

The

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

January 2020

“The star proclaims the King is here; but Herod, why this senseless fear?” LSB 399, verse 1

The one thing that a majority of people associate with Epiphany is the star leading the Magi to Bethlehem. Martin Luther noted, however, that the star didn't actually get the job done. The star announced to the ancient stargazers *that* a king had been born to the Jews, but it didn't tell them *where* to find Him. Using human (natural) reason, they trotted off to the logical spot – Jerusalem – only to find business as usual and no one celebrating the birth of a king.

Nature – even a miracle such as a star – will only get a person so far. The Scripture, however, can get you all the way to where Jesus may be found. King Herod asked the scribes about the ancient prophecy, and they answered from Micah: “In Bethlehem of Judea.” With this prophecy tucked into their hearts, the magi journeyed toward the city of David, and suddenly the star they had seen when it rose reappeared, and it led the way to the house where the child and His mother were found.

Thanks be to God that He has written into nature and into our hearts the knowledge that there is a Creator! But, during this season of Epiphany, let us rejoice even more greatly that God did not leave us to stumble around searching for Him (e.g. the Magi) with natural knowledge alone: in such a case, we would end-up following in the footsteps of the Greeks, Romans, and other polytheistic religions. No: God has revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ, and has sent the Holy Spirit to guide us to Jesus, so that we would know who He is and how He has saved us from eternal condemnation.

As God has given us such a great gift by revealing Himself to us, let us rejoice in Him and devour every word He has spoken concerning Himself! Let us search the Scriptures so that, when others come to us seeking the Christ, we may firmly and confidently direct them to where He may be found: in Scripture, in Baptism, and in the Holy Supper for the forgiveness of their sins.

May God grant you a happy and blessed Epiphany season.

Pastor Lorenz

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: Shirley Baker; Nancy Ashbaugh; Darlene (healing/recovery), friend of George Ditzler; Ruth Guy; Vicki Oden Kimmel (health concerns), friend of Karen Smith; Kay Whitesell; Robert Whitesell; Mark Cozad; 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.



80 Plus Birthdays this month! January

1//2	Lowell Richardson	84
1/22	Marjorie Richardson	83

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 Wertenberger 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 Wertenberger

Christmas Decorating

Thanks to everyone that helped to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. With the help of all, the decorating was completed in a couple of hours.

Poinsettias were given by:
Ted & Janet McElhaney
Roger & Becky Hitzfield
Richard & Audra Herber
Linda Hollowell & Family
Sue Eltzroth
Diana Cozad
George & Barba Eickhoff
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ashbaugh
Ed & Diane Campbell
Joyce Gravely

Organizations

Ladies' Guild: NO January meeting. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 4th 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 December meeting was Janet Bennett. The January meeting will be held at noon on Wednesday, January 8th at Chapman's on Cherry St.

Dorcas Circle: Will meet on Wednesday, January 15th in the reception room of the church education building. Eleanor Smith will be hostess. Please let Eleanor know if you plan to attend. Her phone number is 260-356-1283 or tell her in person at church.

Quilters: Quilting is on holiday until Wednesday, January 8th. They will resume at 9am. 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 at 7 pm. Gather in the church by the piano. If you have questions, please call Keith Crider at 260-356-8097.

LYF: ATTENTION

If you are interested in going to the Higher Things Youth Conference this summer, please contact Linda Crider as soon as possible. The theme this year is "Watermarked" based on 1 Peter 3:21. The deadline for the early registration is January 31. The early registration fee is \$385 per person and must be paid at the time of registration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Happy Anniversary

1/19 James & Barbara Spreen 40 years

Soup and Dessert Cook-off

The fourth annual soup and dessert cook-off will be held on Sunday, February 9th after church at noon. So get those recipes out and decide which is your favorite soup or dessert. Remember you are not too old or too young to enter. One from the youth group has won the soup and also the dessert. Please register if you plan to bring either a soup or dessert so we have enough room for each and that the committee can plan accordingly. Forms will be available mid-January.



Greeters

Greeters for 2020 are as follows:

January	Saturday	Lowell and Marjorie Richardson
	Sunday	Beverly and Gary Webb and Family
February	Saturday	Dewayne and Sharon Anderson
	Sunday	Karen Smith
March	Saturday	Ted and Janet McElhaney
	Sunday	Wayne and Nancy Ashbaugh



A Little Heavenly Humor



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."

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. What was the name of the priest under whom Samuel ministered? (1 Samuel 2:11)
2. How did Eli die? (1 Samuel 4:18)
3. What three things were placed into the Ark of the Covenant? (Hebrews 9:4)
4. What was significant about the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant? (Leviticus 16:2)
5. What happened when the Philistines placed the Ark of the Covenant in their temple? (1 Samuel 5:2-12)

Putting it all together:

6. WHY did the events of 1 Samuel 5 take place? Or, what was causing these things to take place? (c.f. Exodus 3:2, 6; Exodus 33:20)

Synod Constitution

Enclosed with this "Messenger" is copy of the Synod Constitution changes that will be voted on by our congregation at the February Voters meeting.

As you read in the first paragraph, the 2019 convention of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod adopted the changes, now needs to be ratified by the congregations.

Please read before the Voters meeting, and bring copy with you if you have questions. The amendments will NOT be read at the Voters Meeting in February.

Children Program



The children participating in the Children's Christmas program on December 15th.

The children did a wonderful presentation telling and singing about the birth of our Lord and Savior.

DON'T FORGET TO RETURN THE TIME & TALENT FORMS BY JANUARY 5

SERVING THIS MONTH

JANUARY 2020

ELDER

SATURDAY: GEORGE JUERGENS

SUNDAY: RICHARD SMITH

GREETERS

SATURDAY: Lowell and Marjorie Richardson

SUNDAY: Beverly and Gary Webb and Family

ALTAR CARE: Leigh Ann & Ashton Jones

Saturday, January 4, 2020	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Ron Brown
		Communion Assistant	Ted McElhaney
		Acolyte	Ted McElhaney
Sunday, January 5	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant	Larry Baade
		Communion Assistant	Ethan Stoppenhagen
		Acolyte	Andrew Crider
Saturday, January 11	5:00 PM	Acolyte	Erika Brown
Sunday, January 12	10:15 AM	Acolyte	Ian Crider
Saturday, January 18	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Ted McElhaney
		Communion Assistant	Fred Lange
		Acolyte	Fred Lange
Sunday, January 19	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant	Jeff Derr
		Communion Assistant	David Woelmer
		Acolyte	Drew Dorsett
Saturday, January 25	5:00 PM	Acolyte	Jase Gunn
Sunday, January 26	10:15 PM	Acolyte	Brianna Thomas

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

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSED	2 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	3	4 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
5 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w./Communion	6 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 6:30 Elders	7 11:00-12:00 Diaper Store 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 5:00-6:00 Diaper Store	8 9:00 Quilting 12:00 SPARKS 7:00 Choir	9 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 1:30 @ Heritage Communion 6:30 JR Confirmation	10	11 10:30 Elders Bible Study 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
12 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	13 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council	14 1:00 Chapel @ Millers	15 9:00 Quilting Noon: Dorcas Circle 7:00 Choir	16 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 JR Confirmation	17	18 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
19 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion	20 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 12:00 Messenger Deadline	21 11:00-12:00 Diaper Store 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 5:00-6:00 Diaper Store 7:00 Stewardship	22 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Choir	23 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 JR Confirmation	24	25 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
26 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	27 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	28 1:00 Chapel @ Millers	29 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Choir	30 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 JR Confirmation	31	

NOTES: