



Parish Gazette

December 2024

ELCA Parish of Trinity-Stettin
and St Peter Lutheran-Hamburg



From the Pastor's Desk...

Rev. William Ostrem

A bright light will shine to all the corners of the earth; many nations will come to you from far away, the inhabitants of the ends of the earth to your holy name, bearing gifts in their hands for the King of heaven. Generation after generation will give joyful praise in you; the name of the chosen city will endure forever.
-Tobit 13:11

The term, bearing gifts, often gets mentioned during worship, in scriptures, and in describing our own faith or the faith of others. This beautiful term honors the gifts that are present in numerous ways. We recently saw what it means to bear gifts as our eight youth come forth to celebrate Holy Communion. This is such an amazing experience in our faith these excited youth remind us that we get to share at God's table with all those who have gone on before us and all those among us. God comes bearing gifts to us through God's son, Jesus Christ, the sacrament bears gifts of grace, love, mercy, compassion, and eternal life.

We also remember Thanksgiving, which is a time of bearing many gifts. The gift of being able to spend the day with family and friends, to have homes filled with smells of the food being prepared, hear laughter and joy fill the rooms. It's a gift to be reminded of how much we are loved and how much love we have to give. As the tradition of hunting spans and joins generations, whether you harvest your deer not, it's a gift to be able to witness God's creation.



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Trinitystettin.org

Parish Assistant
Wendy R
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trinitystettin@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Tues / Thurs
9am-1pm

Follow us on Facebook:
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Mutual Ministry Committee

Jayme B
Jaisie K
Randy A

Amy F
Amy M



We look ahead towards our Advent season as we again give thanks and sing praises for the Savior was born. Last month, I began to speak about the life-giving gifts of Advent and the Christmas season. I'm excited about us using new liturgy and a slight new order of worship during this time and I hope you find it just as meaningful to your own faith practices. The Advent weeks focus on the many gifts shared in the Christmas story as bearing gifts become the pivot point of Jesus changing the world. In lifting up the idea of bearing gifts, it gives us a chance to reflect on Christ who came bearing gifts for a world in need and for all those who came that night with the gifts they had to give. Even today, we come bearing gifts for others, those we know and those who we have never met. During the Advent season, we have the opportunity to bear gifts given to us that others may also receive God's love. That others find the gifts of grace and love through food and presents wrapped in love as they too gather as family and friends. That an ordinary table be turned into a place where Christ's presence is near and fills the room in blessings.

God Bless you, everyone! -Pastor Will

Announcements

SCRIPT CARDS

The last order for script cards for Christmas will be **December 8, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact Dave P or Susan T.



SPECIAL MUSIC

If individuals, families, or groups would like to perform any special music for the Christmas Eve services, please let Pastor Will and Laurie know by **Sunday, December 8th**.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

There is **NO** get together for the Men's Breakfast for the months of December and January.

***** ATTENTION ST PETER VOLUNTEERS *****

We are, again, looking to take photos of our volunteers for our directory. Volunteers of the following groups, please gather in the Sanctuary following church service on **Sunday, December 8th**.

Ushers/Carport Greeters
Communion Assistants
Lectors
Bell Ringers
Acolytes

Any questions, please contact one of the directory committee members:

Susan M
Michelle G
Barb K

The Giving Tree is Here!

Help spread holiday joy to youth and families in need across Lincoln, Langlade, and Marathon counties!

**Giving Trees are up at both
St Peter and Trinity**



For the past 14 years, we've provided clothes, hygiene products, household items, and toys to families who otherwise might not have gifts to open on Christmas.

How You Can Help...

- Select a tag from the tree and return gifts (wrapped or unwrapped) to your church by **Sunday, December 8th at your worship time.**
- Want to help but can't shop?
Contact **Haley E** to donate and have her shop on your behalf:

Thank you for your generosity!

Note from St Peter's Treasurer:

Member Offering Statements for taxes will only be mailed or put in your church mailbox if you request a copy by December 31, 2024.

Requests can be emailed to:
stpeterlutheranchurch@yahoo.com
Or call/text Jennifer

VACATION REMINDER:

Pastor Will is going on vacation **Monday, January 6 through Sunday, January 19** as he travels to Greece-Turkey. He will be back in the office on Monday, January 20th. Information for church contacts while he is gone will be in the January Newsletter. Any other questions, please contact Pastor Will.

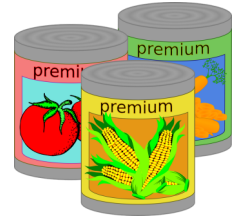
DIRECTORY PROJECT

We would like to take this opportunity to give a big **Thank You** to Patti B, Amy F, Michelle G, Janice H, Barb K, Susan M, Connie N, Shelby O, Jennifer P, David P, and Susan T for all their hard work on the Picture Directory. This committee has spent countless hours planning to make the directory the best it can be. If you see any of these individuals, please let them know how appreciated they are.

Thanks again!

"FROM THE MANGER" TO THE TABLE

During Advent from December 1 - December 24, each congregation will be collecting food items for a local food pantry. Starting **December 1st**, both congregations can begin bringing items in. Please prayerfully consider supporting your congregation's chosen pantry.



St. Peter Church will be collecting for *Athens Circle of Joy*. Circle of joy serves the Athens area alongside their partner in Edgar that serves the Marathon City / Edgar area. They help to provide emergency food items as well as food vouchers to help offset food and personal care needs.

Trinity will be collecting for *The Neighbor's Place* in Wausau. Neighbor's Place serves the Wausau area's many needs of the community from furniture to household items as well as being a hub for food distribution. Neighbor's Place has an on-site food pantry as well as a central location where food items go out to other food pantries in the Wausau and Mosinee area.

For both congregations, we will be focusing on non-perishable and non-expired food items. If you wish to contribute financially towards either food pantry, we will provide a collection container for you. Thank you for your prayerful support to those in need.

-Pastor Will, St. Peter Council, Trinity Council

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!



CAROLING

Join us on Saturday, **December 14th at 1pm** for an afternoon of laughs, fellowship, singing and bringing much joy to many people. You don't have to be a great singer to come along...

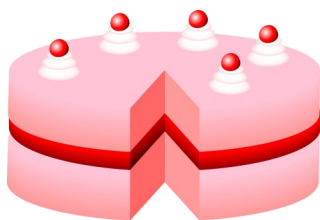
All are welcome! The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards near the mailboxes.

Bake & Craft Sale

Mark your calendars for the Youth Group's annual Bake & Craft Sale on **Sunday, December 15th**.

Funds from this sale will be donated to the youth group for future events. Please have all donations to Trinity or St Peter Churches prior to the Worship Services.

Thank you in advance for your donations & purchases!



WAUSAU LYRIC CHOIR

A beautiful representation of collaboration! The Wausau Lyric Choir is joining with Wausau Pro Musica, Inc. for a holiday performance to remember. We hope you'll join us!

Tidings of Comfort and Joy
First Presbyterian Church,
406 Grant Street, Wausau on
Friday, December 13, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 14, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.

Questions? Need additional information?
Please contact Lynn M
Wausau Lyric Choir Member



All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 3, 2024, we celebrated All Saints Sunday. We lifted up those who were baptized and those we have lost within the last year. Members were invited to come forward to light candles in honor or in memory of those dear to their hearts.



Deadline Reminders

Bulletin announcements: Due by 9am Tuesday mornings.
Bulletins are completed on Tuesdays.

Newsletter Articles: Due by end of day the 3rd Friday of the month.

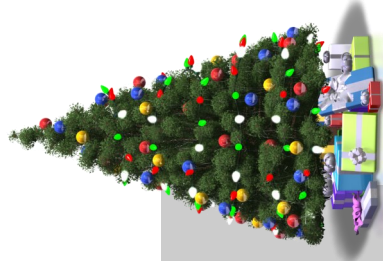
Directory photo pickup...

**Photo orders will be available on Sunday, December 1, 2024.
Please make arrangements to pick them up.**

Trinity church will have their photos available in the church entry. Please sign your photo order out so they know you have received it. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Janice H

St Peter church will have their photos in the fellowship hall. One of the directory committee members will be available for you to receive your order. Please call Susan M if you have any questions or concerns.

December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Sunday School	2 St Peter Council Mtg 6:30pm	3	4 Confirmation 6-7pm Trinity	5	6	7 Youth Bake/Craft Event 9-noon
8	9 Trinity Council Mtg 6:30pm	10 Quilting 1pm	11 Confirmation 6-7pm Trinity	12	13	14 No Men's Breakfast Caroling 1pm
15 Youth Craft & Bake Sales	16	17	18 No Confirmation	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21 9-11am Program Rehearsals
22 Children's Program	23	24 Worship St Peter 4pm Trinity 6pm	25 Worship Trinity 9am	26	27	28
29 No Sunday School	30	31				

Trinity Church



December Volunteers

DATE	USHER/CARPORT	COMMUNION	LECTOR
<i>December 1st</i> <i>1st Sun of Advent</i>	Myron & Karen T, Robert D	Randy A	Candyce K
<i>December 8th</i> <i>2nd Sun of Advent</i>	Richard & Janice H, Jim W, Jim W	Richard H	Richard H
<i>December 15th</i> <i>3rd Sun of Advent</i>	Denny & Patti B, David K	Denny B	David K
<i>December 22nd</i> <i>4th Sun of Advent</i> <i>Children's Program</i>	Mike & Jayme B, LuAnn H	Mike B	_____
<i>December 24th</i> <i>Christmas Eve 6pm</i>	Perry & Connie N, Rena W	Rena W, Denny B, Richard H	Myron T
<i>December 25th</i> <i>Christmas Day 9am</i>	Bill & Nancy B, Sandy U	Bill B	Bill B
<i>December 29th</i>	Duane & Audrey M, Shari P	Randy A	Kay G



St Peter Church

DATE	USHER / CARPORT	BELL RINGER	COMMUNION	LECTOR	ACOLYTE
<i>December 1st</i> <i>1st Sun of Advent</i>	Bill & Rita M	Bob F	Amy F	Bill M	Emma K
<i>December 8th</i> <i>2nd Sun of Advent</i>	Jennifer F, Eugene F	Susan T	Mary K	Mary K	Leila W
<i>December 15th</i> <i>3rd Sun of Advent</i>	Mary & Scott S	Scott G	Jacie D	Mary S	Brett D
<i>December 22nd</i> <i>4th Sun of Advent</i> <i>Children's Program</i>	Becca K, Bob F	Bob F	Amy F	_____	Carson K
<i>December 24th</i> <i>Christmas Eve 4pm</i>	Linda & Lyle Z	Bill M	Bill & Rita M, Dan K	Linda Z	Aiden K
<i>December 29th</i>	John & Val S	Susan T	Haley E	Val S	Benjamin W

Youth Page



This is the place to find out what is happening in Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth group, and the exciting things they are involved in.

YOUTH GROUP



Bake Sale & Caroling Prep Event – Sat., Dec. 7th 9am-noon, @ Trinity Basement

Bring your creativity to make some Christmas goodies for our Congregational Bake Sale and gifts for our Caroling visits. Plenty of activities for all. We'll be making decorations and gifts to deliver when we carol. Or if crafting isn't your thing, we'll also be baking and making various treats. Sampling will be allowed. Pizza and soda to follow.

Caroling Sat., Dec. 14th 1pm-4pm

Bring your whole family as we travel around town sharing the joy of the Christmas season with our home-bound parishioners.

The larger church will be participating, too, so plenty of joy and song to share! Song sheets will be provided...just bring your Christmas spirit.



Bake Sale Sun., Dec. 15th before/after worship services at St. Peter & Trinity

We'll need some bodies to help sell items as we collect funds for future events. Watch for a "SignUp Genius" link in email to book your time.

A Synod Youth Gathering for Middle & High School Youth

The Bible says that NOTHING has the power to separate us from God's love. This year, the gathering will explore ways we can know, share and experience the love God has for us in Christ Jesus. Activities include interactive Bible study, play and prayer.



ROMANS 8:38-39

- Where:** Imago Dei Village, Clintonville, WI
- When:** February 21st (arrive 6pm) - February 23rd (depart 11am)
- Cost:** \$25 non-refundable by the participant, remainder covered by the Youth Group

For more information, or to book your spot, contact Pastor Will or Mike B.

We'll coordinate travel plans accordingly.

Early bird registration is due January 13th, standard registration is due January 27th.



Congregation Members:

The youth group is ready to help our congregation family this coming spring with household/yard clean-up tasks. If you have tasks you want some assistance with, please reach out to one of our leaders or Pastor Will and we'll coordinate times as the weather allows. A bunch of young, able-bodied, service-ready folks can make those chores fast & easy and save our aging joints!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes & Christmas Program

Just a reminder that we will not have Sunday School on Nov. 24, Opening Deer Rifle Season and Dec. 1, Thanksgiving Break.

Our Christmas program will be **Sunday, December 22 during the worship services.**
St Peter: 8:30am Trinity: 10:15am

Kids will practice for the program during Sunday school in December. We will then hold one dress rehearsal the Saturday prior to the program. With only one rehearsal, we ask that all children please attend as it is very important to go through the program at least once with all children present. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 21 from 9-11AM. We will not have Sunday School on the day of the program. Kids are asked to arrive in the church basement by 9:45AM (Trinity), 8:00AM (St Peter) on December 22. An email will be sent to all of the Trinity Sunday School families with program details prior to Thanksgiving. We will then take a winter break from classes and resume on Sunday, January 12, 2025.



FIRST COMMUNION

On Sunday, November 17, 2024, eight of our Parish youth received their First Communion. These students took part in a class learning about this special faith journey. They also made their own bread and chalice to be used on their special day. Congratulation to Grant B, Henry B, Deacon D, Liam G, Dane K, Addyson K, Parker K, and Sadie K. God Bless!



Bread and Chalice making...





Now that the bread & chalice making is done, lets practice for the big day...



The special day has arrived... Congratulations to all!



St Peter

Pastor Will

Addyson
Grant

Deacon
(not pictured)



Trinity

Pastor Will

Back Row:
Liam
Sadie
Parker

Front Row:
Henry
Dane



CONFIRMATION



Finish up Fall Semester

Dec. 4, 6pm at Trinity

Dec. 11, 6pm at Trinity

Enjoy your Winter Break,

No classes Dec. 18, Dec. 25, Jan. 1

Spring Semester Classes

Resume Jan. 8, 6pm at St. Peter's

Council Updates

These are summaries of the minutes from all council meetings. If you would like a copy of the complete minutes for either church, please contact a council member.

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY October 7, 2024

Pastors Report:

- New Members – Approval requested for Krautkramer family (4). Mathwich family (5) Perkins (1) Agree to invite them to participate in directory photos.
- Advent Materials – have been ordered/arrived. Will tie to food pantry collection supporting Athens circle of Joy program. Start collecting December through Christmas Eve.
- Using Name Tags – Offering the option of wearing a name tag during service at St. Peters as well – motion passed.

Old Business:

- Replacing Copier – Buy the new copier from Bauernfeind. Reach out to EO Johnson to confirm termination of contract and removal of old copier.
- Snowplow Contract from AJR – Accept contract for snowplowing services from AJR Trucking.
- Roof Estimates – Collected estimates from 2 of 3 vendors. These numbers will most likely change due to the hurricane damage in the south. Will try to get an idea on costs to bring to the annual meeting for approval.
- Mold Estimates – Northstar cleaning \$95/hour with a \$1500 minimum, K-Tech \$2750 estimate. Used Northstar. Will need to run dehumidifier which will need to be emptied or run a hose.
- Painting stairs/floor – 2 paint suggestions were provided, need about 1 gallon, approved.
- Carpeting – Can try to re-glue spots using a syringe, will try on a test area first.
- Directory Update – Group pictures can be done at St. Peter or Trinity depending on the members availability.
- Constitution/Bylaws update – Tabled for next meeting.

New Business:

- Joint Council Agenda Items – Caroling was already brought up at Trinity meeting, need to determine a date.
- Cardinals for sale – 30 red cardinals to be sold for the Christmas tree in memory of. The council agreed there are no concerns with offering them for sale to the congregation, but this should be run through the Christmas committee outside of the Church Council.

**ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2024**

Pastors Report:

- Acolytes – Confirmed we still want to assign youth to this duty. Will review in summer to see if we should remove.
- In Memory of Sign – “In Memory of” plaque was on old sign board in front of church. Since the sign was removed, trying to locate family to return the plaque back to. For now it is stored in a drawer by the mailboxes.
- Caroling – Youth are baking items 12/07/24. Proposed 12/14/24 for caroling. Want 2 teams for shut in list. Put out a sign out sheet and confirm during Joint Council.
- Vacation – Pastor Will has asked for vacation 11/25/24 through 11/30/24. Approved.

Old Business:

- Replacing Copier – New copier was delivered. Old copier was removed and contract was terminated with EOJ.
- Computer – Took the treasurer’s computer to BestBuy and it was fixed.
- Building Maintenance – Roof estimates will be provided to congregation during annual meeting for approval to replace roof. Mold is cleared, need signs to keep doors open. Stairs still need to be done by the property committee. Working on fixing carpet. Painting by old mailboxes.
- Directory Update – submitting final pictures this week. Expect draft in January. Need to determine how many should be purchased for the pews and potential new members. Will split costs 50/50 with Trinity.
- Constitution/Bylaws update – Started review of draft document.

New Business:

- Mutual Ministry – Will need a new council representative. And two other individuals from the congregation.
- Giving Tree/Feed the Families – Motion was made to contribute again this year.
- Church sign approver – Patti Borchardt agreed to replace Amy Mathwich as the second approver for messages posted to the church sign. Jacie Dehnel is the other approver.
- Steeple Cross – Steeple Cross is not working. Need to determine whether it is the cross or the timer.

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Summary
November 11, 2024**

Treasurer’s Report –October 2024

General Fund: \$7,684.13	Memorial Fund: \$173,267.05–value of 3 CDs=\$155,450.56
Income: \$19,537.18	Expenses: <u>\$11,089.06</u>

Pastor’s Report

- Visitations were made in October by Pastor and the Lay Ministers.
- October Newsletter/Bulletins-announcement about upcoming communion table-have gotten no response from any members of Trinity.
- Parsonage update-new oven ordered (getting installed on Friday, November 15th)
 - * Also looking for replacement stove hood.
- Membership update: Request from Jeff & Julie Lawrence and children to be released. Request from Chris (Hanke) Heil to be released.
- During Pastor January trip, the following people will lead the Sunday services:
 - * Mike Buttke on January 12, 2025 and Roxie Kenitzer on January 19th, 2025. There will be not Holy Communion at either service on those Sundays.

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Old Business

- Membership update-Trinity should start doing a time and talent update at least annually
- Internet Options researched: several internet options with Spectrum, Starlink, Network Professionals and County Wireless. Motion to pursue Spectrum internet services at the 400 mbps speed at the 1-year lock at \$79.98/month plus taxes. Motion to approve. The council will do more research on the mesh system as well.
- Caroling-Saturday, December 14th at 1:00 pm (youth group is making cookies and items to be delivered during caroling). The shut-in list will be used for those that the carolers will be going to. Sign-up lists will be put up in church and bulletin will be updated with date and time.
- Directory update-everything is finishing up. Estimated Price per directory is \$21/book (approximately a 36-page book). Trinity would need 68 directories for the pews plus 32 directories for new members to have on hand. 100 directories would be \$2,100.

New Business

- Christmas Decoration-Creating a Christmas Decorating guideline.
- Annual Meeting Prep/Nominating Committee-Duane, Joel and Mike's terms are ending. They become the nominating committee. Looking for volunteers to serve a 3-year term on the council.

**TRINITY/ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY
November 12, 2024**

Pastor's Report:

- Milestone Youth Ministry – There was funds gifted to the Parish through Pastor Will for the purpose of special ministry. Pastor would like to make these funds available... for youth milestones related to 1st Communion and Confirmation, but also congregation members have the opportunity to support this youth ministry through their prayerful giving.
- Vacation – January 12th (Mike Buttke) and January 19th (Roxie Kenitzer) will have lay ministers and no Communion due to shortage of Pastors available to fill in.

Old Business:

- Christmas Caroling – Mike Buttke and Myron Totzke will be organizing group. Scheduled for 12/14/24 at 1:00pm, leaving from Trinity. Will deliver bake sale and craft gifts from Youth group. Listing in newsletter and bulletins.
- Name Tags – Shared feedback between the churches on implementing name tags. Upcoming Holidays, events, and new members are good reasons to encourage continued use.

New Business:

- 2025 Alternating Worship Service Schedule – Reviewed schedule and there are no concerns will rotate churches during lent. Individual councils will review Lenten meals at the next meeting.
- Joint Worship – Would like to plan another event in spring of 2025. Mike Buttke offered to have his Church Mutual singers perform. Will address with new joint council members in February 2025.
- 2025 Salary Adjustment for Parish Assistant Wendy R – Joint Council proposed a \$1.00 per hour increase (5.4%).
- 2025 Salary Adjustment for Pastor Will Ostrem – Joint Council proposed a 4.5% increase.

Next Council Meetings

St Peter Council Meeting:
Trinity Council Meeting:
Joint Council Meeting:

Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30pm
Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:30pm
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30pm (Trinity)



Trinity—St. Peter ELCA Parish
232280 120th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401-5443

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Trinity Council

Mike B
President

Duane M
Vice President

Lisa H
Secretary

Joel B
Treasurer

Rena W
Financial Secretary

Jaisie K
Mutual Ministry

Marlo K
Property Committee

Jim W
Property Committee

Perry N
Property Committee

St Peter Council

Scott G
President

Jacie D
Vice President

Amy M
Secretary/Mut.Min.

Jennifer P
Treasurer

Dale B

Patti B

Nicole H

Susan M

Lyle Z

