

## WEEKLY NEWS AND NOTES

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:** After each petition, the pastor/vicar will pray, "Lord, in your mercy," and the congregation will respond with "Hear our prayer."

**LET US PRAY** Glory be to You, eternal Father, for expounding the mystery through Your prophets and evangelists of the advent of Your Christ for our salvation, by which our eternity has been assured when He comes again in all His glorious splendor for us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

### **PULSE OF THE CHURCH (Attendance)**

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Last Sunday Worship Attendance: | 207 |
| Sunday School Attendance:       | 43  |
| St. Peter's Total Membership:   | 953 |

| <b><u>Our Gifts To Our Lord:</u></b> | <b><u>Last Week</u></b> | <b><u>Total This Year</u></b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Offerings:                           | \$ 6,498.00             | \$ 310,321.65                 |
| Weekly Budget                        | 6,692.31                | 341,307.81                    |
| Compared to Budget                   | -- 194.31               | — 30,986.16                   |

*Hebrews 1:1-6 or Titus 3:4-7: When God wanted to let the world know what was really in His heart He didn't simply send another prophet but instead sent His only-begotten Son to be born as a human being of the Virgin Mary. God's most precious Christmas gift moves us to show our joy and gratitude in works of love. Christian stewards do good things, not to earn God's favor, but as a response to His extravagant love and gift of a Savior.*

### **ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Thursday (29) | Divine Worship Services 7:00 pm               |
| Saturday (31) | New Year's Eve Divine Worship Service 6:00 pm |
| Sunday (1)    | New Years Day Divine Worship Service 10:00 am |

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**WELCOME TO ST PETERS LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL!** We are happy that you are here to worship God with us at this Divine Service today! We invite you to join us in preparation for the coming of Christ, who was born of Mary in time, and begotten of the Father from eternity. He was born in a stable as there was no room in the inn for the Christ child. May we always have room for Him in our hearts, minds, bodies and souls. Thanks for joining us!

[www.stpeterswaterford.com](http://www.stpeterswaterford.com): Where do you go for the latest news and information about St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Our website, of course!

**HEARING ASSISTANCE** Portable listening devices are available. Please see an Elder or Usher to assist you.

**YOUNG CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS** are available. The coloring page and stickers may be taken home. Please replace the bag in the plastic box when finished.

**WELCOME CENTER** The Board of Evangelism has set up a "Welcome Center" in the narthex. The center is designed to make visitors and guests feel welcome and to give them a place to sign our Guest Book and pick up brochures, tracts, and other information about our church. Stop by and check it out. We also ask that you offer a warm welcome to our visitors and direct them to our new "Welcome Center."

**2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES** have been placed in your mailboxes. (Each family has a mailbox) Extra envelope boxes for additional family members are on a table in the narthex. If you did not get a box, please notify the church office and a box will be issued for you. Please use your 2011 envelopes through this year and begin using your 2012 envelopes beginning in January. (Numbers may vary).

**PRAYERS** There is a Prayer Request Book located in the narthex. Feel Free to use this book to request a prayer. Also check it periodically to pray for someone else. *Board of Social Ministry*

**ANNUAL REPORT TIME** All Boards, Committees and Organizations with a checking or savings account please have your 2011 Annual Report in the office by January 16<sup>th</sup>. You may drop it off, fax it (262-534-2571) or email it to joan@stpeterswaterford.com.

**THANK YOU** We have received a check of \$24.25 from Chris' Cool Closet for consignments and a percentage of sales to St. Peter's members.

**TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY** At this special time of year, we have received a very special blessing. Through the grace of God and with the help of all your prayers, our grandson, Alex has started to walk again. Each day is another step to Alex's recovery. Your prayers, cards and words of encouragement have been appreciated. May you all have a wonderful Christmas.  
Bob & Luanne

**UPDATE ON THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR ISSUE** Since the last Voter's Meeting the Associate Pastor Study Committee has completed the benefit and feasibility study and submitted a recommendation to the Church Council to proceed with the call process to fill the position of Associate Pastor. The Church Council has accepted and approved this recommendation. The Church Council will be presenting the motion to fill the position of Associate Pastor at the January 29<sup>th</sup> Voters' Meeting. This motion will also include terminating the Vicarage program concluding at the end of the existing term. Given the importance of this decision, the Church Council is recommending that a majority vote of 2/3 of the members present must be met to approve the Associate Pastor position and terminate the Vicarage program.

**A special information meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 8th, at 11:30 a.m. for members to ask questions about what team ministry would look like and the associated costs.** Every member of the congregation is strongly encouraged to attend. *(The Packers will not be playing that day.) Why have a second pastor? How will it enhance the ministry for all of us? What is the financial impact of this? Should we do it? Can we do it?* Please join us to meet and ask questions and gather more information before making such an important decision.

**HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR CARD?** For the past several weeks we have been asking our members to fill out their commitment cards. They are different this year. We are not asking for a pledge amount from anyone. We simply asked that you fill out the card indicating that you have carefully thought and prayed, and have made a commitment to give of your time, talents, and treasures to the Church in the coming year. The amount and the extent of your participation is between you and Lord. All we wanted to know by returning the card is that you do acknowledge the gifts and talents God has given you and you do intend to be good stewards of those gifts. To date we have received 25 cards from the 360 we distributed. At the very least, people just forgot. But we also wonder if, for a large group of people, it didn't seem important to think about their Christian stewardship and show their commitment by turning in a card. At worst, people have decided not to support our church this year. In any case, it's rather obvious that the bulletin inserts that ran for 8 weeks and the 8 week Bible study Pastor Bischoff led on stewardship had little or no impact on the vast majority of our members. We don't know what that says, it but it's hard to spin it in any positive way. The box to receive the cards remains in the narthex. Additional cards can be found by the box. The Board of Stewardship will check it again in a couple of weeks.

**COMPUTER CLASSES** Want to feel more comfortable using your computer? Want to save the pictures your kids and grandkids send you? Need to create a list in your email program? Write letters, publish a newsletter, prepare a resume with Microsoft® Word. Calculate your retirement income, develop a household inventory, or balance your checkbook with Microsoft® Excel. Create posters, slide shows and fliers with Microsoft® PowerPoint. Open a whole new world with Internet surfing. Read the church newsletter online, as well as news from all over the world. A limited number of spaces are available for classes in these popular applications beginning in January. If you would be interested in attending a class, please let us know by contacting Pat Jahn at 262-662-1687 or [pjahn@wi.rr.com](mailto:pjahn@wi.rr.com).

**NEWSLETTER CHANGE** In an effort to save on printing costs, we have cut down on the number of Newsletters we are printing. To compensate, we have posted the Newsletter on the church web site. If you have internet access, we encourage you to read the Newsletter online. If you do not have access to our Newsletter online, feel free to take a paper copy. They are located on the shelf by the church mailboxes. Online newsletters will be archived so you can always look at past issues. We'd also like to remind you that our Sunday bulletins are always posted on our web site so you can catch up on the week's events and announcements if you happen to miss a Sunday.

**CREATION MUSEUM** - Pastor Tom Chryst from Grace Lutheran Church in Racine is organizing a trip to the Creation Museum (near Cincinnati), on April 13-15, 2012. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Pastor Chryst at [tomchryst@yahoo.com](mailto:tomchryst@yahoo.com).

**THANK YOU** Love, Inc. would like to wish everyone in our community a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year! We would like to thank everyone for all of the support we receive throughout the year.

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