

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
January 2020



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The Epiphany

- Pastor Sorenson

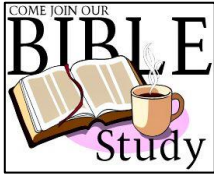
Beginning this year, we have a special opportunity to join together with our fellow saints at St. John, White Creek and St. Paul, Jonesville for two worship services. The first of these special services is here at St. Peter on Monday, January 6th where we will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. (For the record, the second service is at St. Paul, Jonesville on Thursday, May 21st where we will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord.)

The feast of the Epiphany of our Lord always falls on January 6th, being the first day after the 12-day Christmas season. Because of this, it typically falls on a day other than Sunday. One option we have as a church is to move our celebration of Epiphany to the nearest Sunday. While there is nothing wrong with doing this, often times this means we cut the Christmas season short. The second option, then, is to have a special service on January 6th, no matter what day of the week it happens to be. What a special gift it is to be able to celebrate the Epiphany on its normal date and also to celebrate the fullness of the Christmas season!

Since the service will typically be on a day other than Sunday, Pastors Jung, Whitmore, and I thought this would be a marvelous opportunity to bring all of the saints from our area together in worship. Not only will this allow us to see our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who we may not see on a regular basis, but this will also allow us to see with our eyes the unity we all share in Christ. After all, we are not alone as Christians in this life and we are not opposed to our brothers and sisters in Christ at White Creek or Jonesville. Just the opposite, in fact!

While we will certainly rejoice to see faces we don't see often and rejoice to see the unity we share in Christ, we will also rejoice all the more in receiving together the gifts of Christ on these special days. For this is what our worship services are always all about, Christ coming to us to serve us by giving us His gifts. On these two festivals days, we will have the special opportunity to be served by Christ while standing side by side with our fellow saints.

I, along with Pastor Jung and Pastor Whitmore, pray that these services will be a wonderful blessing for us and all of the saints at these three churches. We pray that Christ would continue to unite us together around our common confession and practices. We pray that Christ would continue to build us up in the communion of the saints. And, most especially, we pray that Christ would reveal to us how He, the Son of God, has come in the flesh to suffer and die for us, thus saving us from our sins by means of His death and resurrection. For the Epiphany of our Lord is just that, the revelation of who Christ is and what He has come to do. May the Lord grant all of this to us through the Christ Child who was born to be with us and save us from our sins!

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:**

From 10:15-11:15 a.m. following our worship service, join us for study of the Gospel of Matthew.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesday Night Bible Study will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 PM. Our first night will be another Ask the Pastor night. Come on out with any and all questions you have.

BOOK OF CONCORD: Join us on Sunday, January 12th at 5:00 PM for the Book of Concord study. We have finished the Augsburg Confession and will be beginning the Smalcald Articles, a confession of Martin Luther which was included in the Book of Concord because it is in accord with the Word of God.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES**Joint Epiphany Service:**

Join us Monday, January 6th at 7:00 PM for a joint Epiphany Divine Service as we join together with the saints from St. John, White Creek and St. Paul, Jonesville to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. This will be a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with fellow Lutherans in the area on a very special day in the Church Year. We will also be serving a dinner beforehand, starting at 6:00 PM, consisting of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and dessert.

EVENTS, NEWS &**Library:**

In an effort to build up our library and provide good theological resources for the congregation, beginning in January we will have a special Book of the Month. The Book of the Month will be available in the Parish Hall library for you to look through and read. You may take the book home to read as well, but we ask that you please do not hold onto it for too long so other people can enjoy it as well. The January Book of the Month is *Why I Am a Lutheran: Jesus at the Center* by Daniel Preus. Here is a brief excerpt from the book: "I am a Lutheran for the same reason I am a Christian. It is not by choice but by grace. The teachings of the Lutheran Church place Jesus at the center because the teachings of the Scriptures place Jesus at the center. No other confession demonstrates such fidelity to the truths of God's word. No other confession so glorifies Christ by placing Him at the center of all it confesses and teaches. Being a Lutheran is truly all about Jesus."

Rummage Sale:

Our 2nd Annual Rummage Sale will be January 17 & 18, 2020! It's time to go through your attics, closets, basements, and sheds. This is your chance to get organized and have a place to take all the treasures you no longer need. Last year was so much fun and a great success. This year's efforts will support our church's General Fund.

- You can start bringing items to the parish hall January 7th.
- Set up will be Tuesday afternoon January 14th at 1:00 and Thursday January 16th at 1:00.
- Help is needed on set-up days and also sale days.
- Watch bulletins and emails for info as we get closer.

Soup Supper & Euchre Party:

Our annual Soup Supper & Euchre Party will be held on Sunday, January 26th. The Soup Supper will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the Euchre Party will follow starting at 6:30 p.m. Round up a partner and join us! There is a \$5.00 donation requested per person for the supper and also for the card party. The proceeds from this event will benefit Love Chapel, Columbus and Anchor House, Seymour.

YOUTH CLASSES

YOUTH GROUP will meet on Sunday, January 19th from 5:00-7:00 PM.

YOUTH CATECHISES CLASSES will resume on Jan. 12th at 11:30 AM.

MUSIC GROUPS

HANDBELL PRACTICE will resume on January 14th at 7:00 p.m. The group would welcome new players for the Lent and Easter season. Please text or call Debbie Flohr at (812) 341-4724 if you are interested.

NOTES

COMMUNION SET-UP:

The sign-up sheet for 2020 is on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Parish Hall. Thank you for considering giving some of your time to this effort. We are always open to new help with our worship services.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES:

Contribution envelopes for 2020 are now available for pick up on the table in the dining room of the Parish Hall. Church members are encouraged to use their envelopes when making contributions to the church and to indicate if those contributions are to be directed to the General Fund or the Building Fund. Once the loan for the parsonage is finalized, payments will be made from the Building Fund. Also please note that many numbers were shifted to new numbers in order to cut down on the overall quantity of envelopes we needed to order. Thank you for your understanding.

WEATHER STATEMENT FROM PASTOR AND ELDERS:

With Pastor Sorenson living in the parsonage, church will be held every Sunday as Christ delights to come to us with His gifts. In the event there is inclement weather, please heed any travel advisories and use good judgment on whether or not it is safe for you to come to St. Peter. There is no obligation for anyone to come to church in inclement weather and there is no shame or guilt in not attending church if it is unsafe for you to travel.

FROM THE OFFICE

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Visit our church website at www.stpeterwaymansville.com for daily announcements and information about events.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

January 2020

Ushers: Greg Trimpe & Michael May

Acolytes: Jan 5. – Tristan May

Jan. 6 – Mackenzie May

Communion Set-Up: 1/5: Lynnette May

Jan. 12 – Laurie Schultz

Jan. 19 – Gus Sciano

1/6: Lynnette May

Jan. 26 – Jonah Sciano

1/19: Lynnette May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates: 2/26: Ash Wednesday Service-7:00 PM			1	2 7:00-Elders' Mtg.	3	4
5 9:00 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study	6 6:00 PM -Dinner 7:00 PM-Joint Epiphany Service	7	8	9 10:00 AM-Elders' Mtg. 7:00 PM-Church Board Mtg.	10	11
12 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis	13	14 7:00 -Handbell Practice	15	16	17	18
19 9 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group	20	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25
	Pastor at Symposia at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne					
26 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM-Soup Supper 6:00 PM-Card Party	27	28 7:00-Handbell Practice	29	30	31	

