

**A DIFFERENT SERVICE TO START THE NEW YEAR**

There will be no Sunday School on January 1, 2012 BUT there will be a special worship service! We are meeting at tables setup in the Fellowship Hall for a service that *will* include Communion as is usual the first Sunday of the month.

Then following the service a lunch of Ham & Beans (prepared by Jim & Susan White) will be served. If anyone would like to bring something that they traditionally eat on New Year's Day feel free to do so; but there will be plenty of food for everyone just wirth what is already on the menu.



Don't forget the other special addition to our January Schedule which is the Congregational Meeting to follow the worship service on January 29. That is also the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month with envelopes available for a special offering to BCMW.



**COMBINED CHOIRS CANTATA**

On December 11, our St. Peter UCC choir joined the First United Methodist choir at their 9:15am service to present the cantata, THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT. Afterwards, both choirs returned to St. Peter

to give the cantata at St. Peter's 10:45am service. The cantata is a compilation of Christmas carols with reading of scripture.

The performance attracted a larger than usual attendance at St. Peter and was well received.

**SUCCESSFUL CHRISTKINDLMARKT DEC. 17**

Reporter: Verna Steinkamp

The first ever St. Peter UCC Christkindlmarkt was held Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This was a new venture and destined as a fundraiser for the church. **Verna Steinkamp** was designated as the chair, and **David Stedelin** helped coordinate. The fellowship hall was festively decorated with swags of greenery on the walls and suspended from the ceiling. Wreaths were prevalent everywhere. Red and white striped canopies were suspended above the various vendors.



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**PRAYER CORNER\***

Jen Ashauer	Larry Besant
Rev. Rich Brzowsky	Edna Caraker
Vivian Cohlmeier	Rev. Lisa Hart
Paul Kluthe	Arlene Luer
Charles Luer	Gracie Niermann
Carter Rankin	Steve Smith
Don Storck	Betty Telford
Gerald Wehrheim	Bess Wesling
Curtis White	

*\*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**

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

**In Care Centers**

Roberta Kleine	Marjorie Nehrt
Henrietta Schmitz	

**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. 27 - Dec. 18, 2011**

General Offering. ....	\$ 5,780.00
Special Offering.....	400.00
Improvement Fund.....	10.00
Initial Offering.....	7.00
Advent Offering - Salvation Army. ....	98.00
Christmas Fund. ....	20.00
Christmas Families.....	90.00
Kindercottage.....	190.00
Poinsettias. ....	110.00
Christkindlmarkt. ....	764.15
Christkindlmarkt-Sunday School (CCBA). . .	16.00
Reimbursement/Parsonage Toilet. ....	350.00
<b>TOTAL. ....</b>	<b>\$ 7,835.15</b>

**GENERAL OFFERING YEAR TO DATE  
(01/01/11 THROUGH 12/18/11)**

Amount received. .... \$ 67,440.10

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Nov. 27	47
Dec. 4	51
Dec. 11	72
Dec. 18	60

**THANK YOU!**  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special THANKS to **Jennifer Smith** for coordinating the Christmas gifts and supplies for the Uni-Pres Kindercottage children and **ALL persons** who donated such items in order that it will be a merrier Christmas in respective homes plus on the shelves at this mission partner.

The gifts and supplies were delivered to Kindercottage on December 19<sup>th</sup> by **Nancy** and

**Norma Borgmann** along with many Box Tops for Labels and Campbell's labels (donated by our church members and cut by **Ruth Carpenter**). Please continue to save labels as such are the first item listed on their needs' list—just think if each ISC and Presbyterian church would do that like we have for YEARS, they would certainly have more supplies and equipment!! Therefore, THANK YOU **St. Peter Church Family!!** Our efforts are truly appreciated by **Brenda Crisp, Director of Kindercottage, Staff, & the Children** there.

Inasmuch as the newsletter was already printed and distributed on November 27<sup>th</sup>, I wish to acknowledge the following persons for representing **St. Peter UCC-Centralia** at Friendship House on 11/27/11 (after the Hanging of the Greens/luncheon) to assist me with the devotional service: **Jane Edmonson, Judy Fehrmann, Connie Freels, Rev. Lisa Hart, Walt Hart, Helen Niekrenz, and Jeanette Storck** (pianist). Each resident in attendance received a small poinsettia plant from our church (anonymous donor).

Also, to show my personal appreciation to each of the above and **Nan Borgmann** (who assisted me in July at Brookside Manor when asked to substitute for another church) were given a gift bag of items reflective of topics used in the month of January at Centralia Manor and November at Friendship House plus stamps (to support the local post office) before Christmas. We do not know yet of which months our church is responsible for 2012 devotional services by **Rev. Elaine Bush**, coordinator of services for CWU-Centralia.

In conclusion, there were 11 Sunday afternoons in 2011 that **St. Peter UCC-Centralia** were leading worship services at the local nursing homes and greeting/shaking hands of many residents who are pleased to know that we are a "caring and friendly church" on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cherry Streets.

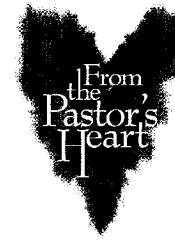
Norma Borgmann

Thank you for helping me further my education.

Jordan Feig

(This was in the "Good New" box in such a way that I suspect that it was missed earlier. If so, my apologies to Jordan.

Jane Brink, Editor)



I love new beginnings. The phrase is "it's a blank slate waiting to be written on". Of course most of us have never seen a blank slate, since slates were before our time. Personally I associate the beginning of a new school year with a notebook of blank paper, and it still excites and inspires me when I see all those blank pages waiting to be written on. The nearest I come to that now is when I go to the computer, press File, New, Create, Blank document.

Well, the theory is the same. We have a whole new year, 2012, and it's a blank slate waiting to be written on! What will happen? We don't know, but I'm going to invite the congregation to think of possibilities when we meet for worship on Sunday, January 1, 2012. We'll have worship around tables in the fellowship hall, followed by a brunch of "lucky" New Year celebration foods. Everyone will be invited to share and write their prediction of events. We'll seal them in an envelope to be opened next year at this time to see how right we were.

Predictions, by my definition, are better than resolutions. Resolutions are promises we make about how we're going to improve ourselves, but they put a lot of pressure on us for a while, and then are forgotten. Predictions are guesses about what the year may bring, and they leave things wide open. Predictions give us the opportunity to imagine what God may want to do with us, our church, or our country in the new year. And if we imagine it, listen for God's voice, and watch for God's leading, anything is possible! Would you have predicted that in 2011 St. Peter UCC would try something brand new called Christkindlemarkt and that it would be a fun event that would raise over \$700 for the church? Would you have predicted that our average worship attendance would be on the rise, and that we'd have 72 people present on December 11 to hear a wonderful Christmas cantata? Well, perhaps God was imagining it for us.

I'll make a couple of predictions:



1. I think in 2012 there will be an adult Sunday school class studying “Troublesome Bible Passages”.

2. I think in 2012 Maddie and Russell will grow at least 2 inches each.

Ok, I’m no genius at making predictions. But here is one thing I can say about 2012 and be absolutely confident in the statements.

- God is still speaking,
- God is speaking to us now
- God will continue to speak to us throughout 2012,
- God has great things planned for St. Peter United Church of Christ.

God is still speaking,  
People of St. Peter UCC, are you listening?  
Happy New Year!  
Rev. Lisa & Walt Hart

items from Ecuador,



handmade cards, caps, items made by the Sunday School children and items provided by Girl Scout Troop No. 3836 which included goody items for dogs and cats.

### Christkindlemarket Continued from page 1

Vendors included tables with crafts made and donated by church members,



Plowshare,



To further copy the German atmosphere a wind chime, German bible, nutcrackers and other German items were displayed. A large outdoor sign encased in greenery





as well as a welcome sign in German greeted the shoppers.



An elaborate cookie buffet as well as strudel, gingerbread, breads, cakes and candies on silver trays were available for purchase.



Hot drinks were also available for sale. Much thanks is extended to those who worked and/or contributed the delicious and varied items or helped in any manner. The event was definitely deemed a success inasmuch as of this writing the gross intake was over \$750 which is amazing. The Centralia Sentinel provided a feature article along with photos the following morning in the newspaper stating it would probably become an annual event.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRESENTED DEC. 18

The Christian Education Team, **Cathy Chontofalsky, Judy Luer** and **Edie Ruez** coordinated the program. Special lay readers were **Rev. Lisa Hart, Mike Plassman, Jim White** and **Judy Luer**. A special thanks to **Raley Fenwick**, and her Grandparents, **Greg and Judy Reichenbacher** for portraying the Holy Family. A special baby made the blessing of the story come to life for all of us.

Each special stage of the Christmas Story was illustrated from Mary finding out from the Angel that she was going to have Jesus



to Mary & Joseph with Jesus after his birth



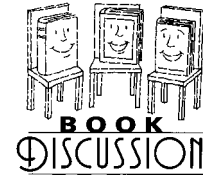
the arrival of the Shepards (see next page)



Then the Kings came



The census that brought them to Bethlehem is over



Everyone is invited to a Book Discussion on January 18, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.. Get your copy of “The Help” and begin reading now. Copies of the book are available through Amazon.com for \$15 or \$8 for paperback.

### **INVITATION FROM WOMEN IN IRVINGTON**

The ladies of Friedens United Church of Christ have cordially invited our women from the church to an Epiphany meal and program on Wednesday, January 4th at 6:00 p.m. . Attendees many come by camel or car.

Please let me know by Dec. 27th if you wish to attend as reservations are needed. The invitation is on the bulletin board along with names of persons planning to attend.

Norma B.-533-1658

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
DECEMBER 2011 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 2012</h1>				FEBRUARY 2012 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		
1 Communion Service in Fellowship Hall Ham & Beans lunch to follow	2 Office Closed	3 B. of L. 9 am - 2 pm Choir 6:30 p.m.	4 Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2 Women's Epiphany Party 6 pm @ Irvington	5 Office Closed	6	7	
8	9	10 B G & C 9:30-11 am Choir 6:30 p.m.	11 Lunch & Bible Study <b>NO ERM Exec. Bd. Mtg.</b>	12	13	14	
15 Good News Deadline	16 Office Closed Council 6:30 p.m.	17 Choir 6:30 p.m.	18 Lunch & Bible Study 6:30 pm Book Discussion of "The Help"	19	20	21	
22 5th Sunday Offering for BCMW	23	24 Choir 6:30 p.m.	25 Lunch & Bible Study	26 Church Women United 9 a.m. Demaree U.M.	27	28	
29 5th Sunday Offering for BCMW Congregational mtg. following worship	30	31 Choir 6:30 p.m.	Topic for adult Sunday School Class will be: "Troublesome Bible Passages".				

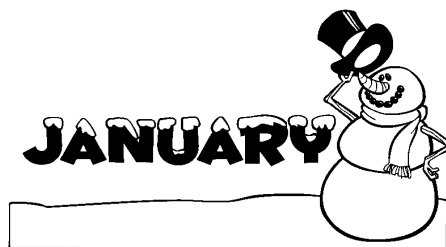
Unless otherwise noted:  
St. Peter Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (Except January 1st.), Worship 10:45 a.m.,

## 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





ST. PETER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
318 WEST THIRD STREET  
CENTRALIA IL 62801  
(618) 532-7124

**... where God is still speaking,**  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday Schedule: Church School 9:30 am; Worship 10:45 am  
Email: [stpeterucc@charter.net](mailto:stpeterucc@charter.net)  
Rev. Lisa Hart, Interim Pastor  
Jane Brink, Newsletter Editor