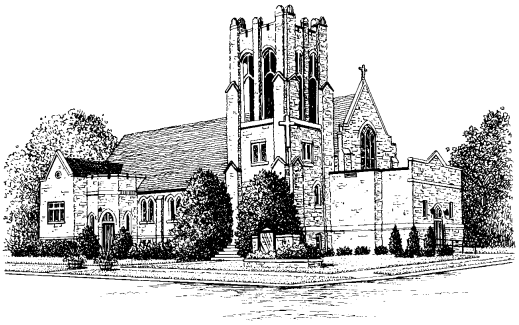
ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ST. PETER'S NET DECEMBER 2022

Beloved in the Lord:
"I'll Be Home for Christmas" became a cherished Christmas classic when Bing Crosby recorded the song in time for Christmas in 1943. Our country was in the midst of World War Two and families began to miss their loved ones fighting overseas. The song was a letter home of sorts from a GI to his family, saying he'll be home for Christmas "if only in my dreams".

Maybe you haven't been with us in person for a while. Perhaps you have a bad feeling for one reason or another about going to church. Perhaps there's another reason for you not being here for some time. Christmas is an ideal time to put aside all hurt and anger and come home for the holidays.

Christmas is the season in which we hear Jesus Christ taking on flesh for our sake. He Who is our heavenly Father's dearly beloved Son did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. Jesus made Himself nothing, as Saint Paul says in Philippians chapter two, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. He Who is perfect is born just as you and I were born, except for sin. He Who is sinless becomes our brother in order to suffer and die for our sin. He Who is holy gives us His holiness and bears our sin. He Who is the resurrection and the life is born in Bethlehem for you!



Why not come home for Christmas at St. Peter's! Jesus longs to meet you here to give you forgiveness and life in His Word and Sacraments. If there's any place in the world you are always welcomed and loved unconditionally, it is in the house of the Lord. Your fellow members of the Body of Christ can't wait to greet you with joy. Instead of dreaming about being home for Christmas, make it a reality this year. Be with the ones who love you, and with Jesus, Who loves you best.

Merry Christmas!

Your partner in the Gospel,
Pastor Juhl

Music Ministry

from the Music Director

FROM THE CANTOR

There is still time to join us for Christmas Choir! There are still three rehearsals in December, Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the balcony!

I am taking a break from the Walking through the liturgy series this month. This article specifically addresses a point from talking with kids in Sunday School!

Happy New Year! The New Church Year has begun. We made it to the end of the Church Year in November and waited in eager anticipation for Jesus to return for the Last Day. If you are reading this, then we're still waiting. That's fine, because we know that God promised to come back, and He always keeps all His promises in the perfect time. So, we begin again the season of Advent and await the arrival of Christ, this time to celebrate His birth in Bethlehem.

As we have begun rehearsing our Christmas program parts in Sunday School, a clever child asked me about whether we should sing "Jesus Christ is born" (which I sang) or "Jesus Christ WAS born" (which they wanted to sing). It should be noted that many of our hymns, especially for Advent and Christmas, have texts that are in the present tense. These texts are referring to a specific event some 2000 years ago: Jesus' birth in a specific time at a specific place. For any other event in history, we would use the past tense to speak about a past event. So, what's different about this event of Jesus' birth?



Advent always speaks of Jesus comings, plural. We anticipate his first coming, being born. We reinforce that Jesus always comes to us in Word and Sacrament. And we also look forward to his final coming on the last day.

Wait. Did we just say that he always comes to us in Word and Sacrament? Of course we did. God speaks through Word, and that Word is Jesus (John 1:1). The Holy Spirit "calls me by the Gospel and enlightens me with His gifts," as we confess in the Small Catechism. We also confess that God works through the Sacraments. It's the water that is mixed with God's Word (Jesus) that makes a Baptism. Jesus puts himself in, with, and under the bread and wine for us to eat and drink in the Sacrament of the Altar. All of this works forgiveness of sins, and where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation.

So, how does this play out in our hymnody? We sing in the present tense! Christ is coming to us. He is incarnate, in the flesh, and, having ascended into heaven, can now use His full power to be with all Christians everywhere, at all times. It's a mystery, but a wondrous and glorious mystery that provides great comfort.

Here are some great present tense lines of hymns that we will sing, among many others:

**Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us…Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.* (LSB 333:2)

**Redeemer come and open wide…O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.* (LSB 341:5)

**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.* (LSB 345:1)

**How silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.* (LSB 361:3)

**Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. (*LSB 367:2)

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus to Thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing!* (LSB 379:4)

All of this drives home one specific point: Jesus came to be born, to live, to die, to rise again, just for you. He knew that you could not save yourself, and His love is so great that he did it all for you. That's why we preach Jesus. That's why we hear the Gospel account. That's why we sing about Christ born in Bethlehem. We always want you to know that Jesus loves and cares for YOU.

May the present tense of Jesus be with you throughout these Adventide and Christmastide seasons, all through the New Year!

In His service,
Cantor Geremy Zieroth



Pastor's family invites you to join them for Holiday Hygge on Sunday, December 18th from 1-5 PM at the parsonage. What is hygge, you ask? Hygge (pronounced "hoo-geh") is the Danish word for "coziness". Stay as long as you like for a cozy afternoon of food, drink, a roaring fire, and conversation.

WHEN: Sunday, December 18th
TIME: 1-5 PM
WHERE: Parsonage, 211 Curtis St.





"What a morning! The angels were devils and the wisemen were wise guys."

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday mornings between services a Bible Study is held in the sanctuary. Stay after the early service or come early for the late service to join in.

Saturday morning Men's Bible Study is held in the classroom across from the office at 8:00am.

Ladies Bible Study is held on Tuesday's at 1:00 p.m. here at St. Peter's.

Join in this time of fellowship and discussion of God's Word.



St. Peter's is open and welcoming everyone to come to worship. We offer three Divine services:

Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am,

Mondays at 6:30 pm.

YOU are invited to come to worship for the outpouring of God's love and receive the Sacraments.



DECEMBER

635-4825

Cathy Schmidt

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



Story stones

Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help

What you do:

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker

What you do:

1. With the paper plate upside down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.

St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool
4-K Host Site for *Poynette School District*
Connie Hendrickson, *Director*

Everyone is cordially invited to attend our Child Care & Preschool Children's Christmas Program

Follow the Star



DATE: Thursday, December 15, 2022

TIME: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Upstairs in our St. Peter's Church Sanctuary

REFRESHMENTS: Christmas treats provided by the Center after the program.

Chapel time with Pastor Juhl







DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

November 30 Midweek in Advent 1 (5:30pm) Genesis 12:1-8 Romans 4:1-8 Luke 1:39-56	Sermon: Be Born in Us Today — Bringing Blessing Order: Evening Prayer, p. 243 Hymns: Carols - 356 - 354 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth
December 4/5 2nd Sunday in Advent Malachi 4:1-6 Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29 Romans 15:4-13 Luke 21:25-36	Order: *DSIII,* p. 184 Hymns: Advent Litany - 336 - 355, TLH 71 - 333 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Upper Grades Sunday School (8am)
December 7 Midweek in Advent 2 Isaiah 40:21-31 Ephesians 1:7-10 Matthew 1:18-25	Sermon: Be Born in Us Today — Bringing Renewal Order: Evening Prayer, p. 243 Hymns: Carols - 338 - 342 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth
December 11/12 3rd Sunday in Advent Isaiah 40:1-8 Psalm 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4–5 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Matthew 11:2-10	Order: *DSIII*, p. 184 Hymns: Advent Litany, 515, 345 — 343, 347 — 346 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Adult Choir
December 14 Midweek in Advent 3 Isaiah 35:5–10 2 Corinthians 2:14–17 Luke 1:67–79	Sermon: Be Born in Us Today — Bringing Guidance Order: Evening Prayer, p. 243 Hymns: Carols - 349 - 361 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth
December 18/19 4th Sunday in Advent Deuteronomy 18:15-19 Psalm 19:1, 4–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a Philippians 4:4-7 John 1:19-28	Order: *DSIII* p. 184 Hymns: Advent Litany - 357 - 353, 383 - 803 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Handbells
Sunday, December 18 LOWER SUNDAY SCHOOL	**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 9:30AM**
Saturday, December 24 UPPER SUNDAY SCHOOL	**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 6:30PM**
December 24 Christmas Eve (10:00pm) Isaiah 5:2-5a Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20	Order: *Candlelight Communion Service* Hymns: 376 - 369 - 393 - 361, 358 - 363 - 380 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Handbells, Adult Choir
December 25 Christmas Day (9:00am) Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38 (Psalm 2) Titus 3:4-7 John 1:1-18	Order: *Divine Service with Holy Communion* Hymns: 379 - TLH 667 - 368 - 384 - 389 - 386, 387, 388 - 367 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth
January 1 New Year's Eve / New Year's Day /	**Circumcision and Name of Jesus — 9am**

CHRISTMAS CRACKUPS

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? *It's Christmas, Eve!*

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed? *Cookie sheets.*

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? *"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"*

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

Ornamints.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? *Santa walking backward.*

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card? *Because he went down in history.*

What is an elf's favorite kind of music? *Wrap music!*

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? *Nothing. It was on the house!*

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take? *Elfies.*

COUNCIL MINUTES November 8, 2022

The November 8th meeting of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order by President James Rittmeyer at 6:32 pm.

Pastor Juhl opened with a devotion from John 4:46. Jesus puts words in our pockets and His very body and blood as well. His word always says what it does and does what it says.

The agenda was presented. Bob Hagenow moved approval, Brad Larson provided the second, motion carried. Secretary's minutes were read. Cameron Gramse moved to approve the report, Keith Podoll second, motion carried.

The Financial Secretary's report was given by Bob Hagenow. October has rebounded incredibly well. The General Fund giving was 138% of the previous month's giving and Mission Fund giving was at 222% of the previous month. At this point in the year we are at 89% of meeting the projected expenses versus being only at 78% at this same time last year. Online giving contributed 10% of the General Fund contributions and 7% of the Mission Fund contributions. Brad Larson moved to accept the report, Meg Hanson seconded, carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Meg Hanson. The current checkbook balance today is $16,979.64. The financial team is working with the bank to transition to a new account number since our current general fund account has the same number as a member of Bank One, so both accounts with the same number are transitioning to a new number. That should be completed by the end of the year. We were the recipients of a $4000 grant from the Greenhagen Charitable Family Fund to be used to educate and grow the congregation. The grant funds were split between Sunday School, Midweek, and Advertising since we are coming up on a season when ads are most effective. Benjamin Robinson moved approval of the treasurer's report, Alex Rehlinger second, motion carried.

The Elders report was presented. The Military Care Committee are anticipating getting holiday packages ready for those members who are serving away from home. Advent cards for all member households are being sent out. The Christian Women's Council will be putting pies together on Saturday, November 19th for all orders sent in by Wednesday, November 16th. Bob Hagenow requested that notation was made for the outstanding articles that Cantor Geremy Zieroth has been doing for the newsletter. "Walking through the Liturgy" has been very well done and he should be commended. Lynnette Taylor read Cantor Zieroth's report. He was absent as he was "returning this evening from the annual Good Shepherd Institute at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. This year's conference looked at some significant anniversaries in the church: the 175th anniversary of our synod's first hymnal, the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, the 40th anniversary of the release of Lutheran Worship, the 350th anniversary of the death of Baroque church musician Heinrich Schuetz, and Ralph Vaughan Williams 150th birthday. I apologize for my absence as a result. Choir debuted this season on Reformation Sunday. Upcoming is the Thanksgiving Choral Showcase on Wednesday, November 23 at 6:30pm. Upper Sunday School sang this past weekend. This weekend shifts us into Advent and Christmas program preparations. Lower Sunday School will sing again this coming weekend. Christmas preparations will also begin for them this weekend. Handbells made their season debut on October 23. They play again November 20. A big thank you to the Reformation instrumentalists who added much splendor that day. They were: Becky Juhl, Trumpet; Debbie McVey, Flute; Kris Manke, Clarinet; Catherine Juhl, Violin; Ben Robinson, Cello; James Saager, Trombone; Matthew Saager, Tuba."

The Trustees report was given by Keith Podoll. Mike Stoltenburg will again do our plowing and shoveling for snow removal this winter. There is one bid turned in for the maintenance of our stain glass windows. It has been broken down into the four sections of windows in our building. The north side (8 windows) will be $31,225.46. The south side (8 windows) will be $31,225.46. The east side (7 windows above the altar) will be $16,871.63. The west side (3 windows in balcony) will be $12,211.30. These would all be done in stages and probably take many months to complete. The trustees are still waiting for one bid to come in yet. They are planning to clean up the leaves on Saturday, November 12th.



The Board of Christian Education reported that enrollment for the CCC is at 25 currently but they are anticipating a couple more starting soon. They have hired Kaila Cross to work as an assistant just during the afternoon hours of 3-5 to help while school agers are here for after school care. The CCC is planning for upcoming holiday programs such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, and are planning to do a mini Christmas program in the sanctuary sometime in December. Sunday School is going well and they are anticipating starting Christmas program practices on Saturdays in December. Bible studies are going well, Sunday class has started a new unit studying the differences of Law and Gospel. Men's Bible study continues to be well attended on Saturday mornings. The Ladies meet on Tuesday at 1:00 pm. They are looking at doing a mailing to make sure that everyone is aware when the different Bible Study groups are meeting.

The Pastor's report began with Pastor Juhl stating that there has been one new addition to the list of homebound members he is visiting. Bob & Darlene Schmidt at Our House in Portage have been added. Attendance numbers are averaging 106 per weekend. He'll be helping at the Fall River mission start through December. There will be a meeting sometime in January with those attending the mission to see what will happen in the future. Thanksgiving Eve Choral Festival Divine Service is Wednesday, November 23rd at 6:30PM. Advent Evening Prayer is Wednesdays, November 30th and December 7th and 14th at 5:30PM. There'll be Becky's Blessing Bakery treats and hot chocolate following each Evening Prayer. This year's theme is "Be Born In Us Today". As announced at the Voters Meeting, Christmas Eve will have the upper grades Sunday School Christmas program at 6:00PM and the Christmas Eve Divine Service at 10:00PM. Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year and we'll have one Divine Service at 9:00AM. There will be no New Year's Eve service as New Year's Day is on a Sunday. We'll have one Divine Service at 9:00 AM on January 1st. There will be no Monday night Divine Service on December 26th or January 2nd. Speaking of Christmas, now is the time for you to start talking up Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services with your family, friends, and neighbors who haven't been to church in a while or do not attend church. Christmas is a time of the year when even irregular church attendees consider attending church. It'll be our first Christmas in three years without a major threat of illness hanging over us so we could see a lot of people join us to welcome the birth of Christ according to the flesh.

No membership changes.

Old business noted that the nominating committee has a meeting scheduled on Wednesday to get that process started. Budget committee has some numbers and are starting to look at the future projection of expenses.

There was no New business.

Motion to adjourn made by Brad Larson, second by Benjamin Robinson, motion carried at 7:12pm. Pastor led us in the common doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynnette Taylor, *Council Secretary*

FINANCIAL REPORT
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:

Balance on October 31, 2022	$15,874.17
Receipts for Nov (est.)	$15,767.64
Expenses for Nov (est.)	$(17,510.21)
Shortage/Overage	$14,131.60

PUZZLE

Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.

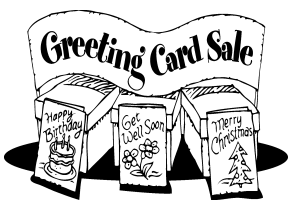
WORD BANK

Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born
Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
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R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a _ _ _ _ _ _ _
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."
LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior



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

ELDERS

Dec 4	8:00 a.m.	Cameron Gramse
	10:30 a.m.	Tyson Miller
Dec 5	6:30 p.m.	Alex Rehlinger
Dec 11	8:00 a.m.	Brad Larson
	10:30 a.m.	Tyson Miller
Dec 12	6:30 p.m.	Benjamin Robinson
Dec 18	8:00 a.m.	Cameron Gramse
	9:30 a.m.	Brad Larson
	10:30 a.m.	Benjamin Robinson
Dec 19	6:30 p.m.	Alex Rehlinger
Dec 24	6:30 p.m.	Volunteers
	10:00 p.m.	Volunteers
Dec 25	9:00 a.m.	Volunteers



DECEMBER USHERS

December 4 & 11

Early	*Late*
Keith Podoll, *Chr. (635-8012)*	*No Chairman*
Larry & Alex Saager	Steve Paskey
Bill & Justin Hageman	Roger Frank
Greg & Patrick Frank	Derek Gordon
Kim & Brock Kriewaldt	Brad Zimmermann & Hunter & Tanner & Jakob

December 18 & 25

No Chairman	*No Chairman*
Wayne Hanson	Jim Paske
Cameron Gramse	Shayne Brasda
Steve & Matt Hustad	Ben Robinson
Calvin Moll	
Nate & Austin Moll	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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
12/24	Patti Rouse

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class 9:00-10:30 AM Program Rehearsal (grades 3-8 only)
Advent 2 4 8:00 AM Divine Service *8:00 AM Upper Gr Sing* 9:15 AM SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM Divine Service	5 6:30PM Divine Service	6 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	7 4:00 PM Midweek 5:30 PM Advent Service 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	8	9	10 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class 9:00-11:00 AM Program Rehearsal (all grades)
Advent 3 11 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM CWC Meeting 10:30 AM Divine Service	12 6:30PM Divine Service	13 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Bd of Elders	14 4:00 PM Midweek 5:30 PM Advent Service 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	15	16	17 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class 9:00-11:00 AM Program Rehearsal (all grades)
Advent 4 18 8:00 AM Divine Service ***9:30 AM Lower Gr. Christmas Program*** 10:30 AM Divine Service ***1-5 PM Holiday Hygge***	19 6:30PM Divine Service	20 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 	**St. Thomas** 21 **Apostle** 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	22	23 *Church Office & Child Care Closed*	**Christmas Eve** 24 No Men's Bible Class 6:30 PM Carol Service 10:00 PM Candle-light Service
The Nativity of 25 **Our Lord** 9:00 AM Festive Divine Service	**St. Stephen** 26 **Martyr** *Church Office & Child Care Closed* *No Divine Service*	27 *No Ladies Bible Study*	**Holy Innocents** 28 **Martyrs**	29	30 *Church Office & Child Care Closed*	**New Year Eve** 31 No Men's Bible Class *No New Year Eve Service*
Jan 1, 2023 9:00 AM Festive Divine Service	2 *Church Office & Child Care Closed* *No Divine Service*					

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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