

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church North Plato

43W301 Plank Road, Hampshire, IL, 60140, 847-464-5721

December 24, 2023

Sunday Service

9:00 am

(Communion celebrated every Sunday)

Children's Sunday School

(Ages 3 - 8th Grade)

September - May, 10:00 am

High School Sunday School

(9th - 12th Grades)

September - May, 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study

10:30 am

Confirmation

5:00 pm

*Sharing the truth of Christ's love
by caring for the needs of everyone!*

The Gift that Counts

Throughout my life and probably yours I have heard a saying, "It's not the gift; it's the thought that counts." It is meant to convey the truth that no matter what the worth or source of the gift, the important thing is that someone thought enough to give you the gift.

My first remembrance of this was when I was about 8 years old. My daddy was a volunteer fireman in our home town and they had a Christmas party every year. Part of the celebration was Santa would arrive and hand out gifts. It was a great night with lots of food, fun, Santa, and a gift. The gift turned out to be a wallet. For some reason I was devastated because it wasn't a toy. It was a wallet. On the ride home my brother and I were sitting in the back seat and all I could do was complain about the wallet. At some point in my lamenting, my daddy imposed an educational moment on me and probably everyone else in the car. Daddy quickly pulled over to the side of the road (this is when the theme from Jaws began playing) and turned around and looked directly at me and said, "You should be thankful you got a gift. It's not the gift; it's the thought that counts. Santa went to a lot of trouble to get you a gift. If you don't stop your complaining, I'll just cancel Christmas right now." There was probably something about starving and unfortunate children all over the world who would love to get a wallet thrown in for good measure. I knew daddy meant what he said so needless to say I stopped complaining.

Jesus is the one gift where the thought is great, but He is the one gift that has to and does count. Jesus counts eternally. You see God the Father's desire, not thought, that no person should die separated from Him in death needed a gift that could only be fulfilled by His Son, Jesus Christ. For people to be reconciled to the Father a perfect, sinless sacrifice had to be made. Jesus is the only person that fulfills the requirements.

On a night almost 2,000 years ago, God the Father sent the world the first Christmas gift and the only gift that counts. He calls us as believers in His Son, Jesus Christ, to share that special gift with everyone we encounter any time we have the opportunity and not just at Christmas.

MESSENGER

Prayer Requests



Those who are ill:

Don & Elaine Adams, Pamela Andrews, Gloria Balgeman, Alicia Briskey (acute leukemia), Steve Collins (Linda Butt's son-in-law), Payton Cowan, Marie Gehrke, Sherry Gehrke (for wisdom with farm dealings), Rose Hartwig, Evelyn Hertrich, Karen Johnson, Ernst Kohn, Daniel Kowalski, Linda Mandell, Paul Mills, Dave Neisendorf, Dennis Roush, Lynn Robertson (cancer), Andy Schuring, Norm Schuring, Shaquita (Nakaila Slaughter's mother), Karen Stojan, Marilyn Thompson, Kathy Voog, Joe Watzlawick (Bobby Watzlawick's father-cancer), and Andrea Zachotina

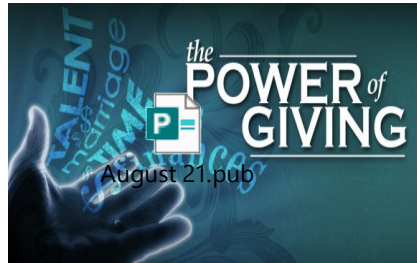
Those residing in healthcare centers:

Don & Elaine Adams (Heritage Woods), Dave & Carol Bahr (Highland Oaks), Donna Butts (unknown), Walt Claus (The Sheridan at Tyler Creek), Marie Gehrke (Avondale), Meta Meyer (The Pointe at Eastgate), Ellen Nelson (The Sheridan at Tyler Creek), Bill Mikesell (Crescent Care), and the residents at Deer Path Assisted Living

Those serving in our military:
Aidan Buttrum and Ally Mills



Attendance



Attendance

November 22:	32
November 26:	44
December 3:	57
December 6:	20
December 10:	57
December 13:	29
December 17:	67
December 20:	23
December 24:	
December 31:	

Altar Guild



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

December 24

Given by Pastor and Marilyn Eaves in honor of their son-in-law, Steve Schaar's, birthday.

Life Quote - December 24, 2023

"This time of the year always fills us with cheer | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!" Jerrod Nelson —*A Life Quote from Lutherans for Life, lutheransforlife.org.*



Life Thought - December 24, 2023 - Advent IV/Christmas Eve

Almighty God has profound interest and investment in childbearing and childrearing (2 Samuel 7:12; Luke 1:31). He had made this relationship and vocation central to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every mother and father, every son or daughter embodies the love of the Lord for humankind. While abortion attempts to conceal the realities, our sanctity-of-life advocacy gets to reveal this delightful mystery (Romans 16:25).

While you may angst over what to give someone at Christmas, a birthday, or other special occasion, You have the eternal gift that counts, costs nothing to share, never wears out or becomes obsolete, and is a perfect fit for everyone. In some cases, the recipient will complain as I did about the wallet. Others will embrace the gift with curiosity or even belief. Your task is to share the greatest and best gift of all and leave the rest up to the Holy Spirit.

It's all summed up in a very special Bible verse that a lot of people, believers and unbelievers, are familiar with. *John 3:16 (ESV) says* **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.** Have a blessed and merry Christmas!

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

Poinsettia Care

From G&E Greenhouses, Inc., Elburn: To maintain the beauty & health of the plant—

1. Handle carefully as bracts bruise easily;
2. Keep away from cold drafts and heat sources;
3. Keep room temps. Between 65-75 dgrs;
4. Bright, indirect light is best;
5. Water when plant becomes lightweight or when soil is dry to the touch;
6. Discard excess water in the pot cover, foil, or saucer, so it doesn't sit in water.

Please call 630-365-9040 if you have any questions.



My Pantry Express from Northern Illinois Food Bank

The Northern Illinois Food Bank has a program called **My Pantry Express**, where you can conveniently order groceries from a nearby distribution center and they will be delivered to your home via door dash. This program is for anyone in need, and is completely on the honor system. You only need to go online to support@mypantryexpress.org, click the “shop now” button, check the availability calendar, add items you would like to your cart, and finally select location, time, and check out. You can also call 630.443.6914. This is a **free** service to many of our counties, including Kane, all year long. There are a few fliers in the narthex for you, if you would like one. Please pass along this information to anyone you know who is in need of food. If you have questions, please talk to Heidi Blezien or call her at 630.913.1277.



Worship Assistants

	Elder	Ushers	Greeters	Reader	Altar Guild
12/24	Steve Sporleder	Fern Petersen	Bette Wine	Ally Mills	Paul & Darlene Tegtmeier
12/31	Jeff Pergande	Christy Petersen	Dave & Pam Neisendorf	Denny Sunderlage	Paul & Darlene Tegtmeier

Birthdays	
12/25	Chuck Petersen
12/26	Mike Bensko
12/29	Payton Cowan

Lutheran Hour
<p>December 24 "Community and Conversation" Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler This Christmas Eve, God wants to be found in the human community gathered in the name of Jesus and in the conversations connected with Him.</p> <p>December 31 "The Exit from Regret" Rev. Dr. John Nunes When life becomes an endless roundabout of regret, Christ is your entrance to forgiveness and a new start.</p> <p>Broadcast Stations & Times: Sundays WGN 720 AM, 6:30 am WGSF 91.1 FM, 4:30 pm WKKD 1580 AM, 9:30 am</p>

This Week		
Sunday, 12/24	Worship - Advent 4 & Children's Christmas Program <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> Worship - The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve) Candlelight Services w/ Communion	9:00 am 1:30 pm, 7:30 pm, & 11:00 pm
12/25/2023 - 1/7/2024	Little Saints Preschool Christmas Break	
Monday, 12/25	Christmas Day Worship w/Communion Office Closed	9:00 am
Tuesday, 12/26	Office Closed	
Wednesday, 12/27	Chapel - Deer Path	10:00 am
Looking Ahead		
Sunday, 12/31	Worship	9:00 am
Monday, 1/1	New Year's Day Office Closed	
Wednesday, 1/3	Chapel - Deer Path	10:00 am
Thursday, 1/4	Bible Study Elders Meeting	1:30 pm 6:30 pm
Sunday, 1/7	Worship <i>Donut Sunday (hosted by Ladies' Aid) & LWML* Mites Sunday</i> Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am
Wednesday, 1/10	Chapel - Deer Path Chapel - Little Saints Preschool	10:00 am 11:45 am
Thursday, 1/11	Chapel - Little Saints Preschool Bible Study	11:15 am 1:30 pm
Sunday, 1/14	Worship Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am
Monday, 1/15	No Preschool <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	
Wednesday, 1/17	Chapel - Deer Path	10:00 am
1/17 - 2/9	Denise on medical leave <i>(Please call Pastor Eaves directly, if necessary, 701.340.8324)</i>	

* Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Rev. Thomas Eaves
 Pastor
 224-242-4151 (office line)
 701-340-8324 (cell)
 pastorflyboy@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours
 M, W, TH, F
 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
(Before coming in, please call ahead to ensure he is available.)

Mrs. Denise Kohlmeyer
 Office Administrator
 847-464-5721
 office@stpetersnorthplato.org
 www.stpetersnorthplato.org
 Facebook: @SaintPetersHampshire

Church Office Hours
 M - F: 9 am - 1 pm

Mrs. Kristina Kolodziej
 Little Saints Preschool Director
 847-464-5134
 preschool@stpetersnorthplato.org
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 Facebook: Little Saints Preschool