

# December 2023 Visitor

## *St. Peter's*

### *Lutheran Church*

1422 Center Avenue

Janesville, WI 53546

608/754-2891

### *Email/Website*

stpetersjvl@gmail.com

www.stpetersjvl.org

### *Office Hours:*

Monday, Wednesday-Friday

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Closed TUESDAY

## *Staff*

### *Pastor*

**Rev. Bruce A. Gray**

Parsonage: 608/563-4148

NEW EMAIL—

revbruceagray@gmail.com

### *Musician*

**Mary Eckert**

### *Custodian*

**Bob Wolfram**

### *Parish Life Assistant*

**Lynn Curtis**

### *Council President*

**Barb Kienbaum**

## *Weekly Schedule*

### *Sunday Morning*

Worship—9:30 a.m.

### *Sunday School and*

### *Confirmation*

10:45 a.m.

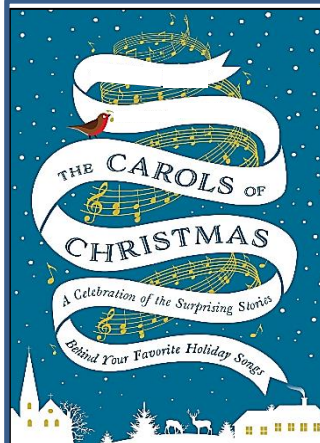
(See Calendar for Schedule)

### *Wednesday Evening*

Worship—7:00 p.m.

### *Holy Communion*

Celebrated at Every Service  
Except During Midweek Lent



Did you know that “Silent Night” was written for guitar because the church organ was in disrepair? Were you aware that “The Twelve Days of Christmas” was written as a covert way to teach? There are back stories to all songs and books – Christmas carols are no different. That’s what this year’s Midweek Advent Sermon Series is all about: the stories behind the much-loved Carols of Christmas. Christmas is around the corner – what better time than The Midweek Advent Sermon Series to learn, grow, cherish the stories

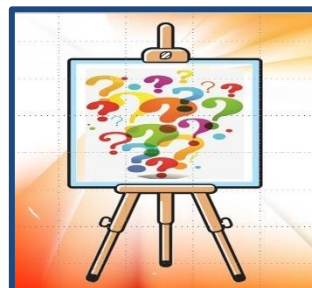
of the amazing Story of our Savior’s birth (and hear about a jolly old elf in the process). We cherish the time to celebrate this amazing time of new birth. We celebrate the Birth of our Savior, born of a human Mother, yet still divine, still God Himself. We celebrate as we learn the stories behind the stories of our favorite Christmas Carols. Christian carols, fun family jingles, secular favorites will be heard from during the Midweek Advent Services. We look forward to hearing these sometimes poignant, sometimes funny, sometimes surprising stories over the Wednesdays of the Season of Advent.

These special Wednesdays will occur December 6, 13 and 20 at 7 p.m. with Worship with Holy Communion. We will hear stories of our favorite Christmas Hymns and Carols and then celebrate with the Hymns and Carols themselves. Celebrating the Birth of our Savior – the Nativity of our Lord through story and song. All are invited to sing along as we share the wonderful stories of The Christmas Carol this Advent Season. Jingle Bell ringing is up to you!

You are invited to assist with decorating for the Advent season on **Saturday,**

**December 2, beginning at 8:30 a.m.** We

will be setting the trees in the Altar area, changing all the paraments, hanging large wreaths in the Sanctuary, setting the tree at the end of the hallway and other activities. If you have the time, we have the need for assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any of the Altar Guild members.



### *Let's Paint a Picture!*

**Cost: \$20 with Instruction and All Materials Provided**

- ✓ **Saturday, December 2, 1-4 p.m.**
- ✓ **Cross & Crown Room**
- ✓ **Cider, Coffee and Water Provided**
- ✓ **Bring a Snack to Share**
- ✓ **Sign-up Located Next to Kitchen**

# DECEMBER Birthdays

1-Trudi Hannawell	15-Marie Severson
4-Lilly Foss	17-Amanda Wilberg
4-Pat Linneman	17-Kade Spenske
5-Jasmine BIANES	19-Carol McCarthy
5-Nancy Jarstad	20-Justin Sullivan
6-Barb Kienbaum	21-Tony Lopez
7-Bonnie Carroll	21-Katie Schlegel
8-Vicky Brasel	23-Don Bolton
9-Jodie Dvorak	23-Michelle Apfel
9-Linda Thorp	25-Tim Esser
9-Becky Boness	27 David Heider
10-Darla Flood	29-Gerry Mayer

## Advent and Christmas

This Christmas Season will certainly be active this year. There will only be three midweek Advent services (Dec. 6, 13 and 20) this year because Advent begins on Dec. 3 and ends with the 9:30 a.m. Service on Sunday, Dec. 24. Christmas Eve Services will be at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. and Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. There will be no Fellowship on Christmas Eve, but there will be on Christmas Day.

## Cheer Basket Packing



We will again be packing Cheer Baskets. The baskets are prepared for all our members who are shut-in and are unable to attend Worship. The packing date is **Saturday, December 16 at 8:30 a.m.** We are looking for donations of cookies, candy, and other baked goods. The items can be dropped off in the Cross and Crown Room Kitchen if you are not available to assist with packing the baskets. As in the past, fresh fruit will also be provided. Anyone interested is welcome to help with the packing. The baskets will then be delivered after we have finished preparing them or on Sunday after worship. Please mark your calendar so that you can assist with this project.



*Happy Birthday to our December Seniors celebrating a birthday of 80 years or more. Make their day special by sending a card or giving them a call.*

### Dave Eberdt, December 6 (87)

3055 S Riverside Dr #SE2  
Beloit, WI 53511

### Dennis Johnson, December 24 (84)

2428 Cedar Point Dr Janesville, WI 53546

### Richard Goth, December 25 (81)

3741 Park View Dr Janesville, WI 53546  
608/513-4554

### Maxine Severson, December 31 (90)

2230 S Jackson Janesville, WI 53546  
608/752-3650

## Free Books

Pauline Chalfant will be moving and has some reference and inspiration books that she would like to share with whomever is interested. Over the next couple of weeks there will be a table located in the Cross and Crown Room with these books on it. Please feel free to take one or more of them with you so she finds them a good home.



—**Dave & Ruth Baldry** would like to thank everyone for the prayers and loving thoughts during Ruth's recent illness and surgeries. It has been quite a year and we hope the worst is over now but there is still more rehab and recovery to come.

Thanks for the visits, meals and cards from the PieceMakers and to Pastor Bruce for his prayers and words of encouragement.

## ***Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor***

*2:6 "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6-7 KJV)*

Imagine that. So desperate were Mary and Joseph that they had to give birth to the King of Kings in a stable, a manger. Lonely, messy, smelly. Not the likely place for royalty to be born, is it? God chose to start things radically anew with His children. God chose the stable because that's where we dwell, too. Still, to choose such a place seems incredulous to us. Yet, this stable, this manger is a most appropriate place for the Messiah to start life. For our lives have loneliness, messiness, smelliness, too. Whether it's economic, psychological, physical or spiritual, our lives at times are a mess, aren't they? God knows this. God wants us to know how much He cares and loves each of us. So, the stable, the manger is such a perfect place for the Savior to come. Remember this place. Show the love of God to others who are also in such a place. Through the Salvation Army, ECHO, GIFTS, YWCA or right here in the Church, help them. God has showed us how vital and loved all His children are whether they are in a warm home, a cold street, or even a stable, a manger. Show love and care by serving those who need. Show the love of God to them. Remind them that we, too, are or have been in their place. Remind them that God is and has been in their place, too.

Lonely, messy, smelly. God came in such a way. To be where we are. To show us there are better places and days ahead.

*2:13 "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:13-14 KJV)*

A lonely, messy, smelly stable. Not the likely place for royalty. Thank God for the stable. For it shows us God is with us, in us, a part of us. God is there with all of our loneliness, messiness, smelliness. And, love is there, too. The love of the Savior. The love of God. Blessings this Christmas. Remember the stable, the lonely, messy, smelly stable. A place of birth and re-birth. A place that shows us how and who to serve. A place of love.

***Merry Christmas and Peace, Pastor Bruce***

## ***Advent Folder & Fellowship Funds***

The funds collected in the Advent Coin Folders and at Fellowship throughout the month of December will be donated to The Children's Christmas Benefit Charities, Inc. This group provides items to local county children, with special attention to rural families who might need extra support, to ensure that they have a merrier Christmas than they might not otherwise enjoy. These funds will be added to additional collections for the coming year. In addition, money will be added to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (administered by Pastor Bruce) for those in need of a gas card.

## ***Lord, Hear Our Prayers...***

### **\*Newly Added This Week**

Aiden	Judie Spry
Al Boness	Judy Bolton
Ami Blachowiak	Kathryn Hansen
Anita Mansour	Kay Knudson
Arline Berg	Ken Frisad
Barb Gjertson	Kevin Severson
Barb Harmon	Kristy Munoz
Bonnie Grayson	Lincoln Roesing
Bruce Rockenfield	Lisa Baldry
Carol Lund	Lori Ahern
Charlotte Spors	Lyn Elver
Cindy Barry	Mary Goth
Chris & Irene Christian	Mike Glowacki
Connie Sweitzer	Misty Rich
Dale Spors	Nancy Roesing
Darlene Newman	Oakley Seifert
Dave & Darlene Eberdt	Richard Laurich
Dave Heider	Ruth Baldry
David Messling	Samantha Calhoun
Dick Peck	Shelly McCann
Dorothy Spaeth	<b>*Spirit of Hope Shelter</b>
Ed Spenske	Sue McLean
Esther Hagood	Susan Boness Pierick
Gene Amann	& Bruce Pierick
Helen Flister	Tami Schoeller
Jessica Rathbun	Teri Downing
Jim Payne	Tom Ulrich
John Briggs	Tyden Graves
John Froiland (brother of	Valri Miller
Ruth Baldry)	Violet Fiehweg
Joseph Mansour	Yvonne LaFlash
Joy Clifton	



# Stewardship as a Way of Life

## *How do we use the gifts God shares with us to serve God?*

**Leadership Administration Teaching  
Knowledge Wisdom Prophecy Discernment  
Exhortation Shepherding Faith Evangelism  
Apostleship Service/Helps Mercy**

*3:23 "Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, <sup>24</sup>since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24 NRSV)*

We all have a number of God-given talents and skills to share with family, friends and the world. Time is a valuable gift that we can deliver in many different ways. It can be teaching a Sunday School class, serving on Church Council and committees, and helping at Worship services. We take our family to the movies, ball games, on trips, and out for ice cream. When we go with them to Worship services, we share with them the God-given gift of sending Jesus to us.

We use the gifts as teachers, scientist, doctor, minister or any other profession; when we do so, we are also serving God. We volunteer at Church to serve Communion, usher, count, make quilts, serve fellowship, sing in the choir, teach Sunday School, serve on a Committee, water flowers, mow the grass and any other of the many things needed in the Church; we are using the gifts God shares with us to also then serve God and all people. When we help neighbors, friends or strangers we use those gifts to serve God, too. *6:10 "For God is not unjust; He will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for His sake in serving the saints, as you still do." (Hebrews 6:10 NRSV)*

When we doing something, anything, in service to others, Jesus Christ is looking over us, leading and guiding us to do the best we can and the gifts of Jesus will be realized in how we treat "the least of these." *4:8 "Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Be hospitable to one another without complaining. <sup>10</sup>Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. <sup>11</sup>Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory*

*and the power forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:8-11 NRSV)*

We should treat everyone the way we would like to be treated. And, we do. We are not here to judge anyone or condemn anyone; we are here to help, love, care for others. And, we do. Thus, we try harder to get along with our neighbor emulating the love God shows to all His children. And, we most certainly do! *2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephesians 2:8-10 NRSV)*

## ***Council Action Taken at the November Meeting.***


We were very fortunate that this was a meeting with little official business, and it was able to be shorter than usual. Discussion included the busy schedules that we all will be having in the next couple of months. While we are presently involved with all of the planning around our Christmas schedules, we have already started looking at the Lenten season which begins on February 14.

Other than the regular order of business, the Council is proposing a change to the By-Laws of the Constitution that would changes the terms of office for Congregational Council members. While we presently have 1-, 2-, and 3-year terms, we are opting to change this to a one-year term with the hope that we will be able to have more members volunteer to be part of the group with shorter terms. This proposal will be considered and acted on at the Congregational Meeting in January, 2024.



## Contribution Opportunities

We are again finding opportunities that individuals are needed and can contribute to the life of St. Peter's.



**First,** we will again be giving everyone the opportunity to contribute toward the purchase of **Communion Wine, Bread and the liquid wax used for the candles.** You can sign up on the forms located on the bulletin board near the stairway going up to the balcony and adjacent to the Narthex. You only need to sign your name and the reason (in memory of or in honor of) you are contributing and place the funds in an envelope that indicates the reason for the donation. We have done this in the past and hope you will take advantage of the opportunity once again.

**Second,** Stewardship Sunday was October 29 and you should have received a mailing asking for your pledge as well as the opportunity to volunteer your time to assist with Worship and other activities of the Congregation. The list of individuals who volunteer to Usher, Lector and assist with Communion has become very short. Please consider volunteering to assist with these activities. If you feel unsure at first, we will offer training or make sure that you are assigned to work with someone who has served in these capacities before. It is very helpful to be able to have additional individuals who can assist as they are necessary for each Worship Service. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

## Roof Repairs

Over the past couple years there has been an increased need for flat roof repairs and as we have seen issues, we have tried to arrange for the needed repairs. We have now come to a time when it is no longer acceptable to try to fix the leaks but to repair the entire roof. Quotes have been received and since the flat roof covers three specific areas, it has been determined that the replacement should be done over the worst section first. This is the area over the second floor. For that area alone the quotes range from \$42,515 to \$52,500. At present time the Church Council is investigating all possible avenues as to how this cost can be covered. We welcome any suggestions that you would have, and all suggestions will be considered. More information will follow as it becomes available. We thank you all for your continued support of St. Peter's while keeping in mind that our building is now 60 plus years old and in constant need of proactive repairs.



## DECEMBER 2023 NEEDS

**Hormel Compleats  
Barilla Ready Pasta  
Peanut Butter  
Canned Meat  
Cereal  
Rice**

**Diapers, sz 5-6**  
**Deodorant**  
**Shampoo**  
**Laundry Soap**  
**Toothpaste**  
**Dish Soap**



## ECHO CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Monday December 25**

(Open to the entire community)

St. William's Catholic Church,  
1822 Ravine St., from 11 am to 1 pm

**Call 608-754-5333 to schedule a carry-out or delivery order.**

## OCTOBER 2023 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

	<u>October 2023</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>		<u>October 2023</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			<u>Expense</u>		
Benevolence Contributions	\$ 1,176.00	\$ 2,475.00	Benevolence	\$ 2,070.00	\$ 1,525.00
Contributed support	\$ 13,710.62	\$ 13,654.00	Church Activity	\$ 522.47	\$ 442.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 119.00	\$ -	Finance	\$ 17.37	\$ 22.00
Use of facilities	\$ 4,138.13	\$ 4,158.00	Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 887.40	\$ 980.00
Total Income	\$ 19,143.75	\$ 20,287.00	Property Maintenance	\$ 2,221.23	\$ 3,582.00
Gross Profit	\$ 19,143.75	\$ 20,287.00	Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 10,461.92	\$ 10,935.00
			Travel & meetings expenses	\$ -	\$ -
			Total Expense	\$ 16,180.39	\$ 17,486.00
			<u>October 2023</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	
		Net Ordinary Income	\$ 2,963.36	\$ 2,801.00	
		Net Income	\$ 2,963.36	\$ 2,801.00	

## DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY, 9:30a	DECEMBER 3	DECEMBER 10	DECEMBER 17	DECEMBER 24	DECEMBER 31
ALTAR GUILD	Kelli Kienbaum Tina Jorgenson	Karen & Steve Seichter Karen Thorson	Barb Kienbaum Mike Deems	Kristi & Dave Wiese	Kelli Kienbaum Tina Jorgenson
ADVENT WREATH	Brandes Family	Richard Brown Family	Windorf Family	Need 1	N/A
LECTOR	Nancy Spenske	Pam McGill	Shane Price	Need 1	Dick Windorf
COMMUNION	Ralph Foss	Judi Downing	Joyce Jacobs	Need 1	Judy Windorf
USHER	Ralph & Sharon Foss	Pam McGill Susan Thompson	Shane Price Dave Rein	Need 2	Steve & Karen Seichter
A/V ASSISTANT	Sue Pohlman	Mike Deems	Mary Esser	Mike Deems	Lynn Curtis
FELLOWSHIP	Cathy & Bill Conroy Connie Bilz	Joyce & Bob Jacobs Jakki Harnack	Judy Willard	N/A	Judy & Dick Windorf
CHRISTMAS	DECEMBER 24, 4p	DECEMBER 24, 9p	DECEMBER 25, 9:30a		
ADVENT WREATH	Joe Flister Family	Needed	Needed		
LECTOR	Need 1 or 2 More Pauline Chalfant Shane Price	Need 3	Need 1		
COMMUNION	Need 3	Need 1	Need 1		
USHER	Need 3	Need 3	Need 1		
A/V ASSISTANT	Sharon Foss	Need 1	Mike Deems		
FELLOWSHIP	N/A	N/A	Pastor Bruce		
WEDNESDAY, 7p	DECEMBER 6	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 27	
ADVENT WREATH	Waters Family	Gerry Meyers Leah Burrows	Spenske Family	NO WORSHIP	
LECTOR	Gerry Meyers		Gerry Meyers	NO WORSHIP	
COMMUNION	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters	Gerry Meyers	NO WORSHIP	
USHERS	Dean & Beth Waters	Gerry Meyers	Dean & Beth Waters	NO WORSHIP	
A/V ASSISTANT	Sharon Foss	Sue Pohlman	Sue Pohlman	NO WORSHIP	
COUNTERS	Barb Kienbaum, Pam McGill				

# DECEMBER

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 608-754-2891 stpetersjvl@gmail.com  
 Pastor: 608-563-4148 revbruceagray@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8p AA	2 8:30a Decorate the Church 10a Al-Anon
3 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a First Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Sunday School/Confirmation	4 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	5	6 8a TOPS 9a Executive Cmte 5:30p Bell Choir Practice 7p First Wednesday of Advent Worship	7 10a Bazaar Follow-up Meeting 6:30p Property Cmte	8 8p AA	9 10aAlAnon
10 8a Bell Choir Practice 8:45a Finance Cmte 9:30a Second Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	11 9a Worship & Music 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	12 6:30p Church Council	13 8a TOPS 5:30p Bell Choir Practice 7p Second Wednesday of Advent Worship	14 11:30a PieceMakers Christmas Lunch	15 8:30a Breakfast Club at Citrus Café 8p AA	16 8:30a Cheer Basket Packing/Delivery 10a Al-Anon
17 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a Third Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Sunday School/Confirmation	18 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	19	20 8a TOPS 5:30p Bell Choir Practice 7p Third Wednesday of Advent Worship	21	22 8p AA	23 10a Al-Anon
24 9:30a Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship 11a Decorate the Church 4p Christmas Eve Worship 9p Christmas Eve Worship	25 9:30a Christmas Day Worship	26	27 8a TOPS NO Midweek Worship	28	29 8p AA	30 10a Al-Anon
Pastor Bruce on Vacation Immediately After Worship on 12/25/23 Until 1/5/24						
31 9:30a Worship—Pastor Stan Curtis Preaching 10:30a Fellowship	1 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY					
Pastor Bruce on Vacation Until 1/5/24						



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Return Service Requested

*Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.*



DECEMBER

2023