

**Thanksgiving: Holiday, Holy Day, or Just a Day?**

The original meaning of the word ‘holiday’ is seen in the word itself. Holidays were holy days. Holidays were observances of the church that recognized events in the life of Jesus or particular saints, the chief holidays being Christmas and Easter.

Here at St. Peter, we have increased our observance of the Church’s holidays. Pages x-xi in the Lutheran Service Book give the details of the Church Year—both the Sundays and Seasons (p. x) and the Feasts and Festivals (p. xi) throughout the year. Of these feasts and festivals, we have added to our yearly worship schedule the boldface items. These observances are principal feasts of Christ. Thus, we now celebrate the following holidays (holy days) in addition to the ones previously celebrated:

- January 1 - The Circumcision and Name of Jesus
- February 2 – The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord
- March 25 – The Annunciation of Our Lord
- May 31 – The Visitation
- June 24 – The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- September 29 – St. Michael and All Angels
- November 1 – All Saints Day (This we celebrate on the Sunday following November 1.)

The meaning of the word ‘holiday’ today is much broader than it originally was. For example, we refer to Labor Day, Presidents Day, and New Years’ Day as holidays. These days were not designated by the Church and refer to nothing particularly sacred or holy but were designated instead by our federal government. We have eleven such federal holidays. The federal holidays are as follows. In addition to these eleven, when a president is inaugurated, that day also is a federal holiday known as Inauguration Day.

- New Year’s Day
- Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Washington’s Birthday (Presidents’ Day)
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth National Independence Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

Looking at this list of federal holidays, we find one that is Christian—Christmas Day—and one that is widely celebrated by Christians—Thanksgiving. While Thanksgiving Day has Christian origins, it is not properly a Church holiday for two reasons. First, it observes nothing specific to the Christian faith, and second, it is a holiday that is localized to a specific nation instead of a universal observance of Christians.

So, ought we to have a Thanksgiving service in our churches? Sure! Why not? We may certainly hallow (make holy) any day and any time by the Word of God and prayer. A day set aside by our nation to give thanks (to whomever) is an opportunity for Christians to give thanks to the one, true God for all his benefits. However, we have recently added a handful of the Church’s holy days to our yearly worship schedule, increasing our overall thanksgiving to God with even more days devoted to specific events in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we debated this year whether we wanted to hold a Thanksgiving service. We decided this year to continue the tradition. We will have a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 pm. Next year, however, we will likely forego this service, leaving the national holiday of Thanksgiving open as an opportunity to gather with friends and family and eat turkey—of course giving thanks to God then as we do each day, especially Sundays and holy days the whole year through.

In Christ,  
Pastor Bayer



## We Are Thankful!

With Thanksgiving just around the corner it is hard not to enter the month of November with thoughts of the many things that I am thankful for at St. Peter. I am thankful for the great families that are a part of the St. Peter family. The school is growing and it has been a blessing.

Some behind the scenes things that have been happening at St. Peter, as a result of our nation going through a pandemic, the federal government has provided some funding to our school to help us support our students. This is an opportunity for us to add some new programs, new technology, and new supplies. As educators, we are constantly seeking ways to improve and adapt our teaching because we are fully invested in student learning. Students are learning best when they have opportunities to think deeply, to explore, to be creative. Now we are able to use the new resources to find ways to provide those opportunities to our students. I am excited to see the creative work of the students as the school year continues.

Thank you for being such a supportive congregation. Our school truly is an opportunity to see God at work. Continue to pray for the church, the school, our students and their families. A prayer for God's grace, to provide for the needs of the school, and a prayer of thanksgiving!

Blessings in Christ,  
Erika Brown  
Principal/Teacher



## Hot Lunch is Back

The school is excited to bring back Hot Lunch Fridays this school year. It is a lot of fun for the kids to have an awesome lunch and to get to know members of our congregation a little better. It is also a great opportunity for all of you to come in and see the school, see what the kids are doing, and build relationships.

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@stpeteririley.org

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## Ladies Aid & LWML News

We still gather every Thursday mornings to tie quilts, there's 3 to 5 ladies; we will welcome many newbies. In our October Ladies Aid meeting we discussed our upcoming Taco Lunch after the Voters Meeting. We provided the cake for Norma Fitzpatrick's retirement party from playing the organ for many beautiful years. We discussed our upcoming Advent Brunch on Tuesday, December 7th, we will invite area Lutheran church ladies to join us. We are continuing supporting our Seminary student Adam Nietling with \$500 recently.

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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.

Pam Mohr 989 224-4206



# 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 some of their artwork, our classroom family tree, and playtime. 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 are hoping to enjoy a field trip to Country Mill later in the month. 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





*There are no words to really express my thanks for the organist's retirement party last month. The many cards, the gifts and the plaque from the congregation mean so much. A special thanks for all the positive compliments you gave me. They are a real treasure. My St. Peter family is truly a blessing. Thanks for all your support.*

*Norma Fitzpatrick*



***Here is the plaque that our congregation gifted Norma Fitzpatrick in honor of her retirement.***

## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

### LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of “sacrificial.”

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: “Make disciples of *all nations*” (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:14). If 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: “I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

## 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 is Sunday, November 21, 2021. Pastor and Liz will be sending the gifts to the seminary on Monday, November 22, 2021. 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!



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## ELDER AND PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Dave Bengel 517-281-5812      [me@davidbengel.com](mailto:me@davidbengel.com)  
Ryan West 517-977-5078      [westpropertyservices@live.com](mailto:westpropertyservices@live.com)  
Ken Bond 989-640-2380      [bondken88@yahoo.com](mailto:bondken88@yahoo.com)  
John Burgess 616-295-3903      [johnburgess6606@gmail.com](mailto:johnburgess6606@gmail.com)  
Pastor Bayer (Emergency ph#585-402-2807) [pastorbayer@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbayer@gmail.com)



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## **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.



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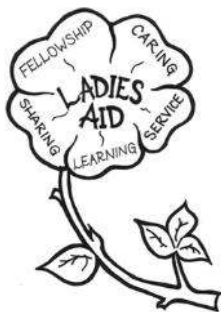
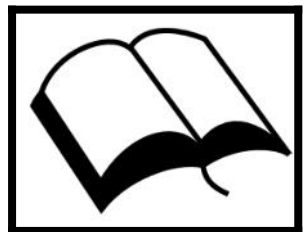
## **REMINDER:**

**MITES SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 28TH**

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## **ST. PETER 150<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:church@stpeterriley.org)**



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## **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.





We would like to express our gratitude to everyone for your prayers, support, cards and memorials that were extended to us after the loss of our son Terry. Your kindness will be remembered.

Barry & Judy Boettger and Family



We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, calls, texts and cards while Joe and I were recovering from covid. I am so thankful for my friends at St. Peter! We thank God for giving us the strength to fight this awful illness.

Joe & Liz Stevens



## *The Giving Tree*

This year we will be collecting toys for “Toys for Tots” through CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). All toys will be given to children in Clinton County who are in foster care or families in need. We will begin to collect **Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, and the last day to contribute will be Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. The following is a list of toys that are on Santa’s Workshop List but you are welcome to purchase any appropriate toy you would like.

- Air/Ball Pumps
- Baby Dolls
- Lego Sets for all ages
- Craft Kits for all ages
- Bab/Infant Toys
- Gifts for Teenagers

All toys must be less than \$35.

There will be a box in back of church and in the school hallway marked “Toys for Tots” for you to deposit your **UNWRAPPED** toys. Let’s make this Christmas season a little brighter for some less fortunate. Thank you!



# Secret Prayer Sister Reveal

*The time has come to reveal at last...  
Who she is, you may have guessed.  
She has really had a blast keeping secrets from her prayer sister.  
Do you know who she is or did you miss her?*

Join us on **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm** in the St. Peter Fellowship Center gym to find out who that special sister is that has been lifting you up in prayer and remembering you throughout the year with cards and gifts. Please bring one last gift for your SPS and join the fun!

Desserts, mulled cider, coffee and yummy treats will be served. Please bring the sheet with your information on it with you that day. If you forget, I will have extras.

If you aren't a part of this fun group, and would like to be, please give me a call or text me at 989 388-2069. What better thing is there to do, than to pray for your sister in Christ and her family daily.

Any questions, please call Diane Thurston. 989 388-2069

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## HEART SISTERS NEWS

The "Heart Sisters" have met for the last time this year. What a great group of ladies and the fellowship was awesome. Many new faces joined us on these Mondays. Have a great holiday season and we'll see you again in the spring! Diane Thurston

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*There's*   
*always*   
**SOMETHING**  
*To be*  
*Thankful*   
*for*   



## 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

\_\_\_\_\_

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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 12th.

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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](mailto: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



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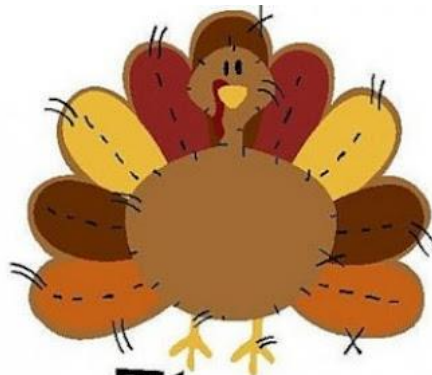
**Walking with St. Peter**  
**A Community Exercise Opportunity**

Beginning Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 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.



**Happy Thanksgiving**

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December 1<sup>st</sup> – Pastor Bayer Birthday  
December 7<sup>th</sup> – Advent Brunch 9:30am  
Advent Services – December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00pm  
Christmas Eve Service – December 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm & 11:00pm  
Christmas Day Service – December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00am





*“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 9:00AM  
Bible Study 6:00pm



Sunday: 9:00AM - Divine Service  
Family Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall immediately following church  
Sunday School immediately following church



**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.

**Check out our website!**  
**[www.stpeterriley.org](http://www.stpeterriley.org)**

**MEMORIALS**



Bill Caruss \$315.00  
Terry Boettger \$220.00  
Ann Moore \$100.00  
Dan Rue \$30.00  
Donna Witt \$145.00  
Mary Bremer \$20.00

Gerald Price \$20.00  
Evelyn Speers \$20.00



- 11/1/21 School Board Meeting 6:30pm  
11/2/21 Elders Meeting 6:00pm  
11/3//21 Matins Service 9:00am / Bible Study 6:00pm  
11/4/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
Ladies Aid Meeting 12:00pm (Library)  
11/5/21 Over 50's 6:30pm (Gym)  
11/6/21 Secret Sister Reveal 3:30pm (Gym)  
11/7/21 Daylight Savings Time (Move your clock back 1 hour)  
Giving Tree starts today  
Confirmation 6:00pm-7:30pm (Library)  
11/8/21 PTL Meeting 5:30pm (Library)  
11/9/21 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Library)  
11/10/21 Matins Service 9:00am / Bible Study 6:00pm  
11/11/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
*Veterans Day*  
11/14/21 Confirmation 6:00pm-7:30pm (Library)  
11/17/21 Matins Service 9:00am / Bible Study 6:00pm  
11/18/21 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)  
11/19/21 Newsletter deadline  
11/21/21 Confirmation 6:00pm-7:30pm (Library)  
Deadline for Seminary Students gift collection  
11/24/21 Matins Service 9:00am (No Bible Study)  
*Thanksgiving Service 7:00pm*  
11/25/21 *Thanksgiving (Office closed)*  
11/26/21 Office closed  
11/27/21 Hall Reserved  
11/28/21 Mites Sunday  
Wreath orders are ready for pick-up  
Confirmation 6:00pm-7:30pm (Library)

(Private confession available by appointment)

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### **Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits**

Virginia Davis  
Shirley Edwards  
Lyle Huguelet

Charlie Silm  
Albert Smith  
Tom & Julie Johnson

## St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

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

Phone: 989-224-3178  
E-mail: [church@stpeterriley.org](mailto:church@stpeterriley.org)

**We are on the web!**  
[www.stpeterriley.org](http://www.stpeterriley.org)

