



**ST. PETER'S**

Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

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**December 2016**

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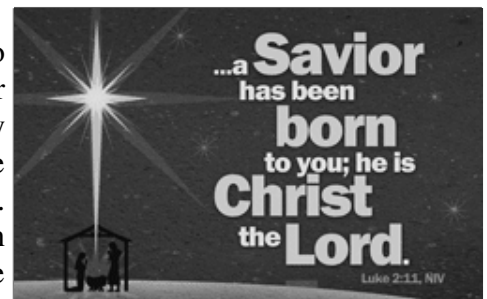
# No Grinch Can Ever Steal Christmas!

**“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)**

It never seems to fail. Every year some television station tries to put people in the “Christmas Spirit” by broadcasting *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. The Grinch is Dr. Seuss’ version of Mr. Scrooge, who wishes that Christmas would come and go as quickly as possible. Nothing seems to make him angrier than to see people filled with joy and happiness. The Grinch even stole all the Christmas trees and presents from *Whoville* thinking that would stop Christmas from coming. But it didn’t work, Christmas came anyway.

There is a Grinch still roaming the earth today and his name is the Devil. Yet the devil is not a harmless cartoon figure. He is real. He is dangerous. Nothing makes him more upset than to see people filled with joy as they celebrate the birth of God’s one and only Son, Jesus. The devil has made it his sole endeavor to lead people away from Christ into eternal damnation. One of the ways he does this is by leading people to downplay the miracle of Jesus birth. The devil gets people to not make Christmas about Christ, but about themselves. “I wonder how many presents I am going to get this year?” “I can’t wait for the holiday break and **my** Christmas vacation to begin.” “I hope I can just survive my family this Christmas and get on with **my** life!”

What amazing words the angels spoke to the shepherds. God’s promised Savior has finally come into the world. The joy of Christmas was found in a lowly stable on a busy Bethlehem night so long ago. The joy of Christmas continues to remain in the hearts of God’s people today as we celebrate our Savior’s birth. A Savior, to one day carry our sins to the cross and pay for them with his death.



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# No Grinch Can Ever Steal Christmas!

Then through his rising from the dead, Jesus would give us the greatest gift of all, the certainty of peace with God and the sure hope of everlasting life. Even though December 25<sup>th</sup> may come and go, our joy in Christ remains forever.

Christmas is not about presents. It's not about lights. It's not about vacations. All those things are temporary and can be taken away. But the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, no Grinch, not even the Devil, can take away.





<b>December 7</b>	Christ Child Concert at St. Peter's	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>December 11</b>	Seminary Christmas Concerts	<b>3:00 &amp; 7:00 pm</b>
<b>December 14</b>	Festival of Favorite Hymns at Good Shepherd	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>December 18</b>	Sunday School Christmas Service	<b>10:30 am</b>
	SPLS Christmas Service	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>December 21</b>	WLA Christmas Concert	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>December 22</b>	WLA Christmas Concert	<b>1:00 pm</b>
<b>December 24</b>	Christmas Eve Services	<b>3:30 &amp; 6:30 pm</b>
<b>December 25</b>	Christmas Festival Services	<b>7:45 &amp; 10:30 am</b>
<b>December 31</b>	New Year's Eve Services	<b>3:30 &amp; 6:30 pm</b>

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

Dec. 4	7:45	Gene & Judy Zwicky
	10:30	Gail Ehrenberg & Nancy Kowalkoski
Dec. 11	7:45	Ron & Clare Horn
	10:30	Diana Kent & Sue Repp
Dec. 18	7:45	Loren & Joan Voss
	10:30	Tim & Gail Zorn
Dec. 25	7:45	Deb Deere
	10:30	Guy & Sue Repp

***"Is There A Star In Your Eyes?"***

Advent is coming!  
Mark your calendars!  
Save the date!

**Advent by Candlelight**  
Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 pm.



## *Membership Matters*

The matters of membership listed below were acted upon or recognized by the Coordinating Council at its November meeting.

### Received by Transfer

Kara Pipping from St. Peter's Theresa

### Unable to Serve and Removed

Nathan Matz



### Adult Confirmations

Branden Strong

Robert Drehmel

Ashley Hanson

Colleen Hanson

### Baptisms

Greta Zick

Madelyn Barnes

Quincy Hoefler

Charlotte Willis

### Marriage

Brooke Georg and Evan Giebel

### Funerals

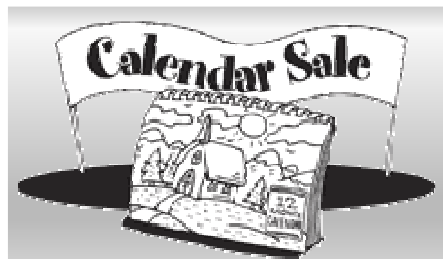
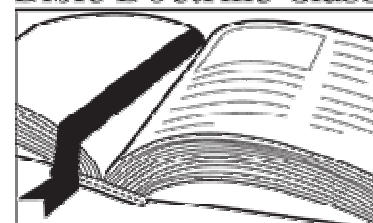
Lulabelle Thomson

John Becker

## Bible Information / Membership Class

A new Bible Information class and membership class is starting on Tuesday nights beginning January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to come and review the teachings of our Christian faith as well as for people who are interested in church membership to come and find out what we teach and believe. It's a time to ask questions and receive answers on our Biblical doctrines and beliefs!

### Bible Doctrine Class



## 2017 Creation Calendars

If you haven't picked up your 2017 Creation Calendar, please do before they run out! You can purchase them in the office or church entryway for \$7.00. They are wonderful calendars and they make great Christmas gifts!

## Cleaning Schedule



Week of:	
Dec. 4	Lynn Vermeulen
Dec. 11	Bob & Rosie Klatt
Dec. 18	Gregg & Carol Leisten
Dec. 25	Bob & Cindy Buchholz

Please call Gregg at  
923 - 1583 to  
become a member  
of the "cleaning  
team".

## St. Peter's, Good Shepherd, & Jesus' Little Lambs

invite you to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

# Christ Child Concert

Back on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1996, it was decided to try something new at St. Peter's. Now we have the opportunity to invite you, our church family and friends, to our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas concert. There have been changes along the way – most recently, adding our preschool children and the adult choir from Good Shepherd.



Do you remember that first “Holiday Praise Service”? The choirs and children walked down the aisles of the darkened downtown church holding candles while singing the opening carol. Two of the songs the choir sang back in 1996 have been added to this year's concert – “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt,” and “Ding Dong Merrily on High.” We will also be singing a joint children's and adult carol sung ten year's ago, “Away in a Manger” by Mark Hayes.

Voices of Faith, Inspiration, three handbell choirs, fifty preschoolers from Jesus' Little Lambs, St. Peter's church band, and both adult choirs will present a concert of Christmas carols and readings reflecting on the birth of our Savior.

The songs sung and rung will remind us of the true importance this time of year. You are invited to enjoy approximately an hour of Christmas peace and joy as you hear and sing about the greatest birth of all time.

**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**

## St. Peter's Children's Christmas Service



“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” is the title of this year's children's Christmas service. It is designed for use in connection with the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation being formally celebrated October 31, 2017.

The service is based on the fifteen stanzas of Martin Luther's hymn “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come.” This hymn proclaims the Christmas message as found in Luke chapter 2. Quotes from Martin Luther will be read during the service to further add to the wonderful message of Christ coming to earth.

There are several new Christmas songs written for this service. Two of the new songs are “partnered” with traditional Christmas carols. The congregation is involved with these songs when they are asked to join in the singing of both “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” and “Joy to the World.” The children are also looking forward to singing the first verse of “Silent Night” in German to you.

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**

## Christmas at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

The Seminary Chorus from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon will present its annual Christmas Concert December 11 at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. The men's choir will share the story of Jesus' birth in songs, carols, and hymns. For more information about this event, visit the seminary's web site or Facebook page. The 3:00 concert is streamed live at <http://livestream.com/WLSLive>.



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is located in Mequon at **11831 N Seminary Dr.** The concert is held in the campus auditorium, and seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis.

## 2017 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 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, "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS."



Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (*Pastor Mike Novotny from The Core in Appleton*), 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 8<sup>th</sup> annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Additional details and online registration are available at [<http://www.menofhisword.org>][www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) for the first 650 men (\$40 by January 29<sup>th</sup>; \$50 from January 30<sup>th</sup> - February 5<sup>th</sup>). Please join us for a day in God's Word that you will not soon forget!

## Pathways to Christ

Sisters in Christ, please join us for the 17<sup>th</sup> Pathways to Christ Retreat March 10-12 at LaSure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh. The theme for this Christ-centered spiritual retreat for the women of the WELS is taken from Proverbs 14:30 "A Heart at Peace Gives Life To The Body."

On Friday night the retreat will begin with a Forgiveness Workshop: Conflict vs. Peace. On Saturday, Mr. Kenneth Kramer will share insights and tools from his book, *A Heart at Peace: Biblical Strategies for Christians in Conflict*, "which equips readers to view conflict from a biblical perspective, providing the antidote for the deadly poison that conflict injects into our relationships. The solid and direct law-and-gospel narrative in its pages helps the reader relate the content to real life and deal with this destructive, damaging force." Sound intriguing? Come and find out how to address conflict head-on. Also, on Saturday, Amber Albee Swenson will continue our theme focusing on the need and healing effects of forgiveness. On Sunday, Pastor Leon Ehler will share with us a Bible Study and then lead us in worship. Additional information along with registration forms can be downloaded from our website: <http://pathwaystochrist.org>. If you don't have internet access, your church office can provide you with a brochure.



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NURSING POINTS  
OF INTEREST

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## Take Steps to Prevent Skin Cancer

### The Basics

The best way to prevent skin cancer is to protect your skin from the sun and other sources of ultraviolet (UV) rays.

#### To protect your skin:

- Stay in the shade as much as possible between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher.
- Cover up with long sleeves, long pants or a skirt, a hat, and sunglasses.
- Avoid indoor tanning.

### Why do I need to protect my skin?

Protecting your skin today may help prevent skin cancer later in life. Most skin cancer appears after age 50, but skin damage from the sun can start during childhood.

Taking steps to prevent skin cancer may also help prevent: Wrinkles, blotches or spots on your skin, other damage to your skin and eyes.

### What is skin cancer?

Skin cancer is the most common kind of cancer in the United States. There are 3 major types of skin cancer:

- Basal cell carcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Melanoma
- Basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma are also called non-melanoma skin cancer, and they are more common than melanoma. Melanoma is the most dangerous kind of skin cancer.

Skin cancer can almost always be cured when it's found and treated early. That's why it's a good idea to check your skin regularly for new growths (like moles or lumps) or changes in old growths. Tell your doctor or nurse right away if you find a change.

### What causes skin cancer?

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun is the main cause of skin cancer. UV radiation can also come from tanning beds, tanning booths, or sunlamps.

Anyone can get skin cancer. The risk is highest for people with:

- White or light-colored skin with freckles
- Blonde or red hair
- Blue or green eyes

You are at higher risk for the most dangerous type of skin cancer (melanoma) if you have:

- Unusual moles (moles that change color, grow unevenly, or change in texture)
- A large number of moles (more than 50)
- A family history of melanoma

Find out more about unusual moles and melanoma risk. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you are concerned.



NURSING POINTS  
OF INTEREST

## Take Steps to Prevent Skin Cancer

*continued from page 7*

### Take Action!

## Take These Steps to Help Prevent Skin Cancer

### Cover up with long sleeves, a hat, and sunglasses.

Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants or a long skirt. Wear a hat with a wide brim to help protect your face and neck. Avoid straw hats with holes that let sunlight through. The skin around your eyes is very sensitive. Wear wrap-around sunglasses to help protect your eyes and your skin from sun damage.



a tan. Just like tanning in the sun, indoor tanning can cause skin cancer, wrinkles, age spots, and other damage to your skin and eyes.

***Read more about  
the risks of indoor tanning.***

### Check your skin regularly.

See a doctor or nurse right away if you find any changes that worry you.

### Use mirrors.

The best place to do a skin self-exam is in a well-lit room in front of a mirror. The best time is right after a shower or bath.

Examine your skin from head to toe. Use a hand mirror to check hard-to-see areas like your back. You may want to ask a friend or relative to check your scalp (under your hair).

### Learn how to do a skin self-exam.

### Look for changes.

- √ Learn where your birthmarks, spots, and moles are and what they usually look and feel like.
- √ Check the growths on your skin for changes in size, shape, color, or feel.
- √ Check for anything new – a sore that doesn't heal, a mole that bleeds, or any new growths.

**If you find any changes that worry you,  
see a doctor.**

Most changes are harmless, but only a doctor or nurse can tell you for sure.

Information obtained from: [healthfinder.gov](http://healthfinder.gov)

### Stay in the shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The sun's rays are the strongest from mid-morning to late afternoon. Try to stay out of the sun during these hours. If you are outside, stay in the shade – like under a tree or umbrella.

### Use sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher.

Use sunscreen with both UVA and UVB protection. Check the expiration date on the bottle to make sure it's not out of date.

### To get the most Protection:

- √ Wear sunscreen even on cloudy days. UV rays can still harm your skin through the clouds.
- √ Plan ahead – put sunscreen on 30 minutes before you go outside. Put on more sunscreen every 2 hours and after you swim or sweat.
- √ Be sure to use enough sunscreen (a handful). Don't forget to apply it to your lips, ears, hands, feet, and the back of your neck.
- √ If you wear very lightweight clothing (like a beach cover-up or thin T-shirt), put sunscreen on under your clothes.

### Avoid indoor tanning.

Tanning beds, tanning booths, and sunlamps are not any safer than tanning in the sun. There's no safe way to get

# Living Nativity



St. Paul's of Howards Grove wants to share the Good News! In celebration of the Good News of Jesus' birth, the congregation has again been working hard on a live-outdoor presentation of the Nativity. The presentation, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, is always the first weekend in December and is scheduled for Friday, December 2; Saturday, December 3, and Sunday December 4. The presentation runs every 20 minutes. Times for Friday and Saturday are 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The time for Sunday is 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Admission and parking are free. All guests are invited to come into the gym, decorated as the town of Bethlehem at night, to warm up and enjoy hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee and cookies. In addition, we will feature signed presentations for the hearing impaired on December 5 at 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00. We also feature a special display of interesting nativity sets owned by members of St. Paul's. They will be located in the commons.

**Come!**  
**Celebrate the Birth of Jesus!**

St. Paul's Evangelical  
 Lutheran Church  
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 Howards Grove 53083  
 (920) 565-3780  
[www.stpaulshowardsgrove.org](http://www.stpaulshowardsgrove.org)



Christmas Invitations!

The Board of Outreach will have beautiful Christmas postcards/invitations available for members to use for this Christmas season. These invitations will have our full church Christmas season schedule. You will be able to pick them up in the church entryway. May we all use this opportunity to invite our family and friends to share in the joy of our Savior's birth!

Join Us for the Holidays!



The Gleaners will hold their 3rd annual bake sale Sunday, December 11 after the early and late services. There will be a new twist this year. The Gleaners will match funds received from this sale. The combined amount of sales and the matching will be given to deficit reduction. Be sure to check out our bake sale!

**DECEMBER 1 - 15**

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Kathy Kraus

Sherry Georg



**DECEMBER 16 - 31**

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Joan Voss

Mary Demmon

Look for our flower chart on the bulletin board at the end of the member mailboxes. Please be sure to call Else Cuppan at 922-8672 when you plan to donate flowers so that proper delivery and placement arrangements can be coordinated.