



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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January 2024

Unterwegs mit Jesus in ein neues Jahr

Im Anfang schuf Gott Himmel und Erde. (1. Mose 1,1)

In den Anfangskapiteln der Bibel hören wir, wie Gott die Erde, Pflanzen, Tiere und schließlich auch die Menschen (unsere Ur-Eltern Adam und Eva) schuf. Mit der Schöpfung entstand Zeit, womit auch die Abfolge von geschichtlichen Ereignissen einhergeht. Wir sind ein Teil einer sich immer entfaltenden Geschichte. Wie die Zeit vergeht, merken wir wieder einmal, wenn wir am 1. Januar in ein neues Jahr gehen. Der deutsche Dichter Friedrich Schiller hat einmal in dem Gedicht „Spruch des Konfuzius“ über den Ablauf der Zeit nachgedacht. Da schreibt er: „Dreifach ist der Schritt der Zeit. Zögernd kommt die Zukunft hergezogen. Pfeilschnell ist das Jetzt entflohen. Ewig still steht die Vergangenheit.“

Als acht Tage um waren und er beschnitten werden sollte, gab man ihm den Namen Jesus, welcher genannt war von dem Engel, ehe er im Mutterleib empfangen war. (Lukas 2,21)

Gott hat Geschichte in die Wege geleitet. Immer wieder kommt Gottes Ewigkeit in unsere Weltlichkeit. Wir haben ja gerade erst das Kommen der Gegenwart Gottes in unsere Welt mit der Geburt Jesu an Weihnachten gefeiert. Nachdem die Kirche im vierten Jahrhundert die Geburt Jesu auf den 25. Dezember festgelegt hatte, konnten damit auch weitere Festtage bestimmt werden. Wir hören in Lukas 2, wie Jesus am achten Tag nach seiner Geburt beschnitten wurde und seinen Namen erhielt. Mit dieser Angabe konnte die Kirche dann am 1. Januar das Fest der Namensgebung Jesu begehen. In Jesus gibt uns Gott einen Retter und Heiland. Darauf weist schon sein Name hin, der übersetzt „Gott rettet“ bedeutet. Nur ein paar Tage später – am 1. Sonntag nach Epiphania – erinnern wir uns an Jesu Taufe im Jordan. Mit unserer eigenen Taufe erkennen wir, dass wir zu Jesus gehören und in Gottes rettendes Handeln eingetaucht sind.

Der Herr segne dich und behüte dich. (4. Mose 6,24)

Möge dieses Jahr schließlich ein segensreiches Jahr für euch werden. Der aaronitische Segen aus 4. Mose 6 ist als alttestamentliche Lesung für den Festtag der Namensgebung Jesu am 1. Januar vorgesehen. Dieser Text, der uns als Schlusssegnen am Ende des Gottesdienstes vertraut ist, ist eine passende Lesung am Anfang des neuen Jahres. Als dieser Segen ursprünglich gesprochen wurde, waren die Israeliten noch auf dem Weg ins Gelobte Land. Wenn wir diesen Text in unserer Zeit hören, dann erkennen auch wir, dass auch wir immer noch als Gesegnete des Herrn unterwegs sind. Mögen wir, jeden Tag aufs Neue, Gottes Nähe und Freundlichkeit spüren. Möge Gott uns, jeden Tag aufs Neue, Frieden geben, unsere Gemeinschaft erhalten, und uns seinen Segen schenken.

Wir stehen an der Schwelle zu einem neuen Jahr. Natürlich wissen wir noch nicht, was uns alles in diesem Jahr erwartet, weil es sich ja erst mit jedem neuen Tag immer weiter entfaltet. Wir wissen noch nicht, was Gott alles mit uns in diesem Jahr vorhat. Doch dürfen wir darauf vertrauen, dass Gott auch in diesem Jahr mit uns geht und uns leitet. Umgekehrt tun wir gut daran, mit Jesus durch das neue Jahr unterwegs zu sein.

Für das neue Jahr wünsche euch Freude und Zufriedenheit, Gesundheit und einen immer fester werdenden Glauben.

In Christo, euer

Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

Going into a New Year With Jesus

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

In the opening chapters of the Bible, we hear how God created the earth, plants, animals and finally humans (our first parents Adam and Eve). With creation, time started which also led to the development of historical events. We are part of a constantly unfolding history. We notice how time passes for example when we enter a new year on January 1st. The German poet Friedrich Schiller once reflected on the passage of time in the poem “A Saying of Confucius,” where he wrote, “Time's pace is threefold. The future approaches with hesitation. The present flies off as fast as an arrow. And the past remains still forever.”

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2:21)

God has set history in motion. God's eternity comes into our world again and again. We have just celebrated the coming of God's presence into our midst with the birth of Jesus at Christmas. After the church had set the date for Jesus' birth on December 25th in the fourth century, other feast days could also be determined. In Luke 2 we hear how Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth and received his name. With this information the church could then celebrate the feast of “The Name of Jesus” on January 1st. In Jesus, God gives us our Saviour and Redeemer. This is already implied in his name, which translated means “God saves.” Only a few days after New Year's Day we remember Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan on the 1st Sunday after the Epiphany. With our own baptism we acknowledge that we belong to Jesus and are immersed God's saving acts.

The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)

Finally, may you experience God's blessings upon you throughout this year. The Aaronic blessing, which can be found in Numbers 6, is the Old Testament text that is assigned to the feast day of “The Name of Jesus” on January 1st. This text, which is pronounced as the final blessing at the end of our worship services, is a very suitable lesson at the beginning of the new year. When this blessing was originally spoken, the Israelites were still on their way to the Promised Land. When we hear this text in our time, we too recognize that we are still on the way as those who are blessed by the Lord. May we, each day anew, feel God's closeness and kindness. May God, each day anew, give us peace, preserve our fellowship, and give us his blessing.

We are on the threshold of a new year. Of course, we do not yet know what awaits us this year, because it unfolds further with each new day. We do not yet know what God has in store for us this year. But we can trust that God will be with us and guide us this year. Conversely, we do well to walk with Jesus through the new year.

For the new year, I wish you joy and contentment, good health and an ever-increasing faith.

In Christ,

Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

**1700 Years of the Nicene Creed.
Confessing the Faith**

Pastor's Bible Class, Thursday, January 16, at 7PM

1700 years ago, in the year 325, the ecumenical Council of Nicaea took place, which was summoned by Emperor Constantine. It was a landmark event for the development of the Christian faith and confession. The Council led to the adoption of the so-called Nicene Creed.

The 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed provides us with an opportunity to talk about our faith, what we believe, and why. Here are some guiding questions for consideration:

What is the Nicene Creed? How did it come about?

What role did Emperor Constantine play in the process?

Who were the church leaders Arius and Athanasius? What was their part in the development of the Creed?

What role does this Creed still play today?

What are the function(s) of a creed? What does a creed do?

And from a Lutheran angle, we can furthermore ask: What does it mean to be a confessional Lutheran? Which are the confessional texts of our Lutheran faith?

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

Major Feast Days in 2025

The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us until the day of his return. This year, again, we celebrate the mystery of salvation.

At a time, before people had ready access to calendars, it was customary to announce on the Day of the Epiphany (January 6) the major feast days throughout the year. Here they are for this coming year, 2025:

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 5. Holy Week starts with **Palm Sunday** on April 13. **Maundy Thursday** is on April 17, **Good Friday** on April 18, and **Easter Sunday** on April 20. **The Ascension** of our Lord will be commemorated on May 29 and **Pentecost Day** will be celebrated on June 8. The last Sunday of the liturgical year, **Christ the King**, will be observed on November 25. The season of Advent begins on November 29. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day follow, as always, on December 24 and 25, respectively.

Scripture Lessons for Jan 2025. Lesungen für Jan 2025

Christmas 2 (2. Sonntag nach Weihnachten) – Jan. 5

1 Kings 3:4-15

Psalm 119:97-104

Ephesians 1:3-14

Luke 2:40-52

Baptism of Our Lord (Taufe Jesu) – Jan. 12

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-15

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Epiphany 2 (2. Sonntag nach Epiphania) – Jan. 19

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 128:1-6

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Epiphany 3 (3. Sonntag nach Epiphania) – Jan. 26

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19:1-6, 7-14

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:16-30

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 light lunch. The AGM will begin at 12:30pm.

Important: ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS, WHICH ARE NOT RELATED TO THE FINANCIALS, MUST BE IN BY DECMEBER 31, 2024. PASTOR'S REPORT MUST BE IN BY JANUARY 10, 2025. THANK YOU (FINANCIALS AFTER THE AUDIT)

Volunteer opportunity

Submitted by Linda Lurvey

St. Peter's *needs your help* 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.

Special January Birthdays

Erwin Erhardt, 88 on Jan 10

Trudy Matz, 80 on Jan 29

Adelgunde Hellmann, 98 on Jan 16

Karl Wegert, 79 on Jan 29

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

Supporting Union Gospel Mission

Submitted by Nancy Lange

In November, St. Peter's embarked on a new venture to support Union Gospel Mission by providing winter clothing and other items for those in need.

On a frigid December day, Barb and I sorted and gathered items for delivery. We were amazed by the generosity of the members of St. Peter's, and we particularly marvelled at the beautiful handcrafted items! With it being so cold outside, we were well-aware of what a blessing these items would be. The friendly staff at Union Gospel seemed to agree as they expressed their gratitude for our gifts.



Once again we were reminded that it is a blessing to belong to such a generous community!



Welcome to Canada, Mehari!

Submitted by Pastor Tom Lurvey

Eight years ago, the Kesete family (husband Geytome, wife Shawit, and daughters Furutuna and Denait), former refugees from Eritrea and now newcomers to Canada, were welcomed by St. Peter's. With help from our congregation, the family quickly began working to make a new life: going to school, finding work, and settling in to Canadian life.

Within three years they were able to save enough money to apply to sponsor Geytome's brother Mehari also to come to Canada. On December 6, they welcomed Mehari at the Winnipeg airport and brought him to his new home.

About 25 years ago, Mehari was about to be forced to join one of the warring factions in Eritrea as a child-soldier. He was able to leave the country, but became one of the millions of displaced people in our war-torn and poverty-stricken world. Since then, in his search for a safe new home, he has been knocked pillar-to-post. Now, finally, he has a place to belong.

With minimal support from St. Peter's, the Kesete family has quickly begun helping Mehari settle in: equipping him with winter clothing, applying for his SIN and Manitoba Health card, enrolling him with Manitoba agencies helping newcomers....

We have been very impressed with the Kesetes—their resiliency, their determination, the value they place upon family and their Orthodox Christian faith. God bless Mehari and his family in their life here in Canada.





Submitted by Jerry Roehr

The next big capital project for 2025 is the construction of a staff house with a small medical clinic, etc. We were asked if we could purchase some necessary equipment for the new building. We made a \$2,000.00 donation out of “Kuwala Funds Held” in response to the request.



A video Christmas greeting to St.Peter’s was received from Kuwala and was played at the December 15th services. The video is now available on the St. Peter’s website.

Madison House. This building on Evanson Street is owned and operated by Siloam Mission. Its Mission is to serve those who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. Our congregation has collected warm clothing in support of the residents. Volunteers are also needed. Pastor Tom Lurvey indicated that he would like to start a chess club and purchase one chess board, and the Mission Committee will buy two more (so they all are the same). Other volunteers will be welcome.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Mission Financial Statement. We are thankful and very grateful that our members and friends fully supported our \$31,000.00 Mission budget. With this support, all budgeted projects and programs could be fully funded. May God grant you the wisdom and commitment to continue your Mission support for 2025.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

John Longhurst. As many of you know, we support the Saturday Free Press Faith Page. John Longhurst is its principal editor. Recognizing his exceptional service to the faith community in particular and his faith articles in general, we are pleased to report that John was inducted into the Order of Canada. *Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

Cluster Groups

At the mission renewal meeting with Pastor Wendel in June 2022, one of the action points that was identified was the formation of cluster groups. These are smaller groups that will meet at regular intervals in a member’s home to discuss topics relevant to our Christian faith (this could for example be a book study, or watching and discussing a Christian documentary/movie or sharing devotions).

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 (if more than one member from a household wish to participate, include all relevant names).
- Your address and part of the city where you live.
- Your telephone number.
- Your email (if available)
- If there is a member you’d like to be in a cluster group with, please give us their name.

YOUNG ADULT AND YOUTH NEWS, NOV 2024, ISSUE #5
BY EMILY ADAMS

Fundraiser Event Nov 16: After much anticipation, the young adults and youth fundraiser dinner event was held Saturday, November 16th in the Erich Griebing Hall of St. Peter's. Thanks to the generous donations from our fellow congregation members and friends, we were able to raise \$1510 to start up the St. Peter's Transportation Program for 2025!

Of course, our dinner could not start until the numerous speeches (which were provided by our host) came to an end. Thankfully, our thirty hungry guests (donors) survived and were allowed to start the first course of their meals, kartoffelsuppe and a bun, while our host and co-host offered the in-house drink concoctions of pomegranate spark and pineapple mojito. If one had asked our mighty team of 5 servers how they were doing at this moment, I am sure they would have said, "The soup is melting my hands!" But do not worry, our servers were strong (and were promised "a little bit" of dinner if they made it through the night) and were soon tackling the next course which was watermelon and arugula salad. Following the salad was the main course that was delicately plated by our talented kitchen team of 4. Each plate was a work of art, custom-made by these skilled artisans. The carrots, brussels sprouts, and mashed sweet potato acted as a gorgeous background, allowing for the highlight of the plate, brisket and gravy, to shine in its full glory. Now, one must finish a delicious meal with a delicious dessert, and it just so happened we had lemon raspberry mousse at the ready for this very moment.

But what made this day even sweeter than our mousse, was the sweet entertainment that 2 of our brave young adults provided us with on this day. They shared their talents of speech with a reading and reflection from Romans 15:1-6, and by singing "This Little Light of Mine".

Finally, after lots of eating, lots of chatting, and lots of resting, the evening drew to a close, and the guests departed. This day could not have happened without our guests and our wonderful volunteers. In making St. Peter's Transportation Program possible, each was in their own way, serving love.



Our Serving Team and Co-host



Our Kitchen Team



Our Entertainers



The Guests enjoying the delicious meal

Pictures taken by Emily Adams, Nancy Lange, Patience Saabon, and Max Schreckenbach at the Fundraiser Dinner event.

Additional fun we had in November! On Saturday, **November 23rd**, the young adults of the Red River Circuit met up once again, and this time for a Potluck lunch held at Peace Lutheran Church. There were many topics of discussion, and we now know who has the most speeding tickets, and what everyone's thoughts are on the latest Disney live action movies out there. What is the Red River Circuit you may ask?

A circuit is a grouping of the LCC congregations located in a designated area of Canada. They are designed to:

1. Assist the congregation and its members in the conserving and promoting the unity of the faith and in carrying out their mission and ministry.
2. Provide a method by which congregations can exercise certain functions which can be performed more efficiently and effectively together with sister congregations.
3. The Red River Circuit is made up of all the congregations in Winnipeg and Beausejour.
 - Our second last young adults and youth event was on **November 24th**. It just so happened that we got to celebrate Christ the King Sunday with Tea and a Treat for You. We had the biggest turnout yet for this in-between services event, with an estimated total of around 50 people attending!
 - Finally, our last young adults and youth event was on **November 29th**, where we were invited to join Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church at their Christmas Tree Decorating event. It was a lot of fun thanks to their youth and Emilie Wappler, their youth and young adult coordinator.

UPCOMING EVENTS INVOLVING YA and YOUTH

- **Cheers to the New Year with Coffee and Chocolate for You**

Stay a while or come early, January 5th between 10:15AM-10:45AM for coffee and chocolate in the Narthex.

- **Winter Devotional Event: A Young Adult Gathering of the Red River Circuit!**

On **Saturday, January 4, 2025** from **2-4pm**, the young adults from the congregations of the Red River Circuit are invited to **St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church** (65 Walnut St.) for a Winter Devotional and Games! Food and drinks will be provided as we gather together for fellowship and faith conversations. We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Pastor Glenn (pastorg@peaceclc.com) if you are planning to attend.

Financial Update - Not audited

Submitted by Ralf Oppitz – Treasurer

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Luke 2:10 (NIV)

As of November 30th:

- Congregational Income [40100] is \$510 less than last year
- Congregational Expenses are \$2,400 less than last year.
- Over all we are \$52,960 short year to date.

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 elmparkcounselling@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 elmparkcounselling@gmail.com

Submitted by Carla Betker



The next **St. Peter's Eaters** breakfast will be held in the church basement on Saturday, January 25 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.

The next **Women's Circle** will meet on Sunday Jan 26 after the 11 am service. All women are invited to attend!

Today and Every Day

Submitted by Barb Schott

Our Christmas Eve Service at St. Peter's was especially memorable this year with the presentation of a Christmas drama entitled "Nativity: Your Place in the Story," written by Pastor Tom Lurvey and enacted by members of the congregation: Allison, Ulrike, Georg, Kele and Henri. Musical numbers by the St. Peter's Singers, led by Linda Lurvey, were interspersed throughout the play and illuminated the story; followed by Pastor Meinhardt's inspired message on the timelessness of "that little word *today*," as proclaimed by the angel on the day of Christ's birth. Pastor concluded with the following Blessing, a reminder to all of us as we enter the New Year: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the Angels, the eagerness of the Shepherds, the determination of the Magi and the peace of the Christ Child. We thank Michael Zacharias for producing the video of the service which is available for viewing on the Church's website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S93xs1qcg98>



January 2025 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 YA gathering Red River Circuit 2-4PM at St. Peter's
5 Epiphany Sunday 9:15AM German 10:15-10:45AM Coffee and Chocolate for you 11AM English	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Baptism of our Lord. Communion 9:15AM German 11AM English	13	14	15	16 Pastor's Bible class at St. Peters 7PM	17 South/Central Cluster group at 7PM	18
19 Epiphany 2 9:15AM German 11AM English	20 Council Meeting 7PM	21	22	23	24	25
26 Epiphany 3 Communion. 9AM German 11AM English	27	28	29	30	31	

**Any submissions for the February 2025 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon
Thur, Jan 24, 2025. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews1@gmail.com**