

# The Messenger

"SPRING!" Sometimes don't you wonder what he is talking about or where this thought is going? (Me too.)

But I digress. March is full of activities and events. For instance, March 10 will be time to "spring ahead" for daylight savings time. (Mark your calendars) If you are of Irish decent, St. Patrick's Day on the 17<sup>th</sup> will be of importance to you. Or you might just be looking forward to spring and warmer weather and the plants and flowers bursting forth with color again. Whatever you focus for this March 2019, there is one event that can outshine them all. EASTER! (21<sup>st</sup>)

For the believer, the Jesus follower Easter is at the center of all they believe and hope for. By the time you read this we will be well into the season of Lent. Lent is the time to reflect on our sinfulness and on Jesus work of redemption for all mankind. Whenever I have chapel for children I often say to them the phrase that means Gospel;

***"Jesus died on the cross for my sins so I get to go to heaven."***

To reflect on this fact becomes of great importance for the believer for in realizing how much Jesus has done for us by his redemption work we have "new life" in our relationship with the Father in heaven. *"Jesus loves me;"* has much more meaning than just being a children's song. It changes us, strengthens us, gives us meaning for life and living and so much more.

So, after you set your clocks for daylight savings, and after you have celebrated the work of St. Patrick, remember how much God loved you for He sent His one and only Son to take on human form, die on the cross and rise again on the third day to give us the hope of salvation and heaven. Be blessed with the hope and joy of Easter and all that it means for you and all believers.

***Thank you Jesus for what you have done for us!***

You are blessed

I am blessed

Pastor Randy

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## *“Heart Sister News”*

It's been a long winter, ladies!!! We will, however, begin to meet every Monday again on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 11:00am. If there is no school because of weather, we will cancel for that day also. You can always give me a call if you like to make sure we are meeting.



I received the following letter a few weeks ago and wanted to share it with all of you!

*“My name is Janice and this letter is to the Hat Ladies (Heart Sisters). I have cancer and go to Sparrow Cancer Center. I have ovarian cancer and started chemo in October. I went for my first treatment and my daughter and I saw hats on the end tables in the lobby and was told I could take one. My daughter picked out a hat that looked like a teal head band with colorful hair attached to it. The color of the head band matched my winter coat. I want to thank the lady who made that hat because it has brought me so much love and kindness from strangers all over the place. They ask where I bought it or if I made it and I share the story about my cancer and I have no hair and this is my rainbow hair. I tell them some very special ladies made it along with other hats left for cancer patients at Sparrow Cancer Center. I wear it every time I go out and feel very special. No one has a hat like the same beautiful hat I do. I will keep this hat forever because it was made with love and a very special person took the time to make it. I have a long road ahead of me but with wonderful people like the “Hat Ladies” I’ll do just fine. Thank you and much love, Janice.”*

I don't share letter this because I think we are so great. I share this because GOD IS SO GREAT and is working through all of us to reach out to someone who is going through a really bad time in their life. ALL the glory goes to GOD! Thank you Jesus for working through each and every one of these wonderful, caring, giving ladies.

If you would like to join the “Heart Sisters” feel free to come and join us. There is always room for “1” more at my table. We knit and crochet hats for cancer patients and preemies but there are some who do other service projects. If this is you, just come and have a cup of coffee and conversation with your “Sisters in Christ”.

Diane Thurston (989) 593-2480 or 388-2069



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## Christian Education

Mark your calendars, VBS 2019  
"The Incredible Race" will be June 17-June 21



If you have any thoughts or concerns regarding Christian education, please don't hesitate to contact me. My cell number is (517) 204-7991 or email [gsponsius@aol.com](mailto:gsponsius@aol.com)

In Christ's Service,  
Sally Pontius, Director of Christian Education

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## Giving Tree Thank You

The following is a thank you from one of the recipients of the "Giving Tree".

*"Thank you so much for your kindness. Cosmo (my dog) and I had a ball on Christmas morning opening packages. I'm warm and toasty, my ears are beautiful, my house smells great and my tummy is cookie happy!"*



Sometimes we take things for granted. This lady was as sweet as could be and so thankful that we would think of her on Christmas. She hasn't had a gift to open since her husband passed away several years ago. She was "thanking" us all the way out the door. What a blessing this was to us as we left her little apartment! To be a part of the joy that she showed was overwhelming to us.

But God doesn't call us to reach out only at Christmas time. We, as Christians, are to reach out each and every day. See whose lives you can touch this month as you go about your daily routines. You WILL be blessed...I promise!!

Diane Thurston  
Giving Tree Coordinator

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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).



## WE ARE ON A MARCH

Our English language often uses the same word for things that may not be related. The word March does of course define a month on our calendar. For many schools including St. Peter, March is Reading Month. This is a time when we encourage our students to read and enjoy the many ideas and experiences that they can have through reading. We may be concerned that too much time is spent in front of screens and that visual and auditory experiences are replacing reading. Rather than dwell on what may be going wrong in our society, I would like to focus on another use of the word “march.”

There is a familiar hymn that begins, “Onward Christian soldiers *marching* as to war.” This serves as a reminder that we are indeed in a battle against a very strong enemy – the devil himself. The second phrase of that hymn reminds us that we have a strong leader in this battle – “With the cross of Jesus going on before.” Often in battle the troops need a place where they can meet, plan, eat and be strengthened to continue to fight. We have that fortress – it is our church. It is here that our fellow members – members of our troop – can meet and be strengthened together to continue to fight the battle.

History has taught us that one of the best ways to develop a strong fighting force is to start with the children. Unfortunately, people like Hitler knew this also and used it to help carry out Satan’s purposes. We have the training ground for the next generation of Christian soldiers – it is called, “St. Peter Lutheran School and Preschool.” It is here that our young troops are fed on the pure and true word of God to build up their spiritual strength for the fight that lies ahead. It is here that those bonds of friendship and shared purpose and mission are developed. Just as a soldier in battle relies on those around him for protection and encouragement, so too our children learn the importance of Christian friends in their battles. Even as our troops are taught how to handle their weapons, so we here at St. Peter teach them how to use the Word of God as the most powerful weapon that exists.

We have several challenges in our work to develop a strong fighting force. We need recruiters who will help to bring more students and their families into our fighting forces. We are now enrolling students for next year, please help to serve as one our recruiters. We also all too frequently hear that we need a larger defense budget to adequately prepare to train and equip our troops. Yes, we too as a school need your continuing financial support to assure that our students have great drill instructors (teachers) and a good supply of training weapons – books, supplies, and above all else their Bible and religion education materials. We also know that our troops are strengthened and encouraged by cards, letters and gifts from the home front. Your encouragement and prayers are also vital in our battle. The second stanza of “Onward Christian Soldiers” gives us our marching orders:

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;  
Brothers we are treading where the saints have trod  
We are not divided, All one body we  
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity.  
Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war  
With the Cross of Jesus going on before.

His Servant,  
Paul Weismantel



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## Preschool News

We have had another amazing month in preschool! The children have shown a ton of growth since the beginning of the year. It is wonderful to see the progress they have made in different developmental areas and the friendships that have formed and blossomed. We had a great time celebrating these friendships at our class valentine's day party. The children also made special valentine hearts for Jesus that are hanging in the hallway. We are excited to continue watching them grow for the remainder of the school year.

We have sent out several enrollment forms to potential students and will be taking part in promotional activities for preschool as well as the day school. We have also emailed St. Peter Congregation members that have children of preschool age. If you are a current church member that would like to enroll your child in preschool or grade school for the fall please contact us as soon as possible. We are hoping to offer both a morning and afternoon session for preschool. We participated in a preschool open house at the Dewitt Library on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. We will also be having a school wide open house on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Preschool will run from 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm. The day school will run from 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Please spread the word to anyone with preschool age children through grade school age. We would love to fill our classrooms for the fall!

As always thank you for the support, we couldn't do it without all of you!

Blessings Always,

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher



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Lutherans School Week Jubilee Carnival  
Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
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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## **STEWARDSHIP**

### **ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS – A REMINDER NOTICE!**

March 31, 2019 is the deadline for us to receive CHOICE DOLLARS. If you have a Thrivent Policy; you probably have CHOICE DOLLARS that are not being used, Please call [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836) to see what you have and receive the choices available to you. Your choice dollars are 'free monies' that can be designated to the church or school at your request. We missed out on a lot of this money last year because people didn't make requests. If you do not call on or before March 31<sup>st</sup>, the CHOICE DOLLARS for the current year are lost and someone else benefits. So please call today and give them your request so the donation will be received.

Thanks, from the Stewardship Committee

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### **From the Desk of the Stewardship Chairman:**

Thank you from Pastor David and Joyce Erber. They live in Accra, Ghana, West Africa. Pastor Erber is a theological educator and Joyce serves as the business manager for the Africa region. We received a letter from them thanking us for our prayers, friendship and financial support throughout 2018. In 2019 they will be introducing "The Lutheran Institute of Biblical Studies". This "Institute" is not intended to give the impression that they have a group of pastors who are great Biblical scholars in Ghana, rather, the opposite. Many Pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana have had limited seminary training and continue to need to grow in their ability to study, preach and teach God's word. Their goal is to equip regional senior pastors to mentor junior pastors to grow in their ability to study and proclaim God's Word to the people of their congregations and communities

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We also received a "Thank You" from Camp Concordia for the \$500 donation to help them to continue to provide a means for children (and adults) to grow their faith in Jesus

A thank you was received from the Latino Mission Society for the donation received. This mission exists to reach the isolated, under-served, disconnected population of Hispanics in Michigan, with the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ while serving their practical needs as they navigate the American culture and language.

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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

<b>2019 GREETER SCHEDULE</b>		
	<b>March 2019</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
03/03/19	Debbie Schrader & Ann Shellito	Judy & Dave Bengel
03/10/19	Laurie & Earl Flegler	Rollie Kloeckner & Bill Caruss
03/17/19	Hartner Family	Chris & Mark Grennell
03/24/19	Jan & Don Maynard	Janell & Bob Barber
3/31/19	Lorna & Keith Kirschenbauer	Diane & Sarah Thurston
	<b>April 2019</b>	
04/07/19	Theresa & Charlie Silm	Shirley & Lyle Huguelet
04/14/19	Bonnie & Roger Gregory	Mary Ann & Larry Grennell
04/21/19	Diane & Frank Hart (Sunrise Service)	Lori & Taylor Klein
04/28/19	Ann & Dick Stout	Judy & Barry Boettger
	<b>May 2019</b>	
05/05/19	Norma & Bruce Fitzpatrick	Connie & Dale Martens
05/12/19	Kathy & Bruce Bond	Sandy & Gary Lenneman
05/19/19	Jackie & Mark Zamarron	Jan & Jim Mehney
05/26/19	Michelle & Tom Gorby	Linda & Lee Chant





**SCRIP** Helen Anderson will be selling script and Sandy Lenneman will be collecting and mailing in the Box tops. Please continue to save Boxtops, Coke points, and Aunt Millie's bread ups.

Thanks,  
Pam



**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.



The office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm.

Liz's office hours:

Monday: 8:00am-4:00pm

Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00am-2:00pm

Friday: Day Off

Corrine's office hours:

Monday: Day Off

Tuesday-Thursday: 12:00pm-4:00pm

Friday: 8:00am-4:00pm

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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>
John Burgess	616-295-3903	<a href="mailto:johnburgess6606@gmail.com">johnburgess6606@gmail.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.



Rev. David Maier is guest pastor at March 17 worship service  
St. Peter 150 Anniversary: "Built on the Rock - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow"



Michigan District President Rev. David Maier will help St. Peter celebrate its 150 Anniversary when he serves as guest pastor at the March 17 church service. Worship begins at 10 a.m., followed by a potluck lunch at the St. Peter Fellowship Center. The annual St. Peter Chili Cook-off coordinated by St. Peter Elders is part of the lunch. Historical memorabilia will also be on display.

Please mark your calendars for this special service, and others planned during our 150 anniversary year: April 28, "Heritage Sunday" with guest Pastor David Speerbrecker; June 23, outdoor worship with Pastor Mark Werner and St. Peter's Annual Hog Roast; and the final special service set for Oct. 13 with Pastor Jeffrey Heimsoth that includes a catered dinner.

Updates on these special services will be included in the Sunday bulletin and upcoming newsletters. Also, remember to look for "Past Memories of St. Peter's 150 Years" each week in the Sunday bulletin as we celebrate 150 years of being "Built on the Rock" Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."



**Come One....Come All** to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Peter Chili and Corn Bread Cook Off on Sunday, March 17, 2019, immediately following our 10:00 worship service. This will be a potluck meal in addition to the chili and corn bread. Please bring a dish to pass including soups, salads and desserts. Drinks and table service will be provided. Our Michigan District President, Rev. David Maier, will help St. Peter celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in our Sunday worship service. There will be an award for the best chili and corn bread. So get those secret recipes out and put them to the test.



St. Peter Elders



*“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

Shirley Edwards  
Ethel Flegler  
Bill & Cindy Horman  
Tom Johnson  
Ken Mohnke

Sheila Ordway  
Gordon Schrader  
Mel Sehlke  
Charlie Silm  
John Sillman

Lois Sillman  
Albert Smith  
Bill & Sherri VanBeelen  
Ray Watson



Be sure to check our website for event or service updates and cancellations. With the winter weather here we will post updates on the website and on the prayer chain email. Also on our website you are able to download the monthly newsletter and calendar.

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

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# Church News

- 3/1/19 Over 50's Group 6:30pm  
3/2/19 Family Bowling-Fowler Lanes 3:00-5:00pm  
3/4/19 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)  
3/4/19 Heart Sisters (Diane Thurston's House) 9:00am-11:00am  
3/5/19 Elders Meeting 7:00pm (Library)  
3/6/19 Bible Study 6:00pm  
Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm  
3/7/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
Ladies Aid Meeting 12:00pm (Library)  
3/9/19 Gym Reserved All Day  
3/10/19 Daylight Savings Time (Set your clocks forward 1 hour)  
3/11/19 PTL Meeting 4:00pm (Library)  
3/12/19 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)  
3/13/19 Bible Study 6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm  
3/14/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
3/15/19 Early Release 12:00pm (No PM Busing)  
Newsletter deadline  
3/17/19 St. Peter 150th Anniversary Worship Service 10:00am  
Guest Speaker—Rev. David Maier  
Followed by potluck lunch and Elders Chili Cook-off  
3/18/19 Gala Meeting 6:30pm (Library)  
3/19/19 4H 7:00pm-8:30pm (Gym)  
3/20/19 Bible Study 6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm  
3/21/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
3/27/19 Bible Study 6:00pm / Worship Service 7:00pm  
3/28/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
3/25-3/29 Spring Break

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## MEMORIALS

*In Loving Memory of*

Gary Volker \$10.00



# St. Peter Lutheran Church

Rev. Randall Glander  
8990 Church Rd.  
St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-3178  
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**We are on the web!**  
**[www.stpeterriley.org](http://www.stpeterriley.org)**



*Address Service Requested.*

