



**OUR CELEBRATION IS A DAY EARLY!
(Sunday, Jan. 5 Rather Than Monday, Jan. 6)**

Reporter: Rev. Lisa Hart

A service of Epiphany, with communion, will be held downstairs with a potluck lunch to follow. At this service, we will install the council members serving in 2014.

For the potluck the church will provide coffee, tea, water, and table service. Please bring a dish to share; this may be a main dish, a side, or a dessert.

We will take down the Christmas decorations January 5th, after the potluck. Help from one and all will be appreciated.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 2ND
WEDNESDAY THIS MONTH**

Because of the first Wednesday in the month falling on New Year's Day the Grief Support Group is moving their meeting to the second Wednesday this month only. That makes the meeting date be January 8; the time remains 6 pm.

**ERM SOCIETY CONTINUES TRADITION OF
COOKIE CANS TO SHUT-INS AND STAFF
PLUS END OF YEAR MISSION DONATIONS**

Reporter: Norma Borgmann

Continuing a LONG tradition, the ERM Society members provided homemade cookies to fill 16 cans for our shut-ins and the staff on December 11th. Such were delivered by **Ruth Carpenter, Connie Freels, Jeanette Storck** and **Norma Borgmann**. (Also, small poinsettias were presented from the Congregational Care Team and presented at the same time of delivery).

In addition, the ERM voted to donate \$40.00 apiece to the following Illinois South Conference mission partners at the December meeting for end of the year monetary gifts: Back Bay Mission (Louisiana), DuBois Center, Hoyleton Children's Home, Kindercottage (E. St. Louis), and New Athens Home for the Aged. Also, a \$40 donation was sent to Salvation Army in Centralia. Yes, this continual focus on missions is reflective of this 71 year old women's organization in the church. ALL of the women in our church are cordially invited to join us with our next official business meeting being held on Wednesday evening, February 12th in the Fellowship Hall. The group will decide in February as to the 2014 format for gatherings. In 2013, we met in February, April, May, September, November, and December.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED TO MEET

Reporter: Norma Borgmann

Church Women United will be hosted by the ladies of the Demaree United Methodist Church in their Fellowship Center on Thursday morning, January 23rd — starting with a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

A business meeting and installation of 2014 Executive Board will follow. All ladies are cordially welcomed to attend any ecumenical business meeting and/or special CWU celebration program.

The alternate date will be January 30th in case of inclement weather on the 23rd.

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PRAYER CORNER*

Esther Campbell	Ileen Castellari
Robin Cimera	Bob Cohlmeier
Luke Hammond	Rev. Lisa Hart
Paul Kluthe	Kent Niermann
Carter Rankin	Nellie Schlau
Paula Sears	Gretta Sharp
C. & J. Smith	Don Storck
Betty Telford	Jack Weible
Curtis White	Brad Wolenhaupt
Chris Wolenhaupt	

**In accordance with HIPPA (It's real name is Heath Insurance Portability Privacy Act.) requirements, the persons on the St. Peter prayer list have requested, or given permission, for their names to be included and published in the prayer list. Names will appear for 30 days unless the individuals or their immediate family request that they be maintained on the prayer list for another thirty days.*

Our Servicemen

David Harper	Chris Lyday
Corey Schlau	Nathan Storck
Cole Vehrs	Jared Vehrs
Anna Walls	

In Care Centers

Marjorie Nehrt	Sandy Zinschlag
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PLEASE HELP US UPDATE

If you know of someone who needs to be added or taken off, please contact the church secretary, **Judy Reichenbacher**, at the office 532-7124, and if no one is available, please leave a message.

**Remember your Church in your will.
A Gift that will last for generations**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Giving Totals for Nov. 24 - Dec. 15, 2013

General Offering.	\$ 6,566.00
Parsonage.	400.00
Wurstmart.	75.00
Improvement Fund.	25.00
Advent - New Minden.	50.00
Advent - Hoyleton & New Minden. . .	75.00
Poinsettias.	44.00
Christkindlmarkt.	787.50
CCBA 2014 dues.	600.00
Christmas Fund.	25.00
Initial Offering.	1.00
NIN.	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL.	\$ 8,653.50

**GENERAL OFFERING YEAR TO DATE
(01/01/13 THROUGH 12/15/13)**

Amount received. \$ 67,524.64
(Does not include "Change for Change 2013")

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Nov. 24	32
Dec. 1	35
Dec. 8	21
Dec. 15	62

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to **Rev. Pamela Smith** for sharing her message with us on Consecration Sunday, November 24.

Thank you to all those that helped in any way to make the Christkindlmarkt a success! Special thanks to the **Stewardship Team, Verna Steinkamp, David Stedelin** and **Norma Borgmann** for all their time and work.

ST. PETER UCC TO KINDERCOTTAGE

Reporter: Norma Borgmann

Yes, once again St. Peter UCC (Centralia) “adopted” a specific child from Uni-Pres Kindercottage (E. St. Louis) for Christmas giving—continuing a long-standing mission outreach started years ago upon the suggestion of the Mission Board and now being sponsored by the Mission Team. This year, our recipient named **Jaxon** is currently 4 years old and likes vehicles. Fortunately for him, several members of our faith family responded with gifts as requested on his fact sheet. **Jaxon** will truly have a happier Christmas with the following new possessions (in categories): *Clothing*=2 pairs of jeans, 4 pairs of pajamas, shoes, socks, an outfit, hoodie, and animal hat plus *Toys*= various kinds of trucks, emergency vehicles, bat/ball, sports balls, and a variety of remote cars. In addition, sweets (baked goods and candies) were brought to share with the staff and other students as well as a big box of Pampers for their inventory.

THANK YOU to all who brought gifts for **Jaxon** and others which reflects our church’s continual interest in this Illinois South Conference mission partner. Also, many Labels for Education (Campbell’s) and Box Tops for Education (from several of YOU) were given to the Kindercottage staff. (Please continue to save them off boxes and cans—give to **Ruth Carpenter** or **Norma Borgmann**). Your extra time to remove such trademark enables necessary supplies and equipment for learning in East St. Louis—thank you!

Special THANKS to a young couple who chose to buy several desired gifts for this unknown child rather than spend money on themselves at Christmas. How thoughtful, and I know **Jaxon** will appreciate their willingness to share their unselfish love via this unique approach of giving gifts, especially to someone they do not even know.

The above gifts were delivered on Monday, 12-16-13, by **Norma Borgmann** for the Mission Team.

DELIVERER’S NOTES FROM NORMA

As deliverer of **Jaxon**’s gifts and the extra food for the Kindercottage clients/staff I personally experienced Christmas Joy upon being introduced to our church’s “adopted” boy named **Jaxon** this morning while he and others were enjoying morning

snacks. He is such a happy and polite 4-year boy. (Soon the other children in the room were telling me their names and wanting to shake my hands too).

Also, the director, **Brenda Crisp**, who was so appreciative of our church family’s contributions informed me that there are 60 (out of 81) churches in Illinois South Conference who “adopt” a client from there for Christmas which equates to 75% of the total amount needed. Some Presbyterian Churches in the Metro East area and certain individuals close that gap. Their staff will work on 12/21 & 12/22 (without the children) and make sure that the donated clothing especially fit the designated child as well as check to see the toys are age appropriate and preferred before wrapping and placing in a huge gift bag for the parent(s) to pick up before Christmas. Just imagine the excitement in respective homes on Christmas (and gratitude to so many unknown givers). Thank You again.



Happy New Year!
Glückliches Neues Jahr
Prospero Ano Nuevo y Felicidad.

Those are the traditional greetings for this time of year. But my thoughts for the new year are a little different. I know that happiness and prosperity may not be yours or mine all through 2014. So here is what I hope for you in 2014.

I hope your new year is filled with gratitude for the material things you already have. Compared to so many people in the world, everyone reading this letter is quite wealthy. I hope you are filled with gratitude for your home, whatever safe, warm building you may be living in, whatever food you have to nourish your bodies. And for the people around you, friends, neighbors, family, caregivers, helpers.

I hope your new year is filled with opportunity, and I hope you are able to recognize and take advantage of many opportunities: opportunities to grow spiritually, to learn something new, to enjoy a quiet moment, to hear a some music, to see a sunset. I hope you are able to see the many times you have a

chance to do something for someone else. I hope 2014 is filled with chances to listen, to offer a hand, to provide a meal, to share some clothing, to teach, to cheer someone with a smile.

I hope you do experience health, wealth and wisdom in the new year. But, most of all, I hope you have the sure knowledge that wherever your journey through 2014 takes you, God walks with you.

A Blessed New year to One and All:

Pastor Lisa & Walt



CHRISTKINDLMARKT BATTLED WEATHER

Reporter: Verna Steinkamp

Winter weather did not seem to dampen the spirit of our Christkindlmarkt held Saturday, December 14, which was extended to include two hours on Sunday following worship service due to the inclement weather. One cannot predict or control the weather, and it is an event difficult to cancel. Some vendors were unable to come because of the more severe weather related problems in their area. Several new ideas were tried such as successfully serving food, especially the hot cinnamon rolls and special cakes by the slice. Profit from the event will be published later when all has been fully calculated.

A pleasant surprise was a customer posting a very complimentary comment on Facebook about Christkindlmarkt. Adults seemed to enjoy watching the children hunt for the pickle on the Christmas tree as much as the children looking for it. Special thanks to all who provided baked items, craft items, cash donations, help with the setup, help during the actual time it was held as well as clean up. Much thought was incorporated, and it is impossible to list all who in some way helped. It would not be possible to host this event without everyone's cooperation and energy to make this a festive time.

THE LATEST SURVEY RESULTS

Reporter: DiAnn Caraker for the Vision Team

The questionnaire developed by the Vision Team was distributed on two Sundays and members were asked to rate some ideas the Team had discussed as possible new activities for our church. There were 29 questionnaires returned and all were anonymous. Some contained various comments; some did not. Not all questions were marked on all questionnaires. All comments that were received are printed as well as the total results in each category.

1. Informal church occasionally in Fellowship Hall combined with coffee and breakfast.

No way- 0 Don't Like- 2
Okay- 9 Good Idea- 7
Fantastic- 11

Comments: Great for sparse, post-holiday services. Possibly once a quarter. Sounds good. Even monthly social coffee before church.

2. Women's Bible study, possibly held in a public location other than the church (local restaurant, coffee shop, etc.)

No way- 0 Don't Like- 3
Okay- 10 Good Idea- 8
Fantastic- 6

Comments: Sounds like fun. Maybe men too or not. Great for small group fellowship building.

3. Activities in Fellowship Hall where alcoholic beverages may be brought in (weddings, 'Theology on Tap', trivia contests, other fundraisers).

No way- 5 Don't Like- 4
Okay- 9 Good Idea- 5
Fantastic- 5

Comments: Not alcohol. It's not the alcohol itself, it's how it's used. After all, Jesus used wine himself. Try civic clubs- Not at church. No problem. Dinner theater. With moderation. Hmm, very controversial. Just an old attitude that alcohol and church don't mix.

4. Inviting other groups to meet in our church (book clubs, scouting, special events, support groups, etc.).

No way- 0 Don't Like- 0
Okay- 4 Good Idea- 8
Fantastic- 16

Comments: Great idea. Garden clubs, maybe or AA or Nar-Anon, etc. Okay if someone is responsible for clean-up, etc.—Insurance?

5. Consider selling church building and parsonage and meeting in a smaller, more affordable location.

No way- 7 Don't Like- 5
Okay- 8 Good Idea- 6
Fantastic- 0

Comments: Only if necessary. Plus joining with another congregation in similar situation—And we all know who! Would hate to do this but might be necessary. I would hate to see it, will see. There's still hope we can grow; Selling the church is not the answer. Not the answer! Can't afford any payments-budget full. People like trivia nights. I would have to think about it.

What are your ideas for growing St. Peter?

I don't know what we can do. Invite friends and neighbors. Continue to welcome all people. Visit members who no longer come. More local outreach. More youth activity and involvement. Offer free soup, etc. Get our name out- free Christmas brunch, free holiday gift wrap station, serve coffee, cookies, etc. while waiting. Merge with another. Huge task-overcoming apathy and Satan's increasing influence. Hire a permanent minister would help us grow. Trying some suggestions as listed above but need more people to help at our events. P.S. Great idea of survey for members' input. I really think a partnership with Hoyleton Children's Home somehow might be one of our answers. I wish I knew some!!! Become a Feeding America hub. Soupes Bowl. Gala (silent auction, live auction and dinner). Senior Breakfasts (quarterly not a huge affair- great for bringing together older community members we may not see often. We still haven't come up with a reason why we need to exist (A mission) we can all work for. Running out of time and resources.

Submitted by the Vision Team: **Norma Borgmann, DiAnn Caraker, Ken Finke, Melinda Graham, Judy Luer and Pastor Lisa.**

SOME FURTHER GROWTH IDEAS

Reporter: Rev. Lisa Hart

A few ideas taken from "104 Ways to Grow a Church" by **Rev. Bob Miller** and **Kerryn Oliver**.

1. If anyone says to you, "We've never done it that way before" smile and say, "Thank-you!".
2. New workers in a community want to become acquainted. What a blessing to be asked to church by a co-worker!
3. Budget a minimum of \$500/year for evangelism.
4. Don't listen to anyone who says "It was good enough for my father or grandfather." Ask them if they're still driving the car they had in 1950 and if their home contains a microwave, computer or DVD player.
5. Congregations need to understand that if a visitor takes someone's "sacred seat" the member should grin and bear it and give thanks to God that somebody else wants it!
6. Use different responses in worship. There is nothing unholy about replacing the Doxology as the response after the offering!
7. Know your strengths and build on those.
8. Enjoy your ministry and your people—and just keep striving.

Remember this anonymous rhyme:

Don't be concerned nor be surprised if what you do is criticized.

For there are always those who usually can
Find fault with every different plan.
Mistakes are made, we don't deny,
But only made by folks who try.

God bless you in your trying.



Members will gather after the worship service on Sunday, January 26, for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Reports from 2013 will be presented and plans for 2014 will be among the items on the agenda. Plan now to attend.

BOOK DISCUSSION TO CONTINUE IN JANUARY

Reporter: Rev. Lisa Hart

We have read some very good books since starting this group. But I was asked that the next book be HAPPIER. So, here is one that gives a little history of the Channel Islands that I hadn't known before, tells a good story, and is lots of fun to read. It's not a fairy tale, but it has a kind of "happily-ever-after ending. I think The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows will please everyone. Read this one over the Christmas holidays and we'll plan on a discussion night tentatively January 20, 2014.

NOTE: Not everyone without a church home is eager to come into a worship service in the sanctuary. But anyone could read this book and then join in a discussion in the parlor about it. Please invite others to come.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
DECEMBER 2013 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<h1>January 2014</h1>			FEBRUARY 2014 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28			
Worship in Fellowship Hall with			1 Office Closed	2	3	4	
5 Communion, Installation of Council then potluck & take down greens	6	7 Blankets of Love Setup 8:30 Sew 9-2 Choir 6:30 p.m.	8 Grief Support 6pm NO ERM Exec. Bd. Mtg.	9	10	11	
12	13 Council 6:30 p.m.	14 Choir 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17	18	
19 Good News Deadline Change for Change	20 Book discussion	21 Choir 6:30 p.m.	22	23 Church Women United 9 a.m. Demaree Methodist	24	25	
26 Congregational mtg. following worship	27 Vision T. 6pm	28 Choir 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31		

Unless otherwise noted:
St. Peter Sunday School 9:30 a.m, Worship 10:45 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

1 Charlene Smith	17 Robert Cohlmeier
1 Brad Wolenhaupt	19 Christopher Feig
2 Betty Telford	21 Joe Hinton
3 Mary Ann Bender	22 Joshua Knolhoff
7 DiAnn Caraker	27 Corky Alcorn
12 Brooke Taylor	28 Patty Hinton
16 Charles Atherton	

1 Nick & Jen Luer



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CENTRALIA IL 62801
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. . . where God is still speaking,
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



OUR CELEBRATION IS A DAY EARLY!
(Sunday, Jan. 5 Rather Than Monday, Jan. 6)

Worship at 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall
Includes Communion and Installation of Council

Potluck follows with coffee, tea, water and table service provided
You bring anything else (main dish, side, and/or dessert)

You are then invited to stay and help take down the Christmas decorations

Sunday Schedule: Church School 9:30 am; Worship 10:45 am
Email: office@stpeterucc.com
Rev. Lisa Hart, Designated Minister
Jane Brink, Newsletter Editor