

The

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church From the Pastor

December 2019

As we observe both the Advent and Christmas seasons, we again begin to hear the retelling of the cherished stories of our Lord's incarnation – the time when God became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1). As our thoughts center on this great, miraculous love, I commend to you three Christmas poems. I pray that these poems help you to rejoice in the greatest Christmas miracle: not that a virgin conceived and gave birth to a son, but that God would become a part of His creation in order to redeem sinners from sin and death. -- Pastor Lorenz

A Not So Silent Night

Bruised children whimpered behind bedroom doors
Broken men groaned over fresh graveyard dirt
Babies wailed as they clawed at milkless breasts
Wounded soldiers howled into the blackness
Women of the night brazenly hawked their wares
Fists smashed into broken faces in drunken brawls
Wizened men wheezed final unintelligible words
The blackened teeth of the homeless chattered
A laboring woman screamed at pangs of birth
A baby boy's cries reverberated through the cosmos
For the Word was made flesh for a dying creation
On a night that, like all nights, was anything but silent.

Mary Had a Little Lion

Mary had a little Lion
Whose roar shall fall the Foe
And everywhere the church might be
The Lion is sure to go.

He follows her o'er land and sea
In search of souls to save.
And everywhere the church proclaims
The life in love he gave.

Mary had a little Lion
Whose mane was once stained red
That he might wash you white as snow
In blood for you be bled.

Oh, Come, Ye Unfaithful

Oh, come, ye unfaithful,
Broken and polluted!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye,
To Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
Born the friend of sinners;
Oh come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him,
Oh come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Credit: "The Infant Priest: Hymns and Poems." Chad Bird.

News and Notes of St. Peter



Congregational Christian Care

Please pray for, phone, visit, and or send a card or note to the following members that may be recovering or home bound.

Englewood Health & Rehabilitation – Mildred Craig

Heritage of Huntington – Betty Pike; Maxine Stetzel

Heritage, Warren – Edward Campbell, Jr.

Lutheran Life Village – Rev. Donald Fischer; Ruth Guhl

Miller's Merry Manor – Neil & Sandy Stonebraker

Markle Health & Rehabilitation – Jean Simmons

Tipton Place – Rolland Hoch

Home – Jason Cozad; Bradley Heideman; Jack Guy; Ruth Moon; Laurie Trlak

Prayer List: Vicki Oden Kimmel (health concerns), friend of Karen Smith; Brenda Kline; Kay Whitesell; Robert Whitesell; Mark Cozad; Doug Guhl; Lois Clark, sister of Donna Dennis; Heather Holzinger (cancer treatments) friend of Larry Baade; Connie Young, friend of Becky Hitzfield.

If you discover that the information has changed, please call the Church office so we can update this list.



Open House

Please be our guests at our Annual Open House at the parsonage on December 29th from 3-5 pm. Join us for fellowship and refreshments. Hope to see you all there!
Pastor and Kristin Lorenz

Tape Ministry

If you are unable to attend the worship services for any reason, including short-term recoveries, we would be happy to drop off a copy of the sermon or tape of the service which includes a bulletin. Please call Pam and Jack Wertemberger at 356-8139 or Pam's cell phone: 260-388-2507 to arrange for delivery. **If you have received and listened to previous tapes, please place in a bag on your door to be picked up when a new tape is delivered.** Thanks for your help.

Jack & Pam Wertemberger



80 Plus Birthdays this month! December

12/4	Ruth Guy	95
12/10	Charles Fuller	83
12/21	Shirley Burnau	84
12/29	Ruth Moon	86

Memorials

Memorials have been given to St. Peter Lutheran Church Window Restoration in memory of:
Dick Christ

Organizations

Ladies' Guild: The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the education building.

St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS) – The lucky winner of the drawing at the November meeting was Holly Cuttriss. The December meeting will be held at noon on Wednesday, December 11th at Mecates Mexican Restaurant.

Dorcas Circle: Will meet on Monday, December 16th at the home of Mary Ellen Fuller at 11:30a.m. Please NOTE the change in day/date and time.

Quilters: Quilting is held from 9am – noon on Wednesdays. The quilters are always thankful for donations of cotton fabric, new or slightly used flat sheets.

Choir: Do you like to sing? Please join the choir on Wednesday evenings after church. We have started practicing for Christmas. Gather in the church by the piano. If you have questions, please call Keith Crider at 260-356-8097.

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Christmas Decorating



Christmas decorations will go up in church on December 8th at 2:15 pm. Altar Guild is heading it up and the Youth Group is invited as well as any member of the congregation

thank you!

Thank You: to the Huntington North High School Marching Vikes for attending, playing and representing Huntington at the Veterans Day Events in Washington DC over Veterans Day weekend. They performed at The Lincoln Memorial, The World War 2 Memorial and the Air Force Memorial. They were able to visit Arlington Memorial Cemetery as well as many other memorials. Members from our congregation going on this memorial trip were Ian & Andrew Crider as well as Linda Crider as chaperone. Also **Congratulations:** to the Huntington North High School Marching Vikes on making their first ever appearance at semi-state competition on November 2nd. They did not get to go to the state finals, however out of 61 Class B bands in the state of Indiana, they are in the top 20. Special congratulations go to our members Brianna Thomas, Andrew Crider and Ian Crider members of the Marching Vikes.

Sunday School

Practicing for the Christmas program is now taking place on Sunday mornings. It is not too late to join if you have not been attending, please come at 9am. All children are welcome from age 3 through high school.



A Little Heavenly Humor

"Ice Cream Is Sometimes Good For The Soul"

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would thank you even more if Mom gets us Ice Cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for Ice Cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked.

"Cross my heart." Then in theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "too bad she never asks God for Ice Cream. A little Ice Cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kid Ice Cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his Sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice Cream is good for the soul sometimes and my soul is good already!"

Growing in the Faith

Below, find a few questions meant to tickle your brain cells and remind you of things that you were taught years ago. Answers may be found in the given Bible passage.

1. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and to which other person? (Luke 1:19)
2. True or False: Joseph was the biological father of Jesus. (Matthew 1:18, 20)
3. Who was Caesar at the time of Jesus' birth? (Luke 2:1)
4. True or False: The shepherds knew that the baby's name was Jesus. (Luke 2:20, 21)
5. (Extra Credit) – In what year is Jesus estimated to have been born? (Matthew 2:1, 19; Luke 3:1-2; Luke 2:1, 2) *Hint: This is not recorded in Scripture, but the Bible does give three markers for Jesus' birth: The death of Herod, the rule of Tiberius Caesar, and the reign of Caesar Augustus while Quirinius was governor of Syria. To what year does this point us?*

TIME & TALENT

Greetings in the name of Christ, Please find enclosed a time and talent sheet that the Board of Stewardship would like you to fill out.

We would like each member of your household, ten years of age and older, to fill out a time and talent sheet. Filling out this form does NOT mean that you are automatically put on a board or committee. All this form does is provides a pool of willing volunteers to be contacted about serving our Lord by serving his church.

Extra forms will be available in the back of the church and in the church office. These forms will need to be returned to either the church office, or at the designated spot in the back of the church by January 5, 2020.

We thank you for taking the time to fill out this form and for everyone's willingness to Volunteer.

SERVING THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 2019

ELDER

SATURDAY: GEORGE JUERGENS **SUNDAY:** LARRY BAADE

GREETERS

SATURDAY: Don & Rhonda Webb **SUNDAY:** Dick & Jane Winkelman

ALTAR CARE: Linda Crider

SUN December 1	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Richard Winkelman
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	David Woelmer
		ACOLYTE	Drew Dorsett
WED December 4	7:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Brianna Thomas
SAT December 7	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Erika Brown
SUN December 8	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	Hannah Dorsett
WED December 11	7:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Jase Gunn
SAT December 14	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ron Brown
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Chad Worsham
		ACOLYTE	Andrew Crider
SUN December 15	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Randy Prange
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ethan Stoppenhagen
		ACOLYTE	Ian Crider
WED December 18	7:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Abby Lorenz
SAT December 21	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Erika Brown
SUN December 22	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	Jacob Worsham
TUE December 24	7:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Richard Winkelman
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ron Brown
		ACOLYTE	Drew Dorsett
		Torch Bearer	Jase Gunn
		Torch Bearer	Ian Crider
		Cross Bearer	Andrew Crider
SAT December 28	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Fred Lange
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ted McElhaney
		ACOLYTE	Jase Gunn
SUN December 29	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Jeff Derr
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Norman Kochensparger
		ACOLYTE	Brianna Thomas
TUE December 31	7:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Randy Prange
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Chad Worsham
		ACOLYTE	Jacob Worsham

If you are scheduled at a time that does not work for you, please contact an acolyte or communion assistant listed to take your place and let the office know so changes to the bulletin can be made. Thank you for your commitment to serve at St. Peter Church.

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion	2 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 6:30 Elders	3 11:00-12:00 Diaper Store 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 5:00-6:00 Diaper Store 7:00 General Guild	4 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Advent Service 5:30 Advent Dinner 7:00 Advent Service 7:45 Choir	5 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 JR Confirmation	6	7 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
8 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 1:30 Altar Guild Meeting 2:15 Christmas Decorting	9 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council	10 1:00 Chapel @ Millers	11 9:00 Quilting 12:00 SPARKS 1:00 Advent Service 5:30 Advent Dinner 7:00 Advent Service 7:45 Choir	12 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 1:30 @ Heritage Communion 6:30 JR Confirmation	13	14 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
15 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 4:30 Children Program 5:30 Congregational Christmas Party	16 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 11:30 Dorcas Circle	17 11:00-12:00 Diaper Store 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 5:00-6:00 Diaper Store 7:00 Stewardship	18 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Advent Service 5:30 Advent Dinner 7:00 Advent Service 7:45 Choir	19 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 JR Confirmation	20 12:00 Messenger Deadline	21 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
22 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	23 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	24 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 7:00 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	27	28 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
29 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion	30 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	31 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 7:00 NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE				

NOTES: