



335 W. Prairie Street  
Wautoma, WI 54982

www.wautomapeacelutheran.org  
peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com

Pastor Roger G. Riedel

Office: 920.787.3856

Home: 920.787.7078

Cell: 920.765.2883

riedels.1999@gmail.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

Fourth Sunday @ 10:30 am

**JAM Session** every third Sunday at 10:30 am

**Confirmation** Level 1 Wednesdays @ 6 pm

Level 2 Wednesdays @ 6 pm

**Pioneers** every second & last Sunday @ 1 pm



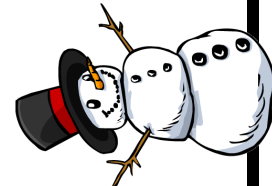
For we have seen His star



In the east and have come to Worship Him.

January 2018

# Messenger of Peace



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Peace Lutheran Pioneers Annual

## Pine Car Derby

Sunday, February 25 1 pm

Join us for an afternoon of  
racing fun! Enter the Open  
Class & race to victory or  
come cheer on others!

**Ribbons are awarded in all classes:**

(Pioneers) Kindergarten- 2nd grade class

(Pioneers) 3rd- 5th grade class

(Pioneers) 6th- 8th grade

(Anyone who isn't a Pioneer) Open class

(There is a \$5 fee to enter the Open Class to cover the  
cost of the pine car.)

If you would like more  
information or if you'd like to  
enter the Open Class, please  
see Kevin Bohn (920-765-2146).

**LP** Come  
support  
your  
Pioneers!



The church office will be closed  
December 22-January 1.

## Updates Needed!

Please notify the church office of any ad-  
dress, phone number, or email changes by  
January 7, 2018.

You can call the office at 920-787-3856, email  
at peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com or  
drop off a copy of your current information  
at the office on Sundays, or during office  
hours during the week.

## Audit Meeting

Wednesday, January 10 at 7 pm

## Annual Report

Articles and information for the 2017 Annual  
Report are due to the church office no later  
than January 14.

Committee chairs and group leaders are en-  
couraged to turn in a report, along with a list  
of active committee members/group leaders.  
Please see Christine in the office for more  
information.

## Voter's Meeting

Sunday, February 4 at 10:15 am



*"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



### Happy New Year 2018!

Looking around as I write, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and it's feeling a whole lot like Christmas, too. The decorations are up in church and at home. There's a dusting of snow on the ground outside. Our Advent preparation for Christmas is drawing to an end. Soon we'll be celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Savior. And then the odometer will roll into a new year...2018.

With the beginning of a new year, very likely you will experience some new things. But for many of us, the new year will not be much different than the old year now drawing to a close. In some areas of our lives that is very good, but not so much in other ways.

In my previous article, when I directed your attention to the start of the new Church Year, I shared with you the opening verses of Psalm 1: *How blessed is the man who delights in the teaching of the LORD and meditates on it day and night* (paraphrase of Psalm 1:1-2). The psalm continues like this: *That person is like a tree planted by flowing streams of water, which bears its fruit in season. Its leaves do not wither. Everything he does is prosperous* (paraphrase of Psalm 1:3).

Prosperous. Prosper. Prosperity. This is a sentiment that is often offered around this time of year. Have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! But what is meant by 'prosperity'?

In our society, to really prosper carries the connotation of 'living high on the hog' or 'living the American dream.' It brings to mind the idea of success in the various avenues of life – a respectable family, a well-paying career, good grades, a comfortable home, luxury time – you get the picture. We work hard and then we can enjoy the benefits of our labors. Do you detect what is missing from that definition of prosperity?

Jesus.

As we began the new Church Year in Advent, with our focus on God's love for us in sending His Son into the world as our Savior, so we finish this calendar year celebrating the fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The long-awaited Messiah did come to rescue us sinners. And we venture into 2018 seeking – like the wise men – this world's Redeemer in humble adoration and grateful praise.

We seek Him and find Him in the Gospel. Through regular use of God's Word and Sacraments we meet Jesus as He forgives our sins and refreshes us with the assurance of new life – eternal life – with Him. Empowered by the message of God's love for us, we approach Him with repentant hearts, confident of His generous outpouring of mercy and grace. And the Lord does not disappoint His believing children. He forgives us for all the times we didn't include Him or His Word in our plans. And He fills our hearts, lives, and homes with abundant blessings. He strengthens our faith and enables us to put that Christian faith into God-pleasing thoughts, words, and actions, expressed in our love for Him and one another.

Heading into the new calendar year, we may not achieve a 4.0, or land the perfect job, or raise a perfect family, or be financially wealthy beyond our wildest imaginations. But like a prosperous, fruit-bearing tree planted in a lush, watery area, we forge ahead confident of many blessings, and eager to serve our loving Lord. Firmly grounded in His Word we enjoy such great gifts as the forgiveness of sins, new life, and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The psalmist wrote: ***How blessed is the man who delights in the teaching of the LORD and meditates on it day and night. That person is like a tree planted by flowing streams of water, which bears its fruit in season. Its leaves do not wither. Everything he does is prosperous.*** We enter 2018 with our roots firmly planted in God's Word, and look forward to another year of His blessings. As you join me and your fellow believers in worship and Bible study, you will have a happy and blessed and prosperous New Year, dear Christian!

Pastor Roger Riedel



### Unchanging Hope for an Ever-changing World

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

*Hebrews 13:8*

As one year ends and another begins, columnists and commentators look back at the previous year. What changed? What stayed the same? Whose passing did we mourn? Whose new arrival did we celebrate?

At the same time, we make predictions about the coming year. What will the new year hold? What will change? What will stay the same?



As fun and exciting as it may be to reminisce about the past and dream about the future, it can also be a little sad and scary. Things will likely never be what they used to be. Loved ones who have passed away don't come back. Jobs that are lost seldom reappear quickly. Even when broken dreams and broken relationships are repaired, they rarely return to their former glory. Many times our experiences in an ever-changing world are difficult.

Yet we sometimes look at our lives and see a need for change. Many of us make New Year's resolutions: "I'm going to exercise more and eat less." "I'm going to save more and spend less." "I'm going to love more and hate less." But too often, our good intentions disappear, and only poor excuses remain.

No matter what (or who) changes from one year to the next, there is one who never changes—Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He always exists, from before time, throughout the course of time, and at the end of time for eternity. Jesus loved you before you were born. He loves you today, and He will always love you.

That's what Christmas is all about. Jesus loved you so much that He wanted you to experience His unchanging love forever. So He came into the world to live up to God's perfect demands in your place. He took the punishment for your imperfection and gave you the reward for His perfection. That reward is an eternity far away from this world's sorrows and disappointments—the unchanging peace and joy of a place called heaven.

Jesus—the same yesterday, today, and forever—promises to be with us, to love us, to care for us, and to give perfect peace with God to all who trust in Him. Only Jesus offers unchanging hope to an ever-changing world.



<sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



<sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Matthew 2:9-12

## Lutheran Girl Pioneers National Convention

Saturday, October 6, 2018

St Paul's, Franklin, Wisconsin

Hosted by the Rainbow District

Workshops, networking, fellowship, worship—activities for girls, too!

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 3rd Sunday of each month. Email it to: [peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com).

## Men of His Word Conference

Have you seen the news lately? It's crazy out there. The world attacks our Christian values from every direction on a daily basis. To counter these attacks, the MOHW Conference provides opportunities and resources for men to grow spiritually, using God's Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities and the world. This year's theme is "GET OUT OF THE BOAT."

Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (Pastor Jared Oldenburg from Eternal Rock in Castle Rock, Colorado), the relevant, thought-provoking breakout sessions (19 to choose from), or the worship experience with 600 other men (with Koine', the worship band), God's Word will speak to you. The 9<sup>th</sup> annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Additional details and online registration are available at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) for the first 650 men (\$50 by February 11<sup>th</sup>; \$60 from February 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>). Please join us for a day of fellowship in God's Word that you will not soon forget!

## What's in a Name?

We often refer to our synod as the WELS. What does that mean? Our acronym stands for the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

**Wisconsin** is where three pastors serving German immigrants joined together in a common fellowship more than 150 years ago. It is still where more than half of our membership calls home—but now we have congregations and missions spread all across the globe.

**Evangelical** is a Greek word, literally translated "gospel oriented." It is an apt description, for the gospel of Jesus Christ is at the core of all we believe and proclaim.

**Lutheran** refers to those who adhere to the teachings of Martin Luther, the leader of the Reformation in Germany. It was Luther who once again made clear that salvation is received through faith in Jesus as a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8,9).

**Synod** literally translated means "walking together." As a fellowship of Christians, we walk together as individuals and congregations sharing a common bond of faith in Jesus articulated in the Lutheran Confessions.



## Church News

### Christmas for Kids



On Saturday, December 2, the Outreach Committee hosted a Happy Birthday, Jesus! party. We had 9 children, including two visitors, join us for an afternoon of games, crafts, singing, lunch, and learning all about why we celebrate Christmas: because it's Jesus' birthday! We closed out our day singing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

**Thank you to our helpers:** Hannah Klusmeyer, Jan Schroeder, Terry Proctor, Bernice Baranyk, Kevin and Christine Bohn, and Pastor and Beth Riedel.



### Boy & Girl Pioneers Cleaning Church Kitchen

January 6 9 am

Pioneers (and families!): We will be cleaning the church kitchen on Saturday, January 6 at 9 am. Come ready to scrub and clean until the kitchen sparkles! Then, all who worked will be rewarded with donuts!

The more hands, the faster the work!



### Four Mothers Wait



Eve, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary: their stories opened the Advent season, along with songs and recitations by the Girl Pioneers, on Sunday, November 26, 2017. Emily Rose Riedel as Eve, Rebecca Bohn as Sarah, Emily Bohn as Elizabeth, and Susan Riedel as Mary told the stories. Each story leading to the birth of Jesus. Costumes of the period gave authenticity to their parts. Christine Bohn, director, and Beth Riedel, music director, put many hours into presenting a wonderful program that not only entertained us, but filled our hearts with love, preparing us for the birth of Jesus. Along with the hostesses who set beautiful tables and served wonderful desserts, you couldn't have spent a more perfect afternoon.

Submitted by Bernice Baranyk

### Pioneers Lock-In

Friday, January 19 6 pm–

Saturday, January 20 8 am

Pioneers, ages 3rd grade and up, and their friends, are invited to join us on Friday, January 19– Saturday, January 20 for our Lock-In.

Dinner, games, Bible Studies, a midnight pizza party, and movies are just some of the fun that will be had! Sunbeams and Buckaroos can join us from 6-9 pm on Friday.

Families are invited to join us for breakfast at 7:30 am on Saturday morning.

Pick up is promptly at 8 am.

See Christine Bohn (920-765-2147) for more information.

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, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Matthew 2:1-2





## Messenger of Peace Spotlight Articles

Beginning in March, The Messenger of Peace is seeking to highlight committees, groups, and activities throughout the year with special “Spotlight On...” articles.

Committees and groups should submit an article (it can be a general ‘who we are, what we do’ article or it can be about a specific event), a picture or two, who your leaders/committee members are, any open positions you are wanting to fill, and anything else you wish to include.

Submit your article prior to the due date listed below by giving a copy to the office or emailing it to [peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com).

Month	Group/Committee	Due date
March	Elders’	Feb. 18
March	Confirmation Class	Feb. 18
April	Stewardship Committee	Mar. 18
April	Outreach Committee	Mar. 18
May	Card Counter	Apr. 22
May	JAM Session	Apr. 22
June	Maintenance Comm.	May 20
June	LWMS	May 20
July	Circle of Peace	June 17
July	Church Council	June 17
August	Church Cleaning	July 22
August	Bible Classes	July 22
September	Library	Aug. 19
October	Worship Committee	Sept. 23
October	Finance Committee	Sept. 23
November	Sunday School	Oct. 21
November	Peace Pantry	Oct. 21
December	Pioneers	Nov. 25
December	EDU Committee	Nov. 25

Why is it important to write your article? Writing an article for the Messenger of Peace is an easy way to let the entire congregation know what your group/committee has been up to! It’s a fantastic and easy way to recruit new members and keep the congregation informed of events. You can submit articles and pictures to the Messenger of Peace at any time during the year— not just your spotlighted time!

## Lutheran Pioneers January– February Schedule

You do not want to miss out at Pioneers in January and February! We have so much fun planned, we don’t know how we’re going to fit it all in! *SB/BKR means Sunbeams and Buckaroos (our boys and girls ages Kindergarten—2nd grade).*

Meeting date	Time	Topic
Saturday, Jan. 6	9 am	Cleaning the church kitchen
Sun, Jan. 14	1 pm	ALL: Get pine cars Boys: Independent Living Skills Girls: Pie Making SB/BKR: Making stationary
Fri., Jan. 19-		
Sat. Jan 20	6 pm– 8 am	Lock In
Sun., Jan 28	1 pm	Movie Day!
Sun., Feb 11	1 pm	Boys: Makin’ breakfast Girls: Valentine’s Day SB/BKR: Food you can make
Sun., Feb 25	1 pm	Pine Car Derby day

**Congregation:** Did you know that you can come to Pioneers meetings? Visit us and see what we do (and how much fun we have!). If your child wants to join Pioneers, it’s not too late– talk to any Pioneers leader or call the church office.



## Coffee Hour Sign Up



The new 2018 sign up for Coffee Hour is out on the back table in the fellowship hall. Coffee Hour is a fun way to serve our congregation! Sign up early to get the month you want!

Coffee Hour is served on the third Sunday of each month (although if you want to serve on a different Sunday, that’s okay too!). Please see Christine in the office if you have any questions about Coffee Hour.



# News About Our Church Family

## Sunday School Corner

Sunday School is every Sunday, Sept-May, 10:15-11:30 am

Happy new year from the Sunday School staff! Thank you to all the students and teachers for their work for the children’s Christmas service. It was a beautiful service. A special thank you to our service director and musician, Beth Riedel.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas! We will begin classes again on January 7. Even if your child has missed a lot of classes in the fall, they can jump in where we are! We begin our studies in January with adult Jesus and the work He did while on earth.

Date	Lesson
January 7	Jesus Heals the Centurion’s Servant
January 14	Feeding the 5000
January 21	The Transfiguration
January 28	The Good Samaritan
February 11	The Unforgiving Servant



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. If you would like to receive Sunday School lessons for a grandchild or any other child who benefit from it, please see any Sunday School teacher!



## Birthdays

1/1	Dayna Lemke
1/8	Jonah Siegel
1/10	Boone Welty
1/14	Bob 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 (29)
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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](mailto:peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com).



<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

Matthew 2:3-8

