

The Messenger

PRIVATE CONFESSION

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 20:22-23

The fifth part of the Small Catechism is Confession. There we ask, "What is confession?", to which we answer,

Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Next in the catechism, we ask, "What sins should we confess?" We answer:

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

What an astounding gift from heaven, where Christ has promised that when we confess our sins, the pastor, who stands in His stead and speaks by His command, gives us God's own forgiveness, won by Christ's life, death, and resurrection. As we consider our places in life according to the Ten Commandments, we see the many ways we have sinned, yet this gracious gift of heaven is given for our use to console our anxious consciences with Christ's forgiveness and to keep us steadfast in faith.

To the end that this heavenly and gracious gift is readily available to the saints at St. Peter, private confession and absolution will be offered on Saturday evenings by appointment. There will be a Google sheet available on the church website where you may anonymously mark off a timeslot between 6:30 and 7:30 on Saturday evenings. If you do not have the internet, you may call the church office to have a timeslot reserved.

Christians are saints covered by the blood of Jesus who remain sinners in this life. What separates Christians from other sinners is that by the working of the Spirit, we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. And to every repentant sinner, Christ's forgiveness is freely given, according to his promise—*if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them.*

-Pastor Bayer





Reformation

It is already October. In previous years we were getting ready for “Trunk or Treat”. This year we won’t have this event because of the Covid situation. However, we will still have the opportunity to celebrate the Reformation. Too often we have focused on Halloween and forgotten that this is also the day that Luther posted the 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg.

So, what impact does the Reformation have on our school and our society today? It is too easy for us to be critical of the situation in the church at the time of Luther and forget to look at the church and our society today. Yes, we still hold to all of the teachings that were upheld following the Reformation. We study the Augsburg Confession and pledge ourselves to the teachings and doctrine in the Book of Concord. However, too often we may say that these doctrinal statements are true and are what we believe, but at the same time we don’t truly know what they are and what they mean for us today.

Here at St. Peter Lutheran School we teach our children the ten commandments and their meaning. As our students get older, we continue to teach them the truths of scripture as they were clearly stated and taught by Luther and have been a part of our heritage over the years.

Perhaps, just as we forget many of the things that we learned in school we also forget the things that we learned in confirmation class. I would encourage you as your children come home to talk to them about what they are learning, especially what they are learning in religion class. Yes, you may have to find the catechism that you had in confirmation class and refresh your memory. The devil and the world continually tempt us to be so busy with our other matters that we forget to review and study what it is that we believe.

Our children are getting a great education, not only in religion class, but also in all of the other subjects. I would encourage you to also do your homework. Have family devotions with your children, pray with them and help them to understand what they are learning., You can also set an example for them by attending Divine Service regularly, receiving the Lord’s Supper and attending Bible class with them. With Pastor’s Sunday class involving both the adults and the children, this is a great opportunity to grow in the Word as a family.

Let’s not forget the Reformation so that our children and grandchildren will be a part of a church that is still built on the solid rock.

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

His Servant,
Paul Weismantel
Principal/Administrator



THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF TINA (THURSTON) KLEIN

Our family would like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, words of comfort, memorials, and gifts in memory of our beautiful Tina. She was SO loved by all of us but more importantly she was loved by her heavenly Father who took her home! We are sad and will miss her but rejoice in the victory that is hers through our Lord and Savior.

Thank you, Pastor Bayer, for your words of comfort during your visit at our home and at the funeral home, also the many prayers offered on her behalf. Your kindness will always be remembered!

We are so overwhelmed by the out pouring of love and feel blessed to call you all family.

*In Christian love,
Dave (Rabbit) and Diane
Joe, Nate and Clara
Sara and Gabe
Rob, Jackie, Jade, Joanna and Jackson*

SECRET PRAYER SISTERS

Just a reminder to continue to keep your Secret Prayer Sister in your daily prayers. We will be revealing our "special sister" in November and will have a date soon! To make everyone more comfortable, we will probably be meeting at St. Peter in the gym!

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Diane Thurston



The School needs your help!

Please continue to save Coke products caps or the codes inside the boxes for money for the school.

Box Tops, pictures have to be taken of the receipts. The list is included in what gives the school 10 each.

They have discontinued Aunt Millie's Bread, Tyson and Shoparoo.

Thank you for your support,
Pam



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

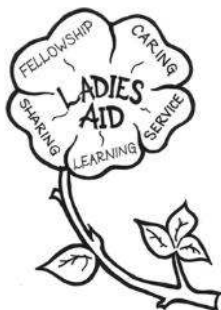
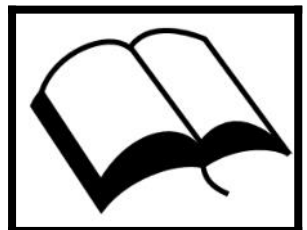
If you have a prayer request, please call Liz in the church office (989) 224-3178 during office hours. If in the evening or weekend, please call Pam Mohr (989) 292-1686.



REMINDER:
MITES SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 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.

Preschool News

Wow, we have had an amazing start to our preschool year! We have 13 amazing kids in our class this year. We are so thankful for our wonderful kids and families. We are very excited to have added Fridays to our preschool schedule.

Right now we are focusing on our classroom routine, playing with new friends, and developing our school readiness skills. We have also been talking about fall, community helpers, apples, and fire safety. Unfortunately, we are unable to schedule any field trips or class speakers at this time but hope to do so in the future.

The children have also been hard at work adding beautiful artwork to our classroom and hallway. If you have a chance, stop by and check out the projects that are displayed in our hallway and classroom!

Thank you to all of our families for making the start of the school year smooth. There were several changes that had to be made because of COVID-19 and we appreciate your understanding and support. We feel very blessed to work with such amazing children and families.

Thank you to Jim and Vickie Curtin for their preschool donation, we were able to purchase bulletin boards for our classroom and the hallway. These will be used to display the children's artwork. Also, thank you to Nicole and Jeffrey Curtin for your help with painting the classroom and installing all of the boards! We greatly appreciate it!

Blessings Always,
Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher



Lutheran Ministries Media, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization that produces a weekly broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew*. Each service includes music, Scripture readings, prayers and a message delivered by a pastor. *Worship Anew* is available to watch via TV, DVD subscription and the internet. Learn more and find the broadcast schedule at *wor-*

SCRIP cards can be purchased at this time by contacting the church office. Orders can be dropped in the black Scrip box outside the office any time. Please contact Ann Shellito at 517-626-2302 with any questions.

Scrip is a year-round fund raising program run by the Great Lakes Scrip Center in Grand Rapids. You can buy gift cards from hundreds of different retailers at their face value, and the company gives back a rebate which can be put towards school tuition bills. You can use these cards to give as gifts or to pay for your own purchases. This is an easy way to reduce tuition costs. It just takes some planning to develop a new spending habit. Over the last 3 years, parents have reduced their tuition as a whole by an average of over \$4000 each year. You can designate a student or family that you would like your rebate to go towards if you wish or it will go towards the church general fund. We thank you for helping our St. Peter school families.

College-Bound Student? It's Not Too Early or Too Late

Now is the time of year many parents are filling freshmen pockets or thinking about their student's future plans. How about getting a CEF ExtensionPlusVisa®/ATM Card? Opening an ExtensionPlus Account is a great way to provide savings dollars for college students with easy access to funds. For 18-year-olds, this is a perfect solution. Parents can give college students a fixed budget (there is no credit associated with the card), and the whole family participates in the ministry of Church Extension Fund. Your account will be earning competitive rates of interest while building places for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be shared. For more information, contact (Congregation Representative and telephone number) or call toll-free 800-242-3944

TCOA/Meals on Wheels

TCOA/Meals on Wheels need donations for their annual silent auction. New handicrafts of any kind or items for a "theme" basket, even a "regifting" that you don't need would be great. You could even donate a gift certificate purchased through scrip! There won't be a dinner or raffle this year due to Covid, so the need is great. Please call Shirley Huguelet (517) 582-1612 before October 10. Thank you!!



Stewardship Newsletter article, October 2020

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have; our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- Finally, we are born into society, a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

Consider your life and all that you have considering these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

Take from LCMS stewardship ministry



“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 Huguélet
Tom & Julie Johnson

Ellen Martens
Charlie Silm
Lois Sillman
Albert Smith

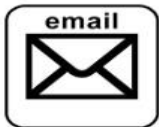


Check out our website!
www.stpeterliley.org

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.](#)



- 10/1/20 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
Ladies Aid 12:00pm (Library)
- 10/2/20 Over 50's Group 6:30pm (Gym)
- 10/5/20 School Board Meeting 6:30pm (Library)
- 10/6/20 Elders Meeting 6:00pm (Library)
- 10/7/20 Matins Service 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 10/8/20 Quilting (Ladies Aid Room)
- 10/9/20 No Busing
- 10/13/20 Council Meeting 6:30pm (Gym)
- 10/14/20 Matins Service 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 10/15/20 Quilting (Ladies Aid Room)
No School
- 10/16/20 Newsletter deadline
No School
- 10/21/20 Matins Service 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 10/22/20 Quilting (Ladies Aid Room)
- 10/28/20 Matins Service 9:00am
Bible Study 6:00pm
- 10/29/20 Quilting 9:00am (Ladies Aid Room)
- 10/30/20 No Busing



Do you have an email address? If so, please contact the church office so we can update our records? Thank you!

Ladies Aid Quilting ... We will have a potluck and meeting Thursday, October 8th at noon, and we will be quilting at 9:00 a.m. We all need to enter through the front office doors and you must wear a mask. The refrigerator is under control should be delivered the middle of October, and we have enough funds to cover it.

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Tina Klein \$60.00

Betty Hicks \$50.00




**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**

A large, stylized orange pumpkin graphic with a short stem, serving as a background for the text.

**God is pure light,
undimmed by darkness
of any kind.**

1 John 1:5