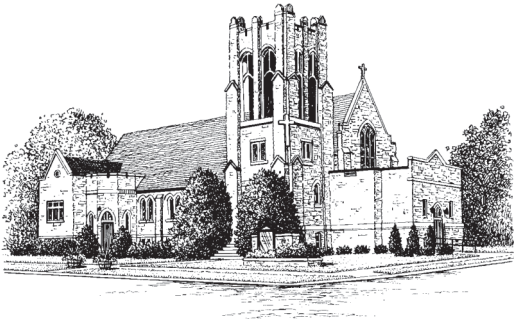




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ST. PETER'S NET

JANUARY 2020

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” – Revelation 21:5

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, by the time you receive this, another Christmas Day will have come and gone, along with all the services, carols, and family gatherings. Even though the Christmas season lasts 12 days, the public decorations soon disappear and the world's attention turns to the changing year. 2019 is a big one because it's a “rollover year” – nineteen rolls over into twenty. Although the strict mathematicians will (rightly) disagree – the ‘zero’ year is the tenth, the last of the decade – it will be celebrated far and wide as the start of a new one. There will be new everything – hats, streamers, noisemakers, balloons – even the plastic “2020 sunglasses will have a marvelous symmetry. And the newness doesn't stop with the calendar – as the world will tell you, 2020 is going to be the time for you to renew yourself!

You've heard it before: “New Year; New You!” Make a resolution. Improve your beauty. Lose some

weight. Learn a new language. Travel. That's what the world will suggest - and the only thing keeping you from becoming that better you, is your fear, or your lack of confidence. Maybe I have overstated it, but that is the message of the world in a nutshell. New Year; New You!



So...how do you think that will work out for you? Will every promise the world makes come true? Certainly not. And it shouldn't surprise anyone. “Change and decay in all around I see...” says the hymnwriter, and it happens to each of us. Even when we do learn something new, or experience something that changes us for the better, it does not ultimately change the big picture. It doesn't undo the work of the devil, and sin, and death. Sin's wages always come due, and we all pay.

It seems dark and depressing, but there is hope for everyone. There is hope for every person because God, our Father, has sent his Son in human flesh to rescue us from all the evils of this world, from the devil, and even from our own sinfulness. He has *Continued on page 3*

Music Ministry



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Merry Christmas! Blessed Epiphany to all!

As many celebrate the new at New Year's, this article looks at a hymn new to the church, "The Gifts Christ Freely Gives", LSB 602. It's a straight-forward hymn that reminds us exactly what and where Christ gives gifts. The text is by Richard Resch (b. 1947), retired Kantor from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. The tune (DENBY) was written by Charles Dale.

Stanza One is an introduction:

*The gifts Christ freely gives
He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride,
His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts
Are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ
And cling to His strong name.*

As the Bride of Christ, the Church receives gifts from the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. He doesn't accept payment for the gifts, as one would expect. He wishes to give them out freely, and he doesn't take time to worry about your qualifications.

Stanza Two shows where we first receive Christ's gifts--Holy Baptism:

*The gifts flow from the font
Where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes
Us His and His alone.
Here He forgives our sins
With water and His Word;
The triune God Himself
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.*

These are not strange or unknown gifts, but they are the gifts promised in Holy Scripture. Lutherans call them the means of grace. Each person receives forgiveness and life at the font, wherein God puts His name on them, marking each one as re-deemed by Christ the Crucified.

Stanza Three speaks of Holy Absolution, which flows from Baptism and is where we are reminded of the forgiveness won for us by Christ on the cross, delivered by the Pastor, "in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ."

*The gifts of grace and peace
From absolution flow;
The pastor's words are Christ's
For us to trust and know.
Forgiveness that we need
Is granted to us there;
The Lord of mercy sends
Us forth in His blest care.*

It sounds blasphemous to some that the pastor says, "...I forgive you your sins..." but don't miss the next part: "...in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Luther explains how this is so in the Small Catechism:

The pastor's words are Christ's for us to trust and know. If they were merely the pastor's words there would be no certainty. But Christ has given the Church the authority to forgive or retain sins, as stated in John 20:19-23.

We know that this forgiveness, first given in Baptism, continues to be given in Absolution.

Stanza Four reminds how God's Word is present in our homes and the Divine Service.

*The gifts are there each day
The holy Word is read;
God's children listen, hear,
Receive, and they are fed.
Christ fills them with Himself,
Blest words that give them life,
Restoring and refreshing
Them for this world's strife.*

Stanza Five comes back to the Sacraments with The Lord's Supper.

*The gifts are in the feast,
Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine
Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood
Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in
His peace, renewed again.*

The line "Beneath the bread and wine is food from Calvary" is so profound. We believe that the same body of the same Christ who hung on the cross of Calvary is physically present each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper. What a mystery! Some churches try to explain how this works. Most just call the bread and wine "symbols". As Lutherans, we speak as far as the Scriptures speak and no further. It's Christ's True Body and True Blood that we receive, but we don't try to explain how it's possible. The word "sacrament" comes from the Latin *sacramentum*, which comes from the Greek *mysterion*, meaning "mystery." The bodily presence of Jesus is like the Trinity: we believe because Scripture says that it is, but we cannot fully explain it. Luther, when asked how to explain how Christ's body and blood are truly present in the sacrament, replied, "Jesus is good at miracles."

Stanza Six is doxological. As the final phrase says, "All thanks... for His great love by which we live!" Each breath we take is a gift from God. He continues to bless us with the gifts given through His Word and Sacraments.

*All glory to the One
Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love
Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us
Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His
Great love by which we live!*

This In His service,
Cantor Jeremy Zieroth

I will sing and
make melody
to the LORD.

Psalms 150:1-2



Continued from front page

sent Jesus Christ in human flesh to defeat death, to take the penalty for our sin and our sinfulness upon himself. Christ did that, dying on the cross, and three days later he rose from the dead! And the Father and Son together send the Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify us in the one true faith along with all other believers in Christ, his holy church.

And this hope is not for this life only, it is a promise of even better things to come. On the Last Day, Christ will raise each and every one of you and all the dead, and give eternal life to you and all believers in Christ. Behold, he will make you – and all things – new. It will be unlike anything we’ve ever known and better than anything we’ve ever imagined. The world exhorts you to make yourself into a ‘new you’ every New Year, but the Lord’s promise to you, delivered by his gifts of Word and water, body and blood, promise a *forever you*. Forgiven of all your sins by Jesus, you have life and salvation, and that means you have the hope of everlasting life. No matter the disappointments of this broken world, no matter the things others have done that have hurt you, no matter even the things you have done to yourself, you are forgiven by the blood of Christ, and you have hope.

New Year; New You? In Christ, you have new life as his beloved children, forever.

Pastor Amen



“Are Forever Stamps OK?”

Puzzle!

Use the word list to complete the crossword. Then fill in the numbered blanks to read God’s promise to Noah — and to us.

as, and, the, day,
cold, long, heat,
will, earth, night,
never, cease, winter,
summer, harvest,
endures, seedtime

“ 13 8 13 10 7 14
2 6 5 9 6
3 12 6 1 down 4
6 11 across 1 across 11 down 15 ”

GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8:22, NIV



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 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 still available for sale. You may leave your cash or check in the basket on the table.

“STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God's many blessings.



What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

What you do:

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.

NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF

Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.

St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool

WMELS Accredited

4-K Host Site for *Poynette School District*

This month has flown by with all the activities between school and our daycare. We are excited to celebrate the birth of Jesus later this week.

Our preschool had a small Christmas program where they sang a few songs. Oh What a Special Night and Jump for Joy were two of the favorites. The children did a wonderful job and were very brave this year! We thank all the parents who were able to make it. We also want to thank Ms. Beth for the sweet treats after the songs.

We are also working as a group to have our daycare be part of the food program. This will allow us to be reimbursed for a portion of each meal served. It is important to all of us and also to the parents that the children continue to eat as healthy as they can. By us joining this program we will be able to expand what we are feeding them.

We are also very pleased to share how wonderful our last date night was. We had a very good time and the children were so fun. We thank each and every one of you for bringing your children. The money we raised is going towards educational toys and also to curriculum based activities. We welcome all children, part of our preschool or the community, to partake in these date nights. The children have a lot of fun!!! We like to give the parents a chance to enjoy other parents as well!

As the year comes to a close I must convey our gratitude to all of the church congregation who supports our effort at the daycare to teach the children and watch them grow. I also can not express the love and appreciation I have for all of the staff. The countless hours they put in to make this daycare continue to thrive is amazing. They are always looking for ways to improve, and also treating each other and the children as family. What an amazing group I am blessed to work with.

We welcome what God has in store for us in 2020, and we pray you all have a safe and Merry Christmas.



JANUARY

635-4825

Kelly Hageman



The cast of "The Good Old Days" Sunday School grades 3-8, Christmas Eve Program

DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

January 5/6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 24 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Sermon: Israel Perfected Order: DSIII, p. 184 Hymns: 378 - Someone Special - 395 - 397, 400 - 412 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Handbells
January 12/13 The Baptism of Our Lord Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17 Psalm 85 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Matthew 3:13-17	Sermon: Dirty Waters Order: Baptismal Remembrance and DSIII, p. 184 Hymns: 597 - 407 - 398, 401 - 602 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Lower Grades Sunday School (8am)
January 19/20 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:22-33 John 2:1-11	Sermon: Revealed Through Wine, Part 1 Order: Order: DSIII, p. 184 Hymns: 394 - 402 - 408, 860 - 859 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth Choir: Adult Choir
January 26/27 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 2 Kings 5:1-15a Psalm 110:1-4 Titus 1:1-9 Matthew 8:1-13	Sermon: For Outsiders (and St. Titus) Order: DSIII, p. 184 Hymns: 398 - 517 - 616 - 596, 578 - 620 Organist: Cantor Jeremy Zieroth

Keep breathing

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, said many Christians live on a “spiritual roller coaster,” going from one emotional experience to another in a worldly way, feeling “frustrated and fruitless.”

To counteract that, Bright recommended a spiritual breathing exercise as a reminder of God’s love and forgiveness. Simply exhale as you confess your sins and impurities. Then inhale to receive life and forgiveness – and to be filled with the Holy Spirit, who empowers you to resist sin and temptation.

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



ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 26th
1:00 p.m.

- ◆ *Election of Officers & Board members*
- ◆ *Adoption of the 2019 Budget*
- ◆ *Other items of business*

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - December 10, 2019



Attendees: Greg Frank, Cameron Gramse, William Hageman, Bob Hagenow, Amanda Hoyt, Kim Kriewaldt, Robert Kronberg, Calvin Moll, Steve Paskey, John Peshorn, Keith Podoll, Barbara Reddeman,

James Rittmeyer, Jeremy Zieroth, Paul Yamriska, Lynnette Taylor, Pastor Amen

Meeting December 10, 2019 called to order at 6:28 pm by James Rittmeyer.

Opening Devotion by Pastor Amen- he read Luke Chapter 10. Reminded up not to get so caught up in the busy work of the season and to remember what we are preparing for.

Agenda: John Peshorn moved to approve the agenda, Paul Yamriska seconded, and it carried.

Secretary's report: Motioned to approve by Steve Paskey, second by Bill Hageman. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's report: was given & discussed by Bob Hagenow. Approved by Steve Paskey, seconded by Cameron Gramse, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: was given by Barbara Reddeman. Paul Yamriska moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Cameron Gramse seconded, motion carried.

Board of Elders: Report was given by Pastor Amen. CWC- made cookie jars and are available for purchase in the Narthex. The pie sales were a huge success, they sold 39 pies. Thank you to everyone who has helped out with the Altar Guild, many hands make light work. Cantor Zieroth's Report- The Thanksgiving Choir Showcase turned out great. Preparing for Advent and Christmas services and programs now.

Board of Trustees: report given by Keith Podoll. The rope on the bell has been replaced and there has been a new timer put on the cross in the bell tower. Had a discussion on having 2-3 hours of cleaning done on the off week of our deep cleaning, will follow up in January.

Board of Christian Education: report was given by Pastor Amen. Bible studies on Sunday generally follow the same accounts as those learned by the children in Sunday School, a deeper look with often more connec-

tion and cross references but on topic. Friday Bible Study is toward the beginning of the book of John and will soon enjoy an annual Christmas breakfast. Mid-week students prepared some Thanksgiving cards that were sent to some members. They also are serving as ushers and acolytes for the Advent services. Program practices are in progress. Date night went good for the daycare. December 18th at 4:30 pm will be the daycare Christmas program.

Pastor's Report- I appreciate the Cantor and choir's work for a wonderful Thanksgiving Eve service. Monday new member class session has been going well with one family. Mt. Olive in Madison is opening a Lutheran grade school next year beginning with a kindergarten and maybe a 1st grade. Tuition member rate will be given to all LCMS congregation members. Advent services began last week, with carols by request at start of service, and Advent magnet puzzles pieces handed out for each week. The theme this year is "God With Us: Our Potter, Shepherd, Living Branch, and Guide." I'm continuing the partnership as the chaplain for the Poynette Police Department, they are thankful for the support and for the support and time spent with them for Stuff the Squad, which filled 2 squads in total, with ½ a squad coming from St. Peter's collection. Looking forward to Christmas services and programs, Christmas Eve I will be at St. Paul's Madison for their 4 pm service and then at St. Peter's for the 6:30 pm Program Service and 10 pm Candlelight, and Christmas Day Service at 9 am.

Membership Changes- None

Old Business- The 2020 Budget was discussed in great detail, it will be further discussed in January.

New Business- Annual Meeting Date is January 26th at 1 pm.

Adjourn- motioned by Paul Yamriska, seconded by Greg Frank to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Elder meeting follows.

Respectfully submitted: Amanda Hoyt
Council Secretary

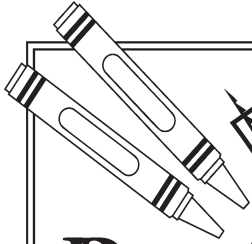




**FINANCIAL REPORT
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:**



Balance on November 30, 2019	\$ 4,691.38
Receipts for Dec (est.)	\$15,818.60
Expenses for Dec (est.)	(\$16,960.05)
Shortage/Overage	\$3,549.93

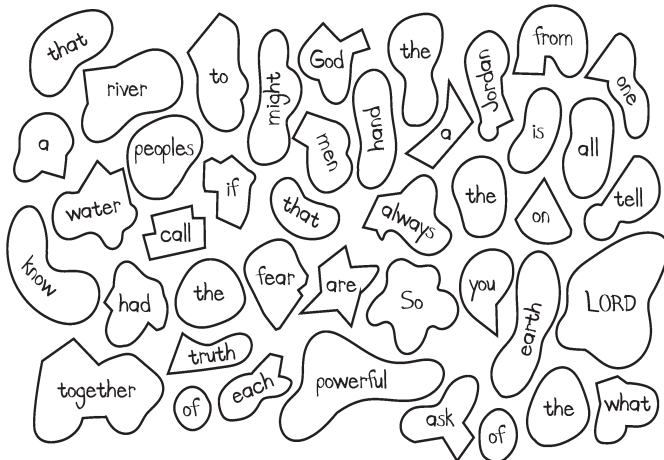


PUZZLE

Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____ the
 _____ the
 _____ the _____ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

Parents and College Students:

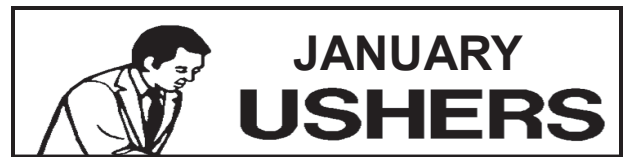
Please let us know what your college address is going to be so that we can keep in touch through the coming year! Just email the Church Office:

stpeterluth@gmail.com



ELDERS

Jan 5	8:00 a.m.	Greg Frank & Bill Hageman
	10:30 a.m.	Calvin Moll & Dan Schmidt
Jan 6	6:30 p.m.	Paul Yamriska
Jan 12	8:00 a.m.	Cameron Gramse & John Penshorn
	10:30 a.m.	Paul Yamriska & Dan Schmidt
Jan 13	6:30 p.m.	
Jan 19	8:00 a.m.	Kim Kriewaldt & Bill Hageman
	10:30 a.m.	Cameron Gramse & Dan Schmidt
Jan 20	6:30 p.m.	Calvin Moll
Jan 26	8:00 a.m.	Kim Kriewaldt & John Penshorn
	10:30 a.m.	Greg Frank
Jan 27	6:30 p.m.	



January 5 & 12

Early

Jeff Anderson, Chr.
 (434-9764)
 Dave & Wesley Sandstrom
 Austin Anderson
 Craig & Owen Wendt
 Glenn Puntney
 Riley & Cody Puntney
 Todd, Justin, Hayden Taylor
 Logan Sandstrom

Late

Robert Kronberg, Chr.
 (920-992-5272)
 Nathan Campbell
 David Steinke
 Vint Quamme
 Tom Crum
 Vint Quamme, Jr
 Noah & Haydin Campbell

January 19 & 26




John Caldwell, Chr.
 (635-4762)
 Mike Manke
 Dale & Tucker Johnson
 Mark & Fred Manke
 Tom Manke
 Kraig See

Herb Miller, Chr.
 (635-4557)
 Paul Yamriska
 Andrew & Josh Yamriska
 Charles Hilgendorf
 Jim & William Plenty (Mondays)

Please remember, you can also give online at StPeter-Arlington.org, with options for designated and automatic giving. Thanks for your generosity and support.



CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
Epiphany of Our Lord 5 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:30 AM Bible Class/SS 10:30 AM Divine Service	6 6:30 PM Divine Service	7 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (St. Peter's)	8 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	9 	10 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class	11
Baptism Of Our Lord 12 8:00 AM Divine Service 8:00 AM Lower Gr Sing 9:15 AM Bible Class/SS 10:30 AM Divine Service	13 6:30 PM Divine Service	14 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (St. Peter's) 6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Elders	15 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	16	17 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class	18
Epiphany 2 19 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Bible Class/SS 10:30 AM Divine Service	20 6:30 PM Divine Service	21 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (St. Peter's)	22 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	23	24 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class	25
Epiphany 3 26 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Bible Class/SS 10:30 AM Divine Service <i>1:00 PM Annual Voters' Meeting</i>	27 6:30 PM Divine Service	28 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (St. Peter's)	29 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	30	31 7:30 AM Men's Bible Class	
	St. Peter's Lutheran Church Phone: 608-635-4825 E-mail: stpeterluth@gmail.com		St. Peter's Lutheran Church Fax: 608-635-2753 www.stpetersarlington.org			