

The Messenger

Giving Vs. Fundraising

What is the difference between fundraising and giving? Both result in money raised. But we know the phrase, 'the ends don't justify the means,' or at the very least, a same end does not make every mean identical. So it is with fundraising and giving.

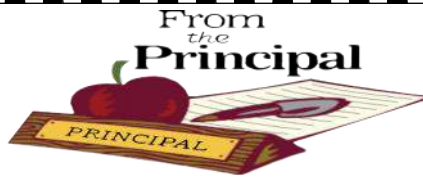
First—giving. Christian giving is a free and grateful response to God for his many blessings toward us, the chief blessing being the giving of His Son for our salvation. We often refer to this act of giving with words such as gifts, tithes, and offerings. Important characteristics of Christian giving is that it is non-compulsory, and nothing is expected in return. Our giving is modeled after God's giving toward us. Jesus willingly gave himself into death on our behalf knowing we could not pay him back. It was a free gift to the world—no strings attached. In a like manner, the Christian, saved by the free gift of God, gives freely.

Next—fundraising. This is not to be confused with Christian giving. This is an entirely different animal. It is not a free response based on God's gracious gifts toward us. It is, instead, a transaction where the "giver" receives something (a product, a meal, entertainment, etc.) in return, with the understanding that a portion of the proceeds will support a cause. So fundraising is not really giving at all. It has a secondary benefit for a cause (in our case church and school) but the benefit to the church is not based on giving, but on transactions that are mutually beneficial both to the individual and the church.

So what is the point? Fundraising is not gift giving. Whatever fundraising we do must be seen and understood for what it is—primarily an event that benefits us, and secondarily an event that benefits church and school. This is not to downplay events that benefit us. We can and should have events with the primary goal of entertainment, fellowship, and the like. Why not? We are a family after all, and families do many things together. And if we can make use of our events together to give a kick-back to our "cause" of church and school, great. But fundraising is first and foremost for us and is never a replacement for our free, grateful giving to the church. For the Christian saved by the free gift of God, there is no replacement for the free gifts given in the offering plate.

Yours in Christ,

-Pastor Bayer



THE VIRUS IS SPREADING

On the evening of March 12, the governor announced the closing of all K-12 schools in the state until April 6. Although this possibility had been considered, it still came as a shock that it was happening now on short notice. We have had tentative plans for this but now we must act on them. At this time, we are thankful that parents and others are supportive of our plans and we will continue to keep everyone informed of changes as we move forward.

We may have been shocked by the uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 virus and how it spread. The good news is that we know that our Lord is present with us and that we are in His care. There are many who are seeing the stock market fall, and the lack of some basic supplies in stores. Anxiety and fear spread through our society much like the virus. We too may feel the stress and anxiety, but we place our trust not in the markets but in our Lord and Savior!

Just how does this virus spread? While we may not understand its transmission entirely, we know it is by person-to-person contact. How does the good news of the love and care of our Savior spread? By the working of the Spirit through the Word and Sacraments. And while this transmission is also a mystery to us, we know that person-person contact plays a toles here as well. Pastor Bayer gives us the word every time that we meet, we can carry that word out into our world and spread it to all of those with whom we are in contact with on a daily basis.

His Servant,

Paul Weismantel, Principal





2020 ST PETER LUTHERAN SCHOOL GALA CANCELLED

It is with sadness that the Gala Committee has made the decision to cancel rather than postpone the 2020 Gala. Given the uncertainty of the next several weeks and other events already being planned at St. Peter for the summer and fall, we have decided that the most responsible thing we can do is to cancel and to begin planning for the 2021 event. With that in mind, the 2021 St. Peter Lutheran School Gala is already in the planning stage for **April 17, 2021**. We anticipate the theme will remain the same, so this will give you more time to practice your hula dance. People who have already purchased tickets will be contacted regarding refunds.



YOUTH

This month's youth activity was a bowling/pizza gathering once again at the bowling lanes in Fowler on Saturday, March 14.

We had 5 of our youth and 7 adults there to enjoy our time together! Once again a "thank you" to the Heathman's joining us with "Coach Roger" giving invaluable bowling instruction to our kids!

It truly is a blessing for me to be with our young people and observe as they grow both in their faith and relationships with each other. Many more youth activities, including community service projects are tentatively planned for the future.

Parental support is vital and very much appreciated as we build up this youth ministry.

Blessings,
Dick Stout

We would like to thank everyone that sent cards, gave memorials, called, and came to the memorial service for Ron. It means a lot to all of us. He is missed so much. Please keep us in your prayers. Thank you again.

The Family of Ron Dilts



Stewardship News

Annual Easter Celebration Offering

You are invited to join in the Annual Easter Celebration Offering with an extra financial contribution over and above your regular offering. Please use an envelope marked "Easter Celebration Offering", and place your gift in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Your gift will be put in the newly established Heritage Preservation Fund to help maintain the St Peter Lutheran Church grounds and buildings. The goal is \$6,500. Thank you!!

Stewardship

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give a tithe to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church. The most common question: "How much should I give?"

Here are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe; a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:7-23; 2 Cor. 9:2-7).

Here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry. It is clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving.

Tithing is just one part of stewardship. The church is ecstatic that you're giving when you're giving in all these ways -- time, talents and treasures.

From LCMS Stewardship Ministry-April 2020 newsletter article



JUST A REMINDER....WHEN EVER ST. PETER LUTHERAN SCHOOL CANCELS OR DELAYS DUE TO WEATHER, ST. PETER OFFICE WILL ALSO BE CLOSED. NO STAFF IS TO REPORT! IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY YOU MAY CONTACT LIZ STEVENS 989-640-3471 OR DAVE BENGEL 517-281-5812.

LADIES AID : A new plaque has been hung up in the Narthex of the added people in our congregation that served our country in the military. If there is anyone left off contact Judy Boettger.

We cancelled our Super Bowl Sub Sale for the lack of orders we received, next February when the Super Bowl is held, we will have it again.

Our recent Hanging Flower Basket Sale order forms deadline was March 30. You can pick up your plants after the service on Mothers Day, May 10th.

The reason our Ladies Aid has these sales is to support our congregation and to support our regular charities that we give to every year, one is we sponsor a Seminary Student every year which totals \$500 +.

There is always a quilt hung up in the Fellowship Hall that is for sale. For \$40, size is a single 60" x 80" and we have baby quilts for sale too for \$25. Contact any Ladies Aid member or Liz in the office.

There is also new greeting cards available next to the quilt, cards are just \$1 each, slip your money in the box on the wall.

Also we want to reach out to ladies to please consider helping with the quilts we send to Lutheran World Relief & Safe Center. Be a part of the Ladies Aid, we meet the first Thursday of the month with a potluck and meeting too. Working on the quilts starts at 9 a.m. Potluck is at 12 p.m. and meeting follows. We work in the Ladies Aid Room every Thursday morning from 9 a.m. – noon. I am sure you will enjoy your time, and we all need your help!

Helen Anderson is selling script and you can get it from her on Sunday or Corrine in the office.

Sandy Lenneman is collecting the box tops and coke points. Please give to her or put in the container.

Thank you,
Pam



ELDER CONTACT INFORMATION

Dave Bengel	517-281-5812	me@davidbengel.com
Tom Gorby	989-292-1715	tomgorby@gmail.com
Ryan West	517-977-5078	westpropertyservices@live.com
Ken Bond	989-640-2380	kbbenji88@yahoo.com

Pastor Timothy Bayer email: pastorbayer@gmail.com



Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call Liz in the church office (989) 224-3178 during office hours. If in the evening or weekend, please call Pam Mohr (989) 292-1686.

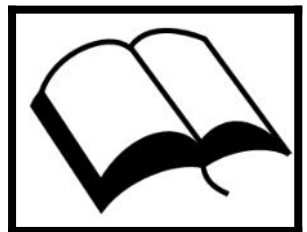


REMINDER:

MITES SUNDAY IS APRIL 26TH

ST. PETER 150TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORY BOOKS FOR SALE

\$7.00 a book. Make checks payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church. Contact the church office if you would like to purchase a book at 989-224-3178 or church@stpeterriley.org



Thank you for my St. Peter friends!

I'm home again and doing about four weeks of therapy due to several fractures in my pelvis. I want to thank all that send cards, phone calls, visits and Ladies Aid for their beautiful pink plant! So many enjoyed seeing them. I feel really Blessed that the Pastor made calls to me.

Thank you all!
Virginia Davis



Greeters are a very important ministry at St. Peter. We are always looking for new smiling faces and warm handshakes, or better yet, hugs. If you'd like to give it a try, please call me at 517-667-9636. Currently the rotation is about every 4-5 months. We appreciate the many current dedicated greeter but sometimes circumstances beyond our control necessitate changes to our lifestyle. Please check the upcoming schedule regularly to be sure you're available to greet the day scheduled. If not, please call me and I'll arrange for someone to take your place.

Blessings, Sandy Lockwood

	April 2020	
04/05/20	Jan & Don Maynard	
04/12/20	Diane & Sara Thurston	Easter
04/19/20	Chris & Mark Grennell	
04/26/20	Bob Barber & Lyle Auten	
	May 2020	
05/03/20	Sandy Lockwood & Bill Caruss	
05/10/20	Debbie & Holden Schrader	
05/17/20	Ann Shellito & Rollie Kloeckner	
05/24/20	Theresa & Charlie Silm	
05/31/20	Bonnie & Roger Gregory	

EASTER SERVICES

Lent Services - Wednesdays 9:00am & 7:00pm

Holy Thursday – Thursday, April 9th at 7:00pm

Good Friday – Friday, April 10th at 10:00am & 7:00pm

Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 11th at 8:30pm

(Joint service with St. Paul, Fowler)

Easter Service – Sunday, April 12th at 10:00am

(Easter Breakfast 8:30am-9:30am in Fellowship Hall)

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!



*“Laying the Foundation to Build on the Rock of Christ.
Study the Word, Seek the Lost, and to Serve our Neighbors”*

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday: Chapel 9:00am
Bible Study: 6:00pm (Library)
****NO Bible Study April 1st and April 8th****

Sunday: Worship Services 10:00am
Bible Study 8:45am
Sunday School 8:45am

**(No Bible Study, Sunday School or Confirmation until
after Sunday, April 12th.)**



Shut-In Visit List Weekly Visits

Shirley Edwards
Ethel Flegler
Bill Horman
Tom Johnson

Charlie Silm
John Sillman
Lois Sillman

Albert Smith
Bill & Sherri VanBeelen



**Check out our website!
www.stpeterriley.org**

**Be sure to check our website for event or
service updates and cancellations.** Also on our
website you are able to download the monthly
newsletter, bulletin and calendar. We are continuously
updating and making changes to the website so if you
have not logged on the website lately check it out see
what's new.



- 4/1/20 Spring Break 3/30/20-4/3/20
Lent Services 9:00am and 7:00pm
- 4/2/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid Meeting 12:00pm (Library)
- 4/3/20 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Gym) - **(Cancelled)**
- 4/5/20 Confirmation 3:30pm-5:30pm **(Cancelled)**
Hall Rented 11:30am-5:30pm
- 4/6/20 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library) **(Cancelled)**
- 4/7/20 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library) **(Cancelled)**
- 4/8/20 Chapel 9:00am & Lent Evening Service 7:00pm
- 4/9/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room) **(Cancelled)**
PTL Meeting 4:00pm (Library) **(Cancelled)**
Holy Thursday Service 7:00pm
- 4/10/20 Good Friday Service 7:00pm
- 4/11/20 Easter Vigil Service 8:30pm (Joint service with St. Paul, Fowler)
- 4/12/20 Easter Service 10:00am
Easter Breakfast 8:30am-9:30am **(Cancelled)**
No Confirmation
- 4/14/10 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 4/15/20 Chapel 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm
Gym Reserved rest of week for Gala set-up
- 4/16/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 4/17/20 Newsletter deadline
- 4/19/20 Confirmation 3:30pm-5:30pm
- 4/21/20 4H Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Gym)
- 4/22/20 Chapel 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 4/23/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 4/24/20 Youth Game Night 7:00pm-9:00pm (Gym)
- 4/26/20 Confirmation 3:30pm-5:30pm
Voters Meeting immediately after church
Children singing in church
Confirmation 3:30pm-5:30pm
- 4/30/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)

(ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19)

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Gordon Schrader \$100

Ron Dilts \$95



**St. Peter
Lutheran Church**

Rev. Timothy Bayer
8990 Church Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

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Fax: 989-224-8962
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**We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org**

