

**St. Peter Lutheran Church**  
**208 Newtown Ave.**  
**Norwalk, CT 06851**

***PARISHSCOPE***  
***JANUARY 2020***



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# PASTOR'S

**Happy New Year!** Of course, it is not a new year in the Church. Our year begins with Advent, the four-week season of preparation before Christmas. So: happy second month of the new year!

Boy, do we Christians think that we can make and follow our own schedules and calendars and so separate ourselves from everyone else? Of course not. I celebrated New Year's Eve like everyone else; although, probably in a more sedate way than many others. My normal New Year's Eve consists of a beer or a glass of wine, a few snacks, and watching old Twilight Zone episodes on TV. I don't even necessarily make it to midnight (and Lorayne certainly doesn't even come close!) I'm hardly a wild and crazy guy! My New Year's celebration then concludes on New Year's morning. After fixing a nice breakfast I like to watch the Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA. I especially like to see the float from the Lutheran Laymen's League. It's a good witness to Christ in the midst of the holiday celebration. And so, yes, we Christians can join in with everyone else and enjoy celebrating holidays, even ones that are not celebrated in the Church.

In fact, Jesus Himself joined in holiday celebrations. Or, perhaps I should revert to the real meaning of the word and call them holy-day celebrations, for that is what they were. The Gospels tell us of several Jewish holy day celebrations in which Jesus was involved: Hanukkah, Booths (or Tabernacles), and Passover. Several Passover celebrations are recorded for us. The first one, in Luke 2:41-50, was one which he celebrated with his family when He was twelve. But, Luke begins the story of this celebration by telling us that His parents went to Jerusalem every year for the Passover, so we know He celebrated this holy day every year. John tells us of three other Passover celebrations: one at the beginning of His ministry (John 2:23ff); one which was probably the next year (John 6:4); and His last one, which He celebrated with His disciples right before His arrest and crucifixion.

Jesus' celebration of the Feast of Booths is recorded in John 7, and is the focus of the entire chapter. I'm guessing that you may be surprised to hear that Jesus celebrated Hanukkah. You'll find this in John 10:22ff. It should be no surprise that Jesus celebrated Hanukkah, for this holiday commemorates the victory of the Jewish people over their Syrian oppressors in 164 B.C., which culminated in the cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem and the restoring of the right worship of God. It became an annual celebration long before Jesus was born.

## PONDERINGS

Jesus joined in the celebration of these, and undoubtedly other, holy days of His people, for He came to be one with us and not separate from us. But, it is interesting to read of His involvement in these celebrations, for we then see that He changed them by making Himself the central focus. As each of Israel's holy days focused upon God and His saving of His people, they each pointed to and were fulfilled in Him.

And so, during the Hanukkah celebration, as Jesus was confronted by Jewish leaders while walking in the temple courts and asked whether He was the Messiah, He responded: "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.*" (John 10:27-30) The true worship of God, the Shepherd and Savior of Israel, was therefore the worship of Him.

During the celebration of the Feast of Booths, as people were talking among themselves and wondering whether He was the Messiah, He stood up and said: "*If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'*" He thus equated Himself with God, who had given His people water to drink during their wanderings in the wilderness under Moses.

Jesus' best known holy day celebration, of course, was of His last Passover. It was during that feast's Seder meal, which recalled God's saving of Israel from Egypt by the blood of a lamb, that Jesus gave us the greatest holiday meal of all: His own body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. He thus declared Himself to be the focus of the Passover and the true Savior of Israel and of all people. He was, as John the Baptist declared at His baptism, "*The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*"

As we enter into this New Year, then, you and I do so with Jesus as it's center and focus. The Lord of all creation is among us in our flesh and blood as our Savior! He fills all things with His good, that all things might be for our blessing! Rejoice in this and keep Christ as the focus of each holiday celebration in 2020. Happy New Year!

In Christ Jesus, our Lord,

Pastor

### THANK YOU FROM PASTOR

On the Sunday before Christmas Carl Mathis presented me with a gift for Lorayne and I, an expression of your love and generosity. How generous and loving you

are! Your kindness is so very appreciated by us. As Paul wrote to the Philippian congregation: *“I am well supplied, having received from {you} the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”* (Phil. 4:18-20)

It is not only a privilege; it is a joy to serve you in the Lord with the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name. It is also a joy and a blessing to join you in worshipping and serving our good Lord. All praise and thanks to Him!

**BIBLE STUDIES** - On Sunday mornings we are continuing to go through the Small Catechism. In January and February we will be discussing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Articles of the Creed, focusing upon the Father’s work of creation and Jesus’ work of redemption. This is a great opportunity to ask questions (and they have been many and diverse), and to learn from one another. We meet in the large room downstairs from 8:55 – 9:45 a.m. Come and join the study! Coffee and goodies are always generously provided.

The Thursday morning class, which meets from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., is studying the book of Jeremiah. There’s always room for more in this good group!

**VOTERS**- There will be an important Voters meeting after church on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be considering and voting upon our budget for the year. Please plan to attend, as your input is needed.

**WILL THERE BE A SERVICE TODAY?**

You might ask this question when the weather is bad. To find out, call the church office, as pastor is in the office early on Sunday's or will leave a message on the answering machine. Also, you can check the notices on Channels 8 & 12 on TV.

**THANK YOU** to Steve Sabol, John Meek, Joe Orban and Bob LeMay for constructing the beautiful outdoor nativity which graces the front of the church. We can all enjoy the fruit of your labor.



**NEW WEBSITE**

Our church has a new website, thanks to the hard work of Eric Gustafson, along with help from Joe Shapiro, Fay Sobottka, and Pastor. You can check it out at [www.stpetersnorwalk.org](http://www.stpetersnorwalk.org).

Added to the new website is a tool for you to SHARE a page you’re viewing via click-on icon sharing links to Facebook, G-mail, Outlook, Yahoo, etc. The buttons appear on page bottoms (not allowed on the Home page yet) in a clear row of icons. So, you can be viewing an Event, Pastor’s bio, or be on a specific or full list of Sermons and share them with just a click. This easy Share ability enables any St. Peters member to easily send content to friends and family for any reason – to help someone in need of a list, encourage someone to attend a service or event, etc.

Share-away, friends!

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**  
**BIRTHRIGHT**  
**January, 2020**

Birthright takes a "non-moralistic, non-judgmental" approach toward helping women through their pregnancy dilemmas and encouraging them to not abort their babies. Louise Summerhill, the founder of Birthright in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, regretted the fact that some young unmarried mothers were belittled or ostracized by their relative. "I can never see anything wrong with any of them." Louise recreated the supportive homelike environment they deserved to have. Moreover, she helped formulate a Charter, followed by all Birthright chapter's worldwide, to define Birthright's services to ensure that pregnant women receive the same considerate treatment at every Birthright chapter, and to help volunteers preserve Birthright's good reputation in the future. Our local Birthright of Greater Norwalk chapter is located at 71 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851. Further information may be obtained by calling (203) 853-4872.

## **BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY 2020**

January 1: Genesis 1:1 - 2:24  
Matthew 1:1 - 2:12  
Psalm 1  
Proverbs 1:1-6

January 2: Genesis 3:1 - 4:26  
Matthew 2:13 - 3:6  
Psalm 2  
Proverbs 1:7-9

January 3: Genesis 5:1 - 7:24  
Matthew 3:7 - 4:11  
Psalm 3  
Proverbs 1:10 - 19

January 4: Genesis 8:1 - 10:32  
Matthew 4:12-25  
Psalm 4  
Proverbs 1:20-23

January 5: Genesis 11:1 - 13:4  
Matthew 5:1-26  
Psalm 5  
Proverbs 1:24-28

January 6: Genesis 13:5 - 15:21  
Matthew 5:27-38  
Psalm 6  
Proverbs 1:29-33

January 7: Genesis 16:1 - 18:19  
Matthew 6:1-24  
Psalm 7:1-17  
Proverbs 2:1-5

January 8: Genesis 18:20 - 19:38  
Matthew 6:25 - 7:14  
Psalm 8:1-9  
Proverbs 2:6-15

January 9: Genesis 20:1 - 22:24  
Matthew 7:15-29  
Psalm 9:1-12  
Proverbs 2:16 - 22

January 10: Genesis 23:1- 24:51  
Matthew 8:1-17  
Psalm 9:13-20  
Proverbs 3:1-6

January 11: Genesis 24:52 - 26:16  
Matthew 8:18-34  
Psalm 10:1-15  
Proverbs 3:7-8

January 12: Genesis 26:17 - 27:46  
Matthew 9:1-17  
Psalm 10:16-18  
Proverbs 3:9-10

January 13: Genesis 28:1 - 29:35  
Matthew 9:18-38  
Psalm 11:1-7  
Proverbs 3:11-12

January 14: Genesis 30:1 - 31:16  
Matthew 10:1-25  
Psalm 12:1-8  
Proverbs 3:13-15

January 15: Genesis 31:17 - 32:12  
Matthew 10:26 - 11:6  
Psalm 13:1-6  
Proverbs 3:16-18

January 16: Genesis 32:13 -34:31  
Matthew 11:7-30  
Psalm 14:1-7  
Proverbs 3:19-20

January 17: Genesis 35:1 - 36:43  
Matthew 12:1-21  
Psalm 15:1-5  
Proverbs 3:21-26

January 18: Genesis 37:1 - 38:30  
Matthew 12:22-45  
Psalm 16:1-11  
Proverbs 3:27-32

January 19: Genesis 39:1 - 41:16  
Matthew 12:46-13:23  
Psalm 17:1-15  
Proverbs 3:33-35

January 20: Genesis 41:17 - 42:17  
Matthew 13:24-46  
Psalm 18:1-15  
Proverbs 4:1-6

January 30 Exodus 10:1 - 12:13  
Matthew 20:1-28  
Psalm 25:1-15  
Proverbs 6:6-11

January 21: Genesis 42:18-43:34  
Matthew 13:47-14:12  
Psalm 18:16-36  
Proverbs 4:7-10

January 31 Exodus 12:14 - 13:16  
Matthew 20:29-21:22  
Psalm 25:16-22  
Proverbs 6:12

January 22: Genesis 44:1 - 45:28  
Matthew 14:13-36  
Psalm 18:37-50  
Proverbs 4:11-13

January 23: Genesis 46:1 - 47:31  
Matthew 15:1-28  
Psalm 19:1-14  
Proverbs 4:14-19

January 24: Genesis 48:1-49:33  
Matthew 15:29-16:2  
Psalm 20:1-9  
Proverbs 4:20-27

January 25: Genesis 50:1 - Exodus 2:10  
Matthew 16:13 - 17:9  
Psalm 21:1-13  
Proverbs 5:1-6

January 26: Exodus 2:11 - 3:22  
Matthew 17:10-27  
Psalm 22:1-18  
Proverbs 5:7-14

## **2020 SERVICE SCHEDULES**

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

January 27: Exodus 4:1 -5:21  
Matthew 18:1-22  
Psalm 22:19-31  
Proverbs 5:15-21

**JAN. 5** T. Collins

January 28 Exodus 5:22 - 7:24  
Matthew 18:23-19:12  
Psalm 23:1-6  
Proverbs 5:22-23

**JAN. 12** R. Castillo, D. Whipple

**JAN. 19** J. Shapiro

January 29 Exodus 7:25 - 9:35  
Matthew 19:13-30  
Psalm 24:1-10  
Proverbs 6:1-5

**JAN. 26** B. Streb, J. Orban

**CHANCEL SCHEDULE**

**Dec. 30 thru**  
**Jan. 12**

L. Beinke, G. Wash

**JAN. 5**

**Jan. 13-26**

D. Fasoli, D. Capocci

**JAN. 12**

**Jan. 27 thru**  
**Feb. 9**

E. & J. Meek

**JAN. 19**

**JAN. 26**

**COUNTERS**

R. Sayler, J. Orban

J. Wash, S. Yuen

D. Raines, J. Shapiro

E. Meek, I. MacKenzie

**SERVICE AT 10:00 a.m.**

**USHERS**

**JAN. 5**

B. Streb, D. Cakavell,  
W. Palmisano, J. Soos

**JAN. 12**

C. Mathis, T. Collins, D. Russo

**JAN. 19**

S. Sabol, R. Castillo, J. Orban

**JAN. 26**

I. Mackenzie, S. Yuen &  
& Friends

## ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH - JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	2  10:00 a.m. Bible Study 3:45 Confirmation	3	4
5  10:00 a.m. Worship Service  8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Sunday Bible Study  <b>COUNCIL MTG.</b>	6	7	8	9  10:00 a.m. Bible Study 3:45 Confirmation	10	11
12  10:00 a.m. Worship Service  8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Sunday Bible Study  <b>VOTERS MTG.</b>	13	14  <b>PRISON</b>  Wilton Bible Class	15  3:30 p.m. STAR	16  10:00 a.m. Bible Study 3:45 Confirmation	17	18
19  10:00 a.m. Worship Service  8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Sunday Bible Study	20  -----	21  <b>PASTOR</b>	22  <b>AT</b>	23  <b>SYMPOSIUM</b>	24  <b>IN INDIANA</b>	25  -----
26  10:00 a.m. Worship Service  8:45 a.m. Sunday School Sunday Bible Study	27  <b>Pastor at District Board of Directors Mtg.</b>	28  Wilton Bible Class	29	30  10:00 a.m. Bible Study 3:45 Confirmation	31	