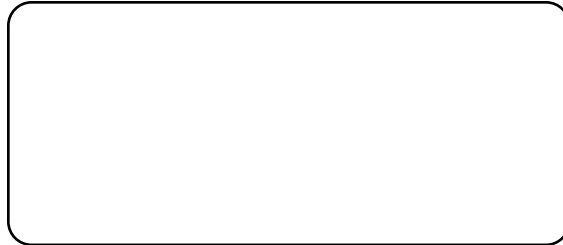


St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

Rev. Timothy Bayer
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St. Johns, MI 48879

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

We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org



THE MESSENGER *May 2022*



Church Services

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

Advent and Lent – Wednesday services at 7 pm
Feasts and Festivals – Services as announced in calendar and bulletin

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Truth and Fellowship

Every Holy Week, we hear Pontius Pilate ask the question of a good post-modern—“What is truth?” Who says what you believe is any better than what I believe? How can we know who is correct? In fact, is there really any such thing as truth? Maybe truth for you is just as real as truth for me. Maybe it is subjective.

Well, this isn't at all the case. There is in fact a truth. God is not whoever you believe him to be—He is who He is, regardless of what you believe. And he has offered salvation to sinners universally, but only through His Son. It does matter if you're Christian or if you're Buddhist. It is a lie that if we have good intentions, false belief will not condemn us.

There is an enemy of truth; he was a liar from the beginning. He employs multiple tactics, but they all are based on lies. Sometimes he dresses his lies up as good and holy things. Other times, they are seen in all their ugliness but those addicted to them can't refuse. And then there is the third tactic of Satan—compromise. This too is just another weapon in his arsenal against the truth.

Compromise is only okay in matters not dealing with truth and falsehood. For example, if I want to eat dinner at 4 and you want to eat at 6, there is no sin in meeting in the middle and eating at 5. But in matters concerning truth and falsehood, compromise is sin. What fellowship has light with darkness (2 Cor. 6:14)?

We see this sin play out within Christianity. On a fellowship level, there is the error of unionism—where churches of differing confessions unite. On an individual level, we see a Lutheran fall in love with a Baptist, and so they meet in the middle and go to the Methodist Church. These scenarios confess the age-old lie of the serpent, the words of Pontius Pilate, and those of the post-modern man—“What is truth?” Or, phrased another way—“Did God really say?”

And the reality is this—God really did say. God spoke through the prophets of old and now in these last days he has spoken to us by His Son (Heb. 1:1-2). Jesus is the way, *the truth*, and the life (John 14:6). So if Baptists teach that God's Word says something different from what Methodists teach and if they both teach something different from Lutherans, *they cannot all merely be different emphases of the same truth*. It's not true merely because I believe it—it's true because it's the way it is—and whether our confession of faith aligns with reality, that is the question. If one of us is right, the others are wrong. And since the gates of hell will not prevail against the church, the truth is still taught, believed, and confessed in the world.

This world view is unpopular in our age of pluralism, but it's the truth. How is this not a prideful position? Because it is not *our* truth. We merely speak what God has spoken, for He cannot lie. And when we faithfully do this, we ought to contend vigorously for the truth against all error.

Next month I intend to discuss how truth (or error) is expressed through Christian worship and how compromise in worship practice is also a compromise of the truth.

-Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Racing to the End of the Year

It's hard to believe that we are already in our last full month of school. On those days when the sun is shining, and we have a taste of warm weather, you can tell that the students are starting to look ahead to summer fun. Before we get to summer, there are some fun days ahead at St. Peter.

In April, the students started logging their miles for the Feelin' Good® Mileage Club®. Many of them run from the moment they get outside to the moment they are called to line up. They earn toe tokens for every 5 miles they accumulate, then a water bottle at 20 miles. They have until the end of May, and I have a feeling that some will continue running far after reaching the 20-mile goal. It is fun to be a part of their excitement and cheer them on.

Right away in the first week of May, the 6th and 7th graders will be headed to the Wharton Center to enjoy a show. Not long after, all of the students from Kindergarten through 7th grade will be taking a field trip to Agro Liquid in St. Johns. They will participate in one of their educational programs and get a chance to go out to their fields and learn more about the process from start to finish.

You can feel the excitement during this last stretch of the school year as students look ahead to summer break. There is also a feeling of accomplishment as students are beginning to wrap up their classes. They put in a lot of hard work during the year, and the hard work and learning that have occurred are something to be celebrated.

Blessings in Christ,
Erika Brown
Principal/Teacher



For Holy Week students were able to learn about lambs and pet one!



The children are enjoying their reading buddy groups.



A student proudly displaying her art work.



Mileage Club started after Spring break. Children are working hard to receive each toe token.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Spring Preschool Blessings

We have had another great month at preschool. We focused a lot on spring and Easter. The children loved doing our Resurrection eggs and learning about Holy Week and Easter. We have also enjoyed the nicer weather and spending time outside.

We are very excited to have 23 preschoolers enrolled for the fall. We have a few spots remaining on Tuesdays and Fridays. We have started a waiting list for the other days. We are looking forward to having a full class for the fall.

We will have an end of the year picnic at the park in May to celebrate a great year of preschool. We can't believe that another year is coming to an end. We are very thankful for the time we had with all of the preschoolers and have loved watching them grow and develop.

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



A LETTER FROM OUR CANTOR

Why We Do What We Do

As St. Peter's unofficial "cantor", I want to share some of why we do what we do. It helps to remember Martin Luther started a "reformation" of the Church, not a "revolution." He removed things that hid the Gospel of Jesus Christ, like the veneration of saints. But he kept things that had been a part of the life of the Church for 1500 or more years.

For example, we sing the "Kyrie" ("Keer-ē-āy", not "Kai-ree" the basketball player); but may not know the word is from ancient Greek meaning "Lord." "Alleluia" or "Hallelujah" is ancient Hebrew for "Praise the LORD." And "Amen", part of our common language these days, is an ancient Hebrew word meaning, "So be it," or "It shall be so." Every time we close a prayer with "Amen," we're making a confession of faith, "It shall be so."

Things like these ancient words, chanting the Psalms, and the chanted responses of Pastor and people go all the way back to the worship of Old Testament Israel. And they've been a part of Christian worship in every language and every corner of the world since the day of Pentecost. And although the musical setting of the Divine Service may vary from time to time or from place to place (consider that our Lutheran Service Book has FIVE different settings for the same Divine Service, or the Lutheran churches in Africa or South America), the structure and content remain constant from generation to generation.

In the future I hope to share more of why we do what we do. Perhaps if you have a particular question or concern, you might pass that along to me through the church office.

Your brother in Christ,
Dick Davenport

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Memorials

Jeanne Krumm \$15
Marilyn Kloeckner \$300
Jean Bennett \$580
Tom Johnson \$175



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 May 24th



Please join us at the Fellowship Center on Friday, May 20th at 7:00pm for St. Peter's 1st Chinese Auction. This is your opportunity to pass on that "treasure" you don't need anymore. Bring it wrapped in newspaper. You don't need to buy anything. Come and play a game with us. You will leave with something beautiful.

Snacks and soft drinks will be provided. Be prepared for lots of fun.

If you have any questions, please call Larry Mohr at 989-224-4206 or Pam Mohr at 989-



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Virginia Davis
Charlie Silm
Shirley Edwards
Albert Smith
Sue Yelden
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.



The SPLC Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund benefits the church by offering members opportunities to provide a future legacy for the church and their families. While the original gifts grow through prudent investments, the church can use the earnings each year to enhance church ministries, outreach, and care facilities.

The endowment gift does not need to be a large gift. If 1 person contributed \$25 per week for one year, it would amount to \$1,300! If 10 people contributed \$25 per week for one year, it would amount to \$13,000! If 50 people contributed \$25 per week for one year, it would amount to \$65,000!

For more information, or to make a contribution, please contact a board member, Sandy Lenneman, Paul Weismantel, Jeanette Mehney, or Sara Thurston

Hot Lunch

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, sign up on the volunteer board at school, or send me an email. You would be providing lunch for 40 people.

Erika Brown
Principal@stpeterriley.org

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



2022-2023 OPEN ENROLLMENT



DISCOVER the difference at St. Peter!

Enrollment for St. Peter Lutheran School Pre-K – 8th grade is open!! Please contact the school for more information and school tours!!

Rev. Timothy Bayer, *Pastor*

Mrs. Erika Brown, *Principal*

Mrs. Lisa Smith, *Preschool Director & Lead Teacher*

Mrs. Corrine Fletcher, *Administrative School Assistant*

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

8990 W. Church Rd. St. Johns, MI 48879

1/2 mile south of Price Road between Dexter Trail and Forest Hill Office

Phone: 989-224-3178

E-mail: school@stpeterlutheran.org

Website: www.stpeterlutheran.org



Blessings, St. Peter Lutheran Staff



Euchre Tournament Fundraiser



Friday, May 20th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
511 E. Sturgis, St. Johns

\$10 Per Person

Round Robin (Sign up individually)

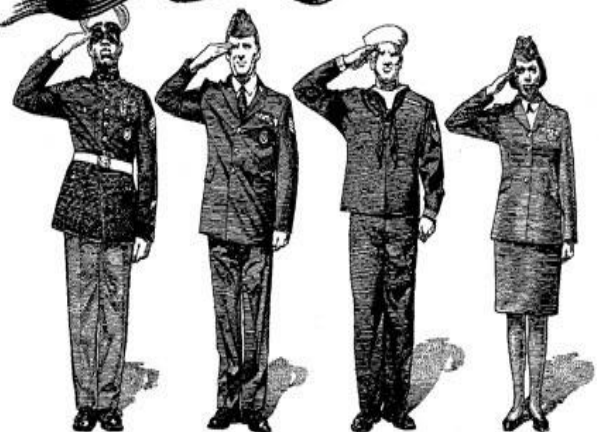
Snacks Provided

Prizes for the top 2 and the bottom 1

Questions: (989) 224-6796



MEMORIAL DAY





The sixth and seventh grade classroom is hard at work with their Science lesson.



Children burning off some energy at recess.



Children having fun creating masterpieces for Art class.