

The  
**Messenger**

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2016

**From the Pastor**

December 2016

**Myth-busters – Christmas Edition**

*(This article is in no way affiliated with the popular television show, 'Mythbusters,' and includes no exciting explosions or experiments. Sorry.)*

How well do you know the Christmas story? How much of what you 'know' comes from those Christmas songs, and not really from the Holy Scripture? For fun, we will take a look at a few popular Christmas carols and see if Scripture agrees.

**1) "Myth": Jesus was the perfect little baby.**

"The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes...."  
*'Away in a Manger', verse 2*

*Scriptural evidence:*

Hebrews 2:14-15, 17 - "Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy Him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.... For this reason, He had to be made like His bothers in every way...."

Philippians 4:7-8 – "(He) made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death upon a cross."

**Results:** Myth "**BUSTED**" – Jesus was perfect and without sin, but He behaved like a human baby – He cried when He was hungry or startled; He filled his

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**Secretary**

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**President of Congregation**

*Jeffrey Derr*

**Vice-President**

*Ron Brown*

**Chairman Board of Elders**

*Randy Prange*

**Head Ushers**

Sat. - *George Juergens*

Sun. - *Larry Baade*

**Greeters**

Sat. – *Bob & Kris McFarland*

Sun. – *Craig Hansen*

**Altar Care**

*Linda Crider*

diapers; Mary had to get up for mid-night feedings until Jesus slept through the night.

## 2) “Myth”: Three kings visited Jesus in Bethlehem.

“We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar...”

*‘We Three Kings’, verse 1*

*Scriptural evidence:*

Matthew 2:1 - “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi (magoi) from the east came to Jerusalem....”

Acts 13:6, 8 – “They met a Jewish sorcerer (magos) and false prophet .... But Elymas the sorcerer (magos) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.”

Daniel 2:2 – “The king summoned the magicians (magoi), enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.”

**Results:** Myth “BUSTED” – Scripture never states there were three magi – there could have been many, many more – but we get the number “3” from the number of gifts that were given to Jesus (gold, frankincense, myrrh). Moreover, the magi from Matthew 2 were never called kings – they simply were called ‘magi.’ Magi, as can be seen from the above Scripture passages, never refers to kings, but to servants of kings that oppressed the people of Israel. They were in league with the supernatural power that opposed the one, true God. We often refer to the magi as “wise men,” but Scripture depicts them as anything but wise, needing revelation from God to find the right town and house where Jesus was. Summary: magi were enemies of God, but they were called by the working of the Holy Spirit to the manger, so that they would no longer be God’s enemies.

## 3) “Myth”: Cows, sheep, ox, donkeys, etc... were at Jesus’ birth.

“Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?”

*What Child Is This’, verse 2*

*Scriptural evidence:*

Luke 2:7, 16 – “And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.... So (the shepherds) hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.”

Isaiah 1:2-3 - “Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: “I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.””

**Results:** “TRUE: NOT A MYTH” – This may be surprising, especially since nowhere in the birth narratives are animals enumerated. There are even arguments about whether Jesus was born in a wood stable or in a cave (Scripture does not say, and custom points to animals being kept in caves). But even though the New Testament does not show any animal at the manger, God foretells in Isaiah, that even though the people of Israel would not know their Master laid in a manger, the ox and donkey were there and knew: this was their Creator, their Master come in the flesh.

++ Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, and may the peace of Jesus fill your days! – Pastor ++

# News and Notes of St. Peter



## Congregational Christian Care

Please pray for, phone, visit, and or send a card or note to the following:

Dorothy Davis (heart), friend of Norman Kochensparger; Steven Spear (stroke), nephew of Donna Smith; Kathy Newmann, friend of Laurie Trlak; Patience Underwood, friend of Berta Christman; Jay Beekman; Brandon Trlak (cancer Treatments); Walter Deeg (health and healing); Christy Trlak (under treatment); Gina Walker (cancer), friend of Sandy Gast; Joyce McCune (heart) friend of Jim & Peggy Hoch; Denis Miller (heart) friend of Ruth Moon; Mason Watkins, friend of the Guhl family; Pam Hite (terminally ill with breast cancer) friend of Pam Wertenberger; Jimmy Barnhart (cancer), relative of Laurie Trlak; Niki Boswell (stroke), niece of Diana Mason; Dolly (Ahlschwede) Kikuchi (cancer), relative of Diana Mason; Bertie Brooks (cancer), aunt of Leah Hiers; Geneva Stetzel (stroke), aunt of Leah Hiers; Don Fox (health Concerns), brother of Barba Eickhoff; LuAnn Lintz (hip therapy).

**Heritage of Huntington** – Maxine Stetzel

**Heritage, Warren** – Edward Campbell, Jr.  
(Room 277)

**Miller's Merry Manor** – Charles Weicht  
(Room 54)

**Norwood** – Wilbur & Ginger Van der Zee

**Tipton Place** – Mildred Leonard; Jean Simmons  
(Room 105)

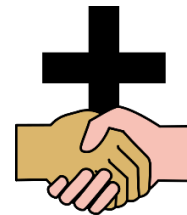
**Home** – Jason Cozad; Brian Leasenby; Pete Weicht  
(heart).

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

## 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

## Greeters



## Thank you

To Greeters of the month: DECEMBER  
*Bob & Kris McFarland* (Saturday) and *Craig Hansen* (Sunday)

Thank you to John Hillger for playing the organ for our Thanksgiving Eve and Midweek Advent Services.

Happy  
Anniversary

## December Anniversaries

Date		# Years
12/3	Charles & Mary Ellen Fuller	56

### *Seminary Donations*

Items are being collected for the Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne. This could include clothing (gently used or new) for men, women and children. Also household items, like linens, towels, sheets, etc. and paper towels and toilet paper are always needed. There are 2 collection barrels, 1 is located in the hallway of the Education Building and the other in the lower basement area. There will also be boxes for nonperishables food items; canned and packaged foods. Please have leave your items in the containers by the end of December; at that time everything will be taken to the Seminary showing our support.

Also, should you like to help the students by purchasing a gift card, please use Script and leave with the Script person or deliver to the office no later than December 8 so they can be delivered to the Seminary for distribution to the students for use for their Christmas. See flyers for more information on the gift cards or call the office.

### **Script Program**

Kroger Plus Card must be re-enrolled each January! Don't forget to do this in January. Thank you for supporting this program!  
**USE THE SCRIPT PROGRAM FOR EASY CHRISTMAS GIFTS.**



### *A Little Heavenly Humor*

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father John.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'

### *Parsonage*

The parsonage project is completed, and Pastor Lorenz and family have moved into their home. Money is still needed for this project, so please continue to use the envelopes marked for this purpose.

## ***Thank You Received***

The following thank you was received from Trinity Lutheran Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

Dear St. Peter E. Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation made toward our flood relief efforts here in Baton Rouge, LA. You can be assured that your gift will be used to help get church members and the community back on their feet.

Your continued prayers are coveted.

Thank you and God's blessings!

Your friends at Trinity Lutheran Church

Monthly	Progress	Report
Date	Attendance	Offering
10/30	101	\$2331.36
11/6	101	\$3513.25
11/13	107	\$3231.74
11/20	102	\$3050.00
11/27		

## **Organizations**

***Ladies' Guild*** – December meeting will be Monday, December 5, 2016 at 1:30 in the Lower meeting area of the education building. Come enjoy a Christmas Party of Bingo. No business meeting.

The Fall Bazaar was a HUGE SUCCESS with a profit of \$1588.17. A BIG THANK YOU goes out to Sue Eltzroth the organizer, to Sue Holtz, assistant and to all that donated items and worked the bazaar.

***St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS)*** will meet on Wednesday, December 14 at NOON. Location: Home of Harold and Janet Bennett. Lunch will be soup and desserts. Bring your favorite dessert to share. Soup and crackers will be furnished.

***Dorcas Circle*** will be meeting at the home of Mary Ellen Fuller on Wednesday, December 21. If unable to attend, please call Mary Ellen at 356-1715.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School will be held in church on Sunday, November 27 at 9AM with rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Service. Other rehearsals will be Sunday, December 4 and Sunday, December 11 at 9AM. Dress Rehearsal will be held on Saturday December 17 at 9AM (this is the day before the service) The service will be held on December 18 at 4:30PM with a pot luck dinner following in the education building gym hosted by the General Guild.

## **Advent Services**

***Advent Mid-Week Services:*** Theme "Songs For the Time of Christmas"

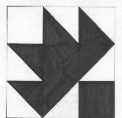
Week 1 – November 30 – "The Magnificat"

Week 2 – December 7 – "The Benedictus"

Week 3 – December 14 – "The Gloria in Excelsis"

Week 4 – December 21 – "The Nunc Dimittis"

Advent Suppers at 5:30 preceding service.



## Quilters Corner

The quilters meet each Wednesday from 9 o'clock to 12 noon, but will be taking a break after the quilting session on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Quilting will begin again on January 4, 2017. We'd like to invite anyone interested to join us at that time or contact Judy Turgeson 200-1376 or Anita Prout 356-3627 for further information.

Come join us in the joy of fellowship and help "Comfort the Needy".

Quilters are always thankful for donations of cotton fabric, new or slightly used flat sheets and pillowcases.



## 80 Plus Birthdays this month!

### DECEMBER

12/4	RUTH GUY	90
12/10	CHARLES FULLER	80
12/20	CHARLES WEICHT	87
12/21	SHIRLEY BURNAU	81
12/26	GINGER VANDERZEE	90
12/29	RUTH MOON	83

## Mission Envelopes

Please prayerfully consider using your mission envelopes each month. Mission envelopes are in your pledge envelope box at the beginning of each month.

## Upcoming Events at CTSFW—December 2016

Join the **Concordia Theological Seminary Guild for a cookie exchange and music by the CTSFW Kantorei** on Tuesday, December 13, at 1:00 p.m. in Luther Hall. Bring a plate of cookies to share in the exchange and stay for the beautiful music shared by the Kantorei. For more information contact CTSFW Guild President Joyce West at [joyciew43@gmail.com](mailto:joyciew43@gmail.com) or [419.258.2232](tel:419.258.2232).

### Music Events

*(All events take place in Kramer Chapel and all times are Eastern)*

Saturday, December 10

*Advent Candlelight Evening Prayer*

The Choirs of CTSFW

4:00 p.m.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### CTSFWS Tours

*Lands of Luther & Eastern Europe: Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation*

November 11–21, 2017

Hosted by CTSFW President and

Mrs. [Lawrence R. Rast Jr.](mailto:Lawrence.R.Rast@ctsfw.edu)

For more information go

to [www.ctsfw.edu/CTSFWTours](http://www.ctsfw.edu/CTSFWTours),

email [CTSFWTours@ctsfw.edu](mailto:CTSFWTours@ctsfw.edu) or

phone [260.452.2119](tel:260.452.2119).



## Christmas Caroling:

Mark your calendar to go Christmas Caroling on December 7 and 14. Carolers will leave the Education Building promptly at 4PM and return to participate in the Advent Supper before the Advent Service.

## ACOLYTES AND COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

### DECEMBER 2016

SAT DECEMBER 3	5:00 PM	RON BROWN	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		NORMAN KOCHENSPARGER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		NORMAN KOCHENSPARGER	ACOLYTE
SUN DECEMBER 4	10:15 AM	LARRY BAADE	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		JOSH REBER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		NOLAN HUGHES	ACOLYTE
WED DECEMBER 7	7:00 PM		ACOLYTE
SAT DECEMBER 10	5:00 PM	SAMANTHA WEICHT	ACOLYTE
SUN DECEMBER 11	10:15 AM	MIRANDA SPITLER	ACOLYTE
WED DECEMBER 14	7:00 PM		ACOLYTE
SAT DECEMBER 17	5:00 PM	TED MCELHANEY	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		JORDAN JONES	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		JASE GUNN	ACOLYTE
SUN DECEMBER 18	10:15 AM	HAROLD BENNETT	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		JIM HOCH	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		BRIANNA THOMAS	ACOLYTE
WED DECEMBER 21	7:00 PM		ACOLYTE
SAT DECEMBER 24	5:00 PM	ERICA BROWN	ACOLYTE
SUN DECEMBER 25	10:15 AM	ANDREW CRIDER	ACOLYTE
SAT DECEMBER 31	5:00 PM	RON BROWN	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		NORMAN KOCHENSPARGER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
		JASE GUNN	ACOLYTE

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.

**NOTE: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services will be DIFFERENT**

**Different Songs and Different Sermon**

# ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

## December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Confirmation 2	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service W/Communion
<b>4</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service W/Communion	<b>5</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 1:30 General Guild 7:00 Elders	<b>6</b> 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store 630 Confirmation 1	<b>7</b> 9:00 Quilter 5:30 Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Service	<b>8</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Confirmation 2	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
<b>11</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	<b>12</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council	<b>13</b> 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood 6:30 Confirmation 1	<b>14</b> 9:00 Quilter 12:00 SPARKS 5:30 Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Service	<b>15</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Confirmation 2	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service W/Communion
<b>18</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service W/Communion 4:30 Children's Christmas Service 5:30 Christmas Potluck Party	<b>19</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	<b>20</b> 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store 2:00 Messenger Deadline	<b>21</b> 12:00 Dorcas Circle 5:30 Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Service	<b>22</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:00 Divine Service – Christmas Eve
<b>25</b> 10:15 Divine Service – Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	<b>30</b> 11:00 Lutheran Life Villages Chapel Service	<b>31</b> 5:00 Divine Service W/Communion
<b>1/1/17</b> 10:15 Divine Service W/Communion						