



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

*"Where the Word of life gathers, nurtures, and sends us forth to serve."*

## *January 2018*

St. Peter Lutheran Church, 109 Tipton Drive, Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

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### **Forward Together as we enter the New Year**

A New Year is always a good time for a fresh start, and 2018 is no exception. With January we have an excellent opportunity for us at St. Peter to do just that. Let me share what's unfolding that encourages all of us to go forward together as God's people.

Sunday, January 7 we will observe the Epiphany of our Lord, when we remember that the wise men came to worship the newborn King. With our service this day we wrap up our Christmas celebration and enter the season of light. The wise men can show us the way in 2018!

Early in January the Sunday Adult Bible Class (9:15 AM) will provide you an opportunity to dig into Scriptures with which many of us are not super familiar: the minor prophets. Many of the books are short, but we will learn about the context in which they served and the messages they delivered. I believe we will be surprised how contemporary they are. If you have not been attending Bible Class to this point, this is a great time to start.

Sunday, January 14 we will observe the Baptism of our Lord; it will be a special day for us, as we will celebrate the baptisms of two of Anne and David Sears' great grandchildren: Kayleigh Anne and Sheldon Evan Gage. It's a great encouragement for each of us to remember our own baptism into Jesus Christ. By then, I am hoping to have written a booklet of ten devotions to help all of us draw on our baptisms to "Walk in the Light of the Lord."

I'm excited about this new year, for our request to become a "chartered congregation" has been approved. That means we will be "officially recognized." The date for the ceremony to take place is March 18 at 4 P.M. I believe it is another step of going **Forward Together**.

Before then, however, we will work on getting our organizational details taken care of. The Council meets January 14 to put the finishing touches on a proposed Ministry Spending Plan and a slate of Officers to lead us in this new year. January 21, the congregation will meet to discuss and hopefully approve those proposals. The following Sunday, January 28, we will have the privilege of indicating areas where each of us might help in our congregation's ministry. We want to do it in a way that draws on the talents and interests of each of us and meshes with our various schedules. As an orchestra makes fine music when all the instrumentalists play their individual parts in harmony with one another, we want to do the same in our congregation.

I'm looking forward with hope and optimism as we enter 2018 and am confident that the following prayer can help us go **Forward Together** in the right spirit:

*Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Your partner in the Lord, Pastor Michael