

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

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

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

We are on the web!
www.stpeterliley.org



THE MESSENGER

October 2025



Church Services

Sundays: Divine Service at 9:30 am

Monday-Friday: Chapel at 8:35 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.)

.... [21] *There was also added the opinion which infinitely increased Private Masses, namely that Christ, by His passion, had made satisfaction for original sin, and instituted the Mass wherein an offering should be made for daily sins, [22] venial and mortal. From this has arisen the common opinion that the Mass [23] takes away the sins of the living and the dead by the outward act. Then they begin to dispute whether one Mass said for many were worth as much as special Masses for individuals, and this brought forth that infinite multitude of Masses. [With this work men wished to obtain from God all that they needed, and in the mean time faith in Christ and the true worship were forgotten.]*

[24] Concerning these opinions our teachers have given warning that they depart from the Holy Scriptures and diminish the glory of the passion of Christ. For Christ's passion [25] was an oblation and satisfaction, not for original guilt only, but also for all other sins, as it is written to the Hebrews, 10, 10: [26] We are sanctified through the offering of Jesus Christ once for all. Also, 10, 14: [27] By one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. [It is an unheard-of innovation in the Church to teach that Christ by His death made satisfaction only for original sin and not likewise for all other sin. Accordingly it is hoped that everybody will understand that this error has not been reproved without due reason.]

The teaching of purgatory and penance had resulted in people paying priests to say Mass for them, and by this work, they intended to merit God's favor. This abuse led to Private Masses, often with no congregation, but only the priest present, offering the Mass for money. This portion of the article goes on to say that these Private Masses increased in number due to another false teaching—the teaching that Christ's sacrifice only took care of original sin, but that the Mass was instituted as a sacrifice for our daily sins. So the Mass was further profaned. Not only was it being done for money as an act to placate God, but it was being done as a work that took away the sins of the living and the dead. This is to rob Christ and His sacrifice of their glory. This is to lead poor souls to trust in a work of the priest instead of the work of Christ.

In true Lutheran fashion, this false teaching is dealt with by the sole authority for faith—the Holy Scriptures which are the very Word of God. Quoting from Hebrews, our confession uses the plain words of Scripture to refute falsehood and promote the Truth. It is not the priest's offering of the Mass that takes away sins—it is the once and for all offering of Christ made on the altar of the cross. He alone takes away the sins of the world by his Passion. All sins—original sins, actual sins, venial sins, and mortal sins. Christ, by His passion, made satisfaction for all sins of all people (1 John 2:2).

So the Mass is not an offering we make for sins. Rather, it is the Body of Christ given once and for all on the cross and the Blood of Christ shed once and for all on the cross. It is the Body of our Savior who now lives and reigns forever, having defeated sin, death, and devil. It is the Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from every sin. It is the assurance of our Lord that it is finished—the work is complete—the Offering done. By His cross, Jesus has perfected us forever. In giving us his Body and Blood to eat and to drink, He guarantees that His victory belongs to us.

-Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

People of God

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:8-9

It doesn't seem like we have been in school for that long yet, but I have already watched our beautiful tree in front of the church change colors and drop most of its leaves. As I greet our students and their families each day before school, I have been enjoying the fall colors, while at the same time wondering if the summer heat will ever come to an end. We are taking advantage for now, enjoying time outside for PE and recess.

While it might not feel like it yet, October is here, and with it, we have some fun events ahead. To kick off October, Mrs. Rowe, Ms. Harnden, and I will be driving to St. Louis to join Lutheran educators from around the country at the LEA (Lutheran Education Association) Convocation. This is a great time of fellowship, networking, and learning. While we are away, the current phase of construction will be completed, getting us closer to having the building back to normal.

On October 14th, the 3rd through 8th-grade students will head out for their first field trip of the year. They will be touring the Capitol Building and exploring the MI History Museum. The kindergarten through 2nd-grade students had the opportunity at the end of September to take a field trip to Uncle John's Cider Mill. They had great fun playing and exploring. They were able to go through the corn maze, pick out a pumpkin, and check out the apple orchard.

Our PTL has decided to try something new this year and is organizing a Fall Festival for Friday, October 17th. This is a great opportunity for our school families and church members to come together for fun and fellowship. We are looking for volunteers to set up a trunk with a game or activity for the kids instead of trick-or-treating. I have some great ideas if you want to help out but aren't sure what to do. There will also be food to enjoy and fun wagon rides.

I chose the verse above for my newsletter this month because it is such a blessing that we are able to have a school where we confess together each day that Jesus is Lord. That we can share with students that we are people of God, righteous because God has given righteousness to us, gifted it to us, won it for us. We are declared righteous through faith in Christ.

I encourage you this month to choose a family that attends our school to pray for each day. You may already know many of our families because they attend our church. If you don't, or you want to pray for a family you may not know yet, please reach out to me. I would love to tell you about one of our families so that you can pray for them this month.

Blessings in Christ,

Erika Brown

Principal/Teacher



St. Peter Lutheran School

FALL FESTIVAL



FRIDAY - OCTOBER 17


5:30AM-7:00PM

There will be:

Donuts, Cider, and Hot Dogs

Games and Activities for the Kids. Wagon Rides

**We are looking for volunteers to help
with the following:**

- 
- **Serve food**
 - **Bring a trunk with a game or activity for the kids. Trunks can be decorated, but they don't have to be. We ask that you stay away from Halloween themes.**



school@stpeterliley.org

A LETTER FROM THE CANTOR

Who We Are

An influential figure in our Lutheran history was Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676). Much of his life was marked by hardship, loss and grief. At about age 13 both parents died within a couple years of each other. Around him the Thirty-years War (1618-1648) was raging, which aggravated the spread of the Black Plague throughout Europe. He graduated from the University of Wittenberg in 1642, but, because of the war, didn't get a position as pastor until 1651. In 1655 he married Anna Maria Berthold when he was 48 and she was 33. They had five children, four of whom died in infancy. Anna Maria died in 1668 at age 46. While serving as pastor at St. Nicholas Church in Berlin, the prince at the time was Elector Friedrich Wilhelm I, a Calvinist. Elector Friedrich forced the Lutheran pastors to accept Calvinist theology and reject the Formula of Concord, which condemned Calvinist teachings. Because Gerhardt refused, he was removed from his position in 1666. It wasn't until two years later that he was called as pastor in Lübben, where he died after eight years at the age of 69.

Why is he significant? Because throughout his life, in the midst of all this turmoil and grief, he wrote the text of some of our most beautiful, comforting and even joyful Lutheran hymns. If you check the indexes at the back of the hymnal, you'll see he's credited with seventeen of them. Consider the depth of faith in words such as these:

Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising....

Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free. (LSB 375: 1,5)

Or one of my favorites:

Why should cross and trial grieve me?
Christ is near with his cheer:
He will never leave me....

Now in Christ, death cannot slay me,
Though it might, day and night,
Trouble and dismay me.... (LSB 756:1,5)

Yet such profound statements of faith are not limited to "way back when." Stephen Starke is a retired pastor living in Bay City, MI. Rev. Starke grew up in Bay City. While a student at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, he started writing hymn texts. From the seminary he served parishes in Chicago and Middletown, Conn., and at St. John, Bay City from 2000 until his retirement. During his career he has penned the texts of nearly 200 hymns, as well as serving as the chairman of the Hymnody Committee for the production of the Lutheran Service Book (LSB). Again checking the index of LSB, we see that 28 hymns are his. Some, such as "Sing Praise to the God of Israel" (LSB 936) just reword existing canticles, such as the Te Deum and the Magnificat. Many are original texts. Perhaps his best known, "The Tree of Life" (LSB 561), is a straightforward retelling of salvation from the fall into sin in the Garden to Christ on the cross. And hear this great confession of Easter faith:

Scatter the darkness, break the gloom,
Sun reveal an empty tomb
Shining with joy for all our sorrows,
Hope and peace for all tomorrows... (LSB 481)

It's no surprise that Stephen Starke identifies Paul Gerhardt as someone he admires most.

Ever since Martin Luther, ours has been a singing church. People such as Gerhardt and Starke continue that tradition and provide the Lutheran Church with this richest heritage of hymns of any church body.

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 October

Oct 5—Andrew Bayer
Oct 12—Gabe Schneider

Oct 19—John Lebal
Oct 26—Landon Miller

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 MISSIONARY LEAGUE

October is LWML Month!

Many societies will be boxing up their quilts and other items for the ingathering for Lutheran World Relief. On Sunday, October 12, we will have some of the quilts in the sanctuary that we have created for the Safe Center in St. Johns and Owosso. We have over 100 quilts boxed and packed to go to Lutheran World Relief. On Monday, October 13, they will be taken to Saginaw Valley Lutheran High School to be shipped to LWR warehouse in Baltimore MD. It has been another busy year in the quilting room on Thursday mornings! Thank you for all your donations that make this mission possible. Our Piecemaker sisters are Debbie Besemer, Kathy Bond, Sue Bourdon, Beth Davenport, Laurie Flegler, Diane Hart, Rita Hollis, Janet Lyon, Earlene Schaub and Deb Feldpausch our friend from Fowler.

LWML meetings/rallies will usually start with a reciting of the LWML Pledge. I have come to consider this more of a prayer than a pledge. For me it is a way to ask for His blessings on our work, for without Him we cannot move forward to do His will.

This is what it says:

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

So whatever you are doing on a daily basis do it to service God. Take time to sit and talk and listen to Him through His Word. He will show you where to serve and lighten your heart when the tasks seem overwhelming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 11, 9am to noon Quilting Fellowship hall

Sunday, October 12, Pack the quilts for LWR

Saturday, October 18, Fall Rally "Growing in God's Grace" 8:30AM to around noon Trinity Lutheran Church 501 West Saginaw Lansing MI Living Word Lutheran Church is hosting.

Saturday, November 8, 9-noon Quilting Fellowship hall

Tuesday, December 2, Advent Brunch 9:30 AM Fellowship hall

In His Service *Laurie Flegler*

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

Hey, Secret Prayer Sisters! Please continue to keep your "special" sister in your daily prayers and shower her with cards/small gifts throughout the rest of this year, so she knows she is being prayed for and thought of. We plan to have our REVEAL on Saturday, November 8th, at 3:30 pm, in the Fellowship Center. Please put this date on your calendar. More details to follow. Any questions, please see Diane Thurston. (989) 388-2069

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Memorials

Kenneth Greenfield	\$150.00
LouAnn Roberts	\$ 20.00



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
Ilene Gibson
Jan Maynard
Jeanette Mehney
Charlie Silm
Evart 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"



Here I Stand!
A Conference on Lutheran Identity

Join us Saturday October 18th

8:00 AM – Registration

8:30 AM Matins

9:00 AM Sessions begin

Presenters include:

Rev. Dr. Matthew Durance

Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Harbor Beach

Rev. William Wanglin

Senior Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

President Concordia University System

Lunch is Provided

Cost: \$25 per person

Students \$15

RSVP to Hope Lutheran Church

517-669-3930

Or email at revsikora@gmail.com