St. Peter Lutheran Church
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Delphos, Ohio 45833
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DELPHOS, OHIO 45833

The Mission of St. Peter Lutheran Church is to grow our faith in Jesus as we journey together and serve others.

January Newsletter Deadline: Monday, December 21st



The Messenger



Christmas Eve Service: Thursday, December 24th | 4:00 PM

The Messenger
St. Peter Lutheran Church – December 2026

A Little Bit of This and That for December…

How can it be that 2026 is almost over? The time this year has flown by, and we have this last month of December to make memories and live into our faith.

One of the most memorable times of the year happens during Advent and Christmas. We get out the advent wreath and light it each Sunday with different themes of *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love* being the focus as we await the birth of our risen king, Jesus.

We place our hope and trust in Jesus to come to us. Then we celebrate Christmas Eve with a candle lighting service to remind us that Jesus is the hope and light of the world. We turn out the lights and, in the darkness, the light shines forth. We sing *Silent Night* and we are filled with love, that is not only the love of Jesus, but it is the love of family and friends in our midst. It is a light that reminds us that love is here and possible. It is a light that reminds us to allow the light of Jesus to shine out from each one of us as we go forth into the world.

May this Advent and Christmas, be a time to worship and preparation of our hearts to receive Jesus in new and powerful ways. May we have new memories of preparing our hearts to receive Jesus not only as a baby, but as our risen Lord, who truly is the light of the world.

May you be blessed!

Love, Pastor Carol

PS: These are the words to the song I wrote that came to me as a prayer, and you can pray this during the weeks of Advent. Week One = Hope, Two= Peace Three = Joy and Four = Love

*Come, Lord Jesus, bring **hope** to our world.*
Come. Come. Come.
For we are your people in need of you.
Come. Come. Come.



Monthly Finance Reports:

Month: October 2026	Month Actual 2026	Month Actual 2025	YTD Actual 2026	YTD Actual 2025
Total Pastor	$ 7,018.61	$ 6,567.59	$ 73,778.86	$ 69,812.21
Total Worship	$ 1,129.16	$ 1,418.41	$ 11,587.80	$ 11,050.23
Total Teaching			$ 425.00	
Total Office	$ 903.02	$ 1,278.07	$ 13,409.04	$ 12,933.43
Total Maintenance	$ 423.49	$ 1,313.34	$ 5,633.78	$ 10,030.53
Total Utilities	$ 1,055.49	$ 975.72	$ 9,912.98	$ 10,105.32
Total Insurance & Taxes	$ 455.80	$ 402.08	$ 7,779.40	$ 7,295.47
Total Other				
Subtotal Expenditures	$ 10,985.57	$ 11,955.21	$ 122,526.86	$ 121,227.19
Total Benevolence	$ -		$ 4,880.13	$ 3,056.82
Total Secondary Acct	$ 53,974.81	$ 9,242.78	$ 79,096.95	$ 34,324.98
Total Payments	$ 64,960.38	$ 21,197.99	$ 206,503.94	$ 158,608.99
Total Receipts	$ 27,804.90	$ 28,139.14	$ 183,518.18	$ 155,788.86
Total Payments	$ 64,960.38	$ 21,197.99	$ 206,503.94	$ 158,608.99
Excess or Deficit	$ (37,155.48)	$ 6,941.15	$ (22,985.76)	$ (2,820.33)
Beginning Cash	$ 14,229.72	$ (9,761.48)		
Add Receipts	$ 27,804.90	$ 28,139.14		
Less Payments	$ 64,960.38	$ 21,197.99		
Ending Cash	$ (22,985.76)	$ (2,820.33)		
Note: Primerica investment for $35,138.38 was cashed in for church door replacement on June 16, 2026. These funds have been removed from the General Fund and are now in the Capital Improvement Fund as of October 15, 2026.				

Vanco is a resource we have for giving electronically to the mission and operation of St. Peter. There is a link on our website and on our Facebook page: it is a great way to set up your giving when you will be away or just wanting to give electronically. We are all called to live into generosity in our giving and if this link would be helpful to you, please try it out.

http://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8NS/home

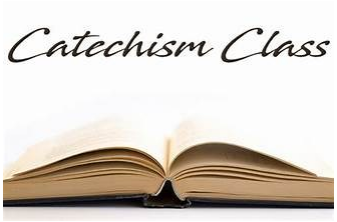
Mark your calendars:

There will be a congregational meeting on December 20th to vote on the council recommended budget for 2027. Eric Fritz will present the 2027 budget on November 29 at the beginning of worship and printed copies will be made available at the back of the sanctuary.

Upcoming events at St. Peter Lutheran Church!



Sunday School in the Parish Hall. Everyone ages 3 & potty trained through adults are welcome to attend.
The Youth Sunday School will be doing a Christmas Program during the service of December 20th. There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 27th and January 3rd



The next catechism class will be on December 6th from 1:00-3:00pm, then on December 13th the students will have the option to go caroling with other church people in town to bring Christmas cheer to those are shut in or in the nursing homes in town. This is led by Bob Ulm. The residents especially love seeing the young people.



Lifewise:

To align more with the school in safety precautions, the front doors to the church will be locked when Lifewise is in session. There is a doorbell between the glass doors that you can use to be let in the church during those hours. Thank you for your cooperation!

Young Adults:

Breakfast at Jim's on Saturday, December 12th at 9:00am.

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin with be with us on December 6.



Bishop Daniel will preach and preside at communion. There will be a potluck dinner following church. Bishop Daniel will present a short video about the mission and work of our synod. InReach/OutReach will provide ham and another meat for the dinner. You are invited to bring sides and desserts.

On of the leadership gifts our Bishop Beaudoin is his deep faith and the work to raise up ministry leaders in congregations. I was able to come to you because of his forward thinking to raise up Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAM's). I was your SAM beginning in September of 1999 until I completed seminary in 2022 and was approved for ordination.

Many of our churches in the Northwestern Ohio Synod have SAM's serving due to the short supply of ordained ministers. This is a time when God is raising up leaders within congregations to help meet ministry needs.

Bishop Beaudoin will share information about ***The Growing in Faith*** program that provides opportunities to members of congregations to participate in online studies to grow their faith in deeper ways. Many SAM's have participated in this program to grow their faith and then answered a call to serve their home congregations.

I am hoping that you will all come to church on December 6 to get to know Bishop Beaudoin. Then plan to stay for the potluck and enjoy the fellowship.

The best way to spread Christmas Cheer is singing loud for all to hear



Community Caroling Opportunity to bring Christmas Cheer: Bob Ulm has invited us to join other members in the community to go caroling to those who are unable to get out this winter to bring some holiday cheer. Meet at Bob's house (505 West Second Street) at 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 13th for a little warm up. We will then carpool to several homes of shut-ins and finally sing at both nursing homes. There will be sheets with words to the most popular Christmas songs in case you've forgotten some of the words. Pastor Carol can give you more details if you are interested. Children and adults are welcome to participate.

The Delphos Ministers will be hosting the annual Community Christmas Program at St. John's the Evangelist on Monday, December 14th at 7:00 PM. The two high school choirs will be singing as well as the St. John's Church choir from Landeck. There will be individuals as well to share their gifts of music. A free will offering will be taken to provide funds to help stranded travelers or those experiencing some sort of emergency while traveling. This program provides a wonderful way for all the members of our churches to come together and enjoy the gifts of music and get in the Christmas spirit.

On December 6, at 6:00PM, Dr. David Baily from Delphos Trinity is hosting a **Carols, Cookies, Cocoa, and Cider** event that will feature his son, David Jackson Baillie, on the keyboard. All are invited to come and enjoy an evening of fellowship, singing and good cheer.

InReach/OutReach

Prayer Chain – If you would like your name added to the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan on the cell phone number listed above. *Do NOT send her computer an email.* You may call or send her cell phone a text message. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office. Please have permission from the person or family before we publish any names.

Keep our shut-ins and military friends and families in your prayers.

Shut-ins

Sharon Reel - Vancrest of Van Wert
Norma Koenig - Vancrest of Delphos

Military:

Fred Hasting	Navy	Stateside
Christian Jarman	Air Force	Stateside

General Announcements

Radio Ministry was given to the glory of God in November by:

- Ed Fritz in memory of Jacquie Fritz
- Dave Stemen in memory of Connie Stemen
- Members of St. Peter Lutheran Church

The flower chart sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please sign up for that special occasion or celebration. Let the office know what you would like printed in the bulletin.

Are you looking for ways to serve in the church? Below are a couple ways to get involved.

Money Counters:
We need to have a few more volunteers to count the offering after church on Sundays.
If interested in helping out, please let Lauren know by talking to her or emailing the church office at stpeterdelphos@gmail.com. Thank you!

Greeters and Ushers:
A new opportunity to serve is to be a greeter before church. Arrive early and stand at the door to welcome everyone as they enter the sanctuary. Ushers are also needed; this will include passing out bulletins and help with the offering. They also have an important role in welcoming others to worship. Would you consider being an usher?

Fellowship time after church -- We are asking for members to come and fellowship after church and need baked goods. Would you be willing to bake or purchase something for this special time to connect with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Sign up posted on bulletin board in Parish Hall.

Communion:
Being a communion assistant is a special job to bless people with the blood and Christ during communion. It is humbling and yet very rewarding. Would you consider being a communion assistant?

If you willing to volunteer your gift of love and care to do any of these roles on Sunday morning, please let Pastor Carol or Lauren in the office know so we can get you on the schedule. If a date you are unavailable, please let Lauren know and she will help find a replacement for you. Thank you all for you help in the ministry of St. Peter Lutheran Church.



Altar Guild is starting to prepare for Christmas and will be beautifying the altar with Christmas poinsettias. They will be red and cost $7.50 each. Envelopes are on the tables in back of the church or you can contact Angie Miller 419-234-2115 to place your order by December 6th. Please help us celebrate and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

If we do not have your birthday listed. Please contact Lauren to get your name on the list to recognize your special day.



1) Sheri Swick
3) Alexa Marlow
4) Angie Miller
12) Corey Kloeppel
13) Patti Calvert
15) Noelle Prine
16) Dan Marlow
17) Jonathan Finn
18) Cathy Wreede
20) Martina Himmeger
20) Leonard Prine Jr.
21) Kyrstin Skym
26) Sue Vasquez
26) Mike Finn
28) Elaine Wiechart
29) Troy Kloeppel

Last year with your support of various clubs, organizations, and toy drives, we were able to provide 194 children with happy memories on Christmas morning and over 193 fruit plates to our elderly and shut ins. Thank you for your support! We hope we can continue to count on you this year. If you know of anyone who could use a little help this Christmas please let us know. Send those names, with a short note, to

Delphos Community Christmas Project
PO Box 283, Delphos, Ohio 45833

If you choose to contribute to us this year, there are Angel Tree Cards at the local banks and other businesses throughout the city. There are also various toy drives you can contribute to. If you choose to make a monetary donation, your tax deductible donation can be mailed to the PO Box address above.

Thank you for your support. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

-The 2026 Delphos Community Christmas Project Committee

Prayer Group Lunch at Do Good Restaurant in Osgood, Ohio on December 16:
We will meet at the church at 11:00 am to carpool. Let Kim Perrin know if you can attend, as she will be making reservations for all of us. (Note that in case of hazardous road conditions, this will be rescheduled.)



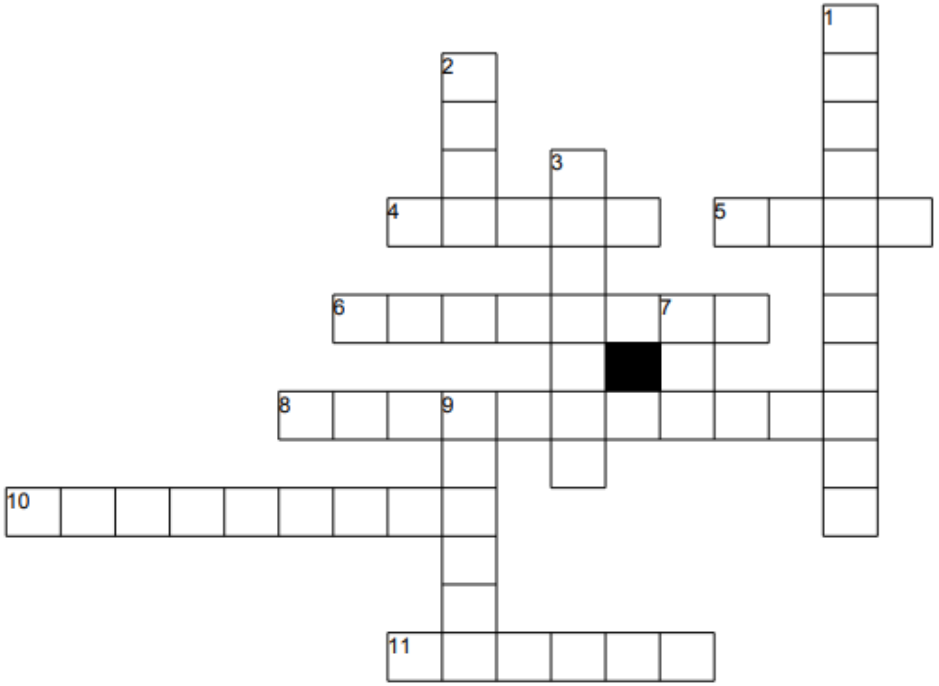
SERVICE	TIME	MONEY COUNTERS	ALTAR GUILD	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHER	GREETERS
Sunday, Dec. 6	10:00 AM	Dan Marlow Rick Dienstberger	Angie Miller Sarah Miller	Alayna Beverly	Jenny Snipes	Dan Kramer	*needed
Sunday, Dec. 13	10:00 AM	Alan Trentman Lynn Miller	Angie Miller Sarah Miller	Gavin Kimmet	Jacob Trentman	Dan Kramer	*needed
Sunday, Dec. 20	10:00 AM	Ryan Trentman Rick Dienstberger	Angie Miller Sarah Miller	Austin Munshower	Rick Miller	Matt Weitzel	*needed
Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	Dan Marlow Lois Ewing	Angie Miller Sarah Miller	Caleb Trentman	Jacob Trentman Aaron Trentman	Dan Kramer Matt Weitzel	*needed
Sunday, Dec. 27	10:00 AM	Sue Kloeppel Deb Trentman	Angie Miller Sarah Miller	Roy Trentman	Rachel Munshower	Jacob Trentman	*needed
Sunday, Jan. 3	10:00 AM	Alan Trentman Lois Ewing		Wyatt Kimmet	Jenny Snipes	Aaron Trentman	*needed

If there is a date that doesn't work for you, please let Lauren know and she will help find someone else to fill in for you. *Thank you!*

DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Prayer Group 18 Days Study 7:00 -8:30	3	4	5
6 Sun. School 9 AM Worship 10 AM w/ Bishop Daniel Potluck after church Catechism 1-3 Trinity's Xmas Program @ 6:00	7	8	9 18 Days Study 7:00 -8:30	10	11	12 Jim's Breakfast 9:00 AM
13 Sun. School 9 AM Worship 10 AM Christmas Caroling @ 1:00	14 Community Christmas @ St. John's 7:00 PM	15	16 Prayer Group Lunch at Do Good Restaurant	17	18	19
20 Sun. School 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School Christmas Program	21	22	23	24 **Christmas Eve Service** **4:00 PM**	25 	26
27 Worship 10 AM	28	29	30	31		

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS KNOWLEDGE



Across

4. God spoke to Joseph in this
5. How many weeks are there in Advent?
6. Mary and Joseph traveled from ____ to Bethlehem.
8. Mary and Joseph offered two of these at the temple
10. The town where Jesus was born
11. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem for a

Down

1. Jesus was _____ when he was eight days old
2. This guided the shepherds to the stable
3. The angel ____ told Mary she would be the mother of Jesus.
7. How many Sundays are there to celebrate Christmas?
9. Mary and Joseph took Jesus to this to be dedicated to God.

Draw & Color

Color in the holy family.



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KidStuff

By Clergy Stuff

Narrative Lectionary Kid's Bulletin

December 24, 2026

Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]

The Birth of Jesus

God was coming into the world as a little baby—Jesus! His mother, Mary and her husband Joseph were on a long trip. They had been walking for miles and miles.

"I'm so tired," Mary said. "Are we almost there?"

"Yes," Joseph said. "Bethlehem is just ahead. Let's find a place to stay."

But when they got into town, there were no rooms left anywhere! One kind innkeeper said, "You can stay in my barn. It's not much, but it's warm and dry."

That night, baby Jesus was born. "He's beautiful!" Mary said. She wrapped him in cloth and laid him down in a soft pile of straw in a manger.

Isn't it amazing that God came to us as a poor baby who was born in a barn among the animals?

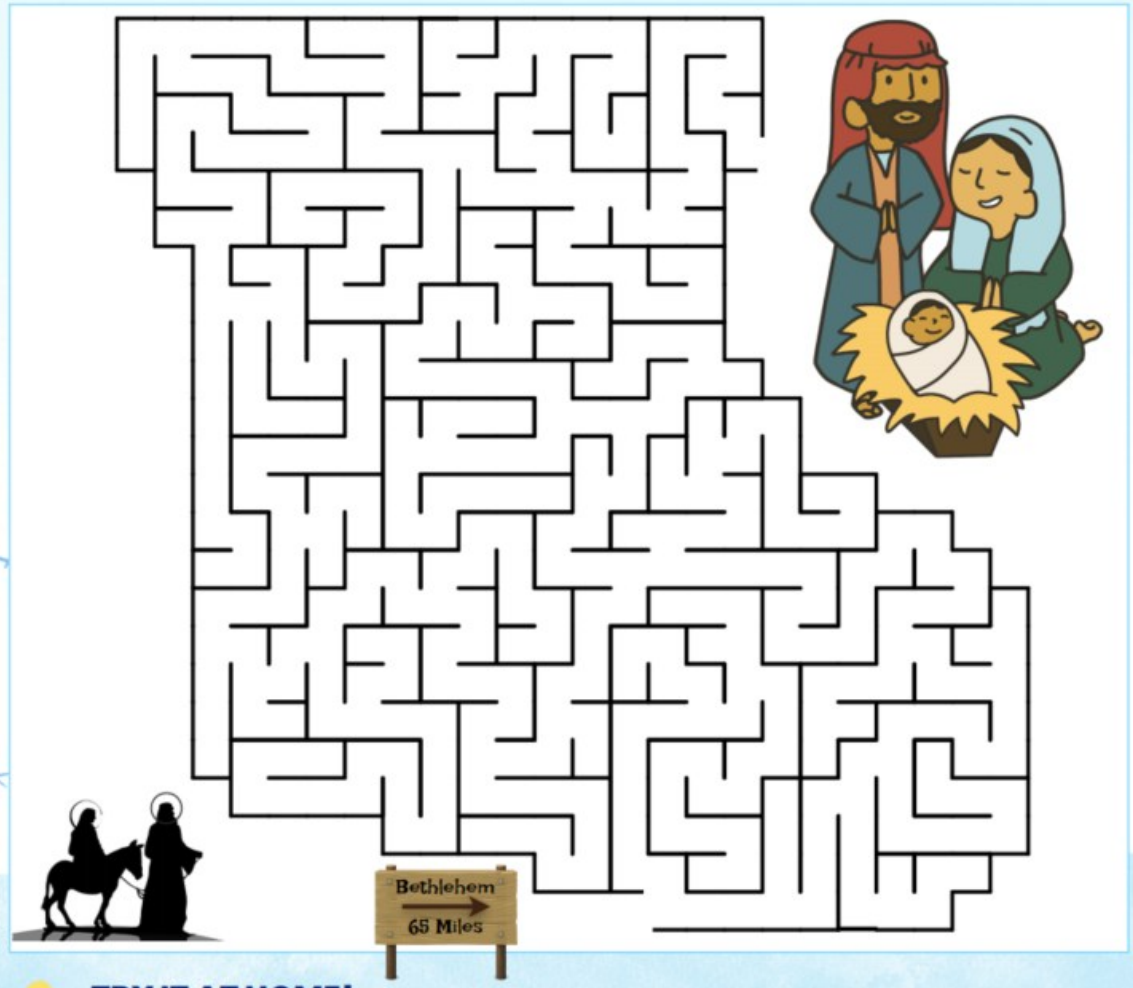
REMEMBER THIS

MANGER

A manger is an open box filled with food for animals. That was baby Jesus' first crib.

A LONG JOURNEY

Get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in time for Jesus to be born.



TRY IT AT HOME!

Practice gratitude. Make a list of all the things you are thankful for.

Did You Know?

It was about 65 miles from where Mary and Joseph lived (Nazareth) to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. It would have taken them many days to walk there—they didn't have cars back then! Can you imagine walking 65 miles?

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Kiwanis Hometown Christmas

Friday, December 4, 2026 in Downtown Delphos

SANTA PARADE — Santa Parade starts at 6:30 down Main St.

Storytime with Mrs. Claus — Mrs. Claus will be reading your favorite Christmas Stories in the First Financial Bank lobby.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL — Discounted 2027 Delphos City Pool Individual Pass — only $50. Available at the municipal building at 608 N Canal St., Delphos on December 3rd and 4th during regular hours and Saturday December 5th from 9:00am to 1:00pm only. Makes GREAT Christmas gifts!! (see the city for complete details)

Kiwanis is happy to provide the following activities, ALL FREE OF CHARGE

FREE Trackless Firetruck rides, Paddy Wagon rides and Vintage Firetruck rides
FREE face painting at Delphos Fire Department
FREE hot dogs and hot chocolate next to Santa's house
FREE Inflatables in the WesBanco Bank Parking lot
Get your picture taken with one or ALL the Costumed Characters roaming around,
Pool Pass Winners list posted on Facebook, passes will be mailed—*Thank you to the Anonymous Donor!!*

Check out all the other activities provided by local businesses and organizations

Canal Museum Christmas Tree Festival - FREE and open to the public 5:00pm-8:00pm (241 N Main St)
Canal Museum— Ham & Bean Soup with cornbread from 5:00pm until sold out, donation $6.00 (241 N Main St)
Schrader Realty— Letters to Santa & ornament while supplies last (231 N Main St.)
Westwood Behavioral Health Center – 6-8pm stocking & hat decorating, cupcakes, punch (234 N Jefferson St)
Cameo Beauty Lounge—Passing out treats, hair tinsel and face painting (233 N Main St)
H & R Block— Serving hot apple cider (227 N Main St)
Bryan Weimerskirch State Farm Ins.— 360 Photo Booth & treats (201 N Main St)
Haehn's Simply Brewed & Aero Printing —Hot chocolate (212 N Main St)
Red Oak Realty – Squishies and coloring books (212 N Main St)
Dick Clark Real Estate—Wrapping paper giveaway (212 N Main St)
Delphos First Assembly of God—prize wheel (212 N Main St.)
Lehmann's Furniture—Glove giveaway (130 N Main St)
WesBanco Bank—Hot chocolate and cookies & warming station (230 E 2nd St)
Delphos Police Department— Serving cookies and punch (125 E 2nd St)
Mainstreet Headquarters Beauty Co—Reindeer food (229 N Main St)
KC Corner Collective— Basketball Game & goodie bags (302 N Main St)



Visit the Holiday Market from 4-6:30pm at The Willow on Main St sponsored by the Delphos Chamber

Brought to you by: *The Kiwanis Club of Delphos* Serving the Delphos Community since 1963

Additional Santa visitation on Wednesday, December 9 and 16 from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Thank you for supporting the Kiwanis in 2026