

St. Peter Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Join us for Christmas Eve
Worship Services at
4 PM and 10 PM

January Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, December 20, 2015

THE MESSENGER



Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 PM and 10:00 PM



The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – December 2015

From the Interim Pastor.....December 2015

As we come into a season that puts the emphasis on giving and gratitude for what we receive, we are reminded to ask ourselves how we can do this the rest of the year as well. It is so tempting to focus on what we do not have that we can lose our appreciation for what we have already received.

Age and experience are very good teachers and they have taught me to look for the values that can guide me as I go through this world. I would like to know that I did some good for someone when I get to the end of my life.

Faith can teach us how to do this. For instance, scripture passages like Philippians 2 and Romans 8 have convinced me not only to be grateful for the new life that Jesus Christ has given to me, but they also have shown me what to do with this new life. I simply give it back by sharing it with the people who need it the most.

For me this boils down to the values of gratitude and serving others. This is pretty simple but difficult to do. It is so easy to take others for granted. It is so easy to receive a gift and to think – “well I deserved it.” It is so easy to look for what I don’t have and to pursue that instead of valuing what I already have been given.

This is my struggle to keep faithful to the values that have come from my faith and that guide my life. What values guide your life and how do you struggle to keep faithful to them?

The **call committee** will meet for the third time after church on November 29th. We hope to update our profile from 2010 and then send it on to the Synod office so that we are ready to participate in the call process. The next orientation session is in December to explain how the call process works. After the New Year we can begin to see what candidates are available.

These are the people from St. Peter who have volunteered to serve on the call committee; Ed Fritz, Yvonne Koenig, Bob Kloepfel, Ken Kloepfel, Dan Kramer, Sharon Reel, and Aaron Trentman. Our thanks to all of them for helping with this.

Finally thank you for the donations of money and auction items for our fund raiser the end of October for the girl’s orphanage in Ukraine. If you search on Google for “**The Good Samaritan Orphanage in Ukraine**” you can get a very good description and history. We had hoped to raise between \$3,000 or \$4,000 to help purchase a handicap accessible van and instead we raised \$11,000. This still won’t buy the van but it can be added with donations from other groups who are also committed to this project. On behalf of girls you will never meet, thank you!

Pastor Steve

A message from Northwestern Ohio Synod

After much research, planning and negotiation, we wanted to alert you as soon as we possibly could about the costs for the upcoming 2016 Bishop's Election Assembly.

Due to several significant factors, the cost per voting member will be \$210.

We understand that this is a much higher cost than in previous years, and we apologize for this, but there are several reasons why the costs are as high as they are:

1. The event this year is 2.5 days long and that adds thousands of dollars in space rental costs.
2. Bowling Green State University expenses for room rental alone have skyrocketed. We know that we will certainly need to look at other ways and different places "to do" assembly in the future. We continue our commitment to provide a worthwhile, meaningful experience for Voting Members with education, ministry promotion, etc. but clearly, modifications of length and location are in order. (Because we reserve locations several years out, unfortunately, it is not reasonable to change venues for the 2016 event).
3. The request has been made to **NOT include meals** in Assembly fees because of the increased costs to congregations. Please know we have listened and offer compromise. Thursday evening and all meals on Friday are "on your own"/optional. We have been told that there will be several restaurants open in the Student Union and available to serve on Thursday and Friday for those who do not wish to leave the premises. Of course, there are many restaurants on Wooster and in downtown Bowling Green that folks may utilize on Thursday and Friday.

Bishop Lohrmann's recognition and farewell banquet will be held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 6:30pm; tickets will be \$35/person and are available during Assembly registration. Anyone interested in attending the banquet is welcome to purchase a ticket and participate, this event is not limited to Voting Members! (More information on this special event will be available soon!)

On Saturday, however, per the specific request of Synod Council, we have included in the Voting Member costs, a *box lunch*. This has been done for several reasons: a. this lunch serves as the Recognition Lunch for retiring Rostered Leaders and those celebrating special Ordination Anniversaries; b. the restaurants in the Student Union are not open; and c. it is important that we stay together as a voting membership for the duration of the event - it is a matter of perspective and partnership in ministry, not convenience.

4. The synod has subsidized the cost of Assembly for many, many years in order to keep the costs to congregations as low as possible. Because the Synod Office revenue has dropped so drastically, so has the cash reserves, which means that the Synod Office cannot afford to subsidize this event any longer.

We know there are synods out there whose Assembly costs less, but we also know of many more whose costs far exceed what we need to charge each Voting Member for this year's event. Please know we have been as economical and practical as possible in event planning. Thus, we pray for your understanding as we move forward as a Synod together, facing the challenges that are before us with faith that God has given us all we need and trusting that God will make a way for us...surprising us all the way along our journey together.

If you need further information, please feel free to contact me at sherry.krieger@nwos-elca.org or call me at [419.423.3664](tel:419.423.3664).

God's peace,
Sherry Krieger,
Director for Administration and Communication, NWOS-ELCA

General Announcements



Radio ministry was given to the glory of God in November by:
Dave and Linda Mayer and Family
Himmeger Family in loving memory of Earl Himmeger
Ralph and Ella Theis in celebration of Ella's birthday
Dave and Connie Stemen
Michelle Nagel in loving memory of Walt and Shirley Arnette



The flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God in November by:
Peter and Lyn Kesler in celebration of the wedding of their daughter, Emily to Michael Snider
Dave and Connie Stemen in celebration of Emily Dienstberger's 13th birthday and in celebration of Rick and Marla Dienstberger's 18th wedding anniversary.
Aaron and Jennifer Trentman in celebration of Jacob's 7th birthday
Ed and Jacquie Fritz in celebration of great-granddaughter Adelayne Bowersock's first birthday



Readers Needed for the first and second scripture lessons during the worship service for Sundays. Please sign up in the red book at the back of church.



Quilting Day There is no quilting day in December. Next quilting day will be Wednesday, January 20th at 9:00 am.



Christmas Eve Service will be Thursday, December 24th at 4:00 PM and 10:00 PM.
(There will be no Longest Night Service this year.)



The 2016 Flower Chart is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please sign up for that special occasion or celebration.



Radio Ministry is looking for sponsors. There is a sign-up sheet in the red book. The cost is \$45.00 for the half hour broadcast on WDOH on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM.

THANK YOU

Thank you to those who participated in the book study, Understanding Poverty. If you missed out on this, there will be copies of the chapters we discussed in the fellowship hall.



New Adult Bible Study: before Amen by Max Lucado, led by Dave Stemen. Sunday School starts at 9:00 AM.



Save the date! The annual Quarterless Auction will be Saturday, March 5, 2016! Watch for more details in the next newsletter. You're going to want to get your ticket and bring a friend....prizes are going to be awesome this year!



Quarterless Auction is looking for prize sponsors for the auction. St. Peter Quarterless Auction has gained a good reputation for having great prizes at our fund-raiser. Pick which prize you want to sponsor (you can be anonymous on the day of the auction, if you prefer). Reimburse the auction committee for the item you want to sponsor. We will turn the information into the

right party for your year-end donation. Remember that your donations are tax deductible. Sponsors needed for:

La Crosse Digital Thermometer Indoor/Outdoor	\$24.49
Vacu Vin Wine Cooler	\$ 9.99
Vacu Vin Wine Cooler	\$ 9.99
Keuring Mini Brewer	\$63.51
Scotts Yard Fertilizer Broadcasting Spreader	\$26.69
Dual Buffet Crock Pot Slow Cooker	\$13.88
Little Tykes Cosy Coupe	\$23.11

Watch the newsletter and bulletin for more items in the future. Thank you for your support.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild's regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

NEWS FOR WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Good Morning/Good Shepherd Bible Study will meet Wednesday, December 16th, at 10:00 AM at Vancrest. There will be open discussion. Everyone is invited to come for this time of study and fellowship.

The December Devotional Study is titled: "Imagining an Advent Lesson".
Theme verse: Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 1:39-45 and Luke 1:46-55.

WELCA The regular meeting for December is on Monday, December 14th at 7:00 pm.

Keep our Military Friends and Family in your Prayers:



Jonathan Staples	Army National Guard	Stateside
John & Amber Becket	Air Force	Dalzell SC
Mike Hershberger	Navy	San Diego CA
Fred Hasting	Navy	Stateside
Collin Swick	Navy	Norfolk VA

InReach/OutReach

The next InReach/OutReach Meeting is Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30 PM.



Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain - If you would like your name added to the prayer chain (e-mail or phone) please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan or the church office.

When requesting a prayer chain to be started, it would be best to call Susan at the above number in case she isn't planning on being at her computer. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office.



Usher or Communion Assistant If you are interested in being an usher or communion assistant periodically during a worship service, please see Susan McGue to sign up.



Thank you for supporting the Buckeye Candy Fundraiser. The InReach/OutReach Team was able to raise \$748 for the Steeple Restoration Project.

Remember our Shut-ins

Vancrest Health Care
1425 E Fifth St.
Delphos, OH 45833
Alma Kloepfel
Melvin Kloepfel
Ella Theis
Ralph Theis

Pat Wreede
10479 Ridge Rd
Delphos, OH 45833

Carl Dienstberger
E. Fourth St.
Delphos OH 45833

Offering Recap for November 2015

Worship attendance for 10-25-2015	52
Worship attendance for 11-01-2015	56
Worship attendance for 11-08-2015	55
Worship attendance for 11-15-2015	57

Amount needed **each week** to meet approved budget: \$ 2,127.28

Total donations received for General Operating Fund

10-25-2015	\$2,557.50	we exceeded our goal by	\$ 430.22
11-01-2015	\$1,012.75	we missed our goal by	\$1,114.53
11-08-2015	\$1,272.00	we missed our goal by	\$ 855.28
11-15-2015	\$1,566.00	we missed our goal by	\$ 561.28

Year-to-date 2015 (-\$5,002.45)

We love seeing you at our weekly service. If you aren't able to attend please remember that our bills continue to arrive in the mail and your generous donations are greatly appreciated weekly. Thank you!

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Thrivent Choice®: Strengthening communities. Changing lives.

Thrivent Choice, the member-advised charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial, continues to be a welcome funding source for churches and nonprofit organizations nationwide.

If you are an eligible Thrivent member, you likely are aware of this easy, convenient way to help make a difference for organizations you care about. The Thrivent Choice program offers a way for eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable grant funds each year.

Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars® that they can direct, thereby recommending charitable grant funding for their choice among thousands of enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations, including **St. Peter Lutheran Church**. To date for 2015, Choice Dollars grant funds totaling **\$1,126.00** have been distributed overall. These funds are funneled through WELCA and have supported maintenance projects within our church.

If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

Choice Dollars designated to eligible benefit members in 2015 must be directed by March 31, 2016.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and chapters in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grants are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's terms and conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1) Sheri Swick
- 1) Taylor Aldrich
- 2) Mark Himmeger
- 2) Austin Munshower
- 3) Alexa Marlow
- 4) Margene Freund
- 4) Angie Miller
- 5) Dan Dienstberger
- 8) Kate Blue
- 12) Richard Hagger
- 12) Corey Kloepfel
- 12) Travis Apple
- 13) Patti Calvert
- 13) Susan Grothouse
- 13) Paul Ralston
- 14) Leslie Shafer
- 14) Sarah Hershberger
- 14) Ryan Nomina
- 14) Marianne Wollet
- 14) Amy Nighswander
- 15) David Allemeier
- 15) Noelle Prine
- 16) Robert Wortman
- 16) Daniel Marlow
- 17) Jonathan Finn
- 17) Jonathan Finn
- 18) Cathy Wreede
- 18) Cathy Wreede
- 19) Carolyn Rice
- 20) Martina Himmeger
- 20) Leonard Prine, Jr
- 21) Kyrstin Warnecke
- 23) Kenadi Brinkman
- 24) Sharon Feathers
- 26) Sue Vasquez
- 26) Mike Finn
- 28) William Turner
- 28) Renee Carder
- 28) Dylan Brinkman
- 28) Elaine Wiechart
- 29) Troy Kloepfel
- 31) Ronald Heidenreich

Community News

Thank You

A tremendous “Thank You” to everyone involved with the (3) 2015 Laborers R Us Workdays. Since 2012 we have provided volunteer labor of over 385 hours to complete more than 35 projects. This year we completed over 15 projects with 26 volunteers giving more than 225 hours in volunteer labor. Volunteers participating were from various churches including St Peter Lutheran, Trinity United Methodist & St John’s Catholic. A special “Thank You” to Pat’s Donuts for the delicious coffee cakes, donuts & pizzas. St Peter Lutheran & Trinity United Methodist Women helped cover expenses we had for beverages & meals. Our income this year through donations, Pennies for Projects & Recycling came to over \$2,000.00 with expenses of close to \$1,600.00. We have some funds for 2016 projects however a large project of over \$3,500.00 has been requested so we really need your help. In 2016 the workdays will be the (5) Saturdays of October. Please mark you your calendars & plan on volunteering whenever you can. If you wish to save your coin please stop at Trinity United Methodist Church 211 E 3rd St. & pick up a jar. Donations can also be sent to Trinity, make checks to Laborers R Us. We also have an account with Delphos Recycle if you wish to donate there. Some recipients are able to provide material funds & donate funds for others who cannot. We couldn’t do this ministry of community service without your help. Please prayerfully consider how you can become a part or continue being a part of this ministry of service to our neighbor in need. Applications for 2016 projects are available at The Delphos Library.



Ecumenical Christmas Service On Sunday, December 6th at 7:30pm, the Delphos Ministerial Association will present an evening of music and reflections at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Soloists and groups from various churches are involved, as well as young people from Jefferson and St. John’s High Schools.



Christmas Tree Festival The 17th Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath display will be at the Delphos Canal Commission on Saturdays from 1-4 pm. Stop by and see the displays. The InReach/OutReach Team participated again this year. The items donated will be given to the YWCA in Van Wert. Thank you for your support.

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 6	10:00 AM	Paige Kloepfel	Aaron Kloepfel	Dave Stemen Dan Staples Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Rick Dienstberger, Yvonne Koenig
ALTAR GUILD – Linda Mayer, Jane Gonyea, Angie Miller

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 13	10:00 AM	Emily Dienstberger	Ron Kloepfel	Aaron Trentman Alan Trentman Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Rick Dienstberger, Yvonne Koenig
ALTAR GUILD – Linda Mayer, Jane Gonyea, Angie Miller

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 20	10:00 AM	Kylee Dienstberger	Bob Wortman	Butch Prine Aaron Kloepfel Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Rick Dienstberger, Yvonne Koenig
ALTAR GUILD – Linda Mayer, Jane Gonyea, Angie Miller

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	Kaiden Trentman Colin Koebel	Ryan Trentman Kristin Koebel	Dave Mayer Jordan Koebel Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD – Linda Mayer, Jane Gonyea, Angie Miller

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 24 Christmas Eve	10:00 PM			Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD – Linda Mayer, Jane Gonyea, Angie Miller

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 27	10:00 AM	Troy Calvelage	Eric Fritz	Rick Dienstberger Larry Miller Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Rick Dienstberger, Yvonne Koenig
ALTAR GUILD – Linda Mayer, Jane Gonyea, Angie Miller

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
January 3	10:00 AM	Maddie Weitzel	Dave Mayer	Dan Kramer Dan Marlow Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Sue Kloepfel, Deb Trentman
ALTAR GUILD – Susan McGue, Sue Kloepfel