

# The Messenger

## The Advent of Our Lord

We are entering the Advent season. Often, we think of this time of the year as a pre-Christmas—a time to look forward to celebrating the coming of our Lord Jesus in Bethlehem as a baby born to Mary. Yes, advent is a pre-Christmas in this way, but it is more than an anticipation of celebrating the birth of the Savior many years ago.

Advent also is a time to happily receive our Savior now. Jesus' ascension into heaven was not his withdrawing from His people until he comes again visibly. His ascension into heaven, to the right hand of the Father with all authority, means that Jesus comes to us and is present with us now, even as we wait for his final coming. *Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age* (Matt. 28:20). As we await the coming of our Lord in glory, we receive him now as he is present with us in Word and Sacrament. This is not some abstract spiritual presence. Christ, who is inseparably both God and man, comes to us. When we gather to receive Christ's gifts, we are with the whole Christ—God and man. Jesus is with us.

A great aid to our recognition of this mystery is the Holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord. This great gift really is the New Testament itself—the body and blood of Christ given into death for our sins. The once and for all sacrifice of the true Passover Lamb is given to us to eat and drink. And while this continual coming of the Lord in our midst is hidden, we know it surely by his words—*this is my body, this is my blood*. The same body that hung on the cross is given to us to eat. The same blood that fell from the crucified Savior is given to us to drink.

As we await the coming of our Lord visibly at the end of the age, we are not at all without an intimate presence with Jesus now. In this Advent season, ponder the mystery not only of Christ's coming at Bethlehem, but also his coming to us today. With his continuing presence among us now, we will be kept safe until He comes again openly and visibly before all the world, bringing to completion our salvation as we join him in glory.

Your Servant in Christ,

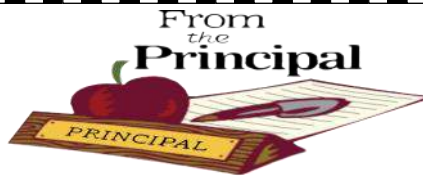
-Pastor Bayer



St. Peter Lutheran Church  
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## Christmas Time is Coming Soon

It seems that every year the stores are decorating and displaying Christmas items earlier and earlier. Again, perhaps showing my age, I can remember when the parlor doors at home were closed after Thanksgiving. We were told that this was to conserve heat since the parlor wasn't used on a regular basis. On Christmas Eve after church the parlor doors were opened and there was the tree with gifts under it. As we grew older, we knew what was in the parlor, but we couldn't see it until Christmas. We anticipated Christmas but it was a reserved anticipation.

For years God's people looked forward to the coming of the Savior. They lived in knowing that someday He would come, and the promised gift would be theirs. We have the privilege of living in a time when the gift of the coming of the Savior is already a part of history. Going back to the "good old days" we truly were thrilled when the doors were opened, but as time went by the door to the parlor was removed and it became the "living room" that was used every day – the anticipation of Christmas blended into the routine of the season. We as Christians also live in a time when Christmas has just become a part of the normal flow of the seasons and its true importance is lost in the overexposure of "The Season" in the world around us.

As we prepare for Christmas here at school, we have the joy of preparing a special program that will help us focus on the real importance of Christmas, the coming of the great gift of our salvation. We may enjoy "The Polar Express" but for us it isn't knowing that Santa exists, it is in knowing that the angels have announced that the Savior is born. We can separate a fictional story from the reality of the coming of the Savior. It isn't just the sound of the bells on the sleigh, it is more importantly the sound of the church bell calling us to worship the Newborn King. We can't separate ourselves from the world, but we can strive to keep our focus on the manger, the cross, the open tomb and the ascension of our Savior to open the "Parlor Doors" of heaven for us.

We hope that you will be able to join the children at the Christmas program here at school on Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 PM in the gym. Hopefully this will help us all to look away from the glitter of the world and see the beauty of our Savior in a humble manger.

His Servant,

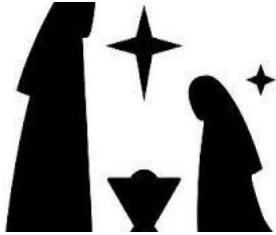
*Paul Weismantel*, Principal



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## LADIES AID

**Ladies Aid** - are having a new fundraiser, we are selling Nativity scenes, made out of different woods; so they are all different & unique. There is one on display in the office. We are selling them for \$20; if anyone would like to see more let me know. To order a nativity please call or email the church office or call Kathy Bond 989-640-0630.



In Christs service,  
Kathy Bond

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Christmas  
Open House



**YOU ARE INVITED TO  
THE WEISMANTEL'S  
CHRISTMAS  
OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14  
FROM 5:00PM-?**

**15162 Mulligan Dr.  
Bath, MI 48808**

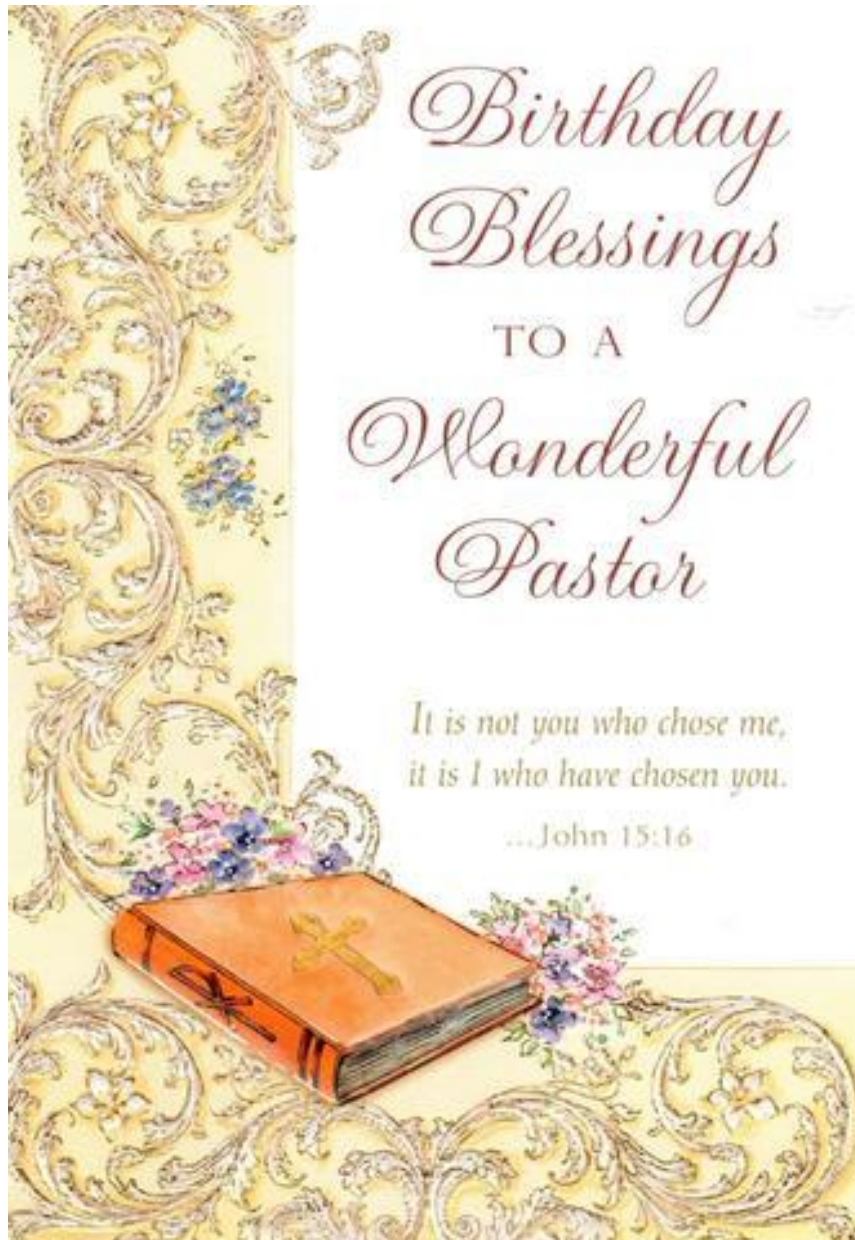


I am looking for members to help with the children's Sunday school. I could really use more helpers. If I could get 6 or 8 people to each volunteer to commit to 3 Sundays until this spring it would be so helpful. I will have the lessons and crafts all organized ready to go. It is a huge commitment for just a couple people to run the classes on a weekly basis. I'm asking you to please pray about this

request and if you feel the Lord tugging at your heart, please contact me and we can talk. Even if a couple people would want to do the classes together, that would be awesome! We have a wonderful church family and our children are it's future.

God's Blessings,  
Sally Pontius, Christian Education Director

*Happy Birthday Pastor Bayer  
(December 1<sup>st</sup>)*



## **LUTHERAN WITNESS TIME!**

The subscription year for the Michigan District is March 2020 through February 2021. Yearly subscriptions are **\$11.60/year** each if members place their order through the church office, taking advantage of the District subscription discount. **All orders must be placed by December 13, 2019.** Make your check payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church.



*From our families to yours,  
We wish you a  
Merry Christmas and a  
Blessed New Year!*

**Blessings from the St. Peter Staff**

*Timothy Bayer, Pastor  
Paul Weismantel, Principal  
Liz Stevens  
Corrine Fletcher  
Lisa Smith  
Betsy Rowe  
Kim Ellis  
Nicole Curtin*



*Please join in the celebration of Jesus' birth as the children of St. Peter present:*

*FROM HEAVEN ABOVE*

*Sunday, December 8, 2019*

*2:00 pm*

## **2019 RUMMAGE ROOM**

THE DATE FOR THE RUMMAGE ROOM AT CHRIST LUTHERAN IS SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 2019. WE WILL JUST HAVE THE RUMMAGE ROOM TO TAKE CARE OF THIS YEAR BUT WE NEED ALL AVAILABLE HANDS FOR SET-UP AND DISTRIBUTION.

ALL YOUR NICELY DONATED ITEMS WERE PICKED UP THE END OF NOVEMBER. THANK YOU ALL FOR THE MANY ITEMS AND THEY WERE ABUNDANT AGAIN THIS YEAR. IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME HOW DEDICATED AND GIVING ST. PETER IS. THE NEEDY IN OUR LANSING COMMUNITY REALLY APPRECIATE ALL YOUR CONSIDERATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

WE NEED ABOUT A DOZEN HELPERS TO SET-UP THE TABLES AND ITEMS AS WELL AS FILL THE GOODIE BAGS WITH ALL THE GOODIES BEFORE THE PATRONS ARE ALLOWED IN THE RUMMAGE ROOM. (THIS IS ALL **\*\*AND ONLY\*\*** DONE THE MORNING OF THE RUMMAGE ROOM ON SITE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LESS THAN 2 HOURS TIME). THAT MEANS WE WILL NEED TO BE AT THE CHURCH STARTING AT 9:00 AM AND WILL BE DONE BY 1 PM.

YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED AND I KNOW THIS IS A TRUE PASSION FOR ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT BONNIE GREGORY AT 989-292-4152.

PLEASE LOOK FOR FULL DETAILS ON THE EVENT IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER.

GOD'S BLESSING ON THIS OUTREACH TO OUR CLOSEBY COMMUNITY AT THIS MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR.

YOURS IN CHRIST – BONNIE GREGORY



**Advent Services**  
**December 4<sup>th</sup> , 11<sup>th</sup> , 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00am & 7:00pm**



## ADVENT BRUNCH



ALL LADIES OF THE CONGREGATION are invited to St. Peter's Annual Advent Brunch on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 10:00am in the Fellowship Center. Please join us for a morning of good food and wonderful fellowship with your sisters in Christ. The speaker will be Dick Davenport from Hope Lutheran, DeWitt, who will talk on "Depression Around the Holidays". A free will offering will be taken for brunch expenses and LWML mites. We hope to see many of you there! Any questions, please call the St. Peter Church Office at 989 224-3178.

## Preschool News

The school year has been off to a great start. We can't believe we are heading into December. The children have grown and developed some amazing friendships. It is wonderful to see the bonds that are forming in such a short time.

We are very excited to announce that we will be expanding our preschool program in the fall of 2020. We will be offering a five day program in addition to the 3 and 4 day option. The hours will remain 8:30am-11:30am.

We have also been working very hard on preparing for the Christmas program. The children have been learning new songs and practicing the movements that go along with them. We love seeing how excited they get to sing Christmas songs. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Stout take the time to work with the children every week. We look forward to seeing the children perform at the Christmas Service at 2:00pm on December 8<sup>th</sup>! We hope to see you there.

We are also very excited for our 3rd annual Polar Express Day on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a school wide event sponsored by the PTL. The staff and students love spending this time together sharing in the magic of Christmas. Thank you to the PTL for providing popcorn and hot chocolate for us to enjoy during the movie. Thank you to Mr. Weismantel for being our train conductor. A special thank you to Mrs. Fletcher for starting this wonderful event and for all the work she puts into it to make it a special day for all of us.

Blessings to all of you during this Christmas Season,  
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher







Please continue saving jars, but give them to Rebekah Favior.



Aunt Millie's bread is ending there School Spirit Program on December 31, 2019. Please turn in your labels by December 22.



Please turn in all Box Tops by December 22.

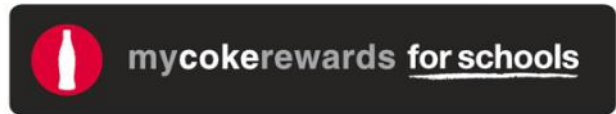
Thank you,  
Pam



Thank you for saving coke points. We have received these check since 9-7-17 to August 30, 2019.

\$ 38.30  
\$109.15  
\$124.00  
\$222.17  
\$ 93.33  
\$ 89.60  
\$ 58.10  
\$139.29

\$873.94



Please continue to save coke points.

Thanks,  
Pam



### Pop Can Tabs

For many people, December is a time when friends and families get together and often that includes meals and/or snacks. Because of that I want to take this opportunity to ask everyone to remember to save the tabs from their pop cans and other aluminum cans this month. You can give them to Theresa Silm or drop them off in the back of church. We collect these and give them to the Ronald McDonald House in Lansing and they are able to recycle them and use the money to pay some of their utility bills. So far this year we have collected and contributed on 80 pounds of tabs. With your help, I'm hoping we can collect 20 pounds this month and get our total over 100 pounds for the year. Here is one way that you can turn your trash into someone else's treasure!



WE WILL BE GOING CHRISTMAS CAROLING ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AFTER THE 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE. A LIGHT LUNCH OF SOUPS, SANDWICHES, COOKIES AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED BEFORE WE GO OUT TO SING TO OUR ELDERLY/ SHUT-INS. CAROLING IS SUCH A SPECIAL TIME TO SHARE CHRISTMAS SONGS WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL AT 989-224-7106.

CHARLENE KENNEDY, DVM



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING OF OUR CHURCH

ON DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> FOLLOWING THE CHILDRENS CHAPEL SERVICE, WE WILL BE DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS AROUND 9:30. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN HELPING DECORATE OUR CHURCH BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL AT 989-224-7106. WHAT A GREAT FELLOWSHIP TIME WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT ST. PETER.

CHARLENE KENNEDY, DVM





November was a busy and blustery month for the Day school. As the cold weather has settled in the students have been very eager for their new-this-year hot lunch Fridays! We would like to extend a big thank you to all who have prepared and provided a hot lunch for our students and staff.

As a school, our students helped with a small service project in collecting Thanksgiving foods for the Basic Needs Center in St. Johns. As a school we collected many meals to donate.

Also this month, our classes have been excited to learn their songs and parts for the upcoming Christmas program, "From Heaven Above", on December, 8 at 2:00. All are welcome to attend and celebrate our Savior's birth.

Looking forward to December brings a new trimester, learning about the Advent season, and lots of fun in the snow. Thank you for your continued support through pray-



## LADIES AID NEWS

We ladies have been busy this month including working on the quilts, Bruce and I took about 100 quilts to Saginaw where the Lutheran World Relief drop-off was. We had our regular meeting, decided to pay half of the new sprayers for the kitchen sink, it will be so much easier washing the large roaster and etc. We put 45 subs together that we sold to our members, cleared about \$180.00, thank you to the people that bought the subs. We sent our Seminary student, Robert Brown, the usual \$500.00; this is his last year and the seminary. We donated two baby quilts to the Tri County of the Aged Auction.

On November 24th was Kristin Bayer's baby shower, which is fun for us, as most of us are grandmas. Also have made plans for our upcoming Advent Brunch; hope to see many of our ladies on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

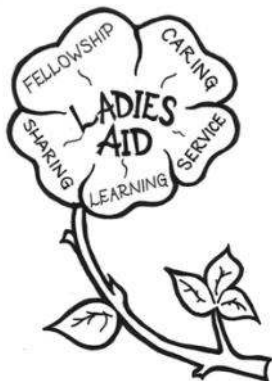
Please be reminded of the box in the Narthex by the Food Pantry, where the quilt top kits are, we hope you will help with sewing our tops, instructions are in the kits; it's really quite easy, then drop your finished top in the box, and your name so we can thank you, then take a new kit. If have questions call me.

We are all blessed,  
Kathy



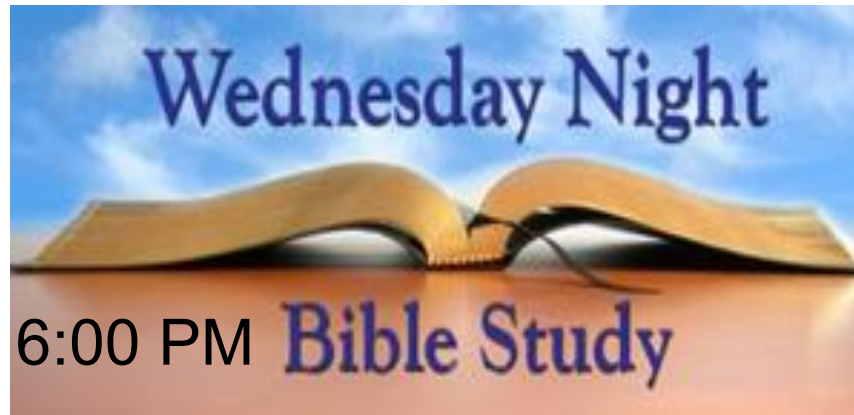
**GREETERS.....**Thanks for your smiling faces, warm handshakes and maybe a hug or two. Praise God for you! If you are unable to greet the date scheduled, please switch with someone else and let Liz in the church office know so she can print the correct information in the weekly announcements. Please let me know if you have questions.

| <b>December 2019</b> |                                |                              |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12/01/19             | Jan & Jim Mehney               |                              |
| 12/08/19             | Kathy & Bruce Bond             |                              |
| 12/15/19             | Jackie & Mark Zamarron         |                              |
| 12/22/19             | Norma & Bruce Fitzpatrick      |                              |
| 12/24/19             | Mary Ann and Larry Grennell    | Liz and Joe Stevens 11:00 pm |
| 12/25/19             | Diane and Frank Hart           |                              |
| 12/29/19             | Michelle & Tom Gorby           |                              |
| <b>January 2020</b>  |                                |                              |
| 01/05/20             | Connie & Dale Martens          |                              |
| 01/12/20             | Sandy & Gary Lenneman          |                              |
| 01/19/20             | Judy & Dave Bengel             |                              |
| 01/26/20             | Rollie Kloeckner & Bill Caruss |                              |
| <b>February 2020</b> |                                |                              |
| 02/02/20             | Jean & Roger Heathman          |                              |
| 02/09/20             | Karen & John Burgess           |                              |
| 02/16/20             | Carleen Eaton & Dave Richmond  |                              |
| 02/23/20             | Rita & Tom Hollis              |                              |



### LADIES AID NEWS

The ladies continue working in our ladies aid room every Thursday morning on quilts and other projects. We would like to see more ladies! So if you would like to come on Thursday at 9:00am, there are many things to do and such wonderful fellowship. Many hands make work light, it really isn't work though; its ways of serving our Lord.



**No Bible Study November 27<sup>th</sup> – January 4<sup>th</sup>  
Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**



### **Coming in December!!**

The Stewardship Committee invites you to join in the annual "Birthday Gift for Jesus" campaign with an extra financial contribution over and above your regular offering. Your gift will be used to reduce the fellowship center/school mortgage debt. Currently that debt is approximately \$33,000.

In December 2019, St Peter Lutheran Church concludes celebrating its 150th year of serving our Lord and Savior. It has been a year celebrating our history and reflecting upon our ministry at St Peter. Wouldn't it be wonderful to finish the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary free of the mortgage debt?

On an envelope, label or write "Birthday Gift for Jesus" and place your gift in the offering plate or mail to the church office. If you would like to remember a friend or loved one in "Honor" or in "Memory" please indicate that on the envelope. Thank you!

This Christmas let us recall - a shining star, a manager, and the greatest gift of all---Jesus. May these be yours at Christmas, and always.

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee

Bruce and Norma Fitzpatrick, Frank and Diane Hart, Harold Anderson, Jeanette Mehney and Sandy Lenneman



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## **ELDER CONTACT INFORMATION**

|             |              |  |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| Dave Bengel | 517-281-5812 | <a href="mailto:me@davidbengel.com">me@davidbengel.com</a>                       |
| Tom Gorby   | 989-292-1715 | <a href="mailto:tomgorby@gmail.com">tomgorby@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Ryan West   | 517-977-5078 | <a href="mailto:westpropertyservices@live.com">westpropertyservices@live.com</a> |
| Ken Bond    | 989-640-2380 | <a href="mailto:kbbenji88@yahoo.com">kbbenji88@yahoo.com</a>                     |

Pastor Timothy Bayer email: [pastorbayer@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbayer@gmail.com)



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## **Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request, please call Liz in the church office (989) 224-3178 during office hours. If in the evening or weekend, please call Pam Mohr (989) 292-1686.

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I am excited to announce that our teachers Amazon wish list are now on our [stpeterriley.org](http://stpeterriley.org) website under the school tab. One easy click will provide you the link to get right where you need to go!! We also have our Shutterfly storefront link on this page to help raise funds for the school every time you order through Shutterfly!! As always thank you for your generous donations and love for St. Peter School.

Blessings Always and Thank you, St. Peter Staff



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## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Peter Lutheran School Gala**

This is the time of year when people start getting new calendars for the coming year so we want to give you a date to put on your new calendar. The 2020 St. Peter Lutheran School Gala is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 18<sup>th</sup> and it promises to be better than ever. Keep watch for future details but get the date on your calendar now.

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## Stewardship News

### "A Gift Fit for a King"

*"And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11)*

In these figures that the New Testament calls Magi, we see a fitting image for us as stewards. While we don't know much about these strange men who appear suddenly and then just as suddenly disappear, we are left with one very clear image. These Wise Men, whoever they are, brought gifts!

These men, with extravagant generosity, give us a clear focus on our life of worship before the Lord. To a King to which they have no claim on, they bring the best of what they have. Wealth, worship, witness and a foreshadowing on woe is what they give.

Gold is the wealth. It is a gift fit for a king! Frankincense is the worship. The prayers of the ancients were symbolized by the smoke of the incense rising upward (Rev. 8:4). But what about the myrrh? That was an expensive spice for burial. This foreshadows what this Child will do for them, and for us-give His life for the sins of the world as His name means. None of these gifts were cheap. They cost them dearly.

But they didn't see it as a cost. They saw it as worship. This king would be their king. He would be your king too. Consider the gifts you will bring to our king. The gifts that the Lord calls us to bring are best called simple gifts. These gifts are to follow the model of the Magi. Not inexpensive nor seen as costly. But flowing from a heart that is full of glory that is revealed to us in the babe of Bethlehem who has come to die to us. Our gifts flow from gratitude for what our Lord has done for us and the world. They don't have to be golden, fragrant, nor a sign of death. Rather they are to be gifts that rejoice in the new baptismal life we have in this Jesus. The Jesus-who is the Savior revealed to us.

Source: [www.lcms.org/stewardship/](http://www.lcms.org/stewardship/) Simple Gifts



*Merry Christmas*





*“Laying the Foundation to Build on the Rock of Christ.  
Study the Word, Seek the Lost, and to Serve our Neighbors”*

## ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday: Chapel 9:00am  
Bible Study: 6:00pm (Library) **(Will resume on January 8th)**

Sunday: Worship Services 10:00am  
Bible Study 8:45am  
Sunday School 8:45am



**Christmas  
Worship  
Schedule**

Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm & 11pm  
Christmas Day Service 10:00am



## Shut-In Visit List Weekly Visits

Shirley Edwards  
Ethel Flegler  
Bill Horman  
Tom Johnson

Gordon Schrader  
Mel Sehlke  
Charlie Silm  
John Sillman  
Lois Sillman

Albert Smith  
Bill & Sherri VanBeelen



Be sure to check our website for event or service updates and cancellations. Also on our website you are able to download the monthly newsletter, bulletin and calendar. We are continuously updating and making changes to the website so if you have not logged on the website lately check it out see what's new.

**Check out our website!**  
**[www.stpeterriley.org](http://www.stpeterriley.org)**





- 12/1/19 Christmas Caroling (Right after church)  
Hall Reserved  
**Happy Birthday Pastor Bayer**
- 12/3/19 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
- 12/4/19 Advent Chapel 9:00am & Advent Service 7:00pm
- 12/5/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
Ladies Aid Meeting 12:00pm (Library)
- 12/6/19 Christmas Program Practice 6:00pm-7:15pm (Gym)
- 12/6/19 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Gym)
- 12/8/19 Children's Christmas Program 2:00pm (Gym)  
Confirmation Class 3:30pm-5:30pm (Library)
- 12/9/19 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 12/10/19 3rd Annual Polar Express Day 9:00am  
Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 12/11/19 Advent Chapel 9:00am & Advent Service 7:00pm
- 12/12/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
PTL Meeting 4:00pm (Library)
- 12/14/19 Hall Reserved All Day
- 12/15/19 Hall Reserved 1:00pm-5:00pm  
Confirmation Class 3:30pm-5:30pm (Library)  
Deadline for the Giving Tree  
Newsletter Deadline
- 12/16/19 Gala Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 12/17/19 4H Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Gym)
- 12/18/19 Advent Chapel 9:00am & Advent Service 7:00pm
- 12/19/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 12/22/19 Confirmation Class 3:30pm-5:30pm (Library)
- 12/24/19 Christmas Eve Services 7:00pm & 11:00pm (Office Closed)
- 12/25/19 Christmas Day Service 10:00am (Office Closed)
- 12/26/19 Office Closed
- 12/29/19 Confirmation Class 3:30pm-5:30pm (Library)
- 12/31/19 New Years Eve (Office open until 2:00 pm)
- 1/1/20 New Years Day (Office Closed)

School Christmas Break December 23-January 3

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## **MEMORIALS**

### ***In Loving Memory of***

*Ken Mohnke \$100.00*

*Sheila Ordway \$795.00*

*Mel Sehlke \$230.00*

*Cindy Horman \$375.00*



## St. Peter Lutheran Church

Rev. Timothy Bayer  
8990 Church Rd.  
St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-3178  
Fax: 989-224-8962  
E-mail: [church@stpeterriley.org](mailto:church@stpeterriley.org)

**We are on the web!**  
[www.stpeterriley.org](http://www.stpeterriley.org)

