

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



THE MESSENGER *September 2023*



Church Services

Divine Service – Sundays at 9:30 am
Office of Matins – Wednesdays at 9 am (when school is in session)
Advent and Lent – Wednesday services at 7 pm
Feasts and Festivals – Services as announced in calendar and bulletin

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Augsburg Confession Article III – The Son of God

Our churches teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God, assumed the human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So there are two natures—the divine and the human—inseparably joined in one person. There is one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried. He did this to reconcile the Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind.

He also descended into hell, and truly rose again on the third day. Afterward, He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. There He forever reigns and has dominion over all creatures. He sanctifies those who believe in Him, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and make them alive. He defends them against the devil and the power of sin.

The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead, and so forth, according to the Apostles' Creed.¹

As seen throughout the Augsburg Confession, the point is driven home again here that this is not a new confession, but the confession of the one, holy, catholic church of all times and places. As the concluding phrase admits, the article on the Son of God is nothing other than a paraphrase of the Apostles' Creed.

Really, this article draws not just from the Apostles' Creed but also from the Nicene and Athanasian creeds. After all, there is only one confession of faith, and the ecumenical creeds, together with what was confessed at Augsburg, are that one confession. This article contains a description of the personal union of the divine and human natures in Jesus Christ. This union of divine nature and human nature in one person is a dogmatic formula that is based on the confession that Jesus is God's Son (very God of very God as the Nicene Creed says), who was conceived by the Holy Spirit (incarnation) and born of the virgin Mary (truly man). This Christology, confessed in both the Apostles' and Nicene Creed is expounded more fully in the Athanasian Creed.

Throughout the Augsburg Confession, the ordering of the articles is important. The article on the Son of God follows the article on Original Sin. The Son of God became man to be our Savior—to rescue us from our condition of sin and restore us to life, which according to Article 2, we are completely incapable of by our own powers and efforts. This chief article concerning our justification will be taken up in the next article

In Christ, Pastor Bayer

¹Paul Timothy McCain, Ed., *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Edition 2* (St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 2006), 32.

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Connected

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. — John 15:5

We are just days away from the start of the school year. As preparations are being made, one important consideration is our theme for the year. This year, we will use the theme announced for National Lutheran Schools Week, Connected. This theme comes from John 15:1-5. My favorite section of these verses comes right at the beginning of verse 4, “Abide in me, and I in you.” If we stay rooted in Christ, in the word of God, He is with us. He prepares us to bear fruit, not on our own, but through Him. He connects us to each other through our baptism into Him. As we take on a new school year, we don’t do it alone.

In August, the teaching staff had the opportunity to go on a retreat to Camp Concordia for a few days. We had a lot of fun growing as a team, taking on new challenges both as a group and personally, and taking the time to be in God’s Word. We have a fantastic staff at St. Peter. If you don’t yet know any of our teaching staff, I would encourage you to find a way to get to know them better, introduce yourself, pray for them, and support them throughout the year.

The beginning of a school year always brings mixed emotions for the students. They are excited to see their friends, many are excited about some of the new learning opportunities, there is always some dread about getting up early every day and getting back to doing school work and homework. I am excited for the opportunities our students will have to learn about God and learn about the world He created. We are bringing back STEM days throughout the year. In September the students will be walking in the Homecoming parade in St. Johns. We have an updated curriculum and updated technology for the students to use in their learning. It is going to be a fun year.

Blessings in Christ,
Erika Brown
Principal/Teacher

A LETTER FROM THE PRESCHOOL

KICK-OFF TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Wow, we can't believe we are starting another school year! We are very excited to welcome another group of children and parents. We currently have 28 children enrolled in our preschool class. We are excited to have Mrs. Curtin working with us in the classroom every day this year. Preschool orientation is on Thursday, August 31st at 6:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing returning families and welcoming new families. Our first day of preschool will be on Monday, September 11th.

The preschool staff had the opportunity to attend the LCMS Early Childhood Conference in Frankenmuth. We enjoyed a keynote speaker, break-out sessions, and team-building activities. It is always a joy to kick off the new school year with some worship and collaboration time. Thank you to the LCMS staff for putting on another great conference.

We look forward to seeing everyone after a beautiful summer. Prayers and positive thoughts are appreciated as we prepare to kick off another school year.

Blessings,
Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Fletcher, and Mrs. Curtin



A LETTER FROM OUR CANTOR

Why We Do What We Do

“And having taken some bread, when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ And in the same way he took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’” (Luke 22:19-20).

In our Lutheran Confessions, at what point during the Divine Service do they say that Christ’s body and blood are joined with the bread and wine?

I’m sorry, that was a trick question. The Lutheran Confessions don’t say anything about that. They don’t say anything about the “how, when or why.” They’re extremely careful to say nothing more than Matthew, Mark, Luke and St. Paul say in Scripture, and simply state the fact of the Sacrament in very succinct ways. Our Small Catechism asks, “What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Answer: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and drink” (SC VI). Also, “We believe, teach, and confess that in the Holy Supper the body and blood of Christ are truly and essentially present and are truly distributed and received with the bread and wine” (FC Ep. VII).

Some important things to notice in everything above. As Jesus is giving the disciples the bread and the cup, he says his body and blood are already present “in, with and under,” as we say, the bread and the wine. Christ’s Real Presence in the Sacrament doesn’t depend on the one who is distributing it or the one receiving it. It depends solely on Christ’s promise: “Take, eat, this is…” “Take, drink, this is…”

So the Sacrament consists of these actions: Proclaiming Jesus’ words of institution as a consecration of the elements; Distributing the bread/body and the wine/blood; Receiving and consuming them. Apart from these there is no Sacrament. You can’t take the wafer, put it in your pocket and take Jesus home; Jesus says, “Take, eat,” not “Take and put in your pocket.”

When the Sacrament is done, we don’t just pour what’s left down the drain. We treat what’s left with dignity and reverence, not because there’s something “magical” about it, or because it’s some kind of “sacred relic” to be worshiped. In the same way, we treat the water left from Baptism with the same reverence, not because it’s somehow “holy water.” These elements of bread, wine and water have been used for a sacred purpose, and so deserve our special care. How we treat these things before, during and after our worship, including the vessels we use, reflect our theology of the Sacraments.

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 NEWS

Don't Miss a Great Opportunity To Support our St. Peter School/Preschool Staff

Beginning this month (September) there will be a signup sheet in back of church to support our St. Peter School/Preschool Staff and show them some “love”. The idea is to provide an entire meal once a month for 3 months for a specific staff person. The meal can be brought to the school or delivered to their home (whichever you work out). Our St. Peter School/Preschool Staff go above and beyond what is required of them and we would like to show our appreciation with this small gesture. If you feel you can't provide a whole meal (main entrée, veggie/salad, dessert) you can team up with someone who would also like to help and do it together!

The sign up would be once a month for 3 months and will be located in back of church or you can give Ann Stout a call:

September, October, November **or**

January, February, March **or**

April, May, June

It would be your responsibility to reach out to the teacher you support to let them know when and how to expect the meal, whether dropping off at school or delivering to their home. Their cell number will be provided when you sign up. You can then reach out to them to see if there are allergies, dislikes, etc.

This is a great way to serve the Lord in a small but mighty way, but not such a great commitment that it is overwhelming!

Our St. Peter School/Preschool Staff are Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Armbrustmacher, Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Curtin and Mrs. Fletcher.

Please contact Ann Stout at (517) 230-8547 with any questions! Thank you!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, EVENTS

Treasurer News

I have taken over the treasurer duties from Evan VanBeelen. Any requests, questions or receipts should be directed to Sally Pontius. Evan will be the assistant treasurer and will be doing payroll for employees. Any payroll questions should be directed at Evan and all time sheets given to him in a timely manner. Thank you, Sally Pontius (517) 204-7991 treasurer@stpeterirley.org

Theology of the Body In a World of Dysphoria

A Conference for Clergy and Laity

Join us on Saturday, October 28th

Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt

Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer. The cost is \$25 per person and \$15 per student. Lunch will be provided. Registration is at 8am and a continental breakfast will be served. Matins at 8:30am and the conference begins at 9am and will conclude by 2pm.

Please RSVP to Hope Lutheran Church at 517 669-3930 to sign up to let us know you're coming.

Worship Service

On Friday, September 29th at 7pm, we will celebrate St. Michael and All Angels at St. Paul in Fowler. We hope many of you will join us!!

Thank You

The Salvage Mission (Mission Cry) in Fowlerville, MI sends a thank you! Mission Cry has sent over \$410 million in donated Bibles, Christian books, and seminary materials to over 178 nations around the world. Together we are letting the world hear our Mission Cry! Thank you again to Frank and Diane Hart for delivering the materials!

CHURCH NEWS

St. Peter Lutheran Church

2024 Women's Retreat

"Jesus Calms the Chaos"

"Be still and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10

Grab your friends and join us for a peaceful time together as we devote ourselves to fellowship with our sisters in Christ.

When:	April 26-April 27, 2024
Time:	4:00pm check in on Friday—5:00pm checkout on Saturday
Where:	St. Francis Retreat Center, 703 E. Main Street, DeWitt, MI
Who:	All ladies of St. Peter, friends and relatives are welcome
Accommodations:	Single rooms with 2 per restroom

Our speaker for the weekend is Pat Maier, Visual Faith Ministry—Co-founder. Pat is a former Lutheran educator and pastor's wife who enjoys writing, drawing and speaking to inspire God's people in their walk with Jesus. She lives in northern MI with her husband, Rev. David Maier and they have 4 children and 7 grandblessings.

Meals, snacks and refreshments will be provided. **Please bring your bible.** Friday evening will be relaxed with dinner, fellowship and a campfire. Saturday we will join together as Pat will guide us with scripture and tools and how we might keep our hearts focused on how "Jesus Calms the Chaos" in our lives.

Please see the registration form for more details. (Included in newsletter)

Women's Retreat Committee

Geri Jastram 517 290-7609

Judy Bengel 517 281-5813 or 989 834-5322

Rita Hollis 989 534-1955



The Food Pantry

We are accepting non-perishable food items from now until August 20 such as: Mac & Cheese, Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Stuffing, Canned Fruits, Peanut Butter, Stuffing, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Cake Mixes and Frosting.

Non-Food Items: Paper Towel, Kleenex, Toilet Paper, Ziplocs, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Cleaning Products, Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Liquid Hand Soap. Money Donations are also Helpful! Thank You for your Continued Support! You can drop your items off in the back of the Church or in the Church office.



Mites Sunday is September 24th!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Memorials

A memorial of \$30 was given in memory of Debbie Sattler

A memorial was given to the Endowment Fund in memory of Orlyn Heimsoth

A memorial was given in memory of Marilyn Sampson Kloeckner, Clemens & Marcella Kloeckner, Sherry Stearns, Henry & Doretta Witt, and Robert & Shirley Sampson to St. Peter Lutheran's general fund, School and Ladies Aid.

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.

The Church will only send out emails if we have permission from the person or family of whom the email is concerning to respect peoples privacy.



Shut-In Visit List

Monthly Visits

Virginia Davis
Charlie Silm
Shirley Edwards
Albert Smith
Linda Davis
Glenn Bennett
Mary Ann Grennell
Linda Chant
Rhonda Dedyne
Jan Maynard
Ilene Gibson
Ellie Camburn



Please review our list of Sick and Shut In and show them some love by calling and visiting. Continue to remember them in your daily prayers.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Quilting Bee at St. Peter Saturday, September 23rd

St. Peter's Ladies Aid "Piecemakers" invites everyone to a Quilting Bee on Saturday, September 23rd. We have received a Thrivent Action Plan grant to help us reach our goal of sending 100 quilts for LWML/Lutheran World Relief quilt drive in October. We also create quilts for Safe House and the Voice of Clinton County throughout the year.



The quilting bee will have all different stations set up that it takes to make the quilts; cutting fabric, sewing tops and fillers, tying the quilts, and binding them. You don't have to know how to sew to be part of this process. If you want to learn any of these steps we will teach you. Many hands make these quilts go together much quicker.

So please join us from 9am to 4pm in the gym for fellowship and fun at this service event. You can come and go as your schedule permits. Lunch will be provided. All ages are welcome. Any questions please call Laurie Flegler 989-307-0692. We are looking forward to sharing our love of this ministry with others!

Ladies Night at the Parsonage

Please join ALL St. Peter ladies and come to our 4th annual party at the parsonage! Bring a finger food or drink (alcoholic or non) to share.

Where: Kristin Bayer's house, 8964 Church Road

When: Friday Night, September 8th from 6-10pm. Come anytime!

Lap babies welcome. Also, high school gals.

No RSVP needed.

LCMS FOUNDATION

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments. The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I) We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him. This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, AND EVENTS

2023 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

What: Ice Cream Social

Where: St. Peter Lutheran Fellowship Center

When: Friday, September 15th

Time: 6:30-9:00pm

For Whom: The Entire Family

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

Games will be outside for the children and their parents. There will also be a social time and mixer game for adults in the gym. Don't miss out on this opportunity to fellowship with your St. Peter Church and School family! All you have to do is show up ready to have a great evening of fun.



NEWS FROM THE ERBER'S



2023 MINT FESTIVAL PARADE THANK YOU

Thank you to all the many volunteers who walked in the Mint Festival parade and purchased candy for this event. Special thanks to **Dave and Judy Bengel** for the use of their truck to carry the tubs of candy. Charlene Kennedy

CHURCH NEWS

Michigan March for LIFE

Wednesday, November 8, 2023
at 11am in Lansing

Right to Life of MI is partnering with the National March for Life in hosting a **MI March for LIFE!**

Date: Wednesday, November 8 (the first anniversary of Prop 3 passing in MI)

Where: We'll gather on the lawn outside our state Capitol building

Time: An Exciting rally is planned for 11am; our peaceful march around the Capitol is at noon.

Why are we having this March for Life? As we see thousands and thousands of pro-lifers gather that day, we will be:

- BUT we are Not done working to protect every life from conception to natural death.
- Assuring all our prolife legislators know that we still have their backs.
- Reminding any pro-abortion legislators that we are still watching what's going on.
- Encouraging and motivating every prolife person at the march to stay engaged.

This march will be life-changing for those of your church family who will attend. If you would like to attend, please talk to any of our LFL team here at St. Peter and we will carpool to make that happen!

St. Peter Lutheran for Life Team

Kristin Bayer, Vickie Pline, Sarah Sills, Sara Thurston, Diane Thurston

LCMS INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARIES

About the Erbers

Pastor David and Joyce Erber serve as missionaries with LCMS International Mission. We live in Ghana West Africa. David teaches at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Accra, Ghana and coordinates the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Online Master of Arts in Theology degree for pastors in Africa. Joyce is the Regional Business Manager for Africa and is responsible for accounting and financial dynamics for LCMS missionaries and projects across Africa.

How To Connect with David and Joyce

David.Erber@LCMS.org Joyce.Erber@LCMS.org or via: 3809 Westchester, Jackson, MI 49203

How To Send Financial Support For Our Mission Work In Africa:

1. Write check to: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
 2. On Memo Line, write: "Support for Erbers - Ghana"
 3. Send to: LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
- Or go to: www.lcms.org/givenow/erber Or go to: Mission Central

If you would prefer not to receive these letters, please send us a note.

Please note: These letters are not intended to serve as solicitations for donations. Some recipients uphold us in prayer. Some recipients send a donation once a month, once a year or once every couple of years. Some recipients simply like to hear about what is going on with us from time to time. These letters are intended to be a word of thanks for prayers and support as well as an attempt to stay in touch.

If you have a moment, we would love to hear from you! *David and Joyce*