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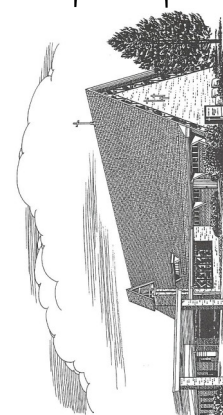
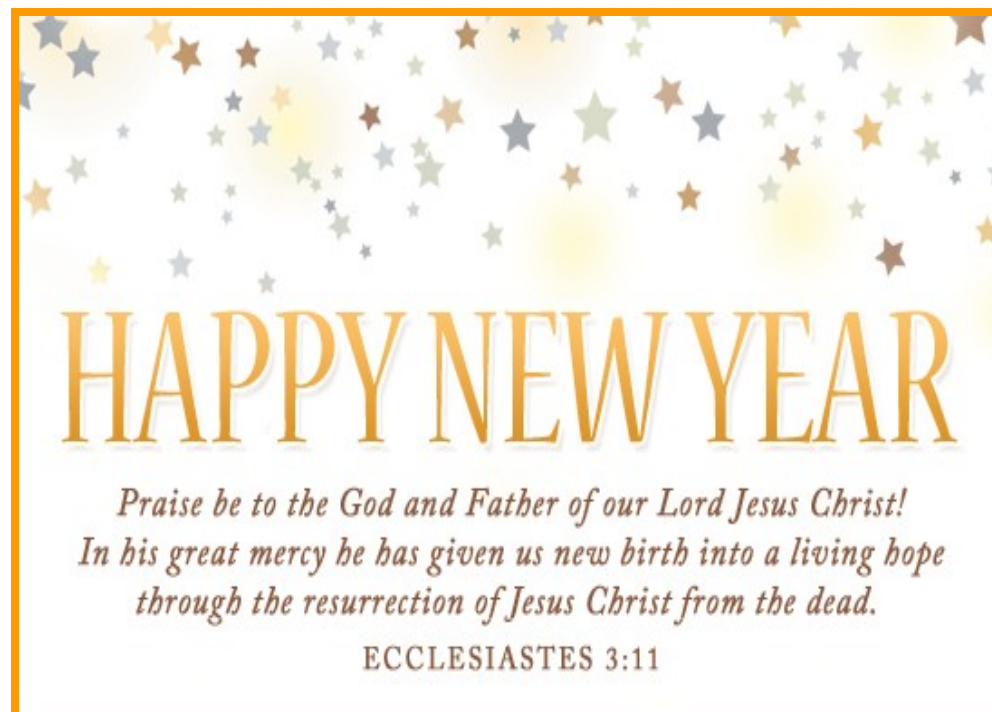
Worship every Sunday @ 9 am
every Thursday @ 7 pm
Sunday School every Sunday @ 10:15 am
Bible Study Sundays @ 8 am
Tuesdays @ 9 am
Thursdays @ 9 am & 8 pm
Confirmation Level 1 Wednesdays @ 6 pm
Level 2 Sundays @ 10:15 am
Pioneers every second & last Sunday 1 pm
Mornings with Mommy
every 1st & 3rd Monday at 10 am



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

Purpose
Messenger of Peace serves the Peace 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.

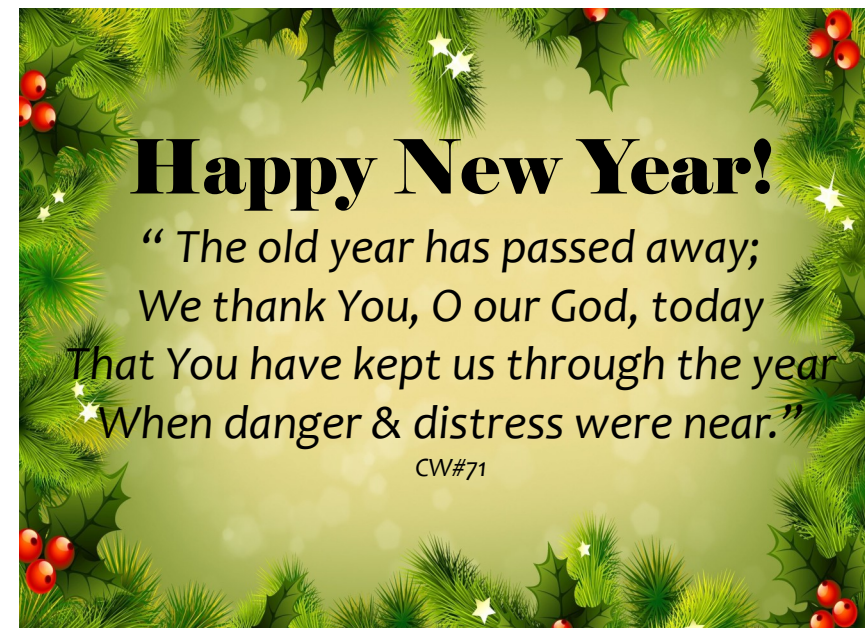


Messenger of Peace

January 2016

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Circle of Peace
invites all ladies to their annual

Christmas Party

Saturday, January 9
10:30 am

All ladies of Peace are invited to join the Circle of Peace for their annual Christmas Party on Saturday, January 9 at 10:30 am in the fellowship hall.

Bring a brunch dish to pass and if you wish to participate in a fun gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift, valued at \$5.

Please see Ahnsharee Klusmeyer (920-539-3560) for more information.



ATTENTION: COMMITTEE CHAIRS & GROUP LEADERS

Help us make sure our Annual Report is complete! The only way we can do that is if EVERY committee and group at Peace is represented in our Annual Report. Let us know what you've been doing, what are your plans for the upcoming year and who are your committee members/group leaders.

Please have your yearly report and group/ committee members list turned into the church office NO LATER than January 17.

You can email to peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com or bring in a copy to the church office. Please see Christine in the office (920-787-3856) with any questions or concerns.

Still Looking...

It was around here somewhere. I just know it. Maybe I misplaced it. Perhaps it got put away or even thrown out with the trash. It could be that one of the kids got a hold of it. The troubling thing is, I don't have it. And I won't stop looking until it's back in my possession.

Have you ever had that conversation with yourself? Where are my keys? the check book? the TV remote? Fill in the blank. There are things that we still haven't found...like the match to our favorite pair of winter socks.

For what do you seek? Last month it was probably the perfect Christmas gift. Maybe you're looking for a different job. Perhaps you are seeking that special someone with whom to spend the rest of your life. You may be looking for a better place to invest your retirement savings. It seems that we're always looking for something. (Speaking of which, where did I put my cup of tea?)

At this time of year I marvel at the persistence of those travelers from the east, the wise men who didn't stop looking until they found the Christ-child. The account of their search and their finding of Jesus is recorded in Matthew chapter 2:

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.”
⁹ The star that they had seen when it rose, went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him.
Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (ESV)

I have lost and found many things. And I am quite familiar with the satisfaction of finding something that was missing.

In this case, the magi hadn't lost Jesus, they intended to seek and find the baby who was born to save sinners. And find Him, they did. Their joy at seeing the miraculous star paled in comparison to that moment they laid eyes on the Savior. Their response is worth our attention. They recognized Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah, the Savior of the world. Their joyful worship and their humble gifts revealed hearts that believed, appreciated, and loved God's Christmas gifts to undeserving sinners.

Are you still looking for Jesus? Our sinful nature sometimes gets the better of us this time of year as we are tempted to take the birth of the Christ-child for granted. It's not necessarily that we have forgotten why He first came to earth, we don't always appreciate the fact that we are sinners who have been rescued from God's wrath by His own dear Son. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we keep looking and keep finding Jesus at Christmas and into the season of Epiphany. We will always find our Savior in His Word and Sacraments. And as we find Him there, we confess our sins and demonstrate a greater appreciation for the reason that He came with lives that glorify our Lord.

As the Lord blessed you in the past, I pray that He richly blesses you in the New Year! I am confident that He will bless us who wisely seek Him. Wise men still seek Him. Let's keep looking...and growing in our faith and Christian life. For one day soon, we will see our Savior as He gathers His faithful children together to celebrate with Him in never-ending New Years of peace.

Pastor Roger Riedel

A Short Story

How Can I Be Happy When
the Future is So Uncertain?

*“Blessed are your eyes because they see,
and your ears because they hear.”*

Matthew 13:16



Every generation talks about the “good ole days.” As we embark on a new year, many people would be more than happy to go back to the “good ole days” of years ago.

Today, stock market swoons, foreclosures, and unemployment are all too common. Grumbling and complaining occur as many people find it difficult to provide for their personal needs. These things, along with other personal struggles, may make us long for the “good ole days.”

Amidst all the turmoil, even when nest eggs crack and portfolios decline, we can still move forward with certainty that all of our needs will be met. Why? Because Jesus has met all of our true needs and promises to provide for our future!

Jesus came into the world so that we can be happy every day with the kind of joy that only he can provide. He blesses us—makes us happy—by the powerful things he accomplished in our place: he lived a perfect life as our substitute; he died on the cross to win forgiveness of sins for each of us; and he won the victory over sin, death, and the devil by his triumphant resurrection from the grave.

God tells us about all these blessings in the Bible. In his written Word, God’s plan for our future is laid out, and we are informed how Jesus fulfilled God’s saving will for us. Jesus said, **“Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.”** Our Savior teaches us that we can be happy as we give attention to God’s love as it is described and explained for us on the pages of Scripture.

Jesus’ work is not limited to the spans of generations; it is a gift to **all** people for **all** time. God’s faithfulness to his world of people has remained the one constant since he created all things. Trusting in his love, we can overcome concerns we have due to personal circumstances. We can be truly happy because we see in the Bible how our Savior gave his life for us and how he is now preparing for us an eternal home in heaven, the place of unbridled joy.

God invites everyone to hear the good news of Jesus and celebrate the wonderful message of salvation. With that confidence, we do not have to look back to the “good ole days” for a sense of happiness but rather look forward to the eternal happiness that awaits us in heaven—all because of God’s great love for us in Jesus!

To Friends of the Lutheran Girl Pioneers Ministry

This autumn, after I returned from taking my son to school at Wisconsin Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, there was a special envelope waiting for me in my mailbox. I had been chosen for jury duty. In accordance with the law, I reported for the final selection process. It was a murder trial for which twelve men and women would be chosen to decide this man’s innocence or guilt. What a terrifying responsibility!

Because of travel commitments made prior to receiving the jury notice, I was excused. As I walked out of the courtroom I could not help but think of my own guilt before the Lord, our Father. In God’s eyes I am just as guilty as any murderer. I deserve the utmost punishment: the death penalty. But Jesus bore my sin and I’ve been declared ‘not guilty!’ I’ve been set free!

That is the wonderful truth the Lutheran Girl Pioneer ministry wants to share with the girls of WELS and reach out with to those in the neighborhoods around our churches. Permeated throughout the myriad lessons we teach in LGP is the promise of salvation. Our leaders strive to be mentors, living examples to the girls in their care. We want them to know the freedom that’s theirs through Jesus Christ; we strive to share the Gospel joy with those who haven’t heard.

Girl Pioneers is an important ministry, however, it is not funded through the Synod. We need your help and we pray you will accept the call. There are three ways you can assist us.

First, please pray for our ministry and the many young souls we reach. Pray the Holy Spirit will dwell richly in the message we share and turn hearts to the Savior. Pray for the leaders who step forward, that the Lord will bless their efforts.

Second, be a volunteer! This program needs faithful women who love the Word and are moved to share it with a loving heart. Teaching a lesson, providing a snack, driving for an outing, or helping at camp, there are many ways to serve on a short or long term basis.

Third, we humbly ask you to share your financial resources. Since LGP is totally self-funded, we often face financial challenges. This year we have given up the lease on our national office and moved operations to a smaller space. Our executive director has voluntarily taken a 50% cut in pay. We are, however, heartened by the chartering of four new Caravans and re-activation of several more. I pray you will be moved to support this ministry from the bottom of your hearts. Consider remembering LGP in your giving with a once-a-year gift or through memorials. Perhaps you would like to include the program in your weekly giving regimen. I also pray the Lord will take your offering and bless it greatly to His service in winning souls for Christ.

May your Advent preparations ready your heart for the Greatest Gift. May your Christmas celebrations this year be filled with the freedom and joy of the Gospel promise.

In Christ’s Service,
Diana Widdifield, LGP National Council President

You can send your monetary donations to the National Office at:

Lutheran Girl Pioneers Inc., 1225 Beverly Dr., Onalaska, Wisconsin, 54650

For questions or more information about Lutheran Girl Pioneers, or making a donation, please call Judy Pralle, Executive Director at 608-781-5232 or email: girlpioneers@charter.net.

If you wish to donate to your local Pioneers ministry, please place your donation in the offering plate, with “PIONEERS” noted on the check or on the outside of the envelope, or simply give your donation to Christine in the office, or Pastor Riedel.

Men of His Word Conference

Sat, February 20, 2016 @ Oshkosh Convention Center

It’s a mess out there. The world attacks our Christian values from every direction on a daily basis. To counter these attacks, the MOHW Conference uses God’s Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities and the world with the theme, “STAND FIRM.”

Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (*Pastor Jon Enter, heading a synod-wide pilot project on reinvigorating youth and family ministry*), the relevant, thought-provoking sessions (*20 to choose from*) or the worship experience with 600 other men (*with Koine, the worship band*), God’s Word will speak to you.

The 7th annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Oshkosh Convention Center & Waterfront Hotel on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org for the first 650 men (\$40 by February 7th; \$50 from February 8th-14th). Please join us for a day in God’s Word that you will not soon forget!

Advent by Candlelight

We had 72 people– many of them visitors!- join us for Advent by Candlelight this year! Our program was entitled “**A Mother Remembers,**” based off the new movie “**My Son, My Savior.**”

Thank you to all of our table hostess: Bernice Baranyk & Susie Frohman, Barb Bartel & Carol Meitzler, Emily Bohn & Susan Riedel, Rebecca Bohn & Emily Riedel, Barb Gerhke, Jan Schroeder, Judy Schulz, Blanche Yohn, and Joyce Woodruff. All the tables were beautiful and the desserts super yummy!



Thank you to our Girl Pioneers for organizing this amazing event and for presenting the program:

Emily Bohn, Rebecca Bohn, Lucy Hansen, Kaliska Klusmeyer, Emily Rose Riedel, Mary Riedel, Rachel Riedel, Susan Riedel, Caydan Rooney, Shyann Royston, and Sierra Royston.

Thank you to our Lutheran Girl Pioneers leaders:

Ahnsharee Klusmeyer, Beth Riedel, and Christine Bohn.

Thank you to everyone who came, to everyone who invited a friend or two. There is no way anyone left Advent by Candlelight wondering what the Bible says about Jesus.

And, lastly, thank you to the entire congregation. Without your incredible support of this vital ministry of Lutheran Boy & Girl Pioneers, we could never be successful. You realize the value of the souls that we reach and without your support, we couldn’t reach those souls. So thank you.

If you would like a DVD of the Lutheran Girl Pioneers’ Advent by Candlelight program, please see Christine in the office.

Copies of the WELS movie “**My Son, My Savior**” are available for free from Pastor Riedel.

Christmas for Kids

On Saturday, December 5, we had 36 children, ages 4K through 7th grade, join us for Christmas for Kids. We had 16 visitor children, from six different families!

After a yummy lunch, we learned about the birth of Jesus, and that the Wise Men didn’t get to Baby Jesus right away, but they found Him when He was a toddler! Then we made some crafts, sang fun Christmas songs, played Christmas Bingo and sang happy birthday to Jesus. Every family went home with a bag full of goodies, including a copy of the movie “My Son, My Savior,” Christmas candy, activities to do at home, and an invite to come back for our Christmas services.

Thank you to our 2015 Christmas for Kids staff: Kevin Bohn, Rebecca Bohn, Donna Kuenn, Donna McKay, Marv & Marion Mischka, Beth Riedel, Jan Schroeder, Darlene Travers, Linda Welty and Christine Bohn. And thank you to all who donated craft items and food for lunch.





Church News

Church Decorating

Thanks to all who helped decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season!



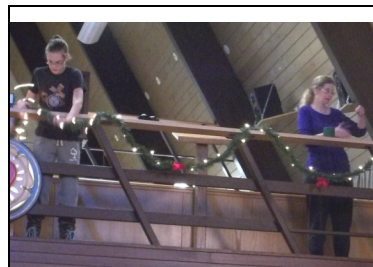
Tom doing some of the heavy lifting!



Mary, Beth & Susan decorating one tree.



While Verona, Barb and Jean decorate the other.



Beth & Emily Rose hang garland on the balcony.

Pioneers Cleaning the Church Kitchen

Pioneers and families: Don't forget that we are meeting on **Saturday, January 2 at 9 am** to give the church kitchen a good cleaning! Parents and families are welcome to stay and help.

The more hands, the easier (and faster!) the work!

We should be done by 10:30 am.

If you come, there MAY be a reward at the end of our work (besides the satisfaction of a job well-done, of course).

See any Pioneers leader for more information.



Calling all Knitters & Crocheters!

Or those who'd love to learn!

Join us on the first & third Saturday of each month, 2-4 pm!

Bring a skein of yarn (knitters worsted weight 4 ply {example: Red Heart Super Saver, Red Heart Soft, Caron, etc}). Crocheters bring a size G, H, or I hook and knitters bring a size 8, 9 or 10 needles.

Please see Linda Welty (715-927-2455) for more information.

Financial Report

By the time you read this, there will be only one service left in this year: New Year's Eve. This will be the last opportunity you will have to thank the Lord for all the blessings you have received this year.

We have made some gains in reaching our budget, but we still need help! May the Lord guide you in your offering.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, God-centered New Year.

DuWayne Bartel
Financial Secretary

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who donated poinsettias for the altar during December:

Barb Bartel

Robert & Marilyn Chesbrough

The Circle of Peace

The family of Curtis Daye,

in memory of Alice & Rueben Daye

Donna McKay

Lana Sluga



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.

We'd like to start this month's Corner with a BIG thank you to the Sunday School students and staff for a job well-done with this year's annual Children's Christmas Service! Thanks for all your hard work, your time and your dedication so that everyone who was here for the service left knowing the promises that God made, kept and will keep! Also, thank you to the Ladies' Circle of Peace for preparing and handing out the goody bags after the Children's Christmas Service.

This January, we have lots planned for our Sunday School kids! We will be learning about the following lessons:

January 3: The woman at the well

January 10: Jesus heals the paralyzed man

January 17: The Lord's Supper

January 24: Betrayal in Gethsemane

January 31: Peter's sin

The Upper Grades class will be hosting coffee hour in March. Watch for information about this coming home soon!

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

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 1/1 | Dayna Lemke |
| 1/5 | Karleen Meyer |
| 1/8 | Jonah Siegel |
| 1/10 | Boone Welty |
| 1/13 | Rachel Hansen |
| 1/14 | Robert Keihl |
| 1/16 | Lana Sluga |
| 1/19 | Joshua Wedde |
| 1/20 | Daniel Baranyk |
| 1/21 | Jack Snyder |
| | Carlyle Schmidt |
| 1/22 | Ahnsharee Klusmeyer |
| 1/25 | Char Vanier |
| 1/29 | Harry Pankau |
| 1/31 | Mary Riedel |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1/20 | Ken & Marie Kasper (26) |
|------|-------------------------|



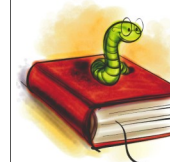
If we missed your birthday or anniversary, that means the church does not have it. Please drop off dates at the church office, call 787.3856 or email peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.

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!

Church Library Hours



Thursday & Sunday:
Before & after the service
Monday-Friday:
8 am– 2 pm