

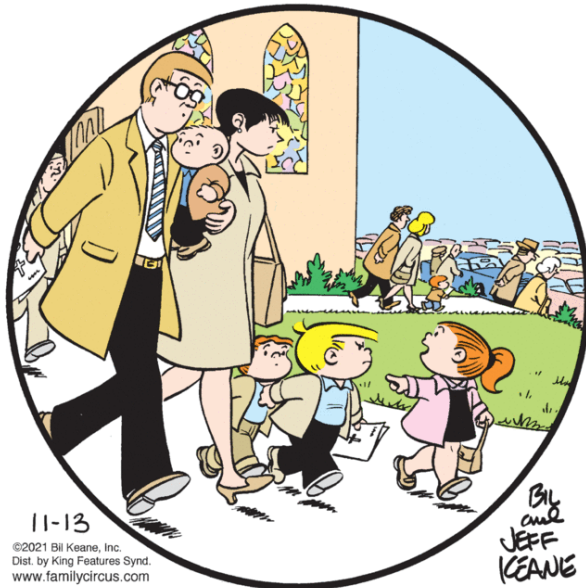
## POINSETTIAS

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!



## 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.




11-13  
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**“Father Forest said, ‘As you live, so shall you die.’ I’ll bet Billy dies in a messy room.”**

Happy New Year!

January 2023

## *St. Peter's Proverbs*



**Rejoice evermore  
Pray without ceasing.  
In everything give thanks:  
for this is the will of  
God in Christ Jesus  
concerning you!**

## *St. Peter's Lutheran Church*

N10685 Petersen Rd., Marion, WI 54950  
715-754-2690  
stpetersbigfalls@gmail.com  
www.stpetersstpauls.org

## A Message from Pastor Janice

Dear Friends,



***It's time!***

### ***To immerse ourselves 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, and  
-to read through the Bible with friends in a regular three-year rhythm.

***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.

(IMMERSE continue on Page 3)

## TRUSTEES MEETING Nov. 27, 2022 – 8:00 am

Members present: Jen Reinke, Krista Enoch, Brian Knight, Tom Anderson, Pete Fannin

Ex-Officio present: Pastor Janice Kuder

President Peter Fannin called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. followed by prayer led by Pastor Janice.

The Oct. 30 secretary's report was presented. Enoch motioned to approve, seconded by Knight. Motion carried.

Pastor's report was presented. Anderson motioned to approve; Enoch seconded. Motion carried.

The Financial Report was presented by Knight. Knight motioned to approve the financials as presented, Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

Roof and memorial have been tabled for continued discussions.

Stage is painted and ready for flooring.

### **New Business:**

Furnace repair is in budget and plan for repair

Technical system needs is \$21,000, \$4,000 is not covered.

Anonymous donation was received to help cover costs.

Pastor Janice's medical expenses were approved. The expense for continued education was not approved.

Enoch approved to keep the Town of Wyoming contract the same for 2023 as it was for 2022, seconded by Knight. Motion carried.

A silent auction for donated items of a pillow and two tapestries will be held with the winner announced on Dec. 18. All funds will go towards the HVAC repairs.

Fannin motioned to give the Sunday School teachers \$35, \$65 to support staff and \$115 to pastors for Christmas, Enoch seconded. Motion carried.

Anderson motioned for Enoch to purchase items for the Christmas bags given to kids, Reinke seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Janice is checking on health care plans as Network Health is not available in Waupaca County for 2023.

Snow plowing contract has not been received.

Next meeting will be Dec. 18, 8 am.

Knight motioned to adjourn, Enoch seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Anderson, Secretary

## 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.

# JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 6-Jan. 8	District Youth Conference-Green Bay	
Jan. 8	Sunday School Worship	9 am 10:30 am
Jan. 10	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
Jan. 11	Confirmation & Bible Study	6:30 pm
Jan. 12	Dartball-Here	7:30 pm
Jan. 14	VDC Council Mtg.	10 am-3 pm
Jan. 15	Trustee Meeting Sunday School Worship	8 am 9 am 10:30 am
Jan. 17	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
Jan. 18	Confirmation & Bible Study	6:30 pm
Jan. 19	Dartball @ Ogdensburg	7:30 pm
Jan. 22	Sunday School Worship	9 am 10:30 am
Jan. 24	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
Jan. 25	Confirmation & Bible Study	6:30 pm
Jan. 26	Dartball @ Weyauwega	7:30 pm
Jan. 28	VDC Training	8 am-5 pm
Jan. 29	Sunday School Worship Potluck Luncheon Annual Meeting	9 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 12:30 pm
Jan. 31	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am

## St. Peter's Prayer Chain

Prayers are so important at all times and St. Peter's recognizes that and has a dedicated group of people who regularly pray for those who ask. If you are in need of prayers or know of someone who is in need of prayers, contact Faye Miller, 715-445-4600, with the information and she will relay the message to the prayer chain.

(IMMERSE continued from Page 2)

## 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.

**Visit the table in the Welcome Center at St. Peter's and Grab a copy of *Immerse: The Reading Bible—Messiah (the New Testament)***

**Copies of the book in regular and large print are available**

**(cash or check to St. Peter's, please)**

**\$11.50 for regular print; \$22.50 for large print**

**To find audio or ebook versions, visit**

**[www.immersebible.com](http://www.immersebible.com)**

**Join a group**—see above about why this matters! Groups can meet any time, any where (homes, coffee shops, the church building)—it's up to the group members. So find 2-10 friends, family members, neighbors and be an Immerse Book Club Group!

**Or explore for yourself** at [www.immersebible.com](http://www.immersebible.com).

Blessings, *Pr. Janice*

## A Message from Pastor Kay



With the New Year, we all make plans and try to fix what didn't work last year. As parents, we are probably preparing for whatever is next in the life of our children. We want to be ready. But there are periods during parenthood when we aren't sure what the future holds. The obstacles we face in parenting may include illness, behavioral issues, or developmental delays or only God knows what else. One moment we feel confident in their direction and the next moment we question what will become of our children. As loving God-fearing parents, we all experience these doubts.

A recent Christmas classic, *Mary Did You Know* by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, explores the perplexity of whether Mary fully grasped the task of being a mother to Jesus. The lyrics pose a series of questions: did Mary know Jesus would save our sons and daughters? Walk on water, heal the sick, be heaven's perfect lamb? That he would one day save all the nations? As a parent, this song resonates with me in the depths of my soul. Like Mary, I vividly remember treasuring quiet moments as I rocked my own children to sleep, not fully knowing what was to come - and those moments of sheer panic.

The song makes us wonder how we parent our children with so little information about their future. A closer look at Mary's parenting provides us a wonderful example of not fully knowing the weight of raising Jesus but trusting God in her times of uncertainty and suffering.

We wonder what Mary, who was merely a teenager, thought when an angel of the Lord came to visit, foretelling her miraculous pregnancy even though she was still a virgin and betrothed to Joseph. But she trusted all he said to be true, saying, "I am the Lord's servant." (Luke 1:38).

While Mary didn't know (but could probably guess) how her friends and family would react to her out-of-wedlock pregnancy, she trusted God. She went to visit Elizabeth who exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear! Mary continued to enjoy time with Elizabeth until she returned home, trusting God with her pregnancy even in the uncertainty.

We wonder what Mary thought when Joseph told her they had to

(PARENTING continued on Page 5)

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**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.

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**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](http://www.immersebible.com).**



Food Pantry Needs

The Marion Food Pantry wants for January are Hamburger Helper and pasta or any non-perishable food items. The Food Pantry needs are shampoo and paper towels. Items may be dropped off at church or at the House of Hope in Marion.

Marion.

### Annual Meeting Reports Due

All reports for the Annual Meeting are due to Jackie no later than Thursday, Jan. 19.



Ralph & Linda Baumann  
Jan. 14, 12 Years

Mike & Jeanne Rohloff  
Jan. 17, 20 Years

Tom & Sharie Anderson  
Jan. 24, 53 Years



Abigail Soik	Jan. 3
Miranda Peebles	Jan. 4
Jaelyn Brady	Jan. 8
Cameron Buss	Jan. 8
Sawyer Stolz	Jan. 8
Sydney Blashe	Jan. 10
McKenzie Bonikowske	Jan. 10
Sue Miler	Jan. 12
Jaden Stuhr	Jan. 15
Jaxson Brady	Jan. 17
Lilly Lemke	Jan. 20
Abigail Petersen	Jan. 21
Jim Haacker	Jan. 26
Kyla Heiman	Jan. 26
Joey Enoch III	Jan. 27
Francis Miller	Jan. 29



### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members you may have Choice Dollars to direct. Call 1-800-thrivent and say "Choice Dollars". You can direct to St. Peter's or another charity on their list or you can go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com), click on "My Thrivent" tab and "Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars". For more information contact Lola Zaug, St. Peter's congregational advocate. Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2023.

(PARENTING continued from Page 4)

travel to Bethlehem to register for the census when she was nine months pregnant. With no place to stay, she gave birth to Jesus in a stable. Mary didn't know what would happen, but she trusted God for his provision even though she was in a stable surrounded by animals.

We wonder if Mary knew what Simeon meant when he said to her only eight days after Jesus' birth, "... a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Luke 2:35). Sometimes the answers are right in front of us, but God has not opened our eyes to see the full truth. Perhaps God is preparing our hearts for when the suffering and uncertainty arrives, as he was preparing Mary.

We wonder if Mary knew what Jesus' ministry would look like. After they attended the Feast of Passover, twelve-year-old Jesus went missing only to find him listening to the teachers and leaders. he said to Mary and Joseph "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49-51).

When Mary stood by watching Jesus being crucified on the cross, we wonder if she knew Jesus would save us all in his death. As the song ponders whether Mary knew the complexities of the journey Jesus faced, Scripture is clear that she did know who He was but did not fully know all that He would face. Perhaps

Mary's faith as she raised Jesus provides us guidance as we parent our children in the known, not-so-known, and unknown. God promises us the Holy Spirit who guides us as we cross dark and murky waters while raising our children. Our Wonderful Counselor will help us navigate His truth and be our Comforter. When we treasure tender moments with our kids, even as we live in not-knowing, God prepares our hearts for later moments that might otherwise be too difficult to bear. We, like Mary, can trust God with our children even when we don't exactly know the outcome of every trial they will face.

As we begin the new year, I beg of all parents and grandparents, make Christ the center of your life and of your children's lives. We do not know what the future holds, but we can trust that God has a plan and purpose for each of us. We need to trust Him. We need to teach our children to trust Him. We thank God for sending His Son Jesus to Mary and us. We thank God that He used her. Thank God that He is using us also.

**Have a very blessed new year! --Kay**



# 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.

*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.



A **HIS WAY EVENTS** production, New London, WI

