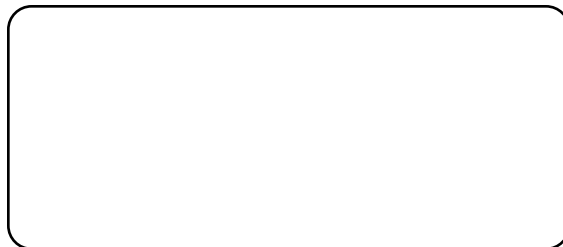


# St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

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

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

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



## **THE MESSENGER** *October 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

## The Shared Cup and Our Confession of Unity

The words of our Lord concerning the cup are this: *In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* The words of institution are a conflation of all the accounts of the institution of the Lord's Supper in Holy Scripture—from St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. Paul. In each of these accounts, the word for "cup" is singular.

It was more than a practical reason that Jesus used only one cup since they were at a meal and would have likely each had their own cup readily available. In the institution of the Lord's Supper, Jesus purposefully chose to use a shared vessel for his blood. Luther says this:

But now, when Christ gives a new, special drink of his blood, he commands them all to drink out of this single cup. Thus, in proffering it and with a special gesture, Christ takes his own cup and lets them all drink of it, in distinction from all the other ordinary cups on the table, in order that they might better observe that it was a special drink in distinction from the other draughts which had been given them during the meal.<sup>1</sup>

Luther was not here addressing the use of individual cups, for the innovation of individual cups at the Lord's Supper would not come into the church until centuries later, but Luther's words are pertinent to the issue.

St. Paul notes the inherent unity and sharing in this sacred meal of our Lord's body and blood: *The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.* (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). In this sacrament, our Savior gives himself to us, and we are made one with him. Thus, we are made one with our fellow believers as well. *We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another* (Romans 5:12).

The communion with Christ *and* one another is visually demonstrated as we share the cup. He has called us into the fellowship of his body, the Church, and we are joined together in love. In the body of Christ, *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). As members of Christ's body, our bond is closer than family and removes all division. The unity we have in Christ is best expressed in the reception of the Lord's blood from a common cup. When both the chalice and individual cups are offered, we introduce segregation into the Sacrament which is inherently a Sacrament of unity.

While we continue to offer the blood of Christ in both the common chalice and individual cups, I encourage you to make use of the chalice as the primary and preferred way for the sacrament to be administered and received.

In Christ,  
Pastor Bayer

<sup>1</sup>*Confession concerning Christ's Supper* (1528), AE 37:311.

# A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## What does the Future Hold?

*The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. Exodus 15:2*

Sometimes the first couple of months of school can be very overwhelming. It can be overwhelming for students who are in a new classroom or have a new teacher. It can also be overwhelming for teachers who are learning the needs of their students and planning to challenge them and create learning opportunities. Having experience attending and working in churches that support a school, I know that financially and through service it can often be overwhelming for the members of the congregation as well.

Fortunately, as Christians, we don't have to be overwhelmed. We don't have to worry about what the future might hold for us. In fact, God tells us not to worry. We need to remind ourselves and each other that in all of the struggles that we might face, our strength is in the Lord. We need to shift our focus to relying on God and spend our time praising Him.

This isn't always easy, and sometimes we falter. Thankfully, we have a God who forgives us and continues to strengthen us. And in our community here at St. Peter, when we lean on Him and praise Him, we are witnessing to those around us. We are sharing the hope that we have in Christ with the students who come to our school each and every day.

Blessings in Christ,  
Erika Brown  
Principal/Teacher

# A LETTER FROM OUR CANTOR

## Why We Do What We Do

“Why do we always sing those old difficult German hymns?”

Interesting question. First, before Martin Luther came along, people in the congregation didn't sing at all! The clergy chanted the entire service, in Latin which no one but the clergy and academics understood, and the congregation was simply a passive observer. Luther introduced congregational singing to make the people participants, rather than observers, in the Divine Service and recognized it as an opportunity to teach and profess the Christian faith.

Yes, there is a bunch of old Germany hymns. Luther himself wrote many; our hymnal has twenty-five from him. A number who followed in his footsteps were not only great theologians, but great musicians as well, people like Paul Gerhardt, who contributed seventeen to the hymnal. When I read about his life, I'm amazed his hymns are always filled with hope and consolation.

But it would be a mistake to focus on “old German hymns.” Some, like “Shepherd of Tender Youth” (#864) date back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Century. Many are as contemporary as today. Perhaps you know of Rev. Stephen Starke, retired pastor in Bay City, who contributed over thirty hymns to the Lutheran Service Book and continues to this day; he wrote the hymn celebrating the fortieth anniversary of Hope Lutheran, DeWitt. As you look through the index of hymns, starting on page 998 in the hymnal, you'll see hymns from Scandanavia, South America, Africa, every part of Europe, and even colonial America.

Our tradition of Lutheran worship has a long history of drawing music from all times and nations. As part of the Propers, the selection of hymns is always a careful process fitting together the entire thread for the Divine Service. Sometimes that can be a challenge for those of us in the pews. But as we master the different styles and melodies, we can develop an appreciation for what a tremendous gift our Lutheran hymnody is.

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

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESCHOOL

## Preschool Blessings

We are very excited to be starting another great year of preschool. We are very blessed to have 26 children enrolled in our preschool program this year. Our first day of preschool was Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The children were very excited to explore the classroom and meet new friends. We look forward to a wonderful year of growth and development.

We are very thankful to have new classroom flooring, new lockers/cubbies, and remodeled bathrooms. Thank you to Steve Gruber for all of his work on the bathrooms and our classroom floor! They look amazing. Thank you to Jeffrey and Nicole Curtin for building and installing our new lockers/cubbies! We are very excited to have our preschoolers use them this year.

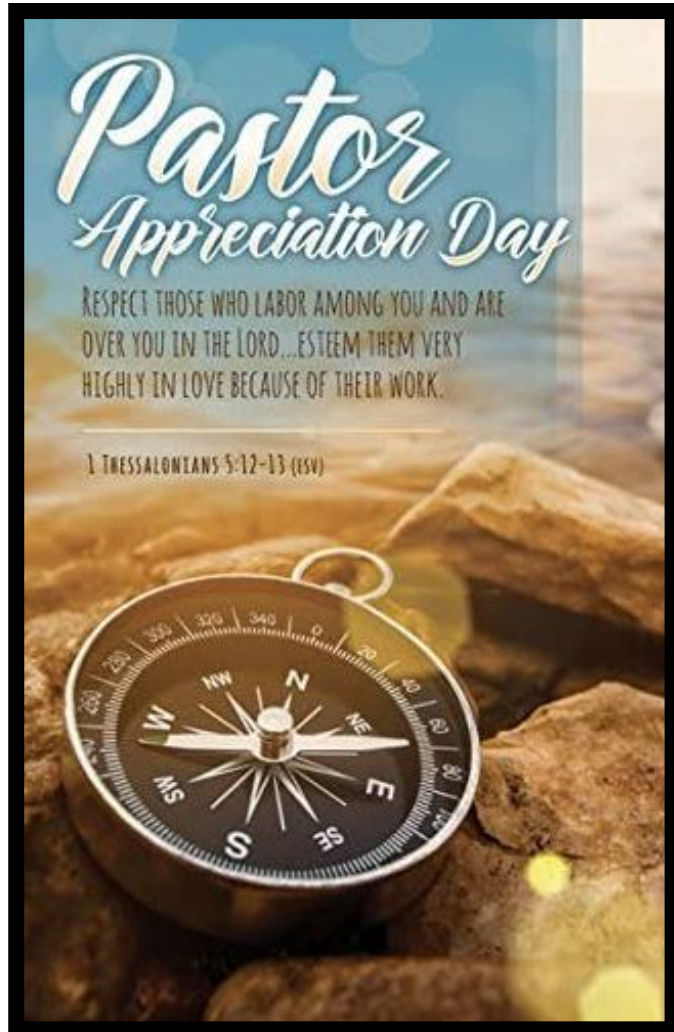
We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you all as we begin a new school year.

Blessings,

Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. Curtin







Every Sunday in October there will be a basket to place cards or cash in the back for Pastor Appreciation month. Thank you Pastor Bayer for all your hard work all year round!



# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

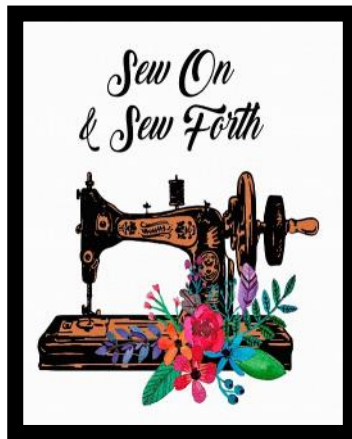
## Memorials

Tom Benson—\$ 20.00

Money from Kroger this last quarter was \$116.48.



Ladies Aid: Ladies Aid is in need of more materials for their quilts. Please help if you can with some all-cotton material. Thanks in advance!



Mites Sunday  
October 30th.

## 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 at (989) 292-1686.



## Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

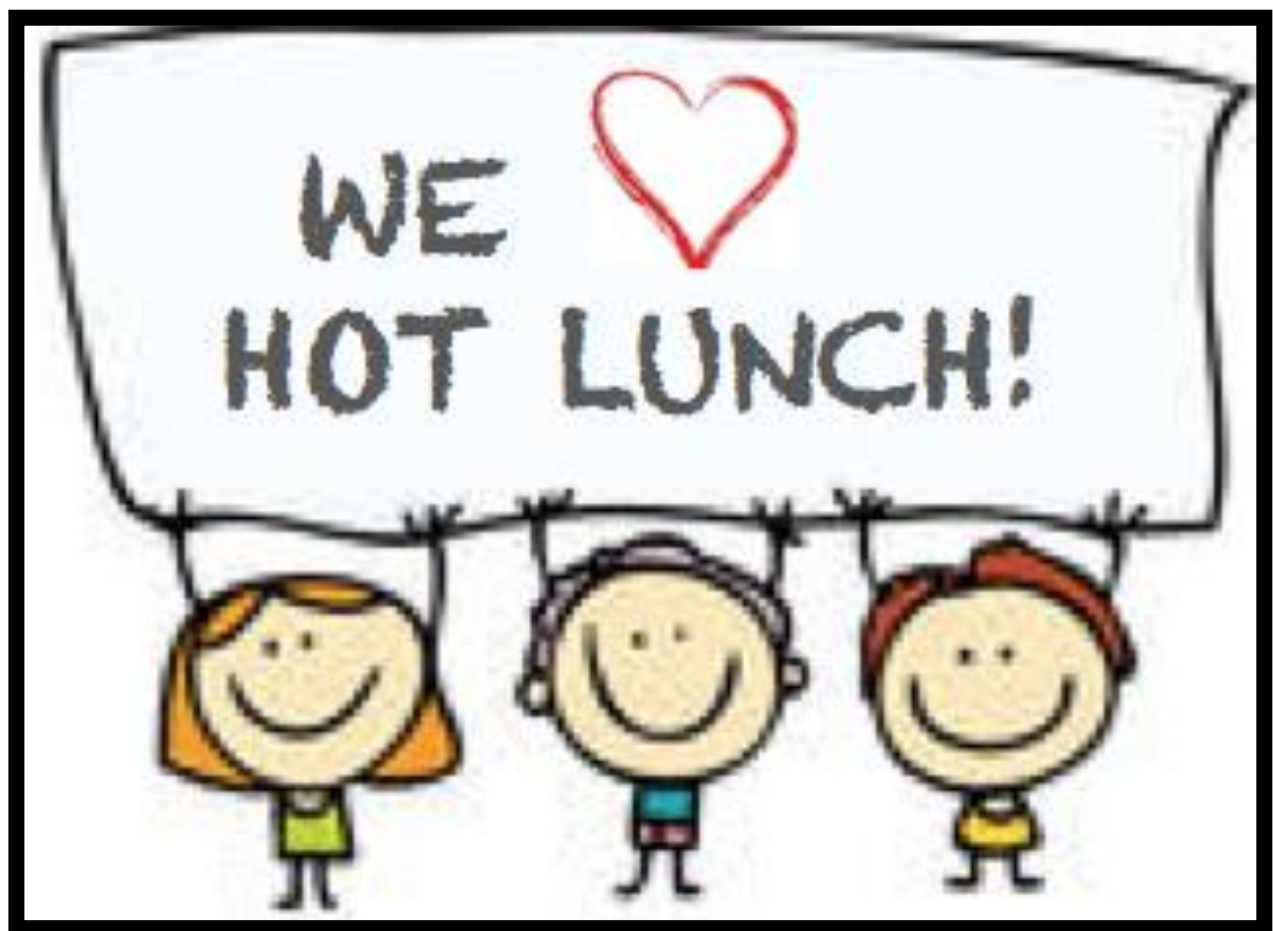
Illene Gibson  
Virginia Davis  
Charlie Silm  
Shirley Edwards  
Albert Smith  
Sue Yelden  
Linda Davis  
Terry Ordway  
Glenn Bennett





## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

If you are interested in making and serving hot lunches, please sign up in the back of the church or next door on our parent volunteer board. You would need enough for 50 people. Starting this year we are charging students \$2.00 for hot lunch to help cover some of the expense of providing hot lunches. When you sign up for hot lunch you will get the two dollars back per child reimbursed by PTL for providing lunch that day. If you don't want to provide a hot lunch but would just like to supervise you could do that as well. Just sign your name and put either hot lunch, supervise or both. teachers appreciate supervisors as well.





# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

## October 2022 Stewardship Newsletter Article

### “We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn't it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



8/31/2022

8990 Church Road  
St. Johns, MI 48879

Dear St. Peter Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your commitment to sharing the Gospel with those who need it most, both close to home and across the world.

When you give to Concordia Gospel Outreach, books that are sent to missionaries and mission teams working to share the message of Jesus Christ with children, youth, and adults all over the world.

Your recent gift of \$82.00 to the Mission Papua New Guinea project will help us put the Gospel in the hands of more people who have not yet heard the Good News.

Sharing the Gospel is urgent work, and your gifts aid people who share the Gospel with those who desperately need to hear it. Please visit our website, [concordiagospeloutreach.org](http://concordiagospeloutreach.org), to read stories of your gift in action and discover more ways to partner with us in our mission. And please, tell others to do the same. The world needs Jesus! Let's proclaim Him!

Blessings,

Elizabeth Pittman  
Manager  
Concordia Gospel Outreach

In accordance with IRS regulations, this letter verifies that you received no goods or services in exchange for this gift.  
1342



**Concordia Gospel Outreach**  
3558 South Jefferson Avenue  
Saint Louis, MO 63118  
Email: [cgo@cph.org](mailto:cgo@cph.org)  
[www.concordiagospeloutreach.org](http://www.concordiagospeloutreach.org)

Conference at Hope DeWitt: "Confessing Christ in a Woke World"

Please join us at Hope Lutheran Church in DeWitt on **Saturday October 29th** as we host Rev. Paul Dare for a one-day conference "*Confessing Christ in a Woke World.*"

Cost. \$25 per person. \$15 per student.

Matins begins at 8 AM with registration following.

Conference begins at 9 AM.

Lunch and hospitality are provided.

Please RSVP to [revsikora@gmail.com](mailto:revsikora@gmail.com) before September 29th.

TRACK OUR MITES

"I Was Naked and You Clothed Me" the Orphan Grain Train - Michigan \$18,000

It is to continue distribution of Christ enabled relief during the coming biennium-funds being divided to facilitate at least two international shipments.

LWML Capital Zone Rally will be held on October 22, Sat. @ Trinity Luth. Church, Lansing; beginning at 830 a.m. with Opening Service @ 9 a.m. Speaker will be a rep. from the Lansing Rescue Mission, with our in-gathering going there also; it includes canned vegetables, apple & grape juices, coffee creamers, mens white t-shirts & boxers or briefs, disposable razors for men & women, body wash for men & women, sports bras for women & underwear, women pj's. If you are not going to Rally put the items in narthex under coat rack.

Scrip: We are still doing scrip for the school. If you are interested in purchasing please contact Traci Brisboe, Pam Mohr, or Erika Brown. This is an easy way to give extra to school and church.



## Christian Education

### Adult Study (6<sup>th</sup> grade and up)

Sundays – 10:30 a.m. – fellowship hall (year-round)

Currently studying the book of Revelation – Join us!

Wednesdays – 6 p.m. – library (Sep. – May, except Advent and Lent)

Currently studying the book of Judith from the Apocrypha – join us!

### Sunday School (grades K-5)

Sundays – 10:30 a.m. – fellowship hall (Sep. – May)

Confirmation classes meet Sunday evenings 6:30pm—8pm.

Trunk or Treat: This year Friday October 28 from 6-7:30.

We are taking candy donations to hand out at trunks. Candy can be dropped off in the back of the church or in the office. Also if you are interested in doing a trunk and handing out candy sign up for a parking spot is at the school by the front door. This is open to the public so please help spread the word.

