

IMMERSE: THE READING BIBLE

The Immerse Reading Bible is available for all to purchase. They are on the table in the Welcome Area. The regular print is \$11.50; large print is \$22.50. Payment can be made to Jackie or Pastor Janice.



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.immersebible.com.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church *"Alive in the Spirit"*

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January 1, 2023

Pastor Janice Kuder

Youth Pastor Kay Knight

Lay Reader Brian Knight

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11



Scripture Lesson
Psalm 132:11-12

Gospel Lesson
Matthew 1:1-17



His Way Events
presents a

YOUTH RALLY

with
Terrence Talley



Traveling around the country for over 12 years and speaking to audiences of all ages, Terrence uses his stories about **fatherhood** and **life** to inspire all within earshot to **"never give up"**. Not only will you remember what he said, but you'll remember how he left you feeling. Terrence brings the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that especially inspires youth.

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 • 6:30 p.m.
Marion Senior/Junior High School
105 School St., Marion WI

free pizza FREE ADMISSION prizes

This event is sponsored by several area churches with the help of some of our local businesses.

HIS WAY EVENTS production, New London, WI

TUESDAY MEN'S GROUP

The men's group meets each Tuesday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. They will be starting Immerse, The Reading Bible, Week 1. This is open to any men of the community.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

Youth Group is for all 6th-2th graders.

- ♦ Jan. 6-8, 2023, District Youth Conference, Green Bay, more details to come
 - ♦ March 24-26, 2023, Faith Quake, Wisconsin Dells
- For more information on the Youth Group or any of the events listed, contact Pastor Kay at 715-460-2131 or rascal01@frontiernet.net.

POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias that have beautified our sanctuary are ready to be taken home. Feel free to take one home for yourself or to give to someone who will enjoy it. Thank you to those who donated monies to help beautify our sanctuary!

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and believe Christ is present in the bread and wine are welcome to receive.

- ♦ Come forward down the center aisle toward Pastor and server
- ♦ Receive a bread wafer (your choice: regular or gluten free) and dip it in the cup: your choice-metal cup-red wine; ceramic cup-white grape juice.
- ♦ **OR** you may pick up a pre-filled communion element cup (all contain grape juice). You choose gluten free or regular wafer
- ♦ Young children may come forward to receive a blessing

RADA KNIVES & COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Due to the rising costs of Rada Knives, the Ladies Aid will not be replenishing their inventory. There are still items available for sale. These make great gifts for wedding showers, weddings, birthdays, etc. Contact Carola Jobst if you would like to purchase any of these knives which are sold separately or as a set. Cookbooks are also available for sale.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

There is a basket on the welcome desk in the Welcome Center at the foot of a small cross. You are encouraged to write your prayers to God on the slips of paper provided and put them in the basket. At each worship service, the prayer basket will be brought forward with our monetary offerings and we will lift your prayers to God as more general prayers are spoken by and for the congregation. No one else will read what you have written—it's your communication straight to God.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Jan. 3

Men's Group 8:30 am

Quilters 9am

Town of Wyoming Meeting 7 pm

Wednesday, January 4

Ladies Aid 12 pm

No Confirmation

Song of Songs Bible Study 6:30 pm

Thursday, January 5

Dartball—Here 7:30 pm

Friday, Jan. 6-Sunday, Jan. 8

District Youth Conference-Green Bay

Sunday, Jan. 8

Sunday School 9 am

Worship 10:30 am