

*The*

# Messenger

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St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

November 2017

## Hidden Sin

Think about your deepest, darkest sin: the one you have hidden in a place no one knows about. Now think about the shame you would have were that sin to be revealed for the world to see.

*The Picture of Dorian Gray*, written by Oscar Wilde, takes a fascinating look at sin. The main character is Dorian Gray, who is described as the image of perfection, innocent and beautiful. Also important to the story is Basil, an artist, and Lord Harry, a man who is the corrupting influence of Dorian Gray.

The narrative begins with Basil painting Dorian's portrait. So great was his love for Dorian, that Basil poured his inmost being into the painting, and after its completion, declared it to be his greatest work. But while the portrait was being painted: enter Lord Harry, who tantalized Dorian with philosophies, pointing out the temptations that existed all around him. Dorian was so enthralled with what Lord Harry was telling him that he exclaimed, "If it were I who was to be always young, and the picture that was to grow old!"

This seems to be a ridiculous prayer for Dorian, because - in the story - each person had to bear the effects of their sin; each vice, each transgression became imprinted on a person, so by the end of a person's life, a person would be twisted and ugly, hunched over by the effects of their lifetime of sin.

But amazingly, this did not happen with Dorian: his prayer had been answered. No matter what sin he fell into, Dorian's beauty remained unmarred, and he did not age one day. However, Dorian was shocked to see the picture Basil had created slowly showed the ugly effects of his sin: the man in the picture became twisted and repulsive. Horrified at what he saw, Dorian hid the picture away so that no one would ever see.

Freed from the effects of sin, Dorian "ate, drank, and made merry" throughout his life. With him, of course, were Basil and Lord Harry: Basil seeking to rescue Dorian (the object of his love) from sin, shame and condemnation; Lord Harry encouraging and enjoying the passion and lusts into which Dorian flung himself.

There were times when Dorian was overwhelmed, lost hope, and despaired - at times even expressing desire to amend his life. But through the influence of Lord Harry (who taught, "The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it") and his own flesh, Dorian continued to indulge his sinful desires, seeking to find hope, meaning, and forgetfulness. Though Dorian even at times attended church services, there he found no comfort or salvation, merely enjoying them for their beauty and liturgies. Hope remained elusive.

Finally overcome by despair and hating the sin-stained portrait, Dorian destroys it, and in so doing, ends up killing himself. Upon his death, the portrait returned to its original beauty, while Dorian lay shriveled up and disfigured upon the floor. In the end, Dorian bore the effects of his own sin.

While metaphors can only be taken so far before they distort reality and the Christian faith (and I caution against this while reading this novel), Oscar Wilde paints a picture of sin and redemption. We find a character depicting God and another depicting Satan. We find a man who seeks meaning and fulfillment through the pleasures of the flesh and by losing himself in the world. We find a picture of Jesus, who – through Holy Baptism – bears the sin of the sinner, that the sinner would appear before God as righteous and innocent. And in the end, when a sinner rejects the gift of Jesus? – Then the full wages of sin come upon the sinner and he dies, bearing the condemnation of his own sin.

Read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* – what does it say about sin? What does it say about Jesus? Unlike this novel, our sins are not revealed through disfigurement or ugliness – but like Dorian Gray, our sins are hidden - not in a portrait - but in Jesus, who has borne each of your sins, removed them from you, so that you may shine in the beauty and splendor of His innocence and righteousness. Rejoice and be glad – you are baptized into Jesus, your sins are removed; heaven is yours. 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; Dorothy Davis (heart), friend of Norman Kochensparger; 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; 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 (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 and hang on your door for pick up when a new tape is delivered, if we don't see you. Thanks for your help.

Jack & Pam Wertenberger



## Greeters

Greeters for the following months are:

### DECEMBER

Sat	5:00	Paul and Sue Kellam
Sun	10:15	John Wegmann

## Hospital Contact Information

Please be sure to list Pastor Lorenz on contact information upon entering the hospital or nursing home even for rehabilitation. Because of HIPPA, information is not released to the pastor.



## 80 Plus Birthdays this month! November

Date		
11/1	Dorothy Keehn	94
11/28	Shirley Kaiser	82

**NOTE:** Don't see your anniversary listed, or you are 80 and over and don't see your birthday listed, please check with the office and give the information to secretary. As we probably are lacking this information. We would very much like to have it so our records could be complete.

Happy  
Anniversary

## November Anniversaries

Date		# Years
11/11	John & Jennifer Gunn	17
11/22	Jack & Sandy Slusser	56
11/22	Jack & Pamela Wertenberger	38
11/26	Richard & Eleanor Smith	51
11/27	Keith & Linda Crider	25
11/30	Darrin & Jill Dorsett	26

## Memorials

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

Roseann Christ



## *A Little Heavenly Humor*

### **BE THANKFUL FOR LIFE**

Even though I clutch my blankets and groan when the alarm rings each morning, thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see. There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the physical effort of rising, thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedfast.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our table never looks like the pictures in the magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced. Thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no work.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.

**Source: Unknown**



## *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.



## Food for Love INC

It has come to our attention that the shelves at LOVE INC are about bare. Perhaps on the next food shopping trip your family makes you could pick up a couple of extra cans or boxes of food and deposit in the back of church in the box marked LOVE. The box is under the south side coat rack. We have volunteers that will take the food to LOVE.

Here are some much needed items:

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		

## Did You Know?

That St. Peter Lutheran Church has the following members that volunteer at LOVE each month and see the bare shelves.

They are:

Allen Couch and his wife Mary  
Barbara Spreen  
Pam & Jack Wertenberger  
Joan Kendall (former member)



## FISH FRY SUPPER

The Fish Fry will be held November 4<sup>th</sup> with serving time from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. Carry outs will be available at the John Street entrance to the Education Building.

The menu will include fish, German potato salad, potato chips, applesauce, bread and butter, plus pie and cake. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 4-12, with those 3 and under free.

# St. Peter Organizations

**Ladies' Guild** – Will meet on November 6<sup>th</sup> in the reception room of the education building.

**Potato Bar:** Thanks to everyone that donated food and those that helped with this project in any way. We have notified Cassy that we have \$600 for her when she is ready for it. That was all profit going to Cassy.

**St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS)** – is a just for fun group that meets at various eating places in town and is open to everyone over 55. We meet at noon on the second Wednesday of each month - next meeting will be at noon on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Moe's. We have a cash drawing at each meeting for fun - winner of the drawing at the October meeting was Harold Bennett.

**Dorcas Circle** - will meet on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Holly Cuttriss. RSVP regrets only to Holly at 260-356-5628.

**Quilters** – The quilters send a heartfelt thank you to the gracious anonymous giver of the generous blessing of monies toward our shipping fund. God Bless You! If you would like to join this group, come on Wednesday, from 9-noon. We always welcome new people and are thankful for donations of cotton fabric and new or slightly used flat sheets and pillowcases. You don't have to know how to quilt to join us.



Some of the quilts blessed on LWML weekend, October 7 & 8.

**LYF** - Youth will be meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Room of the Church Education Building.

**Choir** - Please join the choir on Wednesday evenings at 7PM. Gather in the church by the piano.

**PEP** – November 2<sup>nd</sup> 9AM workers meeting  
Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> PEP Gathering

Parents Encouraging Parents ( PEP) is off and running! We have had two meetings already and the group is growing. The parents have enjoyed reading through the Bible Study, Blessings for Parents, and also studying topics related to parenthood. The kids have had a great time playing and doing crafts with our great volunteers. With our grant money from Thrivent, we were able to purchase Bible study materials, craft materials and snacks which have helped us get the program off the ground. We looked forward to our event each month and hopefully we will continue to grow. Thank you again for all of your prayers and support and a special thanks to all the volunteers that have helped with the events! Thanks, Kristin



Children and Parents attending October meeting



PEP Helpers

## St. Peter Boards

**Board of Mission and Evangelism** - "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13, 14). Are you interested in being on the Board of Mission and Evangelism? Or would you like to participate in evangelism activities? If so, please contact Jeff Derr. Board meetings are scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at 6:00 pm.

**Board of Parish Life** - The *Children's Christmas Program* is scheduled for Sunday, December 17. Participants will begin learning the songs during the Sunday School hour beginning November 12, so if your children are participating, please have them in attendance. Saturday practices will be announced soon.



## Country Store

Are you crafty or like to bake? The Country Store organizers are looking for you. If you have craft items or baked goods to donate, please let Sue Holtz know. Her phone is 260-344-1702. The country store will be held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 7pm. Please bring items to the school on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> no *later than 3pm*. Please No Garage Sale items. Lunch (chili, hot dogs etc.) will again be available until 2pm. If you can help at any time during these hours, please let Sue know.

There will be handmade quilts available for sale at the *Country Store*. The proceeds will be used for the shipping expenses of the quilts made for the "Comfort the Needy" project.

*Thank  
you*

The family and friends of Maryann Clemmer deeply appreciate your prayers and want to thank you. God has returned Maryann to health and she is now free from cancer.

God's blessing to all.  
Sandy Gast

## Something for the Kids

### Thanksgiving Word Search

N	N	R	O	C	T	N	C	G	A
S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	R	C
N	I	K	P	M	U	P	D	A	J
S	Q	U	A	S	H	H	J	V	L
H	T	U	R	K	E	Y	Y	Y	D

corn  
gravy  
pumpkin  
squash  
stuffing  
turkey



# SERVING THIS MONTH

## NOVEMBER 2017

### ELDER

**SATURDAY: GEORGE JUERGENS**

**SUNDAY: RICHARD SMITH**

### GREETERS

**SATURDAY: TED AND JANET MCELHANEY**

**SUNDAY: HOLLY CUTTRISS**

### ALTAR CARE: HOLLY CUTTRISS

<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
SAT NOVEMBER 4	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RON BROWN
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	ADRIAN BROWN
		ACOLYTE	ERIKA BROWN
SUN NOVEMBER 5	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JIM HOCH
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JOSH REBER
		ACOLYTE	BRIANNA THOMAS
SAT NOVEMBER 11	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	JASE GUNN
SUN NOVEMBER 12	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	DREW DORSETT
SAT NOVEMBER 18	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	TED MCELHANEY
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JORDAN JONES
		ACOLYTE	SAMANTHA WEICHT
SUN NOVEMBER 19	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RANDY PRANGE
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LARRY BAADE
		ACOLYTE	NOLAN HUGHES
WED NOVEMBER 22	7:00 PM	THANKSGIVING EVE ACOLYTE	ANDREW CRIDER
SAT NOVEMBER 25	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	JASE GUNN
SUN NOVEMBER 26	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	BRIANNA THOMAS

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

## November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00 Quilters  7:00 Choir	<b>2</b> 9:00 PEP Meeting  12:00 Bulletin Deadline  6:30 Jr. Confirmation		<b>4</b> 9:00 Country Store 5:00 Fish Fry
<b>5</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class  10:15 Divine Service w/Communion  2:00 Adult Confirmation	<b>6</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage  10:15 Chapel @ Tipton  1:30 General Guild  6:30 Elders	<b>7</b> 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store  4:00-6:00 Diaper Store	<b>8</b> 9:00 Quilters  12:00 SPARKS  7:00 Choir	<b>9</b> 10:00 PEP Gathering  12:00 Bulletin Deadline  6:30 Jr. Confirmation	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 4:00 Bible Class  5:00 Divine Service
<b>12</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class  10:15 Divine Service  2:00 Adult Confirmation	<b>13</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage  10:15 Chapel @ Tipton  7:00 Council	<b>14</b> 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood	<b>15</b> 9:00 Quilters  Noon Dorcas Circle  7:00 Choir	<b>16</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline  6:30 Jr. Confirmation	<b>17</b> Pastor at Lutheran Life Village	<b>18</b> 4:00 Bible Class  5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
<b>19</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class  10:15 Divine Service w/Communion  2:00 Adult Confirmation  5:30 LYF	<b>20</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage  10:15 Chapel @ Tipton  7:00 Voters	<b>21</b> 9:00 Pastor Circuit Meeting @ Huntington  11:00-1:00 Diaper Store  4:00-6:00 Diaper Store	<b>22</b> 9:00 Quilters  7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service	<b>23</b> THANKSGIVING	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 4:00 Bible Class  5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
<b>26</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class  10:15 Divine Service w/Communion  2:00 Adult Confirmation	<b>27</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage  10:15 Chapel @ Tipton  6:00 Board of Evangelism	<b>28</b> 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood	<b>29</b> 9:00 Quilters  7:00 Choir	<b>30</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline  6:30 Jr. Confirmation		

