15
5:30 pm

St. Peter's Lutheran

303 Park St. | Arlington,
| Wisconsin
608-635-4825

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.

Remember, you can give online at StPetersArlington.org, with options for designated and automatic giving. Thanks for your generosity and support.




12/1	George Plenty
12/2	Terry Grinde
12/2	Sandy Paske
12/7	Vicki Stewart
12/11	Cynthia Thurston
12/12	Linda Manthey
12/18	William Hutchinson
12/24	Bill Steffenhagen



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



CHOIR, MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

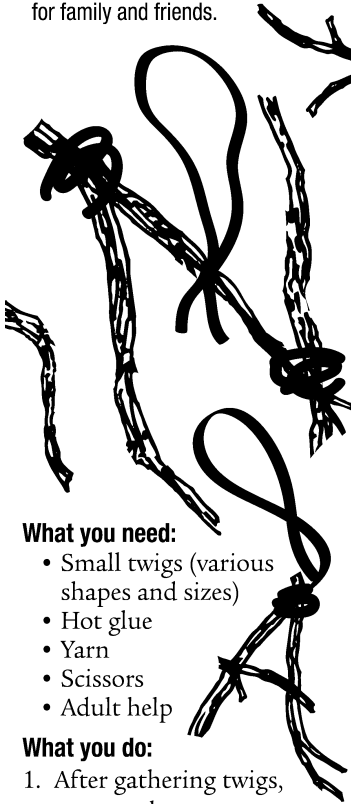
Practices are Wednesdays

Handbells: 6:30 pm
Vocal Choir: 7:30 pm

Help us make a joyful noise with your musical gifts!

SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

"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.

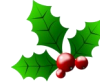
St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool

4-K Host Site for Poynette School District

Kelly Pieper, Director

Merry Christmas from the St. Peter's Childcare Staff!

We are getting into the holiday spirit down at the childcare center. This month the children are learning all about Christmas. We're learning Christmas songs to perform for our families and church community. We will also be decorating the center to prepare to celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus. We will be having a party to honor Jesus's birthday with food and games. Christmas is a time of celebration, so the center will be closed on December 24, 27, and 31, so that we can all enjoy the holidays with our loved ones.



We welcome you all to come see our children sing some Christmas songs on Wednesday, December 22nd at 4:30 p.m. in the chapel. Refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!



The children in their Halloween Costumes!



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>November 28 1st Sunday in Advent (Year C) Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 <u>Luke 19:28-40</u></p> <p>December 1 Midweek in Advent 1 Luke 1:26-35</p>	<p>Sermon: <i>The Lord Our Righteousness</i> Text: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Order: <i>DSIII</i>, p 184 Hymns: 331 - 332 - 341, 335 - 350 Choir: <u>Upper Grades Sunday School (8am)</u></p> <p>Sermon: <i>The Womb of Mary</i> Order: Vespers, p. 229 Hymns: Carols by Request - 334 - 356</p>
<p>December 5/6 2nd Sunday in Advent Malachi 3:1-7b Psalm 66:1-12 Philippians 1:2-11 <u>Luke 3:1-20</u></p> <p>December 8 Midweek in Advent 2 Luke 1:39-45, 56</p>	<p>Sermon: <i>Purified and Forgiven</i> Text: Malachi 3:1-7b Order: <i>DSIII</i>, p 184 Hymns: 351 - 344 - 347, 872 - 349 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: <u>Adult Choir</u></p> <p>Sermon: <i>The House of Zechariah</i> Order: Vespers, p. 229 Hymns: Carols by Request - 337 - 346</p>
<p>December 12/13 3rd Sunday in Advent Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm 85 Philippians 4:4-7 <u>Luke 7:18-35</u></p> <p>December 15 Midweek in Advent 3 Luke 2:1-5</p>	<p>Sermon: <i>Eternal Joy</i> Text: Philippians 4:4-5 Order: <i>DSIII</i>, p. 184 Hymns: 354 - 345 - 333, 803 - 515 Organist: <u>Cantor Jeremy Zieroth</u></p> <p>Sermon: <i>Along the Judean Road</i> Order: Vespers, p. 229 Hymns: Carols by Request - 343 - 338</p>
<p>December 19/20 4th Sunday in Advent Micah 5:2-5a Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-56</p>	<p>Sermon: <i>A Savior For Everybody</i> Text: Luke 1:39-56 Order: <i>DSIII</i>, p. 184 Hymns: 342 - 357 - 356, 933 - 352 Choir: <u>Handbells</u></p>
<p><u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!</u> LOWER GRADES SUNDAY</p>	<p><i>SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 12/19, 9:30AM</i></p>
<p><u>ARISE AND SHINE!</u> UPPER GRADES SUNDAY</p>	<p><i>SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 12/24, 6:30PM</i></p>
<p>December 24 Christmas Eve (10:00pm) Isaiah 62:10-12 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20</p> <p>December 25 Christmas Day (9:00am) Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 2 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18</p>	<p>Sermon: <i>The Temple Of God Is Born</i> Text: Luke 2:10-18 Order: <i>Candlelight Communion Service</i> Hymns: 377 - 360 - 358 - 359, 370 - 366, 363 Choir: <u>Handbells, Adult Choir</u></p> <p>Sermon: <i>The Incarnate Word</i> Text: John 1:14 Order: <i>DSV</i> (modified) Hymns: 373 - 368 - 381 - 384 - 391 - 387, 376 - 380</p>
<p>December 26/27 St. Stephen, Martyr (1st Sunday after Christmas) 2 Chronicles 24:17-22 Psalm 119:137-144 Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60 Matthew 23:34-39</p>	<p>Sermon: <i>St. Stephen and the Faithfulness of the LORD</i> Text: Luke 2:22-40 Order: <i>DSI</i>, p 151 Hymns: 362 - 372 - 375, 388 - 385</p>
<p>December 31 New Year's Eve/ Circumcision & Name of Jesus (6:30pm) Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 2:21</p>	<p>Sermon: <i>TBA</i> Order: <i>DSI</i>, p. 151 Hymns: 899 - 897 - 366, 390 - 896</p>

COUNCIL MINUTES November 9, 2021

The November 9th meeting of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order by President James Rittmeyer at 6:49 pm. This meeting was held in the sanctuary so social distancing can be observed. In attendance were: Bob Hagenow, Connie Hendrickson, Beth Hutchinson, Brad Larson, Bill Manthey, Tyson Miller, Calvin Moll, Keith Podoll, Charlotte Reddeman, Alex Rehlinger, James Rittmeyer, Daniel Schmidt, Lynnette Taylor, Paul Yamriska, and Jeremy Zieroth.

Pastor David Juhl, his wife Becky, and children, Catherine, Matthew, Christopher, Timothy, and Bethany were introduced to the members of the council. We spent a few minutes learning some background about them and then went around and introduced ourselves to the visiting Pastor's family.

Cantor Jeremy Zieroth led the opening devotion with a message from Hymn 508, "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near". With its sobering imagery and words of warning for all who would ignore, neglect or reject God and His gracious plan of salvation, this hymn helps us sing with calm confidence in God's promise of salvation by simple faith in Christ and reliance on His Word and grace. In this faith we remain vigilant and ready for our Lord's return and the culmination of our deliverance from sin, the devil and death.

The agenda was presented. Dan Schmidt moved approval, Bob Hagenow provided the second, motion carried.

Secretary's minutes were read. Bob Hagenow moved to approve the report, Calvin Moll second, motion carried.

The Financial Secretary's report was given by Bob Hagenow. We had a solid October with contributions at 125% of the previous month for the general fund, 119% of the previous month for missions, but again October had five Sundays whereas September was a four week month. The numbers show us at 87% of the prior year in the general fund and 91% of the prior year in mission giving. October online giving accounted for 9% of the contributions to the general fund and 13% of the mission giving. Calvin Moll moved approval, Keith Podoll second, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Lynnette Taylor. The current checkbook balance on November 9th is \$14,522.87. This includes all bills on the report paid, one deposit so far but no payroll yet for the month of November. It was noted that the Mission fund was only \$324.30 from the pledge being met and that had already been contributed in November. Dan Schmidt moved approval of the treasurer's report, Brad Larson second, motion carried.

The Elders report was presented. Military Care indicated that six cards were being sent out for Veteran's Day. They are getting Christmas cards to send out to each of their list of members of the congregation and it will include the schedule of our Christmas services. The Christian Women's Council is doing their pie sales again although only pumpkin this year due to the low apple supplies, orders due to the church office by November 17th. The luncheon at Calvary went very well, they served about 15 students on Sunday but were able to leave the meal items (a Mexican buffet and many desserts from members of St. Peter's) for use at Calvary's Wednesday service as well. Cantor Jeremy Zieroth reported that all choirs are going strong and have plans in place for the upcoming Advent/Christmas season. In fact the children will begin practicing their Christmas songs this week.

The Trustees reported that the notice had come from Window World that the windows should be in to the company this week

and when they arrive, the company will give us about a weeks notice as to when they will be here to install them. Many mentions were made as to how bright the cross is now that the neon has been changed to LED lights. They have received one bid for the siding, gutters, soffit, and fascia at the parsonage. All total with this bid it would be about \$35,208. They are

waiting on a contractor from Sun Prairie to put in a bid tomorrow and have contacted another company from Portage to see if they can get a bid from them also. Snow removal for the season has been contracted with Stoltenburg Painting again. Each snowfall event will be \$200 for plowing the lot and shoveling the walks. There was a mention of a small repair needed in the concrete by the garage door of the parsonage.

The Board of Christian Education report was given by Charlotte Reddeman. The Child Care Center enrollment is at 13 with another 10 who are wrap-around students (those who come for Pre-school and then stay with us the rest of the day). We rejoice with Macie P., who was recently baptized here at St. Peter's along with her sister. The students took a trip to the fire station and held a Halloween party. The center is comparing rates with other facilities to be sure that we are in a competitive range. None of our High School Youth were able to participate in the Calvary Luncheon serving. Midweek classes are ongoing and will be taught by Cantor for the next two weeks while Pastor Hintz is away on vacation. The Bible study groups are still meeting.

The Pastor's report stated that there were four baptisms in the last two weeks.

There were no membership changes.

Old business was just a reiteration of who is on the Nominating Committee and the Budget Committee.

There was no New Business

Calvin Moll moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:1 p.m., Dan Schmidt second, motion carried. The Lord's prayer was recited. Elder meeting follows.



Respectfully submitted,
Lynnette Taylor, *Council Secretary*



Advent starts Wednesday, December 1st!

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 1st, 8th, and 15th; 5:30pm
Carols by request to begin

Sunday School Christmas Program Practices

Saturdays December 4th, 11th, and 18th



**FINANCIAL REPORT
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:**



Balance on Oct 31, 2021	\$18,682.24
Receipts for Nov (est.).....	\$10,880.00
Expenses for Nov (est.)	\$(14,141.55)
Shortage/Overage	\$15,420.69

ELDERS

Dec 5	8:00 a.m.	Brad Larson
	10:30 a.m.	Alex Rehlinger
Dec 6	6:30 p.m.	Bill Manthey
Dec 12	8:00 a.m.	Dan Schmidt
	10:30 a.m.	Tyson Miller
Dec 13	6:30 p.m.	Bill Manthey
Dec 19	8:00 a.m.	Brad Larson
	9:30 a.m.	Alex Rehlinger
	10:30 a.m.	Tyson Miller
Dec 20	6:30 p.m.	Calvin Moll
Dec 24	6:30 p.m.	Brad Larson
	10:00 p.m.	Calvin Moll
Dec 25	9:00 a.m.	Bill Manthey
Dec 26	8:00 a.m.	Dan Schmidt
	10:30 a.m.	
Dec 27	6:30 p.m.	Calvin Moll
Dec 31	6:30 p.m.	Paul Yamriska

PUZZLE



What's in a name?
An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S_e w_ll _ _ve b ir_ _
to _ s_n, and _ _u a_e to
gi_e _i_ the _ _me J_ _us,
b_c_u_ _ he _ill s_ _e his
_ _op_e f_o_ t_ _ir s_n."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

START HERE

A I N G F I P (H) S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV



DECEMBER USHERS

December 5 & 12

Early

Keith Podoll, *Chr.*
(635-8012)
Larry & Alex Saager
Bill & Justin Hageman
Greg & Patrick Frank
Kim & Brock Kriewaldt

Late

No Chairman
Steve Paskey
Roger Frank
Derek Gordon
Brad Zimmermann &
Hunter & Tanner & Jakob

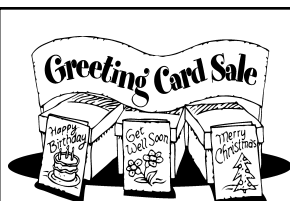
December 19, 24, 25, & 26

No Chairman

Wayne Hanson
Cameron Gramse
Steve & Matt Hustad
Calvin Moll
Nate & Austin Moll

No Chairman

Jim Paske
Shayne Brasda
Ben Robinson



The table in the narthex has a good selection of cards available. Stop by and check it out! There is a wide range of cards to fit every occasion, including Christmas cards, and all





proceeds go to the *Christian Women's Council* to help support all their good works. There are also a number of craft items available for sale. You may leave your cash or check in the basket on the table.



DECEMBER

635-4825
Cathy Schmidt

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
Advent 2 5 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Bible Class/SS 10:30 AM Divine Service	6 6:30PM Divine Service	7	8 4:00 PM Midweek 5:30 PM Advent Service 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	9	10 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class	11 9-11AM Rehearsal/ Practice (all)
Advent 3 12 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Bible Class/SS 10:30 AM Divine Service	13 6:30PM Divine Service	14 6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Bd of Elders	15 4:00 PM Midweek 5:30 PM Advent Service 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	16	17 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class	18 9-11AM Rehearsal/ Practice (all)
Advent 4 19 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:30 AM Lower Gr. Christmas Program 10:30 AM Divine Service	20 6:30PM Divine Service	21 	22 <i>No Midweek School</i> <i>No Advent service</i> 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	23	Christmas Eve 24 <i>Child Care & Church Office Closed</i> 6:30 PM Carol Service 10:00 PM Candlelight Service	Christmas Day 25 9:00 AM Festive Divine Service 
St. Stephen, Martyr 26 Christmas 1 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service	27 <i>Child Care & Church Office Closed</i> 6:30PM Divine Service	28	29	30	31 6:30PM Divine Service	
 <p>St. Peter's Lutheran Church Phone: 608-635-4825 Fax: 608-635-2753 E-mail: stpeterluth@gmail.com www.stpetersarlington.org</p>						