

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

December 2018

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” Micah 5:2

“Beth (in Hebrew) means “house”; lehem means “food” or “bread”; and Bethlehem means “a house of bread.” The city had that name because it was situated in a good, fruitful country, abounding in grain, so that it was granary for the neighboring towns. We call such a city a “breadbasket.” Formerly, it was called *Ephrata*, which means “fruitful.” Both names had the same cause, that it had fruitful and abundant soil. This signifies that without the Gospel, this earth is a wilderness, and there is no confession of God nor thanksgiving.

“But where the Gospel and Christ are, *THERE* is the Bethlehem abounding in grain and the thankful Judea. There everyone has enough in Christ and there is thanksgiving for divine grace. But human doctrines thank themselves and leave a barren land and deadly hunger. No heart is satisfied unless it hears Christ rightly proclaimed in the Gospel. The heart comes to Bethlehem and finds Him; it also comes and remains in Judea and thanks its God eternally. Apart from the Gospel, there is nothing but thanklessness and we would have nothing but starvation.” Martin Luther. 1525.

From the house of bread – Bethlehem – comes the bread of life – Jesus – (John 6)! He comes to feed the hungry with good things (Luke 1:53). He gives the Gospel to satisfy the needs of the world; He gives His very body and bloody, forgiveness, peace, mercy, hope, comfort, eternal salvation, life: in short, every good thing.

But Martin Luther reminds us that wherever Jesus/the Gospel is found, there is Bethlehem, our house of Bread. We don’t need to travel 10,000 miles in order to behold where Christ was given for “peace on earth, goodwill towards man.” We find our Bethlehem (our house of Bread) at our local congregation, where Jesus is laid in the cradle of your hands to eat and drink to give God’s peace and goodwill to you.

So the next time you sing, “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” instead of picturing a stable in the Middle East, picture your very own church, your Bethlehem, where Jesus comes to you with forgiveness and salvation.

“O little town of Bethlehem... in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n.”

Merry Christmas

Pastor Lorenz

News and Notes of St. Peter

Organizations

Ladies' Guild: Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 4th at 6:30 PM in the lower level of the education building.

The ladies will once again sponsor the **Congregational Christmas Potluck** to be held on Sunday, December 16, at 5PM, following the Children's Christmas Program. Drinks and table service will be provided as well as cake for dessert.

A baby shower for Mary Durham will be held after the Dinner when dessert will be served.

St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS) – The lucky winner of the drawing at the November meeting was Chuck Fuller. There will be NO December meeting. The January meeting will be held at noon on January 9th at Blazin Akers.

Dorcas Circle: Will meet at noon on Monday, December 17th at the home of hostess Mary Ellen Fuller. Please RSVP regrets only 260-615-5688. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY.

LYF: There are 6 youth interested in attending "Higher Things" this summer and the youth group is planning some fund raising activities to pay for their expenses (registration, transportation, etc.). For each youth, the cost is approximately \$400.00 (includes Materials, 3 nights lodging, 9 meals and T-shirt) for this four day retreat. One of their activities will be the Advent Dinners. Please support them by attending and giving generously.

Quilters: No quilting on Wednesday, December 26th and January 9th. We continue

to accept sheets to be used as backing and cotton material



**December
80 Plus Birthdays this
month!**

| Date | | |
|------|--------------------|----|
| 4 | Ruth Guy | 92 |
| 10 | Charles Fuller | 82 |
| 14 | Harold Bennett | 81 |
| 20 | Charles Weicht | 89 |
| 21 | Shirley Burnau | 83 |
| 26 | Ginger Van der zee | 95 |
| 29 | Ruth Moon | 85 |

SCRIP



Don't forget to purchase your gift cards for Christmas gifts from the church either after Sunday service or from the church office. If you want a card in a larger denomination than we normally carry, please let us know now and we will get for you. Also if you want a gift card for a merchant we normally don't carry, please let us know and we will get for you.

Memorials

Memorials have been given to St. Peter Lutheran Church in memory of:
Wilbur VanderZee



Christian Care

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

Wayne Ashbaugh Jr. (healing from surgery), son of Wayne and Nancy Ashbaugh; Wayne Ashbaugh Sr. (healing); Jimmy Barnhart (cancer), relative of Laurie Trlak; Niki Boswell (stroke), niece of Diana Mason; Peggy Broderick (cancer treatments), friend of Larry Baade; Bertie Brooks (cancer), aunt of Leah Hiers; Gary Brown; Amy Brunner, friend of Sandy Gast; Frank & Nancy Cozzen, brother-in-law & sister of Dewayne Anderson; David Dimond; Marcea Dimond; Don Fox (health concerns), brother of Barba Eickhoff; Ronald Gamble, nephew of Ruth Guy; Ruth Guhl; Janice Hencken; Jerome Herber (father of Richard Herber); Bradley Heideman; Margaret Howard, friend of Max Heffelfinger; Hazel Jackson (back problems), sister of Ruth Guy; Vicki Oden Kimmel, friend of Karen Smith; Richard Mann; Hilda Mitten, friend of Betty Pike; Adam Neumann, friend of Laurie Trlak; Betty Riggers; Steven Spear (stroke), nephew of Donna Smith; Susie Sprowl (cancer), friend of Jeff Derr; Geneva Stetzel (stroke), aunt of Leah Hiers; Brent Trlak (health problems), brother-in-law of Laurie Trlak; Brandon Trlak (cancer); Christy Trlak (treatment); Laurie Trlak; Steven Welker (stroke), son-in-law of Donna Dennis; April (Kirkpatrick) Wing (cancer), cousin of Marjorie Richardson; Dan Winkelman (cancer); Kathryn Whitesell; Chris Worsham, brother of Chad Worsham.

Englewood Health & Rehabilitation – Mildred Craig

Heritage of Huntington – Maxine Stetzel; Robert Gernand

Heritage, Warren – Edward Campbell, Jr.

Lutheran Life Village – Rev. Donald Fischer; Ruth Guhl

Miller's Merry Manor – Neil & Sandy Stonebraker

Tipton Place - Charles Weicht

Markle Health & Rehabilitation – Jean Simmons

Covington Health –Ginger Van der Zee

Home – Jason Cozad; Shirley Powell; Pete Weicht; Dick Christ

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. *Do you have tapes that have been dropped off to you in the past weeks? Please leave them for Pam and Jack to pick up when dropping off your new weekly tape.* They are needed to use again. Please call Pam and Jack Wertemberger at 356-8139 or Pam's cell phone: 260-388-2507 to arrange for delivery.

Voters

Elected officers of St. Peter at the November meeting are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Chairman of Congregation: | Jeff Derr |
| Recording Secretary: | Ted McElhaney |
| Financial Secretary: | Jennifer Gunn |
| Board of Church Property: | Steve Urschel |
| Board of Elders: | Randy Prange Richard Smith Larry Baade |
| Board of Stewardship: | Susie Baade John Wegmann |
| Board of Parish Life: | Kristi Cline |



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 \$1900.00. A Heartfull THANKS to all and to Sue Holtz and Karen Smith for taking charge.



A Little Heavenly Humor

Desperate Measures

Little Johnny went to his mother demanding a new bicycle. His mother decided that he should take a look at himself and the way he acts. She said, "Well Johnny, it isn't Christmas and we don't have the money to just go out and buy you anything you want. So why don't you write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead." After his temper tantrum his mother sent him to his room. He finally sat down to write a letter to Jesus.

Dear Jesus,

I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle.

Your Friend,
Little Johnny

Now Little Johnny knew that Jesus really knew what kind of boy he was (Brat).

So, he ripped up the letter and decided to give it another try.

Dear Jesus,

I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle.

Yours Truly,
Little Johnny

Well, Little Johnny knew this wasn't totally honest so he tore it up and tried again.

Dear Jesus,

I've thought about being a good boy this year and can I have a new bicycle?

Signed,
Little Johnny

Well, Little Johnny looked deep down in his heart, which by the way was what his mother was really wanting. He crumpled up the letter and threw it in the trash can and went running outside.

He aimlessly wandered about; depressed because of the way he treated his parents and really considering his actions. He finally found himself in front of a Catholic Church.

Little Johnny went inside and knelt down, looking around not knowing what he should really do. Little Johnny finally got up and began to walk out the door and was looking at all the statues. All of a sudden he grabbed a small one and ran out the door. He went home hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

Jesus,

I've broken most of the Ten Commandments; shot spit wads in school, tore up my sister's Barbie doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mama. If you ever want to see her again, give me a bike.

Signed,
You know who

Merry Christmas

SERVING THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 2018

ELDER

SATURDAY: GEORGE JUERGENS

SUNDAY: LARRY BAADE

GREETERS

SATURDAY: Paul & Sue Kellam

SUNDAY: Jim & Peggy Hoch

ALTAR CARE: Linda Crider

COUNTERS: Larry & Susie Baade

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------|
| SAT DECEMBER 1 | 5:00 PM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Ron Brown |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Chad Worsham |
| | | ACOLYTE | Jacob Worsham |
| SUN DECEMBER 2 | 10:15 AM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Jim Hoch |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Chris Durham |
| | | ACOLYTE | Andrew Crider |
| WED DECEMBER 5 | 1:00 PM | | |
| WED DECEMBER 5 | 7:00 PM | ACOLYTE | Ian Crider |
| SAT DECEMBER 8 | 5:00 PM | ACOLYTE | Jase Gunn |
| SUN DECEMBER 9 | 10:15 AM | ACOLYTE | Drew Dorsett |
| WED DECEMBER 12 | 1:00 PM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Richard Winkelman |
| WED DECEMBER 12 | 7:00 PM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Jeff Derr |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Norman Kochensparger |
| | | ACOLYTE | Miranda Spitzer |
| SAT DECEMBER 15 | 5:00 PM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Ted McElhaney |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Fred Lange |
| | | ACOLYTE | Macy Lange |
| SUN DECEMBER 16 | 10:15 AM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Randy Prange |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Richard Winkelman |
| | | ACOLYTE | Brianna Thomas |
| WED DECEMBER 19 | 1:00 PM | ACOLYTE | |
| WED DECEMBER 19 | 7:00 PM | ACOLYTE | Andrew Crider |
| SAT DECEMBER 22 | 5:00 PM | ACOLYTE | Samantha Weicht |
| SUN DECEMBER 23 | 10:15 AM | ACOLYTE | Ian Crider |
| MON DECEMBER 24 | 7:00 PM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Jeff Derr |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Chad Worsham |
| | | ACOLYTE | Jacob Worsham |
| SAT DECEMBER 29 | 5:00 PM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Adrian Brown |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Fred Lange |
| | | ACOLYTE | Macy Lange |
| SUN DECEMBER 30 | 10:15AM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Jeff Derr |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Jim Hoch |
| | | ACOLYTE | Drew Dorsett |
| MON DECEMBER 31 | 7:00 PM | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Fred Lange |
| | | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Randy Prange |
| | | ACOLYTE | Macy Lange |

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|-----------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion |
| 2 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 1:00 Adult Confirmation | 3 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 6:30 Elders | 4 11:00-12:00 Diaper Store 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 5:00-6:00 Diaper Store 6:30 General Guild | 5 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Advent Service 5:30 Advent Dinner 7:00 Advent Service 7:45 Choir | 6 2:00 Bulletin Deadline | 7 | 8 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service |
| 9 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 1:00 Adult Confirmation | 10 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council | 11 1:00 Chapel @ Millers | 12 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Advent Service 5:30 Advent Dinner 7:00 Advent Service 7:45 Choir | 13 10:00 PEP Gathering 12:00 Bulletin Deadline | 14 | 15 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion |
| 16 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 1:00 Adult Confirmation 4:00 Children Program 5:00 Congregational Christmas Party | 17 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 12:00 Dorcas Circle 7:00 Evangelism Committee | 18 11:00-12:00 Diaper Store 5:00-6:00 Diaper Store 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 7:00 BPLE | 19 9:00 Quilting 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 1:00 Advent Service 5:30 Advent Dinner 7:00 Advent Service 7:45 Choir | 20 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 2:00 Messenger Deadline | 21 | 22 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service |
| 23 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 1:00 Adult Confirmation | 24 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Christmas Eve Service | 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Office Closed | 26 7:30 Choir | 27 12:00 Bulletin Deadline | 28 | 29 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion |
| 30 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion | 31 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 New Year Eve Service | | | | | |

