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Messenger of Peace

The monthly newsletter of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Seek his will
in all you do, and he will show you
which path to take.

Proverbs 3:6

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
please remember the following
things when you come to church:

Masks are required

*If you don't have a mask, we have
disposable and fabric re-usable available*

**Please socially distance
in the sanctuary**

*Families can sit together with
no restrictions; Sit every third pew &
stay six feet apart*

Offerings

*Leave your offering in the plates
at the end of the aisle*

Please use the hand sanitizer when you enter the building and whenever you touch any commonly touched surface; Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and try to not touch your face.



Stand with the Word!

"Verbum manet in aeternum": these Latin words are engraved on many church bells. Loosely translated, it means *"The Word stands into eternity."* It is a fitting sentiment to have on our hearts for a new year.

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever."

We don't really know what the new year holds for us, do we? We can have plans for how our lives will go this year, but God alone knows our future. Maybe we will have lots of good things happen to us this year. Or maybe we will wish 2021 never happened. More than likely, the events of our lives over the next twelve months will be somewhere in between these two extremes. No matter what heights our lives reach or what pits we fall into, the Bible is the one constant in our lives. Through it, God makes sure that, ***"Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain."*** As we stand with the Word of our God, we will find it balancing out the highs and lows of our lives. The Word lifts us up and brings to us the message of our Savior: your sins are forgiven. When life is going too well, the Word keeps us close to God when we are tempted to drift away from him. When we stand with the Word, our path through life is level and straight.

As time marches onward, we know our lives will be different a year from now—how different only God knows. Chances are, someone from our congregation will be in heaven with Jesus by New Year's Day 2022. Perhaps you will receive the gift of a new child or grandchild to love and cherish. Maybe you will face a health challenge or get good news from the doctor about something with which you are already struggling. But we do know for certain: life will change in some way for all of us in 2021.

If something bad does happen to you in the next year, you know where to turn for support. The devil can attack us fiercely. Our sins can try to swallow us. The sinful side of us will try with all its might to lead us astray from God's Word, instead wanting us to trust in our own hearts for comfort and strength. When these things happen to you, and they will, instead of being blown about by sins or hardships, stand firm with the Word this year.

The Word provides for all of your spiritual needs. When it seems like everyone in the world is against you, remember the picture the psalms paint of our response. ***"You, Lord, prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Be still and know that I am God."*** If sin troubles you, know that in the cross of Christ, your sins have been removed from you as far as the east is from the west. When death comes for you or someone you love, hold fast to the promises you have from God about eternal life. ***"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."*** If or when things go wrong in your life, remember where to run for comfort and the strength to persevere in the face of hardship. ***"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem (the church), and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins."***

Go boldly into 2021! Make time each day for quality time alone with the Word. Set aside time each week to make sure you can worship regularly either in-person as you're able or online. Whatever challenges or blessings will come into your life this year, you already know how to handle them. Stand with the Word as the center of your life, and no trial will be too big to sweep you away in sorrow. You know your Savior and the depths of his love for you. You know the work of the Holy Spirit on your heart.

Each time you hear church bells ringing, remember these words: *The Word stands into eternity.*

Pastor Steven Tews



"You are!" "No, you are!" "Yeah? Well, you are times a gazillion!"

Katie knew that gazillion was going to be tough to beat, but thinking hard she finally proclaimed: "Oh yeah? Well, you are ... to infinity!" His jaw dropped because Joey knew his sister had him beat. How could he compete with *infinity*?

Simply put, infinity means stretching on and on, without any end. When something is infinite it has no boundaries. It is unlimited and immeasurably great.

The Bible helps us understand the concept as it describes God. ***"Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the LORD. 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD"*** (Jeremiah 23:24).

There is only One who is everywhere, who always has been, who always will be, who had no beginning, and who will have no end. That is God.

God wants us to feel good about him being infinite.

As we begin a new year, it can be great to know that God is always with us. Wherever the year takes us, God will be there too. The comfort of God's unending presence is ours through faith in his Son, Jesus. As the Apostle Paul says: ***"In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence"*** (Ephesians 3:12).

God knows everything we think, everything we do, and most importantly, he knows everything we need. In fact, God already took care of our greatest need. He sent his infinite Son to be our Savior! Trust him.

Joey and Katie challenged each other with the concept of infinity. Come to church, or watch services on our website, to learn more about the only one who can truly change your life so you have comfort that will last...to infinity!





"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

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

Why Do We Celebrate Christmas on December 25?

Q: Why do we celebrate Jesus' birthday on Christmas? It seems like the "church" put it on that day which shares pagan worship of false gods. Jesus did not come to start His own religion but to teach and follow God's word. I want to follow the real God.

A: We do not know the date of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. The Bible does not list that date. There are no historical records for that momentous event. Numerous ideas have been proposed for the origin of December 25 as the date of Jesus' birth. Those ideas range from early Christians' belief that Jesus was born on that day to the establishment of a Christian holiday that would counter a heathen festival. The date of Jesus' birth is not known.

What we do know is the reason Jesus became man. Standing before Pontius Pilate, Jesus said, *"The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth."* The truth of the Bible is that all people are sinners in need of a Savior, and Jesus is that Savior. Galatians 4:4-5 states: *"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."* We can praise God on December 25 and every day of the year for sending a Savior, his Son.

By believing in the Triune God and Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are following the real God (John 5:24). You can rest assured that your faith is not misplaced (1 Peter 2:6).

<https://wels.net/faq>

Let church office know all my contact changes

- * Phone number
- * Email address
- * Mailing address

Email changes to
peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com
Or call the office at 920-787-3856

No later than January 5

Peace Pantry Hours



The Peace Pantry is open during regular office hours during the week and by appointment. Due to COVID-19, those who utilize the pantry will receive pre-packed bags/boxes.

The pantry is open to all of our members and the community. Call Christine at 920-787-3856 for more information.

2020 Annual Report

Articles and information for the 2020 Annual Report are due to the church office no later than January 17.

Committee chairs and group leaders are encouraged to turn in a report, along with a list of active committee members/group leaders. See Christine in the office for more information.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Blood Drive hosted by Peace on December 3. Thirty-three units of blood were donated during our blood drive!

Visit the Church Library

The dreary days of winter don't have to be filled with boredom! Check out our library filled with choices for all ages! For the younger kids, check out "My First Catechism", a devotional book based on Luther's Catechism. For young adult readers, there's a new-to-the-library novel by Christina Hergenrader "Last Summer at Eden". All ages can use The People's Bible series to enrich their personal bible studies.

No need to be bored when you have access to all these- and more!- great books! Utilize our library and grow in faith!

Pioneers News

The Pioneers will meet at the end of January. The Boy Pioneers will be doing some woodworking and the Girl Pioneers will be talking about life skills. Both will be sending Valentine cards to all our shut-ins.

SAVE THE DATE: Our annual Pine Car Derby will be on Sunday February 28. If, because of the pandemic, we can't meet together to run the race, we will livestream it on our Facebook page! Watch for more information about our Derby.

The Lutheran Pioneers meet the last Sunday of each month at 11:30 am. Lunch is included! If you know any child that would benefit from joining Pioneers, please encourage them to join- or to reach out for more information. Kids do not have to be a member of Peace to join!

Your Pioneers Leaders,
Christine, Kevin, & Becca Bohn

Advent by Candlelight



2020 made a lot of things look and feel differently than normal. Advent by Candlelight was no different. We didn't have decorated tables or delicious desserts. But what we did have was a beautifully decorated sanctuary, beloved Christmas hymns, and the true Word of God soothing our restless souls. Thank you to Barb Bartel, Jean Bartel, Becca Bohn, Kevin Bohn, Jean Landwehr, Jan Schroeder, Doreen Walton, and Linda Welty for helping make Advent by Candlelight 2020 a success!



January Birthdays

1/1 Dayna Lemke
1/8 Jonah Siegel
1/10 Boone Welty
1/16 John Hannemann
1/19 Joshua Wedde
1/21 Jack Snyder
Carlyle Schmidt
1/25 Char Vanier
1/27 LouAnn Treichel

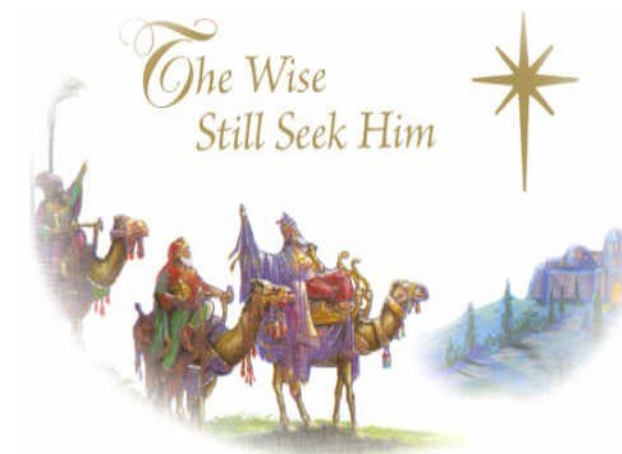


January Anniversaries

1/20 Kenneth & Marie Kasper (32)



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.



Sunday School Corner

Every Sunday 10:15 am- 11:15 am

Thank you to all our Sunday School kids and staff for a fantastic Children's service on December 20!

After a two week Christmas break, we'll be back on January 3. Don't forget, we have classes for 2 years old through 6th grade!

January Lessons for 4K- 6th Grade

Date	Lesson
Jan. 3	Jesus Heals
Jan. 10	Feeding the 5000
Jan. 17	Transfiguration
Jan. 24	The Good Samaritan
Jan. 31	The Unforgiving Servant
Feb. 7	Ten Lepers

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.



Please speak with me, any Sunday School teacher, or Pastor for more information about Sunday School, to volunteer, or to donate to the Sunday School program.

Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Karin Hetcher (920-240-6201)

Sunday School Superintendent

Remember Our Shut-Ins



Please remember our shut-ins (including those who are shut-ins during this pandemic) in your prayers! If you would like a list of shut-ins to pray for, call, or send cards of encouragement to, please call the church office at 787-3856 and we will get that list to you.