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Wautoma, WI 54982

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Pastor Roger G. Riedel

Office: 920.787.3856

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revriedel8@juno.com

Worship every Sunday @ 9 am

every Thursday @ 7 pm

Sunday School every Sunday @ 10:15 am

Bible Study Sundays @ 8 am

Tuesdays @ 9 am

Thursdays @ 9 am & 8 pm

Confirmation Level 1 Wednesdays @ 6 pm

Level 2 Sundays @ 10:15 am

Pioneers every second & last Sunday 1 pm

Mornings with Mommy

every 1st & 3rd Monday at 10 am



Messenger of Peace is a publication of: Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wautoma, WI.

Purpose

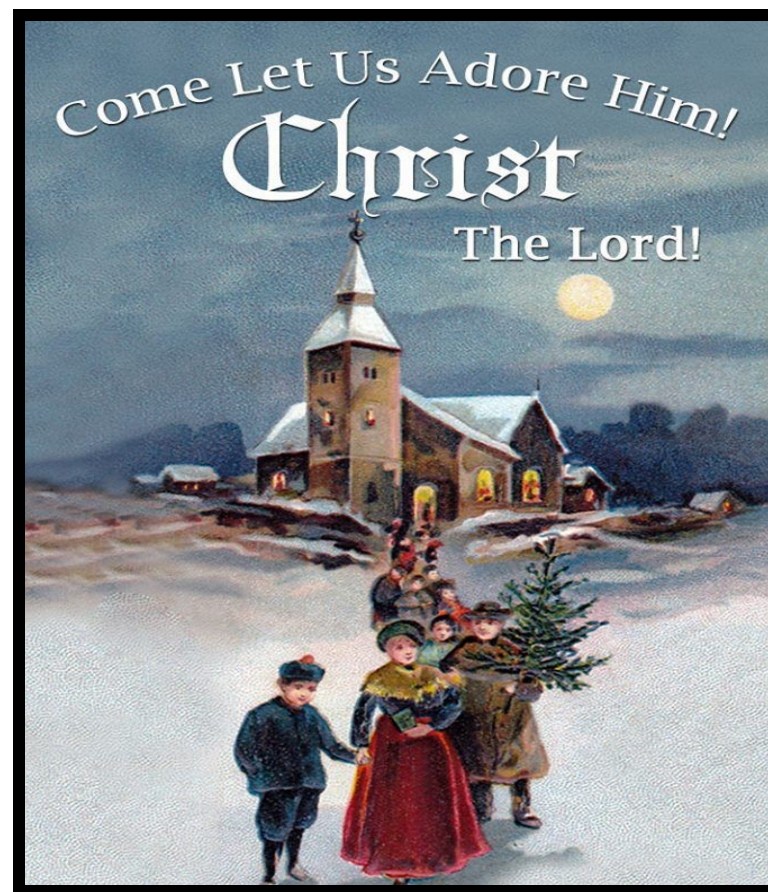
Messenger of Peace serves the Peace Ev. Lutheran Church family with information about people and events that are part of the Peace ministry and with articles that encourage Christian living.

Articles

Please forward information and articles to Christine in the office by the third Sunday of each month.

Put in the office or email it to:

peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.



Messenger of Peace

December 2015

We Have a New Email Address!

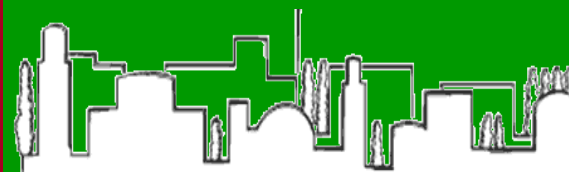
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Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Luke 2:4-5



Advent and Christmas Schedule

Church office closed Wednesday, Nov 25-Friday, Nov 27

Saturdays, Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, & 19

Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal 9-11:30 am

Sunday, November 29

Advent by Candlelight at 1 pm

Thursdays, December 3, 10 & 17

Midweek Advent Dinner 5-6:30 pm

Midweek Advent Worship 7 pm

Church office closed Friday, December 4

Saturday, December 5

Christmas for Kids 11:30 am- 3 pm

Sunday, December 20

Children's Christmas Service 9 am

No Sunday School December 20 or 27.

Church office closed Tuesday, Dec 22- Friday, Jan 1

Thursday, December 24

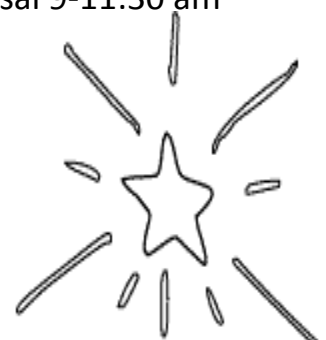
Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm

Friday, December 25

Christmas Worship 9 am

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve Worship 7 pm

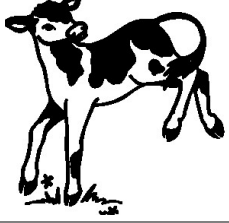


New Beginnings

With a new church year upon us, there comes a sense of freshness.



“You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.”



At this time of year, Christians celebrate new beginnings!



You may recall that last month's article was entitled “Happy Endings,” as we walked through the last four Sundays of the Church Year, reflecting on Christ's return in the season of End Time. Our December meditation carries us into the new Church Year with a message of hope, preparation, and anticipation as we head into the season of Advent.

With a new year (a new Church Year, that is) upon us, there comes a sense of freshness and a new start. So we turn back the clock, in a manner of speaking, to refocus our hearts and minds on the days leading up to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. We look back to see God holding true to His promise of delivering a Messiah for the purpose of rescuing sinners from a well-deserved punishment for our arrogant rebellion. At the same time, we anticipate the great and glorious day when we will personally see our Savior in His eternal home of peace, which, through faith in Jesus, is also our everlasting home.

As I ponder the new Church Year, beginning November 29, with the first Sunday in Advent, I am reminded of an experience at a farm of one of my former parishioners, which beautifully illustrates the joyful anticipation and heartfelt appreciation of new beginnings.

A Kansas cattle rancher informed me that his cows were calving and the young ones would soon be released into the pasture. Since they had been penned up with their mothers from birth, the calves were anxious to finally get some room to run. I arrived just as the little ones were being released from their stalls. It was quite a sight! The calves were jumping around and racing about as if their tails were on fire. You could feel the excitement in the air as the newborn cows practically flew from one side of the pasture to the other, running full-speed downhill and lickety-split up the hill on the other side. It was entertaining to see their energy in their joyful antics.

The memory of those energetic calves reminds me of the message from the prophet Malachi, who wrote of the joy of the Christian who looks forward to seeing the Savior. **“For you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall”** (Malachi 4:2 ESV).

The Holy Spirit has worked faith in the Lord Jesus in our hearts through His powerful Word and Sacraments. It is by God's grace that we are numbered among those who reverently fear the name of the Lord. We rejoice, with redeemed and repentant hearts, in the gift of God's only Son, who humbly came into our world – wearing our shoes, carrying our sin and shame – to release us from death and hell. In a very real way we leap for joy, because the Son of God brings healing to sin-stained hearts.

At this time of year, Christians celebrate new beginnings. The announcement of the long-expected Savior's birth. Through Jesus, a new relationship with our righteous Father in heaven. Through the Spirit, a new life spent joyfully serving the Lord, who loves us far more than we deserve.

God grant a blessed Advent and Christmas to you!

Pastor Roger Riedel

A Short Story

Our 2015 “A Short Story” series will offer a collection of articles that provide scriptural answers to questions that people often ask or wonder about Christianity, such as “What happens when we die?” and “God doesn’t always answer my prayers-why?”

These articles are designed to help you reach out to people with God’s Word– to give you the knowledge to answer some of life’s biggest questions. We hope you enjoy this year’s series: “Fair Questions – Honest Answers.”



We are Living in the End Times. So What?

We’re in the thick of the “holiday season.” The commercials and holiday specials on TV attempt to dictate what life should be like this time of year. We often see families smiling and laughing. But how often do our lives really look and feel anything like those overly produced moments we see in movies and on TV? Is our holiday experience filled with laughter and delight, or is it mostly filled with stress and anxiety? The chaos of this life and the whirlwind of increasingly busy schedules can leave us with a sense of longing rather than fulfillment.

The pain and hardship of this life, whether in this time of year or anytime, should come as no surprise. We are living in the *End Times*, the last days before the end of the world comes. But so what? What difference does that make? God makes it clear that we shouldn’t be surprised when life isn’t the Hollywood ideal. In fact, because of sin in this world, God says that this life is going to be troublesome. He even warns us that wickedness will increase in the last days.

However, we live in the *End Times* like a child watches the calendar for Christmas. We wait with that same sort of eager excitement because we, too, are waiting for a gift. We’re not waiting for toys and games wrapped in shiny paper. There is something much better coming. As the apostle Paul wrote in the Bible: **“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us”** (Romans 8:18).

God promised a Savior right at the scene of the world’s first sin. He followed through on that promise by sending Jesus to pay the price for everyone’s sins by dying on the cross. God’s forgiveness is ours now; trusting in Jesus we are God’s children! And as his children we stand waiting for the rest of that gift: rescue from this world of hardship to be brought to an eternal life where only good exists.

Jesus’ work for us, his death and his resurrection, assure us of his love. While there may be dark times in this life, none of those change God’s love. He is with us now to help us get through the rough times. Because of Jesus and the gift of salvation that he won for us, finally God will take us to be with him forever in heaven. These *End Times* will give way to an eternity of true joy!

For more Questions & Answers, go to www.WhatAboutJesus.com, then *Questioning God*.



News You Can Use

News from Synod and national & local news that affects lives of Christians.

New Group to Help Serve the Military



A new organization—the Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG)—will be working closely with WELS Military Services and local congregations to strengthen the church's ministry to the military.

While WELS Military Services oversees ministry to deployed troops, the Lutheran Military Support Group will be supporting the needs of military veterans. Part of that ministry is helping address post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans through online counseling and local congregational support groups that offer spiritual help as well as support. *"The LMSG addressed a need that we as a synod just have not addressed,"* says Rev. Paul Ziemer, national civilian chaplain & liaison to the military. *"That need is specific ministry to veterans."* Ziemer worked closely with WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) veterans from across the country to put together the group. Now the group is an independent nonprofit organization run by WELS and ELS veterans.

Besides working to support veterans, the group will offer funding and expertise to WELS Military Services and its work with active duty service members and their families. It also is working with local congregations to create awareness and activity. One of its goals is to have a liaison—either an active military person, a veteran, or a military family member—in every WELS and ELS congregation who can help educate and encourage members. *"We want our congregations through their liaisons to open their eyes and look around their congregations and community and say, 'This is a mission opportunity we haven't thought of before,'"* says Mr. Philip Mowry, LMSG president and member at Living Savior, Valrico, Fla. *"We're driving awareness, which will stimulate individual congregational activity."*

Both Mowry and Ziemer note that the LMSG also will offer veterans a unique opportunity to serve their Savior and their fellow military members. *"Our new organization and its programs provide an opportunity to engage veterans, to reconnect them to their passion for serving others, which was developed through their military experience,"* says Mowry. *"And serving your Lord is as good as it gets."*

Discover more about the Lutheran Military Support Group at www.lutheranmilitary.org.



Save the date for our 2016 Women's Ministry Conference!

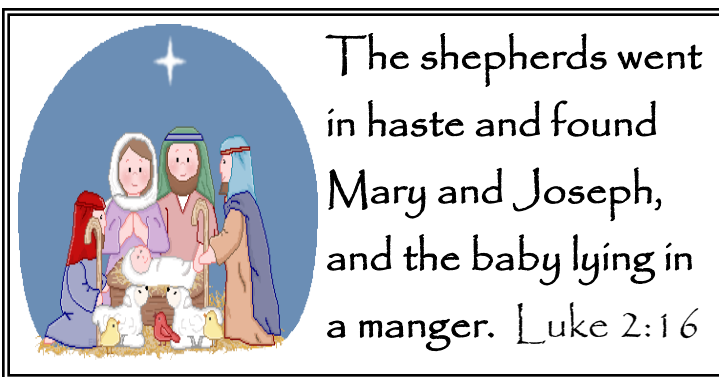
Lead. Serve. Inspired.

The Women's Ministry Conference team is making final arrangements for speakers, breakout groups, and panel discussions for the **2016 Women's Ministry Conference** taking place **July 21-23, 2016 at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin.**

Please join us in praying that our highest priority be to design a Christ-centered, Biblically-based conference for women. Pray that the Holy Spirit work through the Word to encourage, nurture, and equip each woman in attendance to use their time and talents in service to God.

We will keep you informed of details in the months ahead!

WELS Women's Ministry
N16W23377 Stoneridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188



Christmas Trivia Answers

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. C (Trick question! There's always snow on top of Mt. Hermon!)
5. B
6. B

How did you do? You can always brush up on your Christmas story knowledge by reading Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-20.



Church News

Sending Christmas Cards?

Why not add some of our church family to your list and let them know that you're thinking of them this Christmas season!

College Students

Ellen Hetcher
222 Arbors Parkway
West #28
Finlay, OH 45840

Wes Hetcher
PO Box 403
Cassville, WI 53806

Joshua Klamm
W6140 Cty Rd H
Wild Rose, WI 54984

Zachary Kubasta
1500 St Olaf Ave
Northfield, MN 55057

Morgan Rohrbaugh
2001 Alford Park Dr
Kenosha, WI 53140

Jonah Siegel
1995 Luther Ct
Box 5-0146
New Ulm, MN 56073

Military Personnel

Lt. Col. Lisa Bartel
66 Derbyshire Drive
Carlisle, PA 17015

Robyn Blader-Lucht
W8694 Cypress Ave
Wautoma, WI 54982

Recently Widowed

Robert Keihl
668 Cummings Rd #403
Wautoma, WI 54982

Donna McKay
W8202 Pleasant View Ln
Wautoma, WI 54982

Ardell Schwersenska
N3024 Cty Rd B
Hancock, WI 54943-7655



Shut Ins

Verna Bursack
668 Cummings Rd
Wautoma, WI 54982

Carol Greathouse
609 Broadway St. #18
Berlin, WI 54923

Karlene Meyer
W10211 Cty Rd Y
Wautoma, WI 54982

Pearl Muske
668 Cummings Rd #302
Wautoma, WI 54982

Ryan Peterson
Ridgewood
1520 Michael Court
Wisc Rapids, WI 54494

Kim & Gloria Runge
133 E. Mt. Morris Ave
Wautoma, WI 54982

Ardis Spuhler
668 Cummings Rd
Wautoma, WI 54982

Margaret Walker
668 Cummings Rd #308
Wautoma, WI 54982

Erna Wedde
668 Cummings Rd #412
Wautoma, WI 54982

Randy Wilcox
425 Summit St #127
Wild Rose, WI 54984



2016 Budget

This is to help everyone understand our budget.

- * Ministerial Services 40% or about \$75,600
This includes pastor's salary, health insurance, pension, mileage and housing allowance
- * Utilities 9% or about \$16,600
This includes heat, electricity, water & sewer, phone & internet
- * Tuition 9% or about \$16,600
We provide tuition for students attending WELS elementary schools
- * Synod 10% or about \$19,800
- * Other Employees 14% or about \$25,700
Office secretary, guest pastors & organists
- * Building & Grounds 8% or about \$14,700
- * Local Missions 9% or about \$16,500
This includes outreach, education, worship committee, stewardship, Circle of Peace, office & kitchen supplies
- * Other Donations 1%
This includes Camp Phillip and LWMS

Total budget for 2016 is \$197,000 or an increase of 1.3% from 2015.

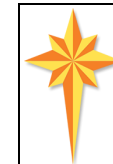
This narrative is provided by your council in hopes it may make the budgeting process clearer.

See Don Nelson (920-787-5035) with any questions.

Financial Report

As we enter the month of the year, we find ourselves \$8,600 behind the budget. Like Pastor said in his message last month, "Not everything has a happy ending." We have found that to be true in the last three Packer games!!!! AS we remember all the blessings we have received this year, let us give thanks with our financial offerings back to the Lord and have a HAPPY ENDING to 2015!

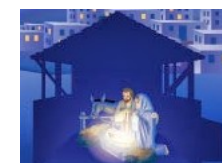
I know I can count on the members of Peace to step up and have that Happy Ending. I am not too sure when it comes to the Green Bay Packers! Bart Bartel, *Financial Secretary*



She gave birth to her firstborn son & wrapped him in swaddling clothes & laid him in a manger,

because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7





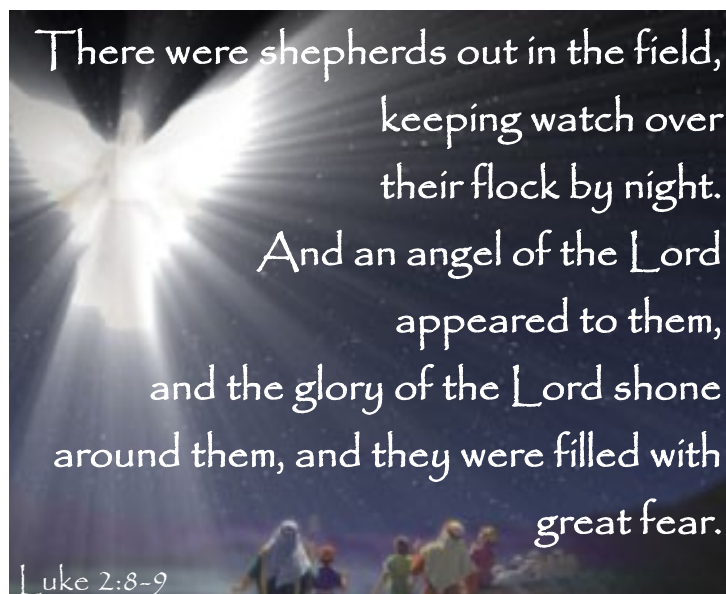
Church News

Christmas Trivia



How well do you know the Christmas story? Try this quiz to test your knowledge! Answers on are on the bottom of page 6.

- Joseph was originally from where?
(hint: Luke 2:3)
A. Bethlehem
B. Nazareth
C. Jerusalem
- A manger is a...
A. Stable for domestic animals
B. Wooden hay storage bin
C. Feeding trough
- How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
(hint: Luke 2:10)
A. One
B. Three
C. Multitude
- There was snow that first Christmas...
A. Only in Bethlehem
B. Nowhere in Israel
C. Somewhere in Israel
- What is frankincense?
A. A precious metal
B. A precious perfume
C. A precious fabric
- In Matthew, what does "wise men" or "Magi" refer to?
A. Eastern kings
B. Men who studied the stars
C. Sages



Flowers On the Altar? ...Oh, I don't Know

There WAS a man-made rule that read... "NO SILK FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR- ONLY FRESH!" Because of the lack of donations of flowers for the altar a number of times this year, and hardly ever for Thursday night services, this rule has been changed by the Circle of Peace, along with Pastor Riedel's approval, to read... "NO SILK FLOWERS, IF POSSIBLE".

God has made nature so beautiful there is truly no reason not to find something to use! Spring, summer, fall... all wonderful times of the year to pick a bouquet of flowers, interesting weeds, branches of leaves and anything else- after all, God loves them; he grew them all!

The Flowers...

- ...don't have to come from a florist.
- ...don't have to be in a large bouquet.
- ...can be a single flower.
- ...can be a plant.
- ...can be very elaborate.
- ...can be very simple.



All are beautiful and all are welcomed! Flowers on the altar? ...Oh, yes, let's! Please call Mary McKay at 920-787-3167 or Bernice Baranyk at 920-787-0318 with questions or concerns.

IF YOU ARE DONATING POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR:

Please have them to church no later than Saturday, December 19 in the morning.

Spotlight On: The Finance Committee

Thank you to our offering counters!



Back row: Bart Bartel (Financial Secretary), Bob Wedell, Dick Ihlenfeld, Watson Woodruff, Dallas Krueger
Front row: Mary McKay (Assistant Financial Secretary), Bernice Baranyk, Linda Ihlenfeld, Joyce Woodruff, Judy Nelson, Rod Nelson Missing: Lynn & Patti Anderson



News About Our Church Family

Sunday School Corner

Sunday School runs from September- May, with a few Sundays off for Christmas break and Easter.

Classes run from 10:15 am until 11:30 am. Teachers prepare lessons and activities using the ChristLight Sunday School curriculum.

The students also have time each Sunday of learning hymns and fun Christian songs.

In December, the Sunday School is busy preparing for the children's Christmas service which will be on Sunday, December 20 at 9 am. The Sunday School students and staff will be rehearsing on Saturdays, December 5, 12, & 19 from 9-11:30 am and on Sundays during regular Sunday School times.

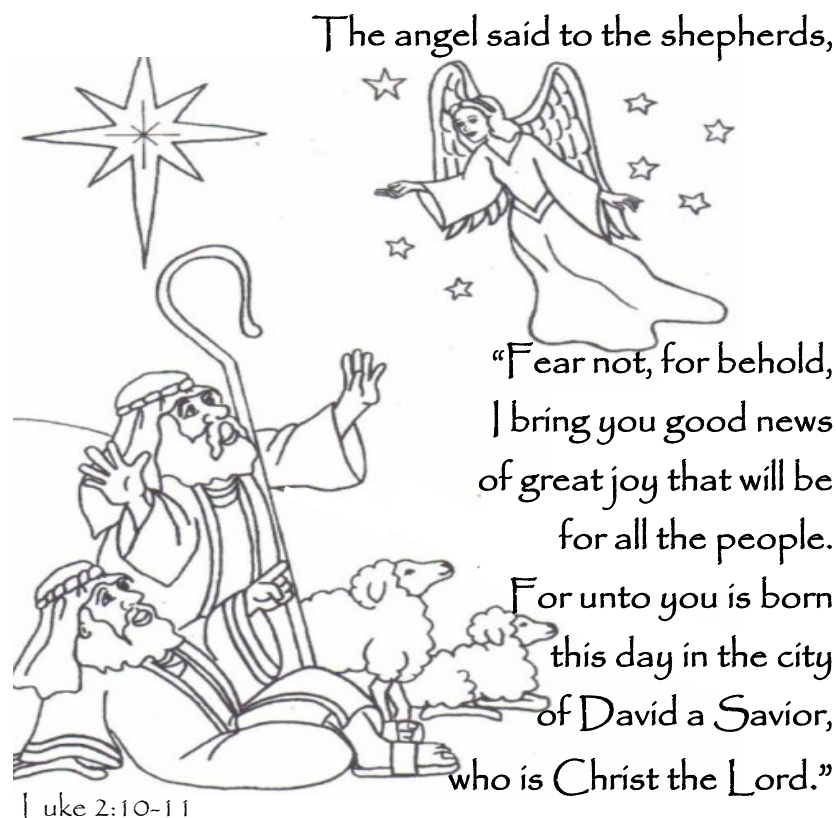
We will not have Sunday School on December 20 & 27.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Christmas service, please speak to any Sunday School teacher.

Don't forget that your child can bring an offering to Sunday School- that money is being used to replace the old wooden playset outside. Also, remind them to save their pennies in the mite boxes that were sent home. When their boxes are filled, have them bring them in! That money is going to help support the Africa Medical Mission's Infant and Orphan Program.

Sunday School is an extension of the family. We are here to assist families in their job of teaching and preparing young Christians for life. We consider it a privilege to serve the families of our congregation and urge each of you to take an active role in the Christian education of the children in your lives.

Visit classrooms, encourage teachers, and be as involved as possible.



Birthdays

- 12/5 Kenneth Doubek
- 12/8 Joe Siegel
- 12/11 Neal Roebke
- 12/12 Pr. Russell Kloehn
- 12/13 Sandra Klamm
Karen Beyer
Beth Riedel
- 12/14 Andrew Jones
- 12/18 Delores Bliske
Mindy Hintz
Grant Klusmeyer
- 12/19 Jim Lichtenberg
- 12/23 Tom Jones
- 12/24 Christine Anderson
Dawn Wedell
- 12/25 Jesus
Christine Bohn
- 12/26 Gene Wedde
- 12/27 Russ Nero
Mackenzie Sigourney
- 12/28 Jim Mosier
- 12/29 Joyce Wilcox

Anniversaries

- 12/29 Karen & Jeff Beyer (2)
- 12/30 Rod & Judy Nelson (58)



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, that means the church does not have it. Please drop off dates at the church office, call 787.3856 or email peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.

Address Updates Needed

Please get any address, phone number or email changes to Christine in the office by January 3! Email peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com, call the church office at 920-787-3856 or write down your changes/updates and put it on the desk in the church office. Thanks for helping us stay current!