



The mission of Park View Lutheran Church is to awaken unbelievers to faith in the Triune God, and teach believers to live as servants of the Risen Lord.

The Great Mystery of the Incarnation



You won't hear the word "incarnation" in any popular Christmas songs on the radio, but that's what Christmas is really all about. Christmas is a celebration of God becoming flesh. The eternal Son of God, who created the universe, entered His creation and became a part of it by becoming a human being. That's the meaning of John 1:14- *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Actually, the incarnation took place nine months earlier when the Holy Spirit came upon the Virgin Mary and the power of the Most High overshadowed her. The tiny human body of the Son of God was conceived in her womb. Just think! The Creator of the world became an embryo. Just like every growing unborn child, Jesus went through all the stages of fetal development. That is one of the reasons we defend the sanctity of human life. If God protected this unborn life, why wouldn't we do same for any other child today? Jesus came to identify with us, to share in our life, and to be "God with us"- Immanuel. He is not ashamed to be called our Brother (Hebrews 2:11). Moreover, Jesus came to share our temptations, trials, sufferings, and death. God became a human being so that He would fulfill our obligation to keep the Law (Galatians 4:4-5) and that He would suffer and die to pay the penalty of our sin (Mark 10:45).

Jesus shares our humanity in all things except sin. This is the great mystery of the incarnation- that Jesus Christ is 100% God and 100% man. He has a divine nature and a human nature. The Athanasian Creed puts it this way: "He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age... Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ... not by conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God." I dare you to put that in your Christmas cards this year!

What I especially want to share with you is that Christmas is much more than a celebration of snow, sleighbells, and Santa Claus. As Christians, we celebrate a profound and wonderful mystery for the world. The great Christmas carol puts it this way:

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

A blessed Advent and Christmas season to you!

Points of Interest

- ◆ Rescheduled Voters Meeting
- ◆ Sunday School Christmas Program
- ◆ Moms Meet Group Change
- ◆ Advent Video Series
- ◆ Christmas Worship Schedule
- ◆ Celebrate Recovery
- ◆ New Counselor at Lutheran Family Services
- ◆ Quilters Need Donations
- ◆ Share & Care Preschool News

Park View Lutheran Church

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Eldridge, IA 52748

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Prayer Chain: 563-285-6992
Email: office.pvlcms@gmail.com
Website: www.pvlcms.org
Pastor Peter Hoft: (563) 508-4893

Normal Schedule:
Sunday Worship Schedule:
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School/Bible Study:
Ages 3 - Adult 9:15 a.m.

Summer Thursday Worship Schedule:
Memorial Day - Labor Day 7:00 p.m.

Summer Sunday Worship Schedule:
Memorial Day - Labor Day 9:00 a.m.

Summer Adult Bible Study
June 8:00 a.m.



VOTERS' MEETING

Our November voters meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, Dec. 20 at 9:15 am in the sanctuary. We will be electing new officers and having an important discussion about the possibility of applying for a DCE intern. Please plan to attend this meeting as we continue the Lord's mission at PVLC.



The annual Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 20th at the 10:30 service. Practices will be Saturdays December 5th, 12th, and 19th from 9:00 till 10:30 a.m. Please have children wear masks to practice.



In-Person Worship Schedule for Advent and Christmas Season

In-person worship services resumed on Sunday, November 29 at their regular times of 8am and 10:30 am. Thursday night services at 7pm will continue in December as well.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 pm and 7 pm.

Christmas Day service with Holy Communion will be held at 9 am.

New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion will be held at 6 pm.

MASKS TO BE WORN AT ALL SERVICES



Mom's MEET will resume meeting in person on the first Wednesday of every month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the LYLES room, We would love for you to join us. Please wear a mask.

Due to the rise in virus cases Dec.'s meeting will be held virtually on Dec. 4 at 6:30pm.



Advent Midweek Video Series

This year, out of abundance of caution, we will not have in-person Advent mid-week services. Instead, we will provide short devotional services via YouTube. These will appear online on Wednesday December 2, 9 and 16. We will follow a series called "The Jesse Tree." Here are the Scriptures we will cover so that you may prepare at home with your family.

Dec. 2- Jesus, the Seed of Jesse's Tree (Genesis 1:27; 3:8-15; Romans 5:12-21)

Dec. 9- Jesus, the Root of Jesse's Tree (Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-22)

Dec. 16- Jesus, the Life of Jesse's Tree (Matthew 3:12-17; Romans 6:1-11)



Men's Bible study resumes on Dec. 1. They meet every Tuesday morning at 6:30 am and are currently studying the book of Leviticus.

Women's Bible study resumes on Dec. 3. They meet every Thursday morning at 9:30 am and are currently studying the book of Proverbs.



Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-Centered Recovery program that will begin meeting in 2021 on Monday nights from 5-7pm at Pleasant View Baptist Church. It is free and there is also free childcare. This Bible-based program is for anyone who struggles with anger, co-dependency, overworking, various addictions, compulsive over/under eating, compulsive spending and any other issue that keeps us from becoming the people we are called to be. For more information, call Barb at 563-370-0399.



New Counselor at Lutheran Family Service

The pastors of the Dav-enport circuit were introduced to the newest staff member at the Lutheran Family Service office in Bettendorf. Her name is Amber Dopler. Amber has worked as a counselor for 14 years, but now with LFS she is free to bring her Christian faith into the discussion. We were impressed by her presentation. For more information about mental health counseling, marriage counseling and other needs, please check out www.lutheranfamilyservice.org.



Quilters Looking for Donations

The PVLC quilters are asking for donations of old blankets and mattress pads. Bring them to church and place in secretary's office.

Fall Clean Up

Thank you to all who helped at our Fall Clean Up Day on November 7! It was a great crew.

Stan Paxton, Mary Lou Engler, Trish Horn, Dale and Jill Grunwald, Tim and Aaron Raleigh Wayne and Sandy Ott, Natalie Amhof,



Thanksgiving Altar Decorations

Thank you to Dorcas Smith, Mary Lou Engler and Shirley Mirfield for decorating our altar area with the Lord's beautiful bounties of autumn.

Merry Christmas and Thank You

Thank you to the Tim Raleigh family for bringing a Christmas tree for the church all the way from Wisconsin. It's a beautiful tree. Thank you to Wayne and Sandy Ott, Gretchen Hoft and Pastor Pete for decorating the tree. Our outdoor Nativity scene was put up by Tim Raleigh, Wayne Ott, Nathan Hoft and Pastor Pete. We are grateful to have these members help during these unprecedented times.

December Herald



Now Enrolling

It's hard to believe the Holiday Season is upon us! The children have been busy learning their Christmas songs for our programs. Finishing touches are being made on putting supplies together for the children to do a project with their families, this year the younger class will be making Christmas trees and the older class will be making wreaths to take home. The children will also be making ornaments in preschool for their families. We will have programs on Wednesday, December 16th at 9:30 and on Thursday, December 17th at 9:15 and 11:00. All congregation is welcome to attend, masks are required for all adults.

Please keep the preschool in your prayers over this holiday season. So far we have fared very well in keeping the staff and students healthy. In this season of giving the preschool can always use extra prayers or any type of financial help, especially in this trying year. We couldn't provide the wonderful education that we do without the support of the congregation.

We will have a break from preschool from December 18th to January 4th. When we arrive back we will be starting registration for the 2021-2022 school year. If you know anyone who may be interested let me know so I can get a letter off to them. More information will be in the January Herald.

Here's hoping for a safe and happy holiday season to you all. Merry Christmas and God Bless!

Amanda

***Blessing Box***

PVLC will be taking over the maintenance of the Blessing Box continuing this needed ministry for the residents of Park View. Donations of non-perishable items will be accepted on a weekly basis. Please place your donations in the tote in the coatroom. **If your group or organization would like to fill the Blessing Box one month out of the year please contact the church office 285-9035.**

2021 Blessing Box Schedule

January ?
February ?
March ?
April - **Share & Care Preschool**
May ?
June ?

July ?
August ?
September ?
October ?
November ?
December ?

Birthdays

- 1 Kennick Meyer
- 2 Seth Cameron
Sue Payne
- 3 Jacob Cronkleton
- 4 Shirley Peer
- 6 Becky Knorrek
- 9 Mike Moeller
- 10 Ronald Amhof
Barbara Huff
Jared Plagge
- 11 James Moenck
- 13 Jonathan Conners
Thomas Knapper
- 14 Jordan Caskey
Lynn Henderson
Kendra Marchant
- 15 Gene Horn
- 17 Justin Alden
Mary Fish
- 19 Shaun Yaudas
- 20 Marcia McKinney
Sloane Woodward
- 24 Christian Moseley
Martha Pearce
- 25 Mark Hundley
Norman Seifert
Josie VanDewiele
- 26 Kyle Merten
- 27 Corie Danielsen
Isla Millam
Tina Thomas
Alexander Traub
- 28 Donald Petersen
- 29 Joseph Millam
Erin Rubach
- 31 Kathy Kilen
Ryker VanWetzinga

Anniversaries

- 4 Dave & Jill Kull (27)
- 7 Del & Jane Traub (35)
- 10 Brad & Trish Miller (32)
- 14 Brett & Vicki Arnold (24)
JW & Carrie Slauson (2)
- 16 Chuck & Linda Moeller (59)
- 22 Jerry & Bonnie Voelkers (36)
- 23 Brian & Tina Thomas (32)
- 24 Jim & Caralee Gruntorad (49)
- 27 Pastor Pete & Bethany Hoft (23)
- 30 Pat & Sue Regan (43)



Please keep the following members in your prayers:

For those fighting/healed of cancer: Andrew Claeys, Chuck Colbert, Jerry Gordy, Gene Horn, Cheryl Kofron, Doug Lockhart, Jim McKinney, Cy Miller, Shirley Mirfield, Chuck Moeller, Connie Morse, Tom Morse, Judy Mumm, Don Petersen, Donna Ploog, Dorcas Smith, Connie Youngers, for healing and God's peace.

For our members who suffer silently from life-long, life threatening illness, for peace in our great physician.

For our members confined to a nursing facility or homebound by illness or other weakness, for a peace that surpasses all understanding.

For Ryan Paxton, celebrated his 1st birthday Nov. 26, in critical condition at Children's Stead Hospital.

For Linda Colbert, member who resides at Utica Ridge Manorcure, Diagnosed with Covid-19.

For Jennifer Rathe, for relief of pain.

For Russell Soenksen, recovering from a broken back.

For Pat and Sue Regan, grieving the death of Sue's father, Ray.

For Ella Gray Gerard, baby girl born to Sara and Shawn Gerard.

For Shirley Mirfield, undergoing more tests.

For Ann Thompson, for good results from recent testing.

For those of our armed forces, especially those with ties to our faith family here at PVLC:

Stateside: Michael Bartel, Caleb Claeys, Kasey Denison, Joshua Elmshaeuser, Anthony Isely, Morgan Marchant and Alan Rubach.

Friends and Relatives of Members to keep in our prayers:

Tracy Brinkmeyer, Matt Claeys, Lee Cespedes, Tammy Cheek, Michele Gruntorad, Nellee Gruntorad, Scott Horn, Larry Klemme, Steven Kruse, Hudson McKearney, Brad Mumm, Jill Selby, Fred Smith, Emma and Rachel Soenksen and Curtis Wheeler as they face pneumonia, influenza, cancer, surgery, Alzheimer's, or illness, we pray for the Lord's strength and protection.

Current Membership

Baptized Members 529
 Communicant Members 424

Official Acts**Gains:**

Transfer:
 Adult Confirmation:
 Junior Confirmation:
 Profession of Faith:
 Baptism:

Losses:

Transfer:
 Peaceful Release:
 Own Request:
 Death:

From Our Records

Sunday Attendance	Thursday Attendance
10/04/2020 - 98	10/01/2020 - 39
10/11/2020 - 74	10/08/2020 - 30
10/18/2020 - 75	10/15/2020 - 36
10/25/2020 - 80	10/22/2020 - 34
	10/29/2020 - 35

Total October Attendance: 501

St. Stephens Fund Disbursements**Financial**

	<u>October</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
General Fund Income	\$32,928	\$345,383
General Fund Expenses	\$29,627	\$288,476
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$3,301	\$56,907
Principal Only Payments Collected	\$250	\$6,783
Organ Fund	\$0	\$14,115

The General Fund includes envelope offerings, loose plate offerings, Sunday school offerings and Share and Care Preschool income. The General Fund is used to pay day to day expenses of the church and pre-school, salaries, mission support, etc.

The General Fund **does not include contributions specifically earmarked** for the St. Stephen's fund, memorials, etc.

December 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30am-Men's Bible Study 10:00am-Quilting	2 Online Advent Devotions 6:00pm-Confirmation	3 9:30am-Women's Bible Study 7:00pm-Worship HC	4	5
6 8:00am-Worship HC 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship	7 6:30pm-Elders Mtg	8 6:30am-Men's Bible Study 10:00am-Quilting	9 Online Advent Devotions 6:00pm-Confirmation	10 9:30am-Women's Bible Study 7:00pm-Worship	11	12
13 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship HC 6:30pm-LYTES	14 6:30pm-Ex Bd Mtg	15 6:30am-Men's Bible Study 10:00am-Quilting	16 Online Advent Devotions 6:00pm-Confirmation	17 9:30am-Women's Bible Study 7:00pm-Worship HC	18	19
20 8:00am-Worship HC 9:15am-SS 9:15am-Voters Mtg 10:30am-Worship	21	22 6:30am-Men's Bible Study	23	24 4:00pm-Worship 7:00pm-Worship Church Office Closed	25 9:00am-Worship HC Church Office Closed	26
27 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship HC 6:30pm-LYTES	28 Joan on Vacation	29 Joan on Vacation	30 Joan on Vacation	31 6:00pm-Worship HC Church Office Closed		

December Serving Schedule

Ushers

- 6 Terry Meyer, Del Traub,
Shawn Gerard, Chuck Moeller (8:00)
Andrew Claeys, Joe Claeys(10:30)
- 13 Jeff Pearce, Wayne Ott, Gene Horn,
Nathan Hoft, Kent Denison (8:00)
Rob Martin, Zach Cameron (10:30)
- 20 Dan Kilen, Jerry Hartwig,
Andy Hartwig, Dave Amhof (8:00)
Don Petersen, John Schaub,
Mark Hundley (10:30)
- 27 Brian Klever, Tim Raleigh,
Dane Egedal, Erik Egedal (8:00)
Andrew Claeys, Joe Claeys (10:30)

Elders

- 3 Jeff Pearce (C) (7:00pm)
- 6 Tim Raleigh (C) (8:00)
Daniel Rathe (10:30)
- 10 Scott Campbell (7:00pm)
- 13 Mike Yaudas (8:00)
Jason Pawloski (C) (10:30)
- 17 Brian Klever (C) (7:00pm)
- 20 Jim Gruntorad (C) (8:00)
Jeff Pearce (10:30)
- 24 Scott Campbell (4:00pm)
Volunteer (7:00pm)
- 25 Volunteer (C) (9:00am)
- 27 Daniel Rathe (8:00)
Tim Raleigh (C) (10:30)
- 31 Volunteer(C) (6:00pm)

Acolytes

- 6 (8:00)
(10:30)
- 13 (8:00)
(10:30)
- 20 (8:00)
(10:30)
- 27 (8:00)
(10:30)

Nursery

- 6 NO NURSERY
- 13 NO NURSERY
- 20 NO NURSERY
- 27 NO NURSERY

Communion Washers

- 6 Trish Horn
Mary Lou Engler
- 13 Lu Foss
Catherine Schaub
- 20 Barb Huff
Julie Daniels
- 25 Caralee Gruntorad
- 27 Connie Youngers
Donna Ploog
- 29 Connie Youngers

Counters

- 6 Connie Youngers
Ralph/Pam Schnekloth
- 13 Jerry/Kay Hartwig
Andy Hartwig
- 20 Mary Lou Engler
Natalie Amhof
- 27 Lee/Jackie Holden
Aimee Egedal