

The  
**Messenger**

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

January, 2017

**From the Pastor**

January, 2017

**A Forgotten Gift**

*“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.” (Psalm 133:1)*

*“Brothers, let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)*

Church can be a burden. Services can often come early in the morning (following what can often be LATE nights). It conflicts with work schedules. Plus, you often hear that it is good for you to attend Bible Studies - a further demand upon your time - getting in the way of Sunday brunch or evening activities. Then there are all those meetings... and meetings... and meetings. There seems to be so many other things which are a better use of our time.

As you can see from Hebrews 10, this is not a new dilemma. Even in the years closely following the death of Jesus, gathering together as a congregation was seen as a burden. They just had things that were more pressing concerns.

What we fail to see, so many times, is that church (and all its related activities) is not given to us as a burden for us to bear, but as a gift. We confess it nearly every Sunday, “I believe in the holy catholic church, *the communion of saints*;” We do well in confessing the holiness of the church, but all too often, we forget about the ‘communion’ aspect. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor who lived and was persecuted under the Nazi regime, said this:

“In the period between the death of Christ and the day of judgment, when Christians are allowed to live here in visible community with other Christians, we have merely a gracious anticipation of the end time. It is by God’s grace that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly around God’s Word

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**Pastor**

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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. - *Randy Prange &*  
*Norman Kochensparger*

**Greeters**

Sat. - *Lowell and Marjorie*  
*Richardson*  
Sun. - *Harold and Janet Bennett*

**Altar Care**

*Leigh Ann Jones*

and sacrament in this world. Not all Christians partake of this grace. The imprisoned, the sick, the lonely who live in the diaspora (that is, the Christians scattered throughout the world), the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible community is grace. They pray with the Psalmist, "I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival." (Psalm 42:5) But they remain alone in distant lands, a scattered seed according to God's will. Yet what is denied them as a visible experience, they grasp more ardently in faith."

Bonhoeffer goes on to write, "The Christian cannot simply take for granted the privilege of living among other Christians. Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. In the end, all His disciples abandoned Him. On the cross He was all alone, surrounded by criminals and jeering crowds. He had come for the express purpose of bringing peace to the enemies of God.... (Therefore,) according to God's will, the Christian church is a scattered people, scattered like seed 'to all kingdoms of the earth' (Deuteronomy 28:25). That is the curse and its promise. God's people must live in distant lands among the unbelievers, but they will be the seed of the kingdom of God in all the world."

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the Christian church has not always been able to meet in openness and peace. Up until the point of Constantine, Christianity was an illegal and persecuted religion. The time and culture in which we now live resembles that time of the early church: a time when the culture and government was antagonistic towards the church. It is truly a gift that we are able to gather together in unconcealed joy, to celebrate the love of God given in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Remain steadfast in prayer that we may continue to enjoy this freedom, for there are already places where churches are being restrained from meeting together.

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 Neumann, friend of Laurie Trlak; Jay Beekman; Brandon Trlak (cancer); Walter Deeg (health and healing); Christy Trlak (under treatment); Gina Walker (cancer), friend of Sandy Gast; Denis Miller (heart & stroke) friend of Ruth Moon; 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; Bill Armstrong (cancer), husband of Beth; Allen Couch (healing from heart surgery); John Emley (healing), friend of Jim & Peggy Hoch; Robert Gernand (rehab) at Heritage of Huntington; Shirley Powell – stroke; Allen Couch - healing

**Heritage of Huntington** – Maxine Stetzel; Mildred Leonard (Room 166)

**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; 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

*Thank  
You*

**Thank you** for all the gifts, cards, thoughts and prayers that you gave to our family. We greatly cherish and appreciate them all. – Pastor Lorenz, Kristin, Abby, Noelle, and Oliver

To John Hillger for playing the organ for our Thanksgiving Eve and Midweek Advent Services.

To Greeters of the month: DECEMBER  
*Bob & Kris McFarland* (Saturday) and *Craig Hansen* (Sunday) and the month of JANUARY  
*Lowell and Marjorie Richardson* (Saturday) and *Harold and Janet Bennett* (Sunday)

To our soloists Gillian Lintz and Thomas Crider for blessing us with God's gift of your voice on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

## **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!

### **Directions to re-enroll**

#### **On the Internet:**

- \*Go to the Owen's Kroger website:  
<https://www.owensmarket.com/>
- \*Click on Create an Account
  - a. Follow directions: e-mail address etc.
- \*Register your Kroger Plus card by clicking on the space typing the digits on the card
- \*Type your last name
- \*Click Add Card
- \*Community Rewards
  - a. St. Peter's NPO number is 10371
  - b. It should show St. Peter Lutheran Church and our office address of 605 Polk St.
  - c. Click on Save
  - d. Click on Enroll when it appears
  - e. You should receive an e-mail that you have been enrolled.

#### **To enroll by PHONE**

1. Call Kroger at 1-800-576-4377
2. Give them our church name: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Huntington, IN
3. Give them St. Peter's NPO number: 10371
4. Give them your Kroger Plus card number

**THANK YOU FOR ENROLLING AND SUPPORTING THE SCRIPT PROGRAM**





## *A Little Heavenly Humor*

On the way home from church a little boy asked his mother, "Is it true, Mommy, that we are made of dust?"

"Yes, darling."

"And do we go back to dust again when we die?"

"Yes, dear', Why do you ask?"

"Well, Mommy, when I said my prayers last night and looked under the bed, I found someone who is either coming or going."

## *Parsonage*

Open House – You are invited to an open house at the parsonage on Sunday, January 8 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Goodies will be provided!

Monthly	Progress	Report
Date	Attendance	Offering
11/27	91	\$3,092.65
12/4	88	\$3,968.75
12/11	89	\$4,776.60
12/18	92	\$2,083.00
12/25	135	\$4,108.75



## **Greeters**

Greeters for the year are as follows:

### JANUARY

Sat 5:00 Lowell and Marjorie Richardson

Sun 10:15 Harold and Janet Bennett

### FEBRUARY

Sat 5:00 Diane Campbell

Sun 10:15 Jim and Peggy Hoch

### MARCH

Sat 5:00 Jim and Nancy Bowland

Sun 10:15 Craig Hansen

### APRIL

Sat 5:00 Janice Hencken

Sun 10:15 Bob and Ruth Whitesell

### MAY

Sat 5:00 Donna Dennis

Sun 10:15 Sue Holtz and Gabe

### JUNE

Sat 5:00 Bob and Kristin McFarland

Sun 10:15 Jack and Sandy Slusser

### JULY

Sat 5:00 Georgianna Bischoff

Sun 10:15 George and Barba Eickhoff

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 5:00 Sue Ann Eltzroth and  
Roseanne Christ

Sun 10:15 Linda Hollowell

### AUGUST

Sat 5:00 Diana Mason

Sun 10:15 Rolland and Vel Hoch

### OCTOBER

Sat 5:00 John, Jennifer and Jase Gunn

Sun 10:15 Dick and Jane Winkelman

### NOVEMBER

Sat 5:00 Ted and Janet McElhaney

Sun 10:15 Holly Cuttriss

### DECEMBER

Sat 5:00 Paul and Sue Kellam

Sun 10:15 John Wegmann

## Organizations

**Ladies' Guild** – No meeting in January. The next meeting will be February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the lower level of the education building.

**St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS)** – No meeting in January. Next meeting will be February 8<sup>th</sup> with location to be announced.

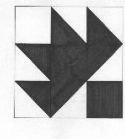
**Dorcas Circle** will be meeting on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> in the reception room in the education building. Joyce Gravley is hostess. If unable to attend, please call Joyce at 356-4652.

## Sunday School

**Adult Instruction Class** – Are you interested in becoming a member at St. Peter? Are you interested in learning more about what the Lutheran Church believes and teaches? Would you just like to brush up on what you learned in Confirmation Class? Adult instruction classes will be held Saturdays at 10 am, beginning on January 7. The class is open for everyone to attend, but if you are interested in taking the class, please let the church office know as soon as possible so we can order the proper amount of materials.

**Jr. Confirmation Classes:** resume the week of January 1, 2017

**Sunday School/Adult Bible Classes:** resume on January 8.



## 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!

### JANUARY

2	Lowell Richardson	81
15	Ruth McVoy	90
22	Marjorie Richardson	80

Happy  
Anniversary

## January Anniversaries

Date		# Years
1/19	James & Barbara Spreen	37

## ***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.



## ***CHILI COOK-OFF***

Watch weekly Saturday/Sunday Bulletins and bulletin boards for details of an upcoming Chili Cook-off. Details will be posted.

## ***Congratulations***

To Kristy Thomas upon the birth of her son Braden Lee on Tuesday, December 20. Both Mother and Son are doing well.

## ***Fallen Asleep in Jesus***

Brian Leazenby entered eternal life on Sunday, December 25, 2016

## ***CTSFW to Host Symposia Series***

The Symposia Series being held on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne on January 17-20. Pastor Lorenz will be attending, and will not be in the church office on these days; however, he will be available for emergencies and hospital visits.

## ***Seminary***

**Fieldworker Update** – Our fieldworker this year is Josh Reber. Beginning in January, as a part of his seminary training, Josh will be taking on a number of duties on Sunday mornings (which will include reading and leading parts of the liturgy). Thank you for participating in Josh's pastoral formation!

**Epiphany Evening Prayer Service** – This service will be held on Sunday, January 15, at 4:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. This service is sponsored by the Kantorei of CTSFW. The Kantorei is a men's choir of students studying for the pastoral ministry, directed by Kantor Kevin Hildebrand. This service includes choral music for the season and congregational hymns and canticles.

# ACOLYTES AND COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

## JANUARY 2017

SAT DECEMBER 31	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	ADRIAN BROWN
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	NORMAN KOCHENSPARGER
		ACOLYTE	JASE GUNN
SUN JANUARY 1	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LARRY BAADE
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	HAROLD BENNETT
		ACOLYTE	ANDREW CRIDER
SAT JANUARY 7	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	IAN CRIDER
SUN JANUARY 8	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	NOLAN HUGHES
SAT JANUARY 14	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	ADRIAN BROWN
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	TED MCELHANEY
		ACOLYTE	ERIKA BROWN
SUN JANUARY 15	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JOSH REBER
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JEFF DERR
		ACOLYTE	DREW DORSETT
SAT JANUARY 21	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	JASE GUNN
SUN JANUARY 22	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	BRIANNA THOMAS
SAT JANUARY 28	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	NORMAN KOCHENSPARGER
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	TED MCELHANEY
		ACOLYTE	NORMAN KOCHENSPARGER
SUN JANUARY 29	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JOSH REBER
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JIM HOCH
		ACOLYTE	MIRANDA SPITLER

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 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service W/Communion	<b>2</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 6:30 Elders	<b>3</b> 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store 6:30 Confirmation 1	<b>4</b> 9:00 Quilters	<b>5</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Confirmation 2	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
<b>8</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 3:30-5:00 Open House at Parsonage	<b>9</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council	<b>10</b> 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood 630 Confirmation 1	<b>11</b> 9:00 Quilters	<b>12</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Confirmation 2	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service W/Communion
<b>15</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service W/Communion	<b>16</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	<b>17</b> 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store 6:30 Confirmation 1	<b>18</b> 9:00 Quilters 12:00 Dorcas Circle	<b>19</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Confirmation 2	<b>20</b> 12:00 Messenger Deadline	<b>21</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
<b>22</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	<b>23</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	<b>24</b> 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood 6:30 Confirmation 1	<b>25</b> 9:00 Quilters	<b>26</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Confirmation	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service W/Communion
<b>29</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service W/Communion	<b>30</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	<b>31</b> 6:30 Confirmation 1				