

St. Peter Lutheran Church
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DELPHOS, OHIO 45833

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Join us for Christmas Eve
Worship Services at
4 PM and 7 PM

January Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, December 20, 2020

THE MESSENGER



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

Christmas Eve Services: Thursday, 4PM and 7PM



The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – December 2020

A Little Bit of This and That...

As I begin to write this, the week before Thanksgiving, I am reminded to give thanks in all circumstances. God is in our midst, even in the midst of the great changes we have had to adapt to day in and day out during the last nine months. Even so, God is at work. We only see through a veil dimly and cannot fully understand why we must endure things like pandemics or the death of those we love. We struggle with all of the changes, but God is here in our midst calling us to draw near. Maybe it is in that moment when you sit quietly and open your heart to God that you experience the sweet presence of God. Maybe you see God at work in those around you. Or maybe God has given you a scripture verse to bring peace and the knowledge that you are not alone?

On November 22, we celebrated the last Sunday of the church year and worshipped Jesus as our amazing king. We saw in the scriptures that that he will come again in power and there will be a time of judgment and separation between those whom Jesus referred to as the sheep and the goats. We were reminded that a part of our call as followers of Christ is to love and care for those in need. When we help others in need, we also are helping Jesus.

Now as we see November, the month in which we take special time out to count our blessings, slipping by many of us recognize that we will be celebrating alone this year. Families have been encouraged to social distance and not risk spreading the virus to each other. This is hard, but we can still rejoice and count our blessings. This year more than ever, it is important to keep our eyes on our King.

As we enter the season of Advent, we actively wait and hope for our king to come to us as a baby. We marvel that God would use a young unmarried girl to be the mother of our Lord. We marvel at the fulfillment of the prophets that a King would come to bring hope and healing and to set the prisoners free.

This Advent, may you watch and stay alert to the hope that is found in Christ Jesus. May you find quiet moments in the midst of preparation to sit and just be quiet before our Lord. Yes, he is coming, but he is also here in our midst now to be our ever present help when we are feeling overwhelmed. Jesus, the one who comes to us out of great love, comes to you. Won't you make room for him now as you prepare to welcome him this Christmas?

May God bring the gift of his presence this Advent and Christmas to bless you and let you know how much you are loved.

Blessings,
Vicar Carol

General Announcements



Radio ministry was given to the glory of God in November by:
The Himmeger Family in loving memory of Earl Himmeger
Leonard and Shirley Jarman
Norma Koenig in memory of Ted Koenig
Dave and Connie Stemen in honor of their family
Mark and Linda Downey



Readers Needed for the first and second scripture lessons and the prayers during the worship service. Your readings can be emailed to you so you can look them over in advance. Please sign up in the red book at the back of church.



Christmas Eve Services will be Thursday, December 24th at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM. We will pre-record the service for the radio so it will be available as well as several other worship opportunities. We will live stream the 4:00 service and again at 7:00 if we experience technical difficulties. We will use the FM transmitter for those who want to social distance in the parking lot and still have the opportunity to take communion. We will not be doing as much singing in the services, probably only one verse on several Christmas hymns, but we are going to try something different to allow us to sing all of the verses of *Silent Night*. We are asking you to bring your phone or a flashlight and we will all go outside near the end of the service and sing *Silent Night*. I will do the benediction and blessing outside. This will enable us to worship with those in the parking lot and experience the night sky as we sing.

Due to our need to social distance, we can only accommodate 75 people in the sanctuary. This means that not everyone can worship inside at the traditional 4:00pm service. Therefore, we are asking that families consider coming to the 7:00pm service. Once we are at capacity at either service, we will ask people to worship in the parking lot. Tune your radio to 95.5 FM. The year of 2020 is a year that we will not soon forget and we appreciate everyone's help and cooperation with the changes that we have made to try to keep everyone safe.

Thank You

Thank you I would like to send a big thank you to all the people at St. Peter who said prayers and sent me get well cards, including Vicar Carol. I thank God my stroke was a mild one. It was so encouraging to know people were praying for me and letting me know. Cards were appreciated and cheered me up when I needed them. Again, Thank you to God and my wonderful St. Peter Family.
Connie Stemen

THANK YOU

Technology Update:

We want to give a special thanks to Rick Dienstberger for all of his time and effort to get us up and running with our new technology. We now have the ability to live stream the services, so you can watch them on our new church Facebook page which is St. Peter Delphos. We have purchased some new mics and devices that allow us to connect through blue tooth. One of our biggest challenges was to get a strong enough Wi-Fi signal in the sanctuary. Our church was well built and those walls are thick. Rick has also set up the FM transmitter so people are still able to worship in our parking lot. Our Altar Guild women will bring bulletins and the communion elements to you if you are out in your car. We ask for your continued patience as we move forward to make the various worship option available to you. Technology is a wonderful thing when it works, but sometimes we all know that it can be frustrating when we experience glitches.

Best Wishes

Best Wishes to Kay Hoersten, our office administrator, as she retires.

Kay has been our office administrator since 2011 and she has done a wonderful job of keeping things going in the office. She was very organized and efficient at her job and we will most definitely miss her. I have especially enjoyed working with Kay over the last sixteen months.

It our prayer that Kay would have extra time now to travel with her husband, Larry and to spend extra time doing crafts and working with her Cricut machine. We pray that God will bless her as she journeys on this next phase of her life. Thank you, Kay, for your service to us at St. Peter Lutheran Church.

The church council is now looking to hire a part-time office administrator.

The position is for 12 hours a week and if you are interested, you may call Eric Fritz (419-233-2848) or Vicar Carol (419-512-4490).

NEWS FOR WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

BECOME A MEMBER

With 2021 right around the corner and with anticipation of getting back to normal activities, the WELCA board would like to extend an invitation to the women of the church to consider joining the board.

We have a monthly evening meeting which lasts approximately an hour 8 times throughout the year. Please contact any of the WELCA members (Donna Berger, Denise Kloepfel, Sue Kloepfel, Yvonne Koenig, Chris Prine, Deb Trentman or Marge Warren) to see how actively involved we are in serving the congregation as well as home and abroad. Thank you!



Christmas Card Tree – You are invited to send a card and donation. The card will be placed on the tree to say “Merry Christmas” to all. Donations will be used to buy gifts for our shut-ins.



Quilting – at this time, there will be no sewing of quilts. We will keep you informed. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Prine.



Keep our Military Friends and Family in your Prayers:

Fred Hasting

Navy

Stateside

Dominic Munoz

Navy

Annapolis MD

Altar Guild

Altar Guild is helping with the worship service with Covid-19. Members will be contacted by e-mail with any concerns or updates.

InReach/OutReach



Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain – If you would like your name added to the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan on the cell phone number listed above. *Do NOT send her computer an email.* You may call or send her cell phone a text message. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office. Please have permission from the person or family before we publish any names.

Remember our Shut-ins

Carl Dienstberger
E. Fourth St.
Delphos OH 45833

Sharon Reel
Vancrest of Van Wert
10357 Van Wert-Decatur
Van Wert OH 45891



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Sheri Swick | 16) Robert Wortman |
| 1) Taylor Baxter | 16) Daniel Marlow |
| 2) Austin Munshower | 17) Jonathan Finn |
| 3) Alexa Marlow | 18) Cathy Wreede |
| 4) Angie Miller | 19) Carolyn Rice |
| 5) Dan Dienstberger | 20) Martina Himmeger |
| 12) Corey Kloepfel | 20) Leonard Prine, Jr |
| 13) Patti Calvert | 21) Kyrstin Warnecke |
| 13) Susan Grothouse | 21) Brayla Kruse |
| 14) Sarah Hershberger | 23) Kenadi Brinkman |
| 14) Ryan Nomina | 26) Sue Vasquez |
| 14) Amy Nighswander | 26) Mike Finn |
| 15) David Allemeier | 28) William Turner |
| 15) Noelle Prine | 28) Renee Carder |
| | 28) Dylan Brinkman |
| | 29) Troy Kloepfel |

COMMUNITY

American Red Cross Blood Drive at Knights of Columbus, 1011 Elida Ave, Delphos, Ohio on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 from 2:00 PM-7:00 PM.



Delphos Community Christmas Project Committee would like to say "THANK YOU" to every person or group who has made any contribution to the Christmas Project in the past. Last year, with your help, we provided over 300 children with new toys, clothing, shoes, coats and hats for Christmas. We provided 125 families with Christmas dinner and 152 fruit baskets were distributed to our shut ins and elderly. Our Christmas Project was a great success because of all of you!

Another year is here and we are back at it again. The COVID 19 pandemic has made getting together for our kick off meeting a little problematic. Shopping for the children and families needing assistance may not be as easy as before. However; children don't understand all of that. For children, Santa comes no matter what. With your help, we will do our absolute best to make that happen this year!

The names of children needing clothing and toys, families needing help, and shut ins to be remembered with a fruit plate should be sent to Delphos Community Christmas Project, General Delivery, Delphos, OH 45833. If you choose to help us, angel cards will be on the Christmas trees at our local banks and any monetary donation can be mailed to the above address. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Edna Fischer at 419-233-8888.

Thank you for listening to our plea. And thank you in advance for any support you can offer us. We wish your families good health and a Merry Christmas holiday!

The 2020 Delphos Community Christmas Project Committee

Servants of the Lord

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 6	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Deb Trentman, Sue Kloeppel
ALTAR GUILD: Linda Mayer, Angie Miller, Sarah Miller, Jane Gonyea

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 13	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Lois Ewing, Karen Hartman
ALTAR GUILD: Linda Mayer, Angie Miller, Sarah Miller, Jane Gonyea

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 20	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Lois Ewing, Karen Hartman
ALTAR GUILD: Linda Mayer, Angie Miller, Sarah Miller, Jane Gonyea

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 24	4:00 PM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Larry Miller, Rick Dienstberger
ALTAR GUILD: Linda Mayer, Angie Miller, Sarah Miller, Jane Gonyea

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 24	7:00 PM			

ALTAR GUILD: Linda Mayer, Angie Miller, Sarah Miller, Jane Gonyea

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 27	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Larry Miller, Rick Dienstberger
ALTAR GUILD: Linda Mayer, Angie Miller, Sarah Miller, Jane Gonyea

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
January 3	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Shelby Koenig, Dan Staples
ALTAR GUILD: Vicki Rinehart, Vicki Kramer