

The

Fisherman

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

3751 Estero Blvd.

E.L.C.A.

Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Phone: 239-463-4251



DECEMBER 2020

When they saw

THE STAR, *they rejoiced
exceedingly with great joy.*

Matthew 2:10

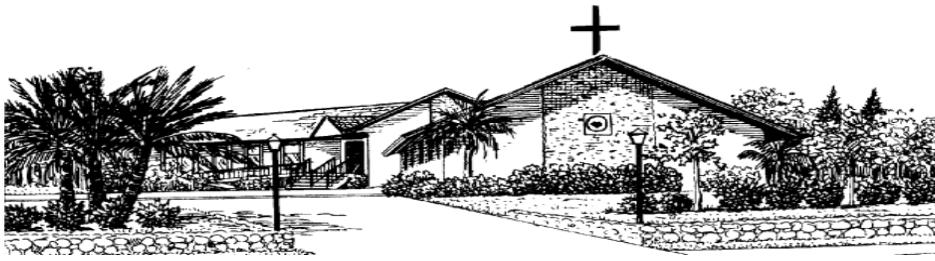


St. Peter Lutheran Church ELCA

3751 Estero Blvd

Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

239-463-4251



Office Hours

Mon – Wed – Fri

8 am – Noon

Phone: 239-463-4251

WEBSITE: www.stpeterfmb.com

Email: Stpeterfmb@gmail.com

Facebook – [St. Peter Lutheran ELCA, Ft. Myers Beach](#)

STAFF

Pastor – Rev. Sharon Taylor

Office Administrator – Trudy Archer

Organist/Choir Director – Jim Kreger

Artist in Residence/Pianist – Shirley Roe

Digital Ministry Coordinator – Deacon Lisa Miller

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PRINTING AND MAILING COSTS, please submit your check either in the mail or your envelope with "Fisherman" as the subject line. The cost to print and mail is \$65 -75 per month.

THE DECEMBER ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY
GEORGE AND DONNA ALBERT
IN MEMORY OF
SALLY RUDOLPH - BOB BURM - CATHY FIGGINS

PLEASE NOTE AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Anniversary meeting is on **Dec. 6** following worship. At this meeting, we will vote on ratifying the adopted changes to the Constitution and by-laws AS WELL AS approving the 2021 Budget. This is especially important. The church cannot pay bills without budget approval.

The quorum needed is 28. Please make time to attend these meetings.

Your vote DOES count!

Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.

God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger*

CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE TIME OF COVID

It may not be like we remember, but we are grateful for the ability to offer two worship opportunities on December 24, 2020 and one on Christmas Day that will be safe for members and visitors alike.

IN PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP

3:30 P.M. FRONT PARKING LOT OF ST. PETER

(please bring your own chair if you have one –
there will be some chairs available also)



VIRTUAL EVENING WORSHIP

7:30 P.M. ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

(Access through our St. Peter website

www.stpeterfmb.com)

A traditional Christmas Eve liturgy



CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

BY RESERVATION ONLY

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE DURING BUSINESS HOURS
TO REQUEST YOUR RESERVATION.

Seating by ushers to make sure we maintain
appropriate social distancing

**We are looking for helpers for the outdoor worship –
We will need traffic/parking attendants, ushers and
equipment “roadies”. If you are willing to serve, please
contact Pastor Sharon at rev-st@yahoo.com**



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR SHARON

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

During Advent 2020, our YouTube daily devotions will lead us through resources from THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY. Advent Conspiracy is a movement which started back in 2006. Since that time, thousands of churches have joined together to re-examine what it means to prepare our hearts and lives for Christ. Advent Conspiracy uses four themes that will help us reclaim the true meaning of Advent as a preparation for the coming of Christ.

The four themes are:

WORSHIP FULLY.

SPEND LESS.

GIVE MORE.

LOVE ALL.

WORSHIP FULLY.

During Advent, we are reminded that it all begins with WORSHIP.

Upon hearing of Jesus' birth, the shepherds came to worship the newborn King.

Upon hearing of Jesus' birth, the Magi came to worship the newborn King.

Our proper response to Christ's coming is praise and thanksgiving.

Our life together as a congregation is centered in worship.

In worship, we hear the good news of God's love.

In worship, we receive Jesus' presence.

In worship, we are taught how to live as God's people.

In worship, we are equipped to live for God in our daily lives.

Too often we get swept up in the busyness of the season.

We give in to the pressures of our culture and to the temptations of consumerism.

But we have a choice.

We can take back our Advent and choose how we will spend our effort and time.

I encourage you to think about how you will structure your Advent.

How will you spend your time?

How will you spend your money?

When you are planning your gift-giving this year:

Consider buying fair trade gifts that support entrepreneurs in developing countries.

Consider how to give more, without buying more.

Consider giving "experiential gifts" that offer the gift of time

Consider giving hand-made gifts that offer the gift of your own creativity and talent.

Consider giving a monetary donation to Lutheran Disaster Relief or Lutheran World Relief in your loved one's name.

I invite you to join me on our YouTube channel for Advent Conspiracy daily devotions beginning Monday, November 30th.

Let us worship with our whole hearts, and souls, and minds.

Let us take in the enormity of the Christmas miracle,
Of Emmanuel, God with us.

Let us pray:

Gracious and Loving God, we realize that this Advent and Christmas season may look and feel different from those of the past. We know that the pandemic will limit our ability to travel and gather with family and friends. Sustain us in this approaching season by reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Fill our hearts and homes with your love and light. Help us to find creative ways to connect with those we love. Help us to remember the poor and those who have no family. Bless them and bless us as we reach out in compassion and love. Fill us with the Light of the coming Christ. Amen

Join our Prayer Process: Beginning November 1, 2020.

- **Prayer Reminder:** Please set your watch or phone alarm for 12:30pm daily. This represents the Great Commandment found in Mark 12:30-31. *...you shall love the Lord your God with all your*

heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

When your alarm rings each day, please stop for a moment and say a prayer that God would guide St. Peter forward with a clear unified mission. If you are not alone, take this opportunity to share with your friend the reason you are stopping for prayer and invite them to take that moment of prayer with you if they desire. Part of the joy and power is that we will all be praying at the same time wherever we may be!



**HERE ARE THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE QUOTES
FROM MARTIN LUTHER:**

"PEACE IF POSSIBLE, TRUTH AT ALL COSTS."

"THE FEWER THE WORDS, THE BETTER THE PRAYER."



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Updates

At the November Council meeting, the Board asked Donna and George Albert to reconsider their decision to resign from the Council. We are excited to report that they have agreed to continue as members of Council.

We are truly blessed to have them with us and we wholeheartedly welcome them back.



- | | | |
|---------|------------------------|---|
| Nov. 1 | Jim & Donna Markusen - | In celebration of
Donna's birthday and
memory of loved ones |
| Nov. 8 | John Linebarger | In memory of Cathy |
| Nov. 22 | Marilyn Housemeyer | In memory of Ed Housemeyer |
| Nov. 29 | Cherie Kullberg | To the Glory of God |



ST. PETER HERITAGE QUESTIONS

In order for us to move forward as a congregation into the future God has planned for us, it is important that we have an opportunity to reflect on our past. The process of answering these questions can give us a way of remembering and honoring the past so that we can draw strength to walk together into the future.

1. Reflect on your entire time at St. Peter and remember a time when you felt most alive, most motivated, and excited about your involvement.

Describe the circumstances and your involvement

Who was involved?

How did you feel?

What was happening?

2. What are the most important things this faith community has contributed to your life?

3. How have you experienced Christ's love from other members of St. Peter?
(Please describe)

4. What are the essential, central characteristics of ways of life that make St. Peter unique?

5. When you think about how St. Peter has related to the wider community and its work, what do you think has been most important? How do we express God's love and mercy and justice to others?

6. Describe a difficult time in the life of St. Peter. How did it affect you personally?

7. What concerns do you have for the future of St. Peter?
What fears do you have?

Please return your completed form to me either by hardcopy or scan and email at rev_st@yahoo.com.

I pray that these questions will provide an opportunity to reflect on the scope of our past and the promise for our future mission.

Peace and Light,
Pastor Sharon



WELCA



"Waiting"

Waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1
Corinthians: 1:7

Advent begins Sunday November 29 and ends December 24th.

The Candles on the Advent Wreath symbolizes, Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

Three purple or blue candles(representing penitance) -- and 1 Pink (representing Joy) are used.

Christmas Greetings!!

What a beautiful time of the year celebrating the Birth of Jesus.

This has been a challenging time for everyone, but we are resilient. Wear masks and stay healthy.

We have extended Peanut Butter Month until end of November for Harvest Time Ministries.

Christmas Angels Project starts December 1st for the month. (Article enclosed in this "Fish")

Poinsettias and an article is also listed in the Fishermen. You can make Donation of \$12, in Memory or in honor of a loved one.

We appreciate all the support for our projects.

All of you have always come forward for us and we are truly thankful.

WELCA is again sponsoring Christmas Angels. Please see the St. Peter website for more details or phone the office.

Blessings---Diane Allen

WELCA DECEMBER LUNCHEON

WELCA will have their annual luncheon following the meeting on December 9. At 11:30 we will gather at Pincher's on San Carlos Blvd. where we will meet up with our significant others
Call Jana Clevenger at (317)753-1510 to make reservations!

Did you know this? The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ. -Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. -Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love. -The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. -The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of ...the Old Testament. -The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation..... -Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. -The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. -Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. -The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments. -The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples. -The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. So there is your history for today. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!** ♥ yes, I said **MERRY CHRISTmas** because Christmas is not without **CHRIST!**





Our Prayer List

Family of Joan Berecz

Adler Biddle

Gretna Bohl

Laura Bond

Joy Booth

Family of Bob Burm

Karen Carpenter

Church in Haiti

Miguel Colon

Barbara Deming

Ernest Garbade, Jr.

Jack Gerber

Jack & Shirley Hyssong

Arnie & Nancy Johnson

Jim Johnson

Barbara Keene

Jim Fogdall

Jim & Carol Look

Chris Magley

Denise Mays

April Meyer

Dave & Sue Mickley

Larry Nelson

Sally Malcolm-Bethea

Shirley Roe

John Hyssong, Jr.

Elsie Sanford

Scott Seeman

Debbie Smalley

Ryan Smith

Joyce Timmons

Alexis Tuminello

Liz Venturin

Joanie McMeekin

Family of Cathy Figgins

Kim Kreger Bryant

Please pray for peace throughout the world and for our St. Peter church family members currently serving in the Armed Forces –

Col. Kevin Groth (nephew of Bob Stenerson)

Marshall (son of Mark & Paul)



Our thoughts and prayers are with you all



PLEASE NOTE:

It is our privilege to lift up your prayer concerns to the Throne Room of our God! If you have a prayer concern to add or remove from this list, please e-mail, or call the office or send us a note.

Names will be listed for one month, after which they will be removed unless we hear from you to keep them active. If you want them to be permanently on the list, please let the office know.



“Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind.”

—Helen Steiner Rice



DECEMBER

Birthdays

Carol Dahlin	12/1
Gwyneth Kurtz	12/2
Jackie Dawson	12/3
Francis Gernandt	12/5
Diane Baldrige	12/8
Jim Kreger	12/8
Bill Palmer	12/11
Marge Holland	12/12
Ann Gemenden	12/13
Jim Albinger	12/13
William Arendt	12/21
Jack Hyssong	12/22
Mary Ann Spengler	12/25



DECEMBER

Anniversaries

Arnie & Nancy Johnson	12/14	64 years!!
Richard & Dierdre Hagstrom	12/17	
Peter & Ann Wheatley	12/23	
George & Donna Albert	12/25	
Paul & Debbie Gresham	12/29	

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH



No Lunch Bunch in December!

(See WELCA for lunch opportunities!)

OFFERING ENVELOPES (Last time, I promise)

Remember to check your envelope numbers

for 2021 !!

We have ordered a smaller quantity of numbered envelopes this year. This is saving us a great deal of money, but it means that your envelope number **MIGHT CHANGE!!!** If your envelope number is over 100, you will be assigned a new number beginning January 1.

Please double check to make sure that you are using the correct number for any donations. The counters will also be checking their lists as they always do.

If you would like to quit getting envelopes, please let the office know and we will take care of it for you. Thanks for understanding the need for reducing the quantity of envelopes purchased.



Easy as pie! Go to our webpage, www.stpeterfmb.com, and click on "Giving on the top right. It will take you directly to the spot where you can make your contributions!

As you know, St. Peter is a tithing church. 10% of our income goes directly to support the greater church and its work in our world. Please remember that you can contribute to our missions via online giving, mail or in person. Your support for God's work matters to everyone.

A sacred summary



The simple shepherds
heard the voice of an angel
and found their Lamb;
the wise men
saw the light of a star
and found their Wisdom.

—Fulton J. Sheen



IT'S TIME FOR POINSETTIAS !!

You are invited to help decorate the sanctuary by donating a poinsettia. You can donate them three different ways -

in honor of/in memory of/in celebration of.

They may be taken home on Monday, Dec. 28

Price per plant \$12.00

Just fill out this form and put it with your check in the offering basket, mail it to the church or drop it off at the office

Name _____

Number of plants _____ Total \$\$ _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____

JOHN DEERE GREEN

Thanks to a grant from the Ziegler Foundation, we have purchased a brand new John Deere lawn tractor and trailer!

The lawn crew is thrilled with this new shiny piece of equipment and wants to thank the Ziegler family for helping us maintain our property to present a good face to our neighbors!





Sounds of the Season

DECEMBER 1, 2020

Attention All Christmas Sing-Along followers, Because of the pandemic this season, we will be sending you our recorded version.

Please watch us on YouTube, which you can access through our website, and listen to our Christmas Preludes for Christmas on December 1, 2020 at 7:30 pm. You can even sing along at home with several traditional carols.

We are featuring the Faith Lutheran HandBell Choir this year under the direction of Dale Miller. Shirley, Arlene and Jim will share piano, organ and duet selections around the Christmas theme.

Thank all of you for being so patient this past 10 or so months. We are all in this together.

Jim Kreger
Music Director

2020 – CHURCH OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT..... John Torstveit (608) 774-7805 (c)

VICE PRESIDENT.....

SECRETARY..... Jean Ziemann (708) 269-5151 (c)

TREASURER Marlene McComas 515-570-0031 (c)

MEMBERS

Bill Beaulieu (239) 560-5525

Bob Burr (239) 481-7115

Jana Clevenger (317) 753-1510

Rhona Diamond (743)693-3695

Marilyn Housemeyer (239) 322-2754

Donna Albert (239)961-3875

Monna Weiler (239) 481-1000

George Albert (239)961-3875

CURRENT OFFICE INFORMATION

Please note that the office is currently being staffed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - usually from 8am – noon. If you leave a message, we will get back to you the next workday. If you plan on stopping in, please call so that we can make sure someone is here to assist you.

Pastor Sharon will be working on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. These are the days that she will be reading any e-mails sent to her. If you have an emergency and need to contact her, you can reach her on her cell phone [(919) 703-6581] when she is not in the office.

Please keep us informed if you move, change your phone number or email address! We want to let you know what's going on here, so being able to reach you is important!

DON'T FORGET - ANNUAL MEETING – DEC. 6!

Decorating for Christmas 2020



Cherie Kullberg, Jana Clevenger, Carol Look & Diane Allen (no photo available) worked hard on the Sanctuary to get us ready for Christ's birth!

Thanks, ladies! It looks beautiful.

Trusting God's Total Grace

1 Peter 2:24.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed

Steve, the Beach vendor, pushed his homemade cart, basically a huge cooler on wheels, filled with frozen treats up and down a 3 mile stretch of Florida beach. Steve had multiple decals and stickers representing his treats and the children flocked to him when they heard his bell. But most importantly, Steve displayed a large Cross along with the reminder: DON'T FORGET YOUR PARDON.

My memory of this image reminds me of how the Holy Spirit can enable me to NOT FORGET by frequently placing such

reminders in front of me. Sixty-five years ago in Confirmation class we memorized Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Creed: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in the Lord Jesus or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts . . ."

I'm grateful for the inner strength that the Holy Spirit provides for me every day. It's all too easy for me to drift off course from his guidance, but the great thing is that he is always available to get me back on course. The best way for the Spirit to "call me through the Gospel" is, of course, for me to read God's word. He daily reminds me of that need.

Remembering "My Pardon" and acknowledging Christ's suffering and death for my sake is certainly part of understanding God's gracious power of forgiveness. Then to acknowledge his power over death that we celebrate as his resurrection on Easter. God wants us to know and have total confidence in what he has promised to us and for us: We have Total Forgiveness and Total Salvation because of what God has done through the sacrifice of his Son. Let's accept God's promise to us as a Total Gift—unearned and undeserved. Let's give in and put our full trust in God and his promises.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for your many gracious gifts. Give us the assurance of and confidence in your loving promises. And every day, let us **NOT FORGET OUR PARDON**

By Jim Fogdall

