

The Messenger

Easter Vigil—Easter what?

What is Easter Vigil? There was a time when this service of the Church was the high point of the church's liturgical year. For many Christians, this has remained true throughout the centuries. Today, this tradition is making a strong comeback in broader Christianity. Easter Vigil takes place after sundown on Holy Saturday and is the first celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. The Vigil is part of what is known as the sacred Triduum, which is the three-day observance of Christ's Passover from death to life. The Triduum begins on Holy Thursday (the night in which our Lord was betrayed, often called Maundy Thursday), continues on Good Friday (the day of the crucifixion and death of Jesus), and concludes at Easter Vigil at the end of Holy Saturday. The Triduum is seen as one continual service, over the period of three days, which concludes with the benediction at Easter Vigil. The vigil ushers in the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

So what happens at the vigil? Well, it's sort of like a church marathon! In the early centuries of Christianity, the people of God would hold vigil through the night in expectation of Christ's return. But don't worry—we won't stay all night. But it is a big service, having developed out of this ancient tradition of keeping watch through the night. Today, our vigil consists of six parts—the Service of Light, the Service of Readings, the Service of Holy Baptism, the Service of Prayer, the Service of the Word, and the Service of the Sacrament.

Traditionally, Easter Vigil was the time that baptisms occurred, and adult catechumens were welcomed into full communion with the Church. This year at St. Peter, Easter Vigil will be especially joyful. We have six candidates for Holy Baptism who will be baptized during the vigil. We rejoice in God's grace toward these six people to be baptized and look forward eagerly with them to this important night. In Holy Baptism we are delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of his beloved Son. What better time to be baptized than the night we celebrate Christ's passing from death to life?

Join us this year at Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3rd, at 8:30pm, especially to welcome these six souls into Christ's kingdom of light and life.

In Christ,
Pastor Bayer





Time Marches On

There is an old expression, "Time Marches On." This past year at times seems to contradict that statement. It was a year ago on March 13 that we received the mandate to close school because of the Covid outbreak. On that Friday we quickly planned for our students to be home for two weeks, then we would have a week of Spring break, and we would be back to normal. As we all remember, the shutdown continued, and we were forced to do at-home instruction.

Now we are approaching the anniversary of that day, and we look back. Yes, we lost some instructional time and we missed having our students here at school. Families often faced difficult decisions because their children were home and some parents still had to go to work. For others, parents were trying to work at home, supervise their children's instruction and provide a feeling of security for their children. The good news was that our church remained open with restrictions - we could be assured of our Savior's love and care when we felt that our world and our government were holding us captive.

As we move through this Lenten season, we may choose to deny ourselves of some of our pleasures, whether this is desserts or a favorite pastime. The important lesson is that we can do this of our own free will. God has not placed restrictions on us to merit His grace and mercy. Instead, He sent His Son to take our sins and to pay the debt that we owed. We can look forward to a joyful Easter and the warmth of Spring with all the new growth.

As a congregation and a school, we can also look forward to life and growth as we worship together and praise God for His blessings. As a school we can also look forward to a new year with growth - our student numbers have continued to grow, and we will be adding seventh grade next year. We will be welcoming another teacher/principal to our staff. Mrs. Erika Brown, a member of our own congregation, has accepted our call and will provide fresh leadership and great learning opportunities for our older students.

We may not be able to forget the difficulties of this past year, but we can trust that the Lord has great things ahead of us in the future. Rejoice and give thanks to Him for His guidance and protection, and the promise of His presence in the years ahead.

His Servant,
Paul Weismantel

Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday – April 1 at 7:00pm

Good Friday – April 2 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

Easter Vigil – April 3 at 8:30pm

Easter – April 4 at 10:00am

Mid-Week Lenten Worship—Wednesday 10:30am & 7:00pm

March 3, March 10, March 24, March 31

(No Bible Study during Lent)



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you're a Thrivent member with Choice Dollars and you haven't already designated them, you have until March 31st to do it. Not sure if you have Choice Dollars? You can check your account on-line by going to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice; calling your personal Thrivent Rep (if it's Aaron Klawuhn his number is 989-627-4715) or calling Thrivent's Member Care Services (800-847-4836).

If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate, you can do so by going to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice and then clicking on the Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars under the Get Started section on the right hand side. Then just follow the directions and it will walk you through the process. If you'd rather do it on the phone, dial 800-847-4836 and, when prompted, say Thrivent Choice. Then press 1 to direct choice dollars and a representative will work with you to help you direct your dollars.

Remember that these are Thrivent funds that you can direct to a program or organization of your choice at no cost to you. If you are not sure if you have Choice Dollars or aren't feeling confident in doing this on your own, call Care Services at 800-847-4836 and they will be happy to help you. It won't long and the gift of dollars makes a different. Don't forget, you have to do it before March 31st.

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. We are excited to continue watching them grow for the remainder of the school year.

We have started enrollment for the fall and are excited to start filling the classroom for next year. We will again be offering preschool Monday-Friday, 8:30am-11:30am. Please let us know if you or anyone you know would like enrollment information. We are hoping to offer an information night in the spring if COVID restrictions are lifted. We will keep everyone posted as information becomes available. We hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy!

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

Blessings Always,
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher



Thank you for your prayers, cards, and support in the loss of our Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. As a life-long member she loved all of you at St. Peter. She really enjoyed receiving the cards many of you sent her during this last year. Thank you for all your love.

The Family of Jean Dilts

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – March 2021

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.



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 bondken88@yahoo.com
John Burgess 616-295-3903 johnburgess6606@gmail.com
Pastor Bayer (Emergency ph#585-402-2807) pastorbayer@gmail.com



Prayer Chain

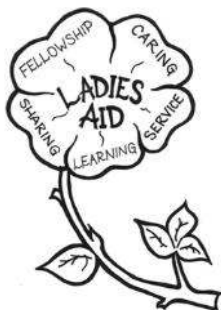
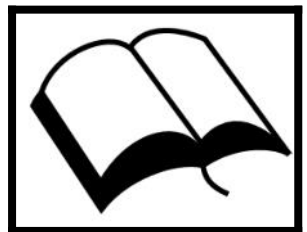
If you have a prayer request, please call Liz in the church office (989) 224-3178 during office hours. If in the evening or weekend, please call Pam Mohr (989) 292-1686.



REMINDER:
MITES SUNDAY IS MARCH 28TH

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

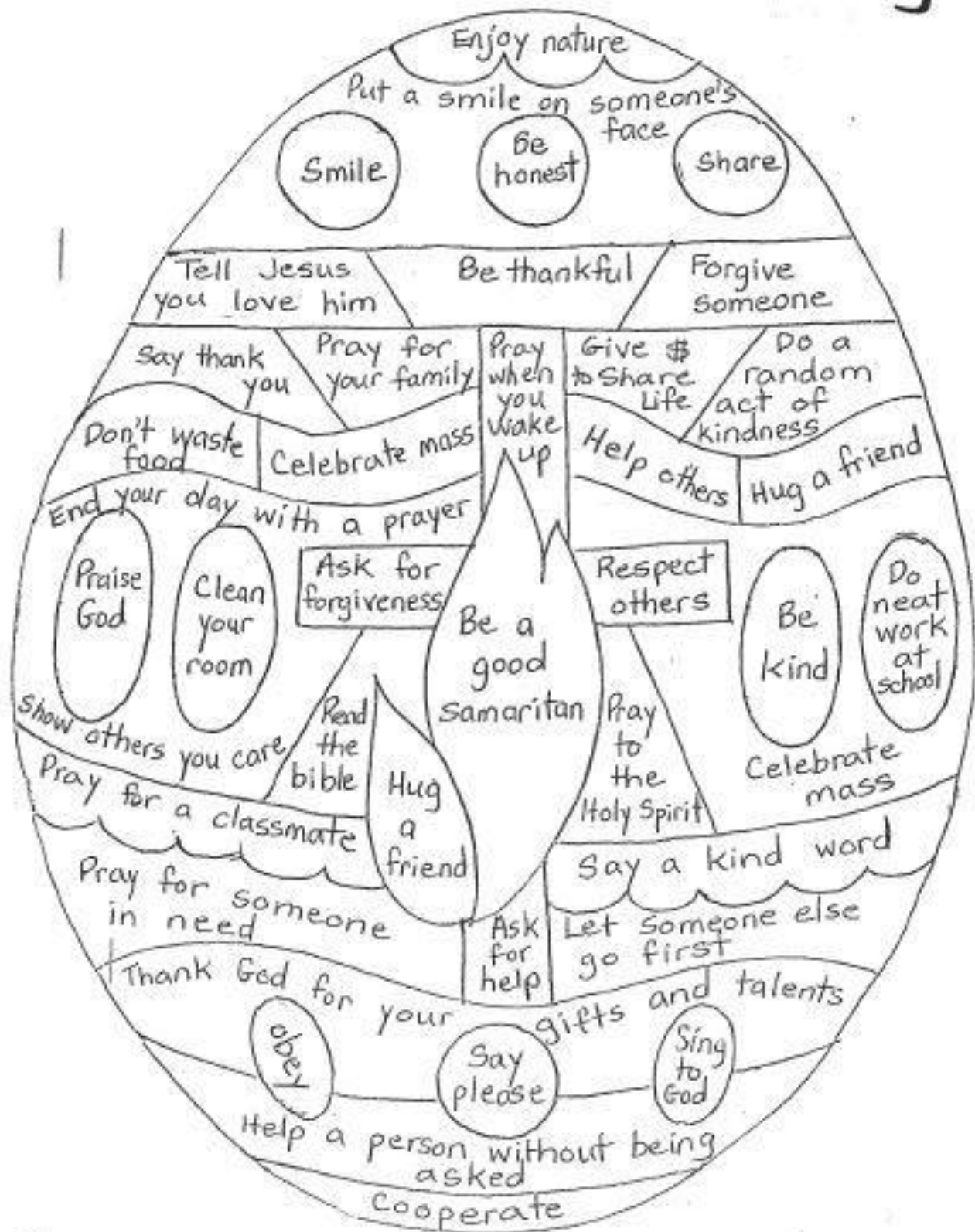


LADIES AID SALE

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.

Lent is For Loving



Spirit of God, fill me with Jesus' life

Daniel Harrington
5110 Hartford Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46835



January 23rd, 2021

To the Members of St. Peter Lutheran Church and School,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you, on behalf of my entire family, for the blessings that you have helped to bestow upon us through your generosity to the Concordia Theological Seminary this past Christmas season. God has been faithful to support our family throughout these past three years of seminary studies, and it has been through His people that He has chosen to do so. We have been humbled by the love that our family and friends have shown to us, but we are even more humbled when God's people do so, in faith, without even knowing us. Your support is a wonderful example... God be praised!

Before answering God's call to Pastoral Ministry, we were a single-income family of five. I managed an R&D lab at Dow Chemical while my wife Melissa home-schooled our three children (Lily- then 11, Alex-10, Caleb-6). As I left my job in Midland, Michigan to relocate our family to Fort Wayne, we were relying on my small Dow pension, a modest 401k savings, and trusting in God's provision to get us through the next four years. It was our hope (and still is) to incur as little debt as possible while here. Gifts like yours continue to play a significant part in helping this hope become a reality.

Since coming to the seminary, God blessed us with another child. Our daughter Katherine Joy was born on March 23, 2018, and she continues to live up to her middle name each day. My wife Melissa continues to homeschool our (now) four children, ages 15, 14, 10 and 2.5, and she is also pursuing Deaconess studies while I study for the pastoral ministry. There have been challenges along the way, especially this past year, with all that the world has been experiencing, but we thank the Lord every day for His goodness to us as we follow His call on our lives.

Again, please accept our humblest thanks. It is our prayer that God will bless the work of your congregation, both now and in the years to come.

All glory be to Christ, our Risen Lord
and Savior!

The Harringtons

Daniel & Melissa Harrington
Lily, Alexander, Caleb, and Katherine



SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH

Welcome to Scrip. My name is Traci Brisboe-Cole and I am the Scrip Coordinator for St. Peter. St. Peter participates in Scrip as a way to give families a chance to support their students, church, and school! There are over 3 pages of retailers who participate in Scrip who offer rebates for their users from 1.5%- 18% on purchases. If you are interested in learning more about Scrip I would love to help you get started. I can be reached via email: Tracieggleston20@gmail.com or phone: 269-908-6165 (text is preferred). If you want to get started to view their website you can join St. Peter with the St. Peter Enrollment code: 6L1A6F8L559. Download the shopwithscrip app! Please, do not hesitate to reach out for more information!!!!

Thank you,

Traci Brisboe-Cole



St. Peter Lutheran School held a food drive during Lutheran Schools week. We want to thank the students, parents and staff for their donations. The food will be donated to the St. Johns Basic Needs Center.

Stewardship News

Coming in March!!

In early 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 \$6,500.

What is the Heritage Preservation Fund?

It is a 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 such as roof replacement, new septic system, etc. without having to secure a loan to accomplish the task.

Did you know that the St Peter Lutheran Church campus is 6+ 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 have to be maintained. **Right now, there is an immediate need to address the school and fellowship hall roof that has endured multiple leaks over the past several years.**

The Lord has been generous to the St Peter congregation for over 150 years. He has provided us with a beautiful campus. We must be good and faithful stewards of what God has entrusted 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



Once again your Ladies Aid is reaching out to all our members, our material we use to make the quilts is running very low; if you have any you would like to donate to a good cause or even buy material. We use cottons. We are running low on sheets also that we use for fillers or the backs to our quilts; so if you may have used sheets that you aren't using anymore, we could use them. Any sizes from singles to king. It would be much appreciated so we ladies can continue God's work.



*“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: Lenten Services 10:30am & 7:00pm
(No 6:00pm Bible Study during Lent)

Sunday: 8:45am-9:45 am - Family Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
10:00 am - Divine Service

(Effective Sunday, March 7 we are returning to one service at 10:00am)



Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Shirley Edwards
Ethel Flegler
Lyle Huguélet
Tom & Julie Johnson

Ellen Martens
Charlie Silm
Lois Sillman
Albert Smith



Check out our website!
www.stpeterliley.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.



- 3/1/21 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 3/2/21 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
- 3/3/21 Lenten Service 10:30am & 7:00pm
- 3/4/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid 12:00pm (Library)
- 3/5/21 Over 50's 6:30pm (Gym)
- 3/7/21 Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
- 3/9/21 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Gym)
- 3/10/21 Lenten Service 10:30am & 7:00pm
- 2/11/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 3/14/21 Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
Daylight Saving Time (Set your clocks ahead one hour)
- 3/15/21 PTL Meeting 5:30pm (Library)
- 3/17/21 Lenten Service 10:30am & 7:00pm
- 3/18/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 3/19/21 Newsletter Deadline
- 3/20/21 First day of Spring!
- 3/21/21 Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
- 3/24/21 Lenten Service 10:30am & 7:00pm
- 3/25/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 3/27/21 Passover begins at sundown
- 3/28/21 Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
Mites Sunday
- 3/29/21-4/2/21 Spring Break

(Private confession available by appointment only on Saturdays at 6:30pm)



MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Bill Horman \$10.00

Jean Dilts \$165.00

Mary Jane Mohr \$50.00



St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

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We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org

