

The Messenger

God and Country

We Lutherans often refer to the right-hand Kingdom and the left-hand Kingdom. What we mean by this is God's Kingdom of grace (church) and the Kingdom of earthly authorities (the world). We acknowledge that each of these kingdoms are God's. The purpose of the right-hand Kingdom is to graciously bring sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins through the means of grace established by God. The purpose of the left-hand Kingdom is to provide order and stability to society and our world. This too is established by God. In Romans 13, St. Paul says all authority is instituted by God.

Though both kingdoms are God's, they are not the same. The left-hand kingdoms of this world have no promise of endurance. Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall. Jesus warns of the turbulence and uncertainty of the earthly kingdoms and promises none of them God's perpetual protection. Jesus says, *"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. These things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom"* (Matthew 24:6-7a). But of the church, Christ says something far different. After St. Peter's Confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus says to him, *"I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Matthew 16:18). Though the left-hand Kingdom will exist until our Lord comes again, no specific left-hand Kingdom has any assurance of endurance. But Christ promises that the one, holy Christian Church on earth will never fall. As our Lord promised his disciples, *"I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20). Therefore, one difference between the left-hand Kingdom and the right-hand Kingdom is that the right-hand Kingdom exists uninterrupted until our Lord comes again, while earthly kingdoms come and go.

Another difference between God's two kingdoms involves inclusiveness and exclusiveness. Though some call for one world order in the left-hand Kingdom, this ideal never matches reality. Rather, there are many nation states in the world. Each existing nation is exclusive toward others. Hence, we are American and are not French. But God's right-hand Kingdom is not this way. Instead, *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus* (Galatians 3:28). So, while the kingdoms of the world are by nature exclusive, the right-hand Kingdom is inherently inclusive of every people group on the planet. Think of the scene of heaven in the book of Revelation: *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands* (Revelation 7:9). Our church sits in America, but it is really an embassy of another Kingdom—a Kingdom which is not of this world (John 18:36).

These truths of God deserve acknowledging, teaching, and even communicating visually. This is the reason that the American flag was moved in our church building to a less prominent position. For similar reasons, at Christian funerals, an American flag is not draped over the casket during the service of the church. Rather, a white funeral pall is laid on the casket, reminding us that the deceased's number one identity was that he was baptized into Christ and clothed in His righteousness. 'American' is also a part of our identity, one for which we are thankful, but it is certainly nothing before God. Before God, all that matters is that we are clothed in Christ.

May we fervently communicate the universal Gospel to all who enter our church. God is God of all. Christ has died for all. And in God's Kingdom of grace, our union with Christ dissolves the differences between us.

-Pastor Bayer

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



Elections

Are you tired of the constant television, newspaper, and mail ads urging you to vote for a specific candidate or political party? I know that the sponsors of these ads are deeply committed to their cause and they really want to see that their will is done.

Whatever the result of the election, we can rest assured that we have won the election, we are God's elect. No, we didn't campaign or promote ourselves, our gracious God sent His Son to take our sins and to pay the cost with his suffering, death, resurrection, and victorious ascension to His heavenly throne.

We can take a lesson from the campaign committees. We have a God-given gift of eternal life. Our campaign here at school is to help assure that all of our students know of this gift that is theirs through their baptism and their faith and trust in Christ who has defeated Satan and his evil forces. We don't need to go door-to-door campaigning for our cause of bringing others to Christ, we don't need to spend our money to pay for radio and TV ads, or have slick brochures printed and mailed. All that we need to do is talk to others about our victorious candidate and the great things that He has done for us. Yes, we don't have to make promises that will probably never be fulfilled; we have the sure and certain results of our salvation and can guarantee others that it is theirs also in Jesus Christ.

The election of our government officials is important and it is our responsibility to help assure that those who serve are people who will respect our rights to gather and worship and be free to express our Christian beliefs and values and who will protect the life of our neighbors from conception to natural death.

As you participate in the election this year remember that our God is still in charge of all things, including Lansing and Washington D.C. Although at times it may seem that we as Christians are the losers, we can rest assured that the ultimate victory is ours - we have been elected.

*“God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”
II Timothy 1:7*

His Servant,
Paul Weismantel



Ladies Aid News

Update of what we ladies are doing, we gathered our quilts for Lutheran World Relief; there were 54 sent from us. My sister Judy from St. Johns had 42 quilts, so she took all of them to the collection in Howell; between the two of us there were 96. We usually send around 100 as does St. Johns, so the pandemic put a damper on all of our quilt making. Now we can start anew to continue making quilts, as this is ongoing project, for there are many people needing warmth.

We also donated 4 baby quilts (thanks Ann) to the Tri County of the Aged Auction, also we have numerous quilts to go to the Safe Center.

We ask you many ladies to help making quilts with us, cutting material, and donation of material and sheets. We are in the Ladies Aid room every Thursday from 9 am-noon, so come in to see how you can help.

We still have our ongoing fund-raising, greeting cards and the display case of homemade items for gifts or for yourself. You can purchase any of the quilts too.

Service in Christ,
Kathy Bond

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, texts, visits and phone calls I received while in the hospital and at home. I am truly Blessed that they caught the cancer very early and we have a wonderful church family.

*Thank you,
Larry Mohr*

Card Shower for Glenn Bennett, who will be turning 90 on November 3.

Send cards to: Glenn Bennett
10491 Tallman Rd.
Eagle, MI 48822



**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

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
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.

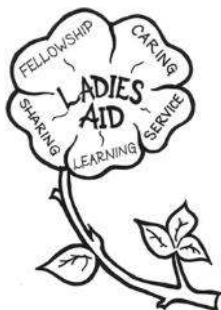
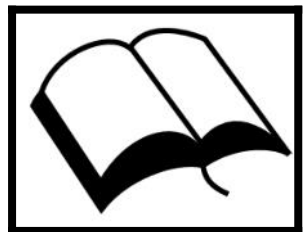


REMINDER:

MITES SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 29TH

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.

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. The children have made various art projects related to our themes that are displayed in our classroom and hallway. They love seeing their work hanging up around them. The pictures below include several of the bulletin boards with their artwork. We hope you enjoy them!

This year is a little different, but we are very thankful to be back in the classroom with our wonderful preschoolers. We have been enjoying the beautiful weather and changing colors. The kids enjoyed going on a leaf hunt and making creations with the leaves they found. They are also enjoying the different toys and materials that they are able to use throughout the day. Mrs. Fletcher and I feel very blessed to watch this group of children grow in so many ways.



Blessings Always,
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

Taken from www.lcms.org/stewardship



PTL IS LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER BABYSITTER

The next PTL meeting is Monday, November 16 at 5:30pm and generally lasts around an hour. We are looking to find someone to babysit the children of the parents in the meeting. There will be less than ten children. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 989-224-3178.

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Dear Friends in Christ:

We are collecting gifts for the seminary students this Christmas season. Below is a list of gifts that encourage the students and bring joy to them, making the holidays memorable in many ways. You may send your gifts to the church office, drop them off at the church office or in the offering plate on Sunday (please place your gift in an envelope and mark it "Seminary gift". The deadline to give a gift in Sunday, November 22, 2020. Pastor and Liz will be sending the gifts to the seminary on Monday, November 23, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bayer or Liz Stevens.

It would be a blessing to receive:

Gift cards in increments of \$10, \$20, or \$25, which may be utilized by students at local Fort Wayne merchants – i.e., national chain stores such as Walmart, Target, Meijer, Old Navy, Kohl's, JCPenney, Marcy's, or restaurant chains such as Outback, Olive Garden, Wendy's, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Red Robin, Texas Roadhouse, Buffalo Wild Wings, Longhorn Steakhouse, etc.

Service/gas station cards from BP, Shell, Marathon, or Speedway in increments of \$25 to share with students.

Cash gifts to purchase dining hall lunch tickets. Non-residential students may use these tickets to eat on campus, giving some relief to the family food budget.

Again, thank you so much for your Christmas support of the students. You make the season more enjoyable for them all!



Thank you from Harold & Helen Anderson to our church family and wonderful friends for the cards and gifts for our anniversary.



**THANKSGIVING
SERVICE**

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 25TH
7:00PM**

Welcome to Scrip. My name is Traci Brisboe and I am the "NEW" 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,



November 2020 Stewardship

TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE: This is something we all have. You cannot buy these items in any store, however, you can receive them and you can give them away. Isn't it amazing that God created us equal, but we are all unique. God gave us time, talent and treasure, not for our own use, but for us to share and serve others.

TIME: it seems that you never have enough of it. Everyone says it flies, but I have never seen it fly. They say it catches up to you, but I have never heard of anyone catching it. Time is precious and cannot be stored up like grain in a barn. Your gift of time is unique, because you are the only one that can give it.

TALENT: All of us have special talents or gifts. These talents are not given to us for our own use, but are given to us for the enrichment of the lives of others and for serving our Lord. St. Peter, in his first epistle tells us, "Each one of you has received a special grace, so like good stewards be responsible for these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others." (1 Peter 4:10) We are all talented. Sometimes people say, "I can't do that," or "I don't like to do that." To be sure, just give it a try. Again, each of our talents are unique to each and every one of us.

TREASURE: Your gift of treasure is a gift that only you can give. It is in giving that we receive. That Christians need to share our gifts of Treasure may be best illustrated by the well-known parable of the talents in Matthew 25: 14-30, which speaks of a man preparing to travel to a far country. Before traveling he gives money to his servants. The point of the parable is that whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully. "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)

Here at St Peter, there are many, many ways to share our time, talent and treasures. The list is long, there are always jobs to do. Some are huge, some are small but all are important. The Wednesday Crew, although not very active at the moment because of the COVID-19 pandemic, has accomplished a tremendous job of keeping our campus looking great. After interviewing them, there were various reasons that they so faithfully come each week on Wednesday to do the work that needs to be done that day. They are busy as bees and tough as ants. They certainly have handled some very tough projects. **THANK YOU** to each and every one of you. You are a very special and dedicated group.

In closing, however you are contributing, just know that you are valuable in our church community and very much appreciated. Through stewardship activities many lasting friendships have been formed. There are fun times and laughter. But no matter how many things we do or how many times we volunteer, we do it because we love Jesus. He has blessed us with so many things. So, thank you Lord for all our blessings, whether it be in time, talent or treasure. **And please don't hesitate to step forward and say, "Yes, I will serve." THANK YOU volunteers, each and every one. We thank the Lord for you. VOLUNTEERISM IS GREAT!!**

Contributed by Jeanette Mehney, Stewardship Committee



*“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 (Lutheran Confessions study in the Library)

Sunday: 8:00 am - *temporary* Divine Service
9:15-9:45 am - Family Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
10:00 am - Divine Service



Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Shirley Edwards
Ethel Flegler
Bill Horman
Lyle Hoguelet
Tom & Julie Johnson

Ellen Martens
Charlie Silm
Lois Sillman
Albert Smith



Check out our website!
www.stpeterirley.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.](#)



- 11/1/20 Daylight Savings Time (Move your clocks back one hour)
11/2/20 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
11/3/20 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
11/4/20 Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
11/5/20 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid 12:00pm (Library)
11/6/20 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Gym)
11/7/20 Gym Reserved—Secret Prayer Sister Reveal 3:30pm
11/10/20 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Gym)
11/11/20 Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
Veterans Day
11/12/20 Quilting (Ladies Aid Room)
11/16/20 PTL Meeting 5:30pm (Library)
11/18/20 Newsletter Deadline
Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
11/19/20 Quilting (Ladies Aid Room)
11/25/20 Matins Service 10:30am
Bible Study 6:00pm
Thanksgiving Eve 7:00pm
No School
11/26/20 *Thanksgiving (Office Closed)*
11/27/20 Office Closed / No School
11/29/20 Mites Sunday
Advent starts



MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Betty Hicks \$50.00

Clare Moritz \$10.00





Poinsettia Order Form

We are once again taking orders for poinsettias to help beautify our church sanctuary for Christmas. Purchase a beautiful plant for yourself or give to someone special after the Christmas Day Service.

Name _____

Color: Red White

Please specify how you would like to place your plant at the altar for Christmas:

- To the glory of God.
- In memory of _____
- In honor of _____

The cost is \$9.75 per plant. You may make checks payable to **St. Peter Lutheran Church** and either place them in the offering plate in an envelope marked "POINSETTIA" or turn it into the church office in an envelope marked "POINSETTIA." If you are giving cash, please make sure that your name is included on the envelope.

Orders must be turned in by Sunday, December 13th.

St. Peter Lutheran Church

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

