

St. Peters Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

December 2024



316 S. Main Ave. / P.O. Box 125

Wentworth, SD 57075-0125

Office Phone: 605-483-3129

Church e-mail: stpeter@itctel.com

Website: www.stpeterswentworth.com

Our Mission Statement:

**“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name;
make known among the nations what He has done.”**

Psalm 105:1

Are We Ready?

As we move into the month of December and the season of Advent, it is vital that we prepare—both for Christ’s first coming as a lowly baby to save us, as well as His second coming in great glory with the holy angels to judge the living and the dead. Let’s consider briefly what it means to be prepared and ready for that great Day of our Lord. As I perceive it, there are three vitally important elements to being ready.

First, **are we saved**? That is, are we sincere believers in the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Have we been baptized into that holy name as Matthew 28:19 tells us? Do we trust in Christ—His person and His work—alone for our salvation? Do we realize that only He is the Savior of the world? “When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh may I then in Him be found, Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne.” (LSB #575, v. 4)

Second, **are we living a sanctified Christian life** as we await our Lord’s return? That is, do we recognize that we are called to live separately from the world’s standards of morality? We read in I Thessalonians 4:3-4: “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable.” God calls us to live holy lives. We do this by the guidance and grace of God’s Holy Spirit, who is Himself holy and calls and enables us to be holy also.

Third, are we busy about the task of **servicing others** in Jesus’ name and **sharing the gospel** with those near and far? We are called not only to have faith and believe, but we are called to a life of good works. See Ephesians 2:8-10. While good works do not save us, nor does God need our good works, our neighbor needs them. As children of God and stewards of God’s mysteries, we are all to be about the task of our congregation’s mission: “*Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, and make known among the nations what He has done.*” (Psalm 105:1)

Jesus puts it this way in Matthew 24:45-46: “Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom the master has put in charge of the servants in His household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.”

Fellow saved, sanctified, servants of the living Lord, God’s grace to you this Advent as we prepare and eagerly look forward to His comings! Come, Lord Jesus!

We Welcome Pastor Wayne Bernau as our Vacancy Pastor.

Here are a few details to help us get to know him and Donna better.

Wayne is the fourth child of Ernest and Luana Bernau, both of who grew up in Whittemore, Iowa. When Wayne was 3, his parents bought a small farm in southeast Minnesota, near the town of Fountain. There he grew up with his four brothers and three sisters.

After graduating from Preston High School in 1973, he attended Concordia College in St. Paul for two years. He then transferred to Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne and graduated in 1977. Following college, he enrolled in Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and graduated in May of 1981. Just before his vicarage year in Cleveland, he and Donna Fuchssteiner were married in Lansing, IL in June of 1979.

Pastor Bernau's first call was to the triple parish of Royalton, Dixville, and Ramey, MN. Six of the Bernau's 9 children were born during their 11 years there. In 1992 Pastor Bernau received and accepted a call to serve with God's people at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School of Courtland, MN (just west of Mankato). Their service there lasted 32 years.

Pastor Bernau retired on June 30 of this year. The next day he and Donna moved to Madison, SD to be near their youngest daughter, Ruth Robertson, and her husband Tyler and young children Taylor and Axel.

The Bernau's appreciate our area and our congregation of St. Peters and are excited to be among us for a season as we gather together to share the Word of God, Christian fellowship, the Sacraments, and Prayer.

Pastor Bernau's hobby is woodworking and he enjoys hunting. He also likes to bike and is a passionate recycler of "Metals for Missions." Donna's calling is as a Christian wife and mother and also a preschool teacher. They look forward to getting to know you better and encouraging you in the Christian faith!

A Gospel to Proclaim

*Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."
~ Revelation 14:6-7*

I'm dreadfully embarrassed that I haven't posted to our blog in nearly a year. My apologies especially to anyone not on our mailing list who's been completely out of the loop during these past several months. I'm going to resist the urge to recap *everything* that's happened thus far in 2024, and keep it relatively brief here, with the intention of being more consistent in my posts going forward.

First, a quick summary: Our fifth son, Jensen, was born in February, followed closely by the death of my grandfather. In April, we made our first-ever trip to St. Louis. I attended a conference in nearby Collinsville, but we were all able to enjoy a few of the city's attractions. My supervising pastor and his wife graciously let us spend a week at their lake property in Minnesota in June, and Logan and Camden each attended summer camp for the first time. I completed my vicarage responsibilities at Our Redeemer and Peace on July 21. We can't say enough good things about our time there. After a week of visiting family, we picked up our truck from Cedar Falls and arrived back in Fort Wayne on July 30.

Since then, we've reconnected with some friends and resumed the activities we did our first two years here—namely, Classical Conversations for Pamela and the boys, Trail Life for Logan and Camden, and Seminary Women's Association for Pamela—as well as trying a few new things—flag football for Logan and Camden, percussion lessons for Logan, and more music ensembles on campus for me. We've had visits from one of Pamela's sisters and my parents, and we've indulged in an assortment of field trips, playdates, and events at the seminary and church.

Of course the big difference this year is the reality that our time here is now quite short. We're already wrapping up week eight of the 10-week fall quarter. Pamela and I have filled out placement paperwork and have had multiple meetings related to the end of vicarage and the call that, God willing, I'll receive in April. It's an interesting time in the process, to say the least. Along the way, I'm taking every opportunity I can to keep one foot in the parish. I'm teaching Sunday school at Zion (our former fieldwork church), preached there for Reformation, and wrote an article for Mount Calvary's November newsletter. (You may read that [here](#) if you'd like.)

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. The notes we receive from you all—God's people—are reminders of why I'm here doing what I'm doing. It's a privilege to be able to proclaim the Lord's eternal gospel in this way.

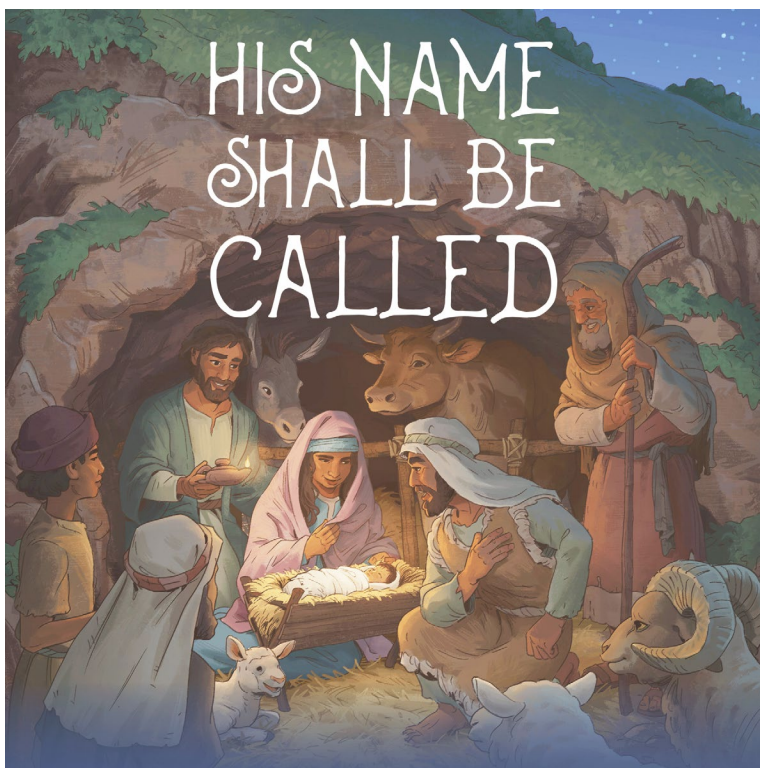
It is that time of the year that we begin to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Sunday School Children will begin preparing for the Christmas Eve service.

December 1st & 8th they will practice until 11:30 am.

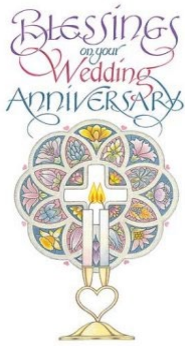
December 15th & 22nd they will practice until 11:45 am.

The Theme this year is:



During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means "God saves." In addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles which describe something about His person or work. In this year's Advent series, we are going to examine four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Those titles are "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," and "Prince of Peace." We will learn how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Terry & Deb	Reck
Kasey & Lacey	Gehrels
Jake & Marryn	Hemmer
Dan & Bonnie	Lindholm

DECEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Mason	Lindholm
Diana	Maas
Jason	Fischer
Lori	Lindholm
Olerick	Welton
Levi	Bonstead
Rachel	Lindholm
Luanna	Shuck
Darlene	Iverson
Rilynn	Zillgitt
Olivia	Cacho
Ella	Fischer
Kathy	Dorow
Grace	Feige
Sawyer	Fedeler
Matt	Tweet
Brett	Schneider
Marryn	Hemmer
Verl	Uthe
Arla	Baumberger
Terry	Feldmann



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



<i>Hazel</i>	<i>Foster</i>
<i>Grace</i>	<i>Feige</i>
<i>Ella</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>Loren</i>	<i>Lindholm</i>
<i>Mathew</i>	<i>Voy</i>
<i>Rowdy</i>	<i>Seitz</i>
<i>Shirley</i>	<i>Hess</i>
<i>Brett</i>	<i>Schneider</i>
<i>Marryn</i>	<i>Hemmer</i>
<i>Arla</i>	<i>Baumberger</i>
<i>Gale</i>	<i>Maas</i>
<i>Kay</i>	<i>Mendel</i>
<i>Kadyn</i>	<i>Gehrels</i>
<i>Darlene</i>	<i>Iverson</i>
<i>Sawyer</i>	<i>Fedeler</i>
<i>Kaelie</i>	<i>Lindholm</i>
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Gerry</i>
<i>Heidi</i>	<i>Schneider</i>
<i>Carrol</i>	<i>Olson</i>
<i>Marlys</i>	<i>Arneson</i>
<i>Ashley</i>	<i>Milbrandt</i>
<i>Logan</i>	<i>Reck</i>
<i>Adam</i>	<i>Welton</i>
<i>Garret</i>	<i>Olson</i>
<i>Justin</i>	<i>Baumberger</i>
<i>Kim</i>	<i>Hemmer</i>
<i>Cade</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>Brooke</i>	<i>Grass</i>
<i>Noel</i>	<i>Wareham</i>

To read the Bible in one year:
SUGGESTED BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER






DATE	FIRST READING	SECOND READING
December 1	Luke 1:46-55	Revelation 1-2
December 2	Psalm 1	Revelation 3-5
December 3	Psalm 2	Revelation 6-8
December 4	Psalm 3	Revelation 9-11
December 5	Psalm 4	Revelation 12-14
December 6	Psalm 5	Revelation 15-17
December 7	Psalm 6	Revelation 18-20
December 8	Psalm 7	Revelation 21-22
December 9	Psalm 8	Isaiah 1-3
December 10	Psalm 9	Isaiah 4-6
December 11	Psalm 10	Isaiah 7-9
December 12	Psalm 11	Isaiah 10-12
December 13	Psalm 12	Isaiah 13-15
December 14	Psalm 13	Isaiah 16-18
December 15	Psalm 14	Isaiah 19-21
December 16	Psalm 15	Isaiah 22-24
December 17	Psalm 16	Isaiah 25-27
December 18	Psalm 17	Isaiah 28-30
December 19	Psalm 18	Isaiah 31-33
December 20	Psalm 19	Isaiah 34-36
December 21	Psalm 20	Isaiah 37-39
December 22	Psalm 21	Isaiah 40-42
December 23	Psalm 22	Isaiah 43-45
December 24	Psalm 23	Isaiah 46-48
December 25	Psalm 24	Isaiah 49-51
December 26	Psalm 25	Isaiah 52-54
December 27	Psalm 26	Isaiah 55-57
December 28	Psalm 27	Isaiah 58-60
December 29	Psalm 28	Isaiah 61-63
December 30	Psalm 29	Isaiah 64-66
December 31	Luke 1:46-55	Mark 1



DECEMBER 2024



Altar Guild: Jill Martin ~ Mandie Miller ~ Lori Hogrefe

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>1 Sunday, Dec. 1 - 9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Kolter Gehrels Greeters: Sheldon & Jessica Foster Family Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Board of Education Meeting</p> 	2	3	<p>4 4:00 pm ~ Confirmation, Bible History, & Bells 6:00 pm ~ Midweek Advent Service Acolyte: Riggins Seitz Greeters: Jerry & Julie Gehrels Organist: Peg George 6:30 pm ~ Advent Supper 7:00 pm ~ Youth Group</p>	5	6	7
<p>8 Sunday, Dec. 8 - 9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Abigail Eppe Greeters: Jon & Danielle Gehrels Family Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p> 	9 7:00 pm ~ Altar Guild	10	<p>11 4:00 pm ~ Confirmation, Bible History, & Bells 6:00 pm ~ Midweek Advent Service Acolyte: Natalie Feige Greeters: Kasey & Lacey Gehrels Family; Kayden Gehrels Organist: Peg George 6:30 pm ~ Advent Supper 7:00 pm ~ Youth Group 7:00 pm ~ Elders Meeting</p>	12	13	14
<p>15 Sunday Dec. 15 - 9:00 am Worship Acolyte: Sophia Fischer Greeters: Bill & Peg George Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p> 	16	17	<p>18 4:00 pm ~ Confirmation, Bible History, & Bells 6:00 pm ~ Midweek Advent Service Acolyte: Landen McManus Greeters: Leon & Melissa Gerry; Parker Gerry Organist: Peg George 6:30 pm ~ Advent Supper 7:00 pm ~ Youth Group</p>	19	20	21
<p>22 Sunday Dec. 22 - 9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Presley Schneider Greeters: Shelia Gerry; Nathan Gerry Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p> 	23 NEWS LETTER DEAD-LINE	24 6:00 pm ~ Children's Christmas Eve Service Acolyte: Head Usher Greeters: Elders Organist: Peg George	<p>25 NO MIDWEEK CLASSES, BELLS, OR YOUTH GROUP</p> <p>9:00 am Worship Acolyte: Jayden Delfs Greeters: Elders Organist: Peg George</p> 	26	27	28
<p>29 Sunday Dec. 29 - 9:00 am Worship Acolyte: Darwin Lindholm Greeters: Tom Graff Organist: Peg George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p>	30	31				