

December 2018

From Pastor Mark

Eugene Peterson passed away at his home on Flathead Lake in Montana on the 22nd of October, surrounded by his family. If that name sounds familiar to you, but you're not sure from where, Peterson was the author of the popular version of the Bible called *The Message*. While Eugene was indeed a biblical scholar – he had studied several Semitic languages that were related to Old Testament Hebrew and originally intended to teach in a seminary – God called him instead into the pastorate. *The Message* actually grew out of the work that Peterson did for his congregation. Each week he would translate that Sunday's scripture into words that they would be able to easily understand. Those paraphrases became so popular that he was urged to make his work available to the rest of us.

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I remember Eugene as a prolific writer. He was a regular contributor to Leadership Magazine, a quarterly journal for clergy, and as a young pastor I looked forward to his counsel. A few years ago someone loaned me his memoir, entitled simply *The Pastor*, and as I read it I was reminded again of the profound impact he's had on my life and ministry.

On Saturday, November 3rd, family and friends gathered to celebrate his life at First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell, Montana, and his son, Leif Peterson, eulogized his father (you can watch that memorial service on YouTube).

Leif shared that he used to joke with his father and tell him that he "only had one sermon, one message" despite his decades of creatively sharing the Bible with people in new ways.

"It's almost laughable how you fooled them, how for 30 years every week you made them think you were saying something new," he said as part of a poem addressed to his father.

"They thought you were a magician in your long black robe hiding so much in your ample sleeves, always pulling something fresh and making them think it was just for them," he continued.

"They didn't know how simple it all was. They were blind to your secret."

Leif Peterson said that he knew the secret because his father had long been telling it to him.

"For 50 years you steal into my room at night and whisper softly to my sleeping head. It's the same message over and over: 'God loves you. He's on your side. He's coming after you. He's relentless.'"

God loves you. He's on your side. He's coming after you. He's relentless. If you really think about it, doesn't that perfectly sum up what we should be remembering, and celebrating, this Christmas? That God loves us. That He's on our side. That He has come (and still comes) after us. That He's relentless.

This Christmas season – and throughout the year – let's live in that faith.

I leave you with Peterson's paraphrase of the prologue from John's gospel, words that capture what Leif was trying to say about his father's "one message."

"The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one.

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish."

John 1:1-2, 14 **The Message**.

Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Rader

United Methodist Women

Eve Circle

Monday, Dec. 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fireside Room

Please bring a snack to share and a small (\$10) wrapped gift for a woman. The gifts will be shared With the women at the Lighthouse of Next Chapter Ministries. All are welcome

Lydia Circle

Thursday, Dec 20 at 1 p.m. (Fireside Room)

Hostess: Elaine Schmidt & Phyllis Hammes

Leader: Becky Pierce / Everyone

Program: Christmas Memories and Blessings

Sewing Circle

Every Monday at Evangel Church (Room 224)

from 9-11:30 a.m. Donations of **gently-used sheets** are always welcome and more cotton fabric is also needed.

Thank you.

Always inviting ladies to join us!



The Cut-Ups

Tuesday, December 18th from 9 am - 12pm at Assisi Heights

Make a Difference Day (Oct. 27) was a success with 24 volunteers packing 96 bundles for babies in need. To celebrate 20 years of making a difference, there was a speaker from New Life Family Services, which was the recipient of the first Bundles of Love bundle from the Rochester group 20 years ago.

If you would like to join us, please contact Brenda Gaskell (281-5647) or Beth Taylor (254-0072) or just show up on December 18th!

More information about the bundles can be found at bundlesoflove.org

Quilting & More

Wednesday, December 12th from 1-3 p.m.

All are welcome! Bring your own project to work on whether it be a prayer shawl, pocket prayer shawl, or something of your choice. Join in the fun and fellowship. Quilting and More meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1-3 p.m.



Evangel Christian Education

Jim Klepper: jklepper@evangelum.org
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Phone: (507) 289-4817



Christian Education Upcoming Events

- Every Sunday.....Sunday School and Children’s Church for all ages!
- Every Wednesday.....Bible Story Time with Good News Daycare
- Saturday Dec 1.....Kids Club Event - Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing
- Sunday Dec 2.....First Sunday in Advent
- Sunday Dec 2.....Giving Tree Week #2
- Monday Dec 3.....Christian Education Team Meeting
- Saturday Dec 8.....Children’s Christmas Program Rehearsal 9am -11am
- Sunday Dec 9.....Children’s Christmas Program 11:30am
- Tuesday Dec 18.....Kid’s Club Event - All Church Caroling Party 5:00pm
- Sunday Dec 23.....No Sunday School but WILL have Children’s Church
- Sunday Dec 24.....Christmas Eve Worship at 2pm, 5pm, 7pm, and 11pm
- Sunday Dec 30.....No Sunday School but WILL have Children’s Church

No Sunday School on December 23 and December 30

There will be NO Evangel Sunday School on December 23 and December 30. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our dedicated and faithful Sunday School teachers to have a break and to spend time with their families over the holidays. Let us continue to thank God this holiday season for our awesome teachers!

Kid’s Club Dec. Event - All Church Caroling Party

We invite all Kid’s Club members and friends to participate in the All Church Caroling Party set for Tuesday December 18th. Sign-up in the Evangel lobby beginning December 9 or just come to Evangel at 5:00 pm and join many others from Evangel to spread out across our city to share Christmas joy.



The Giving Tree - Nov 25 through Dec 9

Watch for the Giving Tree to go up in the lobby on November 25! Ornaments will be hung on the tree with needs of children and families in our church family and community.

The gift of Giving is easy!

Simply take a gift tag off the tree...buy the gift as described on the tag...gift wrap the gift with the gift tag on top...and place it under the Giving Tree! Then rejoice knowing your gift has made a difference this year for a family in need.

The gift will then be distributed to the child/family in need for whom it was intended. If all tags are taken before you get one, you may simply bring an unwrapped toy, scarf, mittens, socks, or gloves to hang on the tree to be distributed to the Women’s Shelter or Christmas Anonymous.



Evangel's Children's Christmas Program Date and Schedule is Set for Sunday December 9! The morning will once again include a brunch!! Take a look!!

We had excellent feedback last year on a new Christmas Program schedule that we will bring back this year. The only change of course is the time "flip" of worship services, which has been in effect since June 3.

The schedule will include a brunch, which was very popular last year. So...here is the 2018 Sunday morning worship schedule for Children's Christmas Program day on December 9

Sunday Morning Schedule for Christmas Program Day on December 9

8:49 am Contemporary Worship - Sunday School at 9:10

9:30 am - 11:00 am Brunch in the Multi - Purpose Room

10:30 am Traditional Worship (streamlined to end by 11:15 am)

11:30 am Children's Christmas Program (to end by 12:30 pm)

What we like about this schedule:

- Our guests who may be coming out in December will have regular worship services from which to choose.
- The brunch will give everyone the option to stay nourished since the morning is extended.
- Sunday school classes can rehearse your program part with your class in the classroom at the 9:10 time slot (after dismissal from Contemporary Worship)
- Our families will still have the entire afternoon open for family activities rather than having to come back to church later in the day.
- Our senior members can stay and watch the children at a time that works better for them in regards to driving etc...
- The Brunch provides wonderful fellowship over a meal.
- Football fans have no worries! The Viking play Monday Night! 😊

This year's Christmas program will include:

Class Presentations
 Youth Choir
 Cherub Choir
 Hands to Heaven puppets
 Youth Band
 Congregational Hymns
 "Live" Nativity Story



See you December 9 for this cherished Evangel tradition!

Kid’s Club Event - Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing

All Kid’s Club families and friends are invited to help us ring bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle on **Saturday December 1**. We will pick 1 - 2 hour time slots to bring cheer to our community while helping the Salvation Army minister to the needs of our city.

New Location this year!

When: Saturday December 1 from 10am - 8pm

Where: Hy-Vee West - 4221 West Circle Dr NW, Rochester, MN 55901

The kettle is located at the middle doors



“Winterum” Connect Groups

Be looking for Evangel’s “Winterum” Connect Groups brochure coming in December! “Winterum” Connect Groups will begin in January. Evangel will offer up to 12 spiritual formation groups for 4-8 weeks each to grow our faith and make friends. The new brochure will be passed out to all our guests on Christmas Eve. Be sure to join us this winter for the fun. Stay Connected.

Children’s Christmas Program Rehearsal

The Christmas Program Rehearsal will be held on **Saturday, December 8 from 9-11:00 am**. Most children will NOT need to stay the entire morning. Please see the detailed rehearsal letter mailed home for rehearsal times and details!

All Church Christmas Program Brunch

Please join us on December 9 from 9:30 - 11 am for a brunch in Evangel’s dinette! Brunch will be provided - a donation basket will be available. This will be a feast of egg bakes, waffles, potatoes and pastries. If you missed last year do not miss this year. It is the BEST brunch ever!!! We hope to see you there!



Cookies for Children’s Christmas Program

Please consider providing cookies for the Children’s Christmas Program. We will have a Christmas Program Brunch prior to the program and cookies and coffee after the program. You are welcome to join us for both! If you can help with cookies, please fill out the form below and place it in the basket at the Welcome Center. Thank you!



Yes, I will be happy to bring cookies for the Christmas Program.

Please have cookies to church on Saturday morning Dec. 8 or on Sunday morning Dec. 9.



Name: _____



Here We Come A-Caroling



Gather your family or friends, children through adults! Here's your chance to sing Christmas carols and brighten the holidays for those members and friends of Evangel who can't get out to attend church services or holiday concerts. There is a list of at least 30 people who would love to have a caroling group visit them. LOTS of singers are needed to reach these people. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to spend a couple hours singing and celebrating the Christmas season with shut-ins and other special people who need encouragement.

Spread the joy of Christmas!

The All-Church Caroling Party will be held:

Tuesday, December 18th

5:00 PM Have a quick snack at home – more food later

5:30 PM Meet at Evangel to gather caroling groups

5:45 PM Caroling Groups leave and travel throughout Rochester to sing in homes or senior living centers.

7:30 PM Finish caroling and gather for food and potluck goodies at Pam Wright's home.



Please sing for :

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____

Name: _____ I can provide transportation for _____ people

Phone number _____

Put this information in Pam Wright's mailbox in the workroom.

Poinsettia's for Christmas



Share a Poinsetti

Deadline is Dec. 3rd

White Poinsettias will be used to decorate the inside of our church this holiday season. If you would like to purchase a plant, please drop off this order form with your money at the Welcome Center. You may choose a plant to take home after the final Christmas Eve Service or Sunday.

White: \$15 per plant

Please make your check payable to: Evangel Church and put POINSETTIA in the memo field & attach to your order form.



Drop off at Welcome Center.

Your Name: _____

___ In honor of: _____

___ In memory of: _____

Please print very clearly the spelling of names. Thank you!

RIOT News

Russ Bruhnke rebruhnke@gmail.com 507 226-1138

Note: No Youth Group on Sunday Dec. 23rd!

This is the where we all celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus! During this month, think about how excited the shepherds were to hear the Good News! Even today, we are still excited to hear that message. This is a time of anticipation; of anticipating how the world was changed because of this one little baby. Hallelujah! Christ is Born!



Upcoming Events

Lock-In Friday December 14th

Remember the Christmas Lock-in on Friday December 14th! Friends welcome.

Youth Music

Youth choir only practices at 5:30PM

December 16

Youth band and choir practices at 5:00 PM (band would show up at 5 PM and choir would show up at 5:30 PM)

December 2

Mission Trips

Mission trips have been scheduled! Limited spaces are available. To reserve your spot, contact Russ!

Sr High:

June 30th - July 5th, 2019. We will be going to Benton Harbor, MI. where we will be remodeling a youth center and working with local citizens. 15 spaces available.

Jr High:

July 28th - Aug 2nd 2019. This one is at Quad Cities, IA. We will do simple work projects and help out in the Boy's and Girl's Club. 8 spaces available.

Mission Update

Evangel's Mission Team met on Nov. 6th. Missionary speaker, Niles Batdorf, shared a PowerPoint presentation about the two-year medical ministry he and his family just finished in Cameroon in Africa. Evangel has been giving support to the Batdorf's as they've answered the call of Jesus in Luke 9:2: "Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick." Niles also shared his passion about the upcoming medical mission they will start in July 2019, in Nepal. He has been asked to start a plastic surgery department and recruitment. They will also be spreading the gospel in this country that is less than 5% Christian.

As we approach the end of 2018, we approved disbursements this month for: Niles and Rachel Batdorf as they prepare for their service in Nepal next year; KHK in Cambodia; Henderson Settlement in Kentucky; Teen Hope Ministries (formerly Youth for Christ); and Midwest Bible Training Center. Don't forget to check the Mission Team board to read about these missions and others we support.

In our 2019 budget request we have asked for additional "should do and could do" funds to train and support Evangel people who are interested in getting personally involved in mission efforts. Look for more about that in the months ahead. You may contact any member of our team if you have questions or ideas about missions.

Community Ministry News, Opportunity and Events

Community Ministry Opportunities and Events.

Community Ministries will promote Christian mission work by encouraging the people of Evangel to volunteer, give to local missions and to help youth - adults become active in such mission projects. Community Ministries is committed to changing lives across the street and throughout the Rochester area.

Wednesday Night Meals Are Served from 4:45 to 6:00 pm. Menus are posted on the Community Ministries Bulletin Board located across the hall from Room 222. No meals will be served December 26 because of the Christmas Holidays. We do need servers, so if you want to help serve, check the sign-up sheet located at the Welcome Desk. We need 3 to 4 servers at every meal. If any of you would be able to help prepare some of the meals, talk to Jackie or Gordy Hall.

Channel One Food Barrel. The food for the month of **December is rice, soup or whatever non-perishable food you want to donate.** The barrel is located right inside the coat room on the left. Good job in filling it!

The Woman's Shelter. One Sunday last month the Women's Shelter Box was empty! Anyway, it needs to be filled and kept full. It's located in our coat room just off the main entrance. The shelter is always looking for clothes.

The F.L.O .C.K. (Faithful Lovers of Crochet & Knitting) Gathering.

All are welcome whether novice or expert. Purpose of this group is to share fellowship and faith while crocheting and knitting. (or learning to crochet or knit) **Plan to meet third Tuesday of the month at 6:30-8:30 pm in the Fireside Room at Evangel. In December, it's Tuesday the 18th. Bring your own projects, hooks, needles and yarn. Questions? Contact Jackie Hall (507) 358 4354 or Marcia O'Brien (507) 254 5731**

Riverside School Backpack Food Program Come help pack food for Riverside Elementary School every Wednesday, except December 26, down in the multi-purpose room from 4:00 to 5:00 pm – then have a Wednesday Night Meal.

No Community Ministries meeting in December



Muffin Men Ministry
No muffins this month.

In Our Prayers—Please Pray For:

- Brother Mark - prayers for peace and comfort
- Jean Anderson - prayers for healing
- Larry Frear - prayers for healing
- Paula Jackson Aderogba's mom Carol is in hospice – prayers for her and family
- Romaine Thompson – prayers for son's healing
- Paula Jackson's 10-year-old nephew Tyler Holst – prayers for healing
- Corky Gaskell's niece Lesley – prayers for healing
- Wayne Bastian – prayers for health
- Jim & Andrea Burnoski's grandson - prayers for health and healing
- Floyd Randal – prayers for healing
- Bob Zerr – prayers for healing
- Les Hegna – foot surgery – prayers for healing
- Robert Hoar – prayers for healing and recovery
- Barbara Johnson Verneo – prayers for healing



Advent Candle Reading & Lighting

We are looking for individuals, families or groups to help with the Advent Candle Lighting this year. Please call Mike in the office at 507-289-4817 or sign up at the Welcome Center if interested!

Dates to sign up at 8:49 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. time are
 Sunday, December 2nd;
 Sunday, December 9th;
 Sunday, December 16th;
 Sunday, December 23th;

and Christmas Eve Services at 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.



Project and Serving List for December

Ben & Becky Elgin
 Dan & Amanda Ellenbaum
 Gary & Debra Hall
 Darryl & Lillian Jensen
 Skip & Kelly Langer
 Marge Mehring

Christian & Michelle Mogensen
 Jim & Marcia O'Brien
 Bob & Sharee Oesterlin
 Becky Pierce
 David & Sheryl Simon
 Bruce Talbott



The monthly serving lists are made up of the members and friends of Evangel Church. Please note that this is an important area of service to the church. We are requesting all on the serving committee to provide 2 dozen cookies for our Sunday Coffee Hours. Please drop off at the church by the 15th of the month. **(Please no nuts or peanut butter.)** Thank you!

Thanks to All! From Sandy Cooper

Last summer I shared that a UMC pastor and friend, Ric Koehn, had a son (Steve) serving in the army in Afghanistan. Some of you have supported him through prayers and notes. We are giving thanks and praises for his safe return. He is home with his wife and three young daughters in Georgia. The tour could have been extended to Spring, so we are also thankful that his time there was not extended. Many thanks for your support. Please continue to pray for our military, the people of Afghanistan, and Steve and his family as they adjust to his return. ~Sandy Cooper

Christmas Eve Services Monday, December 24th

2:00 pm

5:00 pm

7:00 pm

11:00 pm (Communion)

We hope that you can join us for services on this holiest of days!

Stewardship Update

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we've had to prepare and mail our December newsletter a week earlier than we usually would. That means that we don't have an update on our 2019 stewardship campaign to share with you, because this is "going to press" just before our pledge Sunday.

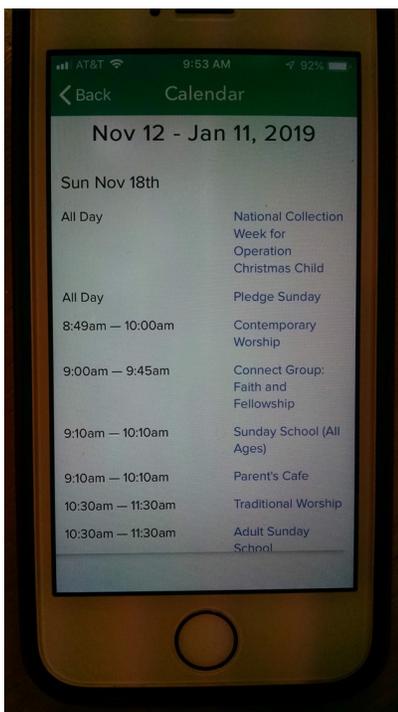
That said, we do want to pause and apologize again for the way that many of the Stewardship letters were addressed. We were required to switch to a new version of Elexio this past June, and possibly for purposes of efficiency it appears that for couples and or families it records just a single giver. This was the list that we needed to use to create a mail merge in order to personalize the letters, and we didn't catch this problem.

We know that many, if not most, of our families, consist of two income earners. More than that, we know that most couples make decisions about charitable contributions together even if only one is employed outside the home, or at least we hope they do, and we would never deliberately overlook one spouse. We're taking steps to insure that this doesn't happen again.

Again, please accept our apologies for this oversight.

The Finance Committee

Online & Technology



Wondering what is going on at Evangel Church? Or what Evangel is doing for its next outreach? Just go to the calendar in Elexio Community and find out!

December 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wed	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Sat.
8:49 am Contemporary Worship 9 am Faith and Fellowship (Fireside) 9:10 am Parents Café (132) 9:10 am Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 am Traditional Worship 10:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Children's Church	9 am - Sewing Circle (224) 7 pm - Boy Scouts (Gym) 7:30 pm - Al-Anon (Fellowship Hall)	9 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside)	9 am - Bible Story Time (Children's Library) 4 pm - Backpack Food Program (Dinette) 4:45-6 pm Wed. Night Meals (Gym) 5:30 pm Cherub Choir (Children's Library) 5:45 pm - Confirmation (224) 6 pm Praise Team (Sanctuary)	9:30 am - Older Folders (Fireside) 3:30 pm - Mom's in Prayer (Fireside) 6:30 pm - Handbell Choir (223/Sanctuary) 7:30 pm - Senior Choir (Sanctuary)	7 pm - Chinese Church	
						1
						10am - 8pm Kid's Club - Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing Giving Tree
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5 pm - Youth Band and Choir 6 pm - Connect Group: Stand (Fireside) 6:30 pm - Youth Group	Poinsettia Orders Due 5 pm - Quilter's Sew-ciety 6:30 pm - Christian Ed. Meeting 6:30 pm Eve Circle (Fireside)	6:30 pm Missions Committee (Fireside) 6:45pm American Heritage Girls 7pm SPRC Meeting (224)				9 am - Children's Christmas Program Practice
Giving Tree						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 am Christmas Program Brunch 11:30 am - Children's Christmas Program 2pm - Chinese Church 6pm - Youth Group Giving Tree	6:30 pm - Evangel Moms (224) 6:30 pm—Tech Committee (Fireside)	1 pm - Chanel One Food Warehouse 6:30 pm JAM Session (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm - Trustees Meeting (Fireside) 7pm - American Heritage Girls	1pm - Quilting and More (224)	6:30 pm - Finance Meeting	8 pm - Christmas Youth Lock-in	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
5:30 pm - Youth Choir 6:30 pm - Youth Group	6:30 pm - Church Council	9 am - CutUps at Assisi Heights 5:00 pm - All Church Caroling Party 6:30 pm - The F.L.O.C.K (Fireside) 6:45 pm - American Heritage Girls		1 pm - Lydia Circle (Fireside) 5pm - Good News Daycare Family Engagement Hour (Dinette) 7pm - S.O.S (Fireside)		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Christmas Eve Services: 2 pm 5 pm 7 pm 11 pm (Communion) OFFICE CLOSED	 OFFICE CLOSED	No Wed. Night Meals No Backpack Food Program			
30	31					
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 6 pm - Youth Group	New Year's Eve					

Evangel United Methodist Church
2645 North Broadway
Rochester, MN 55906

Non-Profit Organization
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(Address Service Requested)

Evangel Church exists to love God, love others, and be
Christ's hands and feet in the world.

December Wednesday Night Meals Menu

Serving at 4:45—6 p.m.

Neighborhood Welcome

December 5

Pizza, Salad, Ice Cream

December 12

Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

December 19

Hamburger/Cheese, Chips, Salad, Cookie

December 26

No Meal - Merry Christmas

