

# St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Dear Friends in Christ,

Time Magazine had an article in 2013 that put into words the marvelous and encouraging emotions we receive when we sing together. Stacy Horn wrote, "It takes something incredibly intimate, a sound that begins inside you, shares it with a roomful of people and it comes back as something even more thrilling: harmony." Advents and Christmases throughout the centuries have been filled with the beautiful lyrics and voices of Christians praising God and proclaiming the coming of Jesus our Savior. You and the St. Peter's family continue to join in the chorus of all the faithful this year, lifting your hearts to the Son of God and singing of His nativity.

Singing together, the Time's article revealed, not only elates the spirit, but also reduces stress, increasing positive feelings we so desperately need this year. We invite you to sing with us in each of these joy filled Advent and Christmas services. To add to the festival and to enrich your lives after Christmas, Stepping Stones will be having a delightful caroling service. At this celebration, your family will join in the harmony of Christmas carols and songs that you love and cherish. Join in on the fun at the caroling Stepping Stones service, it will be Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, and we look forward to seeing you there and singing with you about the birth of the King of kings.

God's hope, peace, joy, and love be in your heart and voice this season.

Pastor Steve  
Pastor McDowell  
Vicar Nate

**CONNECT**  
**to Christ with Us**

## Worship Times & Links

### In-Person Worship

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Monday @ 6:00 pm (Stepping Stones - Gym)

### Advent Worship Series

Midweek Advent worship continues this Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 pm both in person and via live stream. This week will focus on favorite nativity sets/pieces.

### Live Stream Worship

These services can be accessed through our Facebook page  
([www.facebook.com/StPetersFW](https://www.facebook.com/StPetersFW)).

Sunday @ 10:30 pm

[Click here to access this Sunday's live stream service.](#)

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

[Click here to access Wednesday's live stream Advent service.](#)

## Weekend Worship Details

### Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-4, 8-11

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

### Sermon

"Untying a Sandal"

Text: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Vicar Nate Widener

## Stepping Stones Worship

This past week we discussed the second candle of Advent, the candle of peace. We learned that God's peace doesn't mean the absence of conflict or noise. God's peace is something even more wonderful and is there even in the chaos.

This week we will continue our exploration of the Advent candles with the candle of joy. We hope to see you there in the gym at 6:00 pm.



## Christmas Eve Worship

If you plan to worship in person this Christmas Eve, please send in your ticket request form as soon as possible. The 11:00 service is now full (but we can take a few names on a waiting list). The 5:00 service is nearly full. If you are requesting that service, we would recommend giving a second choice as well.

Services will be offered in person at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 11:00 pm.  
The 5 & 11 services will be available via live stream.

Paper ticket request forms are available at the church, or you can submit a request online using the Google form found at this link: [Ticket Request Form](#)

## **GROW in His Grace with Us**

### **Sunday Bible Study: Favorite Advent Hymns**

Join us in person for Bible Study at 9:15 am on Sunday in the Cornerstone room or watch online through our YouTube channel.

[Bible Study Live Stream](#)

### **Children's Bulletin**

Click the link below to download a copy of the Children's Bulletin for this weekend.

[Children's Bulletin for December 13](#)

## **SHARE Him with Others**

### **Senior Saints Christmas Concert**

Since we are unable to host our in person Senior Saints Christmas Party this year, we have a special treat planned. We will have a virtual event on Monday, December 14 at 11:30 am. Join us via Facebook live stream (see link below) for a Christmas devotion with Pastor Bierlein and a Christmas organ concert and sing along thanks to our own Tim Degen. (Note: You do not have to be an official member of the Seniors Saints to watch and enjoy the concert.)

[Christmas Organ Concert Link](#)

### **Card Shower for the Wideners**

*"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15*

Thankfully, God knows our needs before we do. That is certainly true of our congregation, especially when thinking of the *Wideners*. He placed *Amy* in the office, adding her talents and caring support to aid in meeting the drastic changes due to COVID. Then He made it possible for her capable husband *Nate* to serve as our vicar, ably assisting our pastors and staff during this overwhelmingly challenging time.

Now with grateful hearts we have the opportunity to tangibly thank God for His gracious provision of these servants in Christ by showering the Wideners with cards expressing our overflowing gratitude. Please join us in this act of love!

If so moved, you are welcome to include a gift card\* as well. (Actually, gift cards would be a double blessing since those need not be reported on their taxes.) For those of you who wish to remain anonymous, envelopes will be available near the collection baskets for your convenience. Gratitude cards may be placed in the collection plates, given to the office, or mailed to the church. The official "gratitude opportunity" will conclude December 23, but our thanksgiving will continue on in our hearts. To help in your "shopping," below is a list of places the family frequents:

Sweetwater  
Walmart  
Target  
Red Robin  
Best Buy  
McDonald's  
Menards  
Lowe's  
Kroger  
Meijer  
Don Hall's  
Kohl's  
Dry Goods  
Macy's  
Hoppy Gnome

\*Please consider ordering your gift card from SCRIP by December 14 to make it a triple blessing.

## Caring for our Congregation

As the days grow shorter and darker, being shut in will be even harder to deal with this year. Christmas lights may lift spirits for the season, but a note of remembrance and cheer from fellow members might be more lasting. Thanks to those who continued to encourage and support our shut ins all year long. For those of you who missed out, please consider getting a name from the church office and start now. It's never too late!



## Project Angel Tree and Victims Assistance

Thank you all for your generous support. For those of you who purchased a traditional Angel Tree gift, please be sure to return your wrapped gift to the Ministry Center by December 13. Please write the child's name and Code# on the gift.

## School & Preschool News

### Christmas Program Lineup

Our preschool and 1st-4th grade students have been working hard to prepare for their Christmas programs. Your hearts will be uplifted by the beautiful voices of these small saints singing God's praise. You can view both programs via live stream on our Facebook page or by using the links below:

#### Preschool Program

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6:30 pm

[Program Link](#)

#### Day School - Lower Elementary Program

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 9:00 am

[Program Link](#)

## Cookie Dough Delivery

Thank you for all of the cookie dough orders! We appreciate your support very much. God has so richly blessed us with a congregation that loves and supports our preschool. Because of you, our children are greatly benefitted and are able to participate in many wonderful experiences.

The cookie dough will be delivered next **Wednesday, December 16**. You may pick up your order between the times of **6:00 and 8:00 pm** in the Cornerstone Room.

If you have any questions, you may contact Barb Christian ([bchristian@stpetersfw.org](mailto:bchristian@stpetersfw.org)). Thank you again for your help.

## Tithes & Offerings

To view a complete list of giving options (along with instructions), [click here](#). This report represents the first five months of our fiscal year. Thank you and it is our prayer that you are able to give **boldly** without fear.

### Stewardship Corner as of 11/29/20

|                          | <u>Month to Date</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> | <u>Other Revenue</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Total Giving</b>      | \$88,752             | \$395,517           | \$47,922             |
| <b>Budget</b>            | \$93,658             | \$399,334           | \$81,447             |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b> | (\$4,906)            | (\$3,817)           | (\$33,525)           |
| <b>Loan Balance</b>      | \$2,175,151          |                     |                      |

#### A Note from Tony Hunt, Advancement Director:

The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) – The SGO program is a true partnership between our schools, the State of Indiana, and supporters to provide scholarships to low to middle-income families to make Christian education more affordable. Due to the generous giving of our school supporters, we have awarded 33 scholarships this school year totaling \$44,000 dollars. Thank you! Remember that you will receive a 50% credit of the amount contributed to reduce your state tax liability. Please call (222-1291) or email ([thunt@stpetersfw.org](mailto:thunt@stpetersfw.org)) Tony Hunt for information on how to take advantage of this wonderful program.

Scrip News – Consider purchasing gift cards for the holidays through the scrip program. Many vendors offer lower denominations during the holiday season. Check out [shop.shopwithscrip.com](http://shop.shopwithscrip.com). If you have not already enrolled, please email [thunt@stpetersfw.org](mailto:thunt@stpetersfw.org) for the enrollment code. Last day to order physical cards for Christmas is 2 pm on Monday 12/14, please note this is one day earlier than our normal order schedule of noon on Tuesday. This program is a no cost way to support our school and earn credits to offset the cost of Christian education. Thank you to the many families that are currently using scrip!

## Bridge Update



We have exciting news! The bridge is finally open again. Be sure to drive that way to get to worship this weekend. Thank you for remembering the construction crew in your prayers these past months.



## Church Calendar

### Saturday, December 12

5:00 pm - Worship w/ Praise Team (In-Person)

### Sunday, December 13

8:00 am - Worship (In-Person)

9:15 am - Adult Bible Study (Cornerstone Room & YouTube)

9:15 am - Public School Confirmation (Church Gym)

9:45 am - Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

10:30 am - Worship w/ Praise Team (In-Person & Live Stream)

### Monday, December 14

11:30 am - Senior Saints Christmas Organ Concert (Facebook)

6:00 pm - Stepping Stones Worship (Church Gym)

6:00 pm - Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

### Tuesday, December 15

6:30 pm - Preschool Christmas Program (Facebook)

### Wednesday, December 16

9:00 am - Day School Christmas Program (Facebook)

6:00-8:00 pm - Preschool Cookie Dough Pickup (Cornerstone Room)

7:00 pm - Midweek Advent Worship Service (In Person & Live Stream)

### Thursday, December 17

6:30 am - Men's Bible Study (Goeglein's Fireplace Room)

2:00 pm - Missions Team Meeting (Zoom)

6:30 pm - Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)

6:30 pm - Tech Team Meeting (Zoom)

[Send a Prayer Request](#)

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