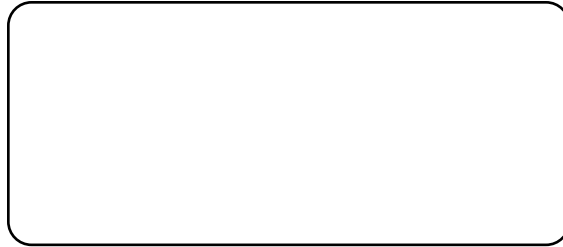


**St. Peter Lutheran  
Church & School**

Rev. Timothy Bayer  
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E-mail: church@stpeterriley.org  
school@stpeterriley.org

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



**THE MESSENGER**  
**June 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 XXVII: Monastic Vows

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[https://bookofconcord.cph.org/en/augsburg-confession/abuses/article\\_xxvii/](https://bookofconcord.cph.org/en/augsburg-confession/abuses/article_xxvii/)

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This article of the Augsburg Confession is long, and so I have simply provided the URL above if you wish to read it for yourself. This is the sixth of the seven articles at the end of the confession that cite abuses that have been corrected by the churches of the Augsburg Confession. Here Monastic Vows are exposed for the evil they had become in the Church. Luther himself knew full well about this, as he had been an Augustinian monk, and his wife, Katharina, was a runaway nun.

The main critique of monasticism was its increasing conflict with the chief article of Justification, for it was taught that the monastic life merited grace and justification. Monastic vows were elevated even above Holy Baptism! The life of a monk was seen to be a “holy life” in comparison with the normal duties of other people. By these vows and invented works of man, people were seeking justification before God, robbing Christ of His glory.

The vows were particularly problematic, especially the vow of chastity. The argument is made in this article that a vow is null and void if it is made against God’s commands and ordinances. “God has created and ordained marriage for those who are not given an exception to natural order by God’s special work” (AC XXVII.20). Therefore, Luther, his wife, and many other “Lutherans” broke their vows, which they considered to have been wicked vows in the first place.

A wonderful correction to the abuse of monastic vows is Lutheranism’s understanding of vocation. The “holy life” is not to be found in services we make up for ourselves, but in the things God commands and ordains. A holy life is not something out of reach to those who find themselves in the trenches of family life and labor. This is exactly where we are able to obey God’s commands and serve the people God has given us to serve. You don’t need to run away from life to a monastery to be holy. “True Christian perfection is to fear God from the heart, to have great faith, and to trust that for Christ’s sake we have a God who has been reconciled. It means to ask for and expect from God His help in all things with confident assurance that we are to live according to our calling in life, being diligent in outward good works, serving in our calling. This is where true perfection and true service of God is to be found” (AC XXVII.40-50).

Our Small Catechism beautifully teaches this truth in the Table of Duties, where certain passages of Scripture for “various holy orders” are given. And the holy orders don’t include just the bishops, pastors, and preachers. Holy orders include also “hearers” of the Word (the laity), the civil government, citizens, husbands, wife, parents, children, workers, employers, youth, widows, and in short, everyone.

-Pastor Bayer

# A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Blessings

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

*Joshua 1:9*

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you this month. I cannot put into words what this church has meant to me during every different season of my life. The members of this congregation have supported me in my role as principal the same way they supported me since I was a child attending this school. I will forever be thankful for the family I found in this church and school. For this reason, knowing that July will bring to a close a ministry that I have been a part of for almost forty years brings both joy and sadness.

When Paul first approached me about taking a call to St. Peter, I was unsure about accepting it. I spent a lot of time considering the position and praying for guidance and wisdom. Looking back, I can see the different experiences that prepared me for the ministry here. In the same way, I know that my time at St. Peter has prepared me for the future God has planned for me. I looked back at the very first newsletter article that I wrote after starting as the Principal at St. Peter. This is what I found.

We are blessed as Christians to have hope and not live in fear. In Colossians, Paul wrote a letter to the people of Colossae. Colossians 1:17 says, “And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” What a beautiful reminder that this new school year will be a great year because it is not our great plans and hard work that define the success of the year, but the work of Christ in this place. Christ is in all things, and we know that he will always sustain us.

These words are just as true today as they were five years ago. God has blessed this ministry and this church for many years and will continue to do so. The school has seen many changes over the years, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ that has been shared with the students and their families has not changed.

Thank you to everyone who has supported my family and me. Not just members of this congregation, but also the staff and the families of our students. I am truly grateful for the prayers and support.

Blessings in Christ,  
Erika Brown  
Principal/Teacher

## LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML)

Submitted by Laurie Flegler

*“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. 2 Cor 4:6*

Jesus is the Light! Hundreds of Lutheran women from all over Michigan will be gathered at the MSU Kellogg Convention Center for the Michigan District Bi-annual Convention June 25-28 to proclaim that Jesus is the Light! It is an awesome time of worship, Bible study, singing, servant events, fellowship and laughter! We do have a business meeting to attend also! We will learn which grants have been selected to be funded during the 2026-2028 biennium. There is an ingathering for the City Rescue Mission of Lansing. We will be collecting underwear, socks, pajamas, and canned fruits and vegetables for the mission. Kathy Bond and I are looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

At St. Peter we continue to create quilts for Lutheran World Relief and local organizations. We have over 70 quilts completed and packed for LWR so far this year. Thank you to everyone that has donated sheets and fabric for this ongoing project. Just when our shelves were almost empty, God provided more through your generous gifts. We thank you for supporting us!

God's blessings on your summer! SHINE JESUS SHINE!

**VBS will be July 7-9, 2026, 1:00pm-3:30pm.**

This year the children will learn to sing some hymn's and Psalms.



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www.shutterstock.com

VBS would appreciate donations of apples, raisins, cheese, crackers, pretzels and juice boxes. No nuts, please.

VBS are also, looking for adults and older kids that would like to help with VBS as the kids sing, enjoys games and snacks, and do crafts.

If you are interested in volunteering, please see Richard Gallo.

## St. Peter's High School Graduates

They are graduating from St. John's High School.

They are the daughter's of Bob and Becky Watson, and granddaughters of Irene Watson.



Skylar and Savana Watson

Our hobbies include running, walking and traveling.

Our plans after high school is to become a radiologist assistant and attend Baker College for the first two years and transfer to Oakland for my last 6-8.

## Save the date, June 7, 2026

Please come and show St. Peter Lutheran Church's appreciation to Erika Brown and Betsy Rowe for their dedication, commitment and love that they have given to teaching St. Peter Lutheran School students.

There will be no Sunday School this Sunday. We will have the Appreciation party in the Fellowship Hall after Divine service.



## 5-8th Grade Field Trip to the Ark



## K-4th Grade Field Trip



# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## June Schedule for Crucifer's

7th Leo Faivor  
14th JohnSteven Lebal  
21st Ezra Hicks  
24th Issac Bayer  
28th Andrew Bayer

## St. Peter Ladies Aid & LWML

**Ladies Aid is having a Bake** Sale again on FATHER'S DAY, June 21st, in the hallway by the of-

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!

fice. We will appreciate all of your baked goods. We would like you to price them before you bring them in. Buyers of the baked goods come after the church service for your fill of sweets!!!!

Brothers,

Hope is hosting what we're calling a Memento Men's retreat. We have a memento men's group that meets together every couple of weeks and it has been a great blessing, especially to our younger men.

We're hosting a "Retreat" - a Men's evening on Friday, July 24th from 6-9 PM at Hope. We'll provide the hot dogs and brats and hopefully some beer. We would like to invite the men of your congregation to join us. Just bring a dish to pass and a hearty appetite.

Mr. John Brandt will be our guest speaker and will speak to us on the virtues of Homer's Odyssey (which the movie will be released the week prior).

Please invite your men (both old and young) and tally the number of those planning to attend. (Please RSVP Mary in St. Peter's Office, if you are planning on attending.)

Let me know if you have any questions.

Peace in Jesus,

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

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**Please join us in honoring our High Seniors**

**Skylar and Savana Watson.**

We will have a Potluck Dinner after Divine Service on June 28th.

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

## Memorials

Pastor Elmer Schiefer	\$30.00
Shirley Edwards	\$10.00



## 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.***

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

What Do You Want?

Originally published June 2023

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important

than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.