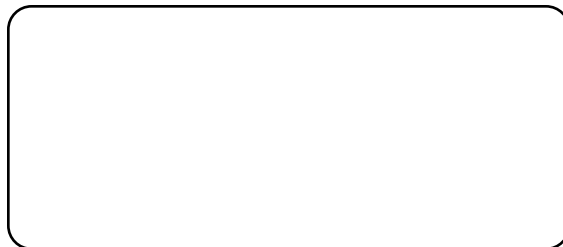


# St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

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**We are on the web!**  
**[www.stpeterriley.org](http://www.stpeterriley.org)**



## **THE MESSENGER** *August 2022*



### **Church Services**

Divine Service – Sundays at 9 am  
Office of Matins – Wednesdays at 9 am ( No Matins August 17)

Advent and Lent – Wednesday services at 7 pm  
Feasts and Festivals – Services as announced in calendar and bulletin

# A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

## An Issue Larger than the Size of a Cup

When I arrived at St. Peter Lutheran Church, the practice in use for serving communion to those unable to come to the altar was to carry to them the paten with the body of Christ and the chalice with the blood of Christ. I continued this good practice. Nobody had an issue with what was being done.

When Covid hit, we brought the blood of Christ in individual cups to those unable to come to the altar instead of the chalice. Two years later, when all our other Covid precautions had been eliminated, we returned to the previous practice of carrying the blood of Christ in the chalice to those who cannot come to the altar for communion, exactly what had been happening in our congregation when Covid hit. Practically, only one item can be carried, since it is one person carrying the blood of Christ. This decision to return to pre-Covid procedure was made by the elders together in May of this year. Maybe it would have been helpful for this return to previous practice to be communicated better ahead of time.

Nevertheless, by simply returning to what had previously been the practice, a fury of division broke out in our church. This came to a head at the voters meeting in July. Why is this an issue now when the same practice was not an issue before? It is being pointed out that those at the altar have the “choice” of the chalice or the individual cup, and therefore it is not fair that the same is not offered to those unable to come to the altar. That is true, but why did this bother no one before Covid?

The issue may be larger than the size of the cup. Some thirty years ago (according to what I’ve been told) the individual cups were introduced at St. Peter Lutheran Church. They have been in use in Lutheran churches in general since around the 1950s. For many, this means the individual cups have been in use forever. In reality, this is an extremely new and novel way of distributing the blood of Christ in the history of the church. The Church existed for nineteen hundred years distributing the blood of Jesus in a common chalice, as the Lord himself did at the institution of His Supper. The individual cup was *not* a Lutheran practice, even though it has become one.

Maybe the current division has its roots in the fact that we (in deviation to the Lord’s institution and all history of church practice) introduced a visible, tangible division into the Sacrament of the Altar when we introduced the individual cups into our churches. Maybe we are reaping what was sown back in the 1950s when we thought we knew better than the faithful of the previous two millennia and better than Jesus himself. If there is one thing on this earth that innovation and novelty should have nothing to do with, it is the Supper of the Lord’s body and blood, instituted by Christ himself on the night in which he was betrayed.

At the voters meeting, solutions were proposed for getting rid of the current division over how those in their seats are being served. The prevalent solution proposed was to offer the “choice” of chalice or individual cup to those in their seats, just as it is offered at the altar. This certainly would be fair. But is it prudent to continue and actually introduce more of the practice that is causing the division in the first place? The “choice” is the source of division, in fact, it *is* the division—why further ingrain that into our practice?

This alien “choice” that we have introduced into the Lord’s Supper is reaping its ugly fruit. It goes against everything it means to be the recipient of a gift, which the Lord’s Supper is. When a gift is given, the recipient makes no demands about how he or she would have liked it better. And what we are being offered in the gift of the Lord’s Supper is of far greater worth than all earthly treasure. It is the body and blood of the Son of God which he gave into death on our behalf and shed for the forgiveness of sins. Its benefits are forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation. And we are complaining over this gift not being given to us the way we like?! Is not the way the Lord gives this gift good enough?

-Pastor Bayer

# A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

I had the opportunity in July to share an article from May's issue of the *School Ministry Mailing* (LCMS) with our school board. The article, "What's Next?" written by Kristen Newell caused me to pause and think about the ministry of our school. Students in our school hear God's Word every day. They hear the Gospel of Jesus every day in a place where they are a part of a caring, Christian community. They are committing to memory Bible verses and parts of the catechism. I know that this is all very intentionally happening at St. Peter. But are we putting the same intentional planning into creating a culture where "students see and practice living as disciples of Christ?" (pg. 5)

Part of working in education is understanding that even though great work is being done in our classrooms and in our schools, we still need to take time to reflect and reevaluate. I truly believe that our students are seeing examples at St. Peter of Christians living as disciples of Christ. I also believe that we need to be having these discussions and reflecting on how we help students to develop patterns and habits in their lives that are a part of living as a disciple of Christ. We want them to have a foundation in order that they continue these practices when they leave our doors. We want to teach them how to build positive relationships so that they might have the opportunity of sharing the Gospel with people they meet.

As a member of this church, what patterns have you developed in your own prayer life? What do you do to spend time in the Word? How do you use your talents and blessings to serve others and witness to others?

Every member of this church and school is a part of the St. Peter community. How can we make it a community that spreads the love of Jesus to our students and teaches them how to go and spread that message to others?

Blessings in Christ,  
Erika Brown  
Principal/Teacher

# A LETTER FROM OUR CANTOR

## Why We Do What We Do

The individual or the common cup?

First, let's note that the common cup is known as the "chalice."

In 1894 a physician who was also a Presbyterian minister in Ohio invented the individual cup for Communion, considering it to be more hygienic than the chalice. As individual cups were introduced to congregations, it generated a lot of conflict. Gradually the practice spread to other Reformed churches, such as the Church of Christ, Methodist, Baptist and the like. It's important to remember that these churches use grape juice, rather than wine, for their Communion.

At some point in the mid-Twentieth Century, the use of individual cups came into American Lutheranism (not Lutherans in Europe!). There were a lot of influences leading to this – a growing anxiety about hygiene, a desire to fit in with Reformed neighbors, a fear that the chalice made us look "too Roman Catholic."

In recent years there's been an emphasis to restore historic liturgical practice, including the chalice, in part because of Jesus' own words. Luther points out that the apostles may have had their own individual cups during the Passover meal, but Jesus hands them ONE cup, "THIS cup is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20, emphasis mine); "Drink from it, all of you" (Matt. 26:27). When instructing the church in Corinth, Paul uses the singular, "As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup..." (I Cor. 11:26). This fits with Paul's emphasis that all believers are joined in one body (Rom. 12, I Cor. 12), not random individuals doing "their own thing." Sharing the chalice puts each Christian in direct fellowship/communion with every Christian throughout time and space who share the same chalice.

Having said all that, does that mean the chalice is the only "right" way to participate in the Eucharist? Certainly not. In addition to the individual cup, some people practice "intinction" (dipping the bread into the chalice before eating, much more common among Eastern Orthodox Christians). There may be good reasons to use one practice over another at specific times. Luther teaches us, "Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here, 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: 'forgiveness of sins.'"

But remember, my emphasis is to provide some rationale for "why we do what we do," so that you can come to the Sacrament in full faith and confidence that here you receive bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness sins for all Christians.

I hope to share more of why we do what we do. Perhaps if you have a particular question or concern, you might pass that along to me through the church office.

Your brother in Christ,  
Dick Davenport

Dear Pastor Bayer and people of God at Saint Peter Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation, support for our mission work in Africa!

\$1,000 (recorded on April 21)

We miss the days (and years) of village living and grass roots ministry. We loved living and working with everyday people, proclaiming God's Word and the love of Christ in the midst of people's joys, sorrows and daily challenges. We loved the baptisms and fighting the good fight of rescuing people out of darkness and celebrating new life in Christ!

At this time, Joyce and I are the only LCMS missionaries serving in West Africa. My focus is on engaging others in lives of ministry and outreach. I am working closely with the president of the church and the principal of the seminary in Ghana and teaching seminary classes. (Presently the seminary is on its long 'farming season' break). I am also coordinating an effort by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to offer advanced theology classes to pastors in Africa via Zoom on the internet.

We are starting with a group of 10-12 pastors. Although these are experienced pastors, many of them are personally experiencing the computer for the first time. They are learning how to get on Zoom. They are learning how to mute and unmute themselves for orderly Zoom sessions. They need a lot of hands-on help. This is a huge challenge as these men are spread out across Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan. I am grateful for the help of our LCMS missionaries in Kenya and Uganda!

We hope to start some preliminary studies before the end of June!

Hopefully the work will result in these men receiving master's degrees. However, our real goal is to lead these men further into God's Word and help them to grow in their theological understanding and knowledge. We want to impact their efforts in ministry. This work, like our early years, is focused on bringing God's Word into the lives of everyday people.

On a personal note: Our daughter Naomi and Michael are expecting our first grandchild in late July. Our son Jonathan and Jackie are getting married in October. We will be in the USA briefly for some doctor appointments and the Michigan District Convention at the end of June. We will spend the 4th of July weekend with Luke and Jonathan and Jackie in MN to work on wedding plans.

Again, thank you for your support and prayers for the work of proclaiming Christ across Africa!

*David and Joyce*

## Endowment Fund Newsletter Article August 2022

### What is an Endowed Fund?

An endowed fund is a charitable gift established in perpetuity in which the principal is invested for total return and a small portion of the fund's balance (the previous years interest and growth) can be paid out, annually, for the purposes defined by the donor in the endowment agreement. The intent is for the total return of the fund to exceed the payout over the long term and therefore the fund will remain in perpetuity.

### Why are Endowments important?

Churches and non-profit organizations establish endowments to provide permanent sources of funds that can be used for decades and provide revenue that is stable and reliable amid the uncertainty of other revenue streams and may support unexpected needs/expenses that arise.

### What is Gift Planning?

Gift planning consists of gifts left by donors after they have been called home to Heaven, and it can be used to grow an endowment. Sometimes referred to as **"legacy gifts,"** these gifts benefit the church or school while also providing valuable tax savings and additional benefits to the donor's family.

### How do St Peter Lutheran Church Endowment Funds work?

Endowed funds differ from others in that the total amount of the gift is invested. Each year only a portion of the income earned is spent while the remainder is added to the principal for growth. In this respect an endowment is a perpetual gift.

### 2022 MINT FESTIVAL

Plans are underway for the St. Johns Mint Festival on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. St. Peter Lutheran Church and School invites everyone to walk as a group in the parade and pass out hard wrapped candy! Let's take advantage of this great opportunity to share our church and school with others who may not even know we exist!! Hard wrapped candy can be dropped off at the church office or put in the blue bin in the back of the Church. We need walkers to join us in the parade. Please sign up in back of the church or church office. We also need volunteers to help with parking. In the past parking has been a good money maker for our church. Sign up for time slots is also in the back of church or office. Please contact me with any questions at 989-224-7106.

Charlene Kennedy

### Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Virginia Davis  
Charlie Silm  
Shirley Edwards  
Albert Smith  
Sue Yelden  
Linda Davis  
Terry Ordway  
Glenn Bennett



Mites Sunday  
is August 28!

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

## The Ceremony of the Offertory

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.

Memorials

Bonnie Wickham

Prayer Chain

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



**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.

The Ladies Aid Display Case items in the hallway of the Fellowship Hall has changed we have decided that you may purchase any items in the case by removing it from the case from the back and put your donation in the box attached to the case.

Regular Church office hours will resume when school returns on August 29, 2022. Church secretary office hours will then be as follows.

Monday: 8:15-4:15

Tuesday: 8:15-12:15

Wednesday: 8:15-12:15

Thursday: 8:15-12:15

Summer Church Office Hours:

Wednesday: 8am –1pm

Thursday: 8am-1pm