Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul's and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches

hands&feet

December 2014/January 2015

Regular Worship Schedule

St. Paul's:
Sunday, 9:00 am—Worship Service
Sunday, 10:00 am—Sunday School

St. Peter's:
Sunday, 10:30 am—Worship Service
Wednesday, 6:30 pm—Worship Service
Sunday, 9:00 am—Sunday School

Christmas Worship Schedule

St. Paul's:
Dec 14th, 9:00 am—Children's Christmas Program
Dec 24th, 5:30 pm—Christmas Eve Service
Dec 25th, 9:00 am—Christmas Day Service

St. Peter's:
Dec 21st, 10:30 am—Children's Christmas Program
Dec 24th, 7:30 pm—Christmas Eve Service

Annual Meeting Dates

January 25—St. Paul's Annual Meeting
Report submission deadline—Mon. 1/19/15

February 1—St. Peter's Annual Meeting
Report submission deadline—Mon. 1/26/15

Letter from Pastor...

Dear friends,

Our faith is not so much a set of beliefs as a trusting love relationship with God, initiated by God when he created us, made possible by Jesus dying on the cross to remove the barrier our sin had placed between us and the love of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit so that we can become more and more what God created us to be—his beloved children.

Relationship in the Bible is always described in terms of **covenant**—pledging oneself and one's life to another in love. This is the kind of relationship God has with people, and the kind of relationship he expects us to have with others. Living out that covenant relationship of love with God gets us involved in God's work—building and extending his **kingdom**. Our responsibility as those who have accepted this covenantal relationship with God is to represent him to the whole world so they will be drawn to know him and be loved by him as well.

To that end, after the first of the year, I will be offering a **sermon series** on Sunday mornings that is an overview of the entire Bible in just six weeks. We obviously won't deal with a lot of detail, just the major themes and threads of meaning that help all the rest of it make sense.

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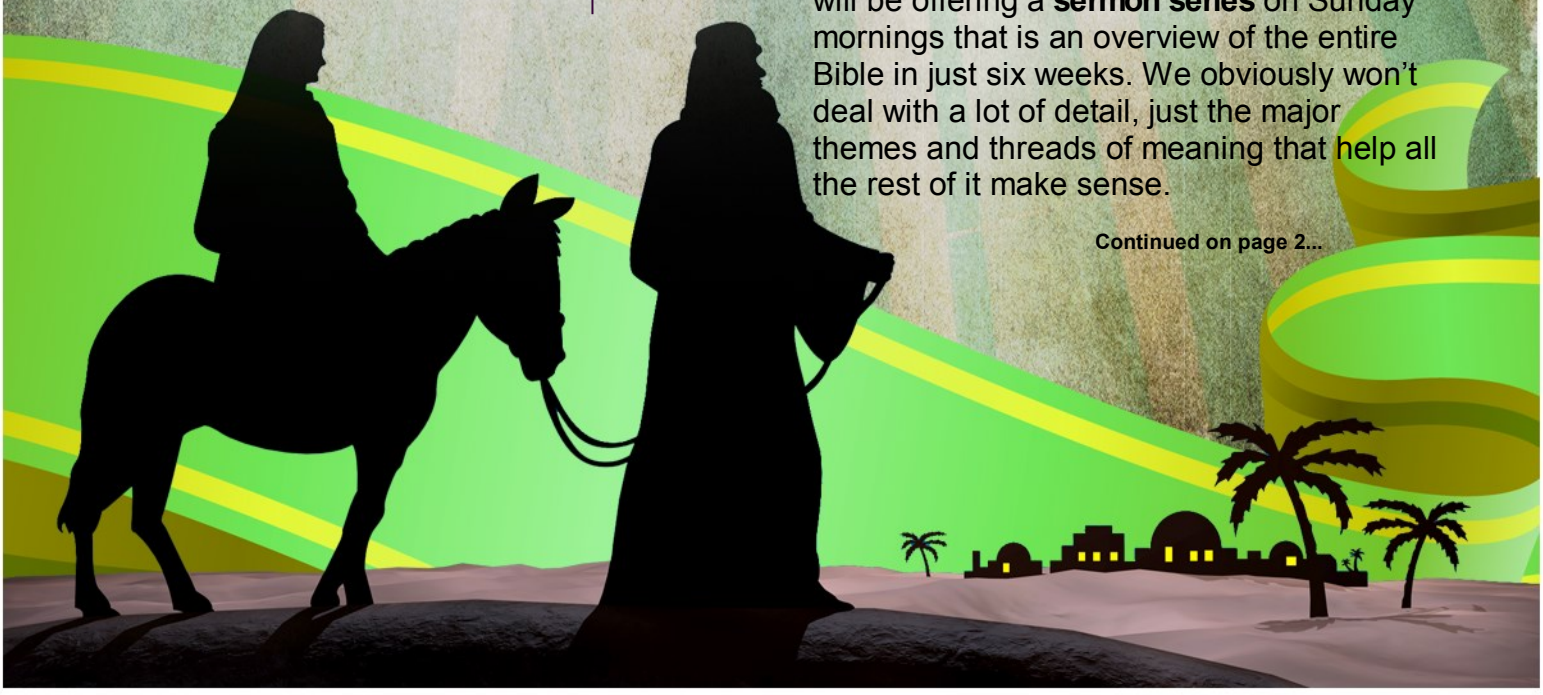


New Email Address for St. Paul's & St. Peter's

Our Frontier email address has become very unreliable, so we now have a new email address. To reach Sarah Blashe, Parish Coordinator, please use stpaulsstpeters@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Bake Sale at Premier Bank

On Friday, December 12th, starting at 8:00 am, St. Paul's is hosting a Bake Sale at Premier Community Bank in Marion. St. Paul's members are asked to bring baked goods to the bank for no later than 8:00 am. Stop in and purchase some of your holiday favorites, but don't delay...when they're gone they're gone!

St. Peter's Annual Cookie/Candy Walk

Mark your calendars for St. Peter's Annual Cookie/Candy Walk on Saturday, December 13th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Pick up all of your holiday treats for just $6 per pound! A variety of crafts will also be available. Vendor space available for $15 per table. Please contact Patty Ambacher to reserve space.

Christmas Caroling—Sunday, December 14th

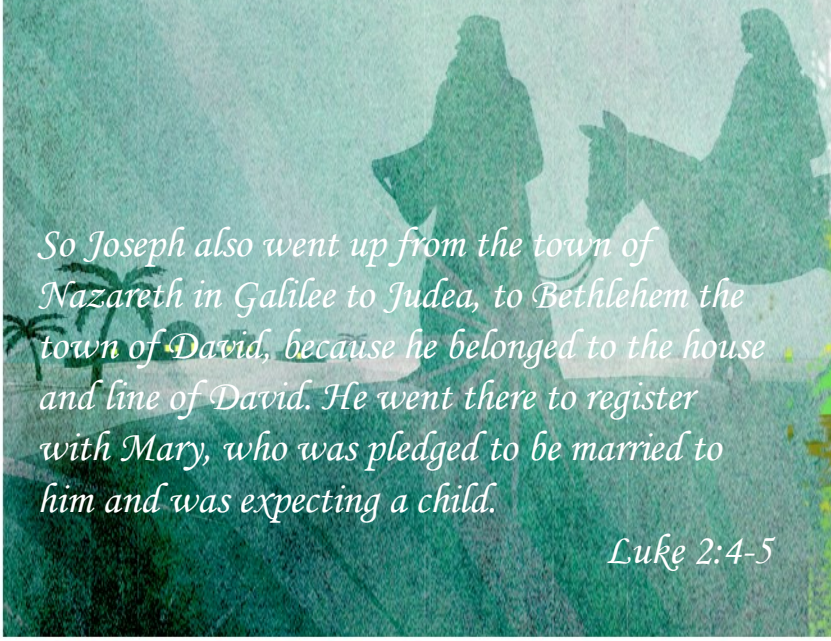
We will be leading a good old-fashioned Christmas caroling evening on Sunday, December 14th. Anyone who would like to join us, please be at St. Peter's by 6pm. Or let Kay Knight know, if there is anything you wish to help with. Also, we will be taking donations of $5 per household, if you would like to ensure someone receives a visit from us. Just email (rascal01@frontiernet.net) or call (715-460-2131) Kay to set it up and give the address. Let's share the Christmas spirit with as many as possible this season.

Family New Year's Party

On Wednesday evening, December 31st, the Youth Group will be putting on a Family New Year's Party. There will be a worship service at 6:30 pm with a Talent/Untalent Show, fun and games, and, of course, food throughout the evening. Please plan to make this a part of your holiday celebrations. Bring the whole family! There will be something for everyone. You won't want to miss it!

Thank You to St. Peter's Ushers

We would like to thank all the Family's that volunteered to usher. The schedule is posted for 2015, your help is always appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Ron Nyhouse.



So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:4-5

Letter from Pastor Continued …

PRAYER/PRAISE/TESTIMONY WORSHIP—4th Wednesday each month; 6:30 pm at St. Peter's

*But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge**; I will tell of all your deeds.***

Psalm 73:28

Living in the covenantal love of God means being who we truly are—beloved children of God, and ACTING like it! Obedience to the love of God means acting in ways that are consistent with being a child of God. One part of that is to worship God and tell what he has done for us and through us.

We are offering opportunities for individuals to tell their God-stories one Wednesday a month at the evening worship service. It's powerful to hear another's testimony of when they've known God's presence and action on their behalf and when and how they've chosen to listen and follow and obey and accept the love of God in their lives. *Come and hear these testimonies and **consider if God might want you to share <u>your</u> testimony**!*

FRESH HOPE

Plans are underway to begin a FRESH HOPE peer support group in our congregations. Fresh Hope is a peer-to-peer Christ-centered wellness approach to mental health recovery based upon six tenets that empowers people to connect both their faith and recovery principles. This approach both empowers and encouraging individuals live full and rich lives in spite of a diagnosis of a mental illness. Faith in Christ in foundational to having hope in hopeless situations. The Christian church needs to be proactive and reach out with hope to the millions who are in emotional pain. There are so many people in our churches and in our community struggling with mental health issues! This is one very effective way to reach out to them with the healing of Christ!

Yours in Christ, Pr. Janice

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

Thank You to St. Peter's Property Maintenance Volunteers

We would like to thank everyone who helped clean up the leaves and get the Church ready for Winter. And thank you to all those that helped all year long with the things that need to be done in and around the Church.

Sunday Night Youth Group

6-12th graders meet every Sunday night from 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Peter's. This is a fun night for youth to build and grow together into a strong group of faithful God-loving believers. All youth in 6-12th grade are welcome to join us!

Quilting and Child Care Kits

St. Peter's Quilters can use: 4-5 oz wrapped soap, dark colored hand towels and children's clothes 3 mos.—2T for Health Kits and Layette Sets. For quilts, we can use: new or gently used dark sheets, blankets, quilts or comforters, and medium-large pieces of fabric.

Snacks/Drinks Needed for St. Peter's Sunday School

We are in need of families who are able to provide snack and/or drink for between Sunday School and Worship service. If anyone is willing and able to help with this, please sign-up on the bulletin board outside the Sunday School office. Any questions may be directed to Kay Knight or Connie Bestul.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Available

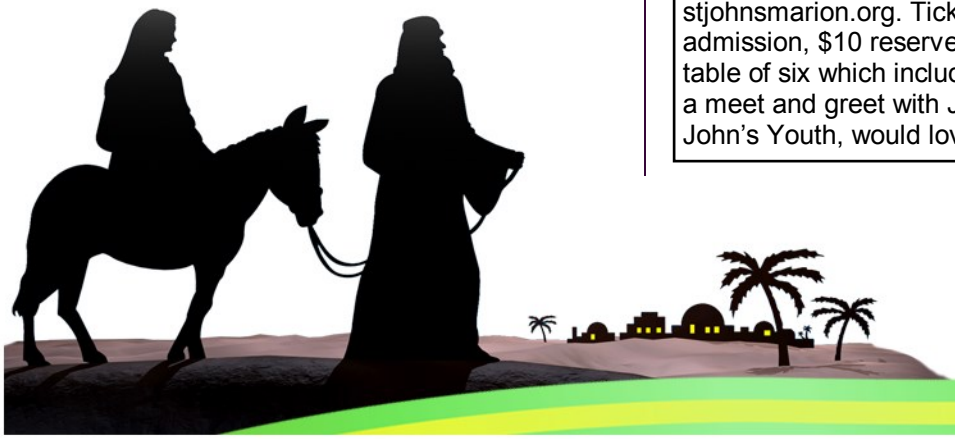
St. Peter's Ladies Aid are selling Kwik Trip Gift Cards to raise funds for paving our parking lot. We have cards in denominations of $25 and $50 and 10% of each sale will go into our parking lot fund. The cards can be used on gas or anything inside the store. They make great gifts for birthdays, holidays and even graduation. Or you can buy them for yourself—after all, who doesn't need gas, milk, bread or bananas—plus you will be giving back to your church! Please see Patty Ambacher, Vicki Nyhouse or Sarah Blashe to purchase your gift cards.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Need to be Directed Quarterly

Members who may have Choice Dollars to direct should call 1-800-THRIVENT and state "Choice Dollars". A Thrivent Representative will assist you in directing your Choice Dollars. Each quarter members must call to direct their monies, this is not being automatically done anymore. If you have your policy # available that will help Thrivent locate your Choice Dollars; if you do not, they will still be able to assist you. St. Peter's and St. Paul's are listed as charitable entities and are appreciative of your donations.

St. John's Lutheran Church presents Jonny Diaz

Marion, WI—Saturday, Dec 6th at 7:00 pm, Jonny Diaz will be in concert at St. John's Lutheran Church. He is a renowned Christian artist with hit songs such as "More Beautiful You" and "Thank God I Got Her". Tickets are available through St. John's church office or on the website at stjohnsmarion.org. Ticket prices start at $5 general admission, $10 reserved seating and $100 for a table of six which includes snacks, beverages and a meet and greet with Jonny. Your hosts, St. John's Youth, would love to see you there.



Worship Assistants Calendar

St. Paul's

Date	Ushers	Communion Asst	Lay Reader
Sun, Dec 7	Volunteers	Peggy Davis	Rosie Wepner
Sun, Dec 14	Volunteers	X	Chuck Adams
Sun, Dec 21	Volunteers	Nancy Heiman	Nancy Heiman
Wed, Dec 24	Volunteers	Volunteer	Nancy Heiman
Thu, Dec 25	Volunteers	Volunteer	Chuck Adams
Sun, Dec 28	Volunteers	X	Rosie Wepner
Sun, Jan 4	Volunteers	Ken Inger	Nancy Heiman
Sun, Jan 11	Volunteers	X	Chuck Adams
Sun, Jan 18	Volunteers	Peggy Davis	Rosie Wepner
Sun, Jan 25	Volunteers	X	Nancy Heiman

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ST. PETER'S?

If so, please sign a Membership Covenant. We'll give you the opportunity to renew your commitment to this congregation at least once year. Our relationship with God is a covenant of grace and our fellowship with other believers is likewise covenantal. Sign a white copy of the Membership Covenant [and fill out the information on the back, please]. You can also sign a beige copy to take home. [COVENANTS AVAILABLE IN WELCOME AREA or BY CONTACTING THE OFFICE]. Give signed covenants to an Elder, Trustee, or Pr. Janice.

St. Peter's

Date	Ushers	Communion Assts	Lay Reader/ Wed Leader	Children's Church Leader
Wed, Dec 3	Volunteers	X	Tracey Mengert	X
Sun, Dec 7	J. Stuhr family	Faye Miller, Kelly Zillmer, Krista Enoch	Dave Eisele	Missy Rosenow
Wed, Dec 10	Volunteers	Volunteer	Dave Eisele	X
Sun, Dec 14	J. Stuhr family	X	Dan Gunn	Missy Stuhr
Wed, Dec 17	Volunteers	X	Kay Knight	X
Sun, Dec 21	J. Stuhr family	X	Faye Miller	Brenda Strebe
Wed, Dec 24	J. Stuhr family	Sue Miller, Patty Ambacher, Tom Miller	Dale Rambo	X
Sun, Dec 28	J. Stuhr family	X	Lola Zaug	Asherrie Opperman
Wed, Dec 31	Volunteers	X	Joyce Eisele	X
Sun, Jan 4	F. Miller/Stedjee family	Dave Schmidt, Margie Schmidt, Connie Bestul	Kelly Zillmer	Krista Enoch
Wed, Jan 7	Volunteers	Volunteer	Tracey Mengert	X
Sun, Jan 11	F. Miller/Stedjee family	X	Tiffany Bestul	Sarah Blashe
Wed, Jan 14	Volunteers	X	Dave Eisele	X
Sun, Jan 18	F. Miller/Stedjee family	Dale Rambo, Brandon Blashe, Dan Gunn	Brandon Blashe	June Rambo
Wed, Jan 21	Volunteers	Volunteer	Kay Knight	X
Sun, Jan 25	F. Miller/Stedjee family	X	Connie Bestul	Erin Bonikowske
Wed, Jan 28	Volunteers	X	Testimony	X