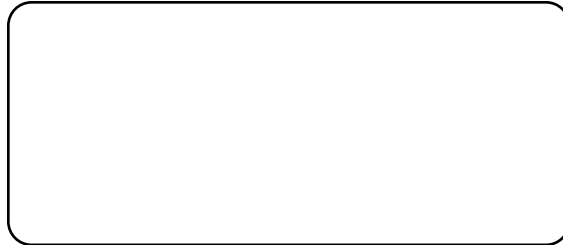


St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

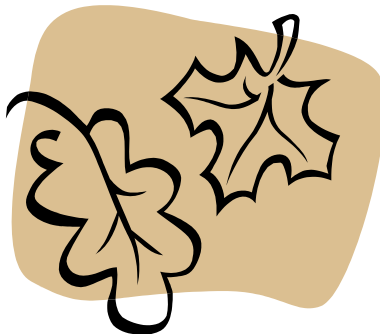
Rev. Timothy Bayer
8990 Church Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

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

We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org



THE MESSENGER *October 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 IV – Justification

Also they teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. (Romans 3 and 4). (AC IV)

It is said within Lutheranism that this is the article on which the Church stands or falls. In the Smalcald Articles, Luther, speaking about justification says, "Nothing of this article can be yielded or surrendered, even though heaven and earth and everything else falls."

This article is the heart of the Gospel—that we are saved by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. This means that we are saved apart from our works, as Scripture teaches. To be justified means that God declares us righteous for the sake of Jesus Christ. Jesus bore our sins in his body and died on the tree and rose again from the dead for this very purpose—for our justification. Our salvation is entirely God's work, not ours. He accomplished our salvation in Jesus Christ, who lived a sinless life and made satisfaction for our sins by His death. When we believe that God has done this for us, and that for Christ's sake our sins are forgiven, God counts this faith for righteousness in his sight. Faith alone justifies us before God.

Any "gospel" that teaches otherwise is no gospel at all. Any "gospel" that places man's efforts, strength, merits, or works into the equation is false. This error deprives poor sinners of the assurance of their salvation and the confidence they ought to have in Christ, and instead leaves them asking the terrible question—have I done enough?

Our works never can make satisfaction for our sins—only Christ's work makes satisfaction for our sins. Jesus says, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Christ has atoned for our sins and eternal life is the free gift of God. We can rest from our labors, rest from our worry of if we've done enough. We can confess freely to be a poor, miserable, sinner, and joyfully know that Christ has done enough. In Christ, and by his work alone, we are forgiven before God.

In Christ, Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

IN THE WORD

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” — Colossians 3:16-17

The school year is off to a great start. We have a great group of students, an excellent staff, and a lot of great plans for the year. We were already able to take the students on our first field trip of the year. The kindergarten through 8th-grade students went to Greenfield Village to learn about the resourcefulness and ingenuity throughout history. They got to go for a train ride, ride on the carousel, and walk through the museums in the village. The preschool students are visiting an apple orchard in October to learn about the development of an apple and how bees play a part in the process.

At the end of September, we had the opportunity to walk in the St. Johns homecoming parade as a school. This was an excellent opportunity to get our name out there, advertise for Trunk or Treat, and bring school families together for fun and fellowship. We will also be having our first STEM day for the year in October.

As a staff, we are always looking for ways to improve our building and our procedures in an effort to keep the students safe to the best of our ability. We have been working with a company on assessing our current processes and working to improve those where needed. This company will also be coming in October to do a full day of safety training with the staff.



There is so much going on at St. Peter, and at the heart of it are the daily routines that help us to focus on the cross. We are meeting each morning in the gym to start our day with devotions. Pastor leads devotions, sharing scripture, going over our weekly catechism, and beginning the day in prayer. The students attend Matins each Wednesday and enjoy religion class three days a week. They are in a classroom daily with teachers who share their faith and integrate God’s Word into all subjects as opportunities present themselves.

Blessings in Christ,

Erika Brown
Principal/Teacher

A LETTER FROM THE PRESCHOOL



We can't believe we have started another school year! We are very excited to have another great group of children and parents. The children are busy learning the routine, classroom rules, and making new friends. We have had a very busy couple of weeks and look forward to the upcoming weeks of preschool.

Preschool will be enjoying a field trip to the Country Mill Cider Mill in Charlotte on Tuesday, October 3rd. We are very excited to have our parents join us on this wonderful field trip. We will be taking a wagon ride, learning about the apple orchard, picking pumpkins and apples, and enjoying cider and donuts. Please pray for nice weather so the children can also enjoy the playground this year. Thank you to PTL for helping fund this event.

October brings a lot of busy and fun events. We will be learning about community helpers and having a local fire department come in to teach the children about fire safety. We also have "Trunk or Treat" at the end of the month. Trunk or Treat is always a great community event. Please let us know if you would like to participate or help in any way.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. Curtin

A LETTER FROM OUR CANTOR

Why We Do What We Do

What does the Divine Service on Sunday have to do with Christian Stewardship? Lots!!! Let's walk through some examples.

Right at the beginning we confess that we are poor stewards who have failed the vocations God has given us “in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved (Him) with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.” We’ve been all too focused on ourselves and our “stuff.” As Pastor pronounces Absolution, we are called back to our Baptism and our life in the God who created, preserves, redeemed and sanctifies us.

A few weeks ago, the Introit had this very discordant, disconcerting passage: “The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.... I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills” (Ps. 50:1, 9-10). Sometimes we feel we’re doing God a favor by coming to church and giving our offering. He calls us up short by rejecting the attitude and rejecting the gift. He reminds us all creation, including us, is his and in his overwhelming mercy he invites us to come into his presence and enjoy the gifts HE has to give US.

The Prayer, or Collect, of the Day ties in to the season of the Church year and the readings for the day. But notice how many times it expresses something like this one: “Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul (What an AMAZING realization). Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience....” Isn’t this the whole point of the Christian life?

The Old Testament Lessons on Sunday are overflowing with messages about stewardship. Consider what God, speaking through the prophet Nathan, said to David, “I anointed you king of Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul... and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!... You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your wife” (II Samuel 12:7, 9, emphasis added). Notice the difference between God giving and David taking. Other examples are endless.

The Epistle Lessons are often from the Letters of Paul, who wrote things like, “I appeal to you, fellow Christians, by the mercies of God, to give your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, and so worship him as thinking beings. Don’t live like this world...” (Rom. 12:1-2) He wrote about how we Christians are individually parts of a single body (I Cor. 12:13), so that when one of us hurts, we all hurt. He described how the church in Macedonia, though very poor, contributed generously to the church in Jerusalem undergoing a famine, and added, “And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will” (II Cor. 8:1-5). Peter joins the stewardship theme: “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (I Pet. 4:10).

Listen closely during the Gospel Lesson. Someone has made the observation that, counting the number of verses, Jesus spent more time talking about money and possessions than he did about anything else, including heaven and hell. How we manage the gifts God gives us reflects our faith in and worship of him (Matt. 6:21). This just begins our exploration of this subject. Next time I’ll share some more insights in how our worship on Sunday morning relates to the issue of Stewardship.

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

SCHOOL NEWS



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

There is 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. September, October and November are all covered. Thank you to all who signed up for those months. 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:

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.

Calling Volunteers

Want to get more involved at church and school? Every day is bustling at St. Peter. We're looking for volunteer receptionists in the office during the week to answer the phone, man the door, and be helpful in random ways. We would like volunteers to commit to one morning a week (8 a.m. to noon) from now until Christmas. There is a sheet in the narthex to claim your day of the week in the office. Thank you. Position includes all the coffee you can drink.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, EVENTS

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.

2023 PTL Christmas Wreath Sale

Christmas wreaths will be available to order through
St. Peter Lutheran School *PTL*.

Each wreath is about 20-22 inches and will have a
red bow and pinecone adorning them.

These wreaths will be made by Howe's Greenhouse
and make a beautiful gift to family and friends during the Christmas season.

Wreaths cost \$30.00/each, each wreath sold provides \$13.00 off
the designated student tuition of your choice.

If you do not designate a student account, funds raised will go to the PTL.

If you would like to order a wreath, please fill out an envelope and drop it off with payment in
the school office/student teacher or Erika Brown at Worship Service, by **October 29th**.

Envelopes will be made available in the October newsletter,
back of the church and school office.

(PLEASE DO NOT PUT ENVELOPES IN THE OFFERING PLATE)

Payment can be made by cash or check, **Please make checks payable to "St. Peter PTL"**

You will be able to pick up your wreath at St. Peter on

November 26th outside the front entrance.

If you have any questions, please contact Corrine Fletcher at 989-224-3178.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR AMAZING SCHOOL!

Blessings, Mrs. Fletcher



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS AND EVENTS

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. A payment of \$20 will secure your place at the retreat. Please make your check out to Geri Jastram and turn your deposit (check/cash) in to her **BEFORE OCTOBER 15TH.**

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 bathroom

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 pick up a registration form in the narthex if you haven't already!

Women's Retreat Committee

Geri Jastram 517 290-7609

Judy Bengel 517 281-5813 or 989 834-5322

Rita Hollis 989 534-1955

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Pastor/Church Worker Appreciation Month

The LCMS is encouraging congregations and school communities to use the month of October to demonstrate appreciation for our pastors, workers in the parish and school, administrative assistants, teacher aides, custodians, and everyone in between. It gives us opportunity as a congregation to express in various ways our thankfulness to the shepherd who cares for us and all who serve in the above capacities. These church workers are vital in our Christian faith and life, each according to their Vocation. To show our appreciation, there are numerous ways to reach out...a note of encouragement, a meal (see sign up sheet in narthex for teachers), gift cards, etc. **There will be an offering plate in the back of church for anyone who would like to contribute a monetary gift to Pastor Bayer. Thank you to Pastor for all that you do to lead us on this faith journey at St.. Peter!! You are loved!!**

Circuit Wide Reformation Service Choir Opportunity

Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansing is hosting a Circuit-Wide Reformation Service on Sunday, October 29, at 3pm. They thought it would be nice to have a joint choir participate in the service. There is a joint rehearsal on **Thursday, October 26th at 6:30pm,** at Trinity with Diane Dowding directing the choir and Susanne Hoekema playing the organ. **Then, on Sunday, October 29th, we would like to run through the pieces prior to the service at 2:15pm.**

There will be a traditional German meal served after the service (pork loin and sauerkraut) but some of the meat will be prepared without sauerkraut and there will be a number of side dishes and apple crisp for dessert. There is no charge for the meal.

Please call St. Peter Church office (989) 224-3178 if interested, and we will contact Trinity to let them know how many people will be attending.

The pieces that will be sung as a choir are: Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness, The Church's One Foundation and The Lord Bless You and Keep You.

The Food Pantry

We would like to THANK EVERYONE who contributed food and other items and money to the Food Pantry. We had our Food Pantry Distribution on August 28th. ALL of the Food Pantry recipients were EXTREMELY THANKFUL and GRATEFUL! We will now STOP collecting food and other items. We will begin collecting again on May 12th, 2024.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Memorials

Given in memory of Lyle Huguelet —
\$65.00

Given in memory of Randy Heinlen —
\$990.00

Given in memory of Sue Yelden —
\$40,166.15



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

Ladies Aid and LWML

The “Piecemakers” are continually meeting every Thursday morning. We are getting closer to our goal for Lutheran World Relief. The delivery of our quilts is scheduled for the middle of October.

Thank you to all who donated material and sheets, but it won't last long. So hopefully you will continue to donate. Our mites and LWML Sunday will be the *last Sunday of October which will be the 29th.*



The LWML Capital Zone Gathering will be Saturday, October 14th from 8:30am to 1:00pm at Good Shepherd, Lansing. We hope that many St. Peter ladies will join other Lutheran LWML'ers for Opening Service, Bible Study with Pastor Klamer, a mission speaker, short meeting and lunch.

Love in Christ,
Kathy Bond



Our first quilting bee was so much fun! We had 12 people participate in this service event. We tied 3 quilts, hemmed one, cut lots of squares and made 1.5 quilt tops. Food, drinks and conversation were bountiful! My favorite events of the day were watching **Aubrey Brown and Linley Bayer** learning how to use the sewing machine. Aubrey and her Grandma Brown were able to complete a quilt top, with Aubrey doing all of the sewing. Linley and Kathy Bond got 15 rows sewn. It makes my heart smile to

see young people wanting to learn new skills! I believe we will meet our goal of sending 100 quilts to Lutheran World Relief on behalf of LWML. Thank you to everyone who has donated sheets and fabric throughout the year. We could not have done it without your support.

God's blessings, Laurie Flegler

LCMS FOUNDATION

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should “not misuse the name of the Lord.” In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

“We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.” (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

THANK YOU'S

I would like to thank everyone that helped with the Mint City parking on Saturday, August 12th. We made \$5,926.20 and the money will go to the general fund.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped with the golf outing. Thank you to the ladies that made the delicious meal, **Kathy and Bruce Bond** for delivering the food to the golf course, and to **Sue and Tom Bourdon** for getting the 2—\$250 Action Plan Thrivent gift cards. The gift cards were used to buy the food and prizes for the outing.

Thank you to St. Peter members who donated gift cards, money and prizes.

Thank you to **Larry Mohr and Rita Hollis** for going out and soliciting gifts from our community.

Thank you to **Patty West and her friend**, for driving the golf cart around and selling Jello and pudding shots and water. They also sold raffle tickets.

A special thank you to my golf committee: **Harold Anderson, Rita and Tom Hollis, Al and Renee Schmitzer, Annie Gruber, Larry Mohr and Ryan West.**

We profited \$6,373.00 and the money will be going to assist the school.

If I missed anyone, I am sorry....know that you are appreciated! John Burgess

I would like to thank **Jeanette Mehney** for using her Thrivent Action Plan gift card of \$250.00 for the Card Ministry. The gift card was used to buy stamps for the office, the card ministry and thank you notes for the golf outing. Pam Mohr

Thank you to all who attended our Ice Cream Social on Friday, September 15th. A great time was had by all. A special thank you to all the wonderful helpers for this event. Thank you to **Al and Renee Schmitzer** for handling the games for the children to enjoy, and **Laurie Flegler** for the mixer for the adults. Special thank you to **Jeanette Mehney** for making the homemade toppings for the ice cream. Thank you to **everyone** who donated the cookies, cookie bars, rice Krispy treats and brownies. It was wonderful to see so many of our school families attend!! Charlene Kennedy



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS AND EVENTS



Trunk or Treat Friday, October 27th 6:00—7:30pm

Please join us for a night full of fun fellowship, trunk or treating, crafts, hayride, etc. This is open to the public so spread the word!!!

We are once again collecting candy for this night. You may drop it off at the church office anytime between now and the event.

There will be a sign up sheet in the school breezeway to sign up to open your trunk and pass out candy. Reserve your spot TODAY!!!

Any questions, contact Kristin Bayer
at (585) 698-6981

Secret Prayer Sister Reveal

Saturday, November 11th, 2:30pm
Fellowship Center Gym

It's that time of the year....time to find out who has been praying for you this past year. Please put this date on your calendar. If most of us can make it, it will be a go. It is custom to bring a little gift for your SPS to exchange that day. If you'd like to be a part of this special ministry, please let me know!! We would love to see some new faces!!

Diane Thurston (989) 388-2069

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, AND EVENTS

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:

- Letting everyone know that while Proposal 3 was terribly disappointing 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*