

St. Peter's Epistle



December 2023/January 2024

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
145 S. 6th Street, Waterford, WI 53185

Upcoming Events

Advent Midweek Vespers
Dec 6, 13, & 20

Christmas Eve 5 & 7 PM
Christmas Day 9:30 AM

Men's Bible Study
Dec 2 & 16, Jan 6 & 20

Family Movie Night
Dec 8 & Jan 12

One Sunday Divine Service
Begins Dec 24th at 9:30 am

Sunday School/Bible Study
8:15-9:15 begins Jan 7

Be sure to follow us on facebook
and visit our website at
www.stpeterswaterford.com

Sign up for updates by emailing
Pastor Conradt and asking to be
put on the list.

CHURCH

Telephone: 262-534-3639

Rev. Joshua P.H. Conradt, Pastor
pastorconradt@stpeterswaterford.com

Church Office
secretary@stpeterswaterford.com

PRESCHOOL

Telephone: 262-534-6066

Mr. Ted Myers,
Parish Ed Board Chairman
tedmyers2020@gmail.com

From the Desk of Pastor Conradt

Thankful

Deo gratia! Thanks be to God! You have spoken/sung those words time and time again. They are a part of you. We proclaim them after "The Word of the Lord" or "The Gospel of the Lord". We proclaim them when the pastor sings out "Bless we the Lord" or "Let us bless the Lord". In all these things we give thanks to God. While it shouldn't take a government proclamation to get His people to pause and give Him thanks, I'll take it.

It's easy to grumble and complain. It's easy to get mad when things aren't going well, but we need to turn to the Lord often and cry out to Him in songs of thankfulness and praise. Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good and His mercy endureth forever!

You are gifts from God. This Church family is a gift from God. Jesus is His gift for a people that need salvation. And for all these things we should be thankful.

As we begin a new church year—Advent begins on the Sunday closest to Nov. 30th (St. Andrew's Day)—we need to pause and give thanks. Everything that we have is a gift from our Father above.

I encourage you to attend every Sunday and come Wednesdays as well. Our midweek services will switch to the Evening prayer offices of Vespers for the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. This year Rorate Coeli (the Fourth Sunday of Advent) falls on December 24th. So we will have Sunday service at 9:30 am & Christmas Eve services at 5:00 & 7:00 pm. Christmas Day service is at 9:30 am.

Because of the schedule on the 24th, the Elders decided it was the appropriate time to begin our new service time of 9:30 am. And while this may not be everybody's favorite time, it was the time that made the most sense. The Board of Elders spent hours over many

months discussing, getting feedback, and changing the original proposal based on feedback. The overall consensus was that it be important to have everyone together.

We all miss the days when most Americans went to church. The reality is that this is not the case anymore. And while it is easier to weep and lament and decry, what we should do instead is give thanks to God for His rich blessings and pray that He use us as His instruments to tell others about Jesus.

The time has come to gather together, to see the many ways our Lord has blessed us as a people under His roof and rejoice in Him and give thanks for one another. And the time has come to be so filled with joy by this we tell everyone the reason for our hope. This may look like a loss, but Lord willing, it will allow us to be strong in Him and to evangelize. We will come together more often and get to know our brothers and sisters in Christ and gather for the Word and Sacrament ministry that is the cornerstone of why we are here, and then gather together for fellowship.

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church in Waterford, WI is a place richly blessed by our Lord and the time has come to give thanks to God for that, to come together, and go out and let the world know (starting in our own homes, with our own children). The group of men that make up the board of elders are men devoted to Christ, His church, and their families. We should pray for them and thank God for them. I know I do. Sometimes decisions aren't easy, but necessary.

When the new calendar year begins, I pray to see you and the faces with you week after week for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, and Sunday morning Bible Study/Sunday School from 8:15-9:15 am. Deo Gratia!

In Christ,

Pastor Conradt

Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod

OFFICIAL ACTS



BAPTISM

Henry Edward Coates
8-28-2023 10-15-2023

Billie Rose Hayden
11-17-2022 10-15-2023



SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP & LADIES AID

The last meeting of this year will be December 11th. We will have a short business meeting at 11:00 am, followed by our Christmas luncheon.

Please put on your best (or worst) Christmas sweater as there will be a prize for one of you. We will be playing Take-Away Bingo, and the entry fee is a wrapped "white elephant" present. Hope to see you all there!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

In lieu of a Christmas program this year, the Sunday School children will be singing during the 9:30 am service on Sunday December 24th.

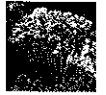


PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to request a prayer on Sunday morning for birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, surgeries or any other prayer need, please call the church office. We would be happy to share with you those special days in prayer.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



The December 8th movie will be "A Charlie Brown Christmas". The kids will have the opportunity to decorate a sugar cookie after the movie. The movie for January 12th is "The Star". Popcorn and juice will be served. Showtime is 6:00 pm.



TURKEY DINNER 2023

We had another successful, fun filled, Turkey Dinner. This year we were able to offer sit-down dinners in addition to the drive-thru. Thank you so much to all the people who helped make this happen, especially Terry Jacobs who continued to lead us in the chairperson's position. We had several of our seasoned members returning along with several new members stepping forward to join in the fun.

We look forward to planning next year's event with our new chairperson, Shelley Kempken.

It is a marvelous fundraiser for our congregation and, more important, provides so many opportunities for Christian fellowship.

PLEASE CALL



If you should find yourself hospitalized or confined to your home for health reasons, please notify the church office. Pastor can only minister to your needs if he is aware of your situation. Pastor is eager and willing to make regular visits with you, but he can do so only if you let him know.



HANDICAPPED PARKING

On the East side of our building there are several parking spaces marked for handicapped parking only. We remind you that by state law, these spaces can be used only by individuals displaying a handicapped motorist sign in their car window or having the prefix "dis" on their license plate. Please respect the rights of our disabled members and guests!



USED EYEGLASSES & HEARING AIDS

Please consider depositing your used eyeglasses & hearing aids in the container provided in the narthex. By donating these used items, someone is seeing and hearing the world differently. The Lions Club distributes these items to those in need.



MOVING?

If you are moving, please notify the church office of your change of address and new phone number. If you are unsure of where to worship, we will also help you locate a new LCMS Church.



CHURCH LIBRARY

Checking out books at the Church Library has never been easier! We use the honor system...no forms to fill out and no dates to remember! When you're finished with your items, simply return them to the shelf. We are not currently accepting donations of pre-owned books due to lack of shelf space. If you are interested in adding a new book to the library or making a monetary donation, please contact the Church Office.



TRACTS

Tracts are a great resource to use while sharing God's Word with others, or if you or someone you know is going through a difficult time. Please check out the assortment of tracts found in the racks in the narthex and feel free to share with your family and friends.

EMAIL LIST!



Pastor Conradt periodically sends out an email to church members who want to be informed of important updates. To be included on Pastor's email list, please send an email to pastorconradt@stpeterswaterford.com and include in the subject line: **"Add me to the list."**



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Flower Chart is in the Narthex, to the right of the door to the sanctuary, and to the left of the coat racks. You can sign up to provide and place Altar flowers in church for a birthday, anniversary, or any special occasion or memorial. The 2024 chart is now posted.

Newsletter Due Date

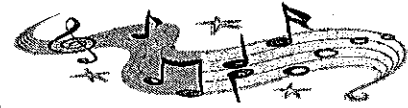
February/ March

January 23





Organist Notes



The next hymn of the month, for December, is LSB 351, "Creator of the Stars of Night". This wonderful hymn, although fairly new to our congregation, is definitely not new to the church catholic. This hymn can be dated all the way back to the 9th century, where it was originally written to be used during Advent Vespers. The author is unknown, however, it was originally written for use in monasteries, so it is most likely that one of the monks would have written it. The Latin text of this hymn was translated by John Mason Neale in the mid-1800's, who took exceptional care to retain the rhythm and text of the original. The tune is also from the 9th century, and it should be easy to see the origins of the tune in Monastic chant. In fact, this hymn would be glorious to be sung completely A Capella.

With exception of stanza 6, all the stanzas speak specifically of the coming of Christ, while following an outline of scripture. The hymn actually begins at Creation, where "Creator of the stars of night" includes all of the entire creation work done by the Father. Stanza 2 then details the curse of sin, which really covers most of the Old Testament, but also giving the promise of healing, grace, and salvation. Stanza 3 refers to the night of Christ's birth, where He emerges from a "virgin shrine". Stanzas 5 and 6 are about Christ's return on Judgment Day, and alludes to Philippians 2, which says "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father". Stanza 6 also calls on Jesus to defend us from the devil until He returns on that dreadful day. Finally, as previously mentioned, stanza 7 is a doxology, praising the Holy Trinity "from age to age eternally", before ending with an "Amen".

The hymn of the month for January of 2024 is LSB 399 (TLH 131), "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here". This Epiphany hymn, derives from a poem by 5th century poet Sedulias, which actually follows the life of Christ from A to Z. LSB 385, "From East to West, from Shore to Shore", a Christmas hymn, also comes from this poem. "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" begins from the letter "H" in this poem ("Hostis Herodes", which means "enemy herod") and continues through the letter "N". Several authors have translated the hymn from Latin into the common tongue, including Martin Luther, who translated it into German (Was furchst du, Feind Herodes, sehr), and John Mason Neale, who translated it into English.

This hymn is a very comprehensive overview of the Epiphany season. It begins in stanza 1 with Herod, who, as we know, slaughtered thousands of children in his hunt for the Christ-child. Unfortunately, Herod did not know that Jesus "seeks not the kingdoms of this earth". Stanza 2 is about the coming of the Magi. Stanza "I" of the poem, speaks of the magi who come from afar, following the light, which leads to the Light, which is Christ. The Latin here is "Lumen requirunt lumine", which literally means "they seek light using Light". The phrase "their gifts confessed their God", refers to the allegorical significance of the gold, frankincense, and myrrh, where the gold is for Christ the King, frankincense for Christ the Priest, and and myrrh for Christ the Savior.

Stanza 3 continues to the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. It seems that Sedelius was fascinated with the paradoxical nature of Jesus, who being sinless, does not need to be baptized Himself, but identifies with sinful mankind that He might save them from their sin. Stanza 4 speaks of Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana. This verse speaks of the water "reddening into wine", which calls to mind the image of the water and blood flowing from Jesus' pierced side on the cross. Finally, the hymn closes with a doxology, celebrating the epiphany, and giving glory to the Holy Trinity.

~ Daniel Grosskreuz

LWML South Wisconsin District

Winter Getaway
February 2–3, 2024
Marriott West
W231N1600 Corporate Court
Waukesha, WI 53186



Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:23–25).



Retreat Speaker: Darcy Paape

Darcy comes to the Winter Getaway as an author and executive director of the Women's Institute at Concordia Wisconsin. She has 20 years of experience working with young adults in high school, church ministry, and university settings. Darcy has directed the Women's Leadership Institute and worked to create programs and host conferences and workshops for Christian women in leadership.

She will be presenting her mentorship workshop entitled "Growing Together" at our retreat. A tireless advocate for mentoring in church and ministry settings, she has published a book on the subject, titled *Someone to Walk With: A Woman's Guide to Christian Mentoring*. She will show us how to mentor with today's needs in mind at our retreat.

Gifts From the Heart Recipient: Care packages for female students and church workers.

Complete kits requested! Please include these items: socks, facial items, lip gloss, chocolate kisses or hugs, devotions, and Mustard Seed devotion packets. Please put items in a quart size zip lock bag.

Offering Recipients:

- Women's Leadership Institute at Concordia University Wisconsin (3/4)
- Female Church Worker Scholarship Fund (1/4)

Registration \$70 per person (includes Saturday lunch)

More information available at lwml-swd.org

Please remember that TLC funds are available if the cost is prohibiting any ladies from attending.



The following is an article recently published in the Waterford Post and brought to our attention by Sandy Senft. Reprinted, with permission, from the Waterford Post.



Why I go to church.

A friend of mine questioned me why I bother to go to church every weekend. That person used to practice their faith and go to church regularly but stopped when COVID-19 hit a few years back, and just never came back to the church. It was more convenient to have the free time to do what they wanted on the weekend.

My friend went on to say: "I had gone to church for more than 30 years, and in that time, I had heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I was wasting my time, the preachers and priests were wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

I thought about that for a while, and here was my reply:

I'm 65 years old now. In that time, I have consumed thousands of meals. My mother made meals when I was a child and growing up. Now that I am married to Rita, I actually enjoy doing most of the cooking. I've also eaten meals at family and friend's homes and dined at many restaurants all over the country. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my daily work. If I had not

had those meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today. The church is designed to nourish the imperfect, the struggling, and the exhausted.

I wonder sometimes if this country's problems are because many people are spiritually malnourished.

When you are down to nothing, God is up to something.

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible. Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment!

"But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought Him food?"

"My food" said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work."

" John 4:32-34

Bil Scherrer, Burlington

Excerpt from the "Congregation at Prayer", for Trinity XXIV, on November 19th, 2023.

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (I Thess. 5:1-11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1-13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17-25).



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tanner Brown	12/01
Edwina Shelton	12/01
Noah Multhauf	12/02
Robert Repischak	12/02
Jessica Berndt	12/06
Valerie Kimball	12/06
Rosemary Heck	12/07
Josef Lazar	12/07
Linda Winkelman	12/07
Frederick Wolfgram	12/07
Russell Korntheuer	12/12
Ginny Morby	12/12
Laura Fischer	12/13
Darlene Jacobson	12/13
Craig Campbell	12/14
Reid Schultz	12/15
Eric Obermeyer	12/16
Mackenzie Somers	12/17
Scott Jung	12/19
Jack Morawetz	12/19
Claire Scott	12/19
Heidi Kin	12/20
Scott Peterson	12/20
Beatrice Jacobson	12/21
Joan Somers	12/21
Connor Charland	12/23
Raymond Fischer	12/23
Rick McGaughy	12/25
Courtney Blawat	12/26
Nicole Grant	12/26
Jessica Koch	12/26
Jodi Kirincich	12/27
Jill Jacobs	12/29
Debra Steinke	12/29
Daniel Grosskreuz	12/30
Dennis Kramer	12/30
Shelley Kempken	12/31
Deb Petri	12/31



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

To the following couples who are celebrating December Wedding Anniversaries.

Ronald & Ruth Burke	12/02
Ron & Susan Greiner	12/09
Bryan & Karry Brintnall	12/11
Robert & Luanne Hassey	12/13
Lawrence & Teri Geboy	12/15
Dale & Janet Buchholtz	12/18
Spencer & Heidi Frost	12/27



HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

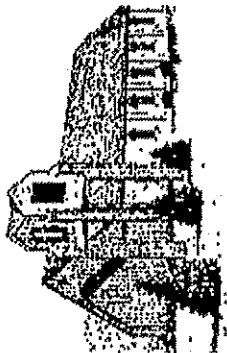
To the following couples who are celebrating January Wedding Anniversaries.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ted & Jill Jacobs	1/16
Dwight & Debbie Jutrzonka	1/17
Jarmen & Tina Czuta	1/23
Richard & Linda Noll	1/27

Melissa Dodulik	1/02
Lillian Dolezal	1/03
James Gumprecht	1/03
Carol Wolfgram	1/04
Hannah Chart	1/05
Charlotte Jung	1/05
Diana Nowak	1/05
Lisa Salo	1/05
Julie Campbell	1/06
Juliana Taggatz	1/07
Katherene Oelkers	1/08
Hadlee Beck	1/10
Ruby Gobel	1/10
Terry Jacobs	1/10
Andrew Salo	1/11
Kaitlyn Buchholtz	1/13
Ted Myers	1/13
Nils McDermott	1/15
Michael Dessecker	1/18
Nora Mehring	1/18
Jarmen Czuta	1/19
Jacob Gilgenbach	1/20
Logan Mittelstaedt	1/22
Bernd Kampe	1/23
Chelsey Walbrant	1/23
Diane Mehring	1/24
Chloe Applegate	1/27
Joseph Multhauf	1/28
Jackson Keeling	1/30
Gabriella Salas	1/30
Diana Storm	1/31



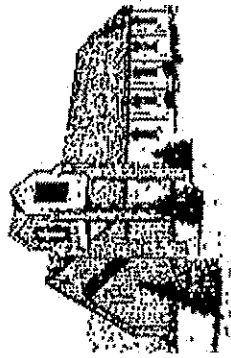


December 2023

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church Waterford, WI

Abbreviations
 B.C. Bible Class
 S.S. Sunday School
 W.B.S Women's Bible Study
 BoSM Board of Social Minis-
 try

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Worship 8:00am S.S. & B.C. 9:15am Worship 10:30am	4	5 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	6 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	7	8 Movie Night 6:00pm "A Charlie Brown Christmas"	9 Men's Bible Study 8:30am-10:00am
10 Worship 8:00am S.S. & B.C. 9:15am BoSM meeting 9:15 am Worship 10:30am	11 LWML/Senior Group 11:00 am Finance 6:00pm Council 7:00pm	12 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	13 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	14 Preschool Christmas Program 4:15 pm	15	16 Men's Bible Study 8:30am-10:00am
17 Worship 8:00am S.S. & B.C. 9:15am Worship 10:30am	18	19 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	20 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	21	22	23
24 Worship 9:30 am Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 & 7:00 pm	25 Christmas Day Worship 9:30 am	26 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	27 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm Elders 7:30 pm	28 <i>NO Worship Service</i>	29	30
31 Worship 9:30 am						



January 2024

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Waterford, WI

Abbreviations
 B.C. Bible Class
 S.S. Sunday School
 W.B.S Women's Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day	2 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	3 Youth Catechesis 5:15 pm NO Worship Service	4	5	6 Men's Bible Study 8:30am-10:00am Epiphany Worship Service 6:30 pm
7 S.S. & B.C 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am	8 Senior Group/ LWML 11:00am Finance meeting 6:00pm Council 7:00 pm	9 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	10 Youth Catechesis 5:15 pm Worship 6:30 pm	11	12 Movie Night 6:00 pm "The Star"	13
14 S.S. & B.C 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am	15	16 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	17 Youth Catechesis 5:15 pm Worship 6:30 pm	18	19	20 Men's Bible Study 8:30-10:00am
21 S.S. & B.C 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am	22 Sr. Group 11:00am	23 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	24 Youth Catechesis 5:15 pm Worship 6:30 pm	25	26	27
28 S.S. & B.C 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am	29	30 W.B.S 1:00 pm New Member/Adult Catechesis 6:15pm	31 Youth Catechesis 5:15 pm Worship 6:30 pm			