

The Herald



PARK VIEW
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lord has Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

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.

Advent Service Theme: "His Gospel is Peace"

Pastor Matt Popovits, author of this year's Advent series- "His Gospel is Peace" writes: To be human is to understand what it means to fear. The smallest child is afraid when the lights turn off at night. The most famous rock star is driven by fear of rejection from their adoring fans. Fear keeps us from the Thanksgiving dinner table (or perhaps fuels the shouting match after the pumpkin pie is served). Fear causes us to stockpile our houses with toilet paper and water bottles "just in case." Fear elevates and prolongs our anxiety or our shame as we choose to avoid addressing our mistakes- and the mistakes of others- out of concern that we'll only make things worse."

The season of Advent helps us long for a different reality: one ruled by peace rather than fear. Christ's birth and the promise of His second coming mean peace is breaking through. Jesus was born into our tribulation, despair, and fear not just to comfort us but to bring an end to whatever terrifies us most.

This is why the psalmist says, "We will not fear, though the earth gives way."

It's why one of Jesus' common refrains is "Fear not."

It's why Paul proclaims that the peace of God guards and rules over the hearts of His people.

The Prince of Peace comes to live for us, die for us, and rise for us. In doing so, He overcomes death itself, cleanses us of our sins, defeats the evil one, and makes us righteous. Through faith in our Savior, born Immanuel, we cannot be rejected, we have nothing to be ashamed of, and we have the promise of life everlasting. In Christ alone, fear is exchanged for peace.

Our Wednesday Advent services this year (1 pm and 7 pm) will focus on several places in Scripture where God addresses our fears and proclaims His peace. Despite your worries, anxieties, and very real suffering, we have a God who stands resolute to give us His "peace which surpasses all understanding" (Phil. 4:7).

Pastor Pete

Points of Interest

- * *Sunday School News*
- * *Share & Care Preschool Christmas Devotions*
- * *December Bible Studies*
- * *Angel Tree*
- * *Christmas Caroling*
- * *Advent Services*
- * *Christmas Services*
- * *2025 Bible Reading Challenge*
- * *The Anticipation of Advent*
- * *Correctional Cookie Ministry*
- * *New Year's Eve Service*

Park View Lutheran Church

14 Grove Road
Eldridge IA 52748



Phone: 563-285-9035
Prayer Chain: 563-285-6992
Email: secretary.pvlcms@outlook.com
Website: www.pvlcms.org
Pastor Peter Hoft (563) 508-4893
DCE/DCO Bethany Dorschner (563) 285-9035

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.

DECEMBER Sunday School Curriculum & Schedule

Find out what happening in Sunday School!

Preschool - 5th Grade



Preschool & Kindergarten Teacher - Sharon Tannahill

1st & 2nd Grade Teacher - Dawn Dittmer

3rd - 5th Grade Teacher - Kerri Rehn

This Month's Lessons!

December 1 - Jesus Heals People

December 8 - Jesus Forgives a Paralyzed Man

December 15 - Christmas Lesson

December 22nd and 29th - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**



Join us for the
Children's Christmas Program
on **December 15th**
at the **10:30 service!**

Practices are 9:00-10:15
December 7th and 14th

Middle Schoolers

6th - 8th Grade



6th - 8th Grade Teachers - Sue Raleigh & Bethany Dorschner

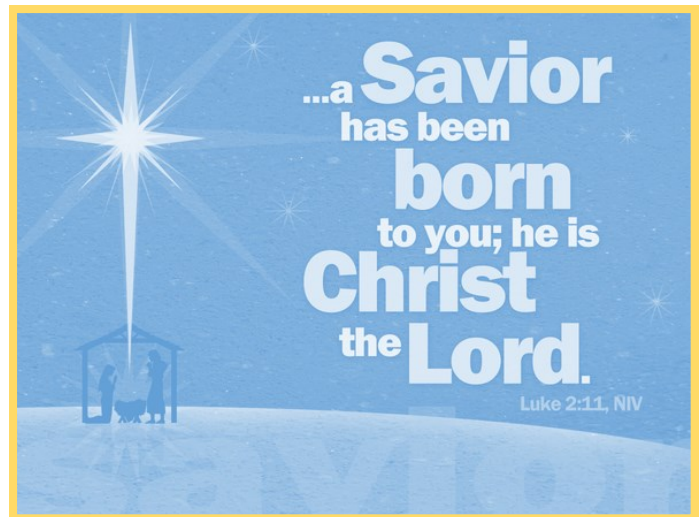
This Month's Lessons!

December 1 - What's So Bad About Ouija Boards, Magic & Fortunetellers

December 8 - Why Did God Appear to People Only in Bible Times?

December 15 - Christmas Lesson or Who is the Holy Spirit

December 22nd and 29th - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**



High School Youth



High School Teachers - Angela & Joshua Elmsaeuser

This Month's Lessons!

December 1 - Jesus the Student

December 8 - The Value of the Kingdom

December 15 - Parable of the Great Feast

December 22nd and 29th - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**



DECEMBER Other Education & Bible Study Opportunities

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:15-10:15am



Pastor is continuing the series on the Book of Genesis.

No classes on Dec 22nd or 29th

MEN'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



6:30-7:30am

Men meet with Pastor to read through the Bible, chapter by chapter, and discuss how it applies to our life. We are currently studying the Book of Acts.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



9:30-10:30am

Women meet in the multipurpose room for Bible study. We are studying the Gospel of Mark



Confirmation Schedule

Dec 4th - 6-6:50pm Class 7pm - 1st Advent Service

Dec 11th - 6-6:50pm Class 7pm - 2nd Advent Service
(Meal served by 7th & 8th Grade Parents)

Dec 14th - Caroling (Sat. 5:30-8pm) Servant Event

Dec 15th - 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Service

Dec 18th - 6-6:50pm Class 7pm - 3rd Advent Service
(Meal Served by 5th & 6th Grade Parents)

Dec 25th - NO CLASS (CHRISTMAS BREAK)

LYTES

Lord's Youth Touching Everyone Spiritually

The LYTES meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Of the month

December's Meetings

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

November begins several special days we are able to celebrate with the students. We were able to have both Alan Rubach and Joshua Elmshaeuser visit one of our classes to speak to us about Veteran's Day. The kids got to try on their special helmets, see their uniforms, photos, and even try some MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat). We very much appreciate them taking the time to talk to the children. The children each got a little Army guy to take home to set in a special place to remember to pray for those that serve our country and a little flag to take home, as well. We also had lots of talk about Turkeys and giving thanks, during Thanksgiving.

We welcome the congregation to attend our Christmas Devotions where the children will share special songs they have learned for their parents and family members. These will be held on December 18 and 19th at 9:00. The younger children will each get their own special small Christmas tree to decorate and the older children will decorate a wreath with their family before the program begins.

Our Annual Silent Auction went very well and was a huge success. We want to thank everyone for their donations and purchasing of baskets to help support our preschool program.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings,

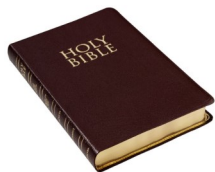
Jennifer Rathe, Director



SHARE & CARE

CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

2025 Bible Reading Challenge!



Would you like to read through the whole Bible in one or two years? There are several Bible reading plans you can choose from. Click on this link <https://communication.cph.org/free-bible-reading-plans> to download a plan that works for you!



This year's caroling will be Saturday, December 14 @ 5:30 p.m. Meet at the church at 5:15 p.m. Look for the sign up sheet on the kiosk in the fellowship hall.

New Year's Eve

Holy Communion Service @ 6:00 PM
Tuesday, December 31



Wednesday Services
December 4, 11 & 18

1:00 p.m.
&
7:00 p.m.



MEMBERS BRING BACK THEIR BULLETINS

Jim & Caralee
Gruntorad
Praise & Worship
Lutheran Church
Branson West, MO

Lee & Jackie
Holden
Our Savior
Lutheran Church
Carbondale, IL

Bob & Barb
Ferguson
Trinity
Lutheran Church
Davenport, IA



Please Help an Angel from the Christmas Tree

Park View Lutheran will again bless young members of our community with an Angel Tree. Please select an angel from the tree. On the angel will be the name, age and some gift ideas. **Please return your gifts to church by Sunday, December 15.** Please don't put the name of the church or your last name on the package. These gifts are given under the supervising care of Lutheran Social Services.



Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 22
8 & 10:30am
NO Sunday School or
Bible Study

Tuesday, December 24
Candlelight Family - 4:00pm
Candlelight - 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 25
Worship with HC - 9:00am

Sunday, December 29
8 & 10:30am
NO Sunday School or
Bible Study



Davenport & Vinton
Lutheran Homes

Davenport Lutheran Home Donations

Every year at this time we ask for donations of items to be used to put together holiday gift bags for the residents of our Lutheran Home. Every year our Church Families respond very generously and each and every resident receives a nice gift. This year we put together two lists; one for Art supplies and one for Activities supplies. Activities supplies: lotion, Kleenex, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, aftershave, nail polish, polish remover, chapstick, cotton balls, combs, brushes, headbands, sugar free candy and jewelry(necklaces). Art Supplies: Crayola crayons, glitter, glue gun, glue sticks, Batteries: C, AAA. We ask that gifts not be wrapped so that we can be sure to give the most appropriate gifts to each resident. **Please bring donations to the Lutheran Home prior to December 10.** They can be left at the front desk. Thank you all for donating these much needed items and for contributing to this years joyful Christmas celebration at the Lutheran Home!



Advent is a season of waiting, a time to prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Jesus. Yet, in a world that values instant gratification, waiting can feel like an inconvenience. We rush through our days, our minds filled with tasks and deadlines, often forgetting to pause and reflect on the deeper meaning of the season. But Advent invites us to slow down and embrace the wait, reminding us that the most precious gifts often come only after a period of expectation.

The word “advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” Advent is a time to anticipate the arrival of Christ’s birth at Christmas, as well as His promised return. It’s a season filled with anticipation, but unlike the frenzy that often accompanies holiday preparations, Advent calls us into a peaceful waiting that is filled with hope.

1. Waiting with Hope

In Psalm 130, the psalmist speaks of waiting with a hopeful heart: “I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word I put my hope.” Advent encourages us to wait, not out of resignation, but with anticipation for what God is preparing. This hope is not merely wishful thinking. It is a steadfast assurance in God’s promises. As we light each candle on the Advent wreath, we are reminded of God’s faithfulness throughout history. Just as Israel waited for the Messiah, we too wait, but with a hopeful heart, knowing that Christ has already come and is present with us.

Hope is not always easy. There are times when waiting feels like wandering through darkness, uncertain if the dawn will ever break. But Advent teaches us that light does come, and that Jesus—the Light of the World—will illuminate even the darkest places in our lives. Our waiting, then, becomes an act of faith, a way of leaning into God’s promises with confidence.

2. Preparing Our Hearts

Advent also invites us to prepare. When we wait with a purpose, our waiting becomes meaningful. This season, instead of filling our time with busyness, we can choose to fill it with prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness. Just as we clean and decorate our homes for Christmas, we can also make room in our hearts for Jesus.

John the Baptist called people to “prepare the way of the Lord.” We, too, are called to remove anything that stands in the way of our relationship with God. Maybe it’s a spirit of bitterness or unforgiveness. Perhaps it’s the distraction of materialism or an anxious heart that needs peace. Whatever it may be, Advent is a time to reflect and surrender these burdens to God. As we prepare our hearts, we create space for the joy and love of Christ to dwell within us.

3. Embracing the Joy of Anticipation

There’s a unique joy in anticipation, a quiet thrill that comes with looking forward to something special. Think about a child waiting for Christmas morning, the sense of wonder and joy bubbling up in expectation. Advent invites us to rediscover this childlike wonder as we await the birth of Jesus.

This joy does not erase our challenges; instead, it gives us a reason to endure them with hope. In the waiting, God shapes and molds us, preparing us for the blessings He has in store. We learn patience, resilience, and gratitude, and we begin to see life with fresh eyes. The waiting becomes a gift, a time when God can work within us, drawing us closer to His heart.

Reflection Questions:

- What are you waiting for in this season of Advent? Is there a hope, dream, or promise you’re holding onto?
- How can you use this time of waiting to deepen your relationship with God?
- Are there any areas in your life that need preparation? What might you need to let go of or change to make room for Christ?

Advent is a time to remember that God works in the waiting. As we light the candles each week and count down the days, let us wait with hopeful expectation, prepare our hearts for His arrival, and embrace the joy of anticipation. May this season of waiting draw us closer to the One who is the true gift of Christmas.

Let’s Pray.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of Advent, for the reminder to pause and wait with hopeful hearts. As we prepare to celebrate Your birth, may we find joy in the waiting, peace in the anticipation, and strength in Your promises. Help us to trust in Your timing and to welcome You with open hearts. Amen.



Birthdays

- 2 Sue Payne
Kerri Rehn
- 3 Jacob Cronkleton
- 5 Linda Intveld
- 6 Becky Knorrek
- 9 Mike Moeller
- 10 Ronald Amhof
Barbara Huff
Jared Plagge
- 11 James Moenck
- 13 Jonathan Conners
Thomas Knapper
Tim Raleigh
- 14 Jordan Caskey
Lynn Henderson
Kendra Paulson
- 15 Gene Horn
- 17 Justin Alden
Mary Fish
- 19 Shaun Yaudas
- 20 Ricky Grimes IV
Marcia McKinney
Sloane Woodward
- 21 Jerry Morden
- 24 Christian Moseley
Martha Pearce
- 25 Mark Hundley
- 26 Kyle Merten
- 27 Isla Millam
Corie Nelson
Tina Thomas
- 28 Chris Ayers
Donald Petersen
- 29 Mary Fahrenkrug
Joseph Millam
Erin Rubach
- 31 Kathy Kilen
Ryker VanWetzinga



Anniversaries

- 4 Dave & Jill Kull (31)
- 7 Del & Jane Traub (39)
- 10 Brad & Trish Miller (36)
- 14 Brett & Vicki Arnold (28)
- 22 Jerry & Bonnie Voelkers (40)
- 23 Brian & Tina Thomas (36)
- 24 Jim & Caralee Gruntorad (53)
- 27 Pastor Pete & Bethany Hoft (27)
- 30 Pat & Sue Regan (47)

Please keep the following members in your prayers:

For those fighting/healed of cancer: Dave Amhof, Rich Atwood, Pastor Bob Bartel, Andrew Claeys, Mike Cornett, Gene Horn, Cheryl Kofron, Jim McKinney, Marcia McKinney, Cy Miller, Jo Miller, Chuck Moeller, Connie Morse, Judy Mumm, Don Petersen, Donna Ploog, Dorcas Smith, Connie Youngers, for peace and healing.



For our members who suffer silently from chronic life threatening illness, for strength and healing.

For our members confined to a nursing facility or homebound by illness or other weakness, comfort and strength.

For Jo Lynn Pawloski, continued recovery from back surgery.

For the family of Lynn Henderson, as they grieve the death of their mother and grandmother

For Charles and Julie Wolfe, as they move to northern Illinois the first of November

For Dave Amhof, recently diagnosed with lung cancer, for healing after a bout of pneumonia.

For Chris Serrano, for protection and healing of his heart issues.

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

Japan: Lucas Miller; **Stateside:** Michael Bartel, Tanner Carpenter, Caleb Claeys, Kasey Denison, Larry Goodwin, Anthony Isely, Morgan Marchant, Isabella Richards, Alan Rubach, Brett Slaughter, Christopher Teuscker and Nate Thayer.

Friends and Relatives of Members to keep in our prayers:

Rev. Brad Birtell, Tammy Cheek, Scott Horn, as they face natural disaster recovery, Covid-19, pneumonia, influenza, cancer, surgery, stroke, Alzheimer's, or illness, we pray for peace that surpasses all understanding.

Missionaries in Uruguay Rev. James and Angie Sharp



CORRECTIONAL COOKIE MINISTRY

Due to circumstances beyond our control the Correctional Facility Cookie Ministry is being discontinued. Tracy Carstens will no longer pick up cookies beginning January 1, 2025.

December 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00am-Worship HC 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship	2	3 6:30am-MBS 9:00am-Quilting	4 1:00pm-Worship 5:30pm-Dinner (WRO) 6:00pm-Confirmation 6:00pm-LYTES 7:00pm-Worship	5 9:30am-WBS 3:00pm-GriefShare 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	6	7 9:00am--SS Xmas Prg Rehearsal
8 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship HC	9 7:00pm-Ex Bd Mtg	10 6:30am-MBS 9:00am-Quilting 5-7pm-GriefShare	11 1:00pm-Worship 5:30pm-Dinner (7 & 8 gr) 6:00pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	12 9:30am-WBS 3:00pm-GriefShare 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	13	14 9:00am--SS Xmas Prg Rehearsal 5:30pm-Christmas Caroling
15 8:00am-Worship HC 9:15am--SS/BS 10:30am-Worship SS Program	16	17 6:30am-MBS 9:00am-Quilting	18 1:00pm-Worship 5:30pm-Dinner (5 & 6 gr) 6:00pm-Confirmation 6:00pm-LYTES 7:00pm-Worship	19 NO WBS 3:00pm-GriefShare 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 8:00am-Worship 10:30am-Worship HC NO SS/BS	23	24 4:00pm-Candlelight Worship 7:00pm-Candlelight Worship Church Office Closed	25 9:00am-Worship HC Church Office Closed	26 NO WBS Joan Vacation	27 Bethany D. Vacation Joan Vacation	28 Bethany D. Vacation
29 8:00am-Worship HC 10:30am-Worship HC No SS/BS Bethany D Vacation	30 6:30pm-Elders Mtg Bethany D. Vacation Joan Vacation	31 6:00pm-Worship HC Joan Vacation Bethany D. Vacation				

December Serving Schedule

Ushers

- 1 Jeff Pearce, Wayne Ott, (8:00)
Brian Klever, Doug Amhof
Andrew Claeys, Joe Claeys (10:30)
Rich Atwood, Scot Schaar
- 8 Dan Kilen, Jerry Hartwig, (8:00)
Andy Hartwig, John Pischke
Rob Martin, Zach Cameron (10:30)
Gayle Rasmussen
- 15 Lee Holden, Rod Kjersten, (8:00)
Dave Amhof, Jerry Wuestenberg
John Schaub, Craig Tannahill, (10:30)
Mark Hundley
- 22 Tim Raleigh, Del Traub, (8:00)
Shawn Gerard, Chuck Moeller
Andrew Claeys, Joe Claeys, (10:30)
Rich Atwood, Scot Schaar
- 29 Jeff Pearce, Wayne Ott, (8:00)
Brian Klever, Doug Amhof
Rob Martin, Zach Cameron, (10:30)
Gayle Rasmussen

Elders

- 1 Tim Raleigh/Kyle Rehn (C)
(8:00)
Craig Tannahill(10:30)
- 4 Scott Campbell (1:00)
Jim Gruntorad (7:00)
- 8 Quintin Gerard (8:00)
Jim Gruntorad/Brian Klever (C)
(10:30)
- 11 Jim Gruntorad(1:00)
Craig Tannahill (7:00)

- 15 Scott Campbell/Brian Klever (C)
(8:00)

- Quintin Gerard (10:30)

- 18 Brian Klever(1:00)

- Tim Raleigh (7:00)

- 22 Kyle Rehn (8:00)

- Craig Tannahill/Tim Raleigh (C)

- (10:30)

- 24 Quintin Gerard (4:00pm)

- Scott Campbell (7:00pm)

- 25 Jim Gruntorad (9:00am)

- 29 Scott Campbell/Kyle Rehn (C) (8:00)

- Craig Tannahill/Brian Klever (C)

- (10:30)

- 31 Craig Tannahill (C) (6:00pm)

Acolytes

- 1 Oliver Mangan (8:00)

- Peyton Paxton (10:30)

- 4 Mason Nemeth (7:00)

- 8 Mallory Grunwald (8:00)

- Alliana Ray (10:30)

- 11 Michaela Goodwin (7:00)

- 15 Maddox Grunwald (8:00)

- Mason Rathe (10:30)

- 18 Kip VanWetzinga (7:00)

- 22 Liam Deweerdt (8:00)

- Maddox Drummond (10:30)

- 24 Volunteer (4:00pm)

- Volunteer (7:00pm)

- 25 Volunteer (9:00am)

- 29 Kenny Chumbley (8:00)

- Ryker VanWetzinga (10:30)

- 31 Volunteer (6:00pm)

Communion Washers

- 1 Connie Youngers

- Barb Huff

- 8 Sue Raleigh

- Catherine Schaub

- 15 Julie Daniels

- Jackie Holden

- 22 Caralee Gruntorad

- Donna Ploog

- 25 Cheryl Lunardi (Christmas Day)

- 29 Mary Lou Kaney

- Connie Youngers

- Mary Lou Kaney

- Teri Wuestenberg

- 31 Caralee Gruntorad (New Years Eve)

Counters

- 1 Jerry/Kay Hartwig

- Andy Hartwig

- 8 Paul/Susan Kalainoff

- Mary Fish

- 15 Mary Lou Engler

- Sharon Tannahill

- 22 Lee/Jackie Holden

- Doug/Aimee Egesdal

- 29 Randy Ridgeway

- Tracy Carstens

Nursery

- 1 Sami Merten

- 8 Mary Lou Kaney

- 15 Linda Schroeder

- 22 No Classes

- 29 No Classes