

The Messenger

Valentine's Day

St. Valentine was a priest and doctor who suffered a martyr's death. According to tradition, St. Valentine wrote a note of encouragement and consolation to the daughter of his jailor just prior to his death. She had come to love this Godly man and was grieved at the thought of his death. The note that St. Valentine wrote brought her comfort and peace. From this grew the tradition of writing notes to others and grew into our Valentine's Day.

What does this have to do with us and our children today? The greatest love that can be shown is for someone to lay down their life for someone else. This is just what Christ did for each of us. We find our comfort and peace in His word from scripture and from that word brought to us by our pastors and our fellow believers. Our children hear that same word of comfort, peace and reassurance every day from their teachers in St. Peter's classrooms. Christ didn't die just for a few friends, He gave His life for all. We encourage our children also to show their love and concern not just for their friends, but for everyone and so we encourage them on Valentines Day to share their notes, cards and gifts with everyone.

Times of change are often times when we all need encouragement. At school with Amber leaving us, we sense that change. For us the good news is that Mrs. Stout has consented with Betsy's return from maternity leave to move from the 3rd to 5th grade to the K – 2 position, so there will be minimal change. The even better news is that God is a changeless God and He will be with us and our children at all times and in all circumstances. This will give the School Board time to plan for the future and call a teacher to fill the position on a permanent basis.

Returning to our thoughts of cards, notes and words of hope and encouragement, I would like to personally thank each of you who have spoken words of thanks and encouragement to me. Your thoughtful words and gifts during the Christmas season are truly appreciated and speak of your understanding of the true meaning of the gift of Christmas and reflect the deeper meaning of Valentines Day.

We are already preparing for next year. I would encourage each of you to consider sending your children or grandchildren to St. Peter Lutheran School. If you don't have children or grandchildren encourage others or offer financial support through scholarships to enable more children to share in the love and support that our school provides.

Consider this my Valentine' note to you expressing my gratitude for your care, support and prayers.

His Servant,
Paul Weismantel

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ACTIVITIES OF OUR LADIES AID

Some months of 2018 we didn't do much, but always every Thursday we worked diligently on our quilts.

- We are always available for families who have lost loved ones in our congregation for funeral meals.
- We again sponsored our seminary student, Robert Brown, with several gifts. He is in his vicarage year now.
- We also gave to several charities at Christmas and to our secretaries.
- We made over 100 quilts last year, they were donated to Lutheran World Relief once again. They will give much warmth to many people.
- Also we made pillowcase sundresses, which are fun to decorate for little girls. They also are given to LWR to be shared with girls from all over the world. Everyone is welcome to come in the quilt room to see the things we have accomplished.
- We continually sell RADA Cutlery and greeting cards; they are on the card tree in the hall.
- We helped with the benefit for Amber & family with a Bake Sale.
- We shared with the elders to pay for the catered meal to say "goodbye" to the Nuttmann's in October. That was a bittersweet day, with great food but with many tears. We ladies so miss Pastor Nuttmann, he was a great support to the Ladies Aid & LWML.
- We are still taking part in LWML Capital Zone Rallies in the spring and fall. The Ladies Aid helped Kathy Bond financially to attend as a delegate to the Michigan District LWML Convention in Port Huron.
- Last but not least our Advent Brunch, we had 98 ladies in 2018; our apologies that a lot of ladies were unable to hear our speaker from Comfort Dogs ministries. We took a free will offering of over \$500; paid our brunch expenses, contributed to Comfort Dogs, and the rest went to LWML Mites.

I may have missed things from 2018, sorry if I did.

We are so blessed,
Kathy Bond, President

Don't forget to order your subs from the Ladies Aid! Fill out the order form and leave the money in the office or you can give it to me. **Deadline is Wednesday, January 30th!**

Thank you,
Kathy

IT'S TIME FOR SUPER BOWL SUBS!



Christian Education

Wednesday night bible study continues with us studying the "Gospel DNA: Five Markers of a Flourishing Church". Besides studying the book, we discuss different ways we, as a church, can reach out and touch others in our community, state and nation. If you would like to join us, we would love to have you. We meet at 6 pm. Pastor Randy is leading the Sunday morning adult bible study.

Shirley Huguelet is doing a fantastic job heading up the children's Sunday School. As with anything else, we can always use more volunteers. If you like working with the children this would be a great opportunity. Give Shirley a call if you would like to join her team.



Mark your calendars, VBS 2019
"The Incredible Race" will be June 17-June 21

Finally, I am looking for someone to help me maintain the library. I have no experience with this and am looking for some help. If you are interested in assisting me, please let me know.

If you have any thoughts or concerns regarding Christian education, please don't hesitate to contact me. My cell number is (517) 204-7991 or email gsponsius@aol.com

In Christ's Service,
Sally Pontius, Director of Christian Education



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.



Community News

Please consider joining us along with your middle school or high school aged children for unique opportunity to experience the virtual realities of poverty. The Clinton Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is hosting a Community Action Poverty Simulation on Saturday, February 9th from 9 - Noon at the First Baptist Church in St. Johns (512 S Whittemore St, St Johns).

This learning tool has been created as a way to help people understand the realities of poverty in our community. During the simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families. It is a free and unique opportunity to share this simulation with your children to raise awareness about poverty and homelessness in our community. Registration is required at <https://bit.ly/2DCNd2U>.

The flyer is attached in jpg format, ready for posting. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Polly M. Brainerd, MA
Prevention Specialist
Eaton RESA
1790 East Packard Hwy., Charlotte, MI 48813
517-541-8913
Fax: 517-543-4870
www.eatonresa.org
Eaton Regional Education Service Agency



I would like to take the time to thank, Harold Anderson, John Burgess, Connie Marten, Tom Shellito, Al and Renee Schmitzer, Mark and Jackie Zamarron, Barry and Judy Boettger, Frank and Diane Hart and Debbie Besemer for getting the Parsonage ready for Pastor Randy.

I would also like to thank the following people for donating furniture for Pastors use, Ryan and Patti West, Dave and Judy Bengel and Sue Yelden. If I missed anyone, I apologize.

God Bless you all,
Dan Besemer

Preschool News

We are very excited to be back at school after a wonderful Christmas break. We hope everyone enjoyed their time with family and friends. We transitioned the children to the next level of letter recognition, name recognition, and fine motor skills. It is wonderful to see how much they have grown and developed from the beginning of the year.

Enrollment for the fall has started! We are thrilled to be offering both a morning and an afternoon session starting in the fall of 2019. Morning session is 8:30 am-11:30 am and the afternoon session will be from 12:30 pm-3:30 pm. There will be a three day or four day option for each session. It will continue to be Monday-Thursday, with no school on Friday. Enrollment for current and alumni families is open until February 1st at which time enrollment will be open for St. Peter Parish members. We will take up to 16 children in each class. In the event that we do not get a minimum of 11 in each session, we will move everyone to the morning session. We are excited to have the opportunity to grow our preschool program and would appreciate any prayers and support you can offer. If you have any questions you may contact Mrs. Fletcher or me.

Mrs. Smith: lisaschrauben@live.com 517-420-8797

Mrs. Fletcher: cnfletcher80@aol.com 989-292-9699

Blessings,

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher



Cittys.com

Lutherans School Week Jubilee Carnival
Friday, February 1st
6 pm - 8 pm
St. Peter Fellowship Hall

Games: Cookie Walk, Ring Toss, Fishing, Book Walk, Obstacle Course blow up (must wear socks)

Food: Hotdogs, Bag of Chips & Lemonade

Family fun and Fellowship

Tickets available at the door for games
10 tickets for \$1.00


Help support St. Peter School



February 15th join us for the 4th annual St Peter Trivia Night! Bring a team or join one here. Everyone is welcome. Come show us what you got. You're in the know, now show it by showing up those around you.

We'll have snacks. We'll have fun. Be prepared for cheers and jeers as fierce competition rocks the fellowship center from 6pm until 9pm.

If you have any questions please call coordinator and mc Jeremy Heimsoth at 734-255-3700 or email at jeremy.h.notobnoxious@gmail.com



Dear St. Peter Lutheran Family,

I write this letter with a heavy heart as it is to no surprise that I have resigned as the K-2 teacher. There were many things that had to line up in order for this to happen. As we all have read and know, God has a plan for us but we don't always know what it is. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6) My daily devotion on January 5th, 2019 (the day after I was offered the position) stated that every day can be better with new opportunities. This spoke loudly to me and I do not believe this was coincidence.


Upon accepting the position as the middle school Science teacher at Portland St. Patrick, there was much deliberation between me and my family. We had discussed many situations, variables, welfare, "*what ifs*", and relationships upon coming to the conclusion of me accepting the position. Many of our concerns lied in the hearts of the relationships that we have built over the past year and a half. I would not be being honest if I said we were not fearful of losing the love of all the wonderful people we have grown to love and adore. However, God does not want us to live in fear as it is a sign of not trusting in Him. "Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them. Don't be terrified because of them. The Lord your God will go with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Furthermore, the students have left an everlasting imprint on my heart. Their excessive hugs were not only my favorite part of my day but will surely be missed. Their pure love of the Lord and others had made me a better person which is a very admiral reflection on their parents. The staff of St. Peter Lutheran School and Church holds an outpouring love not only for the students but each other as well. Without the support of all of you, managing many unexpected doctor visits and other appointments would have not been as feasible. I was able to experience a work environment that is based on compassion and the word of the Lord. It has had such a positive impact on me and family that I cannot even put into words. 2 Timothy verse 2:2 states, "You have heard me teach in front of many witnesses. Pass on to people you can trust the things you've heard me say. Then they will be able to teach others also." (NIV) Given the opportunity to teach with a faith based approach has certainly brought me closer to the Lord which poured over into my personal life.

I come to you all with a steadfast love and appreciation for your trust and support you have given to me and my family. My gratitude for St. Peter Lutheran Church and School will never end.

Sincerely in Christ,

Amber Ingraham



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

2019 GREETER		
	February 2019	Alternate
02/03/19	Jean & Roger Heathman	Linda & Lee Chant
02/10/19	Karen & John Burgess	Lorna & Keith Kirschenbauer
02/17/19	Carleen Eaton & Dave Richmond	Jeanette & Bruce Mehney
02/24/19	Albert Smith & Shirley Hayes	Ilene Gibson & Marion Koeppen
	March 2019	
03/03/19	Debbie Schrader & Ann Shellito	Judy & Dave Bengel
03/10/19	Laurie & Earl Flegler	Rollie Kloeckner & Bill Caruss
03/17/19	Hartner Family	Chris & Mark Grennell
03/24/19	Jan & Don Maynard	Janell & Bob Barber
	April 2019	
04/07/19	Theresa & Charlie Silm	Shirley & Lyle Huguelet
04/14/19	Bonnie & Roger Gregory	Mary Ann & Larry Grennell
04/21/19	Diane & Frank Hart (Sunrise Service)	Lori & Taylor Klein
04/28/19	Ann & Dick Stout	Judy & Barry Boettger

Happy
Valentine's Day

SCRIP Helen Anderson will be selling script and Sandy Lenneman will be collecting and mailing in the Box tops. Please continue to save Boxtops, Coke points, and Aunt Millie's bread ups.

Thanks,
Pam

Friends at St. Peter Church

A great big thank you for all of you who sent cards for my 90th birthday card shower of 408 cards received at last count! And for the calls and greetings. I feel so humble and blessed. We have settled in now and still making and keeping many memories.

*P.S.
I received many gifts and flowers too*

*God Bless all of you,
Virginia & Linda Davis*



ELDER CONTACT INFORMATION

Dave Bengel	517-281-5812	me@davidbengel.com
Dick Stout	517-282-2859	rstoutspartans01@hotmail.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
John Burgess	616-295-3903	johnburgess6606@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.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the staff Christmas gifts. It was more than generous of you to do so, and we cannot express how grateful we are. It's a great feeling to know that we have so many people who support the St. Peter Lutheran Church and School Staff.

Sincerely,

Rev. Randall Glander, Principal Paul Weismantel, Liz Stevens, Corinne Fletcher, Lisa Smith, Betsy Rowe, Amber Ingraham, Ann Stout, Missy Mowry, Joy Keener, Norma Fitzpatrick, Ann Shellito, Steve Bashore



History of St. Peter part of 150 anniversary celebration

Did you ever wonder why our St. Peter congregation has its roots in Clinton County's Riley, Bengal and Dallas Townships? Why did our forefathers and mothers choose a location that was not exactly on the beaten path or close to settlements like DeWitt and Westphalia?

Part of the answer is simple. It actually was close to "a beaten path," just a stone's throw from Dexter Trail. Native American guides had used the trail for years, helping immigrants on their journey northwest from Detroit to their future homes in settlements like Westphalia, Muir, Ionia and far-away Grand Rapids. In 1833, Judge Samuel Dexter and his family were among those traveling on what became known as Dexter Trail. His son, Riley Dexter, died in 1834 after contracting scarlet fever, and was buried beside the trail about a mile north of St. Peter's present day location. He was the first Caucasian child buried in Clinton County.

Similar tidbits of St. Peter's history are part of a slide presentation that will be a focal point of our 150th celebration. Beginning in February, congregation members and guests can have a "sneak preview" of St. Peter's early years when a sampling of slides will be shown at each worship service. The history show will be viewed in its entirety during gatherings following special services in March through October. Those special service dates include:

- March 17: Michigan District President Rev. David Meier. Worship begins at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at St. Peter Fellowship Center. Lunch includes tastings from the annual St. Peter Chili Cook-off, along with additional types of soup, salad and desserts.
- April 28: "Heritage Sunday" with guest Pastor David Speerbrecker; pot-luck dinner follows in the Fellowship Hall.
- June 23: Outdoor worship with Pastor Mark Werner, and St. Peter's Annual Hog Roast; special activities for youth and adults.
- October 13: Guest Pastor Jeffrey Heimsoth; catered dinner in the Fellowship Center, following worship.

Updates on these special services will be included in the Sunday bulletin and upcoming newsletters. Also, remember to look for "Past Memories of St. Peter's 150 Years" each week in the Sunday bulletin as we celebrate 150 years of being "Built on the Rock" Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."



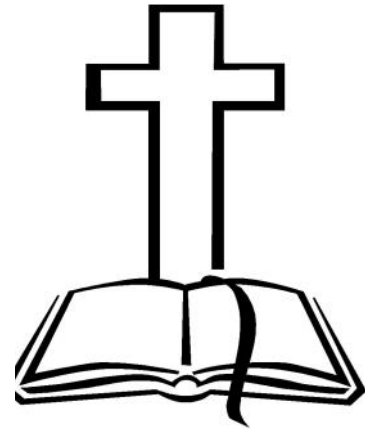


*“Laying the Foundation to Build on the Rock of Christ.
Study the Word, Seek the Lost, and to Serve our Neighbors”*

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

Shirley Edwards
Ethel Flegler
Bill & Cindy Horman
Tom Johnson
Ken Mohnke

Sheila Ordway
Gordon Schrader
Mel Sehlke
Charlie Silm
John Sillman

Lois Sillman
Albert Smith
Bill & Sherri VanBeelen
Ray Watson



Be sure to check our website for event or service updates and cancellations. With the winter weather here we will post updates on the website and on the prayer chain email. Also on our website you are able to download the monthly newsletter and calendar.

Check out our website!
www.stpeterriley.org



Church News

- 2/1/19 Jubilee 6:00pm-8:00pm (Gym)
2/1/19 Over 50's Group 6:30pm
2/2/19 *Groundhog Day*
2/3/19 Pick up Super Bowl Subs after church (If your ordered subs)
Subs can be picked up in the gym
2/4/19 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
2/5/19 Elders Meeting 7:00pm (Library)
2/6/19 150th Anniversary Committee Meeting 10:00am (Office)
Bible Study 6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm
2/7/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid Meeting 12:00pm (Library)
2/11/19 PTL Meeting 4:00pm (Library)
2/12/19 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
2/13/19 Bible Study 6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm
2/14/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Valentine's Day
2/15/19 Trivia Night 6:00pm-9:00pm (Gym)
Newsletter deadline
2/18/19 Gala Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
No School
2/19/19 4H 7:00pm-8:30pm (Gym)
2/20/19 Bible Study 6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm
2/21/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
2/24/19 Children singing at Church
2/27/19 Bible Study 6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm
2/28/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Joshua Eldridge \$10.00

Shirley Lake \$10.00

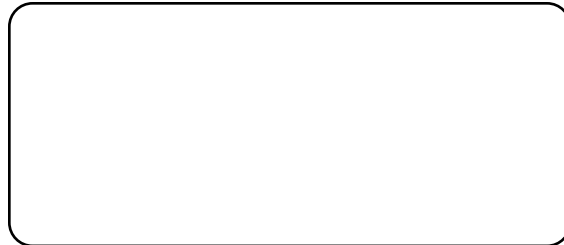


St. Peter Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested.

