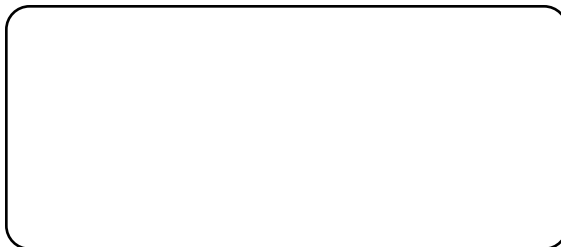


St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

Rev. Timothy Bayer
8990 Church Rd.
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 *July 2022*



Church Services

Divine Service – Sundays at 9 am
Office of Matins – Wednesdays at 9 am (No Matins July 20th or August 17)

Advent and Lent – Wednesday services at 7 pm
Feasts and Festivals – Services as announced in calendar and bulletin

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Truth and Worship

Two months ago, I wrote about Truth and Fellowship and finished the article by saying I would like to also discuss the concept of Truth and how it relates to worship. I interrupted myself last month with another topic, but now I'll return to this discussion.

When discussing the relationship between truth/error and worship practice, an old saying may be employed—*Lex orandi, lex credendi*—which means the law of prayer is the law of believing. This motto recognizes the relationship between worship and belief. What we do in Christian worship matters—it either confesses the truth based on the Word of God, or it does not. It either supports the proclamation of the Gospel or detracts. This means that even in matters of *adiaphora* (things neither commanded by God nor forbidden), this does not mean that any choice is equally good.

How we worship is part of our confession of faith. For example, a Baptist who believes that the bread and wine in the Supper are empty representations of Christ's body and blood will worship differently than a Lutheran, a Roman Catholic, or an Orthodox who knows that the true body and blood of Jesus Christ are present, distributed, and received into the mouth of every person communing—whether in faith for one's forgiveness, or in unbelief to one's condemnation. Believing the latter, as we do, means our practice will reflect the fact that we are handling the very body and blood of Jesus Christ—*because we are*. This means a high level of reverence, decorum, order, beauty, respect, and adoration. We will care what receptacles are used to hold the sacred body and blood. We will care who is communing. We will be more concerned with the respectful treatment of the Sacrament than with our personal preferences and hygienic concerns. And these practices will support the proclamation of the Gospel—that the bread is the body of Christ given for us and the wine is the blood of Christ shed for us for the forgiveness of sins.

As altars are replaced with drum sets, as gold chalices are replaced with plastic cups, as church music is replaced with radio music, as the holy liturgy is replaced with personal remarks and banter, we must ask ourselves, can true doctrine be maintained?

In Christ,
Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Mission

School is out for the summer, the kids are home having fun, enjoying a break from their work. And yet there is still work to be done. The teachers have spent time cleaning out their classrooms and regrouping after a joyous year. They are already thinking about the next year, contemplating what they want to change and what work lies ahead of them. In the office, we are working hard to get all of the structures in place to support deep and meaningful learning and a positive, Christ-centered, culture at St. Peter.

Sometimes, all of this work can feel overwhelming. Summer is a time for educators to recover, rest, and re-focus. And yet, in the back of our minds, we know that the next year is coming and that there is work to be done.

Thankfully, we know that the work that we are doing is not done in vain. There is purpose in the work being done and hope in everlasting life. This is true for all of the teachers and support staff at our school, but also for the members of our church. We are one body, working together to support the mission at St. Peter. As you enjoy your summer remind yourselves and others that the work we are doing at St. Peter is for the Lord. Pray for the mission of our school. Pray for the students, the school families, and the staff. Pray that God will continue to bless our school and through our school bless his children.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ (Col. 3:23-24).

Blessings in Christ,
Erika Brown
Principal/Teacher

A LETTER FROM OUR CANTOR

Why We Do What We Do

I don't know about you, but I'm not particularly a "royal watcher," keeping up on all the comings and goings of England's royal family. But if you've ever watched a show like "The Crown", you'll have noticed the first thing a British subject does when coming into the presence of the Queen of England is to bow or curtsy.

How much more appropriate is that, do you suppose, when coming into the presence of the King of all Creation? Oh, I know, Jesus taught us to think of God as our Father. And Luther reinforces that when he says, "God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father." Still, we *are* talking about God ALMIGHTY, the Lord of Hosts! No wonder Moses hid his face when coming into God's presence (Ex. 3:6), Ezekiel fell on his face (Ez. 1:28) and Isaiah cried, "Woe is me, for I am ruined!... For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (Is. 6:5).

As Christians we know God is with us in every time and every place. But he promises His special presence when we join around Word and Sacrament ("Where two or three are gathered..." Matt. 18:20). What is a good way to show respect for coming into His presence? Some bow their head briefly at the invocation of the divine Name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, like when we sing "Glory be to the Father..." Some bow slightly when approaching and leaving the altar, the sign of God's presence among His worshipping people.

Are these things necessary? Absolutely not! What things do you do to remind yourself you've come into the presence of the Divine?

I hope to share more of why we do what we do. Perhaps if you have a particular question or concern, you might pass that along to me through the church office.

Your brother in Christ,
Dick Davenport



FINAL SUMMARY OF YOUR "HEARTS FOR JESUS" BUILDING PROGRESS
Week of May 16, 2022

Dear Friends in Wisconsin and Michigan:

It is finished....or nearly so! It's been so much fun to work with you all as you are helping to share Jesus with so many children in Cambodia! Thank you for the help you are giving to the Garuna Kids and their families. Please continue to keep them in your prayers during your summer break!

The photos from the past two weeks are included in the "**Week of May 16, 2022**" folder on the Google docs link. These photos and the power point summary will keep you "up to date" on the progress of the project.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The building is finished, the furniture is ordered, so **it will be very soon that we see students in the classroom you built, sitting in the desks you purchased!**
- We will **send you some final pictures in August** so that you will see the students in your new classroom as they learn about Jesus, thanks to your "Hearts for Jesus" 2021-22 offering project.
- If your schools are looking for another project for a chapel offering in the coming year(s), keep Garuna in mind! **We would love to continue to be connected to your church, school, VBS, or other programs!**
- Garuna is calling a new worker from Wisconsin—a Lutheran teacher—who will be available to help connect with you in the years to come. **Mr. Andrew Hulke will be moving to Wausau, WI and is an AMAZING chapel presenter.** Perhaps he can share with your schools. He will begin being his new ministry with Garuna in June, traveling with us to Cambodia to visit YOUR school—and the other 8 sites, as well!

HEARTS FOR JESUS CHALLENGE: Some of the schools in Wisconsin and Michigan are asking about where to send your final offerings when finished collecting for this year. **Typically, HFJ offerings are sent to your district office, to the attention of the Education Exec (S. WI: Chris Cody or MI: Travis Grulke).** Please indicate that it is for the Hearts for Jesus project, with checks made payable to the district. Your gifts will then be forwarded on to Garuna. If any gifts are sent directly to Garuna's offices, we will let your district ed exec know the amount and your school's name, so they can be added to the district total!



**Here you can see
the entire campus.
Your new building is
on the left (below).**



**We started with
this hole in the
ground a few
months
ago.....**



Our students this school year through their Chapel offerings have raised \$2,192.71 for The Hearts for Jesus Garuna Foundation. Our gifts have helped build 2 new classrooms at the Garuna Christian Lutheran School in Tbong Khmum, Cambodia. Our funds also helped install a new water tank for the restrooms and handwashing areas. They also go to purchase new desks for their classrooms.



**Watch for a final update
next fall when we share pictures of
students in your new classrooms,
sitting in their new desks!**



The cost of building and furnishing a Garuna Christian School classroom

\$1,500 will build outdoor bathrooms for boys and girls

\$100 will pay for one door or window

\$20 pays for four bags of cement

\$5 will buy 100 bricks

\$20 will buy a kindergarten desk and chair set

\$1,000 will pay for paint or tile for a classroom

\$100 buys a white board

\$15,000 the cost to build and furnish this Garuna Christian classroom*

**Costs are approximate, but all gifts will benefit this project and the Garuna Christian School ministry.*

A heart for Jesus... priceless!

2021–22 "Hearts for Jesus" Michigan District Chapel Offering Project in partnership with Garuna Christian (Lutheran) Schools in Cambodia



Let the little children come to me (Mark 10:13)

Lutheran students in Michigan will have the opportunity to help spread the Good News of Jesus with children in Cambodia by building a new two-classroom building at one of the seven Garuna Christian Schools which are now opened, serving 1,200 "Garuna Kids". This project will grow the capacity of the school and add a Kindergarten program at the existing school site. Michigan District schools are partnering with the South Wisconsin District schools in this project, with each attempting to fund one of the two new classrooms. The schools are operated by Garuna in support of the development of the Cambodia Lutheran Church. **Thank you for your partnership!**

Garuna / 2924 E. Cholla St / Phoenix, AZ 85028 / Garuna.Org / info@garuna.org

2021-22 "Hearts for Jesus" Michigan LCMS School Ministries Chapel Offering Project



BUILDING & FURNISHING A GARUNA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CLASSROOM!



LUTHERAN SCHOOLS HELPING LUTHERAN SCHOOLS!

Jesus says in Mark chapter ten, "Let the little children come to me"

The opportunity for sharing the Good News of Jesus with children and their families in Cambodia is very exciting and is being blessed by God.

This Garuna Christian (Lutheran) School project is conducted by Garuna Ministries which is a Lutheran mission agency, a registered service organization (RSO) with the LCMS and as a non-profit registered in the State of Arizona.

Garuna provides Bible training and Lutheran School ministries which are led by indigenous national workers in support of the development and growth of national Lutheran church bodies in SE Asia.



The population of Cambodia is now close to 17 million with fewer than 2% Christian. This ministry project helps share the grace (*Garuna*) of Jesus with children and their families by funding the construction and furnishing of a new classroom building at the growing Garuna Christian School in Tbong Khmum, Cambodia. The project will add a kindergarten program and more space for the students. This school is one of seven Garuna Schools open in Cambodia, serving 1,200 Lutheran students in grades K-6. Each school is designed for multi-use purposes, serving as both a school and as a location for community outreach and/or church plants for the Garuna Kids and their families.

What does my gift provide?*

100 bricks	\$5
Four bags of cement	\$20
A kindergarten desk and chair set	\$20
One door or window	\$100
White board	\$100
Teacher's desk and chair	\$150
Tile for one classroom	\$1,000
Paint for one classroom (inside and out)	\$1,000
An outdoor bathroom for boys and girls	\$1,500
The total cost to build & furnish this Garuna Christian classroom	\$15,000

* These amounts are estimated expenses. 100% of your gift will go to GCS building projects in Cambodia.



Your family may also sponsor a Garuna Kid attending this school!

This is separate from your Lutheran school's offerings for the Michigan District "Hearts for Jesus" campaign. Simply go to www.garuna.org and sign up to sponsor your own Garuna Kid for \$30/month. You will receive a sponsorship packet with details about your specific child.

Garuna / 2924 E Cholla St / Phoenix, AZ 85028 / garuna.org / info@garuna.org

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Memorials

Donna Race \$20.00
Bill Caruss \$40.00



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.



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.

The Ladies Aid Display Case items in the hallway of the Fellowship Hall has changed we have decided that you may purchase any items in the case by removing it from the case from the back and put your donation in the box attached to the case.

The LWML Michigan Convention is July 7-9 in Frankenmuth, Laurie Flegler and I are attending as delegates for St. Peter, you will be hearing from us about what occurred at the Convention later.

Blessings in Christ,
Kathy

HOG ROAST NEWS

Come join in the fun and fellowship at St. Peter Lutheran Church and School on Sunday, July 17th, from noon until 3:00 pm. Please bring a dish to pass...meat, cheesy potatoes, beans, rolls/buns, beverages and table service will be provided. Food will be served from noon until 2:30 pm.

Get ready to win some pretty awesome prizes playing Bingo which we are offering for adults and older children. The obstacle course will be blown up outside for the younger children. Socks must be worn to go in order to go into the obstacle course. There will be prizes for all ages.

So reach out and grab those people you haven't seen for a while, and invite them to join us. We are looking forward to spending time in Christian fellowship once again with several of our sister congregations!

Charlene Kennedy



Mites Sunday is
July 31!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Virginia Davis
Charlie Silm
Shirley Edwards
Albert Smith
Sue Yelden
Linda Davis
Terry Ordway
Glenn Bennett



Endowment Fund Newsletter Article July 2022

Last month we explained how the Endowment Fund is not meant to take away from the operational budget of the church. The gifts to the Endowment Fund are an investment to the churches future. The gifts are pooled to maximize the investment potential. Each year, a percentage of the market value is awarded and the balance of the earnings is returned to the endowment principle. The endowment acts as a savings account which produces a permanent source of income for the church. By giving to the endowment fund, you will leave behind a legacy that will support St Peter for generations to come.

How can you contribute? Here are a few examples:

1. Make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one
2. Designate the endowment fund as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy
3. Contribute land or real estate assets
4. Donate an unneeded required minimum distribution from a retirement account

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

New Testament Standard Giving

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)



2022-2023 OPEN ENROLLMENT



DISCOVER the difference at St. Peter!

Enrollment for St. Peter Lutheran School Pre-K – 8th grade is open!! Please contact the school for more information and school tours!!

Rev. Timothy Bayer, *Pastor*

Mrs. Erika Brown, *Principal*

Mrs. Lisa Smith, *Preschool Director & Lead Teacher*

Mrs. Corrine Fletcher, *Administrative School Assistant*

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

8990 W. Church Rd. St. Johns, MI 48879

1/2 mile south of Price Road between Dexter Trail and Forest Hill Office

Phone: 989-224-3178

E-mail: school@stpeterlutheran.org

Website: www.stpeterlutheran.org

Blessings, St. Peter Lutheran Staff



Running Club

St. Peter Running Club is going on now! It's not too late to join! After Matins on Wednesdays at 9:30 come join the fun and fellowship. Please bring a water bottle and wear good running shoes. Must sign waiver to participate.



Wednesday: 8am –1pm

Thursday: 8am-1pm



Another great VBS year is in the books. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this possible. It would not have been possible without all of you. All the children had a great time.



Here are some of the kitchen helpers making treats for the children and volunteers. Below is the cute and delicious treats they made on the last day of VBS.



Thank you to Rita Hollis for making our flower beds look amazing! We appreciate all your hard work and dedication.





Here are some pictures from VBS. Students are doing music with the talented Mrs. Stout during the Bible Challenge class with Rex.



Children doing crafts at VBS. They are making fishers of men magnets with colored sand.



Pastor is going over what the children learned during the week at the close of VBS.



VBS group 2022



End of the year field day 2022 for day school students and families. Students here are enjoying the cool -down station with popsicles.



At field day this year Mrs. Stout was presented with the quilt the quilting crew made with the school children's help. Mrs. Stout has been such a blessing to our church and school with all the hats she wears. Thank you for all your continued hard work and dedication!

Children enjoying the bounce house at field day.





Students learning about the emergency workers at the touch-a-truck event that came to our school at the end of the year.



Students learning about how Keela the Chocolate Lab is trained to find missing people. They even did a mock drill to show the students how she finds people.

Students are learning what it takes to be a fire fighter and what all things you need when reporting to a fire.

