

St. Peter Lutheran Church
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The Mission of St. Peter Lutheran Church is to grow our faith in Jesus as we journey together and serve others.

January Newsletter Deadline: Monday, December 18th



Join us for the
Christmas Eve Worship Service
at 4:00 PM

The Messenger



Christmas Eve Service: Sunday, December 24th | 4:00 PM

If you know of anyone who would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact the church office at stpeterdelphos@gmail.com. If your information or address needs updated, please let us know. Thank you.

The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – December 2023

A Little Bit of This and That for December...

Does it seem like time is moving faster and faster? Many of you just received your November newsletter and yet the December letter is now here. Our days are marked by time and routine. We expect certain things to happen at certain times and when they don't, we are often found to be off kilter.

So, what is this time of Advent about? Is it a time when our lives move on as normal or is something different asked of us? Doug and I often find ourselves busier during this season. We set out the Advent candles but find that often we are so busy that we go days without lighting them.

According to Wikipedia, "Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year in Western Christianity. "The word, Advent means "coming" and is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*."

So, if Advent is to be a time of expectant waiting for the coming of Christ, my question becomes how to we wait? And... how do we ask for Jesus to come to us, to our friends and family, to our communities, and the world?

How do we wait expecting Jesus to show up in our midst? This year, Doug and I will probably not set up the Advent candles this year, but we will light candles in our home. We will carve out time in our quiet time to pray and ask Jesus to come. One of the simplest prayers to pray is "**Come, Lord, Jesus.**"

I am proposing that during this Advent time of waiting we all pray this prayer throughout the day. We can pray it when we first open our eyes in the morning, and we can pray it silently on the school bus or in our cars. We can pray it silently at home sitting in our recliner or at work. We can pray it in our play and in our gatherings. The important thing is to pray it with the expectation that Jesus will show up in our midst, not only as the Christ child, but as our risen Lord who has the power to truly bring peace and goodwill to all.

May the grace, love, and presence of Jesus be with you all during this time of waiting.

Love,

Pastor Carol

Monthly Finance Reports:

InReach/OutReach

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.

Keep our shut-ins and military friends and families in your prayers.

Shut-ins

Sharon Reel
Vancrest of Van Wert
10357 Van Wert- Decatur Road
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Rose Hager

Military:

Fred Hasting	Navy	Stateside
Christian Jarman	Air Force	Stateside

General Announcements

Radio Ministry was given to the glory of God in November by:

- Dave and Connie Stemen
- Himmeger Family in memory of Earl Himmeger
- Dave and Connie Stemen in celebration of Connie's birthday
- Ron, Sue, Aaron, and Paige in memory of Melvin and Alma Kloeppel and Orville and Barb Koverman

Youth and Adult Sunday School is at 9:00 AM. *All are welcome! Come.*

Grow your faith in Jesus as we journey together and serve others! Open to ages Preschool – adults. The Sunday School choir will be singing during church on Sunday, November 19th. **On December 17th**, we are hoping to have our youth do something special during the service for Advent.

Great job to the Youth Sunday School Choir who sang *Let's Be Thankful* and *The Butterfly Song*.



Altar Guild would once again like to beautify the altar with poinsettias for Christmas. The color choice is **red** this year. The cost is \$7.50 each. Please get your order in ASAP as we need a final number for the greenhouse by December 4th. Ordering envelopes can be found in the church pews or contact Angie Miller at 419.234.2115.

WELCA

The WELCA Board would like to thank you for all the donations of eggs, flour, and time helping us to make our noodles for everyone. It is a lot of fun and fellowship with everyone.

-Chris Prine & WELCA Board Members

Also, we will be doing the Christmas Card Tree as in years past! You are invited to send a card and donation. The card will be placed on the tree to say Merry Christmas to all. This year all of the donations will be given to The Mike Gallmeier Foundation for Mike's Food on Us.

The next WELCA meeting will be on January 8th at 7:00 PM.

InReach / OutReach Committee (IROR)

The IROR Committee would like to thank everyone for the great job you did in donating to Delphos Lifewise Academy. With the matching funds from the IROR, we were able to donate \$2315.00 to the Delphos Lifewise Academy.

What a great time we had on November 19th during our Soup-a-palooza potluck. We had a great variety of soups and as usual we ate very well. Thank you to everyone who donated and came to partake of the food and fellowship.

Church News:

The council is interested in developing a technology team that would help us develop policies as we move forward to use more technology in this rapidly changing area for the church. We would also like to have 6 or 7 people trained on how to use the sound system. Please consider being part of this important ministry. If interested, please contact Pastor Carol or a council member for more information.

We need to have a few more volunteers to count the offering after church on Sundays. If interested in helping out, please let Lauren know by talking to her or emailing the church office at stpeterdelphos@gmail.com

The 2023 Radio Ministry

We have had to update our equipment to record for the radio station on Sundays. The radio station is covering most of the cost of the equipment, but we will need to have an increase in our weekly costs to help cover some of the updated equipment. We also have not had a price increase for the service for many years. The new cost per week to broadcast on the radio will be \$55.00. It is very easy to use our Vanco (Tithley link) to set up payment for the service or you may write a check too. You can follow the link listed below to securely submit a payment for *radio ministry*. You will still need to call or email Lauren to let her know which service you are sponsoring as well as to let her know the wording you would like in the bulletin. You may also sign up in the red notebook at the back of the sanctuary. <http://www.stpeterdelphos.org/giving-2/>
Thank you for supporting this very important ministry.

Community Caroling Opportunity to bring Christmas Cheer: Bob Ulm has invited us to join other members in the community to go caroling to those who are unable to get out this winter in order to bring some holiday cheer. Meet at Bob's house (415 Wayne Street, Delphos) at 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 10th for a little warm up and then you will carpool to various homes to sing. There will be sheets with words to the most popular Christmas songs in case you've forgotten some of the words. Pastor Carol can give you more details if you are interested. Children and adults are welcome to participate.

Thrivent News:

For those of you who have investments or life insurance policies through Thrivent, there may be opportunities for you to direct Choice Dollars to our church by logging onto your account at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice . If you have funds available, they allow you to choose an organization for which to designate.

Congregational Meeting:

There will be a congregation meeting at the start of church on December 10th to vote on the proposed budget as well as to vote on any openings for council members. There will be copies of the budget will be available at the back of the sanctuary.

December Birthdays If we do not have your birthday listed. Please contact Lauren to get your name on the list to recognize your special day.

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

The Story of Jesus – NWOS Daily Bible Reading Guide

- Dec. 1 The Death of Jesus Matt. 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-37
- Dec. 2 The Burial of Jesus Matt. 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42
- Dec. 3 The Tomb is Guarded Matt. 27:62-66 The Resurrection of Jesus
- Dec. 4 The Resurrection of Jesus Matt. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10
- Dec. 5 The Report of the Guard Matt. 28:11-15
- Dec. 6 Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18
- Dec. 7 Jesus Appears on the Way to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12-13
- Dec. 8 Jesus Appears to His Disciples Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23
- Dec. 9 Jesus Appears to Thomas John 20:24-29
- Dec. 10 The Purpose of the Gospel of John John 20:30-31
- Dec. 11 Jesus Commissions the Disciples Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:44-49
- Dec. 12 Jesus at the Sea of Tiberias John 21:1-14
- Dec. 13 Jesus and Peter John 21:15-19
- Dec. 14 Jesus and the Beloved Disciple John 21:20-23
- Dec. 15 Final Authentication John 21:24-25
- Dec. 16 The Ascension of Jesus Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53 Christmas Readings
- Dec. 17 Luke 1:1-4
- Dec. 18 Luke 1:5-25
- Dec. 19 Luke 1:26-38
- Dec. 20 Luke 1:39-45
- Dec. 21 Luke 1:46-56
- Dec. 22 Luke 1:57-66
- Dec. 23 Luke 1:67-80
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Luke 2:1-7
- Dec. 24 Christmas Day Luke 2:8-20
- Dec. 26 John 1:1-18
- Dec. 27 John 1:19-28
- Dec. 28 John 1:29-34
- Dec. 29 John 1:35-42
- Dec. 30 John 1:43-51
- Dec. 31 Psalm 150

