## The Messenger

#### READY OR NOT HERE I COME

We all have probably played "Hide and Seek." This time of the year we may start to feel like the answer to "Ready or Not Here I Come" is NO, I'm not ready.

With all of the Christmas decorations in the stores and the ads on TV it is hard to say, that Christmas just snuck up on us. The question is what are we getting ready for? There are the gifts to buy and wrap, there is the baking and cooking to do to have those special treats and meals. There are cards and letters to write and send --- and the list goes on.

Advent is the time to get ready for the coming of our Savior. We begin by considering our sinful condition. Like in the game we may try to hide our sins and hide from God, but just as in the game in the end we can't continue to hide. Adam and Eve tried that, but God came looking for them, found them and promised them the Savior to save them from their sin and rebellion. During this Advent season God also comes looking for us through His word. Even though we may not have a "regular" pastor, His word is still brought to us through the servants that He provides. Especially during this Advent season with all of the hustle and worry, it is important that we take time to hear His word and prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate His birth.

In the game we also hear, "Here I come!" This is also the message of Advent. We not only consider His coming to this earth to be born, suffer, die, rise, and ascend to His home in heaven, we also consider His second coming to this earth. As in the game, we don't want to be found, but we also know that if we can run to "home" we will be free. We also know that when Christ comes, we do not need to fear or hide, we who belief are forgiven. We will all be free, taken to our true home in heaven.

Here at school we are preparing a service/program for Sunday, December 9th. We are also planning another "trip" on the Polar Express as we watch the movie with hot chocolate and lots of fun activities.

He came that first Christmas to save us, He comes to us now through His Word and the sacraments, and He will come to take us to our eternal home.

We wish you a truly blessed Christmas and another year of joy living in His grace.

His Servant, **Paul Weismantel**, Principal

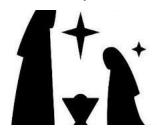
St. Peter Lutheran Church 8990 Church Rd. St. Johns, MI 48879



Phone: 989-224-3178 Fax: 989-224-8962 church@stpeterriley.org www.stpeterriley.org

## **LADIES AID**

**Ladies Aid -** are having a new fundraiser, we are selling Nativity scenes, made out of different woods; so they are all different & unique. There is one in the office on the island; we are selling them for \$20; if anyone would like to see more let me know.



In Christs service, Kathy Bond

St. Peter celebrates 150th anniversary in 2019

Plans are underway for special services and activities in the coming year as St. Peter Lutheran Church-Riley gives thanks to God on the 150 anniversary of our congregation. "Built on the Rock – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" will take congregation members and friends back in time to the formal incorporation of St. Peter in January, 1869; recall our continuous forward movement over the decades; and help provide a vision for the future that remains grounded on our Rock – Jesus Christ.

A complete calendar and detailed information on special services and events will be available in the January 2019 newsletter and the St. Peter website.

We look forward to worshipping God throughout our anniversary year, praising Him in words from the refrain of our anniversary hymn, My Hope is Built on Nothing Less, "On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

On December 9th after the late service we will be going Christmas caroling. We will be providing a light lunch before we go out to sing to the elderly and shut-ins. Caroling is such a special time we can share Christmas songs with our brothers and sister in Christ. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 989-224-7106.

Charlene Kennedy, DVM





**HEART SISTERS** has been canceled until January or February depending on the weather. Thank you all for your patience. You may join Marion on Wednesdays at 10:00am, however, for a weekly Bible Study in the Library until November 14th when we will take a break until after the holidays.

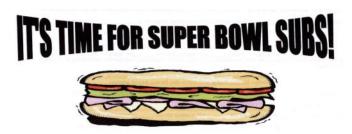


Women's women's wednesday bible study. Thank you to all who have joined us the Bible last few months to study the Word of God. We will now take a short break during the holidays but will pick up again the first of the year. Please watch the bulletin for date and time. We extend a special thank you to **Marion Koeppen** for leading the study.



RADA Cutlery - reminder the Ladies Aid still sell knives, spatulas, etc. We have a RADA catalog in the office and on the chair table in the Fellowship hall lobby. Call, text, or email Kathy Bond with your order for yourself or for gifts. 989-640-0630, bkbond61@yahoo.com.

SUPER BOWL SUBS will be on sale by the Ladies Aid for February 3, 2019. Watch for further details



## **SOUP KITCHEN FUTURE DATES**

We will be Changing Up the Traditional Soup Kitchen dates.

With the <u>Old Schedule</u> we always had it in: September & December with the Giving room. We had the September Soup Kitchen & this year on: <u>December 8<sup>th</sup> - we will have the</u>

**GIVING ROOM ONLY.** 

The 2019 NEW SCHEDULE will be:

July 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - Soup Kitchen September 14<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - Soup Kitchen

December 7th (Saturday) - Giving Room ONLY

For Future Volunteer Opportunities, please put these dates on your calendar.

Thank You, AI & Renee

## **VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR EASTER FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION**

We are in need of a person to do the: Easter Food Pantry Shopping & Distribution of Food.

Easter 2019 is on: April 21st.

## **Duties will include:**

Having a Confidential list of Food Pantry Recipients

Looking at our food pantry & figuring out how much food is needed, purchasing any additional food, including the fresh & frozen food with food pantry donations Calling families on the list with a designated: Date, Time and Location (Library) for picking up the food.

This is done typically: 1-2 weeks before Easter.

We've done up a document detailing the entire process.

If you're interested, Please contact: Al & Renee @ 989-224-8663.

## LUTHERAN WITNESS

It's time to re-subscribe or subscribe to the LUTHERAN WITNESS at a discounted rate. *The Lutheran Witness* is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. It provides Missouri Synod laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective.

Subscriptions ordered through your church will include the *Michigan In Touch* supplement at no extra cost. The new subscription year doesn't begin until March 2018, but orders need to be in to the church office by <u>December 15, 2018</u> to take advantage of a discounted District rate of \$11.60/year. (Individual subscriptions ordered directly from CPH are \$19.99/year.) Late orders will be charged an additional \$2. Payment should be made directly to the church office. If you have any questions about subscriptions, contact Liz Stevens at <a href="mailto:church@stpeterriley.org">church@stpeterriley.org</a> or the church office: 989-224-3178.

## **Preschool News**

The school year has been off to a great start. We can't believe we are heading into December. The children have grown and developed some amazing friendships. It is wonderful to see the bonds that are forming in such a short time.

We have also been working very hard on preparing for the Christmas program. The children have been learning new songs and practicing the movements that go along with them. We love seeing how excited they get to sing Christmas songs. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Stout and Ms. Koeppen take the time to work with the children every week. We look forward to seeing the children perform at the Christmas Service at 10:00am on December 9<sup>th</sup>! We hope to see you there.

We are also very excited for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Polar Express Day on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a school wide event sponsored by the PTL. The staff and students love spending this time together sharing in the magic of Christmas. Thank you to the PTL for providing popcorn and hot chocolate for us to enjoy during the movie. Thank you to Mr. Weismantel for being our train conductor. A special thank you to Mrs. Fletcher for starting this wonderful event and for all the work she puts into it to make it a special day for all of us.

Blessings to all of you during this Christmas Season, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher









January Jubilee

On February 1, 2019 we will be hosting the January Jubilee which marks the end of Lutheran Schools Week. Part of this event includes a Book Walk for children. I am asking for donations of books to use for our Book Walk. These books can be new or gently used for ages from preschool through the fifth grade. You can drop off the books at the church

office indicating they are for the January Jubilee. If you have any questions, please contact me at 989-224-7106.

Charlene Kennedy, DVM

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE WEISMANTEL'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH FROM 5:00PM-? 15162 Mulligan Dr. Bath, MI 48808



#### SECRET PRAYER SISTERS

A great time was had by all at the revealing of our Secret Prayer Sisters from the past year, along with a few laughs!! Please remember your new "sister" and her family in prayer, cards and other little tokens to let her know you are thinking of her throughout the year.

Diane Thurston



#### **DECEMBER 8, 2018 RUMMAGE ROOM**

THE DATE FOR THE RUMMAGE ROOM AT CHRIST LUTHERAN IS <u>SATURDAY DECEMBER 8, 2018</u>. WE WILL JUST HAVE THE RUMMAGE ROOM TO TAKE CARE OF THIS YEAR.

ALL YOUR NICELY DONATED ITEMS WERE PICKED UP THE END OF NOVEMBER. THANK YOU ALL FOR THE MANY ITEMS AND THEY WERE ABUNDANT THIS YEAR. IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME HOW DEDICATED AND GIVING ST. PETER IS. THE NEEDY IN OUR LANSING COMMUNITY REALLY APPRECIATE ALL YOUR CONSIDERATIONS AND CONTIRUBUTIONS.

WE NEED ABOUT A DOZEN HELPERS TO SET-UP THE TABLES AND ITEMS AS WELL AS FILL THE GOODIE BAGS WITH ALL THE GOODIES BEFORE THE PATRONS ARE ALLOWED IN THE RUMMAGE ROOM. (THIS IS ALL \*\*AND ONLY\*\* DONE THE MORNING OF THE RUMMAGE ROOM ON SITE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LESS THAN 2 HOURS TIME). THAT MEANS WE WILL NEED TO BE AT THE CHURCH STARTING AT 9:00 AM AND WILL BE DONE BY 1 PM.

YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED AND I KNOW THIS IS A TRUE PASSION FOR ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT BONNIE GREGORY AT 989-292-4152.

PLEASE LOOK FOR DETAILS ON THE EVENT IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER.

GOD'S BLESSING ON THIS OUTREACH TO OUR CLOSEBY COMMUNITY AT THIS MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR.

YOURS IN CHRIST - BONNIE GREGORY

Thanks, Greeters, for the smile and warm handshake or hug on Sunday mornings. The schedule is slightly different because at this time it is unsure if we'll be having one or two services. That said I've prepared the 3 month schedule with an alternate, in the event we go back to 2 services and to offer an option for those scheduled in case they are unable to greet. I pray this works for everyone. Please let me know if you have questions (517.667.9636). Blessing, Sandy

018-19 GR	EETER SCHEDULE	
	December 2018	Alternate
12/02/18	Rollie Kloeckner & Bill Caruss	Hartner Family
12/09/18	Chris & Mark Grennell	Jan & Don Maynard
12/16/18	Janell & Bob Barber	Theresa & Charlie Silm
12/23/18	Shirley & Lyle Huguelet	Bonnie & Roger Gregory
12/24/18	Mary Ann & Larry Grennell	Ann & Dick Stout
12/25/18	Diane & Frank Hart	
12/30/18	Judy & Barry Boettger	Norma & Bruce Fitzpatrick
	January 2019	Alternate
01/06/19	Connie & Dale Martens	Kathy & Bruce Bond
01/13/19	Lori & Taylor Klein	Jackie & Mark Zamarron
	Sandy & Gary Lenneman	Michelle & Tom Gorby
01/27/19	Jan & Jim Mehney	Diane & Sara Thurston
	February 2019	Alternate
	-	
	Jean & Roger Heathman	Linda & Lee Chant
	Karen & John Burgess	Lorna & Keith Kirschenbauer
	Carleen Eaton & Dave Richmond	Jeanette & Bruce Mehney
02/24/19	Albert Smith & Shirley Hayes	Ilene Gibson & Marion Koeppen



May the Miracle of Christmas fill your, heart with LOYs **SCRIP** cards can be purchased on Sundays during Bible Study from Pam Mohr. Orders can be dropped in the black Scrip box outside the office any time. Please contact Ann Shellito at 517-626-2302 with any questions.



#### **GIVING TREE**

The Giving Tree is now up and in the front of church!! If you would like to be a part of making someone's Christmas a little brighter, please take an ornament off the tree. Purchase the gift listed on the ornament and securely attach the tag to the gift and bring it back to St. Peter BEFORE Sunday, December 16th as they will be sorted that day. It is important to have it there by then. If you would like to help deliver the gifts, please let me know ASAP. Thank you to all who are participating!!!

Diane Thurston. 989 593-2480

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at St Peter Lutheran Church on 12/21/2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit <a href="http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle">http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle</a> or text the word circle to 797979

"Thank you St. Peter for an amazing 4 years and for such a generous farewell. You welcomed us like family and loved us from the very first day to the very last!

We plan to keep in touch, but we also want to give everyone time and space as we know you will need to be facing forward as you embark on the call process and the joy of welcoming your new shepherd. We know you will greet him with all of the love and enthusiasm you showed us!

We imagine this must be how Paul felt when he wrote his letter to the Philippians 1:3-11

God's Richest Blessings, Pastor and Chris"



## **ELDER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Dave Bengel 517-281-5812 <u>me@davidbengel.com</u>

Dick Stout 517-282-2859 <u>rstoutspartans01@hotmail.com</u>

Tom Gorby 989-292-1715 tomgorby@gmail.com

Ryan West 517-977-5078 <u>westpropertyservices@live.com</u>

Ken Bond 989-640-2380 kbbenji88@yahoo.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.





## **PASTOR NUTTMANN'S NEW ADDRESS:**

Quentin & Christina Nuttmann 7400 N. Cottontail Dr. Hutchinson, KS 67502



The family of Robert Symanzik would like to thank the ladies aid for the wonderful luncheon provided for Bob's funeral. Thank you to everyone for all the prayers, calls, cards and visits. Thank you for sending so many cards to Bob, he enjoyed them all. Your kindness and thoughtfulness meant so much to us.

Thank you Naomi Symanzik & Family From our families to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Blessings from the St. Peter Staff

Paul Weismantel, Principal
Liz Stevens
Corrine Fletcher
Lisa Smith
Amber Ingraham
Betsy Rowe
Ann Stout



## **BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS**

Your Birthday Gift for Jesus this year will be used to pay off the \$14,000.00 loan that the church had to take out to meet expenses. All additional money will go into the general fund. Look for your letter and envelope in the next couple weeks. The gifts last year allowed us to pay our loan then. It would be a blessing if we could pay the loan of \$14,000.00 this year

#### **ENDOWMENT NEWS**

The Church Council reviewed and approved the draft revision of St. Peter's Endowment Policy. The endowment committee (Sandy Lockwood, Jeanette Mehney, Paul Weismantel and Jan Maynard) have been working on the revised policy for six months to bring it up to date. Drafts of the revised policy will be available to you the first week of January 2019. You can then review it before the vote to accept at the January Voters' meeting.

#### **Advent Brunch**

All ladies are invited to our annual Advent Brunch on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Center. It will be an enjoyable morning beginning at 10:00 a.m.







"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

Wednesdays: Chapel 9:00am

Bible Study 6:00pm-7:00pm

Mid Week Worship Service 7:00pm

Sundays: Worship Services 10:00am

Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am



# Shut In Visit List Weekly Visits

Bill & Sherri VanBeelen Mel Sehlke Ken Mohnke Tom Johnson Lois Sillman Ethel Flegler

Sheila Ordway Shirley Edwards Gordon Schrader

John Sillman Ray Watson Albert Smith

Charlie Silm



Check out our new website! www.stpeterriley.org

Be sure to check our website for service updates and cancellations. With the winter weather coming we will post any service updates on the website and on the prayer chain email. You are also welcome to contact the office during business hours to verify any service updates as far as time changes as we work through the process of finding an Interim Pastor.



12/2/18	Hall Reserved (All Day)	
12/3/18	School Board Meeting @6:30pm (Library)	
12/4/18	Advent Brunch @10:00am (Gym)	
12/4/18	Elders Meeting @7:00pm (Library)	
12/6/18	Ladies Aid Quilting @9:00am	
, _,	Ladies Aid Meeting @12:00pm ( Library)	
12/7/18	Over 50's Group @6:30pm	
12/8/18	Weistmantel's Christmas Open House @5:00pm-?	
12/9/18	Hall Reserved (Christmas Caroling)	
12/9/18	Church @10:00 am - Children's Christmas Program	
12/9/18	Christmas caroling right after service	
12/10/18	PTL Meeting @4:00pm (Library)	
12/11/18	2nd Annual St. Peter Polar Express (School Event)	
12/11/18	Council Meeting @6:30pm (Library)	
12/15/18	Newsletter Deadline	
12/16/18	Hall Reserved (1:00-5:00pm)	
12/20/18	Ladies Aid Quilting @9:00am	
12/21/18	Lifeline Screening (Gym)	
12/24/18	Christmas Eve—Office Closed	
12/25/18	Christmas—Office Closed	
12/31/18	New Years Eve—Office Closed	
1/1/19	New Years Day—Office Closed	



Christmas Services
(Subject to change upon Pastor availability)
Christmas Eve 7:00pm & 11:00pm
Christmas 10:00am

## **MEMORIALS**

In Loving Memory of

Robert Symanzik \$1,550.00 Marjorie Bleis \$50.00



## St. Peter Lutheran Church

8990 Church Rd. St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-3178 Fax: 989-224-8962

E-mail: church@stpeterriley.org

We are on the web! www.stpeterriley.org

Address Service Requested.

