

The Messenger

The Church and National Politics

Both major parties and our democratic republic itself are flawed establishments composed of sinful people. Yet, we obey our leaders knowing that all authority that exists has been established by God (Romans 13:1). As Lutherans, we understand two kingdom theology—God rules the Church by His Holy Word, and God rules the state by His eternal law. Our task as the Church is not political—our task as the Church is to proclaim the free forgiveness in Jesus Christ’s cross and resurrection for all.

However, we do not live in a “church vacuum”—we live in a political state, even as our citizenship ultimately is in heaven. As Christians, we are to work as citizens for the good of our neighbor, and the good of our neighbor is that which is in conformity with God’s will. In our democratic republic, that means we have the privilege of working to elect people who will promote the common good through policies in line with the revealed will of God in nature and in His Holy Word.

Today, more than ever, Christians ought to have concern over political matters. Today, the left and the right are no longer debating about relatively benign matters such as minimum wage, social and welfare programs, tax structure and things of the like—in all these issues Christians can and do have disagreement. Today, the debate includes much weightier, spiritual and moral matters—things so plain and evident that Christians ought to be singularly united. On the topics of abortion and marriage, Christians should have no disagreement. God has made it abundantly clear what is right and what is wrong on these issues. It is problematic for a Christian, in good conscience, to vote for and support politicians who promote abortion and who work against God’s institution of marriage. These issues dwarf other traditional conservative/liberal debates in importance to the Christian.

And while the church may have been able to ignore politics to a greater degree in the past, politics is about to force itself right into our churches. The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Equality Act of 2021, and the Act is now in the hands of the U.S. Senate. Should this Act pass, sexual orientation will be elevated to a protected class in the U.S., bringing sweeping changes to current laws. This Act would make the biblical teaching of marriage, and the very words of Jesus, against the law. The Act also expands the definition of “public accommodation”, forcing churches and religious non-profits to comply.

Whether or not this Act passes, it appears the heat will continue to rise against the church and those faithful to their Lord in this country. The rubber will start hitting the road in terms of practicing what we preach, even in the face of persecution. We may find ourselves in situations where we will need to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29) and suffer the consequences thereof. God keep us faithful and steadfast in our allegiance to our Lord Jesus and his abiding Word, knowing that He will work all things together for the good of His Holy Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Bayer



April Showers

We have had the March winds and suspect that we are all looking forward to the April showers. After a year of being showered with news and media reports of the Covid concerns, we are also ready for some April showers. We will expect the usual April showers that will help to bring out the May flowers. However, we have had a multitude of showers this year – we have been showered with our Lord's love and care. We have been showered with a school that has continued to teach all the subjects and above all else help our children to grow in their faith and trust in God.

We are looking forward to an abundance of blessings in the months ahead. We have already nearly filled our K-1 classroom and are continuing to add students at the other grade levels. We are looking forward to our students spending recesses outside enjoying the warm weather and our great playground. We are also looking forward to having a group of parents and other interested adults refurbishing our mulch on the playground. We have also been showered with the blessing of a promised grant from the government to help us meet some of the needs that we have experienced. We will use these funds to buy Chromebook computers for all our students to use, add bottle filling stations, and do other upgrades.

We are currently installing new card-activated locks on the school. This will provide us with additional security for our children. We received a grant from the Michigan District Church Extension Fund that has covered much of the cost of this project.

We are looking forward to the Lord's continued showering of blessings in the next school year. Our enrollment continues to grow, and this has allowed us to add a third teacher who will also serve as principal. Mrs. Erika Brown has accepted our call for this position, and we look forward to the leadership that she will provide.

As you enjoy the warmer days and the showers that we will receive, we hope that they will not only bring joy and relief to you; we also pray that they will remind you of all the blessings that we have been showered with not only in our church and school, but also in our personal lives.

His Servant,
Paul Weismantel



Lutherans for Life News

The St. Peter Lutherans for Life Team met for the first time last month with Pastor Paul Clark (President of LFL of MI). He led us through the meeting with many handouts and much information on what LFL is all about. We followed up with another meeting a few weeks later to discuss future events where we could be a service to mothers and babies and a voice for the unborn. It was decided to collect items for the Pregnancy Services of Greater Lansing where they help mothers to keep their babies.

We will sponsor an event beginning **Mother's Day (May 9th) and continuing through Father's Day (June 20th)**. We will collect baby items for the Pregnancy Center. A list will be provided in the May newsletter and also future weekly bulletins. A couple playpens will be purchased (funded by the Thrivent Action Program) to collect the items in and then donated to the Pregnancy Center to be given to the mothers. Please DO NOT bring any items before Mother's Day as there won't be a place for them. What better way to celebrate Mother's Day is there than this....to help women get through a rough time in their life and where we can help them with the necessities of keeping and caring for their babies.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flier for an event at St. Paul Lutheran in Fowler. It is the **Life Leadership Summit on Sunday, April 25th from 2:00-5:00pm**. EVERYONE is invited to attend. It's not just for the LFL Team...this is for anyone who would like to hear more about how we as Christians can help in the pro-life movement. The keynote speaker is Rev. Jeffrey W. Duncan, Director of Mission and Ministry for Lutherans. There is no cost and no registration. However, if you think you may be interested, please let Diane Thurston (989) 388-2069 know as they would like some sort of idea on how many may attend. This is just an approximate head count so if that day comes and you didn't contact me, please come anyway. There will be plenty of room. Light refreshments will be served.

On the back side of the flier is a thank you letter from Pregnancy Services of Greater Lansing for the door offering that was taken on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 22nd. Thank you to all who donated to this cause. Please take time to read it! It has a VERY heartwarming story included and tells a little of what the Pregnancy Center does.

Our team is still learning about the many facets of Lutherans for Life. But we are ALL excited to continue to learn and speak on behalf of those who have no voice in all stages of life!

Kristin Bayer

Sara Thurston

Vickie Pline

Diane Thurston

Sarah Sills



Stewardship News

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

Source: www.lcms.org/stewardship



Enrollment for St. Peter Lutheran Day School (Kindergarten – 7th grade) & Preschool for the fall of 2021-2022 has started!!! Please contact the school for more information!! 989-224-3178

Mr. Paul Weismantel, Principal:

weismap@hotmail.com 517-420-5169

Mrs. Lisa Smith, Preschool Director & Lead teacher: lisaschrauben@live.com 517-420-8797

Mrs. Corrine Fletcher, Administrative School Assistant

cnfletcher80@aol.com 989-292-9699

Blessings, St. Peter Lutheran Church & School Staff



Dear Pastor and Friends

Thank you, thank you for so many cards. I'm doing ok just so hard to find where everything is. I now have a decent phone and you can call it anytime but not before nine. I sleep in! My new phone number is 517-977-1254. Call because no visits yet! Miss you all!

Virginia Davis
3225 W. Mount Hope Ave
Apt 226
Lansing, MI 48911



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 bondken88@yahoo.com
John Burgess 616-295-3903 johnburgess6606@gmail.com
Pastor Bayer (Emergency ph#585-402-2807) pastorbayer@gmail.com



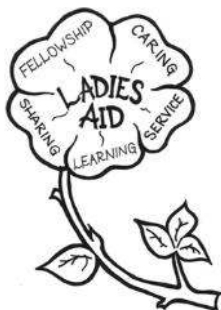
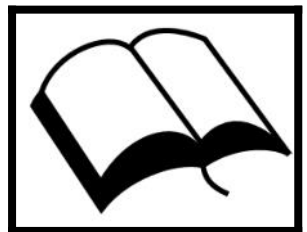
Prayer Chain

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 25TH

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



LADIES AID SALE

We welcome donated homemade items for Ladies Aid Sale. We have a display case in the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall. Drop off your donated items at the church office or at church on Sundays. Proceeds go towards the Ladies Aid to support the needs of the congregation, charities we give to and the seminary student we support. There will be a payment box on the Ladies Aid display.

Makes checks payable to St. Peter Ladies Aid.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We have had another great month at preschool. We have added a couple of new students to our preschool class and are thrilled to have 15 students now. We are so thankful to have been in preschool for the entire year without any major interruptions. We hope to finish the year strong and have a picnic celebration in May!

March is Reading Month was a huge success. St. Peter had their first virtual book fair sponsored by Usborne books. Several kids purchased books to enjoy at home and helped the school earn free books. Thank you to everyone that helped make the book fair a success!

Enrollment for the fall is off to a great start. We still have openings available, so please contact us if you or someone you know would like to enroll their child for preschool in the fall.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support. We feel very blessed to work with such amazing people at St. Peter.

Blessings,
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher



Welcome to Scrip. My name is Traci Brisboe-Cole and I am the Scrip Coordinator for St. Peter. St. Peter participates in Scrip as a way to give families a chance to support their students, church, and school! There are over 3 pages of retailers who participate in Scrip who offer rebates for their users from 1.5%- 18% on purchases. If you are interested in learning more about Scrip I would love to help you get started. I can be reached via email: Tracieggleston20@gmail.com or phone: 269-908-6165 (text is preferred). If you want to get started to view their website you can join St. Peter with the St. Peter Enrollment code: 6L1A6F8L559. Download the shopwithscrip app! Please, do not hesitate to reach out for more information!!!!

Thank you,

Traci Brisboe-Cole



Thank you for the cards, prayers and good wishes while I was recovering from my shoulder surgery. Thank you heart sisters for the beautiful planter!

Shirley Huguelet



Once again your Ladies Aid is reaching out to all our members, our material we use to make the quilts is running very low; if you have any you would like to donate to a good cause or even buy material. We use cottons. We are running low on sheets also that we use for fillers or the backs to our quilts; so if you may have used sheets that you aren't using anymore, we could use them. Any sizes from singles to king. It would be much appreciated so we ladies can continue God's work.

YOUTH

We had a youth outing at Fowler E-Lanes on March 13th! Eight kids from St. Peter and St. Paul, Fowler plus their parents/grandparents joined us for a couple of hours of fun and fellowship bowling, observing and enjoying pizza and cheese breadsticks! We closed with an open prayer from Pastor Lance Klamer as we all went on our way after enjoying the afternoon together!

Blessings,
Dick Stout



Secret Prayer Sisters

Please remember to keep your Secret Prayer Sister in your daily prayers. God has blessed us with sisters in Christ and what better act could there be, but to lift them and their families up in prayer each and every day. A small gesture as sending an encouraging card can be SO uplifting! Diane Thurston

Special Thank You

We would like to thank Judy Boettger for her many years of service on the Altar Guild. Thank you for always making sure that everything was ready for Worship. Your dedication has not gone unnoticed. "Well done my good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things" - Matthew 25:21

Heart Sisters

Greetings to all the "Heart Sisters" out there! It has been a tough year for many people and one thing that has been particularly difficult is not seeing the ones we love. We are looking at a way to possibly get together sometime in April with social distancing. Stay tuned for a phone call or text!! Diane Thurston



Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule
Maundy Thursday - April 1 at 7:00pm
Good Friday - April 2 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm
Easter Vigil - April 3 at 8:30pm
Easter - April 4 at 10:00am





*“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: Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm

Sunday: 8:45am-9:45 am - Family Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
10:00 am - Divine Service



**BIBLE
HOUR**

Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Shirley Edwards
Ethel Flegler
Lyle Huguélet
Tom & Julie Johnson

Charlie Silm
Albert Smith
Sue Yelden



Check out our website!
www.stpeterliley.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.



- 4/1/21** **Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm**
Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid 12:00pm (Library)
- 4/2/21** **Good Friday Services @Noon and 7:00pm**
Over 50's (Cancelled for Good Friday will resume May 7th)
- 4/3/21** **Easter Vigil Service 8:30pm (There will be 6 Baptisms)**
- 4/4/21** **Easter Service 10:00am**
NO Confirmation today
- 4/5/21** Ladies Aid Flower Sale Orders Deadline
School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 4/6/21** Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
- 4/7/21** Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 4/8/21** Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 4/9/21** Confirmation Retreat (4/9/21-4/11/21)
- 4/13/21** Council Meeting 6:30pm (Gym)
- 4/14/21** Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 4/15/21** Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 4/16/21** Newsletter Deadline
- 4/18/21** Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
- 4/19/21** PTL Meeting 5:30pm (Library)
- 4/21/21** Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 4/22/21** Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 4/25/21** Voters Meeting (Immediately after church)
Mites Sunday
Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
Life Leadership Summit 2:00pm-5:00pm @St. Paul, Fowler
- 4/28/21** Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 4/29/21** Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)

(Private confession available by appointment only on Saturdays at 6:30pm)

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Jean Dilts \$60.00

Mary Jane Mohr \$165.00

Jurline Len \$55.00

Lois Sillman \$330.00

Ellen Martens \$85.00



**St. Peter Lutheran
Church & School**

Rev. Timothy Bayer
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Phone: 989-224-3178
E-mail: church@stpeterriley.org



We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org

