

GREETERS SCHEDULE


Dec. 2	7:45	Ken & Jo Wendorff
	10:30	Jerry & Diane Fricken
Dec. 9	7:45	Deb Dehring
	10:30	Jim & Marcia Pflum
Dec. 16	7:45	Lorin & Joan Voss
	10:30	Randy & Joyce Westphal
Dec. 23	7:45	Deb Jaeger
	10:30	Jim & Marcia Pflum
Dec. 30	7:45	Deb Jaeger
	10:30	Diana Kent

Cleaning Schedule

Week of:	
Dec. 2	Lynn Vermeulen
Dec. 9	Bob & Rosie Klatt
Dec. 16	Gregg & Carol Leisten
Dec. 23	Bob & Cindy Buchholz



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



December 1-15

Kathy Kraus
Sherry Georg

December 16-31

Sue Repp
Mary Scheidt



Dec. 7 & 8	Joyful Witness @ St. Paul's, NFDL @ St. Luke's Oakfield	7:00 pm & 2:00 pm
Dec. 12	Christ Child Concert @ St. Peter's	6:30 pm
Dec. 16	Sunday School Christmas Service	10:30 am
Dec. 19	Festival of Favorite Hymns @ Good Shepherd	6:30 pm
Dec. 20	WLA Christmas Concert	7:00 pm
Dec. 21	WLA Christmas Concert	1:00 pm
Dec. 23	SPLS Christmas Services	4:30 pm & 6:30 pm
Dec. 23	4th Sunday of Advent Worship	7:45 am & 10:30 am
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services	3:30 pm & 6:30 pm
Dec. 25	Christmas Festival Service	9:00 am
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Worship	3:30 pm & 6:30 pm

Membership Matters

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

Transfers Out

Molly Roznik to St. Paul's, Green Bay
Jensen Westphal to Grace, Milwaukee

Baptisms

Ava Huebner Carter Zondag
Brinley Frey Caden Zondag

Marriage

Cassie Roecker and Justin Schaefer



ST. PETER'S

Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

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December 2018 

Marking Time

The twelve-foot ball drops over Times Square. The count-down begins—"Ten, nine, eight...one!" People shout, "Happy New Year!" Horns and noisemakers blare. Husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends kiss. People sing (or fake like they're singing), "Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne? For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne." Such is the annual ritual of "delivering" the New Year's baby.

Welcoming the New Year is nothing new. According to the Old Testament Jewish calendar, God's people observed two different types of New Years—the religious New Year and the civil (non-religious) New Year. The religious New Year and the religious calendar reminded the people that although they were in the world, they were not part of the world. They were different from the unbelieving world around them. They were citizens of heaven, and their hearts were to be set, not on earthly things, but on heavenly things.

The civil New Year began on the first day of the seventh month. It was called the Feast of Trumpets. Just as we welcome the New Year with horns and noisemakers, the Jews welcomed the New Year with ram's horns blaring from morning till evening at the Temple in Jerusalem. They would thank the Lord for his past graces and ask the Lord for future blessings. They were also reminded of the fact that time keeps slipping by and that there will be a time when Judgment Day will come and the world will end. And so, the Feast of Trumpets was also a time to reflect on one's sin and one's need for a Deliverer—the promised Savior.

Like the Old Testament Jews, we have a religious calendar. It begins on December 2 with the first Sun-

day of Advent. Having our own church calendar reminds us that we, too, are strangers and aliens on this earth—pilgrims passing through this life until we reach our real home of heaven. But it is also appropriate for us to celebrate the civil New Year—to mark the passage of time, to review the blessings of the past year, to long for the Lord's benediction on the year to come, to repent of past sins and look to Jesus' death and resurrection for assurance that we can go into the New Year with a clean slate, compelled by Christ's love to serve him better in all that we do in the days to come.



The noise makers and horns are symbols of joy and excitement as we welcome the New Year and anxiously anticipate what the future holds. They also remind us that there is a time when the present age will cease—"in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet." The trumpet call of God will announce the coming of Jesus. He will sit on his throne in majestic glory to judge the living and the dead. There is no fear of that day, because we are wrapped in his robes of righteousness and will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Until then, let's make wise use of the time that God gives. Let's live our lives in repentant faith, longing for his appearing. Let's live our lives in a manner which shows those around us that we know that our times are in our Savior's hands and that his hands are stretched out to give them also a rich welcome into his eternal kingdom.

May the Lord bless us in the future as he has in the past. And may he grant you all a happy, healthy, and productive New Year as you continue to live under him in his kingdom.

The LORD said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: "On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts." (Leviticus 23:23-24)

NURSING POINTS OF INTEREST

Burn Out Prevention: Self-Care during the Holidays

There is so much pressure this time of year. You are supposed to buy presents, be cheerful and look forward to family gatherings. How many people feel pure joy at the idea of spending time with family, without ambivalence, concern or a glimmer of dread? I don't know of many friends that are problem-free in their family relationships.

Not only can the holidays be stressful, but many of us take a break from engaging in healthy behaviors that typically help manage that stress. Parties and travel shake up our routines. We often end up eating and drinking too much, exercising too little and taking little time for ourselves because we are surrounded by others. We succumb to spending more money than we should.

While it can be a tough time for many people, for those dealing with underlying mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety, this can set them up for a relapse. Running out of medication, sleeping less and forgetting to take care of yourself can all make you more vulnerable.

If you have gotten swept away with all the commercialism, stress and pressure of the holidays, take this moment to do a mental CTRL-ALT-DEL to reboot.

Now, what do you really want the holidays to be about??

I certainly realize that, as Christians, Christ and His birth are first in our hearts at Christmas. However, when the cookies need baking, cards need writing, presents need wrapping, and the house needs cleaning, we need to take care of ourselves. **Prioritize** by taking care of our mental and physical health so we can enjoy the holidays more.

So, what do we do this holiday season to increase the chances of happiness and joy, and decrease the likelihood of increased sadness?

Spirituality

Focus on the spiritual aspects of the holidays vs the commercial ones.

Take Care of Yourself

Just because you're going to parties and gatherings it doesn't mean you have to throw all healthy behaviors out the window. Eating a healthy meal prior to going to an event can help you be less tempted to eat foods that make you feel less energetic. Stay consistent with your exercise schedule and sleep patterns.

Evaluate Obligations

Just because it is something you have always done or a place you have always gone to doesn't mean you have to do it this year. It's OK to say no. "No" can actually be a complete sentence.

Family

There's a lot of pressure to spend time with family, gathered around a lovely table smiling and sharing warm memories. Not everyone has those kinds of family experiences and it's OK to spend time with people you enjoy. Remember that friends can be the family you choose.

Create your own traditions that work for you!

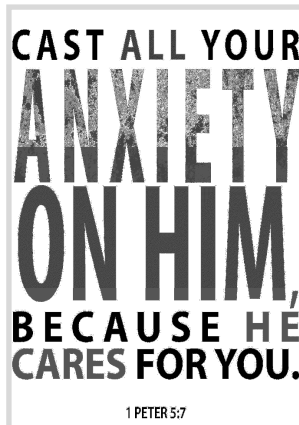
It may be going away for the holidays or spending time volunteering to help others!

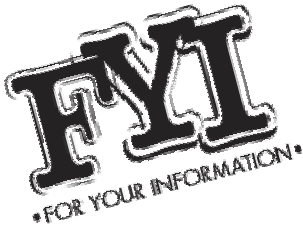
Just Another Day

You have 365 opportunities in a year to make a day special and meaningful. Don't limit yourself by thinking it is only possible during the few days in December.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year,
Your Parish Nurses

Information obtained from Dr. Paula Bloom,
This Emotional Life, and Corporation for Public Broadcasting,
NOVA/WGBH





USE OF REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS FOR QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

Taxpayers who are 70½ or older can transfer and donate up to \$100,000 per year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities such as St. Peter's. The **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD) will satisfy **required minimum distributions** (RMDs) without being added to your adjusted gross income, which can be a bonus if you are going to use the new, higher standard deduction instead of itemizing. The direct transfer could help keep your income below the threshold at which you're subject to the Medicare high-income surcharge as well as reduce the percentage of your Social Security benefits subject to tax.

It is recommended to make a QCD well in advance of New Year's Eve because the money has to be out of your account and the check needs to be transferred to the charity and deposited by the charity no later than December 31 of the current tax year. Please be advised to consult with your tax advisor and/or estate-planning attorney about your specific situation.

(SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE)

Christ Child Concert

"The Word Became Flesh"

The choirs of St. Peter's invite the church family and friends to our annual Christmas song service. Our three adult choirs – including our church band Colossians 3:16 and the Bell Choir - along with our two children's choirs – Inspiration and SPLS Bells – will each present two songs reflecting on the birth of our Savior.

The congregation will also enjoy hearing some of Mr. Otto's favorite Christmas organ pieces and singing several Christmas carols. You will enjoy sixty minutes of peace and joy as you hear and sing about the Light of all mankind, the Baby born that night, the Christ Child.

**Join us for this song service on
Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 pm**



JOYFUL WITNESS PRESENTS "BEHOLD, A SAVIOR!"

Joyful Witness is celebrating 40 years of singing praises and is a choir comprised of members of area WELS congregations. The concerts will be held on **Friday, December 7** at St. Paul's, North Fond du Lac at 7:00 pm and **Saturday, December 8** at St. Luke's, Oakfield at 2:00 pm, and will include a song from the first concert in 1978, an orchestra, and stories telling the promises fulfilled in scripture. Join us as we come together and *Behold, the Savior!*

2019 MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE

Is your house built on the rock or on the sand? Will your house survive the torrential storms of life or will it wash away when the waves of life come crashing in? 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 "BUILT ON THE ROCK."



Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (Jeremy Mattek, Christian Life Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Greenville, WI, and a contributor for Time of Grace Ministries), the relevant, thought-provoking breakout 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 10th Annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 9, 2019. Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org for the first 650 men. Adult registration fee is \$50 and youth registration fee is \$25 – These rates increase to \$60 for adults and \$30 for youth after Jan 27th. Please join us for a day of fellowship in God's Word that you will not soon forget!

PATHWAYS TO CHRIST

Sisters in Christ, please join us for the 19th annual Pathways to Christ Retreat March 8-10 at LaSure's Hall in Oshkosh.

The 2019 theme is "I have learned the secret of being content", Phil. 4:11-13.

Additional information, along with registration forms, can be downloaded from the website: <http://pathwaystochrist.org>. Brochures can also be found in the narthex.

Registration is due early January

Christmas Invitations!

The Board of Outreach has beautiful Christmas postcards available for members to use this Christmas season. These invitations have our full Christmas season schedule. You can 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!



SCRIP GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

Not sure what to get that hard to buy for person on your list? Stop at the Scrip window after any service and check out the gift cards we have on hand. Over 29 different stores to pick from. If we don't have what you are looking for, check out the WLA Scrip form. They offer over a hundred choices for gift cards.

We will do all the work for you! Fill out the form, pay at the counter and all you have to do is pick your cards up the following week right here at the window. Please order by December 16.