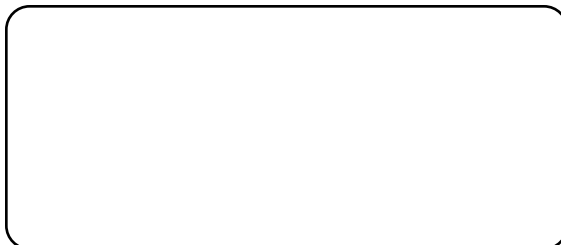


St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

Rev. Timothy Bayer
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St. Johns, MI 48879

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school@stpeterriley.org

We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org



THE MESSENGER *March 2022*



Church Services

Divine Service – Sundays at 9 am
Office of Matins – Wednesdays at 9 am

Upcoming Feast Days:
March 25 The Annunciation of Our Lord

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Lenten Journey

People often mention that every year seems to pass more quickly than the last. So we come again to another season of Lent, and it seems to have arrived more quickly than the last time around. Do we really need another season of Lent? Is it necessary every year to set aside a time for fasting, prayer, and almsgiving? Do we need another time to repent and return to the Lord?

Yes, we do. In fact, as each year barrels by, our Lenten discipline only increases in importance. As we move toward Good Friday and the cross and death of Jesus once again, the hour of our own death is another year closer. This is a sobering thought—one that demands repentance and a return to the Lord.

Our yearly Lenten journey ought to be a snapshot of our entire lives as we live as those united to Jesus and inching toward death. Just as Lent is a time of repentance, so is the entire life of the Christian. Every day, when we wake up, we make the sign of the holy cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Why does Luther suggest this in the catechism? Because it is our reminder that we are baptized. It is our commitment once again to live another day of repentance—confessing our sins and claiming Christ's righteousness as our own.

Remember what baptism is—a union with Christ in His death (Rom. 6:3). We have been crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20). Therefore, we no longer live; instead, Christ lives in us (Gal. 2:20). The Lenten journey is our life's journey. We live in our baptisms. By daily contrition and repentance, the Old Adam in us is drowned and put to death. Each day is a day of repentance—a journey to the cross.

It should, therefore, be shocking for us if the Lenten disciplines, designed to put our sinful flesh in check and focus on repentance, are foreign activities, ones we don't regularly practice. Remember Jesus' beatitudes—it is those who are hungry now who will be satisfied. It is those who weep now who shall laugh. But for those who find their fulfillment outside of the cross of Jesus, who revel now in the riches and pleasures of a world that is passing away, who have no hunger and thirst for righteousness and do not sorrow over their sins, they have received their consolation and will have none at the hour of death.

May this Lent be a time to sober up and refocus on what it means to be baptized. The life we live now, we live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us (Gal. 2:20). May we glory in the cross of Christ our great Redeemer, putting to death what is earthly in us and setting our minds on the things that are above. For just as you have been buried with Christ in death like his, you shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His (Rom. 6:3). When Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory (Col. 3:4). This is Lent—glorying in the cross now, knowing that the resurrection is ours, for we belong to Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Teaching the Next Olympian

In February all of the students from kindergarten through 7th grade went on a field trip to the Air Zoo Aerospace and Science Museum. In one of the classes that I observed the students were learning about the process of putting a rover on Mars. The instructor commented that one of them could be a part of the team that puts the next rover on Mars. Right now around the world, people are still talking about the recent Olympic games. The best of the best have the opportunity to show their skill after years of hard work and endless dedication.

This is why I love teaching. Our students might not grow up to work for NASA and they may not make it to the Olympics. But maybe they will! Whether they do or not, at school, we get to be the ones to encourage them. To hold them to high standards. To inspire their curiosity. To teach them that learning is a culmination of mistakes, hard work, and effort.

We don't know the plans that God has for our students. We don't know the experiences they will have along the way and the opportunities they will have to proclaim the truth of Christ to those around them. We do know that God does amazing things. We have confidence in God's promise of eternal life, and we are blessed to see Him at work in the lives of our students.

Blessings in Christ
Erika Brown
Principal/Teacher



Hot Lunch!

Hot Lunch sign-up for the next quarter is posted in the front lobby on our new volunteer board!!

If you are interested in signing up to help with a Hot Lunch Day please contact the church office, sign up in the back of the church, or send me an email. You would be providing lunch for about 40 people.

Erika Brown
principal@stpeterirley.org

A LETTER FROM THE PRESCHOOL

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 have 18 preschoolers for next year. We only have a couple spots remaining! 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 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



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Are You Looking for a Way to Support St. Peter Christian Day School?

The day school is collecting caps from Pepsi bottles which are worth 19 cents. There is a 10 number/letter in the cap.

Coke products will give the school 5 cents per cap, 15 cents from the 12 can pack and 30 cents for the 24 can pack. The codes are on the cardboard part of the box and is perforated so it can be ripped off easily to get the cans out. It is a 12 or 14 number/letter code.

If you are interested in helping the school in this way, I will bring out a small box to collect the caps. Thank you for supporting St. Peter Christian Day School.

Card shower for Terry Ordway

If you would like to send a birthday card to Terry Ordway you can send it to Michelle Bailey. Her address is 4152 W. Centerline Rd. St. Johns, Mi. 48879.

If you would like to come celebrate his birthday with him it's on Saturday April 23, 2022 from noon to 3 in the School gym. He would love to see some familiar faces that he has not been able to see in a while.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Michelle Bailey at (517) 749-8933.

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.

Ladies Aid & LWML News

We still gather every Thursday morning to tie quilts, there's 3 to 5 ladies; we will welcome many newbies.

MITES SUNDAY IS March 27TH

Walking with St. Peter A Community Exercise Opportunity

Beginning Monday, June 28th, St. Peter Lutheran School will be open for those wishing to walk for exercise from 8:30am-2:00pm Monday through Wednesday.

General policies and procedures:

- ◆ Open to all members of the community over the age of 18
- ◆ Sign a waiver of responsibility on first day of participation
- ◆ Sign in on the sheet provided on each day of participation located in the church office
- ◆ Change to walking shoes – please no boots or street shoes
- ◆ A route map will be available – 10 circuits = 1 mile or 24 laps of the gym = 1 mile
- ◆ There is no cost for participation – donations will be accepted and will be used towards our maintenance fund

We encourage you to participate – get some exercise and enjoy the excellent facility that the Lord has provided to St. Peter Lutheran School.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

Suspended until further notice

ELDERS:

Ken Bond

Ryan West

John Burgess

Dave Bengel

ALTAR FLOWERS

ALTAR GUILD:

Geri & Jastram

(If you are interested in helping as Altar Guild please contact Geri Jastram)

Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Virginia Davis

Charlie Silm

Shirley Edwards

Albert Smith

Julie Johnson

Linda Davis

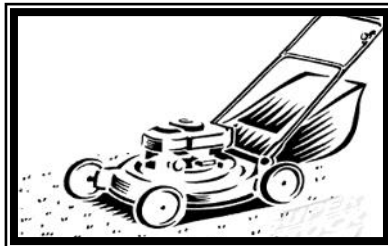
Terry Ordway

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.

St. Peter Lutheran is taking names and contact information of those interested in mowing the grounds including the cemetery, snow removal of the parking lots and sidewalks. Proper license and insured need only apply.

Please contact Carl Jastram by phone 517-290-7609 or email to church@stpeterlutheran.org for details.



Did you know that St. Peter Lutheran Church has an Endowment Fund?

St Peter Endowment Fund

What is an endowment?

Webster's Dictionary defines "endowment" as funds or property donated to an institution, individual, or group to produce income.

For our congregation, that income can mean the difference between just "getting by" and the security of bringing the church's mission and vision to life for generations to come.

With the **St Peter Endowment Fund**, the principal value can never be spent so the endowment earning power is protected against inflation. Excess income or appreciation is added to the principal to protect its value over time.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

March 2022 Stewardship Newsletter

God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30-34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

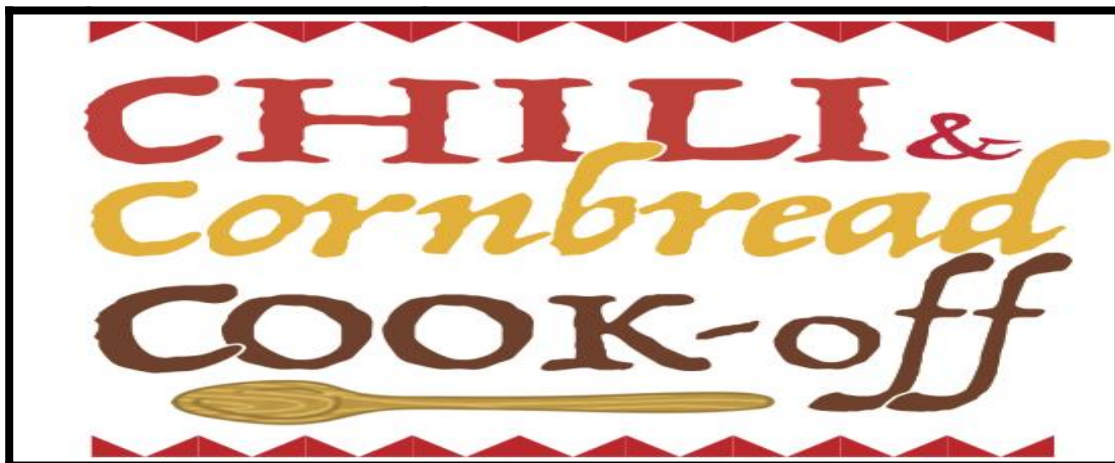
Stewardship News--The SPLC Endowment Fund

Did you know that Churches tend to operate with three kinds of financial tools? The yearly budget that pays salaries and keeps the lights on. Capital campaigns that allow us to take on bigger things like construction or a new boiler. The third is the Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Fund works with gifts that are designated beyond the day to day operation of the church. Often the Endowment Fund is used to fund special mission-related work or special areas of the church, like music or the library.

The key is that each year, only a little of the Endowment Fund is used, so the remainder is left to grow. And over time as gifts are made to it and the principal grows, the Endowment Fund becomes a substantial way for the church to expand its mission in the world.

For more details on how you can give above and beyond to the Endowment Fund or specify the Endowment Fund in your will or estate plan, contact the Endowment Board, Paul Weismantel, Jeanette Mehney, Sara Thurston or Sandy Lenneman.



Come One...Come All to the 6th Annual St. Peter Chili and Corn Bread Cook Off on Sunday March 13, 2022, immediately following Bible Study. 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