

The Messenger

God's Word of Forgiveness, Spoken to Us

When the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of Easter day in a locked room where the disciples were hiding in fear, Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and his side. His flesh had the marks of the crucifixion. Jesus had risen from the dead. The Lamb of God that had been sacrificed for our sin was alive, never to die again. Our sin had been dealt with. He was raised for our justification.

The peace Jesus spoke to that room is not to be downplayed. He was not referring to simply getting along with one another. Jesus was speaking the peace he had accomplished by dying for the sins of the world and reconciling the world to God. This was peace between God and man by Jesus' own blood. This was absolution—the reconciliation accomplished by Jesus applied to those men—the forgiveness of their sins.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." – John 20:21-23

This is the giving of the keys of the kingdom of heaven, of which Jesus had promised (Matt. 16:19). The church on earth has this gift from Christ—the pronouncement of the forgiveness of sins, which when exercised by called ministers of Christ, is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself (Small Catechism).

The Lutheran reformers recognized this gift of Christ to the church as the priceless treasure that it is. Though errors of man had been introduced to the practice of private Confession by the time of the Reformation, it was the errors that needed removing, not the practice itself. Thus, in the Augsburg Confession, our fathers said, "Our churches teach that private Absolution should be retained in the churches..." (AC XI). Further, "Confession in the churches is not abolished among us. The body of the Lord is not usually given to those who have not been examined and absolved." (AC XXV). Why were the Lutherans so intent on preserving private Confession and Absolution? Not only because of its great help to the Christian as an "aid against sin and a consolation for a bad conscience," but also, and more importantly, because "it is ordained by Christ in the Gospel," as Luther wrote in the Smalcald Articles (SA III VIII). "Therefore, Confession and Absolution should by no means be abolished in the Church" (SA III VIII).

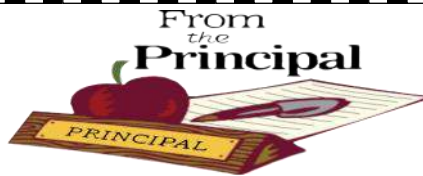
Standing on the promises of Christ, Confession and Absolution is not abolished among us. Private Confession and Absolution is offered and encouraged. To make an appointment with the pastor for private Confession and Absolution, call the church office or email the pastor at pastorbayer@gmail.com. Hear Jesus speak his peace to you and have no fear. Your sins are forgiven.
Your Servant in Christ,

-Pastor Bayer

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Pilgrims

As we have celebrated Thanksgiving over the years there are always the pictures of the Pilgrims, the Indians and a bountiful table. The Pilgrims came to America primarily so that they could have freedom of religion. They were also concerned about the future for their children. They had found religious freedom in Holland, but their seemed to be no future for their children there. Interesting history, but what does this have to do with us today? In some ways we are pilgrims today finding our way in a country that has changed and in some ways is a “new land.”

Although we have religious freedom at the present time, there are those who wish to call some of our beliefs hateful and possibly illegal. If we say that God made us male and female and intended heterosexual marriage we are said to be prejudiced and in violation of equal rights for all. The same is true in our view of homosexuality. Our freedom as Christians is being threatened with the loss of our tax-exempt status and other consequences. As Christians we will be challenged in our effort to uphold our true Christian beliefs. We could take the approach of the Pilgrims and seek a place where our Christian faith is not challenged (Where is that?). Rather this is our opportunity to witness to the world the truth of God’s word and to uphold it, even if we also might suffer persecution.

The Pilgrims were aided by the Indians, but the Pilgrims could also share their faith with the Indians and thus help them to find their way to God’s promised land. The Pilgrims also recognized the opportunity that was possible for their children. Not only did they have religious freedom, they also had the opportunity to provide their children the promise of better future. The early colonists provided for the education of their children not only in earthly skills but also for their eternal future. The first basic textbook in our new country was the New England Primer (McGuffey Reader). It was used not only to teach children to read, but also to teach Christian values. A few quotes from the reader, “In Adam’s fall we sinned all.” “Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and trouble therewith.” “Come unto Christ all ye that labor and are heavy laden and He will give you rest.” “Do not the abominable thing which I hate saith the Lord.” Can you imagine that as the basic textbook in our typical American school?

Yet we rejoice that we live in a nation where there are many blessings and we can truly say, “O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.”

At St. Peter Lutheran School we are teaching the next Pilgrims in worldly skills and also to face the challenges of the new wilderness where Christian values are challenged and are disappearing. We also teach them to be thankful and to share the true joy that we have as His children.

His Servant,

Paul Weismantel, Principal

HEART SISTERS NEWS

The "Heart "Sisters" have begun meeting at the home of Diane Thurston the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 9am to 11am. We knit and crochet hats for cancer patients and preemies. We also have ladies who serve in other ways rather than making hats who join us. All ladies are welcome to join us for coffee, a goody and wonderful fellowship!



GIVING TREE

We will once again provide a "Giving Tree" during the Christmas season. The tree will go up the end of November after we get the names of people/families we will provide gifts for. The following are some ways you and your family can be involved...purchase a gift, help with sorting the gifts and delivering gifts. More details to follow in November.

Thanks! Diane Thurston

SECRET PRAYER SISTERS

Many of you have been a part of the SECRET PRAYER SISTERS this past year. Well, on Saturday, November 2nd, you will FINALLY find out who has been lifting you in prayer and remembering you with cards/gifts. We will meet in the back room at Main Street Cafe in St. John's at 3:30. Dessert and drinks will be served at a cost of approximately \$7 each which will be collected that day (includes the tip). If you are unable to make it, please let me know so arrangements can be made to have your gift for your "sister" there.

Maybe you haven't been a part of this before but would like to join us. All you have to do is let me know so we can reserve a spot for you. It's a wonderful way to remember a "sister in Christ" and lift them up in prayer each and every day along with remembering them on special occasions, holidays, etc. A form will be passed out with your "Secret Prayer Sister" information.

If you have any questions, please call me at 989 388-2069.



God's Gardeners were very busy keeping the gardens looking nice. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way. We'll have one last fall cleanup to cut down grasses and anything else needing attention. Please prayerfully consider joining our group. God is good! Blessings, Sandy Lockwood



YOUTH

Our Kids had a great time participating in Trunk or Treat activities here at St. Peter!

Our theme is “Pumpkin”, with an orange car, decorated appropriately to reflect the same...

We passed out candy to the little ones, assist in walking them around the parking lot to gather their “sugar” treats from others, and help out in games/activities within the Fellowship Hall that evening! And some took in a hay ride.

On the forefront, Sally Pontius has been busy contacting our other local Lutheran churches to determine their future involvement with their youth and St. Peter as we begin to build the Youth Ministry in the surrounding area!

Right at the moment, we have set up activities every other month for our St. Peter 6th – 8th grade youth. In December, we plan on going Christmas caroling to the senior assistance living facilities in the local area.

**Blessings,
Dick Stout**



STEWARDSHIP

St Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2Cor 9:7) *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So, also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So, also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He is rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So, then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

Source: www.lcms.org/stewardship

St Peter Lutheran Church Members Thanks for Giving



YOU'RE the BEST!!

Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas Program this year will be on Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 pm and you're all invited to attend what is sure to be a very precious presentation to get us ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior and the wonderful gift of His love. St. Peter Lutheran School and Sunday School students will be participating and all children aged four years through 5th grade are welcome to attend. Children's will be practicing the songs and recitations in their School and Sunday School. Children wanting to participate that are not involved in either the school or preschool should contact Theresa Silm right away to get a copy of the program so you can practice at home.

There will be two general practices and a dress rehearsal and everyone in the program should plan to attend. The practices are scheduled for Thursday, November 7th from 6-7:00 pm; Thursday, November 21st from 6 – 7:00 pm; and Monday, December 2nd from 6:00 – 7:15pm. We will not be providing pizza before practices this year but will have some snacks available. I'm also looking for 3-4 students who are in 6th or 7th grade who would be interested in participating. If you'd like to participate, just see Theresa Silm after church today or call Theresa at 517-281-0170.



FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

The children of St. Peter will be presenting a special Christmas Program on Sunday, December 8th in the Fellowship Center beginning at 2:00 pm. Through the program, *From Heaven Above*, the children will share the story of Jesus' birth with us through drama, music and recitations. Following the program, guests will be invited to join us for coffee and cookies. Make note of this amazing opportunity to get our hearts ready to observe the wonderful birth of our Savior. Please take a minute to invite your family and friends to join in the celebration.

3rd Annual St. Peter Lutheran School Gala

This is the time of year when people start getting new calendars for the coming year so we want to give you a date to put on your new calendar. The 2020 St. Peter Lutheran School Gala is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 18th and it promises to be better than ever. Keep watch for future details but get the date on your calendar now.

FRIDAY HOT LUNCH

Thank you to all the volunteers that have already made hot lunches for our St. Peter students and staff!! Your hot lunches have been a big hit with the kids!! We only have one more date left to volunteer to make a hot lunch for this quarter, Friday, December 20th at 12pm. I will be sending a schedule out before Christmas break to sign-up for the next quarter. If you are interested please contact the church office. 989-224-3178.

Also, to all the volunteers signed up and looking forward to making a hot lunch here are some questions I have been asked:

1. **How many students are we serving hot lunch to?** 18 kids
2. **How many staff members?** Approx. 5
3. **Do we need to supply paper goods?** We currently have a huge supply of plates, napkins, and silverware, but we do not have cups or bowls.
4. **Any known allergies?** No
5. **Where do students eat lunch?** Hallway, we can set up white tables to place meal on for serving purposes if you need that.
6. **What time is lunch?** Noon

Thank you again for everyone's generous hearts!! We are so very blessed to have hot lunches in our tummies on Fridays!!

Blessings Always, Corrine Fletcher



ADVENT BRUNCH

ALL LADIES OF THE CONGREGATION are invited to St. Peter's Annual Advent Brunch on Tuesday, December 3rd, beginning at 10:00am in the Fellowship Center. Please join us for a morning of good food and wonderful fellowship with your sisters in Christ. The speaker will be Dick Davenport from Hope Lutheran, DeWitt, who will talk on "Depression Around the Holidays". A free will offering will be taken for brunch expenses and LWML mites. We hope to see many of you there! Any questions, please call the St. Peter Church Office at 989 224-3178.



News from St. Peter's Day School

October has been an exciting month for the Day school. At the beginning of the month we took our first field trip to Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. Students had amazing time learning about the advancement of technology in many different areas of everyday life. While there we were able to ride a real steam locomotive, original Model-T Ford cars, and antique carousel.

Also, for Fire Safety Month firefighters visited with all of their special gear, including a ladder firetruck and other emergency vehicles. The entire school enjoyed this assembly.

The students also sang for the first time this school year at the 150th Celebration service. Our next time to sing will be Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 for our Christmas Program.

The Halloween party brought yummy treats and a mummy craft. Later that evening students returned for the terrific Trunk or Treat event.

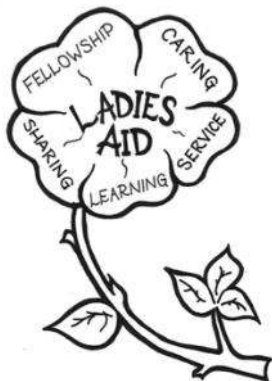
As the month draws to a close the Day School is focusing on Martin Luther's life and Reformation Day.





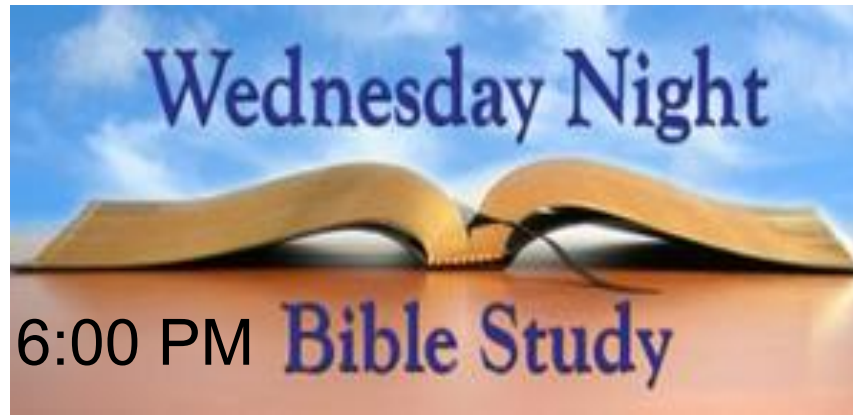
GREETERS.....Thanks for your smiling faces, warm handshakes and maybe a hug or two. Praise God for you! If you are unable to greet the date scheduled, please switch with someone else and let Liz in the church office know so she can print the correct information in the weekly announcements. Please let me know if you have questions.

November 2019		
11/03/19	Theresa & Charlie Silm	
11/10/19	Bonnie & Roger Gregory	
11/17/19	Lori & Taylor Klein	
11/24/19	Judy & Barry Boettger	
11/27/19	Diane & Frank Hart	Thanksgiving Eve
December 2019		
12/01/19	Jan & Jim Mehney	
12/08/19	Kathy & Bruce Bond	
12/15/19	Jackie & Mark Zamarron	
12/22/19	Norma & Bruce Fitzpatrick	
12/24/19	Mary Ann and Larry Grennell	Joe & Liz Stevens 11pm
12/25/19	Diane and Frank Hart	
12/29/19	Michelle & Tom Gorby	
January 2020		
01/05/20	Connie & Dale Martens	
01/12/20	Sandy & Gary Lenneman	
01/19/20	Judy & Dave Bengel	
01/26/20	Rollie Kloeckner & Bill Caruss	



LADIES AID NEWS

The ladies continue working in our ladies aid room every Thursday morning on quilts and other projects. We would like to see more ladies! So if you would like to come on Thursday at 9:00am, there are many things to do and such wonderful fellowship. Many hands make work light, it really isn't work though; its ways of serving our Lord.



**No Bible Study November 27th – January 4th
Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 8th**



LADIES AID NEWS

I know many of you ladies would like to partake in helping with the quilts for Lutheran World Relief & Safe Center. I had one expressed a night gathering to tie quilts, if have an interest let me know. We have come up with an idea: there will be a container next to the Food Pantry box with bags of cut squares and instructions how to sew the quilt tops together. So you may pick up 1 or more kits up and when finished bring back to the box. Then take another kit, consider it a take and drop off box.



BABY SHOWER...The St. Peter Ladies are giving a baby shower for Kristin Bayer in November, think it will be held Sunday, November 24th at 1 p.m. Kristin is having a baby girl and she is registered at Target.

SUB SALE...And last but not least. We are having a SUB SALE for the MSU v Michigan game on November 16th. The pick-up of subs will be Friday the 15th. We will have different pick up locations to make it more convenient for you; at our hall kitchen, Diane Harts in St. Johns, and Sandy Lockwoods house on Round Lake Rd. east off US-27, 2 or 3 miles. Times to pick up will be 2 to 6 p.m. You will be seeing order forms soon in the bulletin, deadline will be Monday, November 11th to have into the office. If you would like to help out putting subs together let me know.

If you have questions on anything, I'll be glad to help.

(See insert for the order form)

In God's service,
Kathy Bond



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



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.



Preschool News

The preschool year is off to a great start. The children are forming friendships, growing socially, and adjusting to our school routine. We have a wonderful group of children and parents. We will start enrollment in February for next school year.

Right now we are focusing on community helpers, fire safety, fall, and harvest. We had the opportunity to learn about fire safety from local firefighters. They talked to the children about what to do in case of a fire and allowed the children to check out a rescue vehicle and firetruck. Thank you to the Dewitt firefighters that came in to talk with the children.

We also had the opportunity to take a field trip to Uncle John's Cider Mill. We took a wagon ride through the orchard and learned about apple trees and making cider. The children also learned about the cider press from Uncle John and taste tested donuts and cider. We ended the field trip with some time at the playground. We had a great time with our preschoolers and the family members that were able to join us.

At the end of October St. Peter hosted their annual Trunk or Treat. It was wonderful to see all the community, school, and congregation participation.

Blessings Always,
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher





*“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



Thanksgiving Eve Service—November 27th at 7:00pm

Shut-In Visit List Weekly Visits

Shirley Edwards
Ethel Flegler
Bill & Cindy Horman
Tom Johnson
Sheila Ordway

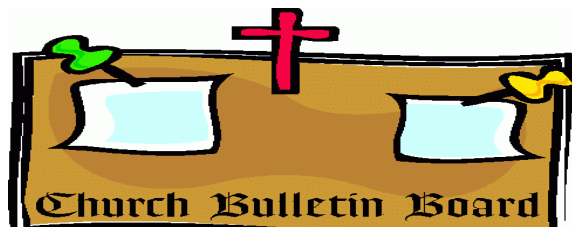
Gordon Schrader
Mel Sehlke
Charlie Silm
John Sillman
Lois Sillman

Albert Smith
Bill & Sherri VanBeelen



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.



- 11/1/19 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Gym)
11/2/19 Secret Prayer Sisters 3:30pm @Main Street Café
11/4/19 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
11/5/19 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
St. Peter Blood Drive 1:00pm-6:00pm (Gym)
11/6/19 Chapel 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm (Library)
11/7/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid Meeting 12:00pm (Library)
11/11/19 Heart Sisters 9:00am-11:00am (Diane Thurston house)
11/12/19 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
11/13/19 Chapel 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm (Library)
11/14/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
PTL Meeting 4:00pm (Library)
Pastor @Rural Ministry Conference in Minnesota (11/14-11/16)
11/15/19 Roses for you Deer will be delivered
11/18/19 Gala Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
11/19/19 4H Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Gym)
11/20/19 Chapel 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm (Library)
11/21/19 Ladies Aid Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Kitchen/Gym Reserved ~ Put together cookie trays
Christmas program practice 6:00pm-7:00pm (Gym)
11/22/19 Last day for rummage room donations
11/24/19 Kristin Bayer baby shower 1:00pm (Gym)
11/25/19 Heart Sisters 9:00am-11:00am (Diane Thurston house)
11/27/19 *Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00pm*
11/28/19 *Thanksgiving (Office Closed)*
11/29/19 Office Closed / No School

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Ken Mohnke \$1,212.00

Bill Bengel \$20.00

In Honor of

Al & Renee Schmitzer \$50.00, given by St. Peter Sister in Christ



St. Peter Lutheran Church

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