

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

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



THE MESSENGER

September *2025*



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 XXIV: Of the Mass (cont.)

.... [10] But it is evident that for a long time this also has been the public and most grievous complaint of all good men that Masses have been basely profaned and applied to purposes of lucre. [11] For it is unknown how far this abuse obtains in all the churches by what manner of men Masses are said only for fees or stipends, and how man celebrate them contrary to the Canons. [12] But Paul severely threatens those who deal unworthily with the Eucharist when he says, 1 Cor. 11, 27: Whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilt of the body and blood of the Lord. [13] When, therefore our priests were admonished concerning this sin, Private Masses were discontinued among us, as scarcely any Private Masses were celebrated except for lucre's sake .

[14] Neither were the bishops ignorant of these abuses, and if they had corrected them in time, there would now be less dissension. Heretofore, [15] by they own connivance, they suffered many corruptions to creep into the Church. Now, when it is too late, they begin to complain [16] of the troubles of the Church, while this disturbance has been occasioned simply by those abuses which were so manifest that they could be borne no longer. There have been great [17] dissensions concerning the Mass, concerning the Sacrament. [18] Perhaps the world is being punished for such long-continued profanations of the Mass as have been tolerated in the churches for so many centuries by the very men who [19] were both able and in duty bound to correct them. For in the Ten Commandments it is written, Ex. 20:7: The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain. But since [20] the world began, nothing that God ever ordained seems to have been so abused for filthy lucre as the Mass.

The Mass, which is upheld among us and observed with the greatest reverence, was sorely abused at the time of the Reformation. The service of Christ's body and blood for the people to eat and drink for forgiveness had become a money-making scheme. The corruptions of the centuries had accumulated to this great abomination in the Church. The teaching of purgatory and penance had resulted in people paying priests to say Mass for them, and by this sacrifice, merit God's favor. In other words, they were paying off God. It is hard to imagine a greater scandal to faith than paying for forgiveness, and hard to imagine a greater scandal in all the history of the world than using Christ's very body and blood in this faith-destroying scheme in order to gain some cash.

This abuse led to Private Masses, often with no congregation, but only the priest present. As long as he did his work of offering the mass, he would make a paycheck and the payer would be promised forgiveness. These Private Masses were discontinued in the churches of the Augsburg confession, praise be to God. The Mass's right use has been restored among us—the Mass is used in faith, hearing Jesus's words, "given and shed for your for the forgiveness of sins" and believing. St. Paul does indeed warn of unworthy eating and drinking of the Eucharist. Faith in theses words, "given and shed for your for the forgiveness of sins" makes one worthy to eat and drink the blessed body and blood given and shed for us. Believing these words, we have exactly what they say, "the forgiveness of sins." Our forgiveness is not purchased with silver or gold, but with the holy, precious blood of Christ and with His innocent suffering and death. It was a once-for-all sacrifice, there is no work left to offer God to secure forgiveness. Instead, God gives us Christ's very body and true blood, given and shed for us, to bring us His forgiveness, life, and salvation.

-Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

God is in Control

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

Looking back on the article I wrote for our August newsletter, I can read my own hopeful words about getting the school construction taken care of before beginning the new school year. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. We started school on time on August 25th, without even starting construction. But that's ok. We have a plan, and we are moving forward. Construction will be starting before Labor Day and will take place alongside normal activity in the building.

This is just a simple example of things not going how I planned, how I thought they would. But the reality is, even though we make plans, have ideas, strive for change, try to keep things the same... the plan is not our plan.

Isaiah 55 reminds us of this. God is in control. His thoughts and his ways are far greater than our own. The children in our school are His children, and He is taking care of them. The new year has begun, and we can trust that He is in control. God is perfectly wise, our own sinful thoughts pale in comparison.

Here are some updates on what is happening in our school. We are blessed to have Pastor Klamer and Mrs. Bayer working together teaching a weekly music class. The children will be rehearsing hymns and will be instructed on the history of our rich Lutheran musical and liturgical heritage and the eternal truths embedded therein – the living and active Word of God.

On September 19th, students and their families will be walking in the St. Johns Homecoming Parade. It is a fun opportunity to represent our school and then enjoy pizza and fellowship after the parade.

I want to give a special thank you to everyone who has helped get the building ready for the school year. From helping move furniture and setting up classrooms to cleaning up weeds on the playground and everything in between. We wouldn't have been ready to start without your help.

As we move into September, keep our school in your prayers. Pray for all our returning families as well as the two new families who have joined our school.

Blessings in Christ,

Erika Brown

Principal/Teacher

Save the Date!

St. Peter Oktoberfest
Saturday, September 27



2:00pm-5:00pm

Food, beer, live music, dancing, kid fun, and
more!

Free admission! Donations welcome.

Deaconess Melissa Harnden was born and raised in Everett, Washington. Her family joined Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in 2009, and she has been stubbornly Lutheran ever since. She was homeschooled alongside her younger brother Matthew from the third grade all the way through high school.

She received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Special

Education from the University of Washington, and then attended Concordia Theological Seminary in

Fort Wayne where she completed her Master's degree in Diaconal Studies. Last year, she did her

deaconess internship at Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church in Beverly Hills, MI.

Melissa enjoys reading, crocheting/knitting, baking, and collecting far too many houseplants. She is very excited to begin her service at St. Peter, teaching the children, ministering to the women, and

helping to identify and meet the needs of the congregation. Thank you for extending the love of Christ to her in your warm welcome to the congregation!

Wittenberg Update

On July 23, Ben and Liz Potter hosted our Wittenberg crew at their lake home as a way to say “Job well done!” At this mid-summer reunion the students enjoyed boating, tubing, and kayaking. Our co-op has proven to be an excellent place for facilitating relationships amongst these online schoolers. What a blessing! This summer, Andrew Bayer and Lydia Klamer took a 12 week Latin II course. The Bayers were able to meet up with two Wittenberg families from Minnesota and Wisconsin on their trip west this summer. On August 16, several Wittenberg students went to Chelsea, Michigan for an English Country Dance and pork dinner, hosted by another Wittenberg family. We have six scholars enrolled in Wittenberg Academy again this year. Some students plan to work and/or take RESA courses. Others plan to come into the building several days a week. A 2025-2026 routine will surely solidify, and we look forward to witnessing a second year of rigorous study and edifying relationships at the St. Peter co-op

FOR SALE-Used electric keyboard, \$20.00, if interested, please contact the Church Office.

A LETTER FROM THE CANTOR

Who We Are

Almost immediately after the death of Martin Luther in 1546, the Lutheran Church faced a number of crises which challenged its very existence. Within months, Emperor Charles V, with the backing of the pope, initiated a war against the Lutheran princes and their territories. Greatly outnumbered and overpowered, by 1547 the Lutheran forces were crushed and their princes taken prisoner. Charles imposed a number of conditions on the Lutherans, including restoring some Roman practices and acknowledging the pope as the head of the Church by divine right.

Earlier I wrote about how Philipp Melanchthon tried to find middle ground for the sake of peace. This was one of those times. Some Lutherans went along with Philipp in accepting some Roman positions. These people also tried to find some middle ground with John Calvin, softening the confession about the Sacraments.

Others saw this as a betrayal of their confession and refused the efforts at compromise. They tried to define things like salvation, faith, and good works so rigidly that they ultimately fell into false doctrine. Thus a deep division became apparent.

In a sudden reversal of fortunes, Charles V was driven out of Germany in 1552 and with some relative peace in the land, the Lutherans had time to sort out their problems. Enter onto the scene “the second Martin”, Martin Chemnitz. Chemnitz was born in 1522. Like Luther, he was baptized on the feast day of St. Martin of Tours, so given the name Martin. He studied theology, including for a time under Melanchthon, and became a Lutheran pastor in 1554.

Before long the theological differences between the two groups were becoming apparent. At the same time the Roman Catholics were in the middle of the Council of Trent, in which they expected to counter all of the Protestants. Chemnitz had the intellectual skill to take on all of these groups in his writing and speaking. Especially among the Lutheran groups, he was able to analyze the argument of each side and point out where they had gone astray from the Augsburg Confession and the Scriptures.

Nevertheless, the controversies continued to rage with numerous debates and disputations, and various confessional statements written and published. Finally, in 1576 Elector Augustus I of Saxony called a theological conference, bringing together six theologians, Jacob Andreae, Nicholas Selnecker, Andrew Musculus, Christopher Cornerus, David Chytraeus and Martin Chemnitz. Over the next year they produced the Formula of Concord, the last of the Lutheran Confessions. What makes the Formula distinctive is that it not only clearly confesses what the Scriptures teach and Lutherans believe, it also directly refutes the false teaching of all the various groups.

They then collected other key Lutheran documents, the Augsburg Confession, the Apology, Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms, his Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Smalcald Articles, along with the three Ecumenical Creeds, into the Book of Concord, published in 1580. The book and the confession were distributed throughout the Lutheran lands and princes, theologians and pastors signed them as a true confession of the Scriptures and teaching of the Lutheran Church. Throughout this process, Martin Chemnitz was a key figure in writing the Formula and promoting the Book of Concord.

“Concord” comes from a Latin word meaning “harmony”. Throughout his career and ministry Martin Chemnitz strove for harmony based upon a clear and accurate confession of faith drawn from Scripture and refuting false doctrine. To this day, all pastors and called church workers in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod take an oath that they accept the teaching of the Book of Concord, including the Formula of Concord, as a true and accurate exposition of the Scriptures and our Lutheran faith. We owe this in large part to the life and work of Martin Chemnitz (1522-1583).

I’ll share more about the people who have shaped our church over time and made us who we are.

Your brother in Christ,
Dick Davenport

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Peter Lutheran School—Open Positions

We are currently looking to fill the following position for the 2025/2026 school year.
Janitor-part time

Please share this with anyone you think might be interested in learning more about working at St. Peter. They can contact the church office or contact me directly.

church@stpeterlutheran.org
principal@stpeterlutheran.org

Erika brown

Crucifers for September

Sept 7—William Potter
Sept 14—Issac Bayer

Sept 21—Charles Robbins
Sept 28—Garrett Bloom

St Peter Ladies Aid & LWM

We continue quilting every Thurs. mornings 9 am-noon, join us you will like it. For our quilting I would like to include thread to help us with our costs; it takes a lot of thread to make all the quilts

St. Peter School Scholarships

If you're looking for a worthy cause to contribute to at St. Peter beyond your regular tithing, please consider our school scholarships. These funds assist school families with tuition costs.

For grades Kindergarten through 8th, there is a tuition assistance fund that students attending St. Peter Lutheran School are able to apply for. This allows families to send their children to St. Peter who wouldn't otherwise be able to do so.

We also have a scholarship fund for our on-site 9th through 12th grade students who attend Wittenberg Academy, an online classical Lutheran school. This fund helps support families who want to continue Lutheran education for their children beyond 8th grade.

If you choose to contribute to these funds, this can be designated on an offering envelope or given directly to the church office. Please see Erika our principal or Dave Bengel if you would like more information.

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION – LWML

Calling all Lutheran Women – you are all members of the awesome organization of Lutheran Women in Mission – LWML!

Our Society's name here at St. Peter is the Piecemakers, because most of our time is spent creating quilts that are donated to Lutheran World Relief, our local Safe Center, or other charitable organizations. However, our missions and yours reaches much farther, and we are asking you to participate in a small way through your pocket change—your MITES! During the month we ask you to place your loose change in the individual mite boxes that are available. On the last Sunday of every month we collect your mites in the large LWML box at the entrance of the church. That money is collected and sent to the Michigan District LWML office to be used to finance the grants that have been selected at the Michigan District and National LWML Conventions. Every District supports the National grants by sending 25% of the mites collected to the National LWML organization.

In June 2024, the Michigan District passed funding for 15 grants totaling \$300,000. In July 2025 the National LWML convention passed funding for 33 grants for \$2,622,270.00. It is through generous giving that all of these grants will be funded within the next 2 years.

Your spare change along with thousands of other women's across the nation add up and make changes for Christ in this world. So we ask you to please participate in the small way!

Thank you for all the support you give us! Working and generously providing food for funeral meals, providing sheets and fabric for the quilts, making bake goods for our bake sales, and being part of our Advent Brunch are only a few of the ways our Ladies of St. Peter are Lutheran Women in Mission.

UPCOMING LWML EVENTS

Saturday, September 20, from 9 to 12, participate in a Michigan District Service project. Societies across Michigan are gathering together to put together school kits for Orphan Grain Train. We are invited to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Portland for a short Bible study, assembling the kits and fellowship with our sisters in mission. Meet at St. Peter at 8:15 and ride along with me! Or simply help out by providing some of the school supplies. (See the flyer enclosed.)

Saturday, Oct 18, 8:30 to noonish will be the Fall Rally of the Capital Zone at Trinity Lutheran church in Lansing with the Ladies from Living Word Lutheran Church as our hosts.

Also in October we will celebrate LWML Sunday as we gather all of the quilts to be boxed up and shipped to Lutheran World Relief warehouses.

Tuesday, December 2, we will host the Advent Brunch please make plans to attend! Praise be to God for all His Blessings!

Submitted by Laurie Flegler

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE SCHOOL KITS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 backpack | 1 scissors |
| 2 spiral notebooks | 1 eraser |
| 2 pencils | 1 package colored pencils (12 count) |
| 2 pens | 1 pencil sharpener |
| 10 sheets of construction paper | |
| 1 package crayons (24 count) | |
| 1 ruler | |
| 2 glue sticks | |

THANK YOU NOTES

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

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

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

Memorials

Norma Fitzpatrick

\$165.00



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
Bill Flegler
Bruce Fitzpatrick
Norma Fitzpatrick
Ilene Gibson
Jan Maynard
Jeanette Mehney
Charlie Silm
Evert Sillman
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"As summer in Michigan is upon us and the holiday season rapidly approaches this fall, many of us will find ourselves travelling and away from our home church here at St. Peter. During these times of travel, there are two resources that I invite you all to take advantage of to continue to stay close to Christ and continue to support the missions of St. Peter.

The first resource is the LCMS church locator tool. Simply visit locator.lcms.org/church and use the search tools provided (including search by distance from address) to find a sister LCMS congregation nearby to wherever your travels take you. You can view address information, service times, and contact/website information directly from this easy to use tool.

The second resource is the online giving option offered here at St. Peter. We have a new and improved online giving platform hosted through Vanco that allows anyone to give anytime from anywhere. Simply scan the QR code below or go to www.StPeterRiley.org and click on "Give Now" to be directed to the online giving platform.

There is no cost for electronic giving as 100% of your contributions go to the church, and your giving will be included in your annual contribution statement for tax purposes identical to the tithing envelopes. You can set up one-time or recurring payments and manage future payments all from your smartphone or computer.

As you travel this season, next season, or any season, remember these resources to keep yourself nourished in Christ, surrounded by Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and supportive of the mission here at St. Peter.

-Evan VanBeelen, Assistant Treasurer"

