

# The Messenger

“NEW” YEAR; NEW BEGINNINGS; NEW LIFE

With January comes the church Season of Epiphany. The Season of Epiphany follows the Christmas season by answering the question, “Well, now that Jesus is here, what do we do?” The answer is, of course, “Let everybody know about Him!” That answer makes the focus of the Season of Epiphany very clear for us – to hear and answer God’s call to be involved in His mission.

We will learn soon in bible class that God had called Israel to a mission: *“Bringing others into the Father’s house.”* We learned that not only has God called us to this mission as well, but He has equipped us to carry out this mission.

Now you may look around and wonder out loud, *“I’m not seeing it. The equipping thing...”*

That’s ok. Sometimes it is the process that is as important as the end result. Here are some thoughts to ponder in the new year as we dwell on God’s mission for St. Peter:

1. Who can I tell about Jesus that may not know Him?
  - a. Could be a neighbor
  - b. Someone I work with
  - c. Someone I run into at the grocery store
  - d. ***The Holy Spirit will prompt you if there is someone you should speak with about Jesus.***
  
2. How can I live my life more fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit?
  - a. If you are not good at speaking about Jesus then your life and lifestyle can speak for you.
  - b. People will see that you are different
  - c. They may not be able to put their finger on what is different, but will ask you about it.
  - d. ***A Holy Spirit controlled life will witness to others about Jesus.***
  
3. What am I doing for spiritual fuel on my faith journey with Jesus?
  - a. Our fuel and our “faith food” comes from the Bible, the Word of God.
  - b. Reading it, hearing it, studying it, memorizing it, sharing it are all fueling opportunities.
  - c. ***The Holy Spirit will use God’s Word hidden away in us to help us in our faith journey and to share what He has done for us with others.***

Ours is never to change someone else, but to let God the Holy Spirit do that in the lives of others. And He (God) chooses to work through us to accomplish His mission.

As we stand at the threshold of a New Year, thank God for the opportunities and growth He has planned for each of us this year, 2019. God Bless Us Everyone!

You are blessed  
I am blessed  
Pastor Randy

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## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

At the end of the month we will have the opportunity to celebrate with all of the other Lutheran Schools the great gift that we have in our Lutheran Schools. Too often we forget the great heritage that we have in our Lutheran Schools and in St. Peter Lutheran School in particular. St. Peter School has been a great influence on the lives of hundreds of students over the past 77 years. The graduates have gone on to live lives that are forever influenced by the education and the values that that they received in our classrooms from dedicated teachers.

As I personally reflect on the heritage of Lutheran Schools, I realize that I would not be here serving as your principal if it were not for St. Johns Lutheran School in Columbia, South Dakota; Northwest Lutheran Academy in Mobridge, South Dakota; and Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. My life was permanently shaped by the Christian education that I received, and that has influenced my decisions to help pass on that heritage to the next generations. Many of you as you read this will remember the children that you knew who attended St. Peter or other Lutheran schools and have also been influenced by that experience. They may not have gone on to serve in church vocations, but their life choices have probably been strongly influenced by that early exposure to God's Word on a daily basis and Christian teachers and pastors who guided and instructed them.

What lies ahead for Lutheran Schools? We hear almost daily of another Lutheran school that has closed. The cost of education has increased, the number of children in families has declined, and competing influences like the availability of free transportation, athletic and other programs and above all else – it's free! My parents and teachers taught me that if it's free it probably isn't worth much or there are "strings attached." Much of what is taught in our public schools is fine, however the values and influences that children are exposed to will often lead them away from their Christian faith and into a life view that doesn't include God.

As we celebrate Lutheran Schools week lets first of all give thanks to our Lord for this great gift. Then I would ask that you pray daily for our children, our teachers, and all of the other Lutheran Schools that are joining us in this celebration. Also, I would ask that you not only support St. Peter Lutheran School with your prayers but with your continued encouragement of children to attend St. Peter. Also, I would encourage you to help to financially support our school with your regular tithes and offerings, and if possible, to help support our scholarship fund and other special projects.

Our theme this year is, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." As Lutherans we know – "This is most certainly true!" Let's celebrate together what He has done and what He continues to do for our children and for us.

His Servant,

Paul Weismantel, Principal



The annual Advent Brunch was a great success with 90 attending. Thank you to Boettger's for doing the shopping, thanks to all that helped to prepare for the brunch on Monday a.m., all who brought the delicious baked goods and all who worked @ the brunch. Including the men who helped serve and a super job cleaning up after the brunch was over. Also thank you to the Flegler family for setting up tables and chairs, which was a great help. Thanks to Dave Bengel for setting up the sound system for us, and thank you to all others that I didn't mention. We are so blessed to have so many great people.

Many thanks,  
Kathy

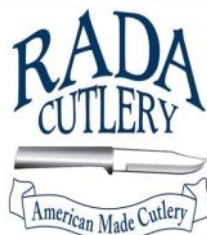


We thank and praise our Lord and Savior for His unconditional love through it all. We must also thank each other for extending God's love through fellowship and commitment to Him.

While it is impossible to thank and praise every person whose heads and hands are about God's business by name, please know that you are appreciated beyond measure! Every little or large task done in His name is so very important! It is mind-boggling to think of all the things that must be done to keep us up and running each and every day! How do all these things get done? Look around, every person you see is a gift! We are truly blessed! Thank you!

*Thank you to Howe's Greenhouse - Kim Sperry and Sally Pontius for their donation of the Christmas window decorations in our church.*

*Charlene Kennedy, DVM*



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](mailto:bkbond61@yahoo.com).

The Ladies Aid is planning a new fund-raiser for us, but was a youth project many years ago. It is subs for Super bowl on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will be 7" buns with cheese and lettuce on the side, and a meat of your choice. Subs are \$6.00 each or 6 for \$33.00. Order forms will be out the first Sunday of January.

**IT'S TIME FOR SUPER BOWL SUBS!**





### 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 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### 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.





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## PRESCHOOL NEWS

We have had an amazing first half of the school year. The children are growing, developing, and forming wonderful friendships. We are very thankful to have the opportunity to work with such amazing children and families. We will begin looking at enrollment for next school year when we return from Christmas break. We are excited to continue growing our wonderful preschool program. The children did an amazing job at the Christmas Program. It was wonderful to see the excitement they expressed during this beautiful event. We loved seeing a packed church to watch the children share the story of Jesus' birth. Thank you to everyone that had a part in making it a huge success and as always thank you to our families for sharing their children with us. We hope you all have a very blessed Christmas season!

The school also enjoyed their second annual Polar Express Day. The school and gym looked amazing, and the children loved spending the day with the grade school kids for this special event. Thank you to everyone that helped set up, provided food, and cleaned up afterwards. These wonderful events would not be possible without the support of the families, staff, and church. There are several pictures of this event posted on Facebook for you to enjoy. We ended our month with our class Christmas party. Several parents were able to join us, and the children loved having them there to share this special day with. We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in January.

Blessings,  
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher



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**January 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

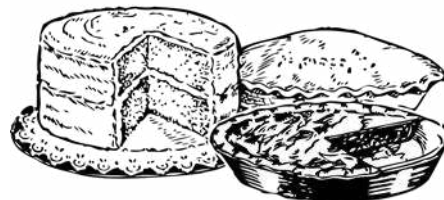


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**SOUP, SANDWICH and DESSERT LUNCH**

After church service – before Voter's meeting  
Sunday, January 21, 2019.

We need some more volunteers to make a crock pot of soup  
Contact Jeanette Mehney (989) 224-4796 or Jan Maynard (517) 927-3434  
to let us know what you can bring. Thank you, Stewardship Committee





## 2018 Rummage Room/Goodie Bags Report

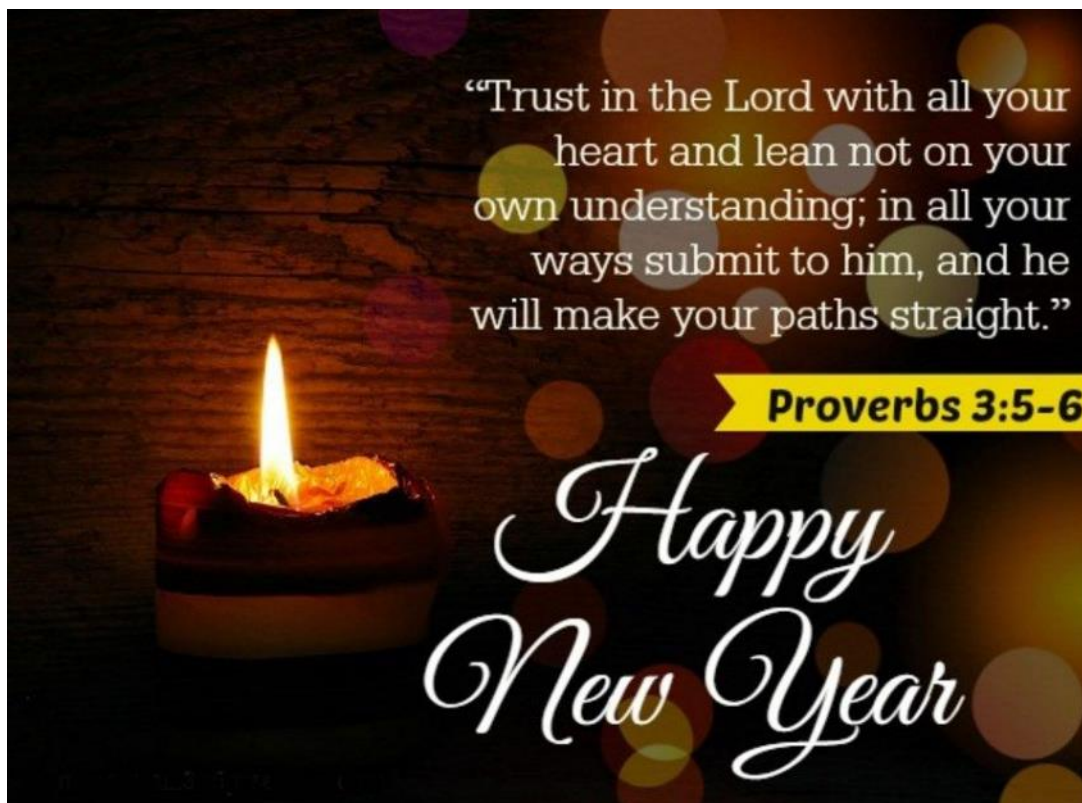
Christ is truly the reason for the season – what a satisfying day of caring for the community at St. Luke Lutheran - Christ Campus in Lansing Michigan. Three of our own members and three non-members made the trek to the church on Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for our annual Rummage Room and “Goodie Bags”. My mom, Ruth Nihart along with my Aunt Jeanette drove her Ford truck filled top to bottom and front to back with Rummage Room items and I and my husband Roger Gregory in my Jeep packed to the max with all the Goodie Bag items. Also Chris Grennell arrived with her vehicle loaded with items and her friend Julie Zielinski. All our vehicles were packed with nicely donated items such as coats, blankets, clothes (men-women & children’s) and new if slightly-used gift items made available for all the participants. We set up about thirteen 8 foot tables and filled each one with sorted and organized according to size all the clothing items. We loaded the “Goodie Bags” (50 men’s 50 women’s and 30 children’s) with personal new products like soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste and tooth brushes, chap stick, combs and socks (men – women - children) and new small toys for the children. A “very special Thank You” to Mary Hoy’s Cub Scout group which dedicated their shopping to the children’s bags and purchased hygiene items and fabulous toy items – very thoughtful and nice items. We arrived at the fellowship hall at 9:00 and were ready by 11:30 for our patrons. Needless to say I was again impressed with our group for such a skillful execution of duties (incredible team work) and camaraderie among all who were there to serve those in need. A whole lot of work in a very short amount of time. A “very heartfelt Thank-You” and deep appreciation to the dedication shown by Chris Grennell/Julie Zielinski/ Ruth Nihart/ Jeanette Page and Roger Gregory for their ambitious efforts that day. Also to Shirley Hugellett for bringing by the new stuffed animals that were disbursed to the children. We opened the hall doors for the patrons at 11:30. The people came streaming in and scooped up almost all the wonderful items and each person (man, woman & child) was given a “Goodie Bag”. So very thankful especially to the ladies who handmade the beautiful quilts – they were quickly snapped up (guarded to one per household) they are a “hit” every year! The people there (served 125 people) were most appreciative and one gentleman said our event raised his spirits. What a wonderful way to spend the day. I think we all received as much as we gave. I look forward to the 2019 rummage room date. We all need to be needed for the needy. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED ITEMS and gave of your time and talents for service in the name of our everlasting Lord.

Bonnie Gregory – Rummage Room / Goodie Bag Coordinator



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 SCHEDULE		
	<b>January 2019</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<b>01/06/19</b>	Connie & Dale Martens	Kathy & Bruce Bond
<b>01/13/19</b>	Lori & Taylor Klein	Jackie & Mark Zamarron
<b>01/20/19</b>	Sandy & Gary Lenneman	Michelle & Tom Gorby
<b>01/27/19</b>	Jan & Jim Mehney	Diane & Sara Thurston
	<b>February 2019</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<b>02/03/19</b>	Jean & Roger Heathman	Linda & Lee Chant
<b>02/10/19</b>	Karen & John Burgess	Lorna & Keith Kirschenbauer
<b>02/17/19</b>	Carleen Eaton & Dave Richmond	Jeanette & Bruce Mehney
<b>02/24/19</b>	Albert Smith & Shirley Hayes	Ilene Gibson & Marion Koeppen





**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 UPDATE.** Thank you to all who contributed to the "Giving Tree"! There were many happy faces when delivering the gifts and food items. I would especially like to thank Gary and Sandy Lenneman, Barry and Judy Boettger, Rob and Jade Thurston, Pam Mohr, Sara Thurston and Gabe Schneider for

delivering the gifts, Gary Lenneman for providing and delivering Christmas trees to our three families we supported, Larry and Pam Mohr for sorting and bagging the food items, also Marion Koeppen, Sara Thurston and Gabe Schneider for sorting gifts and putting gift tags on. Most of all I thank God Almighty for the many blessings He has bestowed on us as a congregation. Through Him the love of Jesus has been shown to people we don't know, but He does. He knows each and every one of them as His children. May you feel the love of Jesus this Christmas season and always!



The updated 'ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND POLICY' is ready for you to review. Copies will be available Sunday, January 6, 2019 at the back of the church and in the office after that. A vote to accept the update will be taken at the January 21<sup>st</sup> Voters meeting after questions and answers.

### **LORD PROP US UP**

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old fellow who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side." After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, "Well sir, you see, it's like this . . . I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time; it's withstood a lot of weather; it's gone through a lot of storms and it's stood for many years. It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. . . I've been around a long time. . . I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life. I've withstood a lot of hard times and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.

Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord.'

Stewardship

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## ELDER CONTACT INFORMATION

Dave Bengel	517-281-5812	<a href="mailto:me@davidbengel.com">me@davidbengel.com</a>
Dick Stout	517-282-2859	<a href="mailto:rstoutspartans01@hotmail.com">rstoutspartans01@hotmail.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>



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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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**PRAYER** is dangerous. It can change you. It can disrupt your life/routine. Don't pray, and let everything be the way it is. Pray and receive peace, guidance, understanding, faith, purpose, protection from evil, and a deeper relationship with God. Jesus prayed often, and He tells us to be constant in prayer. Join us at "Be Constant In Prayer," the 2019 Theological Conference, and learn more about this gift from our heavenly Father.

### **BE CONSTANT IN PRAYER**

Saturday, February 2, 2019

7910 E. St. Joe Hwy

Lansing, MI

Onsite Registration \$20/General and \$15/Student

Also online registration – [debra.hughes@michigandistrict.org](mailto:debra.hughes@michigandistrict.org)

Or contact Debbie Hughes (734) 213-3234

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## "Built on the Rock - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" - St. Peter's 150th Anniversary

St. Peter Lutheran Church is looking forward to a blessed 2019 as we observe the 150th anniversary of our congregation. Special services are being planned that will take our members and guests back and forth in time, highlighting the remarkable things our "Rock" Jesus Christ has enabled His church to do - and with His blessing, continue to do in 2019 and for many years to come.

At this time, the anniversary committee is awaiting the date for the official start of our celebration. Michigan District President, the Rev. David Meier, will be our guest speaker at a special Sunday service in either January or February. We will announce the date and time in the bulletin as soon as Pastor Meier confirms his schedule. Following the church service, a potluck dinner will be held in the St. Peter Fellowship Center. At the conclusion of the dinner, a slide presentation will take us all back in time to the founding of St. Peter in 1869. Be prepared to see many wonderful "old" photos of our beloved church building and those early St. Peter members who led the way for subsequent generations.

Our second special service takes place on April 28, "Heritage Sunday." Pastor David Speerbrecker will lead the worship service that will be very special indeed! As a former St. Peter member whose family roots run deep, he is uniquely qualified to speak about the wonderful heritage St. Peter is blessed with today thanks to our traditions and emphasis on our "Rock." More details about this special Heritage Sunday will be available as we move forward in 2019.

An outdoor service is planned (weather permitting) for June 23. Another former St. Peter member, Pastor Mark Werner, is looking forward to leading us in worship on that date. This special Sunday is also the date of St. Peter's annual Hog Roast. Lots of good eats will be available after the service, and plenty of activities are planned for children - and adults. Who knows, maybe a softball game might be part of the fun!

Special Sunday services conclude on October 13 when another familiar face leads St. Peter in worship. Pastor Jeffrey Heimsoth served our congregation for 25 years, helping lead the church during a time of change and growth - like the construction of the current Fellowship Hall and relocation of St. Peter School in an addition to the building. A catered meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service, and St. Peter members will receive a commemorative booklet detailing our 150 anniversary year.

Please look for updates every Sunday in the bulletin beginning January 6, 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



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### 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 website!  
[www.stpeterriley.org](http://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.

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# Church News

- 1/1/19 Office Closed (New Year's Day)
- 1/2/19 NO Worship Service or Bible Study Tonight!**
- 1/3/19 Ladies Aid Quilting @9:00am  
Ladies Aid Meeting @12:00pm (Library)
- 1/4/19 Over 50's Group @6:30pm
- 1/7/19 School Board Meeting @6:30pm (Library)
- 1/8/19 Elders Meeting @7:00pm (Library)
- 1/9/19 Bible Study @6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm
- 1/10/19 Ladies Aid Quilting @9:00am
- 1/12/19 Hall Reserved
- 1/14/19 PTL Meeting @4:00pm (Library)
- 1/15/19 Council Meeting @6:30pm (Library)
- 1/16/19 Bible Study @6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm
- 1/17/19 Ladies Aid Quilting @9:00am
- 1/18/19 Newsletter deadline
- 1/20/19 Voters Meeting (Soup, sandwich, dessert lunch before meeting)
- 1/21/19 No School  
Gala Meeting @6:30pm (Library)
- 1/22/19 4H @7:00pm-8:30pm (Gym)
- 1/23/19 Bible Study @6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm
- 1/24/19 Ladies Aid Quilting @9:00am
- 1/25/19 No School
- 1/27/19 Children singing at Church  
Lutheran Schools Week Dinner (right after Church)
- 1/28/29-2/1/19 Lutheran Schools Week
- 1/30/19 Bible Study @6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm
- 1/31/19 Ladies Aid Quilting @9:00am
- 2/1/19 January Jubilee Carnival 6:00pm-8:00pm (Gym)

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## MEMORIALS

### *In Loving Memory of*

*Robert Symanzik \$225*



*Marilyn Sampson Kloeckner, Clemens & Marcella Kloeckner, \$625.00  
Sherry Stearns, Henry C & Doretta Witt, Robert & Shirley Sampson,  
Emma & George Guthrie, Lilly & Leo Schafer, Leone & Don Balzak, Raymunda Mchaffey*

*Thank you for the generous donation given to the Church & Preschool from a  
Preschool Grandparent. He enjoyed the Christmas Program! \$250.00*

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## St. Peter Lutheran Church

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



*Address Service Requested.*

