

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

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



THE MESSENGER

December *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 XXV: Of Confession

1] Confession in the churches is not abolished among us; for it is not usual to give the body of the Lord, except to them that have been previously examined and absolved. And 2] the people are most carefully taught concerning faith in the absolution, about which formerly there 3] was profound silence. Our people are taught that they should highly prize the absolution, as being the voice of God, 4] and pronounced by God's command. The power of the Keys is set forth in its beauty and they are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious consciences, also, that God requires faith to believe such absolution as a voice sounding from heaven, and that such faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins. Aforetime satisfactions were immoderately extolled; 5] of faith and the merit of Christ and the righteousness of faith no mention was made; wherefore, on this point, our churches are by no means to be blamed. For this even our adversaries must needs concede 6] to us that the doctrine concerning repentance has been most diligently treated and laid open by our teachers.

7] But of Confession they teach that an enumeration of sins is not necessary, and that consciences be not burdened with anxiety to enumerate all sins, for it is impossible to recount all sins, as the Psalm 19, 13 testifies: Who can understand his errors? Also Jeremiah, 17, 9; 8] The heart is deceitful; who can know it? But if no sins were forgiven, except those that are recounted, 9] consciences could never find peace; for very many sins they neither see 10] nor can remember. The ancient writers also testify that an enumeration is not necessary. For in the Decrees, Chrysostom is quoted, 11] who says thus: I say not to you that you should disclose yourself in public, nor that you accuse yourself before others, but I would have you obey the prophet who says: "Disclose thy way before God." Therefore confess your sins before God, the true Judge, with prayer. Tell your errors, not with the tongue, but with the memory of your conscience, etc. 12] And the Gloss (Of Repentance, Distinct. V, Cap. Consideret) admits that Confession is of human right only [not commanded by Scripture, but ordained by the Church]. 13] Nevertheless, on account of the great benefit of absolution, and because it is otherwise useful to the conscience, Confession is retained among us.

Churches of the Augsburg Confession retain and use Confession. Here at St. Peter, we have Confession currently on Wednesday mornings in the church from 7:45 am to 8:15 am, and always by appointment. We abide by the statement that "it is not usual to give the body of Lord, except to them that have been previously examined and absolved." Here at St. Peter, after a catechumen has finished instruction, he is examined and absolved by the pastor before being admitted to the Lord's Supper.

Our use of Confession is evangelical—we retain confession *not* so that by our confessing of sins and works of satisfaction, we merit forgiveness—no, we retain confession so that the voice of God can be spoken to us that our sins are freely forgiven for Christ's sake. This Holy Absolution has Christ's own command and promise—"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:23).

Properly speaking, using our tongues to confess specific sins is of human right. Sins can and are confessed before God, the true Judge, with prayer and the memory of our conscience. Speaking them is not commanded, but ordained by the Church. But the Absolution is of divine right. So Confession is retained for the sake of God's gift of Absolution. Our rite of Confession recognizes what is of human right and what is divine in that it does not require a listing of sins or even any particular sins to be confessed. It is enough to say, "I am a sinner and I desire God's grace." The point of our rite of Confession is that we believe the pastor's forgiveness is God's forgiveness, and through faith in Christ, we receive His Holy Word, "your sins are forgiven," and it is done.

-Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Singing with Thankfulness in Our Hearts to God

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

Colossians 3:16-17

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving and spend time thinking of all of the things we are thankful for. I enjoy time with family, great food, and some time for resting and recuperating. Then December rolls around, and this celebration pales in comparison to our time spent in Advent, preparing for the birth of Christ. This is the true gift, the Savior sent by a loving Father to redeem us. And so, in December, we prepare, and we celebrate with thankfulness in our hearts to God.

The students are hard at work this December, preparing a Christmas service that you are all invited to. The service will be held in our church on December 16th at 7:00pm. As they prepare for the service, they are practicing and learning hymns filled with God's Word and a truth in which they can find true joy as they sing of their Savior.

The students also have the opportunity to sing at St. Peter's annual Advent Brunch. This is a great opportunity for fellowship between our church and our school. If you are attending the brunch, look for our two eighth-grade students

Finally, before leaving for Christmas Break, the students will enjoy a day of fun and relaxation during our annual Christmas Movie Day. Students always look forward to this day as they get to come to school in pajamas, bring a fuzzy blanket and pillow, and eat snacks as they enjoy a movie together.

Blessings in Christ,

Erika Brown

Principal/Teacher

A LETTER FROM THE CANTOR

Who We Are

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Löhe (pronounced LAY-he) (1808-1872) is not a name on everyone's lips. But as Lutherans, and especially Missouri Synod Lutherans of Michigan, it's one worth knowing.

After university studies at Erlangen, Löhe was ordained on July 25, 1831. The young pastor quickly gained a reputation as a powerful preacher and tender shepherd to the sick and the aged. He was known for his unflinching devotion to the old ways of church life marked by adherence to the Lutheran Confessions rather than the Rationalism so prominent in early 19th-century German church life. He soon found himself the object of vicious opposition as a separatist and a mystic. He was finally relieved of his responsibilities at Kirchenlamnitz and, after a series of temporary assignments, eventually called to Neuendettelsau, a small village in Bavaria. Although Löhe said that Neuendettelsau was not a fit place to bury a dog, he would remain there for the rest of his life.

Friedrich K. D. Wyneken (1810-1876) came to America as a missionary from Germany (Later, he would become the second president of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.). Working primarily in Ohio and Indiana, he found German Lutherans who'd had no church for years. He wrote back to Germany in 1840 about the dire need for pastors for this population. Löhe raised funds and recruited men to send to America as missionaries. A number of these he trained personally as "emergency helpers." In all he sent 22 men to start or serve in congregations in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

In 1844, Löhe sent Georg Wilhelm Christoph Hattstädt to serve as pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Monroe, MI. **Hattstädt's predecessor at Trinity not only** served the congregation, but also did mission work among the Chippewa. **Hattstädt sent back** word to Germany about this work. Though his primary interest had been to serve the German Lutherans in America, Löhe recognized the importance of this mission work. But this would require a different approach. Lorenz Loesel and August Crämer **volunteered their service.** Together with Löhe, they recruited a number of people from the Bavarian region of Franconia, who established a congregation, called Crämer as pastor (**He later went on to** become seminary professor.), and set off for America. Ultimately this group and others that followed established colonies on the edge of the Michigan wilderness where they could reach out to the Native Americans in the area. These colonies were Frankenlust (meaning, "joy of the Franconians"), Frankentrost ("comfort of the Franconians"), Frankenhilf ("help of the Franconians", now Richville), and Frankenmuth ("courage of the Franconians").

Löhe recognized that training and sending men from Germany wasn't efficient and able to meet the need. What was needed was theological training in America. In 1846, he sent eleven theological students and their instructor to Ft. Wayne, IN, where they established Concordia Theological Seminary. In 1847, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was organized, with many of Löhe's men a part of that organization. The synod already had a small seminary in St. Louis. But upon the synod's request, Löhe transferred ownership of the Ft. Wayne seminary to the Missouri Synod and continued to support it with money, books and students from Germany.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Löhe never left Germany. But he was a critical figure in Lutheranism in America, in the development of the Missouri Synod, and the development of Michigan.

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.

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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BROKEN & restored

JAN. 2-3

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH ST. JOHN, MI

Middle School &
High School Youth

WHO

\$40 per person

COST

Christopher Gallo,
rudygallo2003@gmail.com

CONTACT

6 p.m. Friday
through 3 p.m. Saturday

TIME

Included

MEALS

Bible, sleeping bag,
toiletries, change of clothes

BRING

Dec. 15, 2025

RSVP

What do you do when something is broken? You can throw it away, try to fix it, or put it in the garage with the intention of fixing it, then forget about it. As Christians we confess that we are broken - sinful and unclean - but what has God done? He hasn't tossed you aside or forgotten about you in your brokenness. Instead, He restores you through Christ. Join us for Broken and Restored as we explore God's gift of restoration given through Confession and Absolution.



Pastor Hoover serves as Campus Pastor at Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He holds a B.A. in education from Concordia University Chicago and an M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary. Pastor Hoover and his wife Andrea have been blessed with four children and two sons-in-law. Pastor Hoover also serves as Pastoral Assistant at Emanuel



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BROKEN AND restored

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM // Higher Things Retreats

REGISTRANT SECTION

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
Street			Home Phone	Cell Phone	
City // State // Zip			Registrant's Email Address		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have attended a Higher Things conference before			<input type="checkbox"/> Infant (0-1) <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler (2-4) <input type="checkbox"/> Child (5-10) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have attended a Higher Things Retreat before			<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-20) <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (21+) <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor		
T-Shirt Size: <input type="checkbox"/> SM <input type="checkbox"/> MED <input type="checkbox"/> LG <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL			Indicate above which age group the Registrant will be at the time of the retreat.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have a disability/medical conditions/dietary or special need					

(Please only include special needs that affect housing assignments and/or dietary requirements. Other special needs should be discussed with your Group Leader and chaperones.)

Group Church Name	Church Phone	Group Leader's Name
Street // City // State // Zip		Pastor's Name

PARENT/GUARDIAN SECTION

First Name	Last Name	Home Phone	Parent's Cell Phone
Address (if different from above)		City // State // Zip	Parent's Email Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Please add me to the Higher Things email list!			

www.HigherThings.org

I grant permission for my minor child, named above on this form as "Registrant," to attend the Higher Things Retreat in _____. I assume all responsibility and liability for injury to said minor while at the Higher Things. I also give Higher Things, Inc. permission to use any still, audio, and/or video images of my child in publicity and news releases.

Parent's Signature

Date

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

Ladies' Aid Christmas Bake Sale on Dec.7th, right after Divine Service.

Calling all St. Peter's Bakers, sorry, this is so close to Advent Brunch, but it couldn't be helped. So, we need anything you will bake for the Sale. Please price your baked goods and bring them to the hallway next to the office.

St. Peter Ladies Aid & LWM

We continue quilting every Thurs. mornings 9 am-noon, join us ,you would enjoy it.

St. Peter church children are invited to sing with school students at a service of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00pm. Rehearsals will be during the Sunday School hour on November 23, Nov 30, Dec 7, and Dec 14. Please see Kristin Bayer for more details.

Adults and older youth are encouraged to sing for Christmas services! Rehearsals will be in the balcony at 12pm on 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, and 12/14. Please notify Kristin if you are able to participate in our Christmas choir.

St. Peter Lutheran School Script could use your help!

We have gift cards in our Inventory that we would like to sell.

We have Meijer, Speedway, and Walmart. They are in the amount of \$25.00 or \$100.00.

They would make great Christmas gifts or nice to have a gift card for certain purchases, like Christmas presents or groceries.

If you are interested, see Mary Hoy or call her at the office, Monday-Friday, 8:00-Noon.

Capital City Chordsmen

Join us as Capital Area Chordsmen will be here on Friday December 12th @7pm to entertain us again. Invite your friends and family! There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for snacks after the concert!

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.**



It's time to subscribe to THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to ensure a discounted rate. The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. The new subscription year doesn't begin until March 2026 but orders need to be sent to the District office by December 15, 2025 to take advantage of a discounted District rate of \$22.50/year. (Individual subscriptions ordered directly from CPH are \$24.99/year.) Payment for subscriptions should be made directly to your church. Late orders will be charged an additional \$2. If you have any questions about subscriptions, contact Mary Hoy at 989-224-3178 or churchstpeterriley.org, by December 8th.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Young Ladies of the Church (ages 12-?) are invited to our next gathering at St. Peter on December 5th from 6:30-8:30. We will be making Gingerbread houses. Any questions please call Jenny Gallo at 517-282-0607 or Melissa Harnden at 425-215-6969. Hope to see you there!

December Schedule for Acolytes & Crucifer's

<u>Acolyte</u>		<u>Crucifer</u>	
3 rd	William Potter		Isaac Bayer
		7 th	Gabe Schneider
10 th	William Potter		Isaac Bayer
		14 th	Landon Miller
17 th	William Potter		Isacc Bayer
		21 st	Ezra Hicks
	7pm	24 th	John Lebal
	11pm		Andrew Bayer
		25	Christopher Gallo
		28	Leo Faivor

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
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 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"



**Hope Lutheran Church
Would like to Invite the
Men of the Congregation
(Confirmed and up) to a
Men's Advent Breakfast
Saturday, December 13, 2025
9-11 am**

Free will donation, to help cover costs.

**Please RSVP to Mary at our Church
Office by December 8th.**



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

O Come let us adore Him! Christ, our Lord

the newborn King! Emanuel! Christ is with us! Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth! May your hearts and minds sing with praises as you prepare to celebrate Christ's birth!

I want to thank everyone who continues to support LWML mission grants through your monthly mite donations. When we work together it all makes a difference.

One of the Michigan District grants that has been funded was for the Franklin Avenue Mission Mobile Ministries in Flint Michigan. They asked for help funding a 12-15 passenger van to expand their mobile services. They use this to transport children on field trips, provide meals to home bound neighbors, and a marketplace that began in 2022 that requires food transport to households in the community. With this grant money they were able to purchase a gently used 2020 15 passenger Ford Transit van. Now they can carry out Jesus' mission of caring for and feeding those in need.

One of the National grants that we will be working to fund is for \$100,000.00 for the Perpetual call for Pastors and Teachers –LCMS Office of Pastoral Education. Set Apart to Serve is a Synod-wide program focused on forming and recruiting full-time pastors and church workers. This is one of the highest priorities of the LCMS, since pastors and commissioned church workers preach and teach the Word of Christ through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith. (Taken from the LWML national website where you can read about this and all or the grants that were selected at the convention this past summer.

Your mites matter! Thank you for making a CHANGE with your change!

Ann Shellito is the wonderful lady that I accidently left off the list of Piecemakers in the October newsletter.

Please plan on joining us for the Advent Brunch on Tuesday, December 2, at 9:30 AM. Lynn Riggs will be our guest speaker and will be talking about Lutheran World Relief. Another mission group that is dear to our hearts.

May God bless you as you prepare and celebrate His birth!

Merry Christmas!

Submitted by, Laurie Flegler

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy

Sacraments.

- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our

stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.