

# St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 6, 2020



*Sharing the  
Truth of Christ's  
Love by Caring  
for the Needs  
of Everyone!*

MESSENGER

## SUNDAY SERVICE

9:00 am  
(Communion celebrated  
every Sunday)

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

(ages 3 - 4th Grade)  
September - May, 10:00 am

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

(5th - 8th Grades)  
September - May, 6:00 pm

## HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

(9th - 12th Grades)  
September - May, 10:00 am

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

September - May, 10:00 am

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

The question has been raised, "Do we need Holy Communion every service?" This question isn't a new one. It has been asked by many people over many years. Pastor Klemet I. Preuss was struggling with this question in 1983 and decided to research it to come up with an answer once and for all. This article is a synopsis of what Pastor Preuss discovered after a year of research. His entire paper is available in the narthex, or contact Denise Kohlmeyer (office administrator) and she will email it to you.

So, these are the questions Pastor Preuss asked: What does the Bible say? What does our doctrine say? What do the Lutheran Confessions say? What was the practice of the earliest Christians? What is the custom of the church throughout the centuries? What are the positive and negative influences in history which shaped the church's practice throughout the centuries and particularly our practice? Is the whole issue worth all the trouble?

The Bible never tells us exactly how often to celebrate Holy Communion. But then, the Bible never tells us how often to have church services, either. The Bible also never tells us how often to receive absolution. The Bible never says at exactly what age to baptize children. There is a reason for this. You can't place laws and rules upon the gifts of the Gospel, and that's why God, the Holy Spirit, gives you your **faith** to believe in God's Holy Word.

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## Prayer Requests



**Those** who are seeking healing and comfort during a difficult time: Kristy Bartels, Carolyn Boeck (COVID-19), Jean Brewer, Rhonda Driver (Rose Harmon's daughter), Marilyn Eaves, Neva (Rose Harmon's sister), Dennis Roush, Steve Schaar, (Pastor and Marilyn Eaves' son-in-law), Denny Sunderlage, Marilyn Thompson, and John Wieg.

**Members** who are residing at care centers: Meta Meyer and Ellen Nelson at The Sheridan at Tyler Creek, and Fern Warfel at Tower Hill Care Center.

**Members** experiencing difficulties in getting around: Alta Dittman, Mary Jane Lindaas, Mabel Maas, Doris Meilahn, Eleanor Miller, and Betty Roush.

**People** suffering from physical, emotional, economic, or coronavirus (COVID-19) pain, and residents at Deer Path Assisted Living.

**St. Peter's Mission** to be revealed by the Holy Spirit and inform us of how to share Jesus' love with our neighbors.

**For the people** who are grieving the loss of loved ones.



## Attendance



### ATTENDANCE

**Nov. 25:** 27  
**Nov. 29:** 49  
**Dec. 2:** 20  
**Dec. 6:**  
**Dec. 9:**  
**Dec. 13:**  
**Dec. 16:**  
**Dec. 20:**  
**Dec. 23:**  
**Dec. 24:**  
**Dec. 27:**

### TRUE PRACTICE OF FAITH

Tithing is a question not of reason or convenience or what God will do for us, but of faith in God as our Creator and Owner. Tithing involves complete trust in His providential promises.

## Altar Flowers



**Altar Flowers are always, first and foremost, given for the glory of God.**

### December 6

Given by Pastor & Marilyn Eaves, in honor Harley & Janie Eaves' 62nd wedding anniversary.

### December 13

Given by Don & Sandy Dorwaldt, in honor of their 59th wedding anniversary, December 9th.

### December 20

Given by Dick & Kristy Bartels, in memory of both sets of parents who have gone home to be with the Lord.



*Showing Jesus to others is so simple, yet so profound a gift. Here are two ideas in which you can "be Jesus" to those around you during this Christmas season.*

### TIME

Our days and hours are precious to us. But how could you give some of your time and attention to someone who needs to hear that Jesus cares about them? Call them, or write them a letter during this Christmas season.

### PRAYER

Praying for one another is part of being the body of Christ. Who's on your heart today? Spend time praying for them, then send them a note or email letting them know.

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In the New Testament there's no mention of Sunday services without a mention of the Lord's Supper. Paul describes the earliest services in **Acts 2:42 (ESV)**: "*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*" So, the breaking of bread, or Holy Communion, was a common part of the normal Christian service. These services were held in the evening, since most of the people worked on Sundays. It wasn't until the year 321 AD that Sunday became a day of rest for Christians.



There are some religions who believe that Saturday is the first day of our week and thus the day of rest.

Another reference to Sunday services is found in **Acts 20:7 (ESV)**: "*On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.*" This Scriptures go on to describe a service with preaching, followed by the breaking of bread. We get the impression from these verses that Sunday evenings were reserved for two things: instruction in Holy doctrine and Holy Communion. While they may not have gathered every Sunday, every time they did gather for worship they received from their Lord His Word and His Sacrament of Holy Communion.

This same thing is shown in **1 Corinthians 11** where Paul admonishes the congregation for celebrating the Lord's Supper earlier than planned to exclude some of the poorer people. Paul calls the people to wait and include all the members of the church.

The literature of the first two centuries shows that Word and Sacrament (Holy Communion) were the universally common Sunday practice among Christians. One of the earliest Christian writings besides the Bible is called the *Didache*. It was written about the year 100 AD or possibly earlier, before the last Apostles had died. In this writing the people are directed to, "Assemble in common on the Lord's own day to break bread and offer thanks; but first confess your sins so that your sacrifice may be pure."

The earliest surviving Christian liturgy, called the *Apostolic Traditions*, was written about the year 125 by Hippolytus. The work is something like our Lutheran Agenda, which is the book Pastor uses in leading the services. In *Apostolic Traditions*, the Bishop and the people exchange greetings, "The Lord be with you, And with your spirit, Lift up your hearts, We lift them to the Lord, Let us give thanks to the Lord our God, It is right and proper to do so." Immediately followed by the Words of Institution. This was the every-Sunday expectation of the early churches.

The founding document of the Lutheran Church, next in line to the Bible, is the *Book of Concord*. This is a compilation of multiple documents that Martin Luther used to show his understanding of Biblical teachings. In the *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*, section XXIV titled "The Mass" (this is not the mass of the Catholic church but the term used in the early church for the worship service), Part 1 reads: "At the outset it is again necessary, by way of preface, to point out that we do not abolish the Mass but religiously retain and defend it. Among us the Mass is celebrated every Lord's day and on other festivals, when the sacrament is made available to those who wish to partake of it, after they have been examined and absolved. We also keep traditional liturgical forms, such as the order of readings, prayers, vestments, and other similar things."

Pastor Preuss' essay has too much information to include in this short space. His final conclusion says: "Should the churches of Christ celebrate the Sacrament every Sunday? Yes, they should. The Bible teaches it. The confessions of our church require it. The Gospel expects it. The history of the church shows it. The liturgy demands it. Our children need it. Our faith thrives on it. Our heritage gives it. Our God provides it."

For a more comprehensive understanding of this, please read Pastor Preuss' essay in its entirety. Then reach out to me if you have further comments or concerns.

***Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!  
Christ has died! Christ is risen! He will come again!***

## This Week at St. Peter's

<b>Sunday, December 6</b>	Worship, with Communion <i>Donut Sunday &amp; LWML Mite Sunday</i>	9:00 am
	Christian Education	10:00 am
<b>Tuesday, December 8</b>	Outreach Committee Mtg.	6:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, December 9</b>	LSP Chapel	11:15 am & 2:45 pm
	Confirmation Class	6:00-6:45 pm
	Second Week of Advent Service	7:00 pm
<b>Thursday, December 10</b>	LSP Chapel	11:15 am

Dessert will be served  
after each Advent  
Service (December  
9, 16, & 23).



Volunteers are needed to  
provide and/or serve these  
desserts.

A sign-up sheet is availa-  
ble in the narthex beneath  
the Flower Chart on the  
credenza.

Thank you very much!  
**Beth Jack**

## Anniversaries

<b>November 28</b>	James & Mary Henk
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This is the last Sunday you  
can order Scrip cards from  
Nancy Beaman.

## LWML Zoom Advent by Candlelight

**Monday, December 7 @ 7:00 pm**

Welcome: Sherrie Smith  
Opening Prayer: Kris Blackwell  
Jesus is the Light of the World (John 1:9): Hellena Hopkins  
Jesus is Lord of Lords (1 Timothy 6:15-16): Teena Dorn  
Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6-7): Diana Maanum  
Advent Meditation: Pastor Howell  
Candle Lighting & Song: Shannon Sanew  
Closing Prayer: Kirsten Smith

The link for the Zoom Advent Candlelight is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81042065115?pwd=cWo2ZWFWbHFSdzNGTm1tZjJjYXoxQT09>

Meeting ID: 810 4206 5115  
Passcode: 458257

## Special Assembly

There will be a Special Congregational  
Assembly on Sunday, December 20 to  
discuss a mandatory mask service for the  
9:00 am Worship Service. The Assembly  
will be held immediately after Service.

*There will be a Celebration  
of Life Open House for  
Ray Brammer at Kevin Brammer's  
home Saturday, December 12,  
from 12:00 - 5:00 pm.*

*500 Michigan Avenue  
South Elgin, IL 60177*

### Rev. Thomas Eaves

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### Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

### Pastor's Office Hours

Mon., Wed., Thurs.  
10:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Tues., Fri.  
10:00 am - 12:30 pm