

## St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

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We are on the web!  
[www.stpeterliley.org](http://www.stpeterliley.org)



# THE MESSENGER

## November *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 (Continued)

.... 28] *Scripture also teaches that we are justified before God through faith in Christ, when we believe that our sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. 29] Now if the Mass take away the sins of the living and the dead by the outward act justification comes of the work of Masses, and not of faith, which Scripture does not allow.*

30] *But Christ commands us, Luke 22, 19: This do in remembrance of Me; therefore the Mass was instituted that the faith of those who use the Sacrament should remember what benefits it receives through Christ, and cheer and comfort the anxious conscience. For to remember Christ is to remember His benefits, 31] and to realize that they are truly offered unto us. 32] Nor is it enough only to remember the history; for this also the Jews and the ungodly can remember. 33] Wherefore the Mass is to be used to this end, that there the Sacrament [Communion] may be administered to them that have need of consolation; as Ambrose says: Because I always sin, I am always bound to take the medicine. [Therefore this Sacrament requires faith, and is used in vain without faith.]*

34] *Now, forasmuch as the Mass is such a giving of the Sacrament, we hold one communion every holy-day, and if any desire the Sacrament, also on other days, when it is given to such as ask for it. 35] And this custom is not new in the Church; for the Fathers before Gregory make no mention of any private Mass, but of the common Mass [the Communion] they speak very much. Chrysostom says 36] that the priest stands daily at the altar, inviting some 37] to the Communion and keeping back others. And it appears from the ancient Canons that some one celebrated the Mass from whom all the other presbyters and deacons received the body of the Lord; for thus 38] the words of the Nicene Canon say: Let the deacons, according to their order, receive the Holy Communion after the presbyters, from the bishop or from a presbyter. 39] And Paul 1 Cor. 11, 33, commands concerning the Communion: Tarry one for another, so that there may be a common participation.*

40] *Forasmuch, therefore, as the Mass with us has the example of the Church, taken from the Scripture and the Fathers, we are confident that it cannot be disapproved, especially since public ceremonies, for the most part like those hitherto in use, are retained; only the number of Masses differs, which because of very great and manifest abuses doubtless might be profitably reduced. 41] For in olden times, even in churches most frequented, the Mass was not celebrated every day, as the Tripartite History (Book 9, chap. 33) testifies: Again in Alexandria, every Wednesday and Friday the Scriptures are read, and the doctors expound them, and all things are done, except the solemn rite of Communion.*

This month finally brings us to an end of Article XXIV. The length of the article is a testament to the importance of this issue—the proper use of the Mass as God's service to us, graciously giving the benefits of Christ to be received through faith. This pertains to the chief article of justification, “that we are justified before God through faith in Christ, when we believe that our sins are forgiven for Christ's sake.” So what matters in the Mass is not our work, but the benefits of Christ's work, offered and received in faith.

We assert here that Holy Communion is held “every holy-day,” which as we see in the Apology, means “every Lord's Day and on the other festivals” (Ap XXIV.1). Weekly communion (and plus some!) is the practice of churches of the Augsburg Confession. This was an overall decrease in the number of Masses, since in our churches, private Mass was abolished, and the common Mass, according to the Lord's institution, was retained.

We also make mention of Chrysostom's words that speak of the common Mass, and in addition to showing the communal nature of the mass his day, his words also show us the antiquity of the practice of closed communion – “the priest stands daily at the altar, inviting some to the Communion and keeping back others.” John Chrysostom lived c. 347-407. So we continue faithfully administering the Holy Communion in our churches—inviting some, and keeping back others whose impenitence or lack of understanding prevents them from participation. This, of course, is not only faithful practice, but also for the good of those coming—that they might not receive the body and blood of Jesus to their condemnation (1 Cor. 11:29).

Finally, this article ends where it began—that not only do we uphold the Mass in our churches, but that the “public ceremonies, for the most part like those hitherto in use, are retained.” If you're looking for a church that does not resemble the church catholic in its ceremony, you are not looking for a Lutheran church.

-Pastor Bayer

# A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.  
Psalm 130: 3-4*

It is hard to believe, but the end of November will mark the end of our first trimester. It seems like the school year just started, and we are already almost a third of the way through it. The month of October had some fun events for our students, and there are more events coming as we approach the Christmas season.

In October, the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students went on a field trip to visit the Capitol Building and the Michigan Museum of History. We had a beautiful day to enjoy as we walked to the Capitol Building. The students were able to learn more about our state government and see the different rooms where decisions are made for our state. They also enjoyed learning more about the history of our state as they had a guided tour through the museum.

Our PTL put on its first Fall Festival Event for our school. It was a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped by bringing supplies, serving food, running the hayride, and providing a game for the kids to play. The kids enjoyed being outside, playing games, earning prizes, and going for a few hayrides. It was a great time of fellowship for school and church families.

If you were not able to attend the fall festival, maybe you were able to hear our students as they sang in the Divine Service in October. The students are learning a lot from Mrs. Bayer and Pastor Klamer in their music enrichment class each week. I have enjoyed seeing their growth so far this school year. Soon, they will begin preparing for a Christmas Service. Mark your calendar for December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We would love to have you join us for the service.

Blessings in Christ,

Erika Brown

Principal/Teacher

# A LETTER FROM THE CANTOR

## Who We Are

You may have never heard of Melancthon, Cranach, Chemnitz or Gerhardt before. But I'm pretty confident you've heard of this next important Lutheran, Johann Sebastian Bach. Bach was born in 1684, 140 years after Luther's death, in the city of Eisenach to a musical family. Orphaned at age 10, he lived for several years with his oldest brother. After completing his musical education, he served as musician for churches in Arnstadt and Mühlhausen and as court musician in Weimar.

In 1707 he married Maria Barbara Bach, his second cousin. They had seven children, three of whom died before their first birthday. But of the surviving children, two went on to become famous on their own, Wilhelm Friedemann Bach and Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach. Maria died suddenly in July 1720. Johann met Anna Magdalena Wilcke, sixteen years younger than Bach; they married in December 1721. Johann and Anna Magdalena had thirteen children, six of whom survived to adulthood. Among these, Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach and Johann Christian Bach also became famous musicians and composers.

In 1708 he became organist at Weimar. In 1714, he was appointed Konzertmeister, which required him to compose a church cantata each month at the castle church, beginning on Palm Sunday that year. However, relations between him and his employer did not go well, and he was fired in November, 1717. Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Köthen hired him as music director for the next six years. But Leopold was a Calvinist and didn't require elaborate church music, so most of Bach's compositions at this time were secular.

In 1723 Bach was hired as Kantor, or director of church music, for St. Thomas Church, Leipzig. He would serve here until his death in 1750. During that time, he supplied music not only for St. Thomas Church, but also three other Lutheran churches in Leipzig. In addition to teaching music and singing to the students at St. Thomas School, he was required to write a cantata for every Sunday and each major feast day during the year. In all he composed over 300 cantatas, of which 100 have been lost. Many of the cantatas were based on the Gospel text for the day. Others were based on hymns, such as "Wake, Awake for Night is Flying" (LSB 516), and "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (LSB 395). Often he incorporated one of the chorales composed by Martin Luther.

Perhaps most significant for us are his major works. For example, his Christmas Oratorio was a set of six cantatas, one each to be performed on three days of Christmas, on New Years, the Sunday after New Year, and Epiphany. Also important are his St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, and St. Mark Passion (lost). For the Passions, he set the account from the Gospel to music, interspersed with chorales, similar to Handel's "Messiah."

In 1750 Bach's eyesight was failing. He underwent eye surgery twice from a man now generally considered to have been a quack. On July 28, 1750, he died of complications from the surgery. He was originally buried at St. John's Church in Leipzig. But the building was destroyed by Allied bombing in World War II. In 1950 his remains were moved to the floor of the choir, before the altar, in St. Thomas Church. It may seem odd now, but Bach slipped into relative obscurity. Felix Mendelssohn, then also the Kantor of St. Thomas Church, gave a performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion in 1829, which started a revival of interest in Bach and his music which has persisted to this day.

Why should we care about Johann Sebastian Bach? First of all, because he is perhaps the greatest composer of the Baroque era. Any person with an interest in classical music knows and recognizes his Brandenburg Concerti. But his most important contribution to music was that written as a profession of his faith as a Lutheran Christian. His music continues to enhance our worship (LSB 378, 414, 449, 546, 657, 898). If you turn to the Commemorations at the front of the hymnal, p. xii-xiii, you'll notice we remember Johann Sebastian Bach on July 28, the day of his death.

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

# Supplement Hymnal Companion Coming Soon!

A new hymnal supplement nearly a decade in the making is soon to be published. Called *Te Laudamus*, this book will contain all 150 psalms for singing, 172 hymns including many Reformation era chorales, another setting of the Common Service (Divine Service setting 3 in LSB), and Reformation settings of Matins and Vespers. See the next page for more details on *Te Laudamus*.

This supplement will be a wonderful companion to the Lutheran Service Book, and would be a blessing to our congregation. I would love to see us acquire enough copies of this supplement for us to use in worship.

Pre-publication orders made by the end of the year will receive a special price of \$35 per copy. After January 1, 2026, the price will go up to \$48. If you would like to support this project of outfitting our church with these hymnal supplements, you may donate a book for \$35. Book donations may be made in a person's honor or memory and a sticker will be placed on the inside cover with that information. Donation forms and money can be submitted to the church office by Thursday, December 18. Donation forms are available in the narthex and the church office. You may also cut out the donation form found below for your use.

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## *Te Laudamus* Hymnal Supplement Book Donation Form

Please check the box for how you would like to donate the book and fill in the necessary information. This information will be affixed to this inside cover of your donated book.

- ☐ Donated by \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Dedicated in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Dedicated in honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Dedicated in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Dedicated in memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ No information put inside book cover

Please return this completed form with payment of \$35 to the church office by Thursday, December 18.

# TE LAUDAMUS



A Supplement Hymnal Companion, for those seeking to recover the church's historic singing of the Psalter, Divine Service, Matins and Vespers, and of the great objective chorales of its past, and to perpetuate their heartfelt, joyful use.

## **Pre-Publication Soft Cover Book Proof (on Display for Onsite Review) Limited-Time Discounted Pre-Publication Price Offers (for Orders of the Hard Cover Book)**

### **150 Psalms**

KJV pointed to all Nine Gregorian Tones (both the current & KJV translations of the Gloria Patri)

### **172 Hymns**

*Texts:* Luther (all 38), Gerhardt (29), Franzmann (14), Early Church (16)

Many other Reformation Era gems, many not found in current hymnals

*Settings:* Bach, Bender, Crüger, Distler, Eccard, Gibbons, Haßler, Praetorius, Schein, Vulpius, etc.,

Most not found in current hymnals

### **Divine Service**

Willan Setting & Gloria Patri/Alleluia pointed to Gregorian Psalm Tones

### **Historic Propers / Sundays & Major Feasts**

Intros, Graduals, Alleluia Verses

Pointed to 5 Gregorian Psalm Tones Collects with historic festal tones

### **Matins and Vespers (Reformation Settings) Willan's Te Deum, Luther's Litany & Te Deum**

### **Full color Art, Dürer & Babst 1540 Hymnal Woodcuts, Luther's Christian Questions & Answers,**

Excerpts from Luther's **Catechism**, Historic Collects for Special Needs and The Bidding Prayer

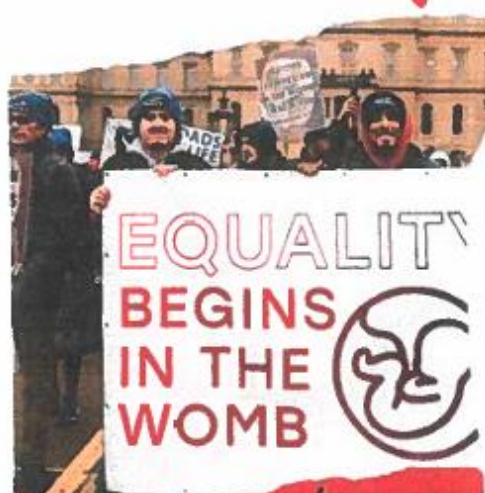
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#whywemarch #mimarchforlife

# keep marching

*for life!*



*Life:  
why we march*

## MICHIGAN MARCH FOR LIFE November 6, 2025

10:00 a.m. - Pre-Rally Concert

11:00 a.m. - Rally

12:00 p.m. - March for Life

100 N Capitol Ave  
Lansing, MI 48933



*scan the code!*

FIND OUT  
MORE AT:

**MI.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG**

Hosted by:

 **MARCH FOR LIFE**

 **right to life**



**Dine at Culver's of DeWitt**

**Tuesday, December 2nd 5-8pm**

and we will donate a percentage of all sales to:

**St. Peter Lutheran School**

The Parent/Teacher League (PTL) of St. Peter Lutheran is raising funds to support school functions and field trips, along with supplies that the teaching staff needs throughout the school year.



## **SHARE NIGHT**

Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over.

Thank you for supporting:

**St. Peter Lutheran  
School**

*No flyer or code needed.*

*Drive-thru, dine-in, carryout  
or order online at  
[culvers.com](http://culvers.com)*



Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:

**CULVER'S OF DeWITT**

1030 W. Herbison Rd. DeWitt, MI 48820

(517) 668-6188 | [culvers.com/restaurants/dewitt-mi-herbison](http://culvers.com/restaurants/dewitt-mi-herbison)





St. Peter Lutheran giving back opportunity.

We have an opportunity to give our love and time to feed those in need during the Thanksgiving season.

Please join us on Saturday Nov. 29, 2025 to participate in serving a meal at St. Luke Lutheran Community Kitchen.

St. Luke Lutheran Church Community Kitchen is located at 122 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing.

They serve about 80 people every Saturday, 11:30am -12:30 pm. We hope to have 10-12

people for each shift, especially the second shift as it makes serving and clean up go smoother.

Shifts are 10:00am-11:30am meal prep and set-up.

11:15am-1:00pm serve and clean up.

Volunteers may sign up for all or one of the time slots.

There is no experience necessary and there is a kitchen manager present at all times.

The health dept. requires all volunteers to wear a hat or they provide hair-nets and beard nets.

Children 8 to 15 are welcomed, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Please let me know if you and/or your family would like to help. If we have more people interested in helping out we will sign up for a second date this year yet.

Geri Jastram

517-290-7609

Call or text



# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## St. Peter Lutheran School—Open Positions

We are still searching for a Lutheran preschool teacher for our program here at St. Peter..

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 November

2nd—William Potter

23rd—Leo Faivor

9th—Isaac Bayer

30th—Andrew Bayer

16th—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

**Attention Young Ladies** (ages 13-?) We will be starting a monthly get-together for the young women of the congregation. Our first get-together will be on November 15th from 4:00-8:00. Please join us for fellowship, fun, and lots of food! We will be meeting at St Peter Church in the fellowship area (gym) for our first meeting. Any questions: please contact Melissa Harnden at 425-215-6969 or Jenny Gallo at 517-282-0607. We look forward to seeing you!

Would you like to contribute a gift card to the annual Christmas Marketplace for Concordia Theological Seminary students at Fort Wayne, Indiana?

If so, we will collect them until November 23, 2025, and then mail them all together to the Seminary.

It would be a blessing to receive gift cards to national chains (Walmart, Target, Meijer, Old Navy, Kohl's, etc.) in increments of \$10, \$20, or \$25.

Restaurant chains (Olive Garden, Wendy's, Pizza Hut, etc.) in increments of \$10, \$20, or \$25.00

Service/gas station cards from BP, Shell, Marathon, or Speedway in increments of \$25.

Visa or MasterCard gift cards, please, no more than \$50 on them.

St. Peter Lutheran School uses Scrip gift cards as a fundraiser.

You could purchase your gift card through the school and help them at the same time, sending a gift to a Seminary student.



**St. Peter Lutheran Church**

**Ladies Annual**

**Advent Brunch**

**Tuesday, December 2, 2025**

**9:30a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

**A morning of fellowship, good food and  
great way to begin the Advent season.**

**The speaker will be Lynn Riggs from  
Lutheran World Relief.**



# 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

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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

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## OKTOBERFEST THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped on the Oktoberfest. This was a new event for us at St. Peter and it was a great success. Thank you to all who brought food and helped with setup and clean-up. God has richly blessed us with such special people at St. Peter.  
Oktoberfest Committee



# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

## Memorials

In Loving Memory of:      \$1100.00  
Marilyn Kloeckner, Clemens  
& Marcella Kloeckner,  
Duane & Sherry Stearns,  
Henry & Doretta Witt, and  
Robert & Shirley Sampson.



## 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  
Jan Maynard  
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](https://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](https://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"



SECRET PRAYER SISTER REVEAL.....It's time to reveal who your "Secret Prayer Sister" has been this past year covering you in prayer. Thank you to the 19 women who have been part of this. There is nothing like lifting up someone in prayer, knowing you are being prayed for everyday as well!!

Join us on Saturday, November 8th, at 3:30pm, in the Fellowship Center. Please bring your final gift with your "SPS's" name on the OUTSIDE of the gift. There will be a table in the entrance to place your gifts as you come in. You may leave them in an outer bag if you want to be secretive until the revealing. The recipient of your gift will have opportunity to guess who you are before opening their gift.

We will serve mulled cider and many appetizers! If two or three of you would like to bring some sort of appetizer, fruit or veggies, please let me know.

Please see me or text/call if you have any questions, or would like to join us. I will have information sheets for you to fill out for next year.

WHAT THE SECRET PRAYER SISTERS is all about!

This is a ministry to glorify the Lord by lifting up your "Sister In Christ" in prayer!! It's not about material things, but a way to show love with prayers, cards/notes or small gifts to let her know she is being thought off. Please remember her on her birthday, anniversary and other occasions/holidays and shower her with your token of love. Gifts can be left on the little table on the left side as you enter church in a somewhat "SNEAKY" way, so your SPS can't see who you are.

A form will be given to you to fill out with information about yourself, which can be given to me before "Reveal Day" or brought the day of. We will then draw names for 2025/2026. Please let me know if you won't be able to make the reveal, so we can have your final gift for your prayer sister. Or, let me know if you won't be participating for another year.

I hope your year will be filled with many blessings and much joy, as you remember your SPS and her family in your daily prayers.

Diane Thurston. 989 388-2069

**Michigan March for Life:** Thursday, November 6, at the State Capitol Building.

- 10 am Pre-Rally Concert
- 11 am Rally
- 12 noon March for Life.
- 
- **Auxiliary event:**
- 
- 1 pm Lutheran for Life Rally at Hope Lutheran Church in DeWitt
- 

Come and join us as we march for life! Visit [marchforlife.org/michigan](https://marchforlife.org/michigan) for more information and to register

(registration not required to participate).