Saint Peter's Lutheran Church
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ST. PETER'S NET JANUARY 2011

What Has Christmas Brought Us?

Now that Christmas has come and the 12 Days are soon ending, who is this Christ whom we have welcomed again with such festivity? That's not such an obvious question. In a time when folks self-identify as being spiritual without being religious, Christianity often degenerates into being religious without the Christ-big on self-improvement and emotional experiences but weak on what it means to confess faith in Jesus Christ.

The classic book by J.B. Phillips, *Your God Is Too Small,* is a book that still "speaks" to our time—both to us Christians who are big into faith but not so big into Christ, as well as a helpful antidote to the angry ravings of the "new atheists" who so ferociously attack a "God" in whom Christians do not really believe.



In both cases, their "God" is too small, and yet not small enough. Throughout the ages, people had looked up into the heavens in search of God. Bearing Jesus in her womb, holding Jesus in her arms, Mary looked down into the face of God. Christmas reminds us that we too look upon God this way. It is an important theological principle: *Finitum capax infiniti*, "the finite is capable of the infinite", the man Jesus is fully the eternal God.

Call it a paradox, call it a tension, better yet, call it the Incarnation. How can modern man believe in miracles, when he knows how to switch on a light bulb? Or why pray for the healing of a headache when Tylenol works so well? The birth of Jesus is the forging of an unbreakable union between the miraculous and the ordinary. All our thinking, our creativity, our science, our labors, along with our sorrows and disappointments, is participation in the life of God become man.

[Jesus of Nazareth] "was not a kind of demon pretending to be human; He was in every respect a genuine living man. He was not merely a man so good as to be "like God"—He was God. Now, this is not just a pious commonplace: it is not a commonplace at all. For what it means is this, among other things: that for whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—He [God] had the honesty and courage to take His own medicine. Whatever game He is playing with His creation, He has kept His own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that He has not exacted from Himself. He has Himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. When He was a man, He played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile." [Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos*]

Saying this does *not* give Christianity an easy explanation for the noisy atheists or the shrill voices of Christless Christian-

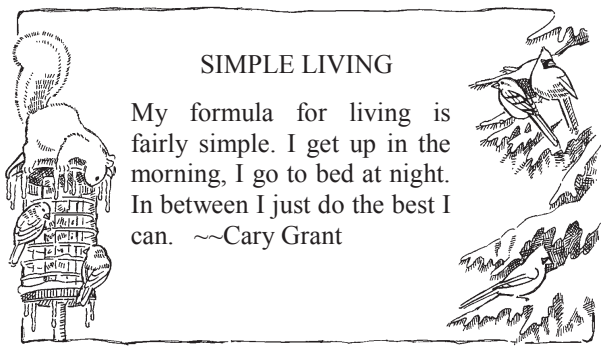
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ity. What this understanding does is tell a story about Jesus, not as simply a teacher, a moral example, or even as one who saved people from a doomed world. He is the One on whom the dark forces of chaos converged, in the cynical politics of Herod and Pilate, the bitter fanaticism of the Pharisees, the wild shrieks of diseased souls, the sudden storms on the lake. Jesus' death is like Jonah's being thrown into the sea, and swallowed by the monster called Death. In His death God has taken upon Himself the full force of the world's evil.

As we launch into the deep waters of another new year, a reacquainting of ourselves with the Christ is the kind of resolution we would do well to embrace in place of shallow, emotional religiousness or a shrill reaction to the secularizing changes of our society.

Pastor Hendrickson

P.S. Thank you all, once again, for your Christmas sentiments, gifts and goodies to me and my family. It is a warm and generous part of our family's Christmas season!



SIMPLE LIVING

My formula for living is fairly simple. I get up in the morning, I go to bed at night. In between I just do the best I can. ~~Cary Grant

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you…

There are so many people who do so many things during Advent and Christmas which, when added together, make the festive seasons a joyful time around St. Peter's.

There are the musicians: our organist, the members of the Choir, the Handbell ringers—both adult and youth, various instrumentalists, pianists, vocal soloists, and the hearty voices that sing the hymns and carols of Advent/Christmas in worship. For your gifts and devoted use of those gifts, many thanks!

There are the teachers: the Sunday School teachers—those who work with the young children in the primary department, and those who work with the older students, maturing in their faith. There are the Midweek teachers, and, of course, the Staff of our child care center. For your gifts and the devotion with which you put them to use, many thanks!

There are the usher teams that assist the orderly conduct of our worship. The members of the Board of Elders who keep an eye on details for worship, as well as assist the Pastor & Vicar. There are the Altar Guild members who set up and take down the vessels for Holy Communion, wash & iron the linens, fill the candles, and see to a number of details. There are the acolytes who faithfully attend to their appointed service. For your gifts and devotion, many, thanks!

There are the cookie bakers and coffee makers, the greeters, the Trustees and snow shovelers, our Church Secretary, and the host of folks who simply serve by their presence in worship and special events. To each and to all, many, many thanks! St. Peter's could not do it without any of you!

FROM THE Vicar

Dear Saints of St. Peter's

[Continued from December]

"Christian wives will also discover no better role model than Mary as they strive to be that type of a woman that God instructs them to be. As the husband cares for his wife and thus is an icon of Christ caring for the church, so the wife, as she nestles under the protective love and care of her husband, becomes an icon as to how the church shelters her members under the love and care of Christ. Joseph's attention was centered on Mary as she cared for the Christ Child. And thus Mary could give her own attention to the child, for she knew that her husband would protect her and care for her so that in firm confidence of such love of Joseph she could nourish the child. With this in mind, Paul could urge all Christian wives to be subject to their husbands' love and care as the church is subject to Christ so that the wives could care for the children of their own bosom, devoting themselves to such care, because they knew in firm trust that their husbands would never remove from them their sheltering love and care—as also the church cares for people as she serves them in the Gospel in the confidence that Christ will never leave her (Eph. 5:24-28; 1 Tim. 2:9-15). The Christian wife then becomes a role model of motherhood after the example of Mary the mother of Jesus (cf. Titus 2:3-5). As she carries out this godly motherhood under the protective love and care of her husband, she becomes an example for all women to share the Gospel of Christ with others as Mary did (Luke 1:39-55; John 2:5; cf. Luke 24:1-12). The wife then also becomes a model of Christian piety and guidance of others (2 Tim. 1:5), an example of a counselor to her husband and to other men in authority (Prov. 31:10-31; Rom. 16:l-3),[8] and a guiding example to be emulated by young women and mothers (Titus 2:4-5). Last to mention but not the least, such a godly woman and wife becomes a loving and touching picture of Jesus shedding tears, before Lazarus' grave (John 1:28-37) and over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44), as she weeps over her own children and over the children of others (Jer. 31:15; Luke 23:27-31). In the shedding of such tears she does so in the firm confidence of God's love in Christ that all such tears will be wiped away in the glory of God's promise of eternal life (Jer. 31:15-17; Rev. 7:13-17; 21:3-4; cf. Is. 25:6-8)." (265-266).

We, as Christians, by the way we live out our lives and order our families give a profound testimony to God's love for his creation and his people. As Christians, our lives and families should look different from those of the world, and as we look for an example to show us how to live and how to raise up our children, there is no better example than the family into which our Lord and Savior was born.

In Christ, *Vicar Sherman*

References:

Brighton, Louis A. 2005. "Where is the holy family today? Marriage a Holy Covenant before God – the Biblical Role of Man and Woman." *Concordia Journal* 31, no. 3: 260-268.

Pew Social Trends Staff. 2010. "The Decline of Marriage and Rise of New Families." *Pew Research Center*, Nov. 18, 2010, http://pewsocialtrends.org.

LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.

Celebrate "A New Year and A New You!"

Make a paper noisemaker to celebrate with.

You will need:

- a piece of notebook or copier paper
- crayons or markers
- ruler
- scissors

How to:

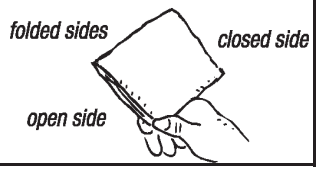
1. Cut a piece of paper 7" or 8" square.
2. Color it or write "Happy New Year & Happy New You" on it.
3. Fold paper almost in half. The bottom edge should be ½" from the top. Crease the fold well.



4. Fold in half side-to-side with the shorter flap inside. Crease well.



5. Hold the paper tightly between thumb and index finger at open corner where there are only 2 thicknesses.
6. Quickly flick your arm and wrist downward. The inside paper will pop out and make a loud snap.



Please check the Lost & Found Box on top of the coat rack in the narthex if you are missing any items. We have accumulated a nice array of misplaced items over the last several months! Also check the kitchen counters upstairs and down for cookie containers!



St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool

Accredited by *NAEYC*
By Connie Hendrickson, *Director*

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. *Matthew 28:20*

On behalf of our St. Peter's Child Care and Pre-K Program, we wish to take a moment to sincerely thank all of the many St. Peter's people who have reached out and supported our Center in so many ways over the years. We want you to know how much the staff and children appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. It is with support like yours, whether it financial, donated materials, or volunteer time that allow us to provide quality child care and to carry on our mission for the children and their families in 2011.



God's blessing to you and yours for a most Happy New Year!

Prayer for guidance in the new year

On the edge of a new year, Lord, teach us again
to order our priorities and number our days and hours.
And teach us to trust — life, history, one another, You.
So that even in the gray and gloomy days, when the
ceiling is low, we may trust the star
that enabled wise men of old
to live in hope and proclaim the divine promises
which call us on in Jesus Christ. Amen.
—Deryl Fleming



HOUSE OF THRIFT NEWS

Valentine's Day items will be put out for sale starting the second week of January. There is also a large selections of teddy bear figurines.

The store is located at 201 Cottage Grove Rd (just off Monona Dr). It is open 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and Noon-6:00 p.m. on Mondays. The phone number is 223-1228. Donations are welcome during these hours.

Members of St. Peter's work on the first Friday (Jan 7th) and the third Wednesday (Jan 19th) 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!***

DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

January 2/6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-11 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Sermon: *So It Begins* Text: Matthew 2:1-12 Order (Sun) *DSIII, p. 184* (Thu) *Holy Communion* Hymns: *1st Noel* - 395 - 397, 370 - *We Three Kings* Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) Vicki Gramse
January 9 The Baptism of Our Lord Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Romans 6:1-11 Matthew 3:13-17	Sermon: *Vicar Sherman* Text: Matthew 3:13-17 Order: *Matins, p. 219* Hymns: 398 - 604 - 405 - 601 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (8:00) SS Lower Grades
January 13/16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 I Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Sermon: *Look!* Text: John 1:29-42 Order: (Thu) *Contemporary Service* (Sun) *DSIII, p. 184* Hymns: 533 - 402 - 396, 400 - 394 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (8:00) SS Upper Grades
January 20/23 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1-9 I Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-25	Sermon: *Vicar Sherman* Text: Matthew 4:12-25 Order: (Thu) *Holy Communion* (Sun) *Matins, p. 219* Hymns: 409 - 401 - 749 - 839 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) Handbells
January 27/30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 I Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon: *He Taught Them* Text: Matthew 5:1-12 Order: (Thu) *Contemporary Service* (Sun) *DSIII w/o HC, p. 184* Hymns: 842 - 589 - 932 - 537 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) Adult Choir

Here is a shot of the lower grades singing their festive tunes during their annual Christmas program performance. Back Row: Jacob Rowe, Paris Rose. Middle Row: Abby Stalbaum, Hayden Taylor, Megan Reddeman. Front Row: Kloie Hathaway, Maggie Stalbaum, Carter Fait.





"Are you sure you don't want to have a big finish?"

COUNCIL NOTES – December 14, 2010

On November 29, 2010, Pastor Hendrickson called a special Council meeting via email asking the council to call a Special Voters' Meeting as pledges and contributions had indicated that proceeding with the organ project was viable. Twelve yes answers from the Council via email allowed for calling the Special Voters' meeting on December 5, 2010. A postcard notice was sent to all voting households in the congregation.

President Witt welcomed all voters and thanked them for their attendance at the Special Voters' Meeting.

The main order of business was presented by Bill Steffenhagen. He stated pledge drive and memorial funds toward refurbishing the organ console and adding digital capability to the organ has now reached $105,000. The total cost of redoing the organ will be approximately $125,000. The organ repairman will be able to begin work on the organ in December. Organ console parts can be ordered from Walker Technical Company. Mr. Angerstein will revoice the pipes at this time, and he will replace parts of the organ console. (Currently many glitches are fixed by use of sandpaper, duct tape and taking a wire from a lesser used key to repair a more often used key.) Once he is finished with this portion of the revoicing, the sound of the pipes will be more clear and pure. Due to another repair commitment, Mr. Angerstein will then return in February and March to finish the repair and installation of the organ console in time for its use at Easter Services. The piano will be used a couple of times for music in December and about two weeks in March during repair. Some discussion followed.

John Penshorn moved to proceed immediately with repairs. Mark Witt seconded. There being no further discussion a secret ballot was cast. Votes cast were unanimous in favor of the motion, and it carried.

Greg Frank moved to adjourn the meeting. Mark Witt seconded, and the motion carried.

The December 14, 2010 meeting was called to order by President Tim Witt. Vicar Sherman gave opening devotion from the Gospel of St. John I, Chapter 12, followed by prayer.

The **agenda** was presented, and Bill Steffenhagen moved to accept. Mark Schoeckert seconded, motion carried. The **secretary's minutes** were read. No changes or corrections were made, Mark Manke moved to approve. John Penshorn seconded, motion carried. The **Financial Secretary's report** was presented. Bill Steffenhagen moved to approve. Steve Paskey seconded, motion carried.

The **Treasurer's report** was given by Cynthia Thurston. There was discussion about the size of the Braun bill for elevator repairs. Because this bill does not match work completed, it was decided not to pay until clarifications are made. There was also discussion on the mission's pledge not reaching the mission's goal. There was an Arlington EMS request by Rusty Rogers. Motion was made by John Penshorn to deny this request based on information gathered from our legal counsel. Seconded by Greg Frank, motion carried. There was discussion about finalizing organ pledges and making the payment that is due for work being done on the organ now. The checkbook balance is very low and some bills may not get paid this month. The budget committee has met and worked out a budget for 2011, and has determined that while finances are becoming a concern, the new budget does not have room for cutting. Bill Steffenhagen moved to accept the report. Mark Manke seconded, and the motion carried.

The **Board of Elder's report** includes letting the council know that elder mailings have gone out. Feedback was good as these mailing included a small gift to church members. Military packages have been sent. Vicar Sherman reports on what he is learning. He reported on the young people's activities after ball games, Free Friday Fun Night. It was decided to have our high school youth get out word and invite other youth to these community connection activities. Mark Schoeckert moved to accept the Elder's report. Sandra Sandstrom seconded, and the motion carried.



The **Trustee's report** was given by John Penshorn. Ceiling repairs in the chapel entrance are almost complete. Christmas trees, decorations and creche are up. The back wall of the church, behind the organ pipes, will be insulated with Trustees doing the work. This will help organ sound and protect the pipes. Mark Manke moved to approve use of building funds to pay for ceiling repairs and insulation. John Penshorn seconded, motion carried. Verna Mueller moved to accept the report. Lynnette Taylor seconded and the motion carried.

Board of Education report was given. Enrollment at the CCC is steady at 31. Many of these are part timers. Sunday school programs are being presented on December 19, and on December 24. There will be no Sunday school on the 26th or on January 2, 2011. There will be a free of charge Friday Fun night for youth on January 21st. (The community service referred to in earlier minutes). Bible classes will meet as usual and take time off during Christmas break. Tuesday Bible class and classes between services on Sundays will resume in January. Brad Zimmerman has stepped down from the Board of Education. Greg Frank moved to accept the report, John Penshorn seconded, and the motion carried.

During the **Pastor's report** it was reported that Advent Services were well attended. The choir will be performing on the 19th and the 24th 10:00 service. In January Vicar Sherman will be planning some type of outreach project. The choir will perform *Jesus Christ, Superstar* sometime in February. Pastor will be on vacation during Christmas Break and attended the funeral of an Aunt in Iowa so he was gone for three days. There no membership changes, but there are some new potentials. Mark Schoeckert moved to accept the Pastor's report. Steve Paskey seconded, and the motion carried.

Under **Old Business** was an organ update. Repairs are fairly detailed in voicing of the pipes and the swell motor. (This is like a volume knob.) It was noted that keeping air temperature constant around the pipes will help prolong their life. Therefore, the earlier notes about insulating the west wall.

The budget committee will report in January. The nominating committee has been asked to add a name to replace Brad Zimmerman on the Board of Education. This report will be forthcoming in January. The Annual Voters' meeting has been set for January 30th at 1:00 P.M. Greg Frank made this motion. It was seconded by Bill Steffenhagen, and was carried.

The Council decided to give smaller bonuses this year due to the lack of funds. Pastor will receive $250, Vicar Sherman, Organist David Hoffelt, and Secretary Lynnette Taylor will receive $75 apiece. These will be presented on Sunday, December 19th. Greg Latzig moved to give these bonuses.Verna Mueller seconded, and the motion carried.

The Lord's Prayer was recited and Mark Schoeckert moved to adjourn. Greg Frank seconded and the motion carried.

~~Mary Taylor, *Secretary*



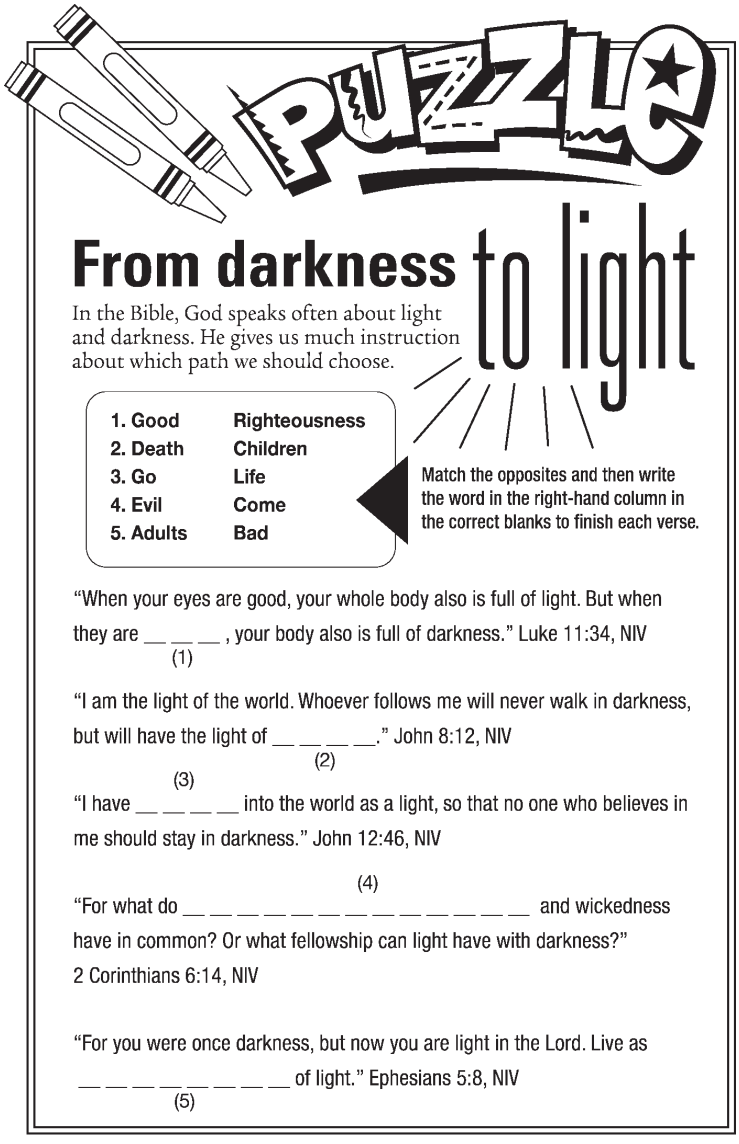
FINANCIAL REPORT
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:



Balance on November 30, 2010 ..... $3,674.00
Receipts for Dec $13,650.00
Expenses for Dec ..... ($14,952.00)
Shortage/Overage $2,372.00

Organ Fund *(Goal: $125,000)*: **Pledge Amount: $118,125.25**
Current Total Collected: $40,788.49

REPAIR PROJECTS: $27,870.00 owed on the repair projects. See the poster in the narthex for each project breakdown as well as pictures detailing the repairs or replacements that we have completed over the past year.



Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children



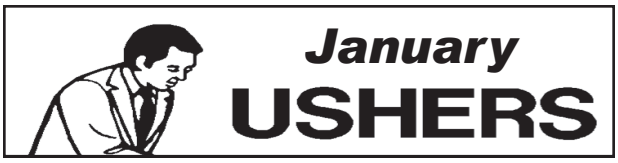
JANUARY
ALTAR GUILD
635-4825
Connie Hendrickson





Elders

Jan 2	8:00 a.m.	Greg Latzig & Bill Steffenhagen
	10:30 a.m.	Joseph Pingel & Tom Crum
Jan 6	6:30 p.m.	Greg Latzig
Jan 9	8:00 a.m.	Steve Hustad
	10:30 a.m.	Greg Frank
Jan 13	6:30 p.m.	Mark Schoeckert
Jan 16	8:00 a.m.	Steve Paskey & Mark Witt
	10:30 a.m.	Tom Crum & Bill Steffenhagen
Jan 20	6:30 p.m.	Mark Manke
Jan 23	8:00 a.m.	Steve Hustad
	10:30 a.m.	Mark Schoeckert
Jan 27	6:30 p.m.	Mark Manke
Jan 30	8:00 a.m.	Greg Frank
	10:30 a.m.	Steve Paskey



January 2, 9 & 16

Early
Jeff Anderson, *Chr.* (592-5011)
David Sandstrom
Austin Anderson
Craig Wendt
Glenn Puntney
Riley & Cody Puntney
Todd Taylor

Late
Robert Kronberg, Chr. (920-992-5272)
Nathan Campbell
David Steinke
Vint Quamme
Tom Crum

January 23 & 30

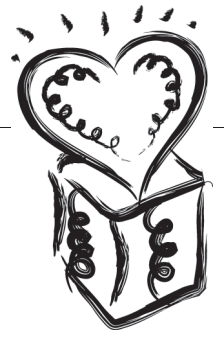
John Caldwell, Chr. (635-4762)
John Burchardt
Don Thurston
Marvin Manke
Tom Manke
Mike Manke
Herb Schultz
Kraig See

Herb Miller, Chr. 635-4557)
Paul Yamriska
Dennis Hahn
Charles Hilgendorf
Joseph Pingel
Andrew Klahn

January Birthdays

1/8	Judith Smith
1/16	Muriel Getchel
1/18	James Dobratz
1/25	Joyce Herwig

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						New Year's Day 1 11:30 AM Private Confession
Christmas 2 2 8:00 AM HC Service **No Sunday School** 10:30 AM HC Service	**3**	**4**	**5** 4:00 PM Midweek 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir	**The Epiphany of Our Lord 6** 6:30 PM HC Service	**7** 6:30 AM Men's Bible Class 9:00 AM *Thrift Store*	**8**
Epiphany 1 9 8:00 AM Divine Service 8:00 AM Lower Gr Sing 9:15 AM SS/Bible Class 9:15 AM BP Screening 10:30 AM Divine Service	**10**	**11** 6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Elders	**12** 4:00 PM Midweek 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir	**13** 6:30 PM Contemporary Service	**14** 6:30 AM Men's Bible Class	**15** 11:30 AM Private Confession
Epiphany 2 16 8:00 AM HC Service 9:15 AM SS/Bible Class 8:00 AM Upper Gr Sing 10:30 AM HC Service	**17**	**Confession of St. Peter 18**	**19** 9:00 AM *Thrift Store* 4:00 PM Midweek 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir	**20** 6:30 PM HC Service	**21** 6:30 AM Men's Bible Class 9:30 PM-Midnight Youth Free Friday Fun Poynette Village Hall	**22**
Epiphany 3 23 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service	**St Timothy Pastor & Confessor 24**	**Conversion of St. Paul 25** 	**St. Titus Pastor & Confessor 26** 4:00 PM Midweek 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir	**27** 6:30 PM Contemporary Service	**28** 6:30 AM Men's Bible Class	**29** 
Epiphany 4 30 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service **1:00 PM Annual Mtg**	**31**					

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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