

The Messenger

Immanuel

The mystery of the incarnation is the reason for the name Immanuel, which means 'God with us.' In the incarnation, the eternal Son of the Father became man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin by the conception of the Holy Spirit. The Word became flesh. This advent, we once again make our way through a season of anticipation, looking forward to the celebration of the birth of our Savior, while also looking ahead to the time when he comes again in glory.

Concerning that second coming, when Jesus comes as Judge of the living and the dead, the call to God's people is to watch and be ready. Our Incarnate God continues coming to his people now to prepare them for his coming. And as the incarnation shows us, God's presence with his people in Jesus Christ is physical. Through fallible men who are placed into the pastoral office instituted by our Lord, Christ's incarnational ministry continues. By their mouths, Christ speaks to us. By their hands, we are plunged into Christ's death and raised to new life in the baptismal waters. They place into our mouths the very body and blood of Christ, offered in holy sacrifice to the Father for our sins. Jesus's ministry, both before his ascension and after, remains an in-person, incarnational ministry. Immanuel—God with us.

This Advent and Christmas season ponder the incarnation. Ponder Immanuel. With everything going on in the world right now, with all the fears and worries, know that your God and Lord Jesus Christ desires to be with you personally granting you his eternal peace.

Therefore, this is my pastoral plea to you. My chief concern is not that church attendance is low. I understand that many are concerned and maybe scared. My primary concern is that Christ's lambs continue to be fed by their Good Shepherd. Please, avail yourselves to Jesus's presence and his gifts. Give me a call, and I will gladly meet you and your household alone at the church to receive the Lord's body and blood. I will happily drive to your house if you would prefer. I will take whatever precautions you would like me to take to make you feel comfortable. Immanuel desires to be with you and for you, giving his gifts of life and salvation. This is the way we his people remain prepared for his coming again in glory as Judge.

God's peace in Jesus Christ be with you this Advent and Christmas—personally and tangibly.

In Christ,
Pastor Bayer



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



Christmas and New Year's Events

It's that time of year when we start to frantically begin to prepare for Christmas. There is the discussion of how we celebrate Christmas Eve, where to go for Christmas Day, and what about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. But wait - with the COVID situation we may not be going anyplace, or we will need to contact family members to plan smaller gatherings during the holidays.

With all this confusion we then start to think about our usual Christmas shopping. The stores are limiting the number of shoppers, the shelves are picked over and the items that we were thinking of buying are not available, We get on our computers and phones and check Amazon and other on-line sources, we find they are out of stock and items will be back ordered until January. Do we buy the groceries for the dinner? If we wait things won't be available, but if we don't have the dinner what do we do with all the things we have bought? Do we decorate the house if we aren't going to have any one visit during the holidays?

Yes, we are all under a lot of stress, worry, and frustration as we prepare for Christmas this year with all the restrictions. Good news, we can take time to quietly reflect on what Christmas is truly about. Yes, we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, but we as Christians celebrate His life and His redeeming work to save us from our sins. We can celebrate New Year's in the quiet comfort of our homes and look back on all the blessings that we have enjoyed this year. Yes, we all have received many blessings, but we are often too focused on all the things that we didn't get and the things that we didn't do.

This is a time when we can come together to worship and rejoice with our fellow believers – rejoicing that we have been spared from the pandemic and death. But more that we have been spared from eternal death by the Christ whose birth we celebrate. We can prepare our hearts and minds in the advent services, rejoicing that we have the freedom as Christians to be together in His house.

Here at school things will be different also. We won't have the usual children's Christmas program. We have to celebrate separately from the pre-school children, and we can't have the food and treats that parents have prepared. But, we do have the blessing of having our children in an environment where we can feely share our joy in the birth of our Savior and we can help our children to see that the true gift of Christmas is our salvation and the gift of eternal life.

I sincerely hope that I will have the opportunity to see you at an advent service and again on Christmas morning as we rejoice together in the birth of our Savior. We wish all of you a truly blessed Christmas and a New Year that is filled with peace and joy.

*“God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”
II Timothy 1:7*

His Servant,
Paul Weismantel
Principal/Administrator





CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT 11:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM



I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, text messages, cards and visits I received while recovering from my knee replacement. A special thank you to Pastor Bayer for his prayers and visits. I have been truly blessed with such wonderful family and friends at St Peter.

Thank you,
Charlene Kennedy



Holiday Office Hours

OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 21-23 ~ 8:00AM-4:00PM
CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 28-30 ~ 8:00AM-4:00PM
CLOSED NEW YEARS EVE & NEW YEARS DAY

ELDER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ryan West 517-977-5078 westpropertyservices@live.com
Ken Bond 989-640-2380 kbbenji88@yahoo.com
John Burgess 616-295-3903 johnburgess6606@gmail.com
Pastor Bayer (Emergency ph#585-402-2807) pastorbayer@gmail.com



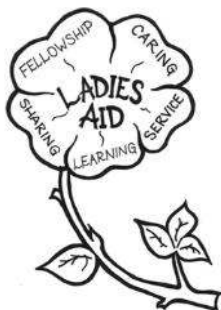
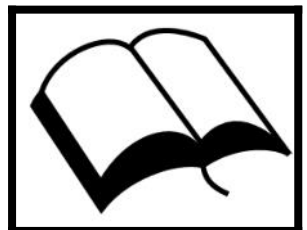
Prayer Chain

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 DECEMBER 27TH

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

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 will begin enrollment for preschool after the first of the year. We will again be offering a five day option. We are very happy with the response we have had to our five day program this year.

Unfortunately with everything that is going on we will not be having our annual Christmas Program. We hope that everyone stays safe and healthy. Hopefully we will be able to pick it up again next year.

We are very excited for our 1st Who-ville celebration. We will be watching the newest Grinch movie. This is a school wide event sponsored by the PTL. Unfortunately we will have to have separate celebrations this year. Preschool will have it in the morning and the grade school kids will do it in the afternoon. The staff and students love spending this time together sharing in the magic of Christmas. Thank you to the PTL for providing popcorn, milk, and cookies for us to enjoy during the movie. 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

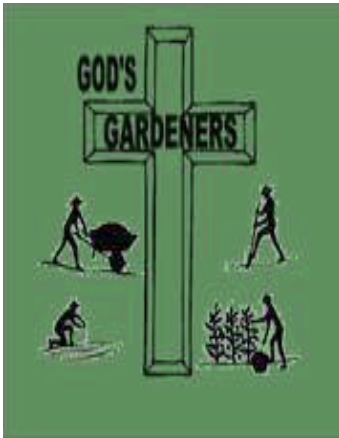




***From our families to yours,
We wish you a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!***

Blessings from the St. Peter Staff

***Timothy Bayer, Pastor
Paul Weismantel, Principal
Liz Stevens
Corrine Fletcher
Lisa Smith
Betsy Rowe
Ann Stout
Kendra Armbrustmacher***



The St. Peter gardens have been put to bed thanks to God's Gardeners Janet Lyon, Diane & Frank Hart, Rita & Tom Hollis and my friend Ethan. It was a little nippy but we got it done. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of this group in the future. God's gardens depend on contributions. At the present time we have just over \$100 in the fund. Next near we will be needing mulch and purchase a tree or shrub for the NE corner of the kitchen. Based on this year's costs I'm estimating we'll need an additional \$150-\$200. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Blessings, Sandy

thrivent®



Thrivent + St Peter Lutheran School = A perfect partnership

Congratulations! In 2019 you received \$2,042 Thrivent Choice Dollars® grants. Additionally, you may have benefited from personal donations through Thrivent's online giving platform or through Thrivent Action Teams. With over 40,000 organizations enrolled in Thrivent Choice®, we're excited to see the impact made across the country.

Thrivent + St Peter Lutheran Church = A perfect partnership

Congratulations! In 2019 you received \$755 Thrivent Choice Dollars® grants. Additionally, you may have benefited from personal donations through Thrivent's online giving platform or through Thrivent Action Teams. With over 40,000 organizations enrolled in Thrivent Choice®, we're excited to see the impact made across the country.



Thank you to everyone that donated something the TCOA/Meals on Wheels annual silent auction. Your generosity made a difference! A special thank you to the ladies aid for donating the beautiful quilt.

Shirley Huguelet



Blood Drive at Duplain Church of Christ on Tuesday, December 29 from 12-5:45 pm. For appointment visit redcrossblood.org (sponsor code DUPLAINCOC) or call 1-800-733-2767.

Thanks!

Thank you for the cards, the warm words, and the gifts that I received for Pastor Appreciation month. Some of the money went toward a gift from the congregation that was presented to me at the last council meeting. This gift was an inversion table, which will help keep my back feeling good. Thank you to everyone! It is a joy to serve in Jesus' name here at St. Peter.

In Christ,
Pastor Bayer



THANK YOU to the members of St. Peter Lutheran Church. I appreciate the many cards sent honoring me on my 90th birthday, a great number included hand written notes. It was very enjoyable to see a few come in the mail for several days. Your efforts were a total, unexpected surprise for me. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Glenn D. Bennet

Thank you 





THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree will look a little different this year! There won't be an actual tree but there WILL be an opportunity to help others in need celebrate Christmas. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate and they are in charge of the collection for "Toys for Tots" in Clinton County. With the unrest of the pandemic, there is a huge need to help the children have a brighter Christmas as many people are without jobs and trying to make ends meet. This is where our St. Peter family can help!!!!

New toys for ALL AGES will be accepted but there is also a list on their website if you would like ideas. The list is only a suggestion. Go to: Voiceforclintoncountychildren.org Click on "Toys for Tots" and scroll to the bottom of the page for ideas. The need for teen appropriate gifts is most great! All toys for the children STAY in Clinton County.

A big box wrapped like a present will be in back of church for you to place your toys in the Sunday after Thanksgiving. NO NEED TO WRAP THEM! We will collect them through Friday, December 18th.

Maybe you could make this a family project with everyone giving their input. I know with everything going on this could be challenging but there are many ways to approach this. Shop online, make lists so when you go out to shop you can pick up what your family has picked out to give.

Thank you to each and every one of you!!

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. "... Matthew 5:16

" Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude



DECEMBER 1ST PASTOR TIM BAYER BIRTHDAY

December 2020 Stewardship News

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

Source: www.lcms.org/stewardship



THANK YOU! Thank you for the prayers, flowers and phone calls! I am truly blessed with all of my friends at St. Peter!

*Thank you,
Jeanette Mehney*

Coming in December!

In early December you will receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee inviting you to join in the annual "Birthday Gift for Jesus" offering with an extra financial contribution over and above your regular offering. Please use the provided envelope marked "Birthday Gift for Jesus" or on an envelope, label or write "Birthday Gift for Jesus", and place your gift in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If you would like to remember a friend or loved one in "Honor" or in "Memory" please indicate that on the envelope. Your gift will be put in the newly established Heritage Preservation Fund to help improve and maintain the St Peter Lutheran Church grounds and buildings.

What is the Heritage Preservation Fund?

It is a newly established fund to provide the money to maintain the St Peter Lutheran Church campus. The Heritage Preservation Fund will allow us the dollars to do special maintenance or improvement projects such as roof replacement, new septic system, etc. without having to secure a loan to accomplish the task.

Did you know that the St Peter Lutheran Church campus is 9+ acres? It has 5 buildings (church, fellowship hall, school, teacherage, parsonage), a cemetery, 2 parking lots, a playground and sports fields. That means there are also 10 restrooms, 9 air conditioners, 12 furnaces and 3 kitchens that have to be maintained.

The Lord has been generous to the St Peter congregation. He has provided us with a beautiful campus. Now, we must continue to be good and faithful stewards of what God has entrusted us. The Heritage Preservation Fund will help us to preserve what the Lord has provided.



SECRET SISTER REVEAL

Much fun was had on Monday, November 16th, as we revealed our SPS for the past year! There are many stories floating around on how and when the calls were made. One thing we do know is that it's a good idea to answer your phone on "REVEAL" day even if you don't recognize the number. I won't mention any names here! LOL

THANK YOU to all the ladies who participated this past year and we look forward to 2021 with our "new" SPS. Please remember to pray for her and her family along with any other prayer requests listed on the form that was sent to you. If by chance you didn't receive yours in the mail, please contact me at 989 388-2069. Thank you and we look forward to another great year!

Diane Thurston



Welcome to Scrip. My name is Traci Brisboe-Cole and I am the "NEW" 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



Lutheran Witness
Subscriptions

LUTHERAN WITNESS TIME!

The subscription year for the Michigan District is March 2021 through February 2022. Yearly subscriptions are **\$11.60/year** each if members place their order through the church office, taking advantage of the District subscription discount. **All orders must be placed by December 7, 2020.** Make your check payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church.



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 additional books at 989-224-3178 or church@stpeterliley.org

Proven, Dedicated, Focused

Church Extension Fund has proven investment products with measurable results. Since 1901, through dedicated Christian financial management, CEF is focused on funding the needs of Michigan District congregations. For more information, contact (Congregation Representative and telephone number) or call 800-242-3944.



*“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 (Lutheran Confessions study in the Library)

Sunday: 8:00 am - *temporary* Divine Service
9:15-9:45 am - Family Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
10:00 am - Divine Service



Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Shirley Edwards
Ethel Flegler
Bill Horman
Lyle Huguélet
Tom & Julie Johnson

Ellen Martens
Charlie Silm
Lois Sillman
Albert Smith



Check out our website!
www.stpeterirley.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.](#)



- 12/1/20 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
Pastor Tim Bayer Birthday
- 12/2/20 Matins 10:30am & Advent Service 7:00pm
- 12/3/20 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid 12:00pm (Library)
- 12/4/20 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Gym)
- 12/7/20 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 12/8/20 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 12/9/20 Deadline to order Lutheran Witness
Matins 10:30am & Advent Service 7:00pm
- 12/10/20 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 12/13/20 Poinsettia orders due
- 12/16/20 Matins 10:30am & Advent Service 7:00pm
Newsletter deadline
- 12/17/20 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 12/21/20 Christmas break for school (Dec. 21-Jan.1)
- 12/23/20 Matins 10:30am & Advent Service 7:00pm
- 12/24/20 Christmas Eve Services 7:00pm & 11:00pm (Office closed)
- 12/25/20 Christmas Service 10:00am
- 12/27/20 Mites Sunday
- 12/30/20 Matins 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 12/31/20 New Year's Eve (Office closed)

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Roy Matteson \$405.00

Jack Bremer \$20.00

Marilyn Kay Kloeckner, Marcella Doretta Kloeckner, Sherry Lynn Stearns \$300.00

Love and Miss You



**St. Peter Lutheran
Church & School**

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

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



We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org

