

The Messenger

The Mass and its Ceremonies

“Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved...” (AC XXIV.1-2).

Well now, that sounds “Catholic” (insert degrading tone of voice). I’ve heard rumblings that “we’re becoming too Catholic” at St. Peter. I’m sure you’ve heard them too. I’m assuming this critique is aimed at our form of worship and not our doctrine. Going back to that quote, would it surprise you to learn that it comes from the Augsburg Confession, the very confession that is etched in the stone above our front door at St. Peter Lutheran Church? On that stone you will see the initials “U. A. C.” – meaning Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

Imagine in your mind what the Mass was like when our forefathers made this confession back in 1530. This was the Mass in use in the Middle Ages in Europe. In other words, the Mass we confess that we retain would probably cause modern Roman Catholics themselves to say, “this is too Catholic!”

The Augsburg Confession, along with correcting errors and abuses in the Roman Church, had one other chief goal—to confess that the “Lutherans” were catholic! In other words, they wanted to make it abundantly clear that their teachings and practice were not something new, but a continuation of the one, true faith of the Church of all times and all places (the true meaning of ‘catholic’).

The Church didn’t begin with Martin Luther. He was a servant God used mightily to correct great and egregious abuses in the Church and restore the clarity and prominence of the Gospel. But the reformation was no revolution. The abuses were corrected according to the Word of God, but everything good and salutary was retained—including the Mass with nearly all its usual ceremonies. This would have included vestments, chanting, candles, crucifixes, bells, altars, pulpits, statues, and yes, even incense. For also in the Augsburg Confession, we confess, “Our churches teach that ceremonies ought to be observed that may be observed without sin” (AC XV.1). Isn’t that interesting wording? Not only do we confess that the ceremonies of the Church (the Roman church in 1530) *may* be observed, but that they *ought* to be observed. The reason is that they “are profitable for tranquility and good order in the Church” (AC XV.1) and that ceremonies teach what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV.3). The ceremonies direct our attention to the gifts our Lord gives in the Mass.

Remember, these are our *Lutheran* Confessions, the very Confessions that our pastors vow themselves to in our churches. On June 30, 2019, I was asked the following question in our church at my ordination: “Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—as these are contained in the Book of Concord—are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?” And my answer then and now is, “Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.”

So, while we certainly don’t need to use incense in worship or include other ceremonies of the Church—for we confess that these things are not necessary for salvation (AC XV.2)—it is thoroughly Lutheran to do so. And yes, it certainly is catholic, which is also thoroughly Lutheran.

In Christ,
Pastor Bayer

May Flowers

We have had the March winds and the April showers and now it is the time for the May flowers. It never ceases to amaze me how the earth can seem so dead and then quite suddenly we have the beautiful green fields and lawns and bright colorful flowers.

It is also amazing how a school year that seems to move along rather steadily suddenly seems to join the outside world in a burst of activity. This year is a little different with no field trips, no grandparent day, and no Gala, but there is still the burst of energy in our children. They can go out for recess without having to put on boots, hats, and gloves. They arrive in the morning in bright daylight and get home before the sun has begun to set.

We are in the middle of administering the Iowa achievement tests to our students. We know that many of them have struggled due to the lost classroom time last spring. We also know that additional stress has been placed on them due to the masks and other restrictions, but they are amazingly resilient. Some schools have elected to not test because of these factors. We have decided to test so that we know where the losses and deficiencies are and so that we can better plan to meet the needs of all of our students.

We are enrolling students for next year. Our Kindergarten/First grade room is nearly at capacity. Our Second through Fourth grade room still has some room for additional students, and our new Fifth through Seventh grade room has plenty of room for new students. Since Mrs. Brown will also be serving as principal and teacher of grades Five through Seven, it is good that her class size might be a little smaller. The numbers in the upper grades will increase as our lower grade students move up year after year.

It has been a great year with God's rich blessings, and we know that He will continue to bless our school, teachers, and staff if we continue to place our trust in Him and His guidance and mercy.

His Servant,
Paul Weismantel



PRESCHOOL NEWS

We have had another great month at preschool! We have added another new students to our preschool class and are thrilled to have 16 students now. We are working on assessments and hope to finish the year strong and have a picnic celebration in May!

Enrollment for the fall is off to a great start. We still have openings available, so please contact us if you or someone you know would like to enroll their child for preschool in the fall.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support. We feel very blessed to work with such amazing people at St. Peter.

Blessings,
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher



Enrollment for St. Peter Lutheran Day School (Kindergarten – 7th grade) & Preschool for the fall of 2021-2022 has started!!! Please contact the school for more information!! 989-224-3178

Mr. Paul Weismantel, Principal: weismap@hotmail.com 517-420-5169

Mrs. Lisa Smith, Preschool Director & Lead teacher: lisaschrauben@live.com 517-420-8797

Mrs. Corrine Fletcher, Administrative School Assistant
cnfletcher80@aol.com 989-292-9699

Blessings, St. Peter Lutheran Church & School Staff





Mother's Day Prayer

THINKING OF YOU ON MOTHER'S DAY,
AND SAYING A *special* PRAYER—

THAT GOD,

WHO KNOWS HOW DEAR YOU ARE,
WILL KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.

THAT HE WILL *bless* YOUR DAILY LIFE
WITH JOYS OF EVERY KIND—

WITH PERFECT HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
AND *peace* OF
HEART AND MIND.





Wishing you the very best this Mother's Day!



HANGING BASKET ORDERS....You can pick up your hanging baskets at the church/school office on Saturday, May 8th from 9:00am-1:00pm and on Sunday, May 9th immediately after church. The ladies aid thank you for your support. Any questions please contact Kathy Bond at 989-640-0630 or the church office 989-224-3178.

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

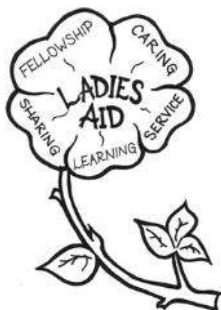
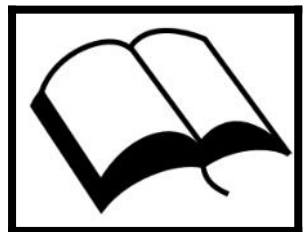
If you have a prayer request, please call Liz in the church office (989) 224-3178 during office hours. If in the evening or weekend, please call Pam Mohr (989) 292-1686.



REMINDER:
MITES SUNDAY IS APRIL 25TH

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@stpeterriley.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.

Stewardship Newsletter Article – May 2021

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “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” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).

Source: www.lcms.org/stewardship



Scrap Drive: The Scrap drive generated \$547.53 for St. Peter ministries. A special thanks to MIDSTATE SALES & SERVICE (the Mehney family) for putting the contents of the trailer “over the top”

In His service: Rex A Mohnke

thankful
→ & →
grateful

Food for many isn't a concern, as food seems to be plentiful, with many drive-up food drives occurring on a regular basis.

But, we all know many people who have been going to work, just as they've always done, to provide for their family and still struggle to get by.

Many are finding themselves in a financial position that they have never experienced and don't know where to turn for help or may be too proud to ask. They can usually rationalize that there are others out there that need help more than they do.

If you know someone who could use some form of assistance, please encourage them to reach out to us.

Our St. Vincent de Paul is here to assist families with emergency needs, such as rent, utilities, auto repairs, prescriptions, clothing, etc.

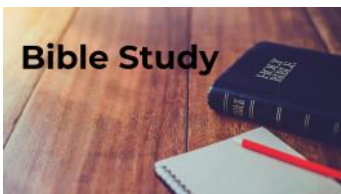
Our client assistance telephone number is 989 292-7057.

Thank you for helping us, help others!

John L. Thelen - Director
St. Vincent de Paul - St. Johns
1009 S. US-27
St. Johns, MI 48879
989 292-7057



Thank you to Rita Hollis and Janet Lyon for cleaning up the landscaping and for Tom & Rita Hollis for laying the new mulch. Thank you to Ryan West for donating the mulch.



Bible Study

BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

There will be no bible study for the months of June, July and August. Enjoy your summer and we will resume bible study on September 1st.

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



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.

The family of Lois Sillman want to express their gratitude for all the prayers, cards, visits and words of kindness shown to her over the years. The St Peter church family was a huge part of her life. Thanks also to pastor Bayer for his continued spiritual visits and wonderful funeral service.



We would like to Thank everyone for the kind words, cards and memorials that were given in memory of our mom, MaryJane Mohr. Your generosity and thoughtfulness touched us deeply.

*Thank you,
Larry and Pam Mohr*

Thank you to Crave Restaurant in St. Johns for saving Coke boxes for our school! If you patronize them, please acknowledge and thank them.

* Continue to save Coke points for the St. Peter School. A total of \$900 has been made since the school program began.

* Continue to save the pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

* If you have coupons you don't use, please turn them in.

* Save you cash receipts when you purchase General Mills products. Pictures can be taken of them for Box Tops for Education. Put your name on the back of the receipt and I will return them to you the following week. You may place them in the red box in the narthex or the container by the church office.



CHECK OUT THE INSERT in the bulletin! Our LFL (Lutherans for Life) team is sponsoring a collection for Pregnancy Services. See how you can be a part of this!

THE LUTHERANS FOR LIFE now have an account set up. If you would like to give a memorial in memory of someone you love who has passed or in honor of someone special to you, this will be available to you. Just earmark your donation to LFL. This account will be used to help with expenditures for bringing awareness to life issues, fundraising, but also will be given to various life causes. Any questions, please see or call Diane Thurston. 989 593-2480



Mother's Day Kickoff Collection For Pregnancy Center

The Lutherans For Life Team of St. Peter, along with Thrivent, is sponsoring an event that you will certainly want to be a part of! We are collecting the following items for the Pregnancy Center in Lansing. This nonprofit organization helps mothers to keep their babies by helping to provide them with items they will need after giving birth to these precious children of God.

Large size diapers (sizes 4,5,6)
Baby Wipes
Enfamil Formula (regular and gentlease)
Baby Toiletries (shampoo, wash, lotion, diaper rash cream, etc)
Receiving Blankets
Baby Bath Towels and Wash Cloths
New Bottles and Pacifiers
Nursing Pads
Diaper Bags
Baby Monitors

You may place your items in the pack and plays (purchased through a Thrivent Community Impact Card) in the cry room at church or in the Fellowship Center hallway. ***We will collect items from Mother's Day, May 9th through Father's Day, June 20th*** when they will be delivered to the Pregnancy Center. *(Please hold off bringing your items in until Mother's Day.)*

Thank you so much for helping to be a voice for the unborn. If you have any questions, please see any of the team members. Sarah Sills, Vickie Pline, Kristin Bayer, Sara Thurston, Diane Thurston



*“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: Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm

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



**BIBLE
HOUR**



Check out our website!
www.stpeterriley.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.

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

*Don Maynard \$1265.00
Ellen Martens \$20.00
Jurline Len \$20.00
Lois Sillman \$935.00
Kenneth Welch \$10.00*

*Ethel Flegler \$195.00
Ivan Sperry \$90.00
Margene Sillman \$50.00
Chris Rapelje Springer \$10.00
Ginger Rapelje Jacobson \$10.00*



*Marilyn Kay Kloeckner, my wife
Love and Miss You \$300.00*



- 5/1/21 Hall Reserved (All day)
5/2/21 Liam Rogers Baptism
Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
Hall Reserved (Immediately after church)
5/3/21 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
5/4/21 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
5/5/21 Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
5/6/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid 12:00pm (Library)
5/7/21 Over 50's (Gym)
5/8/21 Hanging Basket Order pick up at office from 9am-12pm
5/9/21 Hanging Basket Order pick up at office immediately after church
Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
Mother's Day
5/11/21 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Gym)
5/12/21 Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
5/13/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ascension Service 7:00pm
5/15/21 ***Armed Forces Day***
5/16/21 Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
5/17/21 PTL Meeting 5:30pm (Library)
Newsletter deadline
5/19//21 Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
5/20/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
5/21/21 Last day of Preschool
5/23/21 Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
5/26/21 Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
5/27/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
5/30/31 Confirmation 3:30pm (Library)
5/31/31 ***Memorial Day (Office & School Closed)***
The Visitation Service 7:00pm

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

Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Shirley Edwards
Lyle Huguélet
Tom & Julie Johnson

Charlie Silm
Albert Smith
Sue Yelden

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

Rev. Timothy Bayer
8990 Church Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-3178
E-mail: church@stpeterriley.org



We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org

