

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

Rev. Timothy Bayer
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We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org



THE MESSENGER *September 2022*



Church Services

Divine Service – Sundays at 9 am
Office of Matins – Wednesdays at 9 am (No Matins August 17)

Advent and Lent – Wednesday services at 7 pm
Feasts and Festivals – Services as announced in calendar and bulletin

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Tithes and Offerings

In Genesis 14, when Abram returned from the battle where he rescued Lot from his captors, the king of Sodom went out to meet Abram, and also Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. Melchizedek was a priest of God Most High. Melchizedek blessed Abram and blessed God for delivering Abram's enemies into his hand. After this interchange, we read this: *Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

Why did Abram give Melchizedek a tenth of everything? Because all the spoils of his victory came to him by God's deliverance. There was nothing he brought back with him that had not been given to him by the Lord. This tenth was given first in thanksgiving for the Lord's deliverance. Then, what had been taken from the king of Sodom by the enemies was returned to him, and the men who went to fight were given their share.

Remember, Abram was long before Mt. Sinai and the Law. Abram gave a tenth to the Lord willingly, cheerfully, not under compulsion. God would later command the giving of a tenth of everything at Mt. Sinai, encoding this statute in the ceremonial Law of His people. This law, along with all the other ceremonial laws, was our tutor to lead us to Christ (Gal. 3:24).

Christ is the one who fought for us and won for us and delivered us from all our enemies—from our sins, from Satan, and from eternal death. And the spoils of his battle he lavishes on us—forgiveness, life, and salvation. He is a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 5:10), coming out to us with the fruit of His victory—bread and wine that is his body and blood. He won eternal life for us through the giving of his body into death and the shedding of his blood for our forgiveness. This is his chief provision to us. But in addition to this, he provides roofs over our heads, food on our tables, and much, much more—everything we need to support this body and life. All these spoils are from his victorious battle on our behalf. It all comes from him. We are blessed by God Most High, the possessor of heaven and earth.

We have a money problem right now at St. Peter. Well, that's not accurate. We have a giving problem. Together, we have the resources to adequately support the ministry at St. Peter, but we are not doing it and we are running out of funds quickly. Christ gave his all, his very life, and gives the spoils freely to us, providing for us all we need both for this life and the next. It is our joy to cheerfully, not under compulsion, return a portion to him in thanksgiving. Beef up your portion and add offerings on top of it. Be like the Israelites when they were asked for materials to construct the tabernacle; they gave so much that Moses had to ask them to stop (Ex. 36:6)! And these contributions were not because of any law—they were freewill offerings in thanksgiving to God (Ex. 36:3). May it be said of us as it was said of them—"The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do" (Ex. 36:5).

In Christ,

Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

God is Good

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 118:1

The new school year is underway, and it is a great time to stop and reflect on the many ways God has blessed us here at St. Peter. This year we have 60 students attending St. Peter from preschool through 8th grade, which is a great blessing. Every day, 60 children hear about Jesus Christ, their Savior. They are learning to be disciples through God's Word and the staff in our building who model a Christian life.

We are also blessed to have such a caring and supportive community surrounding our school. The parents, staff, and church members understand the importance of the ministry that is taking place here and support it in many different ways.

I invite you to stop in and take a walk through our building. You will see more ways our school is blessed this year. The preschool bathrooms have been remodeled and are beautiful. There are new locker spaces to support our growing preschool. The floors are sparkling, there is fresh paint in some areas, and the teachers have done a tremendous job creating classrooms that inspire learning and creativity. I greatly appreciate everyone who used their talents to continue to improve our school for the families we serve.

Thank you all for your continued support of our school. Continue to pray for our students and their families. Share the blessing of our ministry with friends, family, and others in the community.

Blessings in Christ,
Erika Brown
Principal/Teacher

A LETTER FROM OUR CANTOR

Why We Do What We Do

There are four little words that help explain everything that happens during the Divine Service: Sacramental, Sacrificial, Ordinary and Proper.

During “Sacramental” portions of the Service we are receiving from God. Examples would be the Absolution after Confession, Scripture lessons, Sermon, Holy Communion, and the Benediction. In the “Sacrificial” portions, we are bringing things to Him in response to his gifts. That includes the hymns, the prayers, our offering, the Creed, the responses to the Scripture lessons, the Nunc Dimittis, etc. A pretty good and easy way to distinguish these two parts is noticing which way Pastor’s facing: if toward the congregation, as Christ’s spokesman, it is “Sacramental”; if facing the altar as our spokesman, it’s “Sacrificial.”

Here “Ordinary” doesn’t mean “plain, boring, vanilla dull.” Rather, it means the parts of the Service that remain the same from one week to the next, like the Kyrie, Sanctus, Benediction, and Creed. By contrast, the “Propers” are those parts that are proper for that particular day. That would include the Scripture lessons, Hymns, Sermon, and Prayers. These all fit with the seasons and day as the Church moves through the year.

With these four concepts, the Divine Service maintains a structure and flow that keeps the focus on what we receive from our Lord and how we respond. It keeps our worship from becoming a free-form “make it up as you go along” event. And rather than boring, it provides consistency for us in the pew, without guessing what’s next.

Next Sunday, see if you can follow “Sacramental”, “Sacrificial”, “Ordinary” and “Proper”. It may add some richness to your worship.

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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

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 (989) 292-1686.



Confirmation

Confirmation has started for the year, but it's not too late to be added if you know of anyone who is interested. Please contact Pastor if want to be added. Classes this year are Sunday nights from 6:30pm-8pm.



LWML Michigan Dist. Convention - July 7-9 in Frankenmuth, the theme of the convention was "My Sheep Hear My Voice; I know them" (John 10: 27-29). beginning of our Thurs. we worked on servant event projects, making glasses sleeves for MOST Ministries, making mats for homeless for Franklin Ave.Mission, tying fleece blankets for Phil's Friends, trimming stamps for Lutheran Bible Translators. Thurs night was the Opening Worship Service in St. Lorenz Lutheran Church with the Zone Banner Processional (our Capital Zone banner was created by Laurie Flegler and she carried it in), there were 500+ in attendance. We were truly blessed as we heard God's Voice, sang His praises. and received the Body & Blood of Christ in communion. On Fri morning we went to Bible Studies, Laurie & I went to Elaine Bickel's & Gary Thies's. On Friday afternoon, we listened to missionaries & Gary Thies, director of LCMS Mission Central in Maple, Iowa. We voted on our new officers and on 2022-2024 Mission Grants, I will put in our Newsletters 'Tracking Our Mites'. The adoption of the mission goal is \$275,000. Once again we had a wonderful convention filled with prayer & listening to God's Voice.

In Christ's love,
Kathy Bond &
Laurie Flegler



Mites Sunday is September 25!



Staff has been very busy getting the school ready for the upcoming year. Pictured here are Mrs. A and Mrs. Brown. All the staff went to class to get trained in CPR and first aid.



Ladies Aid potluck and meeting is Thursday Sept. 1st, 2022. The Ladies Aid that do quilting are in need of materials. If you would like to donate some all cotton material it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance.

LADIES NIGHT OUT!!!! ALL St. Peter Ladies are invited to the 3rd annual party at the parsonage! Please bring finger food or drink (alcoholic or non alcoholic) to share.

WHERE: Kristin Bayer's house
8990 Church Rd.

WHEN: Friday September 9, 2022 6-10pm.

Come anytime. Lap babies are welcome. Otherwise no children please. No RSVP needed.



THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you Steve Gruber for all your hard work this summer! Our school needed some much needed repairs and he has put in many hours to get those upgrades complete. The whole preschool wing looks amazing! We appreciate all you do.

September Social Night

What: Ice Cream Social

Where: St. Peter Lutheran Fellowship Center

When: Friday, September 23rd

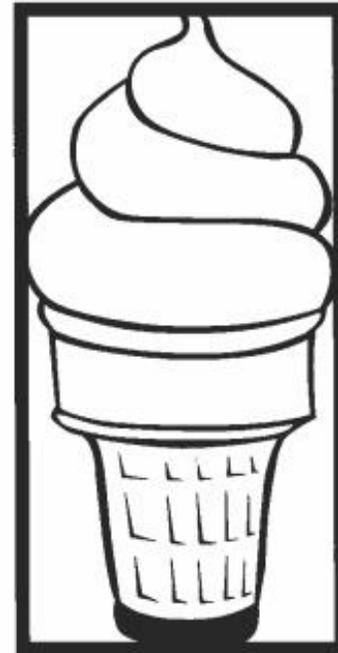
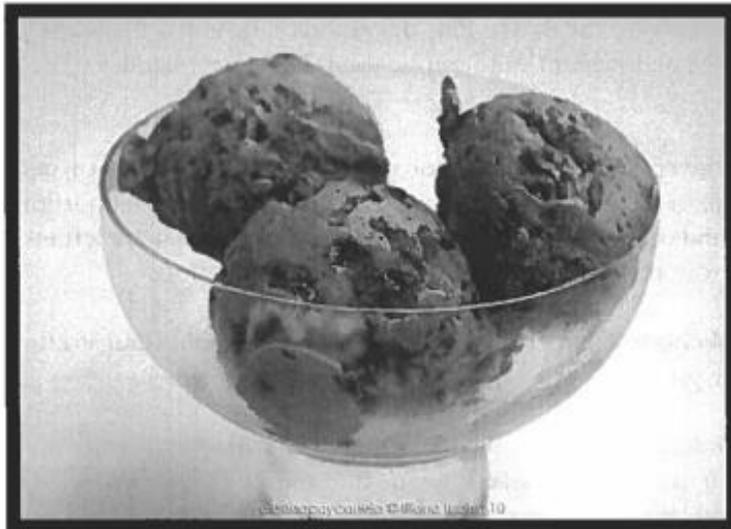
Time: 6:30-9:00pm

For Who: The entire family

You won't want to miss this fun evening of fellowship, your choice of either ice cream with all the toppings or ice cream floats (or maybe both!). Cookies, brownies, cookie bars and rice Krispy treats will also be enjoyed!

A movie will be presented in the library for the children and their parents. But there will also be a social time and a mixer game for adults in the gym. Don't miss out on this opportunity to fellowship with your St. Peter church family! All you have to do is show up ready to have a great evening of fun!

Charlene Kennedy



MINT FESTIVAL THANK YOU 2022

Thank you to all the many volunteers who walked in the Mint Festival parade and purchased candy for this event. Special thanks to Evan and Lauren VanBeelen for the use of their truck to carry the tubs of candy. Thank you to those of you that worked the parking lot. It raised just over \$2,000 for our church!
Charlene Kennedy





ST. PETER
LUTHERAN SCHOOL

2022-2023 OPEN ENROLLMENT



DISCOVER the difference at St. Peter!

Enrollment for St. Peter Lutheran School Pre-K – 8th grade is open!! Please contact the school for more information and school tours!!

Rev. Timothy Bayer, *Pastor*

Mrs. Erika Brown, *Principal*

Mrs. Lisa Smith, *Preschool Director & Lead Teacher*

Mrs. Corrine Fletcher, *Administrative School Assistant*

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

8990 W. Church Rd. St. Johns, MI 48879

1/2 mile south of Price Road between Dexter Trail and Forest Hill Office

Phone: 989-224-3178

E-mail: school@stpeterlutheran.org

Website: www.stpeterlutheran.org

Blessings, St. Peter Lutheran Staff



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Stewardship Newsletter Article

What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: "A manager." That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn't belong to Him. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13). So, let's dive into the God's Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

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



Endowment Fund Newsletter Article September 2022

St Peter Lutheran Church Endowment Fund St Peter Lutheran Church established an Endowment Fund several years ago. The Endowment Fund provides St Peter Lutheran Church with a source of income to support projects beyond the day-to-day operations. The key is that each year only a portion (the interest) of the endowment fund can be used, but the remainder (the principal) is left to grow.

There are a variety of ways to grow the endowment fund. Donations can be in the form of cash, a memorial, planned gift of real estate or insurance. In this way, when someone leaves a portion of their assets to the Endowment Fund, these assets do not disappear over time but are left invested so the fund can continue to grow and the interest is available for distribution.

Many churches, as well as our own Michigan District, have established endowment funds to financially support a variety of specific projects.

Our Endowment Fund at St Peter Lutheran Church is held by In Faith Community Foundation. In Faith, in conjunction with Thrivent, has always worked to innovate and be flexible on behalf of those they serve. They are set up to help each congregation's Endowment Fund succeed and create a strong foundation for generations to come.