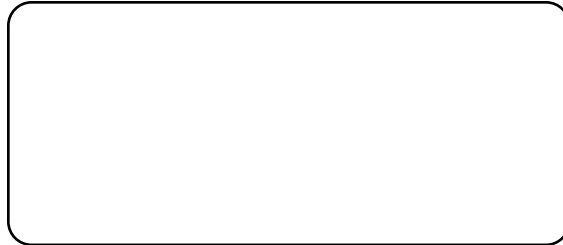


St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

Rev. Timothy Bayer
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St. Johns, MI 48879

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

We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org



THE MESSENGER *February 2022*

Church Services

Divine Service – Sundays at 9 am
Office of Matins – Wednesdays at 9 am

Upcoming Feast Days:

February 2 The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord
7pm Divine Service



A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Last month I mentioned that our spending was up, and our giving was down. In church, our treasurer announced to us that our funds are depleted. This is not due to spending above our budget; rather, we are currently under-budget. Our expenses are up because we, as a congregation, approved a larger budget for this year. One important reason was the addition of a teacher for our expanding school.

Since we approved a larger budget, our giving necessarily needed to increase. Barring an increase in the size of the congregation, this means each of us ought to have increased our individual contributions to meet our goals and responsibilities as a church. Probably some of us have increased our giving, but there are likely those who have not.

The increased giving necessary from each individual has been exacerbated by a decrease in attendance. Our attendance pre-covid was close to 120 people a Sunday. Nowadays we are closer to 80. I imagine that when we approved this year's budget, we were expecting attendance to continue climbing to return to those 2019 numbers, but that has not happened. We have stalled out on folks returning to worship. We pray for those who have fallen away from the body of Christ in this place and encourage them back, but we have no guarantee that they will return.

Covid cannot entirely be blamed for our decreased attendance. The devil is constantly at work in the church, encouraging dissention and dissatisfaction with the gifts of God and his messengers. Whatever the reason people have not come back, we who are here have the task of supporting the church. We can't rely on those who are not here.

We have a healthy, vibrant congregation right now. There is a body that remains united to the vine, Jesus Christ. Yes, it's a different size with some different faces than it was two years ago, but it is healthy. People are faithfully hearing the Word of God and receiving the Lord's Supper. Praise God! Our task is to faithfully preach the Gospel, knowing that the growth and the harvest is God's working, not ours. Our task also is to faithfully support the ministry of the Gospel in this place with our tithes and gifts. The giving of the Christian is not based on Law, but done in freedom, cheerfully. Nonetheless, the concept of a tithe (or a tenth of our earnings) is a good and biblical start. On top of that, we can even give further gifts and offerings as we are blessed by God.

The future is bright always, for Christ is ruling his church by his means of grace. God has gathered for himself a people at St. Peter who faithfully hear the voice of their Shepherd and follow him. You are that people. Together, we are called to support the ministry in this place, knowing all our resources come from our Father in heaven, who has already provided us *everything* in Jesus Christ our Lord. *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?* (Romans 8:32). He will. We need not hold back from thankfully offering to him our first fruits, knowing Who it is who loves and cares for us.

In Christ,

Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Blessing of a Quiet Time!

Church Newsletter - February
Part of a Family

We closed out January in the school with National Lutheran Schools Week. It was a week-long celebration, a celebration of God's work in our LCMS schools. Since coming back from Christmas break we have been talking to our students about how they are a part of the St. Peter family. Even more than that they are learning about how they are a part of God's family, and what an amazing blessing that is! Some of the highlights of the week were a field trip to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler to learn about the history of the church, a quilt project that brought school and church families together, an ice cream party, and a school wide STEM project.

Another fun thing that started and will continue into February is Prayer Partners. The students have been learning about prayer and how to pray for each other and support each other. They have been getting to know each other better and building relationships. The teachers have had the opportunity to tell students how powerful prayer has been in their lives and how we pray for our students regularly. I am grateful for the support this congregation has for our school. I see it when people use their talents to benefit the school, support the school through their tithing, and also through prayer.

Coming up in February we are all looking forward to a field trip to the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo. They have some awesome educational programs that our students will have the privilege of participating in while we are there. It will be a great time for kids to learn through exploration and following their curiosity.

Blessings in Christ,
Erika Brown
Principal/Teacher

Blessings in Christ,
Erika Brown



Hot Lunch!

Hot Lunch sign-up for the next quarter is posted in the front lobby on our new volunteer board!!

If you are interested in signing up to help with a Hot Lunch Day please contact the church office, sign up in the back of the church, or send me an email. You would be providing lunch for about 40 people.

Erika Brown
principal@stpeterriley.org

A LETTER FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Looking Forward To Growth

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 again this year. Hours will remain 8:30am-11:30am. Enrollment for current and alumni families opened on January 4th. Enrollment will be open to the public on January 24th. 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 will be celebrating Lutheran Schools' Week at the end of January. There are a lot of wonderful events planned for this week.

Blessings,

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher

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

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



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS , NEWS & EVENTS

Are You Looking for a Way to Support St. Peter Christian Day School?

The day school is collecting caps from Pepsi bottles which are worth 19 cents. There is a 10 number/letter in the cap.

Coke products will give the school 5 cents per cap, 15 cents from the 12 can pack and 30 cents for the 24 can pack. The codes are on the cardboard part of the box and is perforated so it can be ripped off easily to get the cans out. It is a 12 or 14 number/letter code.

If you are interested in helping the school in this way, I will bring out a small box to collect the caps. Thank you for supporting St. Peter Christian Day School.

Ladies Aid & LWML News

We still gather every Thursday morning to tie quilts, there's 3 to 5 ladies; we will welcome many newbies.

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.

Ladies Aid Subs - time is short for our ordering of the subs, so I would suggest doing it right away; so order many so you can have spares to put in your freezer. Pass this order form on to your family & friends so they will have the opportunities to participate also. There will be extra order forms in the church narthex & in the office. This fund raiser is our first this year, so please order many subs to help support our Ladies Aid; we want to continue to help our St. Peter Church & our charities. Love in Christ, Kathy

MITES SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 27TH

Walking with St. Peter A Community Exercise Opportunity

Beginning Monday, June 28th, St. Peter Lutheran School will be open for those wishing to walk for exercise from 8:30am-2:00pm Monday through Wednesday.

General policies and procedures:

- ◆ Open to all members of the community over the age of 18
- ◆ Sign a waiver of responsibility on first day of participation
- ◆ Sign in on the sheet provided on each day of participation located in the church office
- ◆ Change to walking shoes – please no boots or street shoes
- ◆ A route map will be available – 10 circuits = 1 mile or 24 laps of the gym = 1 mile
- ◆ There is no cost for participation – donations will be accepted and will be used towards our maintenance fund

We encourage you to participate – get some exercise and enjoy the excellent facility that the Lord has provided to St. Peter Lutheran School.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS , NEWS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

Suspended until further notice

ELDERS:

Ken Bond

Ryan West

John Burgess

Dave Bengel

ALTAR FLOWERS

ALTAR GUILD:

Geri & Jastram

(If you are interested in helping as Altar Guild please contact Geri Jastram)

Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Virginia Davis

Charlie Silm

Shirley Edwards

Albert Smith

Lyle Huguelet

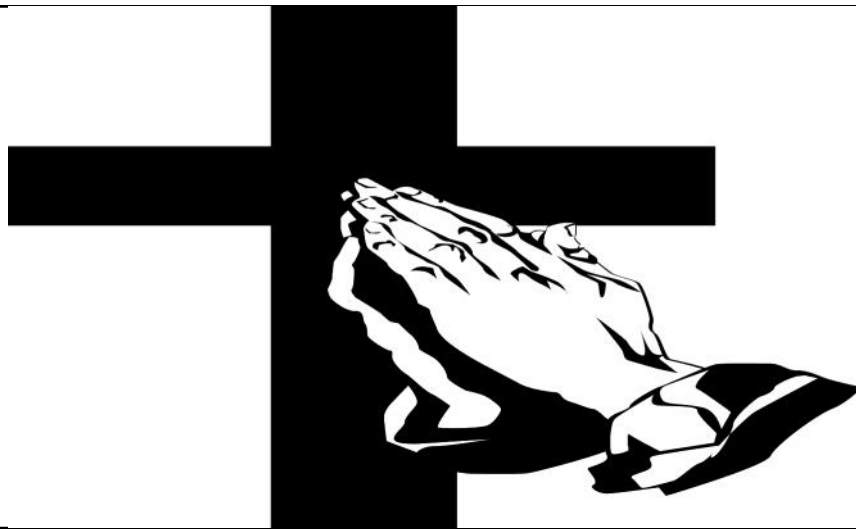
Tom & Julie Johnson

Linda Davis

Terry Ordway

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.



Did you know that St. Peter Lutheran Church has an Endowment Fund?

St Peter Endowment Fund

What is an endowment?

Webster's Dictionary defines "endowment" as funds or property donated to an institution, individual, or group to produce income.

For our congregation, that income can mean the difference between just "getting by" and the security of bringing the church's mission and vision to life for generations to come.

With the **St Peter Endowment Fund**, the principal value can never be spent so the endowment earning power is protected against inflation. Excess income or appreciation is added to the principal to protect its value over time.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS , NEWS & EVENTS

February 2022 Stewardship Newsletter

God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS , NEWS & EVENTS

Birthday Gift for Jesus

In memory of : Julius and Marie Bengel, Edward and Frieda Felzke

In memory of: Terry Boettger

In memory of: Robert Dedyne, and Marella & Clemens Klocekner

In memory of: Ernie and Leotta Witt

In honor of Outreach

In memory of Ethel Flegler
given by Brenda Flegler

In honor of our children Endowment Fund
given by Bruce and Jeanette Mehnzy

In memory of Gordon Schrader
given by Shirley Schrader

In loving memory of Marilyn Sampson Klocekner, Clemens & Marella Klocekner,
Sherry Stearns, Henry C & Doretta Witt, Robert & Shirley Sampson, Emma & George Guthrie, Lilly & Leo Schafer,
Leon & Don Balzak & Rigmunda Mehaffey
given by Rollie Klocekner

In memory of: Janice Auten
Given by Harold and Helen Anderson

In memory of Dennis Kennedy, Albert & Neva Flak and Jay & Ida Kennedy
given by Charlene Kennedy

In memory of: Shirla Ordway and Lee Chant
given by Kevin and Michelle Bailey

In memory of: Janell Barber
given by Robert Barber

In honor of: our parents
given by Frank and Diane Hart

Given by: Kim Sperry

Given by Gary and Sandy Lenneman

