

# The Messenger

## Epiphany

January 6 stands on the church's calendar as the Epiphany of our Lord. The season following is marked off as Sundays after the Epiphany, which take us from Christmas to Lent. The origin of this season of Epiphany is a feast in the Eastern Church. One of the more ancient celebrations of the church, the earliest evidence for the feast is from circa 215 A.D. The focus of Epiphany is the realization of Jesus as the Son of God, emphasizing the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In the East, the feast traditionally focused on the baptism of Jesus, where God revealed the mystery of the Holy Trinity and the clear identity of Jesus as the Son of the Father. In the West, the emphasis became the wedding at Cana and the Magi. In this season, we join the Magi in the adoration of God become man, and we marvel with the Cana wedding guests at his first miracle as we behold God among us to save lost humanity.

These special days are good for us to remember. Days like Epiphany, on January 6, have a far greater significance for us in the Christian church than do national (not specifically Christian) holidays like Thanksgiving. Yet, in many of our churches, we have made Thanksgiving a Holy Day, while Epiphany and other days pass by unnoticed. Obviously, the celebration of days is not to be a law in the church – (see Colossians 2:16 and Romans 14:5). However, if we do distinguish a day by hallowing it with Christian worship, there are two criteria that I think should cause some days to rise above other days—first, that it is a uniquely Christian holiday and not a more generic cultural holiday, and second, that it is recognized universally within the Church.

This past year, when we were coming upon Thanksgiving, I teasingly said to the elders, "I can think of a whole bunch of days we should celebrate before we bother celebrating Thanksgiving." Epiphany is one of those days. So, who wants to celebrate Epiphany next January 6?

Yours in Christ,  
-Pastor Bayer



## VALENTINES

It seems that many of these special days such as Valentine's Day bring back memories. I can remember being told by teachers that if you are going to give valentines, you must give one to everyone in the class. Looking through the package of assorted valentines, it was sometimes difficult to find one that I wanted to give to a certain classmate. It may have been the older boy who always picked on me; I didn't really want to tell him that I liked him. Often it was difficult to find one to give to the girls in the class because I didn't want them to think that I liked them, and I sure didn't want any of the boys to think that I had given "that" valentine to Clarice of Rhea. I suspect that the same struggle will be repeated by many of our students this year.

We can be thankful that our Heavenly Father isn't sorting through valentines and saying, "I really don't want Paul to think that I love him or even like him." He has broken most of my commandments on a regular basis and that certainly doesn't deserve a valentine that says that I love him. The good news is that our Heavenly Father gave us the greatest gift to show His love: He gave us His only Son to die for all of our sins – all of those commandments that I break.

This Valentine's Day it is my prayer that we and our children will take our focus off of the candy hearts with their cute little sayings and instead focus on the loving heart of our Savior. With this perspective we can say that we certainly want everyone to have this "Valentine" - the forgiveness of their sins and the gift of life in heaven.

His Servant,  
*Paul Weismantel*, Principal



Now  
Enrolling!

**PRESCHOOL & DAYSCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS OPEN.  
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION! CHURCH OFFICE PHONE 989-224-  
3178.**



**2020 ST PETER LUTHERAN SCHOOL GALA:** Time to make plans to attend the 2020 St. Peter Lutheran School Gala. It's a Hawaiian Luau on Saturday night, April 18<sup>th</sup>. That's right, dig out your brightest Hawaiian attire and join us for the 3rd annual Gala. As always you can expect a delicious meal, great fellowship with friends, a chance to win some wonderful sweepstakes prizes, and a live auction with awesome items to bid on. And this year, watch for

some new twists to make the evening even more fun as we work together to fund classroom support and Christian Education at St. Peter.

Tickets are \$40 each and include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, a sweepstakes ticket, and a \$25.00 donation. Ticket sales will begin on February 23<sup>rd</sup> after church. There is a \$5/ticket discount on all tickets purchased between February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup>. Talk with your family and friends and get ready enjoy this memorable evening and support St. Peter Lutheran School.



Oh..... grass skirts welcome but not required.



Students and staff in the Day school returned from Christmas break rested and revived, regardless of the various illnesses that have gone around.

Grades 1-5 celebrated students who reached their Accelerated Reading (AR) goals with a pizza party on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. AR is a reading program in which students read books at their level, then take computerized tests that measure comprehension on the books read. Each trimester, new goals are set. The Kindergarten class is currently learning how to take the tests and will join in the fun for the second trimester.

On Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, school staff held a Kindergarten parent informational meeting in the gym for incoming Kindergarteners. A Power Point presentation was presented, then followed by time for parents to ask questions regarding the Kindergarten classroom and school for the upcoming school year.

January 26<sup>th</sup> kicked off Lutheran Schools Week, which began with a Jubilee breakfast before church service, then was followed-up by the Preschool and Day School students singing during the service. The theme of Lutheran Schools Week was JOY:fully, and included the following daily themes: THANK FULL, PEACE FULL, FAITH FULL and HOPE FULL, each corresponding to holidays. The theme each day was based on a holiday: Christmas, Thanksgiving, Independence Day, Pentecost, and Easter. Students engaged in meaningful activities such as displaying reasons they are thankful, making cards for the homebound, acknowledging Veterans and service men and women, etc. The week closed out with a Jubilee carnival, which was open to the community and a great way to share the love of Jesus through fellowship!

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## 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 a three, four, and five day program. Hours will remain 8:30am-11:30am. Enrollment for current and alumni families opened on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Enrollment was opened to the public on January 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.

We have a lot of exciting events coming up in the next couple of months. We will be celebrating Lutheran Schools' Week at the end of January. There are a lot of wonderful events planned for this week. We also have a kindergarten information night scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-7:00pm. We will have a school wide Open House/Enrollment Night on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. We are very excited to continue growing our class sizes.

Blessings,  
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher

Mrs. Smith: [lisaschrauben@live.com](mailto:lisaschrauben@live.com) 517-420-8797

Mrs. Fletcher: [cnfletcher80@aol.com](mailto:cnfletcher80@aol.com) 989-292-9699



Welcome to  
Preschool

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## KINDERGARTEN PARENT NIGHT

We would like to welcome you to an informational parent night for the 2020-2021 school year! Parents will get to meet and greet Mrs. Ellis our K-2 teacher, our Principal Mr. Paul Weismantel, tour the classroom and have a Q & A session about our amazing Christian school!

When: Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 6-7pm

Where: 8990 Church Rd. St. Johns, MI - Gymnasium

We will host a Kindergarten round-up in the spring where students can meet and greet the teacher, we will have dates available for round-up at the parent night.

If you have any questions please feel to contact the school office at 989-224-3178

Blessings,

Mrs. Kimberly Ellis, K-2 Teacher

Mr. Paul Weismantel, Administrator

Mrs. Lisa Smith, Preschool Director/Lead Teacher

Mrs. Corrine Fletcher, Administrative Asst./Preschool Co-teacher

WE WANT TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR

Kindergarten

FAMILY!!



Kids Singing in Church

Kids singing in Church on  
Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

### Lipstick is pretty, but not at communion

While presenting ourselves in Divine Service in our "Sunday best" is a beautiful thing, wearing lipstick while receiving communion is not so pretty for our white linen purificators that are used to wipe the chalice between communicants. If you like to wear lipstick to church, please blot your lips before receiving the Lord's blood from the chalice. Our purificators will thank you!





*Greta Jane Bayer*

6 lbs., 5 oz. - 19 inches  
Born Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11:43 p.m.

*Baby and Mom are healthy and happy!*



# TRIVIA NIGHT

February 7th join us for the 5th 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](mailto:jeremy.h.notobnoxious@gmail.com)



A big THANK YOU to the whole congregation for the Christmas card, the beautiful poinsettia, and the Bob Evans and Logan's Roadhouse gift cards. We were thankful for these and so many other gifts during the Christmas season. Thank you all.

-The Bayers



A special "Thank You" to Pastor Bayer for your visits and prayers while Gordon was in the hospital and at hospice. Thanks to my family, friends and neighbors for your prayers, visits, cards and phone calls. A special BIG THANK YOU to Tamra Hine and all the ladies that help prepare the funeral dinner. And a special "Thank You" to all the ladies that made (donated) salads, desserts for Gordon's funeral dinner.

Blessing for your kindness  
Shirley Schrader and family



**BLOOD DRIVE:** St. Peter Lutheran Church is proud to share the Red Cross mission that helps ensure that lifesaving blood is available to hospital patients in need. Part of our mission at St. Peter is to “serve our neighbor” and we are thankful for the opportunity to host blood drives that allow us to do just that. Every day, blood donors from across the country are needed to help save lives. Blood and platelets are needed for accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer and other medical issues. We can and do help!

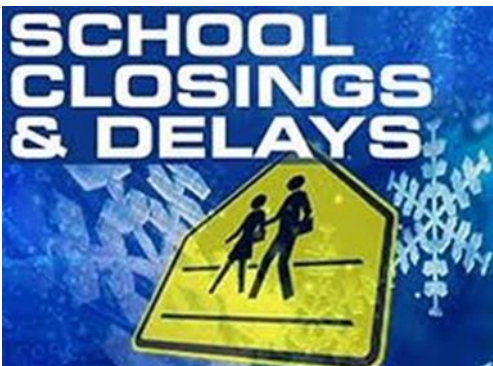
St. Peter will be hosting our next blood drive on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:45 pm. The donation process only takes about an hour and can make an enormous difference for a patient battling injury or illness. So, won't you roll up a sleeve and join us in giving back to the community? Please help us to fill our slots. Tammy Hartner, Annette Jegla, Stephanie Brook and Carrie Hengesbach are already committed and signed up with an appointment but there is room for 18 more people. Please consider filling one of those 18 spots and invite your friends and neighbors to sign up too. To schedule an appointment, log on to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code “stpeterlutheran”, call 1-800-733-2767, or calling Theresa Silm at 517-281-0170.



You can also streamline your donation experience and save time by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



God's Gardeners will be back in action soon. Usually we like to do a quick clean-up before Easter. Please check future newsletters and Sunday announcements for date and time. Thanks for your continued commitment. Sandy Lockwood



**SCHOOL IS CANCELLED THE OFFICE IS CLOSED**

St. Peter usually follows the St. Johns Public Schools for cancellations and delays. When the office is closed no staff reports. If you need to reach someone when the office is closed you may contact the Director of Elders, Dave Bengel at 517-281-5812 or Church Secretary, Liz Stevens at 989-640-3471.



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## ELDER CONTACT INFORMATION

Dave Bengel	517-281-5812	<a href="mailto:me@davidbengel.com">me@davidbengel.com</a>
Tom Gorby	989-292-1715	<a href="mailto:tomgorby@gmail.com">tomgorby@gmail.com</a>
Ryan West	517-977-5078	<a href="mailto:westpropertyservices@live.com">westpropertyservices@live.com</a>
Ken Bond	989-640-2380	<a href="mailto:kbbenji88@yahoo.com">kbbenji88@yahoo.com</a>

Pastor Timothy Bayer email: [pastorbayer@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbayer@gmail.com)



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## **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.



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## **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**CHAPEL SERVICE ~ 9:00AM**  
**EVENING SERVICE ~ 7:00PM**



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## **REMINDER:**

**MITES SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

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## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Peter Lutheran School Gala**

This is the time of year when people start getting new calendars for the coming year so we want to give you a date to put on your new calendar. The 2020 St. Peter Lutheran School Gala is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 18<sup>th</sup> and it promises to be better than ever. Keep watch for future details but get the date on your calendar now.

## February 2020 Stewardship Newsletter Article

The 2019 Birthday Gift for Jesus Campaign raised \$23,569.38. That money along with recent memorials will allow St Peter to pay off the school/fellowship mortgage. Praise the Lord!!

Thank you so much for your generosity! St Peter is blessed to have such an engaged and giving congregation.

Many stewards contributed to the Campaign. If you donated in honor or memory of someone it is listed below.

### Donor

Harold & Helen Anderson  
Kevin & Michelle Bailey  
Dave & Judy Bengel  
Carleen Eaton  
Bruce & Norma Fitzpatrick  
Frank & Diane Hart  
Keith & Lorna Kirschenbauer  
Christine Leavitt  
Janet Maynard  
Kim Sperry

Ryan & Patty West  
Mary Apthorp  
John & Karen Burgess  
William Caruss  
Tim & Lindsey Fandel  
Larry & Mary Grennell

Charlene Kennedy

Sally Pontius  
Tom & Rita Hollis

Rollie Kloeckner

Bruce & Kathy Bond

### In Honor or Memory of

St Peter Members who passed away this year  
Sheila Ordway  
Edward, & Frieda Felzke & Ernie Hauser  
Ernest & Leotta Witt  
Carl & Alvina Rossow  
to the Glory of God  
Birth of Jesus Birthday  
Birth of Jesus Birthday  
Earl & Emil Maynard  
Richard & Margaret Howe, Raymond & Norena  
Sperry, Anthony Wick  
Norman & Arlene Marten  
Cindy Horman, Melvin Sehlke  
Wayne & Viola Rossow  
William F & Luella Caruss  
Richard & Dee Bashore  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Grennell,  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Mohnke  
Dennis Kennedy, Jay & Ida Kennedy  
Albert & Neva Flak  
Dick & Margaret Howe  
Birth of Jesus, Albert & Neva Flak  
Derek, Harry and Mary Hollis  
Marilyn Kloeckner, Sherry Stearns  
Clemens & Marcella Kloeckner  
Henry & Doretta Witt  
Robert & Shirley Sampson  
Emma & George Cuthrie  
Lilly & Leo Schafer  
Leone & Don Balzak  
Raymunda Mchaffey  
Our Loving Family

Lyle Auten  
Roger & Bonnie Gregory  
Bruce & Jeanette Mehney

Glenn & Jean Bennett

Robert & Lori Eaton  
Dave & Marilyn Richmond  
Ann Shellito  
Charles & Theresa Silm

Janice Auten  
Donna Pasch  
Clarence & Mary Dean  
Ruth & Rostan Mehney  
Peter & Susan Bennett  
Francis & Marian Selky  
Frank Len & John Eaton  
John Richmond  
Louis Shellito  
Our Family



Greeters are a very important ministry at St. Peter. We are always looking for new smiling faces and warm handshakes, or better yet, hugs. If you'd like to give it a try, please call me at 517-667-9636. Currently the rotation is about every 4-5 months. We appreciate the many current dedicated greeter but sometimes circumstances beyond our control necessitate changes to our lifestyle. Please check the upcoming schedule regularly to be sure you're available to greet the day scheduled. If not, please call me and I'll arrange for someone to take your place.

Blessings, Sandy Lockwood

	<b>February 2020</b>	
02/02/20	Jean & Roger Heathman	
02/09/20	Karen & John Burgess	
02/16/20	Carleen Eaton & Dave Richmond	
02/23/20	Rita & Tom Hollis	
	<b>March 2020</b>	
03/01/20	Lorna & Keith Kirschenbauer	
03/08/20	Laurie & Earl Flegler	
03/15/20	Hartner Family	
03/22/20	Shirley & Lyle Huguélet	
03/29/20	Shirley & Marv Hayes	
	<b>April 2020</b>	
04/05/20	Jan & Don Maynard	
04/12/20	Diane & Sarah Thurston	Easter
04/19/20	Chris & Mark Grennell	
04/26/20	Bob Barber & Lyle Auten	





*“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: Chapel 9:00am  
Bible Study: 6:00pm (Library)

Sunday: Worship Services 10:00am  
Bible Study 8:45am  
Sunday School 8:45am



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### **Shut-In Visit List Weekly Visits**

Shirley Edwards  
Ethel Flegler  
Bill Horman  
Tom Johnson

Charlie Silm  
John Sillman  
Lois Sillman

Albert Smith  
Bill & Sherri VanBeelen



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.

**Check out our website!**  
**[www.stpeterriley.org](http://www.stpeterriley.org)**

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# FEBRUARY

- 2/1/20 Ladies Aid making subs (Kitchen Reserved)  
Youth Family Bowling @Fowler 2:00pm-4:00pm
- 2/2/20 Pick-up Super Bowl Subs in Kitchen after Church  
*Groundhog Day*
- 2/3/20 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 2/4/20 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
- 2/5/20 Chapel 9:00am & Bible Study 6:00pm
- 2/6/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
Ladies Aid Meeting 12:00pm (Library)  
PTL Meeting (Library) 4:00pm
- 02/7/20 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Art Room)  
Trivia Night 6:00 pm (Gym)
- 2/11/10 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 2/12/20 Chapel 9:00am & Bible Study 6:00pm
- 2/13/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 2/14/20 *Valentine's Day*
- 2/15/20 Newsletter Deadline
- 2/17/20 Gala Meeting 6:30pm (Library)  
No School
- 2/18/20 Blood Drive 1:00-5:45pm (Gym)  
4H Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Gym)
- 2/19/20 Chapel 9:00am & Bible Study 6:00pm
- 2/20/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 2/21/20 Confirmation Student Retreat (2/21/20-2/23/20)
- 2/23/20 Mites Sunday, Children Singing
- 2/26/20 Chapel 9:00am & Evening Service 7:00pm (*Ash Wednesday*)  
*~No Bible Study~*
- 2/27/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)

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## **MEMORIALS**

### ***In Loving Memory of***

*Gordon Schrader \$2,310*

*Roy Matteson \$1,010*

*Cindy Horman \$40*

*Ken Mohnke \$20*



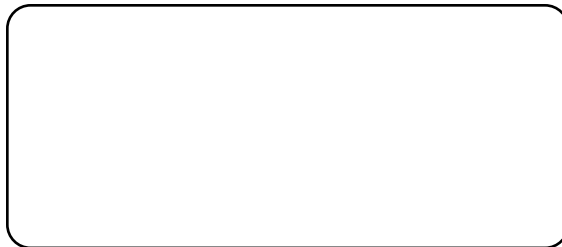
*Marilyn Sampson Kloeckner, Clemens & Marcella Kloeckner, Sherry Stearns,  
Henry C & Doretta Witt, Robert & Shirley Sampson, Emma & George Guthrie,  
Lilly & Leo Schafer, Leone & Don Balzak, Raymunda Mchaffey \$550*



# St. Peter Lutheran Church

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

