

The

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
From the Pastor

December, 2025

What preparations are you in the midst of? Trimming the tree? Baking cookies? Stringing Christmas lights? Dusting off festive decorations?

One of the main themes of Advent is 'the coming of Christ'. We remember His first coming in a manger; we celebrate His present coming in both Word and Sacrament (the Word made flesh dwelling among us); we anticipate his final coming in glory on the Day of Judgment.

While most of us are preoccupied this month with remembering Christ's first coming at Christmas (and preparing for it), Advent is the herald that calls us to prepare for His next comings:

- Repent. Turn your hearts away from sin and direct them to the Savior who comes *now* in mercy (in, with, and under the means of bread and wine). Be ready to come into the presence of the very God who created and redeemed you so that you may receive the forgiveness, life, and salvation that He has promised to all who believe in Him.
- Repent. Drown your Old Adam with contrition and repentance, and be clothed in the righteousness of Christ Jesus that - when He comes *again* to judge the living and the dead on Judgment Day - you may be found ready (your faith aglow with the sacred oil of the Holy Spirit, who delivers the Light of the World).

Dear brothers and sisters, Advent is indeed preparing us for the Lord's comings. If you have drifted away from the congregation of the Lord's people, now is the perfect time to return and to prepare your heart. Come and hear the word of the Lord. Hear the Law's stinging call to repentance for all the times you have gone your own way and ignored the way of the Lord. More than that, receive the balm of the Gospel message: Jesus comes to forgive and to save you. He comes to strengthen and preserve your body and life. He comes to cheer your spirit and to make you whole.

Sometimes, when we look at everything that needs to be done in order to prepare for a special occasion, we just give up because the obstacles just appear to be so insurmountable. Let that not be the case for us, the children of God. Let us be steadfast in our repentance, daily drowning our unbelief in the water of our Baptism, that on the day of His coming we may greet Him with joy and gladness.

It's Advent. We have preparations that need to be done, and all preparations begin with one step forward.

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/friends of members recovering in local facilities or home bound.

Canterbury Nursing & Rehab Center – Dan Schmalzried

Envive Health Care – Brian Bowers, Cindy Smith, Paul Stohlmann

Heritage Point of Huntington – Georgianna Bischoff

Kingston on Dupont – Linda Wolfe

Meadows of Coventry – Julie Hardy

The Village @ Pine Valley – Barba Eickhoff

Tipton Place – Sandra Hauenstein; Rolland Hoch

Waters of Huntington – Ruth Guy; Sandy Stonebraker; Kay Whitesell

Home – Penelope Brown; Asa Elett; Bradley Heideman; Brenda Kline; Diane Scher

Prayer List: Jay Beekman; Matt Brubaker; Ruth Dolby (friend of Pam Wertenberger); Rod Hoch (son of Jim Hoch); Kris McFarland; Mark Richardson (cancer, nephew of Lowell Richardson); Rick Rogers (cancer, friend of Linda Crider & Mary Ellen Fuller); and Don Webb.

Please call the church office to let us know the status of the people on the Prayer list.

If you are homebound or temporarily homebound and would like to receive communion because you are unable to come to church, please contact the church office and ask to be placed on pastor's visitation list.

December Unity Sunday

December 7

After Church – 11:30 AM

Christmas Cookies

To be held in the lower level of the education building.

Please bring 1-2 dozen christmas cookies to share. The committee will provide a Hot Chocolate & Coffee Bar. At the end of the gathering, we encourage each family to take a variety of cookies home.

The next unity gathering will be February 1 with the soup and dessert cook-off. More information in the bulletins and next "Messenger". No unity gathering after church in January, however unity service will be held on January 4, 2026

Memorials for 2025

Memorials have been given in memory of the following during the 2025 year:

Arne Iverson
Mary McCoy Ulrich
Mary Couch
George Eickhoff
Frederick Hauenstein
Ruth Moon
Edward Campbell
John Eickhoff
Sally Tyler
Joyce Gravley

St. Peter Organizations

Dorcas Circle: The December meeting will be on December 17 at the home of Mary Ellen Fuller at 2:00 pm, after the Advent service. Refreshments will be desserts and coffee. Please let Mary Ellen know if you plan to attend.

LWML: The next LWML gathering will be January 22, 2026 at 7pm. Plans will be made for the Shamrock Luncheon. We will also have a Bible Study. *Mites continue be collected in church on the first Sunday of each month.*

LYF: Thanks for all the donations and those who helped with the bazaar. We raised enough funds to send 3 youth to Higher Things. The December meeting will be December 7. Bags for shut-ins will be assembled.

Hannah Dorsett recently received Honorable Mention Forward for the NE8 Girls Soccer All-Conference division.

Men's Club: We continue to have the opportunity to gather together as the men of the congregation on the first Saturday of each month. Our next meeting will be Saturday, December 6 at 10am. The Study will be led by Seminarian Nathaniel Hall. Please join us as we grow together as members of Christ's body.

Monthly Tuesday Morning Bible Class: We are studying the book "Bright Valley of Love". 10:30 am, in the school library. We meet the 1st Tuesday of every month. Next meeting: December 2.

Quilters: We will not meet the last two weeks of December (December 24 & 31), will start again on January 7, 2026. We are looking for sheets to be used as fillers for the

quilts. Please drop off in the lower level of the education building or give to a quilter. We meet on Wednesday mornings.

SPARKS (St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers): SPARKS will NOT meet in December. We will meet on Wednesday, January 14 at noon at Moe's. The winner of the November drawing was Mary Ellen Fuller. Everyone is welcome to join us for food and fellowship.

Tape Ministry: If you are homebound or in a nursing home and would like to receive the weekly video recording of the service on a tablet (no internet needed) or a printed copy of the sermon, please contact the church office at 260.356.6528 to make arrangements.

December Anniversaries

Date		Years
12/3	Charles & Mary Ellen Fuller	65
12/28	Erich & Amy Hauenstein	40




*Happy 80 Plus
December
Birthday's*

Day		Yrs.
4	Ruth Guy	101
10	Charles Fuller	89
14	Dewayne Anderson	81
21	Shirley Burnau	90

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions 6:30 Elders	2 10:30 Monthly Bible Class 11:00 Diaper Store 1:30 Envive Bible Study 5:00 Diaper Store	3 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service 8:00 Choir	4 Noon Bulletin Deadline	5	6 10:00 Men's Club UNITY SUNDAY
7 UNITY SUNDAY 9:00 S S & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 11:30 Unity Gathering Noon LYF Jr. Confirmation	8 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions 7:00 Council	9 1:30 Envive Bible Study	10 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Advent Service 7:00 Advent Service 8:00 Choir	11 Noon Bulletin Deadline	12	13 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
14 9:00 S S & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service Jr. Confirmation	15 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	16 11:00 Diaper Store 5:00 Diaper Store 7:00 Stewardship	17 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Advent Service 2:00 Dorcas Circle 7:00 Advent Service 8:00 Choir	18 Noon Bulletin Deadline	19 Noon Messenger Deadline	20 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
21 9:00 S S & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service Jr. Confirmation	22 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	23 1:30 Envive Bible Study	24 Noon Bulletin Deadline 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
28 9:00 S S & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	29 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	31 1:30 Envive Bible Study	31 Noon Bulletin Deadline 7:00 new Year Eve Service	HAPPY NEW YEAR		

Notes Jr Confirmation (3rd Year) meet at noon on Sundays

Jr. Confirmation (1st Year) meet at 1:00 pm on Sundays

SERVING THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 2025

ELDER

SATURDAY: RANDY PRANGE

SUNDAY: LARRY BAADE

GREETERS

SATURDAY: Don & Rhonda Webb

SUNDAY: Linda, Ian & Andrew Crider

ALTAR CARE: Linda Crider

Wednesday, December 3	7:00 PM	Acolyte		Adaline Brown
		Organist		
Sunday, December 7	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall
Unity Sunday		Communion Assistant		Andrew Harrill
		Acolyte		Sophia Mason
		Organist		Trentin Worsham
Wednesday, December 10	7:00 PM	Acolyte		Landin Kiefer
		Organist		
Saturday, December 13	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Trentin Worsham	
		Communion Assistant	Eliot Brown	
		Acolyte	Hannah Dorsett	
		Organist	Leigh Ann Jones	
Sunday, December 14	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall
		Communion Assistant		Andrew Harrill
		Acolyte		Abby Lorenz
		Organist		Angie Brubaker
Wednesday, December 17	7:00 PM	Acolyte		Oliver Lorenz
		Organist		
Saturday, December 20	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Ted McElhaney	
		Communion Assistant	Andrew Crider	
		Acolyte	Landin Kiefer	
		Organist	Drew Dorsett	
Sunday, December 21	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Adrian Brown
		Communion Assistant		Brad Frederick
		Acolyte		Noah Mason
		Organist		Jeff Derr
Wednesday, December 24		Communion Assistant	Erich Hauenstein	
Christmas Eve		Communion Assistant	Jeremiah Davis	
		Torch Bearer	Erich Hauenstein	
		Torch Bearer	Jeremiah Davis	
		Cross Bearer	Jase Gunn	
		Acolyte	Abby Lorenz	
		Organist		

Saturday, December 27	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Chad Worsham	
		Communion Assistant	Adrian Brown	
		Acolyte	Adaline Brown	
		Organist	Hannah Dorsett	
Sunday, December 28	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Fred Lange
		Communion Assistant		Ben Kiltz
		Acolyte		Noelle Lorenz
		Organist		Angie Brubaker
Wednesday, December 31		Acolyte	Oliver Lorenz	
New Years Eve		Organist		

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.



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Services: held Wednesdays at 1pm and 7pm
 “The Hated Savior”

Wednesday December 3 – “The Despised Brother”

Wednesday December 10 – “The Loathed Hebrew”

Wednesday December 17 – “The Scorned Shepherd”

Christmas is suppose to be peaceful and happy, right? Yet our families experience arguing and brokenness even during this supposedly joyous time of year.

Be at peace: our Savior was born to a people and world that should have loved Him, but instead reviled and rejected Him. He endured such hatred for you.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Stewardship Thoughts –December 2025

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don’t know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn’t really want another tie, and your kid’s teacher doesn’t need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life’s resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.