

**St. Peter Lutheran  
Church & School**

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



**THE MESSENGER**  
*September 2024*



**Church Services**

Divine Service – Sundays at 9:30 am

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 XIV – Of Ecclesiastical Order

**Of Ecclesiastical Order they teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church or administer the sacraments unless he be regularly called.**

Only certain men are to publicly teach in the Church and administer the sacraments—and this article defines who these men are, namely that they are regularly called. What does it mean then to be regularly called? It means a man has been prepared and instructed for the ministry with proper theological education and mentoring, he has received a Divine Call from the Church to serve in the ministry, and he has been ordained into that same office.

As with all of the articles in the Augsburg Confession, and the entire Book of Concord, this is confessed because Holy Scripture teaches it. The Gospel account is really two main stories—the primary story is of Jesus’ earthly ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection, but there is another story as well—that of the first seminary class of the New Testament Church and the ordination of the first pastors. At the start of Jesus’ ministry, he calls the 12 apostles. They then receive teaching from the Lord for three years, preparing them for their future service, and finally, following the completion of our salvation by Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection, they are ordained into the Holy Office of the Ministry to bring this salvation to the world in Word and Sacrament. Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

So the apostles were sent by Jesus to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins. They were sent to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. They were sent to “do this, in remembrance of me,” administering Christ’s body and blood to the faithful to the end of the age.

Who publicly teaches in the Church and administers the sacraments is based on Jesus’ institution and definition of the Office of the Ministry. The Church, following Jesus’ institution, continues regularly calling men into the ministry. In fact, Christ himself continues calling and sending men—not directly as he did the apostles, but through the Church. St. Paul refers to Timothy’s ordination by Paul’s laying on of hands in 1 Timothy 4:14 and 2 Timothy 1:6. And all the way down to the current day, this pattern has repeated itself. This article prohibits a man from assuming the Office for himself. He must be called into the Office by the Church.

In Christ, Pastor Bayer

# A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Endure

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*  
*Hebrews 12: 1-3*

And just like that, summer is over and the new school year has begun. The kindergarten through 8th grade students returned to school on August 26th with much excitement. The preschool students will be returning on September 9th to start their school year. We have over sixty students that will be at St. Peter this year. Please pray for our students, their families, and staff at St. Peter.

Our theme for the school year is “ENDURE”, taken from the verses above in the book of Hebrews. We will be talking to the students throughout the year about “running with endurance”, and what that looks like when we are “running” with our focus always on Jesus. What joy we have knowing that He already ran the race for us. Jesus endured the cross so that we don’t have to. Instead, we follow Jesus who has forgiven our sins, with faith graciously given by the Spirit, knowing we have salvation in Him.

As we share this message with our students, we also provide an opportunity to spread this message to other children around the world through their chapel offerings. The chapel offerings collected this year will be going toward MOST Ministries. We are looking for volunteers who have gone on a MOST trip before to come and talk with the kids about their experience. If you have been on a trip or know someone who has, please reach out to me or to the school office so we can schedule a visit.

Some upcoming things to note. The school kids will be walking in the homecoming parade on September 13th in St. Johns to represent our school. Our school PTL will have its first meeting on the 9th and start planning great opportunities for our students. The students will participate in their first STEM day at the end of the month. It is going to be a great year!

Blessings in Christ,  
Erika Brown

# PRESCHOOL NEWS

"Welcome to Preschool: A Journey of Learning and Fun Begins!"

THEME: ST. PETER PRESCHOOL IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!



We are very excited to have 25 preschoolers start next week. The staff has been very busy getting the school and classroom prepared for incoming students. We feel extremely blessed to have so many returning and new students in our class. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. It is truly appreciated.

Our preschool orientation took place on Tuesday, August 27th. Thank you to all the parents and preschoolers who attended. We went over the layout and expectations for the upcoming school year. Our first field trip for the year will be on Wednesday, October 2nd. We will be going to County Mill in Charlotte. Families also had the opportunity to meet and check out the preschool classroom. It was great to see so many returning and new families!

Our first day of preschool will be on Monday, September 9th. We are looking forward to another great year of preschool. We hope you all had a wonderful summer with family and friends!

Blessings,

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



# A LETTER FROM THE CANTOR

## Why We Do What We Do

### Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio

### Prayer, Meditation, Testing/Trial Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio

#### Prayer, Meditation, Testing/Trial

Martin Luther wrote that these three are necessary for a person to become a good theologian (LW 34, p. 285 - 288). And he believed every Christian could become “a good theologian.” But he meant something very specific when he wrote about “prayer, meditation, and testing.” Let’s look at that.

First, he points out that God’s gift of salvation and eternal life are way beyond anything we can figure out on our own. The only way we can know them is through God’s Word in Holy Scripture. So to assume we can figure God out is the ultimate in hubris. We don’t open our Bible with our preconceived notions of what he says and means. Rather, we come to him in complete humility and ask that his Son give us the Holy Spirit to guide us in what he has to teach us in his Word. Luther points out how David throughout Psalm 119 asks God to teach him, show him, lead him, instruct him.

Next, we meditate on what that Word has to say. Here again, Luther has something very specific in mind. Let me give you an example. A favorite Bible passage is, “God is love” (I John 4:8). It’s really easy to assume we know and understand what that means; we all know what “love” is. But that leads us down the path to the slogan that’s very popular right now, “Love is love”, suggesting it doesn’t matter who or what you love, it’s all the same. So consequently God will love you and accept you no matter what. BUT that’s not what the Bible means by the verse. If we only stay in I John, we already see our assumptions are off base and begin to understand what God is saying, “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent his only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (I John 4:9-10). Continuing our search throughout Scripture, we start to realize that God is a righteous judge, and we only begin to learn about his love as we recognize the gift of his Son for us as our Redeemer, who conquered sin and death to give us eternal life.

The third stage of becoming a theologian is trial or testing. Just as we’re beginning to understand God’s Word, the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh challenge us, saying we’re all wrong. When you hear someone say, “Love is love,” the first time you respond and say, “But that’s not what the Bible has to say,” you’ll get harsh push-back. “Who are you to tell me I’m wrong? That’s just your opinion.” Even our own human nature will pull us back into pretending we can do as we please, or tell us that others’ beliefs are just as valid as our Christian faith. This is the “testing” Luther refers to, causing us to question, “Did God really say....?” Through these trials our faith is tested and strengthened, as we rely solely on his Word and its promises.

That brings us back to the beginning of the process, as we once again come to his Word with the prayer that humbly seeks his Spirit to guide our reading and understanding. Some of you may remember the old collect, “Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life.” This is what that pray is talking about.

Some people tend to believe that Bible study is optional for the Christian faith. That’s sad; they don’t know what they’re missing. More importantly, in a world that continuously tempts us to accept and believe its craziness, we need to build our faith, life and hope on a solid foundation. That comes through “Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio.”

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

Dick Davenport

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WHAT IS THE MITE BOX ALL ABOUT?

Your spare change once a month becomes more powerful than you can imagine!!

Through LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission), hundreds of thousands of dollars are distributed to many missions all over the world!

For example:

\$100,000 to A Healing Plan for At Risk Children  
\$100,000 is given to Serve LCMS Office for Pastoral Education  
\$100,000 A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children in US  
\$106,000 Healthy together, Healthy Workers, Healthy Church. (Lutheran Family Services in US)  
\$100,000 fortifying Faith for Those With Vision Impairment (Lutheran Braille Workers)

Just to name a few! Your spare change & bills can work miracles all over the world  
in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

That's what MITES can do. THANK YOU!! REMEMBER every last Sunday of each month is MITE SUNDAY!!

## St. Peter Ladies Aid & LWML News

We invite the ladies of the congregation to join us **every** Thursday morning at 9 a.m. to tie quilts and other jobs. The first Thursday of the month is our monthly Ladies Aid meeting which begins around noon and will be September 5th. The second Saturday of every month we meet in the morning from 9 a.m. - noon in the Fellowship Center Gym for our Quilting Bee. This month we will meet on Saturday, September 14th.

We welcome any thoughts for some fund-raiser ideas.

Our LWML Mites collection is on the last Sunday of each month which will be September 29th. Our Mites have been down lately. We welcome you to drop coins/ bills in the Mite Box in the Narthex. If you would like to take a small box home with you, pick one up on your way out of church on the shelf. LWML uses these mites to help many people all around the world.

If you have any questions just text me @ 989-640-0630.

Love in Jesus, Kathy Bond

# THANK YOU' S

## Thank You's

Thank you for lifting up the bright light of Jesus for others to see. I am so deeply thankful to God that He chose you to supply what the work of the LCMS requires. Although giving may seem a simple act, it speaks so forcefully about the kind of Christ-following disciples God has made each of you to be. "Love one another," was Jesus' commandment to his disciples. You are doing just that through this gift, and all other acts of selfless sacrifice you make for the sake of the Gospel message. Even in financially challenging times like these, you are confessing your trust and faith in Christ alone. And I appreciate you. Thank you.

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison, President LCMS

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Dear Pastor Bayer and the congregation of St. Peter,

Thank you for the generous scholarship and your support of continued Lutheran education. I can assure you that my peers and I greatly appreciate everything this congregation has done and continues to do for us and our education. Rest assured we will remember your gift for many years to come, and the knowledge we gain from this experience will help us to grow as faithful Lutherans. Thank you again!

Prayers in Christ, Lydia Klamer

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## 2024 MINT FESTIVAL PARADE

Thank you to all the many volunteers who walked in the Mint Festival parade this year. Thanks to all who purchased candy for this event. Special thanks to Dave Bengel for the use of his truck to carry the tubs of candy to pass out during the parade.

Charlene Kennedy

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Thank you for your support of missionaries and mission work throughout the world! Your contribution is very much appreciated. God is blessing our ministry through YOU, as together we partner to bring the Good News of Salvation to the world!  
Global Lutheran Outreach

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Dear Pastor Bayer and people of God at St. Peter Lutheran,  
Thank you for your donation of \$2,000 in April. Thank you for your prayers for my work with seminary students and the church in Ghana and for Joyce's work with missionaries and missionary programs throughout Africa. We are thankful for your partnership in proclaiming Christ in Africa! P.S. We have a new granddaughter!!

David and Joyce Erber, Together in Mission

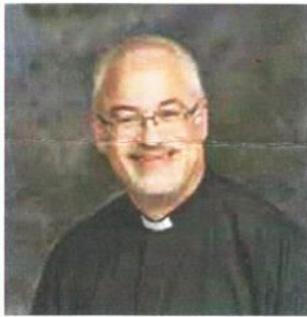
# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Right to Life - Livingston County



32nd Annual  
Focus on Life Dinner  
Tuesday, October 8, 2024  
6:30 - 9:30 pm  
Crystal Gardens  
5768 E. Grand River  
Howell, MI

Featuring Guest Speaker  
**Pastor Paul Clark**  
President Lutherans for Life of Michigan  
with Emcee  
**Joe Hune**  
Former State Senator



Pastor Paul Clark is the pastor of [St. Paul Lutheran Church](#) in Fowler, Michigan, where he has served for 35 years. He also serves as the president of [Lutherans For Life of Michigan](#). He has spoken at many events, banquets, and rallies throughout the state during the past 30 years. He has been active on several committees over the years to advocate for **LIFE**, in regard to such issues as abortion and physician-assisted suicide in the state of Michigan. Pastor Clark and his wife Elizabeth have been married for 44 years. They have three children through the blessing of adoption, and now enjoy the wonderful blessing of grandchildren. Pastor Clark firmly believes that the sanctity of human life is the most important issue of our day, and that by means of informing and educating the public, as well as applying Christian love and compassion to those directly affected, the pro-life position will prevail, and our nation will again uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life.

Joe Hune served two terms as [Michigan's 22nd District](#) State Senator. Before becoming a state senator, Hune was in the Michigan House of Representatives from [Michigan's 47th district, Livingston County](#). He served as chairperson of the Senate Agriculture and Insurance Committees and on the Michigan Senate Health Policy, Regulatory Reform and Energy and technology committees. Joe is husband to Marcia, dad to Alex, an agricultural business owner, and currently serves as director of West Michigan Health Plan Business for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.



\_\_\_\_ Individual reservation \$60

\_\_\_\_ Table of 10 for \$550 (Save \$50!)

\_\_\_\_ Students \$30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Together we are making a difference!

\_\_\_\_ I am unable to attend but would support  
the FOL dinner with a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Dinner reservations are not tax-deductible

Registration begins at 6:00 pm

For additional information call  
810/227-5788 or email [rtllc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rtllc@sbcglobal.net)

Register and pay at  
[www.righttolifelivingston.org](http://www.righttolifelivingston.org)

Or mail to:  
Right to Life - Livingston County, Inc.  
P. O. Box 934  
Brighton, MI 48116-0934

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

## Memorials



## 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.

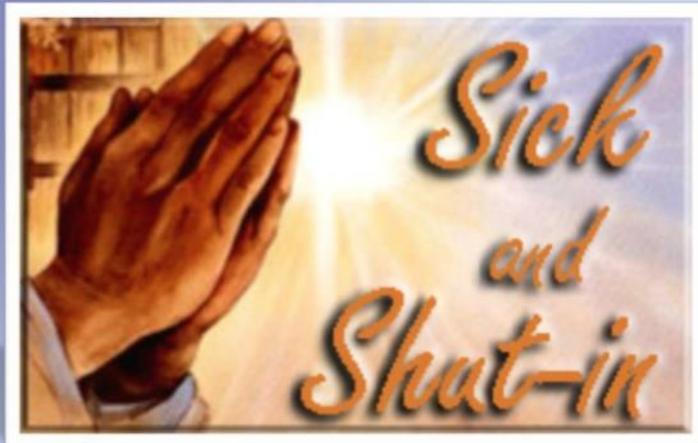
The Church will only send out emails if we have permission from the person or family of whom the email is concerning to respect peoples privacy.



## *Shut-In Visit List*

### *Monthly Visits*

Ellie Camburn  
Linda Chant  
Linda Davis  
Rhonda Dedyne  
Ilene Gibson  
Mary Ann Grennell  
Jan Maynard  
Jeanette Mehney  
Charlie Silm  
Bernita Sillman  
Albert Smith



***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.***

## Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the Lutheran Service Book has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We re-think our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

# 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](http://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*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ladies' Night...

is at the parsonage will be Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6-10pm. Lap babies are welcome as well as high school gals. Please bring a finger food or a beverage (alcoholic or non) to share. No RSVP needed!

## St. Peter School...

is looking for church members to adopt a classroom in prayer for the year. Beyond praying for the teacher and students in your class, you could visit the class to read or bring a treat, sit with them during chapel one morning, etc. This is a pilot program with room for ideas! If interested, please see Kristin Bayer.

### **Unique Giving Opportunity**

St. Peter Lutheran Church and School has discovered a way to keep our Junior High graduates grounded in a scriptural based, classical education through their High School years: Wittenberg Academy.

From their website:

“WittenbergAcademy is a completely online Lutheran school dedicated to forming scholars for life in this world and the next. We are unabashedly Lutheran in our delivery of quality, classical education: scholars receive instruction from teachers who believe, teach, and confess the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.”

We currently have 4 students interested in enrolling this fall. The approximate cost per year is \$5,000 per student. St. Peter will be providing a classroom, but no financial support will be included. (We currently cover approximately 55% of the total educational cost for our Dayschool students.)

To assist with the financial burden of this wonderful educational opportunity, a Wittenberg Scholarship Fund is being established. Anyone wanting to contribute can contact Dave Bengel or Sally Pontius. Contributions for the 2024-25 school year should be submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Those wanting more information about the program can reach out to Kristin Bayer. Wittenberg's website is [www.wittenbergacademy.org](http://www.wittenbergacademy.org).