

The Messenger

Lenten Piety

The rise of destructive Pietism within Lutheranism in the 17th century resembled the Reformed error of placing one's confidence in personal sanctification rather than in the objective means of grace; thus, "Pietism" became a bad word for many orthodox Lutherans.

However, while we rightly reject Pietism and its dangers, we do not reject piety. Christians are to seek a pious life. Lent traditionally is a time to focus on Christian piety. Specifically, it is a time of repentance. Three activities we focus on during lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. And these activities have the endorsement of Jesus in the Gospel. Read Matthew 6.

We often speak about the corporate nature of the Christian life. Coming together as the body of Christ around Word and Sacrament is the heart and center of the Christian life. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are of a different nature—they are, according to our Lord, private activities of individual Christians. We may corporately commit to these things, as we do together in the season of Lent, but they are to be done before God and not before man. We don't sound a trumpet when we give money. When we pray, we go into our room and shut the door. When we fast, we anoint our heads and wash our faces, to prevent drawing attention to ourselves. Piety is private. We do these things before our Father in heaven.

These spiritual disciplines are good for us. They are acts of mortification or putting the old sinful flesh to death (or at least keeping it in check). Giving away our money and goods, abstaining from food, and devoting ourselves to prayer teach us that the things of this world are not finally what we need; rather, we need God. Almsgiving helps us remember we cannot serve both God and mammon. Giving away our money helps free us from servitude before Mammon's throne and directs us instead to the one true God. Denying our bodies food reminds us that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Prayer directs our hearts toward the giver of every good gift, the One from whom we receive every good thing.

The temptation of money and bread is to see them as the things that sustain us. But all the money and all the food in the world cannot give us true life. We all die regardless of bank accounts and sustenance. Only Jesus, the bread of life, brings us true and everlasting life. May God help us this Lenten season to forsake worldly things that pass away and turn again to Him who is our life.

Yours in Christ,
-Pastor Bayer



JOSEPH

On March 19 the church celebrates Joseph. We know little about this man who became the foster father to our Lord. We can only imagine his joy and pride as he helped his son to grow up and prepare Him for His earthly role. Joseph would have died before Christ was crucified, but he would have shared in the joy of knowing that his son would be his savior and the savior of the whole world.

Our responsibility here at St. Peter School is in many ways much like that of Joseph. The children in our care on a daily basis are not ours; we have been entrusted with their care by their parents. We attempt to help them develop the skills and understandings that they will need to carry out their tasks in this world. Although they are not our children, we have a great responsibility for their growth and development. At times it would be easy to say, "That's the parent's responsibility." The good news is that with our smaller class sizes and parents who want what is best for their children we can share the responsibility of talking to our children about some of the difficult areas. The truly good news is that as fellow believers in Christ we share many of the same values and we can feel confident that what we teach your child will be supported in their home.

We know that Joseph may at times have had difficulty in accepting that his son was truly the Son of God, placed into His earthly home for care by a common human man, and that His heavenly father was aware of everything that was said and done to His son. We here at St. Peter School are also aware that parents may expect us to fully understand every care and concern that their child might have. Like Joseph, we are only frail human beings, we may not perceive what is truly important to a child, and parents may not recognize that we too must struggle to see what is truly in the best interest of the child.

It is our prayer that parents, grandparents and everyone in our congregation sees us as the "Josephs" who have been asked to care for the educational needs of the children in our school. Keep us in your prayers and help us to be the best "Josephs" that we can be.

His Servant,

Paul Weismantel, Principal



2020 ST PETER LUTHERAN SCHOOL GALA: Time to make plans to attend the 2020 St. Peter Lutheran School Gala. It's a Hawaiian Luau on Saturday night, April 18th. That's right, dig out your brightest Hawaiian attire and join us for the 3rd annual Gala. As always you can expect a delicious meal, great fellowship with friends, a chance to win some wonderful sweepstakes prizes, and a live auction with awesome items to bid on. And this year, watch for

some new twists to make the evening even more fun as we work together to fund classroom support and Christian Education at St. Peter.

Tickets are \$40 each and include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, a sweepstakes ticket, and a \$25.00 donation. Ticket sales will begin on February 23rd after church. There is a \$5/ticket discount on all tickets purchased between February 23rd and March 8th. Talk with your family and friends and get ready enjoy this memorable evening and support St. Peter Lutheran School.



Oh..... grass skirts welcome but not required.



An Usborne Book Fair is being held from February 23rd through March 1st in the church library. Please feel free to stop in and take a look!

Family Bowling is being held at the Fowler Bowling Alley on March 1st from 1-3 pm, and Family Movie Night is scheduled for March 20th at 6:30 pm. Church members and school families are welcome to join in the fun.

For Grades K-5, the month of March will bring "March is Reading Month," which will be celebrated with a camping theme. Students will earn their way through various "camp spots" to reach their reading goals. Be prepared to see camping decorations around the building! The Teachers are seeking guest readers throughout the month. If interested, please contact the office.

The end of March will bring Iowa testing for students, followed by Spring break. Also approaching is the Mileage Club, which is sponsored by Sparrow Hospital. For every mile ran, students receive a charm. The idea is to encourage a healthy lifestyle through activity.



Stewardship News

Coming in March!!

In mid-March you will receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee inviting you to join in the Annual Easter Celebration Offering with an extra financial contribution over and above your regular offering. Please use the provided enveloped marked "Easter Celebration Offering" and place your gift in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Your gift will be put in the Heritage Preservation Fund to help maintain the St Peter Lutheran Church grounds and buildings. The goal is to raise \$6,500.

What is the Heritage Preservation Fund?

The Heritage Preservation Fund combines the former maintenance fund with Faith Family Forever funds into one fund to provide money to maintain the St Peter Lutheran Church campus. The Heritage Preservation Fund will allow us the dollars to do special maintenance or improvement projects on our current grounds and structures such as roof replacement, new septic system, etc. without having to secure a loan to accomplish the task.


Did you know that St Peter Lutheran Church campus is 9+ acres? It has 5 buildings (church, fellowship hall, school, teacherage, parsonage), a cemetery, 2 parking lots, a playground, and sports fields. That means there are also 10 restrooms, 9 air conditioners, 12 furnaces and 3 kitchens that need to be maintained.

The Lord has been generous to the St Peter congregation for over 150 years. He has provided us with a beautiful campus. Now, we must step up and continue to be good and faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us. The Heritage Preservation Fund will help us to preserve what the Lord has provided.

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee

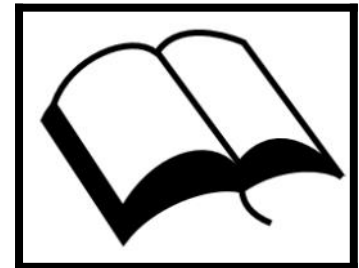
Bruce and Norma Fitzpatrick, Frank and Diane Hart, Harold Anderson, Jeanette Mehney and Sandy Lenneman





FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
"FROZEN 2"
FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH
6:00PM-8:00PM

ST. PETER 150TH 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@stpeterliley.org



YOUTH

The past few months have resulted in two blessed and fun times with our youth! On December 21, we sang “We wish you a Merry Christmas” among other traditional songs for senior members at Hazel Findlay and Grace Haven senior living facilities.

We had four of our youth and six adults participating! Witnessing the smiles on so many faces made the time a true blessing! It was followed by pizza/breadsticks at Main Street Café in St. Johns.

This past February 1 we had a bowling/pizza/breadstick gathering in Fowler with eight of our local church youth and several parents attending! Youth representing St. Paul Lutheran, Fowler and St. Johns Lutheran, St. Johns along with our kids were present. A fun time was had by all! A special “shoutout” to Jean and “Coach Roger Heathman” who showed up giving the kids some very appreciative bowling instruction! Pastor Klammer from St. Paul Lutheran also was there!

Our next youth activity will be bowling again on March 14, in Fowler, with good bowling, good food and good times expected by all!

**Blessings,
Dick Stout**





Come One...Come All to the 5th Annual St. Peter Chili and Corn Bread Cook Off on Sunday, March 15, 2020, immediately following our 10:00 Worship Service. Drinks and table service will be provided. There will be an award for the best chili and corn bread. So get those secret recipes out and put them to the test. Let's see who has the best!

St. Peter Elders



Helen Anderson is selling script and you can get it from her on Sunday or Corrine in the office.

Sandy Lenneman is collecting the box tops and coke points. Please give to her or put in the container.

Thank you,
Pam

ELDER CONTACT INFORMATION

Dave Bengel	517-281-5812	me@davidbengel.com
Tom Gorby	989-292-1715	tomgorby@gmail.com
Ryan West	517-977-5078	westpropertyservices@live.com
Ken Bond	989-640-2380	kbbenji88@yahoo.com

Pastor Timothy Bayer email: pastorbayer@gmail.com



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 MARCH 29TH





Greeters are a very important ministry at St. Peter. We are always looking for new smiling faces and warm handshakes, or better yet, hugs. If you'd like to give it a try, please call me at 517-667-9636. Currently the rotation is about every 4-5 months. We appreciate the many current dedicated greeter but sometimes circumstances beyond our control necessitate changes to our lifestyle. Please check the upcoming schedule regularly to be sure you're available to greet the day scheduled. If not, please call me and I'll arrange for someone to take your place.

Blessings, Sandy Lockwood

	March 2020	
03/01/20	Lorna & Keith Kirschenbauer	
03/08/20	Laurie & Earl Flegler	
03/15/20	Hartner Family	
03/22/20	Shirley & Lyle Huguelet	
03/29/20	Shirley & Marv Hayes	
	April 2020	
04/05/20	Jan & Don Maynard	
04/12/20	Diane & Sarah Thurston	
04/19/20	Chris & Mark Grennell	
04/26/20	Bob Barber & Lyle Auten	
	May 2020	
05/03/20	Sandy Lockwood & Bill Caruss	
05/10/20	Debbie & Holden Schrader	
05/17/20	Ann Schellito & Rollie Kloeckner	Easter
05/24/20	Theresa & Charlie Silm	
05/31/20	Bonnie & Roger Gregory	





*“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: Chapel 9:00am
Bible Study: 6:00pm (Library)

Sunday: Worship Services 10:00am
Bible Study 8:45am
Sunday School 8:45am



Shut-In Visit List Weekly Visits

Shirley Edwards
Ethel Flegler
Bill Horman
Tom Johnson

Charlie Silm
John Sillman
Lois Sillman

Albert Smith
Bill & Sherri VanBeelen



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.

Check out our website!
www.stpeterriley.org

March

- 3/2/20 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
3/3/20 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
3/4/20 Chapel 9:00am & Lent Evening Service 7:00pm
3/5/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid Meeting 12:00pm (Library)
3/6/20 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Art Room)
3/8/20 Confirmation 3:30pm-5:30pm
3/10/10 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
Winkel Meeting @St. Peter
3/12/20 Chapel 9:00am & Lent Evening Service 7:00pm
PTL Meeting (Library) 4:00pm
3/14/20 Youth Family Bowling 3:00pm-5:00pm (Fowler Bowling Alley)
3/15/20 Chili Cook-Off (After Church)
Confirmation 3:30pm-5:30pm
3/16/20 Gala Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
Newsletter Deadline
3/17/20 4H Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Gym)
3/18/20 Chapel 9:00am & Lent Evening Service 7:00pm
3/19/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
3/20/20 Family Move Night "Frozen 2" 6:00pm-8:00pm (Gym)
3/22/20 Confirmation 3:30pm-5:30pm
3/25/20 Chapel 9:00am & Lent Evening Service 7:00pm
3/26/20 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
3/29/20 Confirmation 3:30pm-5:30pm
3/30/20 Spring Break 3/30/20-4/3/20

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Gordon Schrader \$1,870

Roy Matteson \$115

Cindy Horman \$75

Ron Dilts \$75

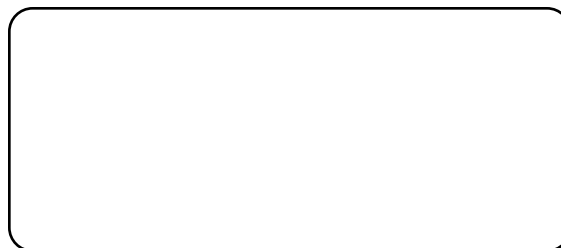


St. Peter Lutheran Church

Rev. Timothy Bayer
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St. Johns, MI 48879

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Fax: 989-224-8962
E-mail: church@stpeterriley.org

We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org



Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ he is a *new creation*,
the old has gone,
the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17