

ST PETER (FUELLING) EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1033 E 1100 N DECATUR, INDIANA 46733

Reverend Leonard Tanksley, Pastor
Church/Office Phone: 724-7533
Cell Phone: 260-246-7470
E-mail: leonard.tanksley@gmail.com

Jen Fuelling, Secretary
Phone: 815-216-8516
E-mail: splchurchsec@gmail.com
Website: www.stpeterdecaturn.org

Volume - Number 10

Newsletter - December 2023/January 2024

The mission of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church is to:
Teach the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to all;
Reach the lost with the same Word by the witness of our words and actions;
Care for all in need as we live in Christ's love through the same Word.

Dear Saints in Christ,

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the walkout of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis on February 19, 1974, I would like to take this time to reflect on some of the issues that are important to understand. Over the next couple of months will be a series addressing some of the issues which were occurring throughout Synod at the time. These will come by way of a theological abstract (a fancy word for summary). These were written for a historical theology class in the Doctor of Ministry Program at Concordia Theological Seminary. The next in the series is Gospel and Scripture.

Gospel and Scripture


Why should people believe in the Bible? Why do they believe in the Bible? The faculty and staff of Concordia Seminary wrestled with these questions throughout the middle quarter of the 20th century. Synodical president JAO (Jack) Preus and the faculty of Concordia Seminary agreed that this issue, the one of Gospel and Scripture was at the core of the brewing controversy at the seminary. As with any historical event these issues did not begin in St. Louis in 1974. Rather, an adoption of the teachings of Barth, Elert, and other theologians at Bad Boll had laid the foundation for the controversy which would follow.

The issue with the faculty, however, is that they were teaching directly against Scripture itself and Symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church. Scripture itself is the standard for Gospel proclamation as St. Paul lays out in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and as witnessed by Paul himself as he stayed in Berea (Acts 17:11). The Gospel is the object of our faith, however, faith also believes the full council of God as revealed in Scripture. In accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions it is believed, taught and confessed that Law and Gospel do something in the life of the sinner.

This was not, however, what the faculty majority at Concordia Seminary was teaching. Many of the faculty and staff had adapted a stance of "Gospel Reductionism," meaning that the "Gospel" gave the Scriptures their normative character, not vice-versa. This was stated in the document produced by the faculty entitled: *Faithful to Our Calling, Faithful to Our Lord: An Affirmation in Two Parts*. This is to utterly conflate the understanding of Scripture and the Gospel. They treated the Gospel as something which hovered over top of the text and if anything was in disagreement with the Gospel it was not seen as good or profitable. In *A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles* this particular issue is addressed in section IV.C. Particularly relevant is the last antithesis: "That Christians need not accept matters taught in the Scriptures that are not a part of the 'Gospel.'" This particular point was one which caused much consternation and debate amongst the faculty who found it particularly to be a problem. At the 1973 convention in New Orleans the faculty majority position was condemned in part because of their teaching of Gospel reductionism.

Who determines the content of theology: an inspired and inerrant Scripture which stands above the reader, or the thoughts and piety of the reader who is to determine and accept what the "Word of God is for them?" It is not the individual, or the church for that matter, who serves as the guarantor for the Gospel or as its protector. To answer the question posed at the beginning: People should believe the Bible because it is God's Word; people do believe the Bible because of the Good News that it brings to them.

In Christ,


The Rev. Leonard Tanksley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS have been printed and are available in the Narthex.

ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES are listed in this newsletter.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY will meet Sunday, December 3rd for a special meeting to elect officers and confirm bids. Also, Voters' Assembly will meet on Sunday, January 28th.

SPI CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will take place on Sunday, December 17th at 3pm in the SPI gym.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE will be Friday, January 12th. PLEASE have all reports in to Jen Fuelling ASAP with Friday, January 12th as the absolute deadline. The reports will be formatted, printed, and ready to hand out by the January 28th Voters' Assembly.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE will be Friday, January 19th.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER: Our Missions budget of \$11,000.00 has received \$4,760.00 as of the end of October. We have 2 months to raise \$6,240.00.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE: The 2023 Christmas committee will be decorating church, Sunday, November 26th at 1:00pm. This year's committee is:

2nd year

Rich and Sheryl Howard

Nicholas and Lisa Howard

Doyle, Doug & Dan Fuelling

1st year

Cy and Maddi Hurst

Jody and John Hurst

Jon Keller

CHURCH CHOIR: The adult choir will rehearse in the church balcony every Wednesday, starting promptly at 7:30 pm. Please join us as we prepare music for the Festivals of the Church year!

BIDS DUE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD: Bids for Church Secretary, Church Custodian, and Church Groundskeeper are due to Dave Bischoff or Pastor Tanksley by Sunday, December 3rd.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2024 COUNCIL:

Vice-President (1): Duane Franz

Elders (2): Fred D. Fuelling, Steve Fuelling

Deacons (3): Joseph Werling, Dan DeLong, Nathan Scherer

Trustees (2): Vern Witte, Greg Fuelling

School Board (1): Dane Fuelling, Fred M. Fuelling

Financial Secretary (1): Josh Franz

FISH AND TENDERLOIN DINNER UPDATE: A Big Thank You to all those who came and volunteered their time, brought cookies and bake sale items. With everyone's help we served 788 meals and raised a little over \$7,000. The money raised will be used to update window blinds at school. Thanks again!

CHURCH DINNER COMMITTEE is looking for a few men or women to join us. The open chair positions are: dining room, drinks, salads, and rolls. If anyone is interested or has questions please talk to Amber Shaffer either at church or I can be reached by phone (260)223-9897 or email shafferna@outlook.com. Thank you! ~ Amber Shaffer

SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP THEME for NOVEMBER & DECEMBER - "COMFORT FOOD": During the months of November and December we will be collecting COMFORT FOOD items. These items will be delivered to the Seminary the first of January. Some suggestions are but not limited to: pasta (all shapes), noodles, rice, chili mix, sloppy joe sauce, taco seasoning, refried beans, beans(black, kidney, etc), canned tomatoes, taco shells, mac and cheese dinners, canned meats(tuna, beef, chicken). Other items that are always in demand are breakfast cereal (excluding Chex). All your donations are greatly appreciated and are a great benefit to the students and their families. Many report that 75-85% of their grocery needs are met at the Co-Op which relies solely on donations from individuals, congregations and organizations. Items can be placed in the gray and white bag at Church. Thank you for all your donations!

St. Peter Events in the Past

50 Years Ago - Pastor Paul F Stohlmann Jr

- Baptism 12-2-1973 Trent Everett Wright Fa. William Arnold Wright
Born 10-22-1973 Mo. Oynalice Jean nee Wicks
Sponsors: Mr Charles F Crosby & Mrs Ruth Crosby
- Baptism 12-2-1973 Jennifer Lynn Linker Fa. Terry Lynn Linker
Born 11-14-1973 Mo. Arlene Flora nee Wietfeldt
Sponsors: Mr David Linker & Mrs Betty Salzbrenner
- Burial 1-11-1974 Carl Henry Boerger Age: 86y 9m 27d
Died 1-8-1974 Text: Psalm 23
(Born 3-12-1887; spouse of Marie nee Fuelling)
- Baptism 1-13-1974 Denise Renee Wass Fa. Dean Wayne Wass
Born 12-18-1973 Mo. Cynthia Diane nee Fuelling
Sponsors: Mrs Arlene Niemeyer & Mrs Jane Busick
- Baptism 1-20-1974 Deanna Lynn Witte Fa. Vernon Wayne Witte
Born 12-14-1973 Mo. Judith Kay nee Thieme
Sponsors: Mrs Sharon Schieferstein & Mrs Scarlett Witte

100 Years Ago - Pastor Alfred H Moeller

- Marriage 12-30-1923 Frederick Thieme & Adelia Boehnke
Witnesses: Simon Thieme & Ruth Böhnke
- Burial 1-2-1924 Lisette Franz, nee Boerger Age: 71y 7m 0d
Died 12-30-1923 Born: 5-30-1852 Text: Psalm 92 v 13-16
Spouse of Christian Franz
- Burial 1-6-1924 Friedrich Heinrich Fuelling Age: 73y 0m 3d
Died 1-3-1924 Born: 12-31-1850 Text: 1 John 3 v 2
(Widower of Sophie nee Hormann)

150 Years Ago - Pastor J Andreas Fritze

- Baptism 12-20-1873 Lisette Charlotte Louise Boknecht Fa. Friedrich Boknecht
Born 12-14-1873 Mo. Sophia (nee Wiegmann)
(Lisette C L Boknecht died 1-22-1937; married Charles Ehrmann)
- Baptism 12-27-1873 Friedrich Wilhelm Wietfeldt Fa. Wilhelm Wietfeldt
Born 12-22-1873 Mo. Louise (nee Ahlfeldt)
Sponsors: Friedrich Wietfeldt & Wilhelm Ahlfeldt
(F William Wietfeldt died 9-29-1955; married Christina Frank)
- Baptism 1-25-1874 Louise Engel Carolina Feusse Fa. Heinrich Feusse
Born 1-12-1874 Mo. Marg Louise (nee Tiesing)
Sponsors: Engel Böhnke, Louise Kucelhan & Carolina Lageman
(Louise Engel Carolina Feusse died 9-6-1874)

Additional Christmas Worship Opportunities, 2023

Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 pm

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 pm

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 pm

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00pm

Sunday, December 24, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Monday, December 25, 9:00 am

Divine Service of Holy Communion for Christmas Day,
Festival of Our Lord's Nativity

Sunday, December 31, 7:00 pm

New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion

Grab your partner & promenade over to a

SQUARE DANCE

The Mirage Banquet Hall
Friday, Dec. 8th

Christmas is
a comin!
And guitars will be
strummin



The wheat's in the ground
The harvest is done (almost)
Come to the Mirage
And have some fun!

Music by BILL WERLING & BREAKAWAY

Square Dancing: 8-11 p.m.

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Square Dance Lessons for Beginners: 7:30 p.m.

For more information contact Bill W: 260-442-4333

Proceeds to benefit St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School

Cost: \$10; Full Cash Bar Available

Best Wishes to Those Celebrating in December and January

December Birthdays

2 Fred M. Fuelling	15 Cindy Kortenber
4 Spencer Myers	16 Kristen Fuelling
4 Ian McDonald	17 Beth Will
7 Kaden Gerardot	18 Randi Linthicum
8 Lori Linder	19 Susie Scherer
11 Jennifer Mitchel	20 Matthew Schroeder
10 Dakotta Suman	24 Sam Gerke
13 Hannah Myers	24 Gunner May
13 Brent Sprunger	26 Liam Warren
14 Deanna Myers	27 Hadlee Scheumann
14 Jim Fuelling	28 Patricia Scherer
	30 Greg Light

December Anniversaries

December 6, 2021
Morgun & MacKenzie Werling

December 31, 1991
Gerald & Kellie Fuelling

January Birthdays

2 Steven H. Fuelling	18 Jackie Sanderson
3 Kade Fuelling	21 Rachel Heck
8 Kari Cummings	22 Greg Fuelling
11 Rod Scheneman	23 Martin Gerke
12 Jon Franz	24 Jake Fuelling
13 Sharon Fuelling	28 Jennifer Berning
14 James Gariepy, Sr.	28 Joel Mishler
17 Anthony Ohler	29 August Fuelling
17 Richard Counterman	30 Deb McDonald
17 Declan Cooper Scherer	

January Anniversaries

January 8, 1982
James & Lori Linder

January 11, 1975
Kim & Teresa Cochran

January 24, 1975
Bruce & Brenda Scherer

January 26, 1963
Vern & Judy Witte

December 2023

Altar Guild— Brenda Wolf and Sheryl Howard

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Special Voter's Meeting/	4	5	6 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Advent Mid-Week Service	7 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	8 SQUARE DANCE BENEFITTING SPI	9
10 9:00am Divine Service; Bible Study	11	12 7:00pm Elders Meet	13 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Advent Mid-Week Service	14 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	15	16
17 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study 3:00pm SPI Christmas Program @ SPI	18	19	20 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Advent Mid-Week Service	21 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	22 *NO SCHOOL SPI*	23
24 9:00am Divine Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion	25 9:00am Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion *NO SCHOOL SPI*	26 *NO SCHOOL SPI*	27 *NO SCHOOL SPI*	28 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen *NO SCHOOL SPI*	29 *NO SCHOOL SPI*	30
31 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion 7:00pm New Year's Eve Service						

January 2024

Altar Guild—Jen Fuelling and Casey Tanksley

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>4</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
	NO SCHOOL SPI	*NO SCHOOL SPI*				
<i>7</i> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study	<i>8</i> 7:00pm SPI Board of Education Meeting	<i>9</i> 6:00pm Elders Meet 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<i>10</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>11</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>12</i> ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:00am Divine Service; Bible Study	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>18</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>19</i> FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>25</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Voters' Assembly Meets	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 10:00am Bible Study			

The Elders

Like the Deacons, the Elders are one of the three original church offices listed in the St. Peter constitution. The Deacons position was described in an earlier newsletter and it was felt that being a deacon is a good position to have for someone new to holding a church office.

Unlike the Deacons, the position of Elder is reserved for someone who is familiar with the Lutheran Church, and preferably familiar with our St. Peter congregation. In all likelihood, an Elder has held other church offices and brings experience to this position. According to our church constitution, the Elders are guided by Matthew 18:15-18, which reads: "if your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses'. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The four Elders at our St. Peter church are Rod Busick (Head), John Fuelling, Jim Fuelling, and Andy Wolf. Two Elders are elected each year for a two year term and they meet one time per month. According to the constitution, their duties are as follows:

1. Assist Pastor in all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation.
2. Consider complaints and grievances of members of the congregation. If Matthew 18:15-16 has been fully observed, and they shall report to the congregation those who cannot be otherwise adjusted, in accordance with Matthew 18:17-18.
3. Make every effort to induce members who have been negligent in their attendance of divine services, in the use of Sacraments, and in the financial and privileges of their membership.
4. See to it that the Divine Services are conducted in such a manner as to avoid needless disturbance, and to foster an attitude conducive to worship of the Holy Trinity among those in attendance.
5. Assist the Pastor in arranging for pulpit assistance, special services, guest attendance; or paying seminary student field workers (as long as the congregation is involved in the program); or paying guest seminary students who may substitute for the Pastor.
6. The outgoing Head Elder shall be part of the annual Nominating Committee.
7. The Elders shall prepare a list of candidates when the congregation is to call a Pastor, which includes receiving and using ideas from the congregation.
8. They shall be an example of Christian conduct and conversation, particularly in their involvement in regular worship, reception of the Lord's Supper, and study the Word of God.

In order to accomplish the duties listed above, the Elders must work very closely with the Pastor. They stated that by discussing many church issues, they are able to understand the Pastor's point of view, and can explain it to a church member, should a question arise. It should be noted that the Elders do want members to approach them with any questions that they might have about the services and/or business of the St. Peter congregation. They feel that it is their responsibility to answer questions, and will do so without judgement, and without identifying the person with the concerns.

Thank you to all of our Elders, past and present, who serve to ensure that the needs of our St. Peter congregation are met according to the constitution.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Bischoff

2023 SPI CHRISTMAS

SERVICE

Sunday, December 17, 2023

2:30 PM Gym Doors Open

2:45 PM Students Report to Classrooms

3:00 PM SPI Christmas Service Begins

Please join us for cookies at the conclusion of the Christmas Service.

Merry Christmas!