



## December 2018 Newsletter

### Important E-mail Addresses and Phone Numbers

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**Pastor Jim**

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**Pastor Michael**

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**Tom Dietzler, Director of Operations**

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**Jonathan Favorite, Worship Coordinator**

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### WORSHIP SCHEDULE TIMES

Thursday @ 6:30 pm and

Sundays 7:30; 9:00 & 10:30 am

The CORE – Sunday, 5:30 pm

## Message from Pastor

### Have Yourself a Classic Christmas!

Holiday traditions - every family has them! For many families those traditions are non-negotiable and set in stone as a part of their celebrations. It's those traditions that go back decades and have perhaps been handed down from parents and continued by their children that make for a classic Christmas and many great memories. From the peanut squares to the pizza rolls, from the white elephant gift exchange to the junk boxes, holiday traditions make Christmas special.

Christmas is a holiday like no other on our calendars. If you need further evidence, consider how early people start decorating or when Christmas music gets played. But there is more to a classic Christmas than the gifts that are under your tree or the traditions that you use to celebrate it. For Christmas to be Classic it has to go back to its' roots and our reason for celebrating. What makes for a Classic Christmas is that it is the celebration of the birth of God's Son, Jesus. What makes Christmas classic is the life-changing message of the angels to the shepherds in Luke 2, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

It's this very message that I pray you take the time to unpack with us this month at St. Peter and The CORE as we go through The Classic Christmas story of Luke 2 in our sermon series beginning on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and culminating on Christmas Eve. What I pray you will experience as you do, is something greater than even the memories your Christmas traditions will make this year and here is why I believe you will - because real joy and lasting peace are ours because he came to earth 2,000 years ago to be our Savior. I look forward to seeing you this month in worship and I wish you and your family a peace-filled and joyful Christmas!

*Pastor Tim Glende*



### NEW 922 MINISTRIES LOGO!

In 1 Corinthians **9:22** the Apostle Paul says, *"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."* This verse is our passion. St. Peter, The CORE and our school are united in this approach to ministry, therefore we have decided to make that unity more evident as we work together as **"922 Ministries."** Each campus will continue to have its own identity. But we want it to be obvious to all that we are united in this common mission to save more and more people. Working together, we can accomplish greater things for God and his Kingdom!



### Classic Christmas

*Dates: December 2, 9, 16, 23 and Christmas Eve*

*Summary: Nothing says Christmas quite like Luke 2. Luke's words have become the iconic way for Christians to celebrate the birth of Christ. But what if there were life-changing truths buried in these classic words? What if a second look renewed the love we first had for Jesus?*

**Week #1: Crazy Christmas** - Have you ever considered the context of Christmas? Luke 2 doesn't start with joy and peace and goodwill on earth, but with government, power hungry rulers, taxes, and unpaid time off work. Yet God was up to great things even during that crazy Christmas. He still is. Text: Luke 2:1-7.

**Week #2: Black Sheep** - Christmas is a time when families gather, for better or for worse. Tense relationships are revealed. Sins come front and center. Which is what makes Luke 2 so incredible. The shepherds, infamous in the ancient world for their lack of character, are God's first audience for Christmas. Angels bring good news of great joy to take away their fear and welcome them (and us) to the family of God. Luke 2:8-10.

**Week #3: To: You** - Few things are as exciting as finding a Christmas gift labeled To: (You). The label means someone thought about us. Someone loved. Someone searched for just the right gift. No passage proves God's giving heart more than Luke 2:11, the classic summary of the Gift of Christmas. Text: Luke 2:11-12.

**Week #4: A Christmas Carol** - There are many classic songs of the Christmas season but nothing quite matches the first song of Christmas, the song of the angels in Bethlehem. Their lyrics are few, but their meaning is profound. God's favor. Peace on earth. Glory to Him on high! Text: Luke 2:13-14.

**Christmas Eve:** After Christmas - Life slows down after Christmas. The season passes and the winter blues begin. But not on that first Christmas. The shepherds burst with good news blurted out to anyone who would listen. Mary treasured up the truths about her newborn son. People went home glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. What if we did the same? Text: Luke 2:15-20.



**Christmas Services at St. Peter - Invite a Friend!** Many people have their own idea as to why Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year - family, food, parties. Thankfully we know the reason this time of year is wonderful - it is when we celebrate that Jesus came to earth to bring peace with God! We know that peace but many others don't, which is why the holidays leave some very depressed and empty even if there are gifts under the tree.

So, this Christmas we are challenging the members at both campuses to invite their friends who "don't know" or "don't go" to join us at a Christmas service. So, start thinking about the one (or 2-4) person you want to invite to Christmas so that they can hear the most wonderful news - that in Jesus they are loved and there is peace!



### 2018 Christmas Services

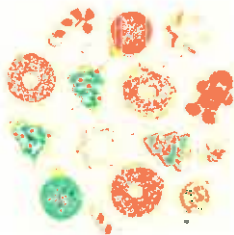
There are many special services this month to help us celebrate Christmas and Jesus' birth. Below is the list of the service times of those services and also the music style that will be used in the Christmas Eve services in case you want to pick based on the best time or music style.

**Advent:** December 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm  
**Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>:**  
11:00 am, 1:00 pm - Contemporary  
3:00 & 5:00 pm - Traditional  
and The CORE @ 4:00 & 6:00 pm  
**Christmas Day:** 9:00 am (St. Peter)

**New Year's Eve - No special service on December 31**  
With all of the special services taking place over the month of December and with New Year's Eve falling on a Monday, we have decided to not have a special NYE service this year.

Instead, the services on Dec. 27th and 30th will be services where we will look back on the year that has passed and also ahead to 2019. We will offer communion in these services as well.

### Community Cookie Decorating Event



Held at the downtown campus The CORE - gives you, the members of 922 ministries, an opportunity to grow your roots and extend an invitation

out to the community to join us in a holiday tradition. The community will gather at The CORE to share the joys of decorating Christmas cookies with their families and listening to the joyous sounds of the season. Please mark your calendar for December 8<sup>th</sup> and extend an invitation out to family, friends, and neighbors as we show the community the love of Jesus through our actions. This would not be possible without the help of volunteers; if you would like to help with this event please contact us at

[contact@communitycookiedecorating.org](mailto:contact@communitycookiedecorating.org)

Additional information can be located at [www.communitycookiedecorating.org](http://www.communitycookiedecorating.org).



Special birthday wishes to the following members who are 70+ years young!!

- Karl Seiltz (12/02)
- Karen Sengstock (12/02)
- Barb Schwab (12/06)
- Bruce Lillge (12/07)
- Den Forbeck (12/09)
- Butch Schmidt (12/11)
- Lynette Buss (12/14)
- Gerda Kuba (12/15)
- Ron Springstroh (12/19)
- Marvin Springstroh (12/20)
- Neita Falk (12/24)
- Marge Forbeck (12/27)
- Fred Plamann (12/27)
- Bill Kietz (12/31)

The Magic of  
*Christmas*  
is not in the presents  
but in *His*   
presence



### Life Groups - New semester starts in January!

Sustained life change happens best in a small group. Your walk with Christ was never designed to be a journey taken alone. God put us together in what he calls the body of Christ, the church. For our faith to grow and thrive, we need each other. We need to do life together with at least a few Christian brothers and sisters, in honest, transparent relationships. So, decide if you will make Life Groups a priority in your life and in your schedule!

- January 6 - 21: Life Group sign ups open.
- January 27: Life Groups begin meeting.
- First week of May: Life Groups wind down for the summer.

Questions? Or might you lead a group? Contact [pastormichael@922ministries.com](mailto:pastormichael@922ministries.com) or 920-878-2899

#### SCRIP

Are you having a hard time finding the right gift for that hard to buy for person? A scrip card may be the perfect gift! We have many gift cards available. Stop by the scrip cart between services on Sunday and in the school office on Monday and Friday from 7:30-8:15 am and 3:00-3:30 pm. Place your order early!! THE CUT OFF FOR GUARANTEED CHRISTMAS DELIVERY IS NOON ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17.

**Note:** SCRIP will only be sold at Church during the Christmas school break.



#### Paper Recycle Drive

The winter paper recycle drive will be from Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please bring all of your non-wax coated (no wrapping paper) paper and cardboard to be recycled to a dumpster that will be located next to the 1910 Center.



**Christian Day School Christmas Service**  
December 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm at Fox Valley Lutheran  
**Bible Discovery Program**  
Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 St. Peter Service.



The following are some especially needed items for December: Chunky soups, jam, hamburger, tuna and chicken helpers, canned fruit, canned meats like ham/Spam/tuna, rice, rice and noodle side dishes, all crackers, cookies, and personal care and household cleaning products. *Please no expired or perishable items.*

Collection is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Please bring your pantry items to the church kitchen. Monetary donations can be placed in the donation box on the counter in the church kitchen the first Sunday of each month. Please make your checks out to: *Apple Valley Food Pantry.*



Check out St. Peter's YouTube channel! The sermon is posted there each week, as are some other videos you may be interested in. To get to the St. Peter channel, go to [922ministries.com](http://922ministries.com), click "St. Peter Church" then "About." Look in the right column for the link to our YouTube channel. While you're there, be sure to subscribe!

## Tic-Tac-Toe-Hello

### Do You Have a Friend... at Church?

It's no secret—earthly friendships are a true blessing, but did you know that having friends is essential for your overall wellbeing? According to Gallup's research, *Wellbeing: The Five Essential Elements*, if a person has a best friend at work, he/she will be seven times as likely to be fully engaged. In addition, people with at least three close friends at work were 96% more likely to be extremely satisfied with their life. Having friends at work provides employees with a sense of connectedness to the organization and leads to increased overall wellbeing. Results of this study have CEOs and executive teams considering how to cultivate community building in their companies, creating a more productive workplace and helping employees become more engaged.

If developing friendships help others feel a sense of belonging and it leads to an increased overall wellbeing in the workplace, imagine how beneficial it would be to develop strong, Christian friendships within one's church family. As part of my action research project for my Master's in Servant Leadership through Viterbo University, it was my desire to discover opportunities where we can encourage community building and connectedness at 922 Ministries, helping others develop friendships within our church family. God did not intend for us to do life alone. We are truly better together. Life's journeys can be hard and we need friends to encourage us and help us navigate these struggles and challenges with God's Word as a guide.

Many people have asked me, what exactly is Servant Leadership? In a nutshell, Servant Leadership is not about being the best. It is the desire to make everyone else around you better. Servant leaders encourage others to discover their higher purpose, investing in them, leading and coaching them to become the best version of themselves. Jesus modeled servant leadership throughout his ministry as he continually taught his disciples and followers to love God and love others. Servant leaders build relationships by creating a culture of service. This culture is slowly cultivated through active listening, collaborating, learning and serving.

As I began my research to uncover opportunities to build community and connectedness within 922 Ministries, I recognized the best place to start was to ask the 922 community experts—YOU! Through the responses from the Building Community and Connectedness survey, I learned our church family has a strong desire to help guests and attendees feel welcomed, valued and loved. While the leadership team at 922 Ministries wrestles with the survey results and what next steps they would like to explore, we decided to implement a simple greeting initiative as the action step for my research project. Did you see Pastor Mike's "Tic Tac Toe – Hello!" video or notice the Tic Tac Toe graphic on the name tags of the greeters? "Tic Tac Toe – Hello!" is a catchy phrase to help us remember to love others during church services. We don't always know what battle another person is facing. At times, just walking through the church doors that day was tough or even scary. Throughout the church service you are to imagine yourself as the center of a tic-tac-toe board. Greet the other people on your "board" letting them know with eye contact and a warm smile or a simple hello that you are glad they are here and are excited to worship our amazing God with them.



While it is premature to speak to the overall effectiveness of this initiative, it is wonderful to see so many of you reach out and greet those within your "Tic Tac Toe" board! Everyone can be a servant leader, leading from where you are—even from a church pew or chair. Doing small things with great love begins by meeting the needs of people right in front of you, simply with a smile, or a hello. I pray, with God's help, we are able to connect more people to God's love through our servant hearts as we strive to love God more and love others well, giving all glory to the One who gave us everything!

*Kim Fenske*

### Request for New College or Military Addresses

If your child has entered college or the military and has a change of address, we would appreciate this information so we can keep in touch with them.

Please send this information to:

[gloria.plamann@922ministries.com](mailto:gloria.plamann@922ministries.com) or  
call the office at 739-2009.



The Family of Vernon Wichman would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards and support to the family. We are so thankful for all the visits Vern had at Brewster Village; it sure

made his day. Finally, we thank Tom & Rhonda for all their hard work, and the people who served for the funeral. The money we received was given to the St. Peter Building Fund. Our church family is truly a Blessing.



### Available for sale in the office!

St. Peter 150<sup>th</sup> mug or coaster \$5 each.

These would make a great gift!



*"There's a Prayer for That..."* is a collection of over 450 prayers for the people and situations in your life. Whether you are thinking about your family and friends, your future, or your faith, this book will guide you in

prayer. No matter what life brings, there's a prayer for that – and there's a loving Father who wants you to talk to him. This book is available for \$10 on the Welcome Center in Church.



### 2019 Contribution Envelopes

Please pick-up your envelopes as soon as possible. They will be located in the Gathering Area.

Note that even if you have electronic fund withdrawal for your contributions, you still get a box of envelopes because everyone **MUST** be assigned a number. You may elect to use these for the special worship services, such as Lent, Easter and Christmas.

All envelopes are in numerical order and if you can't remember your number, there is a report laying by the boxes that names are listed in alphabetical order. Any questions, please call Rhonda Dietzler in the office at 739-2009.



### Sheepshead Tournament

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Peter Sheepshead Tournament will be held in the Commons Area at St. Peter School on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 10:00 am and play will be from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. Registration, food and refreshments are FREE, a freewill offering box will be available. Many prizes will be given and trophies for the top three scores! If you have questions, please call Don Treichel @ 920-246-0292. Join us for some fellowship and fun!



### Remembering Our Homebound Members

Please see enclosed list of the members of St. Peter that are homebound. If you would like to send them a card for the Christmas season, it would be much appreciated!



The VFW Auxiliary to Freedom Post 7692 is holding its 45th Christmas dinner for residents of the Freedom school district, age 60 and older, on Thursday, December 6th, 2018 at the VFW Clubhouse on Highway 55,

Freedom. Serving will begin at 12:30 p.m. Doors will open at 12:00 noon. Seating is limited - call in your reservation by December 3, 2018 to Auxiliary Secretary Cathy Vander Logt at 788-4191.



I'd like to send a special 'Thank You' out to all the members that help throughout the year from the folding of the bulletins, assembling newsletters to counting money and anyone else that helps the office in any way. Your service is so important and very much appreciated. May the Lord continue to shine His grace on all of you.

*Rhonda Dietzler*



Homeless Connections – Now Pillars has a Giving Tree set up in the Gathering Area with ornaments stating different gifts that can be purchased for the Homeless. Gifts need to be returned to St. Peter (in the box next to the tree) no later than Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, when the shelter will be distributing the gifts to those in need.

**LOST & FOUND** - If any of your belongings turn up missing, please check the Lost & Found which is in the labeled cupboard of the cabinet under the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. There is also a designated area in the church coat room for left behind coats & jackets.



The LWMS Fall Rally was held at Bethany Lutheran Appleton on Nov. 10, 2018. Alicia Michelle and Jane Mose presented an

informative visual and musical presentation. Their songs, dress, and authentic musical instruments were played by family members. Their focus was on the vulnerable children missions which include the orphanages in Haiti, India, and Zambia. Money collected from St. Peter for the Fall Rally totaled \$280 and \$8148 overall from all the congregations in the circuit. This money was split between the Home Mission Fund - Caribbean Scholarship Fund and the World Mission project being the Proclaimers.

Good news for anyone saving postage stamps for the India orphanage. Another lady has stepped up to spearhead this project. Therefore, the stamp box will again be on the counter by the pictures of new members. (Forever stamps, foreign stamps, duck stamps, and any stamp that is unique is preferred).

Lastly, I would also like to step down from being the Lutheran Women's Mission Society Reporter for St. Peter. I have thoroughly enjoyed holding this position for many years and feel that it is time for another to take over. Therefore, we are looking for one or two mission minded ladies to please consider this position. Co-reporters for a congregation are also possible. The Reporter is responsible for informing the ladies of the goings on of the LWMS. Here at St. Peter we usually do this through the Church Newsletter. Some of the activities of the reporter are to attend the pre-rally meetings, one in early spring and one in fall and then to attend the two separate Rally's. There is also the follow up on the collections and dues and prayers for our dedicated missionary family's.

Any interested ladies are welcome to talk with myself, Audrey Zuberbier, or Rhonda Dietzler.

*Bev Kalies*

**Church/School Office Hours**  
 7:30 am – 4:00 pm  
 8:00 am – 2:00 pm during Christmas Break



**BOX TOPS, KWIK TRIP MILK JUG TOPS** - We have two different locations where you can deposit your Box Tops, and Milk Jug/Bag Tops. There is a cabinet located under the bulletin board in the

Gathering Area of the church that has labeled drawers and there is also a cabinet that is located outside of the school kitchen.

**\*Note - Other Kwik Trip Nature's Touch items eligible: Orange Juice, Drinking Water, Kwik Quencher Iced Tea & Lemonade-Gallons & Eggnog**



**Card Making Ministry**

Join the fun in making greeting cards for our homebound members, those in the hospital, new babies,

etc. This group meets every second Monday of the month in the 1910 Centre (the old building located across the street from the new church). Everything is supplied! Just bring yourself. The next get-together will be Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Questions? Call Luella Kietz at (920) 731-1650.

*Church Council*



- Gregg Mattek (President)
- Doug Dahm (Vice President)
- Brian Hoppe (Secretary)
- Craig Schultz (Treasurer)
- Craig Vosters (Maintenance)
- Joel Weeks (Evangelism)
- Gaetan Philippon (School Board)
- Dave Flunker (Elders)

*Please note that we invite people to speak with any of these men listed above if you have any questions at any time.*



**Ladies Quilting Ministry**

The St. Peter Quilting ministry is one that touches many people. Every new baby that becomes a part of our church family receives a quilt, as do members and friends who are homebound, in the

hospital or facing treatments for cancer and other illnesses. You don't have to know how to sew, you can be taught different things that can help. This group meets each Thursday at 9 am in the room upstairs in the 1910 Centre (historic school building across from the church). If you're interested in helping the quilting ministry in any way, please contact Karen Peters at 739-2924.

From the Staff & Faculty of St. Peter:  
 Merry Christmas!!



**NOTE:** The Quilting Ministry needs donations of black or white thread (regular sewing thread). Please drop donations off in the office.





## December Update from St. Peter Director of Operations

- 1) Joel Weeks is doing a great job for us since he began here in early August. It's a great blessing to have someone capable in his position and we're thankful for the great addition to our staff. St. Peter is somewhat similar to the Green Bay Packers, having replaced Brett Favre (Paul Zuberbier) with Aaron Rodgers (Joel Weeks) 😊
- 2) We were able to give \$2,500 checks to both Pillars, Inc. and LEAVEN as we cleared approximately \$5,000 after our own expenses were covered from the Ready, Set, Glow 5K run. Pastor Mike Novotny also delivered approximately 50 \$50 Festival Foods scrip cards to faculty and staff at Columbus School in Appleton. The money for the gift cards was in a fund that was left-over from a previous year's mission partner money.
- 3) We've had some issues with the rooftop HVAC unit that is above the west end of the 1998 hallway. Curt's Service came out in mid-November and took care of these and a few other issues.
- 4) Joel Weeks and Dave Van Calster did some work on the area outside the west end of the gym, and the slope that extends northward from where the 1982 building connects with the 1998 portion of the building. They placed a lot of fill in that area, and they believe that this should be helpful in diverting water runoff away from the area of the gym storage room that leaked pretty severely during some heavy rains at the beginning of the school year. Because there are quite a few underground electrical lines coming into the building in that area, Buss Electric advised us to try changing the contour of the grade in the area before digging up that area to lay drain tile. There was no cost involved with the method that we employed, so if it is not effective, we can always try something else.
- 5) The new bookshelves for the library are stained and varnished (thank you Dean Van Handel), and just awaiting Merlin having an opportunity to attach them to the walls.
- 6) Officer Tom Van Horn of the Freedom Police Department was here recently and he introduced me to one of their new officers. At that time we had a discussion about some safety concerns (about how we would react to an intruder coming into our building during worship services). The Freedom Police and Fire Departments are a great blessing to us, and we have a great relationship with them, and they both have contributed greatly to enhancing the safety and security of our campus.
- 7) The landscaping on the west side of our building, extending from the sidewalk on the north side of the church, all the way to the northwest corner of the gym is complete. We thank Aaron Techlin who sent a crew over in October and Joel assisted them with getting the work done. That is the last item left from the building construction project.
- 8) We had our sprinkler system inspected in October. Everything is in order. Joel also replaced some batteries in some of our emergency lights, so we are now in compliance with everything that the Town of Freedom expects of us after their inspection in October.
- 9) We issued our Employee Manual in October. There were some questions that were addressed and the manual will be edited and changes will be made based upon realities that we deal with. Our insurer, Church Mutual and the Choice Program auditor, Kerber-Rose, highly recommend that we have an employee manual, so we've spent the last year and a half working with Human Resources Consulting, Inc. putting this manual together.
- 10) We had 77 people, mostly non-members, come in for various health screenings from LifeLine Screenings on Friday, October 26.
- 11) So far this year, we have taken in \$77,662 from 223 giving units, as of November 19, for this year's Max the Match (150<sup>th</sup> Special Anniversary Gift).
- 12) Jonathan Favorite is training the office staff on the use of Planning Center. Various staff members received extensive training on the use of Planning Center to manage our facilities. Facilities management is ready to "go live" on Planning Center at the first of the year, the people management portions may take a little longer.
- 13) We served three families in one week's time with funerals here at St. Peter. The pastors and staff here deserve huge appreciation for managing everything that goes into serving families at such a difficult time. Vern Wichman's funeral was Oct. 31 - Nov. 1; Don Schmidt's funeral was on Sunday, Nov. 4 and Dorothy Uhlenbrauck's funeral was November 6-7.

*Tom Dietzler – Director of Operations*



So then, as we have opportunity,

## LET US DO GOOD TO EVERYONE,

and especially to those who  
are of the household of faith.

**GALATIANS 6:10**



I'm not a pastor, so I don't have those neat statistics right at hand about how many times some form of the word "thanks" is used in the Bible. I have a feeling that it's a lot. I realize that what I am writing will be used for the December newsletter, but I am writing during the week of Thanksgiving. However, many times the Bible talks about thanksgiving, not necessarily the day itself, but the act of being thankful, I'm convinced that we can't be too thankful. I am convinced that we can be not thankful enough. We are surrounded by so much abundance, so much beauty, so much creativity and so many excellent servant examples that we can hardly blink our eyes without seeing some example of how God blesses us each and every minute.

At the end of October and into the first week of November, we had three funerals within one week. Those were great occasions for the people of God to come together and thank God for three older members of our church family who got to claim their place in heaven with their Savior. Though there was some sadness at each of the three funerals, there was also the overwhelming feeling of joy that loved ones whose lives had been long and full, but who were all ready to go home to be with Jesus. All three funerals were full of affirmations that the ages of 84, 90 and 93, Vern Wichman, Don Schmidt and Dorothy Uhlenbrauck had achieved what all Christians hope for: life eternal. We can be thankful that their prayers were answered, and that we'll have the opportunity to celebrate with them some day.

We can also give thanks that we were given the chance to serve the families of these three Christians when their earthly journeys ended. It's not easy to coordinate three funerals in a week, and God blessed those celebrations. The gentle reminder that I want to add is that when this kind of thing happens, we are here to serve the families. We try to work with the families, as best that we can, taking into account the realities of a multitude of activities at our church and school, and doing whatever we can to make the process as wonderful, memorable and smooth as these difficult occasions can be. There are some limitations, but we try to ask the right questions and take many variables into the process to help you make the right decisions about how to honor your loved one with a fitting and God pleasing funeral.

We work with all the area funeral homes, and we try to do all that we can to honor your wishes, or the wishes that your loved one may have expressed about how to conduct their funeral. One thing that we need to keep in mind is that experience has taught us that we can only handle up to 200 people for a sit-down meal. If you're expecting more people for a sit-down meal, you will probably need to investigate having the meal at another site, and we can assist you with finding one, if you would like. When it comes to the meal, we offer a variety of meals, with food that can be catered in if you would like, or we can prepare a meal such as hot turkey, beef or ham sandwiches or fried chicken with various sides. It is completely up to you. We will make suggestions based upon what has worked well here in the past, but we're here to assist you in making this process work best for you and your family and any of the guests and visitors that you expect to attend.

We expected a large crowd for a recent funeral, and the family chose to do more of a buffet style where guests could eat at a time of their own choosing, at any time during the funeral visitation. Some people interpreted this as "they're not serving a lunch." We did serve a full sit-down menu of sandwiches, sides and desserts, it just wasn't served all at one time to all the guests in a "sit down" fashion. It's what the family chose, and it worked very well. If you have questions about options available for funeral meals, please contact Rhonda Dietzler in the office at (920) 739-2009, she is more than happy to discuss these things.

We are blessed with excellent facilities that can be a great blessing to families at the time of a loved one's funeral. Having our ministry center as large as it is right outside of our sanctuary is very nice for people to move from the sanctuary to the meal without having to go outside or deal with any stairs. The Heritage Room is a very private, comfortable room for the family to gather during the visitation and the funeral and for times between and after the proceedings. We are honored to be able to serve and assist families in many ways during this difficult time, and we're more than happy to answer questions and to provide information about some of the options available to you and your family and to discuss how to make a difficult time as easy and as comfortable as possible.

*Tom Dietzler, Director of Operations*



# Youth and Family Ministry

## DECEMBER 2018



### The Struggle with and Solution for Keeping Youth in Jesus

Did you know that, according to the latest research in WELS – corroborated by various church bodies throughout Christendom – only about a quarter to a third of our children will remain active in the church as they transition from adolescence to adulthood and, at best, 50% will remain on the books. From the Scriptures, seeing how God has called us out of darkness to be his Church, we can't help but see a lack of church connectedness as a lack of a relationship with Jesus himself. I'd suggest to you that this is a spiritual crisis, and I know I'm not the only one who is concerned.

Over the past decade in ministry, having focused on youth in particular – I have talked to countless called workers, lay leaders, and parents that are all concerned about these numbers. No one wants to find one day that their children are lost from Jesus. Who of us doesn't want to see our children in heaven? Who of us doesn't shutter at the thought of finding them missing?

That's what brings us, especially fathers and mothers, to this discussion, and not only a talk about the problem, but a solution.

As of 2018, the LCMS (Missouri Synod) just completed an exhaustive study on millennials and the church. Their main quest was to find out why we are seeing the stats we are seeing among our young people and why they seem to be getting worse. Out of some 600 active and inactive millennials who left over 100,000 words in response to their questions, here are the three major indicators of why young people will remain in the church as active adults: 1) Parents who are actively involved in the church before, during, and after confirmation where there is a healthy relationship with a father especially, was the number one indicator of whether or not a young person would remain; 2) Young people noted that they had spiritual mentors from the local congregation who made a difference for them in their walk of faith; 3) Young people were invited to participate in meaningful service and were invited to lead early on.

In short, that's it. That's the solution. But what about Youth Ministry programs, Engaging Youth Leaders, Confirmation Class, Lutheran Day schools, Apologetics, etc? Don't get me wrong, there's an important place for all of that which we will discuss in our upcoming talks – this is an 18-part series we are now embarking on for our newsletter, so stay tuned!

But let me just say it simply - again the solution - for the purposes of this first talk: Faith is better caught than taught for young people – by God's design: 1) Fathers, especially fathers, and mothers are the critical pieces to all of this; 2) Next, mentors from the congregation form the extended family, another critical component; 3) Lastly, young people need to know and see from the church that they're not just saved, but they're saved for meaningful purpose in this life.

Until next time, God bless our families and all of us here at St. Peter!

*Pastor Bill Monday*  
Pastor of Family and Outreach

Only fear   
*the Lord,*  
 and serve Him in truth  
 with all your heart:  
 for consider how great things  
*He hath done*  
 for you.  
 1 Samuel 12:24



# ST. PETER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

## SCHOOL NEWS DECEMBER 2018



**ST. PETER LUTHERAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE AT FVL MATH BOWL**  
Recently St. Peter Lutheran had six 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Math Bowl teams participated in the FVL Math Bowl. Out of 82 overall 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Sami Vosters, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, took first place! Jack Breiland, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student took 5<sup>th</sup> place, Adam Erdmann, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, took 6<sup>th</sup> place. Out of 70 overall 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Luther Monday, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student took 4<sup>th</sup> place, Eli Stern, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student took 5<sup>th</sup> place, and Tony Drontle, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student took 10<sup>th</sup> place. Special thanks to Mr. Nate Schoenherr,

Mrs. Lori Monday, and Mr. Justin Ninmann our upper grade math teachers for their work preparing our teams. **GREAT WORK COMETS!**

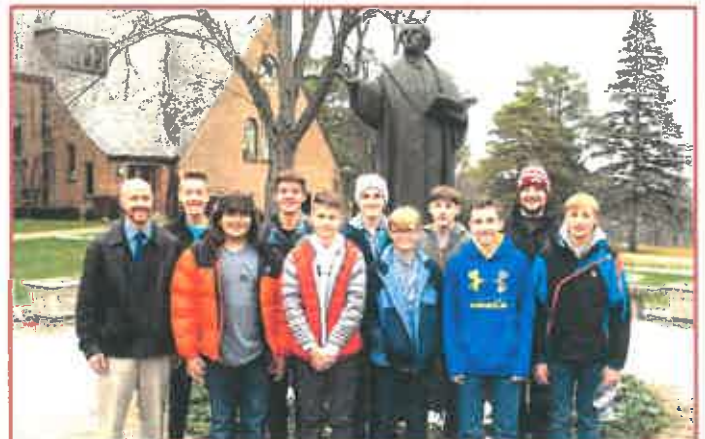
**Our Children's Christmas Service** titled "Let the Children Come" will be held on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fox Valley Lutheran High School auditorium. Pre-service music performed by our string and piano students will begin at 5:30 p.m. We hope that you will be able to join us for this very special worship service.



**EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY CENTER ENROLLING FOR 2019 SUMMER AND 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**—All St. Peter Lutheran and CORE families that have a three or four-year old child received a St. Peter Lutheran Early Childhood Ministry Enrollment Packet in the mail. Families that are interested in using our Early Childhood School Year or Summer Program are asked to complete the online enrollment form and return the family tuition

form to the school office by December 13<sup>th</sup>. We expect great interest in our program and it is important to return your forms as soon as possible. Open enrollment will begin on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. For additional information go to our website at <http://922church.com/st-peter-school> and click on the early childhood tab.

**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE STUDENTS VISIT THE SEMINARY**—Recently Pastor Bill, Zach Flunker, and nine 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys visited our Seminary in Mequon. The students toured campus, attended chapel, and learned the type of schooling needed to become a pastor. Please continue to keep the men that are training to be our next pastors in your prayers. Also, you can encourage the young men in our congregation to consider serving as a pastor.



*Phil Punzel, Principal*

## The CORE Newsletter - December 2018

### Four Perfect Christmas Gifts

Can I be honest? I really don't like selecting Christmas gifts for people. I love to do nice things for others, but for whatever reason I stink at picking the right gift for a person.

By way of example, my wife prefers practical gifts. Last December when her hand lotion was getting low, she said she wanted "good hand lotion like this," gesturing to the hand lotion she was dispensing. In my mind I thought, "Yes, good lotion! But my wife deserves the very best!" So I was determined to buy her *great* hand lotion. But I also knew that she would not enjoy it if it was extravagantly expensive. And so I began a research project to find the very best moderately priced hand lotion for my well-deserving wife whom I love dearly. My research narrowed the field down to five hand lotions that were quite different. What's a loving husband to do? I bought all five. Well, it turns out that man brains and woman brains do not operate on the same wave length. What she wanted was the same hand lotion she knew and loved, not something different or "better." The well-intentioned gift was a disaster.

Do you ever struggle with finding the perfect gift? What will you get for people this Christmas? I'm afraid I won't be of much help as you select gifts for your loved ones. But I can tell you the perfect gift you could give those you know that don't go to church. This gift works well for neighbors, co-workers, relatives, that guy on your league basketball team, that girl in your yoga class, or that cashier at Kwik Trip you see all the time. Invite them to a Christmas service at St. Peter or The CORE. More specifically, invite them to the service you are going to attend -- or decide to attend the one they can come to. This gift is perfect because it's *exactly* what they need, even if they don't realize it yet.

Imagine this person accepts your invitation. Here's the gist of what they'll hear at the service. God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son to become one of us. When baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago, God in human flesh entered our broken world. He was and remained blameless and pure. He obeyed the heavenly Father in every way all the time. As our substitute, he did what we have not, then went where we will not -- to the cross to pay our debt of sin in full. He fully restores our broken relationship with our Father in heaven, guaranteeing our eternal future with him.

The people you invite may not know it yet, but this good news is exactly what they need. And you have the privilege and joy of giving them a gift that lasts for all eternity.

But wait, there's more! We are challenging our members to give not just one of these gifts, but four. We are asking every member -- we are asking *you* -- to give specific, personal Christmas service invitations to four people you know that don't go to church. Don't just invite them to a service, but to a particular service. If the time doesn't work, invite them to a time that does. Tell them you'll meet them in the parking lot at the time you set. Walk with them through the doors. (This is harder for them than you realize!) And sit with them in church. What if two people end up accepting your invitation but must come at different times? Go to church twice (but you don't need to tell them.)

What if this simple gift changed the eternal future of someone you know? Wouldn't this become your best Christmas ever? Start planning now. Who will your four be? When and how will you invite them? If you haven't already, would you get out a sticky note right now, and write on it four people you will invite? Put that note someplace where you will see it regularly. Pray and prepare to invite them! Together, let's make this the best Christmas ever.

- Pastor Michael Ewart

# FVL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO THE FEDERATION

November 2018

**FVL MISSION: partners with families and Federation churches, providing students with a Christ-centered education preparing teens for lives of service and for eternity.**

## SCHOOL NEWS

- Current enrollment stands at 651 students, as compared to 618 at this time last year.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Night took place October 29 with nearly 400 students and parents attending.
- Thirty-eight students attended the *Focus on Ministry* trip to Martin Luther College.
- About 450 worshippers celebrated Dedication for the *Let the Children Come* building expansion effort on October 14. The special worship service was followed by self-guided tours.
- Student Council served breakfast to over 200 veterans and their families on Veterans Day. Our guest pastor was **Rev. Leon Ehlert**; our guest military speaker was retired **Lt. Col. Keith Krueger**.
- Nearly 100 students enjoyed tours and a chance to meet our school mascot at the *Fox Fun 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Tour*.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Scheduling Nights are set for November 14 & 19. Families who can't attend either night can contact FVL Guidance Department for an appointment.
- The FVL Choirs invite all to their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 16 at 4 p.m.

## STAFFING

- The Board of Regents is preparing to extend a science call as well as calls to fill the needs related to the retirement of FVL called workers: **Mr. Dave Voss**, **Miss Jane Polley**, and **Mrs. Donna King**. **Mr. Robert Fischer** is also retiring but his replacement **Mr. Jeff Loberger** is already in place.
- **Mr. Ben Priebe**, FVL's Enrollment Director, is deliberating a call to serve as an Admissions team member at Martin Luther College. **Mr. Adam Frey** has received a call to serve at St. Croix Lutheran H.S. Please remember these men in your prayers.
- **Mr. Benjamin Rusch** has joined our maintenance staff as a second shift custodian.

## COCURRICULARS

- Over 700 elementary school children attended our fall play, *The Election*. Three public performances of this humorous satire were held.
- The FVL Choraliers participated in the WELS Choralfest at Minnesota Valley Lutheran HS.
- Over thirty athletes received all-conference honors this fall season. Special honors went to **Liz Santos** as *Conference Golfer of the Year* and **Dylan Blum** as *Conference Offensive Player of the Year*.
- The Fox Folk Marionettes will be sharing the story of Jesus' birth at the Apple Creek YMCA on Saturday, December 1 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. as well as at St. Paul-Green Bay on December 8 at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend.
- The winter sports season is now underway. Check FVL's online calendar for dates & times.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Thanks to all who helped FVL reach the \$1M goal for financing the *Let the Children Come* building expansion earlier this fall. The remainder of the building debt is being financed through low-interest tax-exempt bonds over the next twenty years. Work has already begun on meeting our first payment of \$475K by October 2019.
- Congregational support is 3.6% ahead of last year. Over \$260K of the Federation church commitment of \$983K has been given.
- SCRIP sales for September were \$139K. Total sales for the year equal \$657K.
- October's annual Friends Dinner featured the presentation of the Heart of the Servant Awards. The Leaders of the Past Award went to Dr. Kenneth Johnson; the Called Worker Award went to Mr. Jimmy Groth; and the Leaders of Today Award was presented to the Hon. Harold Froehlich.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> annual *FoxFest Dinner Auction* will be held this spring at Liberty Hall on April 5. All tickets will be sold in advance. The theme is "Kentucky Derby." Watch for more info to come.

*With you, serving Jesus – Principal Steve Granberg*

Remember those  
who are less  
fortunate



Phyllis Springstroh  
Brewster Village  
3300 W Brewster  
Appleton, WI 54914

Deloris Springstroh  
Grand Horizons  
5102 N Cherryvale Ave  
Appleton, WI 54913

Eunice Zimmerman & Paul (son)  
W2880 Oakridge Dr  
Appleton, WI 54915-8141

Randy Techlin  
1500 Rosehill Rd  
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Marge Springstroh  
4100 N Foxglove Lane  
Appleton, WI 54913

Mary Hausauer  
2642 W Glenpark Drive  
Appleton, WI 54914

Marge Forbeck  
Care Partners #33  
5101 N French Rd  
Appleton, WI 54913

Nancy Springstroh  
Country Villa Asst. Living  
N3782 Cnty Trk E  
Freedom, WI 54913

Karen Baneck  
N3198 Cty Trk E  
Appleton, WI 54913

Wes Young  
Heritage Hospice Residence  
2500 S Heritage Woods Dr  
Appleton, WI 54915

# St. Peter Lutheran Church – December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>2</b> Worship – 7:30; 9:00 &amp; 10:30 am Bible Discovery – 9 am Bible Classes – 9 &amp; 10:15am CORE – 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>3</b> Board of Ed Mtg. – 6 pm</p>	<p><b>4</b> Pastor's Circuit – 8:30am Life of Christ Bible Class – 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>5</b> Bible Class – 6:30 am Advent Worship – 6:30 pm Christian Recovery – 6:30 pm @ CORE H.S. Youth Group – 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>6</b> Children's Chapel – 8:30 am Quilting – 9 am Worship w/Lord's Supper – 6:30 pm</p>		<p><b>1</b> Men's Open Gym – 7:15am Advent by Candlelight – 4 pm</p>
<p><b>9</b> Worship w/Lord's Supper – 7:30; 9 &amp; 10:30am Bible Discovery – 9 am Bible Classes – 9 &amp; 10:15am CORE – 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b> Card Making – 6 pm (1910 Centre)</p>	<p><b>11</b> Life of Christ Bible Class – 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>12</b> Bible Class – 6:30am Bible Foundations – 5 pm Conf. Class Gr. 7 – 6 pm Conf. Class Gr. 8 – 7 pm Christian Recovery – 6:30 pm @ CORE H.S. Youth Group – 7 pm</p>	<p><b>13</b> Chapel 8:30 am Quilting – 9 am Worship – 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Men's Bible Study – 7:30 am (Machine Shed)</p>
<p><b>16</b> Worship – 7:30; 9:00 &amp; 10:30 am Bible Discovery – 9 am Bible Classes – 9 &amp; 10:15am CORE – 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>17</b> Church Council – 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>18</b> Life of Christ Bible Class – 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>19</b> Bible Class – 6:30 am Country Villa – 10:30am CDS Christmas Service @ FVL – 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> Children's Chapel – 8:30 am Quilting – 9 am Worship w/Lord's Supper – 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>21</b> CDS Dismissal @ 12:10 pm (Grades 5K-8) 3/4K OPEN ALL DAY</p>	<p><b>22</b> Men's Open Gym – 7:15 am</p>
<p><b>23</b> Worship w/Lord's Supper – 7:30; 9 &amp; 10:30am Bible Classes – 9 &amp; 10:15am CORE – 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>24</b> Christmas Eve Worship – 11:00 am; 1:00; 3:00 &amp; 5:00 pm CORE Worship – 4:00 &amp; 6:00 pm Brewster Village – 9:45 am</p>	<p><b>25</b> Christmas Day Worship – 9 am</p>	<p><b>26</b> Paper Recycling Drive Begins thru January 6</p>	<p><b>27</b> Worship w/Lord's Supper – 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> Men's Open Gym – 7:15 am</p>
<p><b>30</b> Worship w/Lord's Supper – 7:30; 9:00 &amp; 10:30 am Bible Classes – 9 &amp; 10:15am CORE – 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>31</b> NO New Year's Eve Service</p>					