

The Bellringer

January 2022



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

From Pastor Matt

"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

This last month I was asked by a few people about the symbols on wooden sculpture on the cross at the center of the sacristy. I realized I didn't know off the top of my head, since I rarely spend any time looking at it. When you are leading you are usually facing the opposite way!

So below is the description from a display you can find located in the library at church:

- Holy Baptism is represented by the flowing water near the bottom.
- The Holy Spirit is pictured as a dove, reminding us that at his baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove.
- The gold "halo" around the dove's head (called a nimbus) is a sign of the holy presence of God.
- The burning candle reminds us that Jesus is called "the light of the world" by the Gospel writer John (8:12), the one who lights our way to life.
- Similarly, the golden rays behind the cross witness to Jesus as the "Son of Righteousness, and are reminders as well of Jesus' resurrection.
- Finally, the cross within the cross- looking somewhat like the letter "p"-is in fact a representation of two letters of the Greek alphabet, "chi" and "rho." In that language, they are the first letters of the title "Christ." Over the centuries, they have been put together in this fashion to identify our Savior.
- You might also notice that, on this sculpture at least, the chi's loop resembles a shepherd's crook, which in turn reminds us that Jesus is also our Good Shepherd.



Of course the focal point of the whole sculpture is cross – this is at the center of our attention and out focal point in worship – not as an idol, not as an object or idol, but as a symbol that points us to God's ultimate love for the world. Over the next few months I hope to share with you some of the other symbols we have in our church that you may or may not be familiar with. If there is something you'd like to know about, please send me a note and I will look into it!

- Soli Deo Gloria. Pastor Matthew Agee

From Pastor Calvin

I have officially been the Associate Pastor at St Peter for 1 year! Praise God! The thing that I treasure most about being the Associate Pastor at St Peter is the relationships and friendships that Ashley and I have built at the church.

It got me thinking about the church in general, and how important it is to have relationships with people of the same faith. There are several Proverbs in the Bible that said what social sciences are saying today: you become like the people you hang out with most. Proverbs 12:26, 13:20, 17:17, and 27:17 all talk about friendship and how they affect us.

We have opportunities for you to connect with others and build meaningful relationships with others of the same faith. Men's Bible Study, Book Club, Quilters, Musicians, Volunteers in Children's and Youth Ministries, being a part of Children's and Youth Ministries, Boards to join...we take seriously the call to spiritual friendship.

I want to encourage you to join a group with the intention of making a new friend, or getting to know someone on a deeper level. God's Word tells us that if you do, not only will you become closer with them, but you'll become closer to God, too.

- Peace in Christ. Pastor Calvin Konop

Educating & Equipping Disciples

Reminder: NO Sunday School on January 2, 2022. Classes will resume on January 9.

Our Sunday School children did a super job with their Christmas Message **“Fear Not! God Is With You!”** They depicted three different ways that fear might have been dealt with by characters in the Christmas story: Mary accepts by faith this surprising news from the angel; Joseph needs the reassurance given by the angel in his dream; and the shepherds rally together to go and seek the new born baby and share the good news with others. The Sunday School children wish to reassure all of you as well that we can “Fear not, God is with us, too!”
[You can view The Children’s Christmas Message on our YouTube channel - click here.](#)



Thanks to the Sunday School kids for all their hard work to get the Christmas Message ready to share.

Thank you to parents for helping your children practice at home, on zoom and for getting them to extra practices. It was so nice to be able to work with the kids in person. Also to the teachers for being flexible with the Sunday practice schedule and for coming up with ways for the program to run smoothly. Thanks, Kristine, for the much needed musical support – *couldn't do it without you*. To Sara for boosting all the kid's confidence by getting the words up on the back screen. Thanks to Pastor Matt for being “Microphone Sound Guy” and Pastor Calvin the head of “Camera Crew.” It was so nice to have Middle and High School youth now taking the role of support for the younger kids in the program. Wasn't that long ago that they were the ones in costume and saying the lines.

Our total for November's noisy offering was \$105.04! With the money we were able to purchase toilet paper, paper towels and baby wipes for the Opening Doors shelters. They were also delighted to receive the snowmen we made from rolls of toilet paper on Feed My Sheep Sunday. They will be cute (and functional) decorations for the residents.

For December we continued our support of **Opening Doors**, but through their **“A Bed of Hope”** program. \$10 sponsors one “bed night” for a resident. As of December 19 we had collected \$149.53! Almost 15 “Bed Nights” *Thanks!*

Youth Ministry News *from Pastor Calvin*

MIDDLE SCHOOL / CONFIRMATION (Grades 6-8)

1/5/22 - No Youth Group

1/12/22 - Service Project Night at Church

1/19/22 - Regular Ministry

1/21/22 - Friday Night Game Night, 6-8pm, Free and anyone in Middle School is welcome to join us, so invite your friends!

1/26/22 - Regular Ministry

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY (Grades 9-12)

We'll be meeting on Wednesdays (starting 1/12/22) from 7-8pm in the youth room. We're going through the book of Luke, so come for some games to start, and then some discussion on the Gospel of Luke. Grades 9-12 are welcome to join us.

If you have questions about any of the above items, reach out to Pastor Calvin pastorcalvin@stpeterdbq.org

From the Executive Director

Welcome to 2022. What a Bright Future we have here at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Dubuque. We are so glad to have you as fellow members in Christ's community. We hope and pray that all of you have a great new year and are able to be in community with each other for the full year of 2022.

Before looking at what we might have happening in the new year I thought I would give you a recap of some of the things we accomplished as a congregation in the past year during a global pandemic.

- **In January we welcomed Pastor Calvin and Ashley Konop into our community. Yahoo!!**
- We have **completed a full review of our Bylaws** and will be presenting those to the congregation and asking for approval at our January 2022 Annual meeting. (see below this article for more info)
- We **updated our member roles** by reaching out to members who have not been active and encouraging them to come back in community. Those who did not respond have been moved to Inactive status but remain in our records.
- Your Council **approved a new gift policy** for those wishing to give more to St. Peter beyond their regular campaign giving. This was rolled out to members in November.
- As of this writing it appears that **we will reach our member giving goal** of \$305,000 in 2021, not counting our Pastor Fund campaign gifts of \$115,000 which is on target since starting in September 2020.
- The Long-Range Planning Group of 11 members has been meeting and is **beginning work to strengthen and expand our member program offerings** from all the youth and family opportunities to adult programs for all ages. More to follow in 2022.
- Beyond all these administrative activities we have been able to have most worship services in person and have seen our attendance increase, although not yet to pre-pandemic levels.

I want to again personally thank Pastors Matt and Calvin, and all our professional staff for the great service they have provided to our members. Their ability to work for our benefit during all the past year's challenges has been much appreciated.

The Future is Bright for St. Peter in 2022. You have signaled your strong commitment by pledging to provide the financial support needed to move us forward. This, along with your time and talents commitment, should provide us with another positive year. We have received pledges and other indications of intent to give in numbers that have encouraged your Council to propose \$325,000 as a budget number for member donations. This is outside the Pastor Fund and other designated giving. This represents a 6.6% increase in giving partly supported by 20 current members who increased their commitment from the prior year. This number of 20 members is from a total of 166 giving units identified.

I am so proud to be a member of this church community. Your love for one another and your willingness to strongly support our collective mission is very inspiring. **Thank you so much for being here.**

I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2022.

God Bless, - *Doug Horstmann, Executive Director for the Parish Planning Council*

ST. PETER BYLAWS REVISION NOTICE: The Parish Council on December 13, 2021 approved taking a proposal to the congregation for a vote to update our current Bylaws. The journey to this point has been a long one.

Back in Spring of 2019 the Council appointed a committee led by Ann Straley to update and revise our Bylaws that were last updated in 2014. Ann and her team of Pam Buchholtz, Gary Norby, Mark Hostager, and Secretary Amy Fishwild worked with all Board Directors to work through the process. As they were doing their work, Covid hit and we then worked to call Pastor Calvin, so the process on the bylaws slowed.

Since then, the Council has had an opportunity to look at numerous revisions and have had much conversation about how we govern ourselves. Attached is the culmination of those discussions.

[CLICK HERE to read the PROPOSED Bylaws](#) For an outline of the major changes, [CLICK HERE for a Summary Document](#)

If you would like to read the [CURRENT Bylaws](#), [CLICK HERE](#).

(If desired, please contact the Office and we will get you a hard copy of the new and/or existing bylaws, and/or summary.)



Your Parish Council is recommending approval of these new bylaws and has added the vote to the agenda of the Annual Meeting, to be held Sunday January 30, 2022, after the 10:30am service, in the sanctuary. All voting members are encouraged to attend and vote on this proposal.

If you have any questions please contact any member of the Parish Council. *Sincerely, Doug Horstmann, Executive Director*

St Peter Community

2022 Giving Envelopes

Dear St. Peter Members,

An update on the 2022 giving envelopes. The past several years we have seen a decrease of members using the provided envelopes, so the stewardship committee **decided to order fewer boxes with no numbers printed on them.** In the past we have wasted many boxes of envelopes, because we had to order all the numbers, even if a number was not assigned to someone. In addition, many members were not using their boxes anyway.

This year envelopes were ordered in November, but only the full boxes have arrived (on Dec 28). We are still waiting for the small bundles for the ACH special envelopes to arrive. **By the time you receive this, they (at least the full boxes) will be located in the gathering area for members to take and use for their giving in 2022.**

To help with accounting of gifts, the stewardship committee asks that you **write your member number in the right hand corner.** This will assist the office staff and counters with accurate documentation of your gifts. If giving with a check, accounts are able to be double checked with account numbers, but if cash is given it is important to be sure to include your member number.

If you have questions, please contact a member of the stewardship committee. Thank you.

-Doug Horstmann, Amy Unmacht, Mark Whitaker, Dave Yeager, Tim Michel, Scott Schoenhard, JoAnn Hillary

Images from Our Live Nativity

Thank you to one and all for another successful Live Nativity! This event is truly a Team Effort. It was wonderful to see and meet everyone—new faces and old—and everyone seemed to be having a great time! More pics coming soon!



Mission Support News

Thank you on behalf of Mission Support for the beautifully wrapped Christmas Gifts for Lutheran Social Services! The gifts have been distributed and the representatives from LSI are very grateful.

If you would like to help with the latest tornado disasters, Lutheran Disaster Response is accepting donations.

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Please write "U.S. Tornadoes" on your check memo line.

Yours in Christ, Patty Strathman, *Director of Mission Support*



Unfortunately we have some sad news to share with you. **Pastor Matt's mother, Sally Agee**, passed away at her home in Fond Du Lac, WI on December 23.

It was a surprise to Pr. Matt and his brother Mike, but she had not been feeling well for some time. Pr. Matt's father passed away some 7 years ago.

A celebration of Sally's life will be held in 2022.

Please keep Pastor and his entire family in your prayers. [Click here to read her obituary.](#)



On a similar note, our beloved **Coletta Wells** passed away December 27.

We will share service information as soon as plans are completed. Please keep her family in your prayers, as well.

INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY - Yes, we plan to PRINT out some copies of the directory in the spring of 2022. **HOWEVER, we need YOUR help:** We need to have everyone logged in (hopefully with a photo uploaded) by the annual meeting on January 30, so we can finalize the directory.

Need help using the directory? Before ALL SERVICES on **January 1-2** and **January 15-16** we will have volunteers available to help you log in to your account AND also have an opportunity to have your photo taken (and uploaded).

Questions about the directory? Please contact Steve at sfishwild@gmail.com or ask at church when you see him! Thanks!

Evangelical Outreach

Gwen's Pantry Update:

Winter is upon us, and Gwen's Pantry can use the following items:

Kleenex (*pocket packs work great!*), Deodorant (*solids only for winter*), Dental Floss, Toothbrushes, Mouthwash, bar soap, First Aid items. Liquid items will be put out as weather permits. Accepting full-size, travel-size, multi-packs. Partial packs of diapers and feminine products can be repackaged.

Other personal care items (NO MEDS) always welcome. Thank You!

Volunteer stockers always needed. (CLICK HERE to SIGNUP) Donations of items not required be a stocker, as you will be using items from our supply. Questions? contact Cindy Widmar or Jean Kapp



St. Peter Groups & Meeting Info—New friends always welcome, come see what we are about!

- **Quilting Group**—Meets first Thursday of the month in the Fellowship Hall—contact Alice Wagner for more info
- **Prayer Shawl Group**—Meets third Thursday of the month—Knit and Crochet, with Prayer and Fellowship
- **Zoom Book Club**—Meets every Wednesday at 5:00pm (*before Bible Study*)—Contact Jean Rieniets for more info
- **Welcoming Committee**—Meetings vary—Contact Steve Fishwild for more info—sfishwild@gmail.com
- **Community Services**—Offer your time & skills to others—Contact Steve Fishwild for more info—sfishwild@gmail.com
- **Worship Servants**—Volunteer at worship services—Contact Kelly Roen for more info—kelly.roen@yahoo.com

St. Peter Lutheran Online Links

All worship services will continue to be available online, as well as on Mediacom Channels 81 and 117-4 (see page 6) Here are the links which will take you to our live and most recent services, and more:

Facebook: facebook.com/stpeterdubuque (*Please "Like" our Facebook page while you are there!*)

YouTube: youtube.com/stpeterlutherandubuque (*you can "Subscribe" to this, too*)

Websites: st-peter-lutheran.org (*the website you are probably familiar with*)

stpeterdbq.org (*we are in the midst of transferring info to this one, so both are active*)

PayPal: <http://stpeterdbq.org/give> (*a secure way for you to donate to St. Peter online*)

Mediacom: Channel 81 or 117-4 (*see calendar for the TV schedule*)

Book Club on Zoom: [Click Here for Zoom Link](#) (*Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, before Bible Study*)

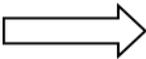
Bible Study: 6:00 pm WEDNESDAYS – [Zoom Link](#) – [Click Here](#) (*We plan to start up again on January 12*)

We will continue to celebrate worship live online at 8:15am Sundays, on [our YouTube channel](#).

If you have questions, please call the office (563-583-0860) or email us at stpeterdbq@q.com

Offering Plate Options

The ongoing ministries of St. Peter are made possible by your financial support. Thank you!!

1. **Bring it with you | Mail it | Drop off** your offerings or envelopes in one of our secure mailboxes, located near the south entrance of church. They are checked several times a day, during the week. (*feel free to use either one, both are locked*)
2. **Set Up a Direct Withdrawal** from your bank, using VANCO. Contact the office for info. (*also available for the Pastor Fund*). *If you need to update your existing direct withdrawal, contact the office.*
3. **Donate via PayPal.** Here's how:
 - Go to www.stpeterdbq.org/give and then select the Donate button. You will be taken to the St. Peter PayPal page. From there you can use your PayPal account, credit card or debit card to donate. (*You do not need to set up a PayPal account to donate with your credit/debit card.*)
 - Or, from your cell phone you can simply scan the QR Code here  and it will take you directly to the St. Peter PayPal page.



St. Peter's Calendar for January 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

We will continue to offer a Zoom option when possible. Please contact your group's leadership for updated meeting info. *If you need help with Zoom, please contact the pastors or the office.*

**Mediacom TV Schedule:
Channels 81 and 117-4**

Mon 10 am	Tue 6 pm
Wed 8 am	Thurs 6 pm
Fri 8 pm	Sat 4:30 pm
Sun 8:30 am and 7:30 pm	

1
HAPPY NEW YEAR
New Year's Day

Worship
4:30pm (L)

(P) = Praise & Worship (was "Contemporary")

(L) = Liturgical (was "Traditional")

Communion offered at all services

<p>2 Worship 8:15am (P) Coffee Hour 9:20am Worship 10:30am (L)</p>	<p>3 OFFICE CLOSED Poinsettia pickup from 11 am -1 pm Hymn Select 1:30 pm Evangelical Outreach 6 pm Property Bd 7 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm YH-B. Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>4 Spuce Up Group 8:30 am Poinsettia pickup from 1-3 pm Mission Support Bd Mtg cancelled this month</p>	<p>5 Book Club Zoom 5 pm Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>6 Quilting Group 9 am—3 pm Fellowship Hall YH Upper-NA mtg</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Mike Zichur Funeral 11am Worship 4:30pm (L)</p>	
<p>9 Worship 8:15am (P) Sunday School / Coffee Hour 9:20am Worship 10:30am (L)</p>	<p>10 Staff 10:45 am WT Music Selection 1:30 pm Stewardship Bd Mtg 5:45 pm PPC Mtg 7 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm YH-B. Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Book Club -Zoom 5 pm Dinner 5:30 pm Bible Study Zoom 6 pm MS Xmas Party 6pm Choir 6:30 pm HS Youth 7:30 pm</p>	<p>13 Prayer Shawl Group 6 pm YH Upper-NA mtg</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Men's Bible Study 8am Worship 4:30pm (L)</p>	
<p>16 Worship 8:15am (P) Sunday School / Coffee Hour 9:20am Worship 10:30am (L)</p>	<p>17 Staff 10:45 am Worship Bd 6 pm Lay Ministry 7 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm YH-B. Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>18 Spuce Up Group 8:30 am</p>	<p>19 Book Club Zoom 5 pm Dinner 5:30 pm Bible Study Zoom 6 pm Confirmation 6pm Choir 6:30 pm HS Youth 7 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Middle School Game Night (Vinball & Sardines) 6:30-8 pm</p>	<p>22 New Member Weekend at all services Worship 4:30pm (L)</p>	
<p>23 New Member Weekend-all services Worship 8:15am (P) Sunday School / Coffee Hour 9:20am Worship 10:30am (L)</p>	<p>24 Staff 10:45 am Youth Bd 5:30 pm Education Bd 6:30 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm YH-B. Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Books- Zoom 5pm Dinner 5:30 pm Bible Study Zoom 6 pm Confirmation 6pm Choir 6:30 pm HS Youth 7 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Men's Breakfast 8am</p>	
<p>30 Milestone-8:15am Worship 8:15am (P) Sunday School / Coffee Hour 9:20am Worship 10:30am (L) ANNUAL MEETING Following worship</p>	<p>31 Staff 10:45 am</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div> <p style="margin: 0;">Sunday, January 30,</p> <p style="margin: 0;">ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>(See pages 2 & 7)</i></p> </div> </div>					

Celebrating our Church Community



Wedding Anniversaries

We don't seem to have any this month
—if we missed you, please let us know!

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." - Philippians 1:3-5

January Birthdays

2 Sandra Plumley	20 Rick Mueller
3 Rich Corfman	22 Lou Ann Meyer
4 Sarah Flynn	Doug Recker
Amy Kettmann	23 Kenneth Haugen
5 Ric Maiers	CJ Jentz
Ally Zauche	Trisha Weitz
9 Andrew Peter	24 Ann Mauritzson
10 Jackson Kates	Chase Puls
11 Owen Michel	Doris Tomter
13 Larry Conrad	26 Vanessa Delgado
Elise Kluck	28 Lauren DeMotta
Emma Oftedahl	Martha Kemp
Ronald Scherffert	Marcia Kramer
14 Darleen Sarvis	Larry McChristy
Mark Von Hollen	29 Carrie Brondyke
16 Beverly Enderson	Tyler Hess
17 Joyce Horstmann	30 Shelby Maas
19 Molly Brackett	Andrea Ricklefs
Olivia Robey	31 Donna Beadle
	Zoey Kettmann

PRAYER LIST:

Do you know someone that could use extra prayers?
Have your prayers been answered?
Should someone be removed from our list?

Please let us know of any changes to the St. Peter Prayer list.
Thank you! 563-583-0860 - stpeterdbq@q.com

We Remember



We remember those affiliated with our congregation who have died in the past ten years.

January 27, 2014 Jerry Allen Kennedy
January 6, 2016 Aaron Louis Kupferschmidt
January 13, 2017 Carol Gantenbein
January 14, 2017 Rosemary Zauche
January 17, 2017 Joan Schmitt
January 24, 2017 John Hess
January 16, 2018 Virginia F. McNamer
January 7, 2020 Lester LaPage
January 12, 2020 Gordon Wells
January 24, 2020 Gary Mauritzson
January 2, 2021 Roberta Meyer

Library News

Have you been in our library lately? The church library is available whenever the church is open! Visit our library for more than just checking out a book:

Magazines:

Many different titles available to peruse or for check out.

Greeting Cards:

Individual cards and full boxes are available. Prices (very reasonable) are marked on the back of each box.

Other things available to read in the library:

Minutes of all PPC meetings; News clippings; past issues of the Bellringer; and more!

Prayer Shawls:

Our library shelves have a nice selection of prayer shawls, to give as a gift, or for yourself.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

Our **Prayer Shawl Group** meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6pm.

Feel free to join them for some knitting, crocheting, and fellowship!



Annual Meeting of the Congregation



The St. Peter Lutheran Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held **Sunday, January 30, 2022** following the 10:30am Worship Service.

Assuming the kitchen remodel has begun, we plan to hold the meeting in the sanctuary. All voting members are encouraged to attend, as we will be voting on our revised bylaws. (See Doug's article on page 3)



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

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ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

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Email Address: stpeterdbq@q.com

Office Hours: 9:00-4:00 Mon-Thur; 9:00-1:00 Fri

STAFF

Pastor: Matthew Ageeoffice: 563-583-0860
voicemail: 563-845-2688

Associate Pastor: Calvin Konopoffice: 563-583-0860
cell: 563-277-7571

Visitation/Outreach Minister: Jim Daack563-556-0028

Education Coordinator: Miriam Bjornstad563-663-6558

Musician: Kristine Fishler563-599-3937

Office Manager: Christine Rapp563-583-0860

Custodian: Angie Puls.....563-542-2711

Happy New Year!

Weekly Worship Services

In-Person Worship Services

Liturgical Worship

Saturdays, 4:30 pm

Sundays, 10:30 am

Praise and Worship Service

Sundays, 8:15 am

Holy Communion is celebrated at all services

YouTube Livestream Service

Sundays 8:15 am

[YouTube.com/stpeterlutherandubuque](https://www.youtube.com/stpeterlutherandubuque)

Our Mission

*Saved by God's mercy, and called by the Holy Spirit,
We share the Good News of Christ by reaching out in Love.*