

**St. Peter Lutheran
Church & School**

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



THE MESSENGER
March 2026



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

“...We do not abolish the Mass, but religiously keep and defend it. Masses are celebrated among us every Lord’s Day and on the other festivals. The Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And the usual public ceremonies are observed, *the series of lessons*, of prayers, vestments, and other such things.” – Apology of the Augsburg Confession 24:1 (emphasis added)

This month, I’m taking a quick diversion from our walk through the Augsburg Confession to write briefly about a topic of our worship life here at St. Peter. We’ll get back to the Augustana next month.

In Advent, we switched from using the 3-Year Lectionary to the 1-Year Lectionary. A Lectionary is a schedule of readings (“the series of lessons”) for use at Mass on Sundays and Feasts and Festivals throughout the year. The 1-Year Lectionary is the historic lectionary of the church, developed organically over time and used (with some variation) universally for hundreds of years. It has a schedule of readings that repeats yearly. The 3-Year Lectionary was developed by the Roman Catholic Church following the Second Vatican Council—the new lectionary was introduced in 1970. It has a Year A schedule, a Year B schedule, and a Year C schedule, with the readings repeating every three years. Though these lectionaries differ in their readings on a given Sunday, each follows the Church Year and marks the same major holidays, and the holidays in the 3-Year Lectionary have retained the historic readings.

Proponents of the 1-Year Lectionary point to the historic precedent and the benefits of yearly repetition. Proponents of the 3-Year Lectionary point out that more of the Bible is included in the 3-year cycle and that it has been adopted by most Christian churches today that use a lectionary. In the LCMS, both lectionaries are used, and Lutheran Service Book provides options for each, but use of the 3-Year lectionary is the norm.

So why the switch at St. Peter? It was mostly for practical reasons. First, as you may be aware, we have made a pre-order for a terrific new hymnal supplement to be printed this year, *Te Laudamus*, and this resource makes use of the historic lectionary only. Second, there has been a years-long effort toward the first Lutheran missal in the English language, a resource I am excited to adopt once it is released, and this project also uses the historic lectionary exclusively. (A missal is a single book that contains all the readings, prayers, and other texts necessary for celebrating the mass). You can learn more about this project at lutheranmissal.home.blog. Third, Wittenberg Academy, the school in which some of our high schoolers are enrolled, and whose grammar-school curriculum we may begin incorporating at our own school, also uses the historic lectionary. And last, we have a new Sunday School curriculum that follows the Sunday readings of the historic lectionary.

So, what will you notice is different as we use the 1-Year Lectionary? By and large, not a lot, unless you had the readings schedule for the Sundays of the last three years memorized. But there are some noticeable differences, two of which are in the observance of Easter. The first occurred as we approached Lent, as the historic lectionary has a Pre-Lent period, commonly known as the “Gesima” Sundays because of the names for these three Sundays. The second difference is that the historic lectionary has a two-week period of Passiontide that culminates in Easter, which includes of course Holy Week. Some of the practices that have been relegated to Holy Week alone (covering of crosses, etc.) in recent years are done over the entirety of Passiontide in the historic observance. Another difference is that the Visitation is celebrated on the historic day of July 2 instead of May 31. The modern date of May 31 was the result of the 1969 revision of the Roman calendar.

May we continue to give thanks to God as His Holy Word is read and preached in our church and His Sacraments are administered.

In Christ,
Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

God's Gifts

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1: 16-17

March is always a fun month at St. Peter. On the first school day in March, the students walk in to find the hallways transformed with decorations to go along with our theme for March is Reading Month. This year, our theme is Noah's Ark, "Reading is an Ark-Venture". During this time, we will go over the story of Noah and talk with the students about God's promises to us. With a focus on reading, the students will log their reading minutes to earn fun prizes. We will do some fun activities to go along with our theme. We would love to have some guest readers come to visit classrooms and read to the students. Email me at principal@stpeteririley.org if you would like to schedule a visit to read a story to the students.

The end of March brings Spring Break. This is always a good marking point for the end of the year. Once we return from Spring Break there are always so many upcoming events to look forward to, and the time passes quickly leading up to the end of the school year.

Blessings in Christ,

Erika Brown

Principal/Teacher



Dear Friends in Christ at St. Peter

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son that whosoever believeth in him shall never perish but have eternal life, John 3:16.

In Romans 6:23, we read “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord”. This verse is one of the most precious Gospel presentations in the Bible. It helps us understand our sinful nature and the promise of eternal life through Jesus. Salvation is a gift from God and not something we can earn.

It refutes the idea that God judges us by our good deeds or religious performances. We are saved by God's grace alone.

By His resurrection from the grave, Jesus is victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil. We are offered hope of eternal life. This is the cornerstone of our Christian faith, and we celebrate this on Easter Sunday.

In celebration of our Savior’s resurrection, we are asking that you join us with a special Easter Celebration offering, over and above your regular tithe, in thankfulness for Christ’s suffering and death and in joyful celebration of His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Our children are the future of the church and faith. It is important to invest in their Christian education. This special offering will be used to help offset the school operating fund.

Enclosed is an envelope for your use to place your gift in the offering plate or you may mail it to the church office.

We invite you to join us at the Special Holy Week Services!

Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 29, at 9:30 am
Maundy Thursday	Thursday, April 2, at 7 pm
Good Friday	Friday, April 3, at Noon and 7 pm
Easter Vigil	Saturday, April 4 at 8:30 pm

EASTER CELEBRATION WORSHIP Sunday, April 5, at 9:30 am

ALLEULIA, HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLEULIA!

Thank you and God’s Blessings

Stewardship St. Peter Lutheran Church

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@stpeterriley.org
principal@stpeterriley.org

Erika Brown

St. Peter Ladies Aid & LWM

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

March Schedule for Crucifer's

1st	Garrett Bloom
8th	Andrew Bayer
15th	Landon Miller
22nd	Ezra Hicks
29nd	TBA



March is Reading Month

The Students love Volunteers coming in and reading to them.

Reading Month runs from March 2-25.

If you might be interested in Volunteering to read, email Mrs. Brown.

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

Orders for Easter Lilies

To help beautify the Church sanctuary orders will be taken until March 23rd.

The cost is \$15.00 per plant. You can designate the Lily: the glory of God, In memory of or In honor of.

There are forms in the narthex or Church office. Also, forms will be in the March 8th and 15th, Bulletin.



To

BROTHERS, you are invited to join us for the next Capital Zone, Lutheran Laymen’s League meeting. We will meet Saturday, March 28 at 2 p.m. at Sanctuary Spirits, 902 E. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. Come for devotion with Lutheran brothers; stay for fellowship. We will be joined by Dennis Engelhard, president of the Michigan District, LLL, and discuss the upcoming 2026 district convention to be held in Lansing in June. (The LLL is who we are; Lutheran Hour Ministries is what we do. The Lutheran Hour is the world’s oldest Christian radio program, now in its 93rd season of Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church.)

Blessings,
Aaron J. Baylis
LHM Ambassador, Trinity, Lansing

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Memorials

Evert Sillman \$ 75.00
Linda Chant \$ 50.00



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.

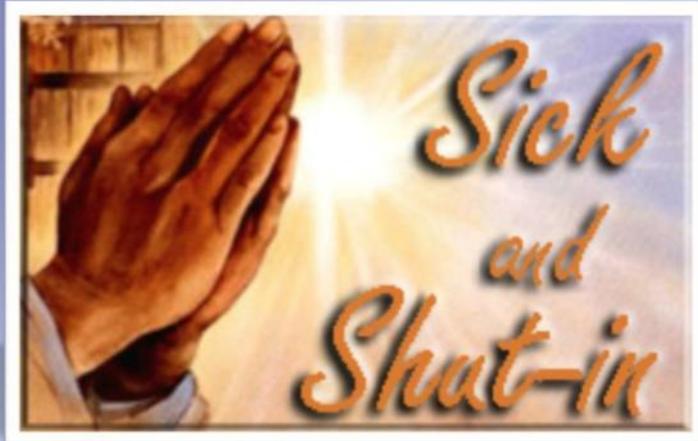
The Church will only send out emails if we have permission from the person or family of whom the email is concerning to respect peoples privacy.



Shut-In Visit List

Monthly Visits

Ellie Camburn
Linda Davis
Rhonda Dedyne
Ilene Gibson
Jan Maynard
Charlie Silm
Bernita Sillman
Albert Smith



Please review our list of Sick and Shut In and show them some love by calling and visiting. Continue to remember them in your daily prayers.



Fund Raiser for St. Peter School

St. Peter Lutheran School children in Grades 5-8, are planning a field Trip to Kentucky to visit Ark Encounter Museum.

To help cover costs, they are doing a bottle and can drive.

You can drop them off here at School, or if you have a large amount, contact us and we can make arrangements to pickup.

Mary, 989-224-3178.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE -- LWML

“He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed” Isaiah 53:5. As we go through Lent may we reflect on His great love for us; He suffered, was beaten and crucified so that our sins would be forgiven. Though we are not worthy, he has washed us clean and because he defeated the grave on Easter morning we too will also be raised. God's love amazes me! March is a busy time for me and LWML. I will be traveling to Mount Pleasant on March 7 to attend the Michigan District LWML board meeting.

On **Saturday, March 14**, St. Luke in Haslett is hosting an **All Nations Celebration**. This is a LCMS District Event. It is not an LWML event however I believe it is important to support our sister congregations in our Capital Zone. Please consider attending to see how God is working throughout all Nations. I know friends from Living Word will be there sharing their music. You will need to register on the LCMS Michigan District website.

Saturday, March 21, Double event! ---St. Peter is hosting a Capital Zone event. Join us in a **Quilting Bee** starting at 9 am and going all day. We will be tying quilts and sewing clothes for children in South Sudan. Lunch will be served at noon. At 1PM zone representatives will have a **Board Meeting** to discuss the spring rally and the convention. Watch for a flyer for the Spring Rally and the Quilting Bee in your bulletins.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 18 Spring Rally** – at St. Andrew, Portland “Serving in His Light” Matt 5:16. We will be using our regular format, arrive 8:30 with opening service at 9. Deaconess Melissa Harnden will be our guest speaker. In-gathering will be for Portland Backpack for Bellies. We will be collecting food items such as instant oatmeal packets, granola and breakfast bars, pop-tarts, small boxes of cereal, individual applesauce and pudding cups, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, canned soup and pasta such as spaghetti O's, crackers and nuts, ect. This organization packs about 200 backpacks a week for children in the Portland area to take home for weekend meal supplements.

Also plan ahead for **June 26-28 LWML MICHIGAN CONVENTION** – Kellogg Hotel & Convention Center MSU 219 S Harrison Rd. East Lansing **“JESUS IS THE LIGHT”**

2Cor 4:6. Hoping to see you there. Ladies I encourage you to experience an LWML convention. The speakers, Bible studies, and music refresh your mind and soul to continue His work. It is right in our backyard. I feel it is one of the best ways to stir up interest for those not familiar with LWML. Ask me about it! Sign up will be soon!

Praising God!

Laurie Flegler LWML Capital Zone Co-Chair and Ambassador for Living Word Orphanage

Village

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.

We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;

We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;

Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.

When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,

And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.

To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

Birthday Gift for Jesus

In Memory of Helen Andersson, given by Harold Anderson

In Memory of Arthur Bloomer, given by Gail Bloomer

In Memory of Mary Grennell, given by Larry Grennell

In Memory of Raymond & Norena Sperry, given by Marvin Sperry

In Memory of Stuart, Charles & Lois Sillman, given by
Wayne & Diana Woodbury

In Honor of Kathy & Bruce Bond's Children, Grandchildren, & Great-Grandchildren.

In Honor of Linda Chant, In Memory of Terry & Shyla Ordway & Lee Chant, given by Kevin & Michelle Bailey

In Memory of Dennis Kennedy, Albert & Neva Flak, given by Charlene Kennedy

In Honor of Richard Howz. In Memory of Margaret Howz, Bud Pontius & Delores Pontius, Jeff Howz, given by Sally Pontius

In Memory of Louis Shellito, given by Ann Shellito

In Memory of Keith Kirshenbauer, Mr & Mrs Herman Hopp, given by Lorna Kirshenbauer

In Memory of Rob Lyon, given by Janet Lyon

In Loving Memory of Marilyn Sampson Klocekner, Clemens & Marzella Klocekner, Duane & Sherry Stearns, Henry C & Doretta Witt, Robert & Shirley Sampson, Emma & George Guthrie, Litty & Leo Schaefer, Leone & Don Balzak, Raymunda Mehaffey, given by Rollie Klocekner



St. Peter School...

Accelerated Reader Prizes

We are continuing a school-wide accelerated reader store this year. Kindergarten through 8th-grade students can take tests on the books they read in order to earn points through the AR program. They can then use those points once a month to purchase items from the AR store. We need your help accumulating prizes for the store. There is a box on the counter in the office where prizes can be dropped off.

Examples of items that could be purchased: **Some new ideas have been added.**

Large squishes, fun socks, Chapstick, large bouncy balls, small lego kits, football cards, soccer cards, card games, TCG Pokémon Pack, Pokémon cards, yarn, glow in the dark sticks/necklaces, packs of balloons, Aphmeows, nail polish, hair accessories, small toys, new books, craft/art projects and supplies, gift cards to local businesses (\$5-\$10). Some larger prizes are needed, check with a teacher first to help with these.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

QUILTING BEE!!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

COME AND CELEBRATE NATIONAL QUILT DAY SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026 9 AM-4PM ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Peter "Piecemakers" invite you to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief and make clothes for children in South Sudan. Lunch will be served. This is an all day affair! Ladies from the Capital Zone churches are invited. (Men too if they are so inclined!) No skills needed, we will teach as we go! A great learning opportunity for young ladies too!

Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us for a fun filled day!

Spreading the warmth to those in need!

God's Blessings! Laurie Flegler