



December 2021

The Bellringer



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

From Pastor Matt

This December, what are you waiting for?

If you were to ask this question of your friends and family, most of them would answer: “Christmas!” This month is often called Christmastime, or euphemistically, the Holiday Season.

And certainly Christmas is a big part of December. But as you know, for most of the month, our worship services celebrate the Season of Advent. For these four weeks, we will be filled with anticipation and preparation. The lectionary readings illustrate the interplay between the preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, while also anticipating when Christ will come again at the end of time.

It’s also one of the best times of the year to invite people to come with you to church. Whether someone has never been to church in their life, was raised at a different church, or stopped going years ago—it’s a wonderful chance to invite people to experience something important in your life.

This year we will offer three Christmas Eve services on Friday, December 24, at 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM, and 7:30 PM. The songs are all familiar—some of the best we have!—and all three services will conclude with candlelight and singing “Silent Night.” Most important, all the services will share the Good News of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, a message of hope, healing, reconciliation, and eternal life.



So, what are you waiting for? “Go and tell”—invite your family and friends to come with you to worship!

- Soli Deo Gloria. Pastor Matthew Agee

FRI DEC 24 | Christmas Eve
3:30PM - 5:30PM - 7:30PM

SAT DEC 25 | Christmas Day | 10AM

SAT DEC 18 | Live Nativity | 6-8pm
SUN DEC 19 | Children's Program | 10:30AM

SUN DEC 26 | Christmas Carols
8:15AM & 10:30AM

From Pastor Calvin

It’s already Advent, and it seems our whole country is anticipating the coming of Christmas. The lights are out on houses and trees, commercials play Christmas ads non-stop, the radio is playing Christmas music (and probably has been since before Advent even started).

I grew up in a Christian tradition that didn’t really observe the Church calendar. I didn’t know about different seasons in the church with different colors for each, and the different stories that accompany them. There was no Advent for me (other than the chocolates in the Advent calendar that my parents would buy us when we were young). There is so much beauty in the season of Advent that I missed out on.

The High School group is going through the Gospel of Luke. The sizable first chapter of Luke is all about the waiting - prophecies are told, angels show up in the people’s lives, dreams are had. We spent some time on the first chapter and wondered what it would be like to be someone in that time - to have a vision or a dream, or to be visited by an angel.

As we wait for Christmas, I’d encourage you to meditate on a few of the words from Luke 1:78-79: “By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” *Peace be with you this Advent!*



- Peace in Christ. Pastor Calvin Konop

Educating & Equipping Disciples

Milestones

In November, we celebrated the **Apostle's Creed Milestone** with our 4th graders, **Nicholas DeMotta, Baylee Petitigout and Cooper Hillebrand**. The kids spent several weeks taking a closer look at this Statement of our Faith through colors, drawings and the making of a bookmark filled with symbols of the Trinity.

- **Children's Bulletins** (*Readers and Pre-Readers*) are found on the table in the back of the sanctuary over near the windows. There are also mini clip boards for children to use during worship, a box of crayons and pencils. Please return items to the basket under the table so they can be sanitized.
 - **NO Sunday School December 26 or January 2.**
-



Children's Christmas Worship – Sunday, December 19 at the 10:30am service

Practices:

- Saturday, December 18 from 9-11am
- Sunday, December 19 during Sunday School from 9:15 to 10:15am
- During every Sunday School Opening for December leading up to it (9:15am)

Live Nativity – Saturday, December 18 from 6-8pm

The kids are *very* excited to be back together for this year's Children's Christmas Program: **"Fear Not! God is With You!"** Thank you to Kristine for making recordings of the songs that we emailed to the kids so they could practice at home. It really helped them be prepared.

"Noisy" Offering: For **November** it was paper products for **Opening Doors** (*Maria House and Teresa Shelter here in Dubuque*). Through November 21 we had collected **\$78.49** and were able to purchase two cases of toilet paper (96 rolls each)! Thank you also to those of you who donated other paper products!

For **December** we will continue to support **Opening Doors**, but through their **"A Bed of Hope"** program. \$10 will sponsor one "bed night" for a resident in one of the shelters. *Let's see how many beds we can provide!*

Youth Ministry News from Pastor Calvin

MIDDLE SCHOOL / CONFIRMATION (Grades 6-8)

Looking Ahead:

Wednesday, December 15 we'll be doing a food drive! Students will bundle up, hop in their leader's vehicle, and head out to our local neighborhoods to ask for non-perishable food donations for local food shelves. We're intentionally doing this right before the holidays, giving families in need an opportunity to have a nice holiday meal.

The drive will go from 6-7pm, and at 7:30 the Middle Schoolers will come back to the church for a **Christmas Party. :)**

YOUNG FAMILIES NEWS

If you are a parent (*of any age*) with one or more kids that are Sunday School aged or younger, you are invited to join us for the Young Families Group. The group shares in a **pizza dinner** (*free will offering*) from 5:30-6pm, and the parents group meets from 6-7pm. **Free childcare** is offered by our volunteers (*background checks are done ahead of time*), where your kids will play games and get to know other kids their age in the church.

The group typically follows this weekly rotation each month—Come when you can. All are welcome!

- 1st Wednesday: Game Night for parents
- 2nd Wednesday: Speaker on a relevant topic
- 3rd Wednesday: Game Night for parents
- 4th Wednesday: Family Craft Night (no childcare, kids join the parents for the craft)

Come when you can, all are welcome!

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

From the Executive Director

Well, it seems like Christmas is coming up very fast again this year. Writing this article in mid-November, it is a bit hard to get into the spirit just yet but it is not too early to express gratitude and thankfulness for all the blessing we have at St Peter Lutheran. We are blessed to have great pastoral leadership in Pastor Matt and Pastor Calvin, great staff support in the office from Christine and of course Jim with visitations and Kristine and Miriam for music and Sunday school leadership. I encourage all of you to consider recognizing their outstanding service with a personal financial gift at year end. If you are so inclined, please give them something directly with cash or checks payable to them as individuals. I am sure they will appreciate it.

Thank you so much to all of you who have faithfully supported our congregation with your financial resources through 2021. We are nearing our year end and can still use that support to get us back to a balanced budget. Please consider a year end gift, if possible, in addition to your regular giving.

The Future really is Bright at St Peter. We have much excitement each Sunday as more of you continue to return to our 3 weekend services and on Wednesday nights the church is lit up with youth, our young family parents, and all our fine volunteers. I invite you to come visit if you get a chance.

It is also exciting to receive new members into our congregation. In addition to baptisms, we welcomed five new members in October and Pastors are working with others who are interested in joining us. We are planning a welcoming Sunday in January to introduce these folks.

We have received a large number of pledges toward our 2022 budget, so thank you to all who have indicated an intent to support us again in the year ahead. And of course, thank you to all who choose not to pledge but faithfully give. As we grow in members and new programming for youth and others, we will continue to have financial needs that only we can provide. We will be looking at year end giving while we plan our budget for 2022. That budget, along with other items, will be presented to the Congregation at our **Annual Meeting to be held at church on Sunday, January 30, 2022** after second service. Please put this on your calendar and plan to attend.



In closing I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and our Church during 2021. You have all been so kind and supportive and I appreciate all of you. May we together continue to serve our Lord in 2022 where the Future is Bright at St Peter.

- Doug Horstmann, Executive Director for the Parish Planning Council

“The Future is Bright” - Don’t forget to return your 2022 Pledge Form!

- [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out online
 - Scan the **QR code** to go directly to our online form
 - Download the [pdf version HERE](#), fill it out, and return
- Questions?** Contact Mark Whitaker (whitakermr@aol.com)



Ho Ho Ho! Don’t be a Grinch—add SCRIP to your Christmas Shopping List!

All your Whos down in Whoville will love SCRIP cards to their favorite restaurant for Christmas! Supplies are limited, so be sure to get an updated order form to place your order on.

Fun Fact: there are many uses for Scrip, as it is used just like gift cards. For example, use for your everyday needs or special household projects, give as gifts, donate to local nonprofits.

Call the office if you want to check if we still have something. **Ways to order Scrip:**

- [Download the order form HERE](#). It can be emailed or dropped off at church anytime – if the office isn’t open, just put it in one of our white mailboxes outside.
- Pick up a GREEN order form at church and return it to the office with your payment. Someone will let you know when your order is ready for pickup.
- Between Sunday services – we will try to have it available between services.

Thanks in advance for continuing to help us fund our Youth programming!



St Peter Community



POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE BY **MONDAY, DECEMBER 6** — [CLICK HERE FOR ORDER FORM](#)

Live Nativity – Saturday, December 18, 6-8pm *More info below!*

Children's Christmas Worship – Sunday, December 19, 10:30am service (*see page 2 for more info*)

Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 30

Live Nativity – December 18 – 6-8 pm

It's almost time for our Live Nativity! Saturday, December 18

We are in need of many volunteers to make this community event a success! [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP ONLINE](#)

There are also sign-up sheets in back of church, if you do not have computer access. Here is the latest update:

- There will be 4 shifts—30 minutes each from 6:00-8:00 pm
- We will need volunteers to put up our beautiful new tent again (and take it back down the next day)
- We are adding holiday refreshments, and hopefully luminaries, back into this event
- Other details are still being ironed out, and will be shared as we finalize them. *Watch your email and weekly news!*
- [Click here to go to our Facebook Event for more info](#)



-Steve Fishwild, Lay Ministry Director

Lay Ministry News

Church Directory - Hello! I wanted to share a few FAQ's on the church directory - We are about 15% completed with member log ins! We plan to PRINT a directory in the spring of 2022. We need to have everyone logged in with a photo uploaded by the January annual meeting.

On the **1st and 3rd Sundays of December and January** we will have a computer set up AND an opportunity to have your photo taken (and uploaded). This will be before, and between, Sunday services and before Saturday night service.

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

St Peter Welcoming Committee - Are you excited to share St Peter with others? Curious about the couple by the window, 7th row? Are they new? Have they been coming and I missed it? Am I in the right church? I know how you can find out! **The St Peter welcoming team will meet for the first time on Sunday, December 5 right after worship.** You don't have to be outgoing or an extrovert - EVERYONE has a gift that can be shared to make OUR church, THEIR church too! Come and find out low risk-high reward ways you can make them feel at home, share our church and all we do!

Thank you! - Steve Fishwild, *Director of Lay Ministry*

Mission Support News

"Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; For He is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting." Ps 147:1

The **Christmas Angel Tree** is up and ready. All the tags are for local families. Gifts need to be returned by December 15, preferably wrapped. Please attach the tag you have chosen to the package and leave the ribbon on the tag because it indicates a certain social worker. **We will be wrapping gifts at 3 pm on Dec. 15, if you would like to help, please contact Elaine Mitchell (563-581-5919) or just show up!** Thank you for your support!

Betty Sullivan reports that the produce stand was a success for **Growing Hope**. A special thanks to Cindy Recker for growing the produce for the stand. **The total of produce stand income and donations was \$925.** The money will be used to help Peru Castrovirreyna increase local crop yields and improve children's nutrition, health and hygiene. Another \$50,000 will complete the LWR project. *Thank you for buying the produce to help support this project!*

This year the Mission Support Board would like to put together some much needed **Baby Kits for LWR** and will be looking for gently used baby items sizes newborn to 24 mos. We will also need hemmed flannel receiving blankets (45 by 45 inches) 5 yards of flannel makes 4 blankets. It's also ok to make them out of gently used flannel sheets. Contact Elaine Mitchell if you have any questions about this project.

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

THANK YOU to all St. Peter members for sympathy and prayers of support for the David Westphal family.

We thank God for the gift of David!

A service of memorial and celebration of life will be held in May, 2022.

Sincerely, Faye Westphal and the David Westphal family



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. We accept 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 Rienets for more info

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](#) (*note our new time*)

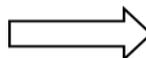
We will continue to celebrate worship live online at 8:15am Sundays, on [our YouTube channel](#).

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 our secure, white mailbox. It is located near the south entrance of church & is 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 December 2021

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	

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

(L) = Liturgical (was "Traditional")

Communion offered at all services

<p>Sunday, January 30, Annual Meeting</p> 			<p>1 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>2 Quilting Group 9 am—3 pm Fellowship Hall YH Upper-NA mtg</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Worship 4:30pm (L)</p>
<p>5 <i>2nd Advent</i> Worship 8:15am (P) Sunday School / Coffee Hour 9:20am Worship 10:30am (L) Welcoming Committee Mtg 11:30am</p>	<p>6 Staff 10:45 am Hymn Select 1:30 pm POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE Evangelical Outreach 6 pm Property Bd 7 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm YH-B. Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>7 Spuce Up Group 8:30 am</p>	<p>8 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>9 YH Upper-NA mtg</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Men's Bible Study 8am Worship 4:30pm (L)</p>
<p>12 <i>3rd Advent</i> Worship 8:15am (P) Sunday School / Coffee Hour 9:20am Worship 10:30am (L)</p>	<p>13 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>14</p>	<p>15 Mission Sprrt 3pm Books-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>16 Prayer Shawl Group 6 pm YH Upper-NA mtg</p>	<p>17 Middle School Game Show Night 6:30-8 pm January Bellringer Deadline</p>	<p>18 Kids Christmas practice 9am Worship 4:30pm (L) LIVE NATIVITY 6-8pm</p>
<p>19 <i>4th Advent</i> Worship 8:15am (P) Sunday School / Coffee Hour 9:20am Worship 10:30am (L) Children's Christmas Message</p>	<p>20 Staff 10:45 am Worship Bd 6 pm Lay Ministry 7 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm YH-B. Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>21 Spuce Up Group 8:30 am</p>	<p>22 Book Club Zoom 5 pm Bible Study Zoom 6 pm Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE Worship: 3:30 pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY Worship 10:00 am only</p>
<p>26 <i>Christmas Carols</i> Worship 8:15am (P) Coffee Hour 9:20am NO Sunday School Worship 10:30am (L)</p>	<p>27 OFFICE CLOSED Youth Bd 5:30 pm Education Bd 6:30 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm YH-B. Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>28 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>29 Books- Zoom 5pm Dinner 5:30 pm Bible Study Zoom 6 pm Confirmation 6pm Choir 6:30 pm HS Youth 7 pm</p>	<p>30 REPORTS DUE on DEC 29 for Annual Meeting Year-end donations due today</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve (Office closed on Monday Jan 3)</p>	

Celebrating our Church Community



December Birthdays

1 Janann Dostal	17 Craig Burns
Gina Feenstra	Lyla Schoeny
2 Sophia Whitaker	18 Joan Johnson
Van Robert Whitaker	Gary Norby
3 George Bies	Kelly Roen
4 Nathan Recker	Morgan Sirianni
5 Kimberly	20 Vicky Hess
Burnett-Hackbarth	Ariahna Maas
6 Nora Shoeny	21 Taylor Gukeisen
7 Darci Breiner	Jack Hostager
Jim Daack	22 Kathy Teig
8 Abby Tierney	24 Joan Haug
9 Larry Michel	Sydney Schoenhard
11 Gigi Oliver	25 Russell Brown
12 Don Kula	Michael Stadie
Kendra Stoner	DeWayne Teig
13 Mark Hostager	26 Javier Delgado
Jackie Zauche	27 Jason Hillman
14 Mark Cueno	Tricia Munson
Isabel Gile	28 Aneta Mistek
Dale Maas	29 Cindy Widmar
Joan Roen	30 Linda Sorensen
16 Dede Haas	Olivia Zell
	31 Nick Johnson
	Samuel Weitz

Wedding Anniversaries

We celebrate these special milestones.

Name	Date
Jim & Loretta Fahrion.....	December 27, 1964
Roger & Connie Baylor.....	December 04, 1971
Craig & Cathy Nesson.....	December 16, 1972
Rom & Donnelle Fuerste.....	December 12, 1988
Joe & Ann Gile.....	December 12, 1998
Jeremy & Alicia Kapp	December 10, 2005

"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



We Remember

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

- December 21, 2013Keith A. Koeller
- December 24, 2016Ethel Mauer
- December 03, 2017Meta A. Ginnow
- December 25, 2019Helen Weinberg
- December 29, 2019George Weinberg, Sr.
- December 05, 2020Beverly Atkinson

Library News

The church library is accessible during office hours and before and after weekend worship! Visit our library for more than just checking out a book:

Greeting Cards:

Christmas Cards are out on the shelves and available! Buy some for your yourself, or to give as a gift. Prices on the back of each box.

Regular cards are also available—they make great gifts—especially when paired with stamps! Individual cards and full boxes are available. Prices (very reasonable) are marked on the back of each box.

Magazines:

Many different titles available for check out!

Prayer Shawls:

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

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 St. Peter Prayer list. Thank you!
563-583-0860 - stpeterdbq@q.com

FAVOR TO ASK—

Hi everyone :) I am in need of some backup office help in January, while I take a much-anticipated vacation.

Basically we need folks to be willing to sit in the office and answer the phone and take messages, answer the door, and get in the mail/newspaper.

If you are willing to help for a day, the whole week, or a few hours, please let me know. You are welcome to bring a book, your knitting, whatever you'd like.

Thank you, in advance,

Christine

563-583-0860, or stpeterdbq@q.com

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!





ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

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ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

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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

Worship Service Times

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)

Christmas Eve

3:30pm | 5:30pm | 7:30pm

Christmas Day

10:00am

Sunday, Dec. 26—Christmas Carols

8:15am | 10:30am



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.*