

# LIFE TOGETHER

St Peter's Lutheran Church  
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Pastor Richard (Rick) Shives  
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**JANUARY 2018**

Pastor: Richard (Rick) Shives  
Church Secretary: Carolyn Aleshire  
Organist: Judy Wise  
Custodian: Dot Gruber

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Lector ~ Karen Peterson  
Ushers ~ Annabelle Kayser, John Wyand  
Communion Assistant ~ Linda Wigfield



Beloved Members of St. Peter's,

As the first three months of my being your pastor come to a close, I am filled with much Thanksgiving and Great Joy. I am thankful to God for bringing me to St. Peter's, and filled with Joy at the Wonderful Welcome I have received from you the members of St. Peter's.

The end of one year and the beginning of another is usually a time to look back to what has been and to look forward to what can be. To look back or not to look back includes both the positive as well as the negative things. To look forward to what can be or should be possible is also an important exercise.

One of my favorite Biblical Passages, which is especially appropriate at this time of year, is when the prophet Joel, inspired by God, spoke as follows: "I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind. Your old people shall dream dreams and your young people shall see visions".

I think this passage speaks well to us here at St. Peter's. Some of our more senior members, and I must include myself since I am now on the other side of sixty, dream of what was and what can be again. However, we need the help of our younger members to incorporate our dreams as part of their visions.

It is important to dream, to try to imagine how, for example, we can help in some small way to make the world a better world. "I have a dream", these words have been immortalized by Martin L. King. The dream was a clear vision of where he wanted to take his people: calling them from bondage to freedom. It was like an Exodus event.

We do not have to start on such a grand scale. We can start by reminding our friends and neighbors that St. Peter's is a viable force for doing God's work in our community. This can be as simple as each of us making it a point to speak with others about our church. Tell them what St. Peter's means to you.

Few people "just wander" into a church; we must make them want to come in. This invitation should be reflected in all we say and do as a people and as a church from the appearance of our Church on the outside, to the smile on our faces when we talk about St. Peter's. Invite them to church. They may not come on the first invitation but continue to bring up St. Peter's in conversations you might have. You might try saying something about the Pastor's message the previous Sunday. Now I'm the first to admit I don't hit a home run every Sunday but if the message spoke to you share it.

Look to the Holy Scriptures for inspiration. St. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, writes about the mystery hidden for all ages in God and which now has been made known to us in Christ. It is the dream or vision of God's plan for the world and the mission of the Church in that plan: to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

Jesus, our Savior and God, became man to give us full freedom as Sons of God. In Jesus and with Jesus we can realize all our dreams and hopes because he said: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart: and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light".

I know that with Keeping Our Eyes on the Cross, the Guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the Work and Determination that you as a Church have proved yourself capable of, Our Best Days lay ahead of us.

By His Grace Alone,  
Pr. Rick

## Children's Sermon in December



Lighting advent candle



Beth introducing our newest member to the children's sermon



FaithWeavers program on Christmas Eve morning,  
Alex on the piano



Solo by Malea



Christmas Eve Morning

Pastor Rick



Craig and Eva lighting advent candle



Christmas Eve Night Service  
Candle light services with Todd playing the guitar



Christmas Cantata



Pastor Rick



The FaithWeavers ventured out caroling on Dec 28th.  
The group stopped at five houses spreading love and joy.



A Heartfelt thank you.

Hugs and thanks to the angel carolers who braved the cold weather, visited us and sang from the bottom of their hearts Christmas carols. Their visit was the climax to a most wondrous holiday season. Lanie, Malea, Patrick, Alex, Linda, Gary, Jenny, and Beth, you made the evening. Thank you. You guys are truly angels.  
Kaye and Les Ridenour, AKA Mimi and Pop Pop.

And while we are giving thanks, Christmas Eve Services, words cannot describe the beauty and wonder. Our morning service in which the kids told us the story that has never grown old, of Jesus birth as each one lit a candle in His honor. Then, at ten o'clock that evening, the Cantata, 'Sing Christmas' lead by Judy, Carol, Lynn, Alpha, Dot, Gary, Stefan, Todd, Pastor Rick as our choir, directed by Beth, Pastor Rick reading the story of Christ's birth from the Bible and the members and guests adding their voices to the carols we learned as children. The day and evening will remain as a favorite memory for years to come. Thank you everyone. Kaye and Les.

## **2018 COUNCIL**

At our December 10<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting Karen Peterson, Rose Vermeer, and Judy Wise were elected to serve a three-year term on our congregational council. When the council met in December, officers for 2018 were established.

Co-Presidents – Glenna Hull and Karen Peterson

Vice President – Charmaine Canan

Secretary – Pat Linton

Council members – Wayne Gruber

Rose Vermeer

Judy Wise

Thanks to Gary Wigfield, John Younker, and Carol Belz for their years of service. Your devotion to St. Peter's is greatly appreciated.

January



1<sup>st</sup> Peyton Schnebly  
5<sup>th</sup> John Canan  
7<sup>th</sup> Lauren Myers  
13<sup>th</sup> Wyatt Gearhart  
18<sup>th</sup> Donna Gruber  
29<sup>th</sup> Gary Wigfield



## FEBRUARY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector ~ Judy Wise  
Ushers ~ John and Nancy Younker  
Communion Assistant ~ Glenna Hull



....All who attended our Advent breakfast. We were able to welcome our youngest, Lukas.

....Those who prepared, set up, served, and cleaned up our Advent breakfast.

....Carol for having materials for our Advent wreath making.

....Everyone who decorated the sanctuary as well as other areas of the church for Christmas.

....Our church was filled with participants for Christmas in Clear Spring. Thanks to all who helped in anyway with that evening.

....Gary and Linda for securing & transporting poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary from the Clear Spring High School FFA.

....Coats were given to a needy family. Thanks to those who made that happen.

....Gary and Linda for answering the request of a mom by purchasing gifts for her children for Christmas plus all members who donated money to help that effort.

....Kaye who reports all info to the Herald Mail. The Christmas ad was terrific!

....FaithWeavers for the Christmas Eve morning program of reading and songs.

....Malea, our youngest soloist, whose solo was awesome!

....All who shared their talents - Beth, Judy, Carol, Lynn, Dot, Alpha, Gary, Stefan, Todd, and Pastor Rick - to present a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service to be remembered!

....Our carolers (Alex, Patrick, Malea, Lanie, Beth, Jenny, Linda, and Gary) for their welcomed visits to numerous members.

....Gary for the many years serving as council president guiding us through trying times.

### **JANUARY at ST. PETER'S**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Council meeting after church service

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Lunch Bunch ~ Uno's @ 11:30 AM

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Women of the Church meeting after church service

Newsletter information due