



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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February 2025

Honouring Jesus. Thoughts on the Season of Epiphany

And going into the house [the wise men from the east] saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. (Matthew 2:11)

The Epiphany season, which follows Christmas, reminds us that the glory of God has come into the world in Jesus. The Epiphany season begins on January 6th and lasts until Ash Wednesday.

On this day, January 6th, we hear the story of the wise men from afar who went to Bethlehem to honour the Christ-Child, the “new-born King of the Jews,” to offer him gifts of gold (to honour Jesus' kingship), frankincense (to honour Jesus' priesthood), and myrrh (to foreshadow Jesus' death). We find this recorded in the second chapter of the Gospel of Matthew.

Traditionally, when we look at this story, there is a focus on the **three** wise men, also referred to as three kings. Traditionally, we assume that they were three persons because of the three gifts that are mentioned. However, we really do not know exactly how many went to Bethlehem. Still, it seems that they are taking centre-stage in this story. But I think that the focus on them is misleading. I think that they are not in the centre of story. They are simply a means to an end.

For me, the main focus of the story is not on the three wise men (or “three kings”), but on Jesus. Whether or not they were sages, star-gazers, kings, or something else really does not matter. What matters is that they honoured Jesus as a king – as the true King. This means that we ought to observe this day as a feast day in honour of Jesus. Our primary attention ought not be drawn to the wise men (or “three kings”) but rather to Jesus.

Sure enough, these pilgrims who went to Bethlehem to pay their tribute to Jesus were important – in that they came as Gentiles to honour, worship, and praise Jesus. They were the first Gentiles who recognized Jesus' divinity at the beginning of his ministry. In contrast, the centurion who stood at the cross when Jesus died was another Gentile who emphasized Jesus' divinity at the end of his ministry when he confessed that Jesus “was truly the Son of God” (Mark 15:39). At Jesus' birth, Gentiles brought him gifts to honour him. At his death, another Gentile made a public profession.

This is what is expected of us as well: to venerate Jesus, to profess him as Lord, and to serve him gladly with all our lives.

In Christ,
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

Special February Birthdays

Gisela Knudsen, 85 on Feb 5

We wish you a Happy Birthday and the Lord's blessings for the coming year!

Jesus ehren. Gedanken zur Epiphanaszeit

*Und [die Weisen aus dem Morgenland] gingen in das Haus
und sahen das Kindlein mit Maria, seiner Mutter,
und sie fielen nieder und beteten es an. (Matthäus 2,11)*

Die Epiphaniezeit, die auf Weihnachten folgt, erinnert uns daran, dass die Herrlichkeit Gottes in Jesus in die Welt gekommen ist. Sie beginnt am 6. Januar und dauert bis Aschermittwoch.

An diesem Tag, dem 6. Januar, hören wir die Geschichte von den Weisen aus dem Morgenland, die nach Bethlehem gingen, um das Jesuskind, den „neugeborenen König der Juden“, zu ehren und ihm Gold (zur Ehrung von Jesu Königtum), Weihrauch (zur Ehrung von Jesu Priestertum) und Myrrhe (als Vorahnung auf Jesu Tod) zu überreichen. Wir finden dies im zweiten Kapitel des Matthäusevangeliums aufgezeichnet.

Traditionell liegt unser Hauptaugenmerk bei dieser Geschichte auf den **drei** Weisen, die bekanntlich auch als drei Könige bezeichnet werden. Traditionell gehen wir wegen der drei erwähnten Geschenke davon aus, dass es drei Personen waren. Wir wissen jedoch nicht genau, wie viele es waren, die nach Bethlehem gingen. Sie scheinen im Mittelpunkt der Erzählung zu stehen. Doch ist diese Annahme meiner Meinung nach irreführend, denn sie sind einfach nur ein Mittel zum Zweck.

Für mich liegt das Hauptaugenmerk nicht auf den drei Weisen (oder „drei Königen“), sondern auf Jesus. Ob sie Weise, Sterngucker, Könige oder etwas anderes waren, spielt eigentlich keine Rolle. Was zählt, ist, dass sie Jesus als König ehrten – als den wahren König. Das bedeutet, dass auch wir diesen Tag als Festtag zu Ehren Jesu begehen. Unsere Aufmerksamkeit sollte deshalb nicht den Weisen (oder „drei Königen“) gelten, sondern Jesus.

Sicherlich waren diese Pilger, die nach Bethlehem gingen, um Jesus zu ehren, wichtig – denn sie waren die ersten Heiden, die Jesus ehrten, anbeteten und priesen. Sie waren damit die ersten Heiden, die Jesu Göttlichkeit am Anfang seines Wirkens erkannten. Dagegen war der Hauptmann, der beim Kreuz stand als Jesus starb, ein anderer Heide, der Jesu Göttlichkeit am Ende seines Wirkens hervorhob, als er bekannte, dass Jesus „wahrlich Gottes Sohn gewesen ist“ (Markus 15,39). Bei Jesu Geburt brachten ihm Heiden Geschenke, um ihn zu ehren. Bei seinem Tod legte ein weiterer Heide ein öffentliches Bekenntnis ab.

Damit kann man auch von uns erwarten, dass wir Jesus verehren, ihn als unseren Herrn bekennen und ihm mit unserem ganzen Leben freudig dienen.

In Christo,
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

Pastor's Bible Study on the Nicene Creed

Thursday, February 13 at 7PM

1700 years ago, in the year 325AD, the Church adopted the Nicene Creed. It is one of the three ecumenical creeds that the Lutheran Church has accepted. On several occasions, we are still reciting it in our worship services. (Strictly speaking, the version that we use in worship is based on the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed dating back to the year 381AD.)

In preparation, here are some questions for you to consider:

- Are Creeds important? What is their purpose?
- What do you know about the Council of Nicaea?
- Who were the major “players” at the Council?
- What were the Council's main decisions?
- Which common misconceptions are still “floating” around about the council?

As we deal with the Creed, there is also ample opportunity to look at and consult the biblical texts that were behind its creation.

Scripture Lessons for Feb 2025. Lesungen für Feb 2025

Epiphany 4 (4. Sonntag nach Epiphantias) – Feb. 2

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19
Psalm 71:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13
Luke 4:31-44

Epiphany 5 (5. Sonntag nach Epiphantias) – Feb. 9

Isaiah 6:1-13
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 14:12b-20
Luke 5:1-11

Epiphany 6 (6. Sonntag nach Epiphantias) – Feb. 16

Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:1-20
Luke 6:17-26

Epiphany 7 (7. Sonntag nach Epiphantias) – Feb. 23

Genesis 43:3-15
Psalm 103:1-13
1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42
Luke 6:27-38

Looking Ahead

Submitted by Michael Zacharias and Gudrun Neeth

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been scheduled for Sunday March 9, 2025.

There will be a combined service at 10:30am followed by a soup luncheon. We are requesting that those who wish to **volunteer to bring a soup** please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Nartex.

Important: ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS, SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY NOW. IF ANY REPORTS ARE STILL OUTSTANDING. PLEASE GET THEM TO GUDRUN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Volunteer opportunities

Submitted by Linda Lurvey

- We still need volunteers to assist in looking after the area around the altar for our worship services. It involves preparing and cleaning up the elements for Holy Communion and seasonally changing the paraments (fabric hangings on the altar, pulpit and lectern) according to the church year. Our hope is that we have **several teams** of two people involved. Training will be provided. Please speak to Pastor Bjoern if you are interested in serving. Thank you.
- Saturday snowfalls have made for snowy entranceways at St. Peter's on Sunday mornings. If you are willing and able to do some shoveling/sweeping at our main church entrance and sidewalk, please consider coming early (either before the German service or English service). We want to offer safety and hospitality to our worshippers. Thank you.

Cluster Groups

If you are interested in participating and haven't yet signed up for a cluster group, you can still sign up. Please supply the requested information EITHER

1. by email to oellermann@gmail.com with "Cluster Group" in the Subject line OR
2. by calling Ortrud Oellermann at 204-487 2175 with the requested information (leave a message if necessary).

- Your name(s), your address, your phone number, and e-mail if available.
- If there is a member you'd like to be in a cluster group with, please give us their name.

The South Central Cluster Group will meet on February 7, 2025 at 7pm-9pm at Martin and Ortrud's home, 255 Waverley Street

Financial Update - Not audited

Submitted by Ralf Oppitz – Treasurer

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 NIV

As of December 31st

- Congregational income [40100] is \$167,116, which is \$2,649 lower than last year.
- Congregational expense are \$201,833.01 which is \$2,500 lower than last year.

Mission Budget Update

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

We are pleased to report that the 2024 budget will have a surplus, which will be carried into 2025. That provides the opportunity to fund some 2025 budget items early.

Counselling Support

Submitted by Carla Betker

St. Peter's Lutheran Church is pleased to offer counselling services, free of charge, to members of the congregation and surrounding community. This will be offered on a first come, first serve basis, on Monday evenings. Counselling is provided by Carla Betker, a certified School Psychologist with a private counselling practice. If interested, please contact Carla directly at elparkcounselling@gmail.com

The **Outreach Committee** is happy to organize information workshops on topics of interest to members of the congregation. If anyone has any particular requests, please contact Carla Betker at elparkcounselling@gmail.com



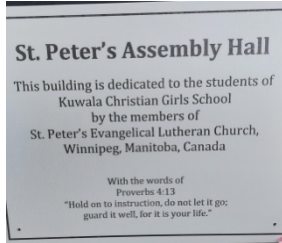
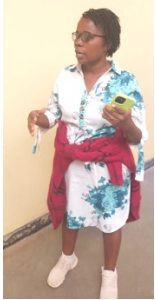
The next **St. Peter's Eaters** breakfast will be held in the church basement on Saturday, February 22 at 8AM. It's a men's breakfast group to which all men are invited for food and fellowship. If you plan on coming, please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church or contact the church office by phone (204.775.6477) or email stpetersoffice@mymts.net.

There will be **NO Women's Circle** in February. A women's luncheon has tentatively been scheduled for March 2. This will be confirmed closer to the time.



Submitted by Jerry Roehr

The last Kuwala update for St. Peter's was a video Christmas greeting, which is available on our website: stpeterslutheran.ca. Below are some pictures you may not have seen before.



Principal Memory inside the St. Peter's Hall

First Kuwala teacher Grace in front of St. Peter's Kanata House

Kuwala Dormitory & Public School Dormitory

News from the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Unique in church organizations, the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) is not a separate organization but is a part of the NALC. This is important because their curriculum has to be totally aligned with the theological confession of the NALC.

After the retirement of its current President, Dr. Eric Riesen, the Executive Council of NALC has appointed Dr. Jukka Kääriäinen to serve as NALS President. While Dr. Kääriäinen will attend some NALC functions, his official starting date will be June 2025. The family, his wife and two teenage children will live in Ambridge, Pennsylvania,

As president, Dr. Kääriäinen will lead the NALS in its commitment to forming pastors, deacons, and leaders for the North American Lutheran Church. He will oversee the seminary's hub-and-spoke model with the Seminary Center at [Trinity Anglican Seminary](#) in Ambridge, working in collaboration with partner institutions across North America.

Dr. Kääriäinen most recently served as executive director of the Finnish Lutheran Overseas Mission. He combines deep theological expertise with proven organizational leadership. His unique background includes serving as a theological educator in Taiwan, mission theologian for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, and pastor in various contexts across three continents. The full press release can be viewed on the NALC website: thenalc.org.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Winnipeg Free Press. Paul Samyn, the editor of the Free Press, reported that since 2005, more than 3,200 print newspapers have vanished in North America. We support the Faith Page of the Free Press. It is the only newspaper in North America with religious content which does "fact-checking."

John Longhurst reported that there were 167 stories about faith in the Free Press last year, and Sharon Chisvin, a Freelance writer, informed us that she can submit two faith articles every month. She asks to let her know about any upcoming programs, conferences, services, inter-faith initiatives, social justice programs, etc. so that she can help promote them to all of Manitoba.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

YOUNG ADULT NEWS, DEC 2024, ISSUE #6
BY EMILY ADAMS

A Christmas Party was held December 7th in the Erich Griebing Hall at St. Peter’s Church. Of course, this party was scheduled early in December so that it wouldn’t conflict with other Christmas events. But how can one know that everyone else had the same scheduling plans. Thankfully, we had a very joyous bunch attend the Christmas Party and each gave their 100% effort at every game that was thrown their way. The available prizes of chocolate and treats might have added to the party goers motivation. If one had seen these party goers leave the church on this afternoon, one would have wondered if they went shopping, as everyone left with a bounty of treats.



Kele



Our Christmas party goers.



Max

Pictures taken by Emily Adams and Ulrike Schreckenbach at the St. Peter’s Christmas Party event, Saturday, December 7, 2024.

Following our Christmas Party on December 8th, we had our Glühwein and a Cookie for You event in the Narthex. Unlike most Glühwein, this brew did not have any alcohol content, but many people were still, very merry this day. Everyone gathered together to enjoy the fresh homemade gingerbread cookies gifted to us by Angie (Gudrun’s daughter), and warmed Glühwein (which took Max Schreckenbach and Emily Adams over an hour to warm). There was also Christmas tree decorating in the Sanctuary with Christmas carols playing in the background, and one last game that was left over from the Christmas Party event that was brought out to play. With the Christmas tree fully decorated, and bellies warm and fed, everyone got to leave the church this day filled with Christmas spirit and cheer.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Fruit of the Spirit Discussion Group: Series #1 : Young adults and youth are invited to join us Saturday, February 15th to discuss our first fruit of the Spirit: LOVE. The activity of the day will be baking. There are two session times available, one at 2PM and the other at 6PM. Please RSVP by February 10th to Emily Adams (yaevents@stpeterslutheran.ca) if you are planning to attend.

Tea and a Treat for You: Stay a while or come early, on February 16th between 10:15AM-10:45AM for tea and a treat in the Narthex.

Member News

The following article by Pat Rediger was written in September for the Winter 2024 Collision Quarterly. It is being reprinted with permission. As of December 31, 2024, the Hammerling/Budnick families have transferred the ownership of Arlington Auto Body Ltd., to Creg Nieman, the new owner. They look forward to seeing Arlington Auto Body succeed for many more years to come.

Arlington Auto Body **68 years of dedication, perseverance, and family**

Not too many businesses survive for 70 years, and still fewer exist with the founder still keeping an eye on things. But such is the case for Arlington Auto Body, a cornerstone of Winnipeg's automotive industry. Founded by Gerry Hammerling and his wife Elfriede in June 1956, the company has not only weathered industry changes but also thrived due to hard work, innovation and family commitment.

Back in the 1950's, Gerry began his career working on milk trucks, gaining valuable experience in the auto body trade. Later he joined Winnipeg Motors, a local dealership, where the seed for his own business was planted. Then finally Gerry took the leap and opened Arlington Auto Body at 1345 Arlington Street.

Starting the business wasn't easy. "I started by myself," Gerry recalled. "I couldn't afford to hire anyone, so I worked long hours doing both the body work and painting." Armed with little more than a hammer, dolly and some basic tools, Gerry's passion and commitment set the foundation for what was to come. The early days were challenging. The shop repaired older cars, and word-of-mouth gradually helped bring a steady stream of customers. The company quickly gained a reputation for quality work. "I used to go to beer parlors and pick up customers, but those weren't the best customers," Gerry laughed. Instead, the shop focused on building relationships with dealerships, repairing used cars and working for local customers.

By 1960, the rented shop on Arlington, was no longer sufficient to meet growing demand. Monthly rent had risen from \$60 to \$200 which prompted Gerry to look for a new location. He found the perfect spot – a modest 26' x 26' space at 1494 Erin Street, where Arlington Auto Body still operates today. We didn't have a spray booth, so we built one onto the shop," Gerry Said. As the business grew, so did the building, as funds allowed. In 1968, another extension was added, and in 1987, a larger addition brought the shop to its current size of 6400 square feet.

One of the keys to Arlington's longstanding success has been its ability to adapt to changing times."

As the business expanded, Gerry hired more staff, including apprentices and painters, to meet the increasing demand. He fondly remembers working long days – sometimes until 11pm – painting cars after a full day of repairs. "It was hard work, but I loved it. The business was my passion."

One of the keys to Arlington's longstanding success has been its ability to adapt to changing times." Over the decades, the collision repair industry has evolved dramatically, and the shop has been at the forefront of these changes.

"The biggest change came with the cars themselves," explained Gerry. "Back when we started, cars were simple. Now everything is computerized." The shift from enamel and lacquer paints to acrylic enamel and, later, waterborne paints was another major industry transformation. The shop also had to meet manufacturer requirements, such as Volvo and Ford's insistence on specific tools and equipment—often at a hefty cost.

The advent of aluminum welding for vehicles like Ford trucks was another significant development. "We had to invest in the right equipment to stay relevant," Gerry said. Keeping up with technology ensured that

the company could continue to serve its customers effectively, even as vehicles became more sophisticated. In order to navigate these changes and produce quality work, the company has employed very qualified and professional technicians over the years. While Gerry's hard work and determination were critical to Arlington's success, it was the involvement of his family that truly helped the business flourish. Elfriede played a crucial role behind the scenes. For over 40 years, she worked in the office, handling paperwork and supporting the daily operations of the shop.



Gerry Hammerling and Creg Nieman

Changing Management

In 1987, Gerry's son, Rob, took over running the business, allowing Gerry to step back slightly from the day-to-day responsibilities. Rob continued to lead the shop until 2018, when he decided to retire after more than 30 years at the helm. Gerry remained actively involved throughout, contributing his expertise and guidance.

"I want to be able to talk to each customer when they drop off their car, and that's something we won't change."

Angela Budnick, Gerry and Elfriede's daughter, joined the business in 2002 after her children were in school. Angela's contributions in the office ensures that the finance, marketing, and administrative side of the shop ran smoothly, continuing the family tradition.

In 2011, Angela's son David (at the age of 13), designed and built the company's website, and he also developed digital advertising for the business. This was a change that needed to happen, as marketing communications was shifting to online, and the company did not have an internet presence yet. David continues to monitor the company's computer needs. Angela said that one thing that always stands out is that working with all of the family meant that they could trust and count on each other at all times.

It's always been a family affair, "Angela recalled. I remember when my brother and I were young, we would help sort paperwork on weekends. My dad and mom made it fun, and that involvement instilled a sense of pride in the business."

One of the standout qualities of Arlington is the connection the owners and staff have fostered with their customers. Over the decades, the shop has built lasting relationships, not just by fixing cars, but by getting to know the people who drive them.

We've had customers for four generations, "Gerry proudly shares. "Some of our original customers' grandchildren now bring their cars to us. It's more than just a business – it's a community."

Angela shared that "the highlight of our business has always been the customers. We've shared in their lives – celebrating their milestones and helping them through tough times. It's a friendship not just a transaction."

The next Chapter

As Arlington approaches its 70th anniversary, the business is entering a new chapter with the involvement of Creg Nieman, who has been a key figure in the shop's operations since 2018. Creg, who is set to eventually take over the business entirely, first met the Hammerlings through mutual acquaintances in the auto industry. As a lifelong car enthusiast with years of experience running his own body shop, Stony Brook Collision Center, in Steinbach, Manitoba, Creg was a natural fit for the Arlington team.

"I think I was born into the industry," said Creg. "I've been working with cars, since I was nine or ten years old. My father put a paint gun in my hand, and it just felt like second nature."

Before officially taking on a leadership role with Arlington, Creg worked "undercover" for a period of time, observing the dynamics of the shop and the relationship between staff and management. "I came in as a tech and nobody knew I was going to be part of the ownership," he said. "What I saw was a very strong relationship between the employees and the owners. It was clear that this was a special place."

Creg said that it wasn't feasible to run both his shop in Steinbach and the one in Arlington as well as spend time with his own family, so he sold his interests in Stony Brook to concentrate full-time on Arlington.

Creg officially took over from Rob in 2018, when Rob retired from the business after shadowing him for about a year.

"Rob and I worked closely together to make sure the transition was smooth," Creg explained. "We have similar management styles, and we both value the relationships we have with our customers."

Although he is now responsible for Arlington's daily operations, Creg said it is still the unique family dynamic that has made the business so successful. "It still feels like a family-run business" he said. "even though Gerry is stepping back, he is still around, and his presence is invaluable. Gerry is here almost every day – he was doing yardwork this morning. He's a hardworking gentleman, and having him around is great because you never stop learning."

Angela continues to work with Creg as a team dealing with all aspects of the business. Looking ahead, Creg is excited about Arlington's future, and he plans to maintain the personal touch that has been the hallmark of the business for nearly 70 years. "We don't want to grow too big," he said. "We like to keep to keep that personal connection with our customers. I want to be able to talk to each customer when they drop off their car, and that's something we won't change.

"Whether it's our employees, our customers, or our families, the connections we build are what make this business special."

As Arlington transitions into its next era, the values that were established by the Hammerling family will continue under Creg's leadership. And with the potential for Creg's son, Donnie, a Red Seal technician, to join the business in the future, the family legacy at Arlington shows no signs of slowing down. "We've always been about family," Creg says. "Whether it's our employees, our customers, or our families, the connections we build are what make this business special."

Editor's note: Having been customers of Arlington Auto Body ourselves, we can attest to the high-quality work they deliver and the positive interpersonal relationships they nurture with their customers.

Angela assured me that they have not retired - they are changing their business focus and will pursue new directions. We wish Gerry and Angela all the best for this new chapter.

February 2025 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Epiphany 4 German Service at 9:15 am English Service at 11:00am	3	4	5	6	7 South Central Cluster Group 7pm – 9pm At 255 Waverley Str	8
9 Epiphany 5 w/ Communion German Service at 9:15 am English Service at 11:00am	10	11	12	13 Bible Study @ St. Peter's 7pm	14	15 YA meet at St. Peter's. Two sessions- at 2pm or 6pm. Sign-up needed.
16 Epiphany 6 German Service 9:15am Tea & Treat 10:15am-10:45am English Service at 11:00am	17 Council Mtg. 7pm	18	19	20	21	22 Men's Breakfast 8am
23 Epiphany 7 w/ Communion German Service at 9:15 am English Service at 11:00am	24	25	26	27	28	

Any submissions for the March 2025 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thur, Feb 20, 2025. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnewsl@gmail.com