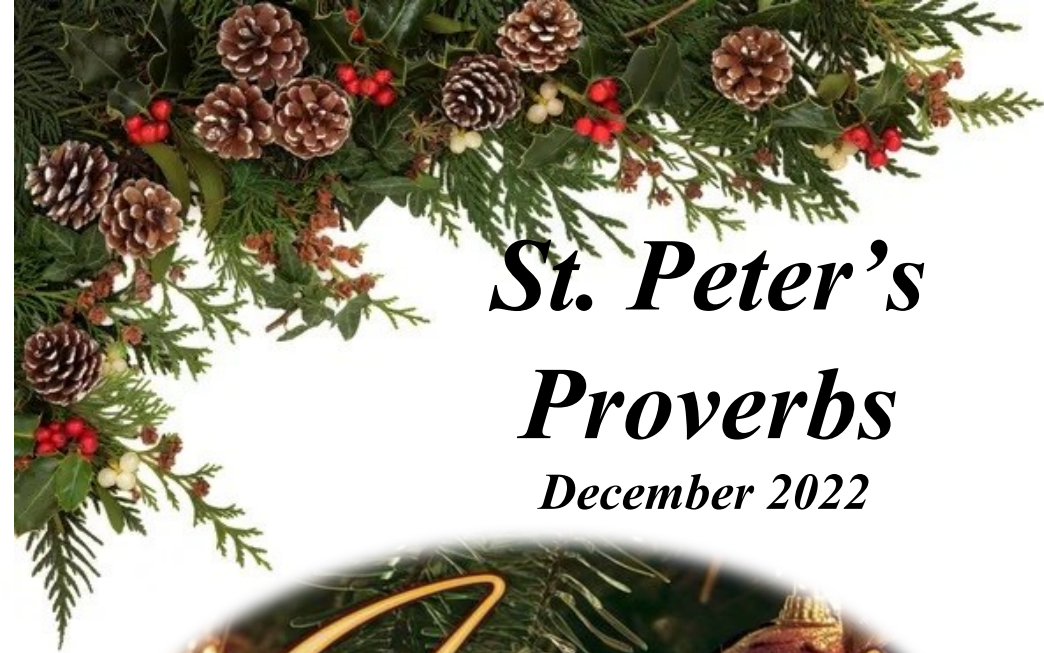


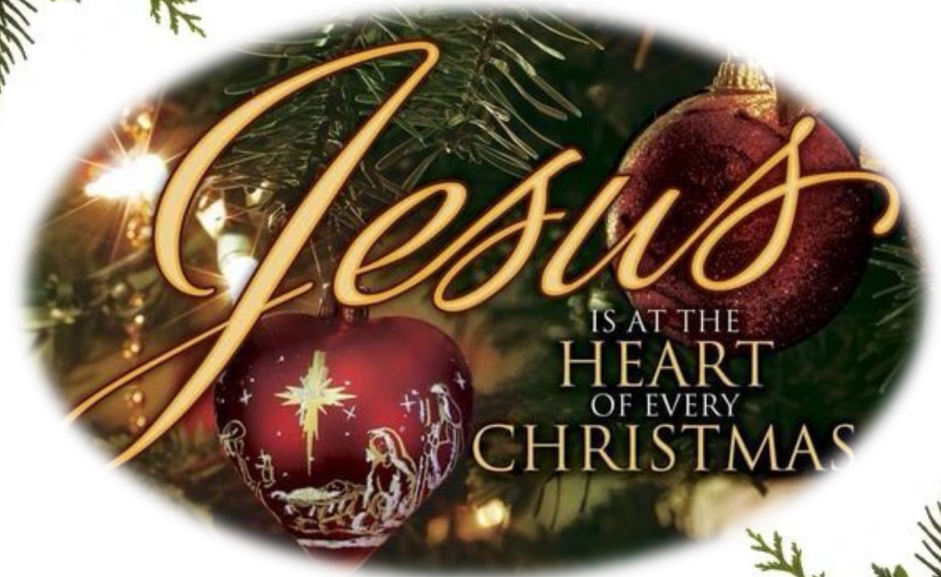


*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6



St. Peter's Proverbs December 2022



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

N10685 Petersen Rd., Marion, WI 54950
715-754-2690
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www.stpetersstpauls.org



A Message from Pastor Janice



Dear Friends,

Does Bible reading ever feel like a chore? Spending time in Scripture is vital for spiritual growth, yet many people struggle with confusion and boredom when they open the Bible. So I propose that come January, we begin together **Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience**.

Immerse removes many of the barriers which make Bible reading difficult, paving the way for deep connection with God and others through the Scriptures.

It starts with a new kind of Bible. ***Immerse: The Reading Bible* is specially crafted for a distraction-free reading experience, helping you dive in and get immersed in Scripture.**

- 6 volumes available in print, e-reader, large print, and audio
- Chapters, verses, and all other modern additives have been removed

Beautiful single-column text displays the natural literary genres of each book

You'll have a great experience using Immerse by yourself. But for an even richer experience, try reading with friends.

Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience is an invitation to a different kind of community interaction with the Bible. ***Less like a Bible study, more like a book club.***

- 8 or 16-week reading plans take you through a large section of the Bible like the New Testament or the Torah
 - Meet once a week for a free-flowing discussion about the text
- Wrestle with questions and celebrate 'aha!' moments together
- Nothing impacts spiritual growth more than spending time in Scripture.*** Immerse removes many of the barriers that make Bible reading difficult and invites communities to become transformed together through the power of God's word.

- Easily read through the entire Bible in 2-3 years
- Notice significant increases in Bible literacy and fluency

Watch communities draw closer through deep, authentic conversations around Scripture

Watch for more information about how to immerse yourself in the Bible in 2023!

Blessings, *Pr Janice*

ANNUAL MEETING


SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023
12:30-1:45 PM

A potluck lunch will be held at 11:30 am for those who would like to attend. Bring your favorite food to pass. Plates, plasticware, coffee and water will be available.

Trustee Sought

One member for the Board of Trustees is being sought for a three-year term beginning in 2023. If you are interested in this position or would like more information on the duties of a Trustee, contact Pete Fannin, Trustee President, or any member of the Board of Trustees.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1	Dartball @ Immanuel-Waupaca	7:30 pm
Dec. 3	Ultreya	2-6 pm
Dec. 4	Sunday School Worship Youth Serve Lunch	9 am 10:30 am 11:30 am
Dec. 6	Men's Group Quilters Town of Wyoming Meeting	8:30 am 9 am 8 pm
Dec. 7	Ladies Aid Christmas Party Confirmation & Bible Study	12 pm 6:30 pm
Dec. 8	Dartball—Here	7:30 pm
Dec. 9- Dec. 10	Youth Lock In	6:30 pm-8 am
Dec. 11	Sunday School Worship	9 am 10:30 am
Dec. 13	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
Dec. 14	Confirmation & Bible Study	6:30 pm
Dec. 16	Candy/Cookie Walk Set-Up	9 am
Dec. 17	Candy/Cookie Walk	8 am-12 pm
Dec. 18	Sunday School Children's Christmas Program	9 am 10:30 am
Dec. 20	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
Dec. 21	Confirmation & Bible Study	6:30 pm
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship	4:30 pm
Dec. 25	Christmas Worship 	10:30 am
Dec. 27	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am



"Alive in the Spirit"

Silent Auction

Dec. 1-18

Drawing will be held
on Sunday, Dec. 18,
following the
Christmas Program

There are 2 beautiful tapestries and a pillow that have been donated by a friend of the congregation. All money raised will be used toward repairs on the HVAC unit.



Bradon Jossie	Dec. 2
Ashley Ridge	Dec. 4
Adam Kohel	Dec. 5
Shannon Peeters	Dec. 8
Vickie Nyhouse	Dec. 11
Jim Korth	Dec. 15
Caleb Bestul	Dec. 20
Lola Zaug	Dec. 20
Wyatt Blashe	Dec. 21
Tony Paulson	Dec. 22
Vivian Koeppel	Dec. 24
Kenzlee Miller	Dec. 27
Jonathan Heiman	Dec. 28
Patricia Beck	Dec. 30
Isaiah Smith	Dec. 31

A Message from Pastor Kay

“Best wishes for an environmentally



conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, winter solstice holiday...with respect for the religious persuasion of others who choose to practice their own religion as well as those who choose not to practice a religion at all.”

Sometimes I feel very much like Charlie Brown, especially this time of year. I desperately want to find the most crowded mall, get everyone’s attention, and cry out my favorite line from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*: “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all

about???”

(Yes, I am in full-blown Christmas mode and have been since September, so I have the Grinch and Charlie Brown’s Christmas all but memorized, so I should probably apologize now.)

So... isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about? I don’t mean this in a self-righteous, bah-humbug-on-the-other-holidays sort of way. This is more rooted in my deep yearning for people to know and actually experience what it truly means to feel God’s “*peace on whom His favor rests*” (Luke 2:14).

We’ve been given the greatest gift in the universe! No, we don’t need to ban Santa from our homes or burn our “Christmas” trees or cry foul when we hear “Happy Holidays” instead of Merry Christmas, because they aren’t in the Bible. You know, sometimes in our efforts to Jesus the true reason for this time of year, we end up trampling over (or even on) the very people Jesus came to earth to save!

So I suggest that we all focus on what the incarnation of the Word is all about as defined by the Word of God. In other words, this is what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown:

C *Christ came into the world to save sinners* (1 Timothy 1:15).

H *The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth* (John 1:14).

R *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to **redeem** those under law, that we might **receive** the full rights of sons* (Galatians 4:4).

Immerse Yourself in the Bible!



The Bible is a great gift. The Creator of all things entered into our human story and spoke to us. He inspired people over many centuries to shape words into books that reveal his mind, bringing wisdom into our lives and light to our paths.

But God’s biggest intention for the Bible is to invite us into its Story. What God wants for us more than anything else is that we make the Bible’s great drama of restoration and new life the story of our lives, too.

The appropriate way to receive a gift like this is to come to know that Bible deeply, to lose ourselves in it precisely so that we can find ourselves in it. **In other words, we need to immerse ourselves in it:** to read God’s words at length and without distraction to read with deeper historical and literary perspective ***Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience* has been special designed for this purpose.**

So we are going to encourage each member of St. Peter’s to increase their engagement with the Bible, but joining together in *The Immerse Bible Reading Experience* starting in January, 2023.

We’ll begin by reading the entire New Testament together in 8 weeks! The form/ format will **be more like a book club than a Bible study:** a few people meeting together in a comfortable setting to discuss a book they are all reading—the book just happening to be the Bible!

Immerse: The Reading Bible is a six-volume Bible created with **one goal** in mind: **to provide the best reading experience possible.** It restores the Bible’s text to its natural literary form: stories look like stories, songs look like songs, and poetry looks like poetry. Rather than traditional chapters and verses, each book is formatted based on the natural literary structures the authors incorporated when the books were first composed. And it is available in paperback, large print, and audio versions, as well as an ebook.

CAN I USE THE BIBLE I ALREADY HAVE?

Using a different Bible for *the community book-club experience* would be difficult, since the reading plan uses page numbers to indicate each day’s reading. It will also be difficult to follow the text in discussion groups since people reference passages by page numbers and not chapter or verse.

More importantly, the format matters to the experience. Removing the chapter and verse numbers and restoring the natural breaks and literary formats changes how you read. Presenting the text in a more familiar format, like other books we are accustomed to reading, encourages reading books as whole books, letters as entire letters, and poetry as poetry. It is what the authors originally intended.

CAN I JUST READ IT BY MYSELF WITHOUT BEING IN A GROUP?

Absolutely, and you will have a great experience reading an additive-free Bible.

However, community is a critical part of our spiritual growth, and it’s a vital part of the full Immerse experience. We are communal people, created by God to be in communion with Him and each other. That is why the books of the Bible were originally given to communities of people, and it’s how the church for most of its history has interacted with Scripture. So community really matters.

Watch for more information about ordering copies of *Immerse: The Reading Bible (Messiah, Volume 1)* and joining a group in January or explore for yourself at www.immerseible.com.

Maybe Christmas, he thought,
doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas...perhaps...
means a little bit more!



“How the Grinch was Saved at Christmas”

Presented by

St. Peter's Sunday School

Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
N10685 Petersen Rd., Marion



Merry Christmas!



Peter & Cindy Fannin
31 Years, Dec. 14
David & Margie Schmidt
49 Years, Dec. 22
Dan & Amy Bestul
36 Years, Dec. 27

(CHRISTMAS continued from Page 4)

I “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **“Immanuel”**—which means, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:23.)

S For the grace of God that brings **salvation** has appeared to all people (Titus 2:11).

T **Thanks** be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15).

M And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

A But the **angel** said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10).

S This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only **Son** into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his **Son** as an atoning **sacrifice** for our sins (1 John 4:9-10).

My friends, He came without ribbons. He came without tags. He came without packages, boxes or bags! (yes, I know...sorry Mr. Grinch). Let's remember that the King of Heaven chose to exchange His glorious throne for a stinking stable so we could exchange our destiny of death for eternal life. If that's not enough to give you a merry Christmas, then I'm not sure what will!

And let's never forget that this is one of the most opportune times of the year to boldly proclaim the love of Jesus come down to earth, nor should we take it upon our sometimes grinchy selves to “save” the meaning of Jesus' birth. Let's just go out in the power of the Holy Spirit for THE Cause of the gospel and let people witness the holly, jolly joy of our salvation in every aspect of our lives.

Because as Christians, we shouldn't sound sad. Why, we should all sound glad! We want every person down in Whoville (and here on earth), the tall and the small, to be singing because of Jesus, the greatest present of all!

Have a very blessed Christmas season--Kay



The Marion Food Pantry wants for December are peanut butter and tomato soup or any non-perishable food items. The Food Pantry needs are laundry detergent. Items may be dropped off at church or at the House of Hope in Marion. Due to COVID-19 please call Pat Leach at 715-754-2665 to arrange a drop off.

Ladies Aid



Wednesday, December 7, 12 pm

All women of the congregation are invited to attend the annual Christmas Party. Bring a dish to pass and two \$5 wrapped gifts. Games will be played after the meal.

Annual Meeting Date Set & Annual Reports Due

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28 following a potluck dinner. All reports are due to Jackie no later than Thursday, Jan. 19.

St. Peter's Annual Cookie-Candy Walk



Agape Help Center is committed to reaching out with the love of Christ to women and men in difficult situations. We are a pregnancy information center that provides diapers, wipes and other items for first time clients as well as "Earn While You Learn" program for those with a desire to increase their "tool belt" for the life's ups and downs.

Christmas Blessing Tree

- * Take an ornament and donate the item listed on the back
- * Leave your donation under the tree OR drop off at Agape Help Center (217 N. Main St., Waupaca, 715-942-8288)
- * As a thank you please keep the ornament as a keepsake

Thank you for blessing



Saturday, Dec. 17

8 am-12 pm

\$8 per pound

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
N10685 Petersen Rd., Marion
(corner of G & Petersen Rd.)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC