



# ST. PETER'S MESSENGER

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Reedsburg, Wisconsin

[www.stpetersreedsburg.org](http://www.stpetersreedsburg.org)

*Proclaiming JESUS Savior and Lord for LIFE*

VOLUME 264

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 0

NO.1

Paul M. Crolius, Pastor

Roger Tessendorf, Principal

## FROM THE PASTOR

*"Lord, You have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations." Psalm 90:1*

There is a story about a supermarket clerk. Part of his job was to collect the carts left in the parking lot. He was on such a "cart run" when he saw a lady struggling with her groceries. Her cart was overflowing, so were her arms. He watched as the lady put a package on the roof of the car while she popped the trunk and car doors. He watched as she loaded her packages and as she got into her car, started it up, and began to drive away.

Seeing she had left a package on top of her car, the clerk, left his carts and started running toward her. He reached her, just as she stopped and made the turn that would take her onto the street. He reached her just as the package slid off the roof; he reached her in time to catch the package—her baby—before it hit the pavement.

No doubt both the mother and clerk were glad he had detoured from his work. That was certainly the case in the coming of Jesus Christ to this earth as our Savior. He took no detours and was not deterred from being born a human being, then living and dying for our sins. Then rising again to declare victory over sin, death and the devil.

In this world, sin and Satan do their very best to put detours and roadblocks between Jesus and those He came to save. When they are successful, the results are often tragic and never what the Lord wants. However, as God's redeemed, we can rejoice in the New Year! Rejoice! Jesus was born to save you and me from our sins.

We, as God's people, can step into the New Year with confidence. However, our confidence doesn't come in ourselves but in our wonderful and gracious Lord. Our confidence is found in the Lord who is always with us, that He has brought us salvation in Jesus, and will bless and strengthen us all the way and all the years of our life. As Psalm 90:1 declares, *"Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations."*

Our Lord declares that by God's grace through faith in Jesus nothing that may come now or in the future that can "separate us from God's love in Christ." Throughout the closing year and the year to come, our Lord offered and will again give us His strength and blessings. He gives them to us through His Word and Sacraments which are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. He gives us the blessings of the forgiveness of sins, salvation, and eternal life. He reminds us of His concern and care for us and all of His people. May we come and worship the Lord often to be strengthened in faith and assured of His love this year and every year until he comes.

This is encouraging and comforting news to hear as we will soon begin the New Year. This is also vital news we need to share not just this year but all our years and all our days. May God grant us all a very blessed year through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and King.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Crolius*

## MEMORIALS

Given in memory of Jean Goodell  
St. Peter's School                      \$545.00

## LWML

Julie opened our Christmas LWML evening reading the Christmas story from Luke Chapter 2.

We then covered a few business topics before going into our Christmas program. We had received a very nice "Thank you" note from Mission Central for our support of our Missionary, Cindy Wrucke. We then discussed and a motion was made and passed to send her a gift of \$50 for Christmas. Betty reported that, with the help of students at St. Peter's School, LWML had collected 312 hygiene items which she will deliver to Head Start. Thank you to everyone who donated to this great cause.

"Pilgrimage of Adoration" was our Christmas reading/hymn sing, featuring a Nurse, Teacher, Child, Court Official, Singer and Motel Operator. It was very interesting reading their thoughts wondering how they would have felt and handled themselves had they been in Bethlehem the night Jesus was born. We always enjoy singing our beautiful Christmas hymns.

We had fun playing a couple of games; the first being a page of illustrations which we had to figure out what Christmas song each was depicting, and the second was Christmas Tree Bunco.

We ended our evening enjoying a good visit while eating a minty ice cream dessert.

Merry Christmas and New Year Blessings to you all!

Julie Thompson, Secretary



*Altar  
Flowers*

Would like to sponsor the radio broadcast, which also includes the Lutheran Hour broadcast (\$110.00) or a video broadcast (\$35.00) or you may like to sponsor the bulletin (cost \$60.00) or flowers on the altar.

Our Radio/Video Broadcast Fund in the Foundation is depleted. If you would like to help contribute to this wonderful ministry, your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

Please sign up on the charts located on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office at 524-4512, ext. 1.

## ST. PETER'S PARTICIPATES IN THE LIVING WINDOWS IN DOWNTOWN REEDSBURG





# YOUTH

## Youth Update and Upcoming Events

- January 3-5, Senior High Winter Retreat @Silver Birch Bible Camp
- Sunday, January 12 Senior High post-Christmas Party @ Betsy Van Etten's and white elephant exchange. (5 PM)
- No 5th Wednesday service project in January due to mid-year DCE conference
- If you or someone you know is interested in supervising junior or senior high youth nights please shoot me an email, give me a call, send me a text, or stop by the office!

## Members of St. Peter's...

I am currently six months into my year-long internship here at St. Peter's, and the next step in the process is to prayerfully consider whether or not I should receive a Call here or perhaps another congregation. I will be working with the church leadership to determine the best course of action.

Please continue to pray for us, that God would bless us with wisdom and guidance as we arrive at a decision over the next couple of months.

Whatever happens, we know that God's will is always done, and that we can serve Him wherever He places us!

Josiah Schultz  
DCE Intern

## Parents and Adults!

Do you feel out-of-touch with the younger generation of teens? Are you confused by strange new trends or seemingly meaningless words and phrases?

There is a tool called the Culture Translator that may shed some light on the things your youth say and do.

The Culture Translator is simply a weekly email that gives you a glimpse into what's influencing teens right now, as well as insightful perspective on the relevant topics in your teen's world and a weekly nudge to start conversations about the underlying issues.

This service is 100% free and the emails are short and clear. For more information or to sign up for weekly emails, visit <https://axis.org/ct/> or search online for "Axis Culture Translator."

## ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS TO BEGIN

Are you or someone you know interested in attending Adult Instruction Class? This class will review the doctrine (teachings) of our church. This is also the class one goes through to become a member of St. Peter's Church.

Perhaps you know of a person who would like to join our church, or you yourself would like to review the teachings of the faith. If so, then this class is for you.

Classes will meet for approximately ten weeks. For more information, please contact Pastor Crolius at 524-4512 ext. 2.



## ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS by Mr. Tessendorf



### **What Is Going On At The School?**

Have you ever asked this question? Would you like to get information on school events in a timely manner? There is an easy way to get answers to these questions if you have an email address. Simply contact the office and request to receive an email version of the TIGER PRINT. This is the weekly newsletter the parents receive.

### **PTL Cookie Walk**

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTL Cookie Walk on Dec. 8. This is the major fundraiser of the PTL. Approximately \$2,000 was raised to support this important part of the school ministry.

### **BEHIND THE SCENES OF A SUCCESSFUL COOKIE WALK**



### **Swimming in December?**

The First-Grade students of St. Peter's were "ALL WET" in December. They all took swimming lessons at Swim Reedsburg.



### **Christmas Trees**

Each year the second-grade class selects the tree for their classroom and often the trees for the church.

### **Staffing Changes for Next School Year**

Nancy Rufenacht, the school cook for 35 years, will be retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs. Raupp, the PK Assistant for 8 years, has decided this will be her last school year at St. Peter's. We pray God's richest blessings as they start a new chapter in their lives.

In case you were not aware, Mrs. Hillman will retire at the end of the school year. Mrs. Schwartz will be our Kindergarten teacher next year. Mrs. Schwartz will also be the long-term sub for Mrs. Gunther during her maternity leave.

Mrs. VanMeeteren will not return at the end of this school year to spend more time with her family. St. Peter's has offered the position to Miss Erdman, who is currently in Taiwan completing her student teaching. She plans to visit to St. Peter's in late January or early February. Please keep her in your prayers as she seeks God's guidance on our Designation to serve at St. Peter's.

### **NLSA Accreditation**

St. Peter's Lutheran School is accredited through the National Lutheran School Accreditation process. This process is an important part of the quality Christian education provided by the school. Annual reports are required and every 5 years a Validation Team makes a visit. February 9-11th is when our school ministry will be visited. I will share the results of this process once they are available.

### **Apologetics**

Pastor Crolius has been looking for the opportunity to teach this to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class and this year the schedule has allowed Pastor to have the long-planned Apologetics class. Thank you Pastor Crolius for providing this important class.

### **Chapel Offering**

Pastor Schmelzer, director for Capstone Ministries, visited St. Peter's on December 4. He shared about Capstone Ministries and the camp they provided for the boys they serve. The cost is about \$100 per boy to attend the Camp. We have set for our offering this quarter to send five boys to the camp. As of this writing, our offerings will fund one and a half boys.



### **Nativity**

Have you noticed the new Nativity scene next to the church? It is awesome. This project was funded by the Gerhardt and Verna Brandt memorial fund. Thank you to Dori & Carl Krueger and Cindy Nellesen for their workmanship in completing this project.



The following students will be participating in the Upper Grade (5-8<sup>th</sup>) Spelling Bee on **Thursday, January 9th, at 9:00 a.m.**

#### **5th Grade**

Ethan Braun  
Jake Lichte  
Gracie Roloff

#### **6th Grade**

Trenton Dehn  
Anna Gerike  
Masina Reuter

#### **7th Grade**

Caiden Fuhrman  
Kylee Molitor  
Sophie Williams

#### **8th Grade**

Hunter Abbott  
Chloe Klitzke  
Emma Herritz



Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

"I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ]," St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His "yes" to you, but others will find it, too, through you. "But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).





GENZ, KATHLEEN	1/1
MEYER, MATTHEW	1/1
NOLDEN, MATHEW	1/1
PHEPHLES, JAMIE	1/1
ROGERS, THANE	1/1
ANTOINE, BONNIE	1/2
DEHN, TRENTON	1/2
HEATH, JEREMY	1/2
MURRAY, MCKENNA	1/2
BRAUN, JOCELIN	1/3
FRY, NICOLAS	1/3
HON, HALEY	1/3
JAHN, NOLAN	1/3
KALEPP, MARY	1/3
VERCH, LUKE	1/3
CRISAFULLI, MICHAEL	1/4
SCHMITT, JOHN	1/4
DOBBS, NICOLE	1/5
RAY, STACIE	1/5
RETZLAFF, ELSIE	1/5
LARSON, LILLY	1/6
SCHARA, RICHARD	1/6
SASS, LEA	1/14
STANFORD, HUNTER	1/14
STANDO, GRADY	1/15
MEYER, KENNETH	1/16
VOGEL, JEREMY	1/16
BERNING, CHELSEY	1/17
COLE, JUDY	1/17
GASSER, JANET	1/17
ROSE, SHERRY	1/17
BUDNIK, TYLER	1/18
DIETZ, DENEEN	1/18
MEYER, BENTLEY	1/18
MEYER, OWEN	1/18
ZAUTKE, LISA	1/18
KOCH, TRISTON	1/19
PAHL, SARA	1/19
PARADIS, KARLA	1/20
REICHWEIN, ANDREA	1/20
REINFELDT, TRAVIS	1/20
ELY, JACOB	1/21
IMHOFF, JAY	1/21
SCHRANK, GARY	1/21
GASSER, NATHAN	1/23
BISKUPSKI, LINDA	1/24
HIGGINS, JANELL	1/24

VOLZ, SARAH	1/6
ALEXANDER, SHIRLEY	1/7
ANDERSON, NATHANIEL	1/7
CURTIN, DANIEL	1/7
ESTES, KAYLEE	1/7
GILLIS, AMBER	1/8
LIVINGSTON, BEVERLY	1/8
REIMER, MICAH	1/8
SCHRANK, JOHN	1/8
STEFAN, SHAYLA	1/8
STRUCK, GERTRUD	1/8
WINTHER, MICHAEL	1/8
ALBRECHT, JENNIFER	1/9
CRAKER, JOSHUA	1/9
JASPER, ABIGAYLE	1/9
REUTER, BROXTON	1/9
MOLITOR, PAUL	1/10
PETERSON, SCOTT	1/10
DOROW, GERALD	1/11
GRACE, RANDAL	1/11
STEINHORST, DAYNA	1/11
CURTIN, TIMOTHY	1/12
LINCOLN, ANDREW	1/12
COLE, JUDY	1/13
SCHROEDER, DENNIS	1/13
STRAMPE, JAYCE	1/13
HINEMAN, KELSEY	1/14
ROBERS, MICHAEL	1/14
KNODEL, CADE	1/24
NELLESSEN, BRETT	1/24
PARCE, AMY	1/25
BUTTNER, NICIA	1/26
COOK, JAMES	1/26
STANDO, ROBERT	1/26
ZAUTKE, SARAH	1/26
DEHN, LISA	1/27
DOROW, MARY	1/27
HARMS, MARCELLA	1/27
TROIA, MELANIE	1/27
KEEL, THOMAS	1/28
MEYER, LAURIE	1/28
SCHUETTE, MARY	1/28
THOMAS, HAYDEN	1/28
GASSER, DANIEL	1/29
HARRISON, KAREN	1/29
KAST, JOSEPH	1/29
SCHRANK, DOROTHY	1/29
MUNDTH, ARLENE	1/30
COREY, KATHY	1/31
NICOLAUS, LEELU	1/31
PETERSON, JEFFREY	1/31
TAYLOR, JOSHUA	1/31



## 2019 L.A.M.P. Mission Team

Dear St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Another successful summer of VBS has quickly come and gone. I'm always in awe of the fact that hundreds of volunteers make their way into northern Canada, and it all comes together. It always seems to work out one way or another. I know it's only possible by the grace of our loving God. His guiding, leading and equipping is what is what brings it all together.

You may not realize it, but God has called you to serve with LAMP as well. Perhaps you aren't traveling into northern Canada, but you are supporting the team from your church that does. You donate financially, sew quilts, help with crafts preparations, pack boxes, donate supplies, food or clothing, pray for the team and the community they are serving and more.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you. Without the support of our sending churches, LAMP volunteers would have a much more difficult time serving, and some teams may not be able to serve at all.

Please continue to pray for our friends in the North. We know that winter can be a very trying time for some people. May they always be reminded of the love their Savior has for them.

God bless,  
Shelly Teschke, Director of Mission Opportunities

### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

LAMP Team & Youth Group

***Paint Night*** – January 25, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased from Marti Meyer, Josiah Schultz, or the church office.

***Carnival*** – February 23, 2020

### **CARNIVAL TIME**

You will find the carnival giving board in the entrance of church. If you would like to pick an item or two to help in providing prizes for the carnival, it would be greatly appreciated. Items may be returned to the tote or dropped off at the office no later than February 9. Thank you!!



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