

# The Messenger

## Emerging from Seclusion with an Emphasis on Service

Folks are beginning to feel more comfortable doing the things of life again. Thankfully, our church attendance is also reflecting this. As we continue to strengthen our vitally necessary worship life together, this is a good time also to look for ways we can reach out to one another in service. While our love during the pandemic sometimes looked like staying away from one another, now may be a good time to look for more tangible ways to love our neighbor. With that in mind, there are a couple volunteer opportunities available to our congregation.

**Latino Mission Society (LMS)** is looking for two men to serve as mentors to local Hispanic high school boys. This opportunity would not only help young men in practical ways but also give you the chance to share your faith and to invite these boys and their families to church. LMS would like to fill this need soon, so if you are interested, please let me know right away.

**Lutherans for Life:** This organization exists to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for life. One way this is accomplished is by local Life Teams. We have the materials to start a Life Team here at St. Peter, but we are looking for someone to head up this team. If you would like to lead this effort and help promote educational and service-oriented projects in support of life issues, please let me know.

If either of these opportunities are of interest to you, I would be happy to share more information with you.

Our Lord's love is personal. He joined us as our brother by becoming man and living among us. He took our burdens as his burdens and He gave himself into death on our behalf that we might have life. As we reach out in love toward others, remember the tangible love of our Savior who has given himself for us all.

Yours in Christ,  
-Pastor Bayer



## FIREWORKS

I am always amazed at the brilliant colors and the wonderful patterns that the fireworks display. One of the things that always amazes me is how even though I know that there will be a loud explosion, yet it startles me when it happens. These past months have been much like a fireworks display. We were preparing for Spring Break and the coming of the bright colors of the flowers and the budding of the trees, and then there was the explosion – school was closed, church services were curtailed, and we were all shocked. The good news is that we have always had our Lord and Savior with us and that He has provided us with friends and family who have been able to help us deal with the explosion.

Now that the explosion has happened, what are our plans? We are planning on beginning our regular school classes on Monday, August 24. We are sure that this will be a “new normal.” We will ensure that students are six feet apart or are wearing face masks if they need to be closer for an activity. We will also ensure that everything is clean and sanitized, and teachers will continue to wipe and sanitize throughout the day. We don’t have specific details yet; we are waiting for the state to issue their guidelines for schools. As a Lutheran school we have the help of our District office in developing our plans and procedures.

Another part of our “new normal” will be welcoming Mrs. Stout back as the regular teacher for our K-2 classroom. Mrs. Ellis has moved further north and did not feel that she would want to drive the additional distance, especially in the winter. We will truly miss her and her bright disposition. We are truly blessed that Mrs. Stout is willing to again step forward and give us the benefit of her great wealth of experience and her love of our children. Mrs. Rowe will return and will add 6<sup>th</sup> grade to her classroom. We know that she will continue to do a great job of caring for her students.

We are planning to have a welcome back evening for our parents just prior to the opening of school. This will give us a chance to explain the “new normal” and to get their input into our plans and procedures. It will also give us a chance to once again see and talk to each other in person rather than with a Zoom meeting.

I would encourage you as you have the opportunity to invite other parents to consider the possibility of sending their children to St. Peter. We will have smaller classes and above all else we will have loving and caring teachers and staff to make St. Peter Lutheran School a great place for children to learn and grow in their earthly knowledge and in their faith and trust in our Lord.

If you should have any questions, thoughts, ideas or prospective parents, please call me at any time. My cell phone number is 517-420-5169. Keep us in your prayers and join us in the “new normal.”

His Servant,

*Paul Weismantel*, Principal

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# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND THE CHURCH

Church attendance is recovering at St. Peter. We are taking practical health precautions when we gather. Please join your fellow believers in worship again if you have not done so already. Divine Service is 10 am on Sundays and a Matins service is on Wednesdays at 9 am.

In Christ,

Rev. Timothy Bayer, Pastor

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I'm home again and did about four weeks of therapy due to several fractures in my pelvis. I want to thank you all that sent cards, phone calls, visits and Ladies Aid for their beautiful pink plant! So many enjoyed seeing them. I feel really Blessed that the Pastor made calls to me.

Thank you all!  
Virginia Davis

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We would like to thank everyone that sent cards, gave memorial, called and came to the memorial service for Ron. It means a lot to all of us. He is missed so much. Please keep us in your prayers. Thank you again.

The Family of Ron Dilts

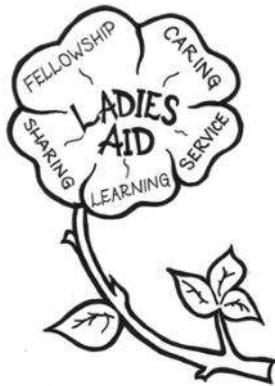
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## PLANNING FORWARD WITH CARE

In response to current coronavirus situation, Congress recently enacted some important tax law changes. If you are considering supporting Answers in Genesis during this time, here are a few things to consider with the new changes:

CARES ACT – This recently passed law includes special changes to the charitable tax provisions for 2020 to encourage charitable giving, including:

- A new deduction for donors who do not itemize when filing their tax returns. If you do not itemize but make a gift to the ministry, you will be allowed to take special tax deduction, up to \$300, to reduce your tax liability.
- An increase in the deduction limit for gifts up to 100% of a donor's annual income for the 2020 tax year (previously the deduction was capped at 60% of annual income).



**LADIES AID QUILTING...**we are not ready to come back to tie quilts just yet, more information to come. If you want to work on some quilts, there is a lot of material in the ladies aid room in a box that needs to be cut into squares or grab a bunch of squares and sew quilt tops together; they are about 60 x 80.

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## *If* My People

which are called by my name,  
shall humble themselves,  
and pray, and seek my face,  
and turn from their wicked ways;  
then will I hear from heaven,  
and will forgive their sin,  
and will heal their land.

*2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)*



# Prayer for America

Dear God, we thank you for the bountiful blessings you have bestowed on us. Guide us in being good stewards of these gifts. Let us care for all of your beautiful creation, from the redwood forests to the gulfstream waters. Make us instruments of your peace in order to put an end to rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air.

Help us to love and care for all of our neighbors - locally and globally - so that we might be truly crowned with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. Amen.



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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)



## Prayer Chain

## 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.



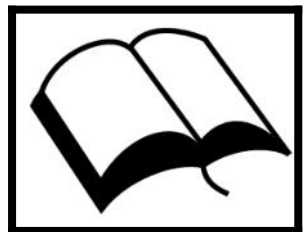
## REMINDER:

**MITES SUNDAY IS JULY 26TH**

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## ST. PETER 150<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:church@stpeterriley.org)





## Stewardship Newsletter Article – July 2020

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.

From LCMS Stewardship Ministry-June 2020 newsletter article







*“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 9:00am

Bible Study: 6:00pm (Library)

**\*\*NO Bible Study or Matins Service July 1st\*\***

Sunday: Worship Services 10:00am

Bible Study 8:45am

Sunday School 8:45am

(Sunday School is suspended until further notice)



## Shut-In Visit List Weekly Visits

Shirley Edwards  
Ethel Flegler  
Bill Horman  
Tom & Julie Johnson

Charlie Silm  
John Sillman  
Lois Sillman

Albert Smith



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



# JULY

- 7/1/20 Matins Service & Bible Study (Cancelled ~ Pastor on vacation)  
7/2/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am - (Suspended until further notice)  
7/3/20 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Gym)  
7/5/20 Confirmation Sunday  
Hall Reserved  
7/6/20 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)  
7/7/20 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)  
7/8/20 Matins 9:00am  
Bible Study 6:00pm  
7/11/20 Hall Reserved  
7/14/20 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)  
7/15/20 Matins 9:00am  
Bible Study 6:00pm  
7/17/20 Newsletter deadline  
7/19/20 Hall Reserved (Tentative)  
7/22/20 Matins 9:00am  
Bible Study 6:00pm  
7/26/20 Voters Meeting immediately after church  
7/29/20 Matins 9:00am  
Bible Study 6:00pm



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## **MEMORIALS**

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

*Margaret How \$920*

*Bill VanBeelen \$95*

*Delores Sperry \$20.00*

*Lee Chant \$45*

*Marilyn Kay Kloeckner \$200*

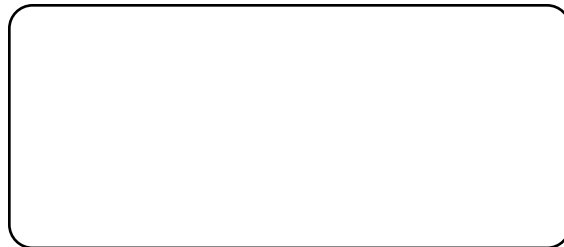


## St. Peter Lutheran Church

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



Wishing you a blessed summer!

My presence will go with you,  
and I will give you rest.

EXODUS 33:14

