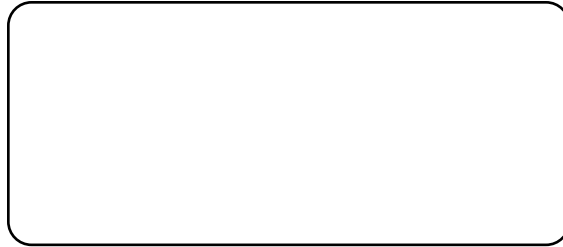


**St. Peter Lutheran  
Church & School**

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



**THE MESSENGER**  
**May 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

## Augsburg Confession Article XXVI: Of the Distinction of Meats (continued)

...[30] Our adversaries object by accusing our teachers of being against discipline and the subduing of the flesh. Just the opposite is true, as can be learned from our teachers' writings. [31] They have always taught that Christians are to bear the cross [Matthew 16:24] by enduring afflictions. [32] This is genuine and sincere subduing of the flesh [1 Peter 2:11], to be crucified with Christ through various afflictions. [33] Furthermore, they teach that every Christian ought to train and subdue himself with bodily restraints, or bodily exercises and labors. Then neither over-indulgence nor laziness may tempt him to sin. But they do not teach that we may merit grace or make satisfaction for sins by such exercises. [34] Such outward discipline ought to be taught at all times, not only on a few set days. [35] Christ commands, "Watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness" (Luke 21:34). [36] Also in Matthew 17:21, "This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." [37] Paul also says, "I discipline my body and keep it under control" (1 Corinthians 9:27). [38] Here he clearly shows that he was keeping his body under control, not to merit forgiveness of sins by that discipline, but to keep his body in subjection and prepared for spiritual things, for carrying out the duties of his calling. [39] Therefore, we do not condemn fasting in itself [Isaiah 58:3-7], but the traditions that require certain days and certain meats, with peril of conscience, as though such works were a necessary service.

[40] Nevertheless, we keep many traditions that are leading to good order [1 Corinthians 14:40] in the Church, such as the order of Scripture lessons in the Mass and the chief holy days. [41] At the same time, we warn people that such observances do not justify us before God, and that it is not sinful if we omit such things, without causing offense. [42] The Fathers knew of such freedom in human ceremonies. [43] In the East they kept Easter at another time than at Rome. When the Romans accused the Eastern Church of schism, they were told by others that such practices do not need to be the same everywhere. [44] Irenaeus says, "Diversity concerning fasting does not destroy the harmony of faith." Pope Gregory says, in Dist. XII, that such diversity does not violate the unity of the Church. [45] In the Tripartite History, Book 9, many examples of different rites are gathered, and the following statement is made:

*It was not the mind of the apostles to enact rules concerning holy days, but to preach godliness and a holy life.*

From "Article XXVI. The Distinction of Meats" in *The Augsburg Confession, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Pocket Edition*. © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House.  
Source: [https://bookofconcordia.cph.org/en/augsburg-confession/abuses/article\\_xxvi/](https://bookofconcordia.cph.org/en/augsburg-confession/abuses/article_xxvi/)

Lutherans are falsely accused of not teaching good works because we do not teach that our works merit grace or make satisfaction for our sins. We won't teach this because Christ's work alone merits God's grace and makes satisfaction for sins. But this does not mean that we do not teach good works. Quite the contrary, we not only teach good works, but we teach them correctly—that good works are the fruit of faith. Similarly, when Lutherans abandoned fasting and other disciplines as meritorious before God or required on certain days, they were accused of "being against discipline and the subduing of the flesh." But this also is a false accusation. Again, we not only teach discipline and subduing of the flesh, but we teach them rightly, according to God's word. Though these practices contribute nothing to our salvation, they are profitable and good to aid against temptation and to devote our attention to Christ. And we don't make laws concerning certain days and certain meats, for these burden the conscience and give the false impression that discipline is not always part of the Christian life.

Rome accuses us of lawlessness because we teach our works do not contribute to our salvation and we leave fasting a free exercise, and Protestants accuse us of being Catholic because we keep many traditions that are leading to good order. Concerning where we stand, we'll continue weathering attacks from all sides, even as our Lord endured affliction, for we make these confessions our own because they are in accord with the Word of God. There is, therefore, no other option.

-Pastor Bayer

# A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Blessings

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*

*Ephesians 1: 3-4*

May is here, the flowers are blooming, the grass is green, and the rain is abundant. The students are excited to be spending more time outside in the sunshine, and they are excited because they know that May is the last full month of our school year. The end of the school year is always full of fun activities, and this year is no different.

To start the month off, the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be headed to Kentucky to visit the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum. Thank you to everyone who helped support this trip by participating in our fundraisers. The rest of the school will enjoy their end-of-year field trip on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will be learning about dairy farms at Dairy Discovery and then visiting the Ionia State Park for an outdoor education activity.

Throughout the month of May, the students will continue logging their miles each day as they participate in the Mileage Club. They are able to run each day with the goal of running a total of 20 miles by May 15<sup>th</sup>. As they run, they collect toe tokens and work toward earning a shirt. Many of them will far surpass the 20-mile goal.

May 19<sup>th</sup> will be our spring concert. Mrs. Clark has been working with the students so that they can show their parents what they have been learning in their class. After the concert, the students will be putting on a Wax Museum. The kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are learning about animals, the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning about a state, and the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning about a country. They will demonstrate their learning by creating a display and writing a speech to share with their classmates and parents.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, school families have the opportunity to attend a Lugnuts game. We attend their Grand Slam School Night every year and it is always a lot of fun. We will wrap up the month with a parent/student soccer game put on by the PTL.

Blessings in Christ,

Erika Brown

Principal/Teacher

## **LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML)**

**Submitted by Laurie Flegler**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above Ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen**

God is good, all the time! Thank you to everyone that came to the Spring Fling at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Portland. Deaconess Harnden did a wonderful job explaining the history and the role of the deaconess ministry.

In May many of our ladies will be researching and praying about the 28 different grants that will be voted on in June before the convention. All of the grant requests are well deserving missions; and each organization is praying that their grant will be one that is selected to receive the money requested. It amazes me to see God work through our loose change to change people's lives through these grants. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the LWML mite collection. God is Good! All the Time!

Each LWML Zone will have a banner to represent them at the convention. I am working with Autumn Mahlburg, our Young Women's representative from Ascension, who will be attending the convention. We are just in the designing stages, so prayers would be appreciated! June will be here before we know it!

### **UPCOMING LWML EVENTS:**

**MICHIGAN DISTRICT BIENNIAL CONVENTION  
"JESUS IS THE LIGHT" 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6  
JUNE 26-28, 2026 EAST LANSING  
MICHINGAN STATE UNIVERSITY KELLOGG  
CENTER**

*"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

# 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.

We sew for Lutheran World Relief & Safe Center.

Ladies Aid needs sheets for their quilts. It would be appreciated if you are out Garage Sale shopping this spring and see any sheets for sale, if you would purchase them for the Ladies Aid.

May God bless you all!

Kathy Bond

President of our Ladies' Aid.

**Remember, every 'Last Sunday of the month is Mite Sunday!**

## **May Schedule for Crucifer's**

3rd	Ezra Hicks
10th	John Lebal
14th	Christopher Gallo
17th	Andrew Bayer
24th	Isaac Bayer
31st	William Potter

# 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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## 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.

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**Starting on May 31st,** and then every Month that has Five Sundays in it, we are going to do a Potluck Dinner after Bible School, please bring a dish to pass and drinks will be provided.

# 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 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.***

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.