

The

# Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

## From the Pastor

December 2017

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. (*John 10:22-23*)

This Gospel text takes place at the Feast of Dedication, also known as the Feast of Lights, or even more famously, “Hanukkah.” (Yes, this means that Jesus celebrated Hanukkah!). In 2017, the first day of Hanukkah begins on December 12.

Hanukkah traces its origins back to the inter-testamental time period. After the death of Alexander the Great, the Syrian general Antiochus IV came to rule the land we know as Israel. Under Antiochus, the pure and true worship of Yahweh was persecuted. Those caught observing the Sabbath, the rite of circumcision, and the avoidance of unclean food were put to death. Mothers who had their babies circumcised were crucified with their babies hanging around their necks. The daily temple sacrifices were replaced with heathen rituals. Hogs were driven into the temple, and their flesh was sacrificed on the altar to Zeus. Orgies took place throughout the temple; ceremonies for the Bacchus, god of wine and intoxication were instituted in place of temple sacrifice. This continued for 2 ½ years. The temple was desecrated. The Israelites were forced to give up the pure Word of the Lord, or face persecution.

In time, through the Maccabean revolt, the Israelites won their freedom to worship Yahweh as outlined in the Scriptures. In the winter of 164<sub>BC</sub>, the Israelites reclaimed the temple, cleansed it from the desecration which took place, and reinstated the former services and sacrifices. The temple was re-dedicated to the Lord: hence, the Feast of *Dedication*, or Hanukkah. According to traditional stories, almost all the olive oil reserved for use in the temple had been defiled; there was only enough clean oil to light the temple menorah for one day. That oil supply burned for 8 days, until new and pure oil could be supplied.

How beautifully do the themes of Hanukkah and Advent blend together! With Hanukkah (the Feast of Lights), God supplied light which overcame the darkness of paganism and unbelief. As Advent draws nearer and nearer to Christmas, we come closer and closer to celebrating the birth of Christ, who is the Light of the world. So writes Isaiah, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:2,6).

When Jesus returns in triumph and glory, idolatry and persecution and darkness will not prevail – they will come to an end... and with them all our sorrows, too, will cease, and we will see even greater glory than was ever seen. Therefore, let us pray with John and all the saints in heaven and on earth, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly.”

May the Lord bless and keep you throughout this Advent season in His peace, Amen.

-- 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:

Jimmy Barnhart (cancer), relative of Laurie Trlak; Jay Beekman; Niki Boswell (stroke), niece of Diana Mason; Bertie Brooks (cancer), aunt of Leah Hiers; Frank & Nancy Cozzen, brother-in-law & sister of Dewayne Anderson; Don Fox (health concerns), brother of Barba Eickhoff; Pam Hite (terminally ill breast cancer), friend of Pam Wertenberger; Dolly (Ahlschwede) Kikuchi (cancer), relative of Diana Mason; Terry Kindsvater (cancer), friend of Linda Crider and Mary Ellen Fuller; Mark Mason (cancer), friend of Larry & Susie Baade; Dennis Miller (heart & stroke), friend of Ruth Moon; Kathy Neumann, friend of Laurie Trlak; Steven Spear (stroke), nephew of Donna Smith; Geneva Stetzel (stroke), aunt of Leah Hiers; Brandon Trlak (cancer); Christy Trlak (treatment); Steven Welker (stroke), son-in-law of Donna Dennis.

**Englewood Health & Rehabilitation** – Mildred Craig

**Heritage of Huntington** – Maxine Stetzel; Robert Gernand

**Heritage, Warren** – Edward Campbell, Jr.

**Miller's Merry Manor** – Neil & Sandy Stonebraker; Charles Weicht

**Markle Health & Rehabilitation** – Jean Simmons

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

**Home** – Jason Cozad; Shirley Powell; Pete Weicht

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

## ADVENT SERVICES, 2017



### WHO IS JESUS?

**December 6: The Lion of the Tribe of Judah**

**December 13: The Star of Jacob**

**December 20: The Branch of Jesse**

Please join us at 7:00 pm for each of these Wednesday Advent services. A light meal will be served at 5:30 pm before each service.



## ***A Little Heavenly Humor***

### **Jesus is Better Than Santa**

Santa lives at the North Pole.  
JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh  
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year  
JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies  
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited  
JESUS stands at your door and knocks... and  
then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa  
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap  
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say  
is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"  
JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only  
does He know our name, He knows our  
address  
too. He knows our history and future and He  
even  
knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly  
JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO  
JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"  
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care  
for you.

Santa's little helpers make toys  
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts,  
repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but  
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

### *Heavenly Humor Continued*

While Santa puts gifts under your tree  
JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all  
about.

We need to put Christ back in Christmas.

Jesus is still the reason for the season.

Yes, Jesus is better, he is even better than Santa  
Claus!



## ***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.



## **80 Plus Birthdays this month!** ***December***

### **Date**

12/4	Ruth Guy	91
12/10	Charles Fuller	81
12/20	Charles Weicht	88
12/21	Shirley Burnau	82
12/26	Ginger Vanderzee	91
12/29	Ruth Moon	84

# Organizations

**Ladies' Guild:** Will meet on December 4<sup>th</sup> in the reception room of the education building at 1:30 p.m. Guild will once again be sponsor of the Congregational Christmas Pot-luck on December 18<sup>th</sup> (after the Children's Christmas Program) at 5PM. Meat and Drink along with table service will be furnished.

**St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS)** – The lucky winner of the drawing at the November meeting was Georgina Bischoff. The December meeting will be at 12:30pm on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in the lower level of the Church Education Building. The catered meal will consist of chicken casserole, fruit, rolls and dessert. The cost is \$8.00 per person. Please RSVP no later than December 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Please bring an item for Love INC. see the list of needed items.

**Dorcas Circle:** Will meet for a Christmas afternoon tea at the home of Mary Ellen Fuller on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. RSVP regrets only to Mary Ellen 260-356-1715 or contact her in the church office.

**Quilters:** Quilters will not be meeting on Wednesday December 20 and 27. We will begin on Wednesday, January 3.

## Love INC

For those organizations collecting food to be donated to Love, the following is the list of food items needed by Love INC.

Fruit	Vegetables	Cereal
Rice	Spaghetti Sauce	Soup
Salmon	Spaghetti Noodles	Tuna
Peanut Butter	Canned Chicken	Bar Soap
Dish Soap	Laundry Soap	Shampoo
Toilet Paper	Deodorant	Toothpaste

**LYF :** December 29, 2017 the youth group will be having a Christmas Party. There will be games and of course, food. Anyone in grades 6 – 12 is invited. We will be meeting at the education building at 5. If there is snow, (bring your sleds, change of clothes and snow clothes) as we will be going to Memorial Park for sledding fun. If no snow, we will still have fun at the school. We will also be having a Christmas gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift of \$4 - \$5 if you would like to participate. Friends are welcome. If they would like to participate in the gift exchange, they also need to bring a gift.

PARENTS are always welcome to come and stay for the fun as well as chaperone. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Linda Crider after 7:30 at 417-9213. You can also text during the day with a faster response.

So we have enough food, please let either Linda or the church office know if you are planning on coming by December 20. *Medical Registration forms will be available at Confirmation class and the church office.*

*Reminder that youth group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm*

**Choir:**

*Happy Anniversary*

## December Anniversaries

Date	# Years
12/3 Charles & Mary Ellen Fuller	57



## SCRIP for Christmas Gifts

Please remember all the gift cards that are available through SCRIP when doing your Christmas shopping. Remember you can purchase during the week during regular office hours as well as after church on Sunday morning. Some cards are available by pre order only. If you have a large number of cards, pre-payment is appreciated. **NEW** to the list is **Moe's** for here in Huntington. The Moe's cards are \$10.00 – a good Christmas gift.



A big Hug and thanks to all the helping hands at the Fall Bazar. A BIG thanks to all that donated numerous items, worded the bazar, and to those that purchased items from the bazaar.

It takes a church full of great members and community people to make it a success. The profit from the bazar was \$1700.00.

A Heartfull THANKS to all  
Sue Holtz

## Bazaar

THANKS to Sue Holtz for taking charge of the Fall Bazar this year.



## Christmas Marketplace at CTS

We are collecting gift cards again this year for the Seminary students Christmas. Gift cards in increments of \$10.00, \$20.00 or \$25.00 which may be utilized by students at local Ft. Wayne merchants-i.e. Wal-Mart, Target, Meijer, Sears, J.C. Penney's, Macy's or restaurants i.e. Outback, Olive Garden, Wendy's, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Red Robin, Texas Roadhouse, Buffalo Wild Wings, etc. Also Service/gas station cards from BP, Shell, Marathon or Speedway in increments of \$25.00 are welcome. Cash gifts to purchase dining hall lunch tickets for Non-residential students so they may purchase lunch tickets to eat on campus rather than bring their lunch. Deadline for this is Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

REMEMBER you can use SCRIP to purchase making this easy for everyone. Just place them in the marked envelope and we will see that they are taken to the seminary.

## Parsonage Open House

You are invited to the Parsonage on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Stop by for goodies and a time of relaxation with Pastor and his family!





## ST. PETER NEW MEMBERS 2017

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS BY CONFIRMATION AND TRANSFER



Beverly Webb, Koda Cook and Lynn Cook



The Lange's Macy, Tania, and Fred  
not pictured is Cassy



The Worshams' – Jacob, Trentin, Chad and Rachela,  
not pictured is Logan



The Herbers'  
Richard and Audra  
with Pastor Lorenz

If you have not already introduced yourself to them, please do so at the Congregational Christmas (Potluck) Party on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> after the children's Christmas program. The Children's Program is at 4PM in the church with the potluck following in the education building gym.

# SERVING THIS MONTH

## DECEMBER 2017

### ELDER

**SATURDAY: GEORGE JUERGENS**

**SUNDAY: LARRY BAADE**

### GREETERS

**SATURDAY: PAUL and SUE KELLAM**

**SUNDAY: JOHN WEGMANN**

**ALTAR CARE: LINDA CRIDER**

SAT DECEMBER 2	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RON BROWN
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	ADRIAN BROWN
		ACOLYTE	ERIKA BROWN
SUN DECEMBER 3	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JOSH REBER
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RICHARD WINKELMAN
		ACOLYTE	ANDREW CRIDER
WED DECEMBER 6	7:00 PM	ADVENT SERVICE	MIRANDA SPITLER
SAT DECEMBER 9	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	SAMANTHA WEICHT
SUN DECEMBER 10	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	IAN CRIDER
WED DECEMBER 13	7:00 PM	ADVENT SERVICE	JASE GUNN
SAT DECEMBER 16	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	TED MCELHANEY
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JORDAN JONES
		ACOLYTE	TED MCELHANEY
SUN DECEMBER 17	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RANDY PRANGE
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JIM HOCH
		ACOLYTE	DREW DORSETT
WED DECEMBER 20	7:00 PM	ADVENT SERVICE	ANDREW CRIDER
SAT DECEMBER 23	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	MIRANDA SPITLER
SUN DECEMBER 24	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	NOLAN HUGHES
SUN DECEMBER 24	7:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	HARROLD BENNETT
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JIM HOCH
		ACOLYTE	BRIANNA THOMAS
SAT DECEMBER 30	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RON BROWN
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	TED MCELHANEY
		ACOLYTE	TED MCELHANEY
SUN DECEMBER 31	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JEFF DERR
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RICHARD WINKELMAN
		ACOLYTE	IAN CRIDER
SUN DECEMBER 31	7:00 PM	ACOLYTE	JACE GUNN

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, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
3 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 2:00 Adult Confirmation	4 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 1:30 General Guild 6:30 Elders	5 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store	6 9:00 Quilters 4:00 Advent Caroling 5:30 Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Service	7 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	8	9 9:30-11:30 Children's Christmas Practice 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Service 2:00 Adult Confirmation 3:30 – 5:00 Parsonage Open House	11 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council	12 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood	13 9:00 Quilters 12:30 SPARKS 5:30 Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Service	14 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	15	16 9:30-11:30 Children's Christmas Practice 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
17 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 4:00 Children's Christmas Service 5:00 Christmas Potluck Party	18 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	19 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store 9:00 Pastor Circuit Meeting at Marion	20 Messenger Deadline 1:00 Dorcas Circle 4:00 Advent Caroling 5:30 Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Service	21 12:00 Bulletin Deadline Messenger Deadline	22	23 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
24 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 7:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	26 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood	27	28 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	29 5:00 LYF Lock-in	30 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
31 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 7:00 New Year's Eve Service						

**NOTES**