St. Peter Lutheran
Church & School

Rev. Timothy Bayer
8990 Church Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-3178
E-mail: church@stpeterriley.org
school@stpeterriley.org

We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org

THE MESSENGER

December *2026*





Church Services

Sundays: Divine Service at 9:30 am
Monday-Friday: Chapel at 8:40 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

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. – Galatians 6:6-10

We have seen some fruit of faithful stewardship as of late. The budget is drastically reduced and all spending is scrutinized, as we faithfully make use of the resources we have. On the other side, cheerful giving has helped our congregation begin to get a handle on meeting our responsibilities to ensure that the Gospel continues to be preached in our midst.

Part of our situation that can't be forgotten is that we have people fulfilling roles that require great time and sacrifice, and they are doing this for nothing. We have talented, faithful teachers (specifically an art teacher and a music teacher), who have committed to teaching this school year for free out of love for our church, school, and the children committed to our care and in gratitude to God. They are to be commended for their sacrifice—thank them when you see them. Add to this list the potential soon for a classroom aide to assist our one general classroom teacher in the large task of teaching grades K-8. The candidate for this position is also offering her labor free of charge. Praise be to God.

Thankful for these laborers' sacrifice, we acknowledge that this should not be a permanent solution. As we continue to thrive under God's care in Word and Sacrament, exercising faithful stewardship, we need to give the laborers their due. May we not lose heart, but increase in our care for those who teach, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

This is an exciting time for our congregation. It includes regrouping and refocusing, that the Gospel may flourish among us. In due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

-Pastor Bayer

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we come to the end of our first trimester of school, I am truly impressed by the growth our students have shown, both in their academic studies and as a Christian family in the classroom. Our older students have stepped into the role of older siblings to our younger students, helping them with their studies and including them in games during recess. They really are like a little family. It has been a joy to watch bonds form across ages and grades.

I have very much enjoyed watching our students take off with their academics. Their cursive penmanship has improved amazingly in only three months! Even our youngest students are writing their names and certain assignments in cursive. We've been studying colonial America in our history lessons and memorizing all 50 states and their capitals for geography. Our students are fascinated with the development of our country. Every day I read aloud for at least 40 minutes. We have been working our way through the Chronicles of Narnia for the past few weeks. The kids are very invested in the story and that makes literature one of my favorite parts of the day.

Grandparents Day on November 11 was a great success! We began with chapel, followed by a performance from the students. Mrs. Bayer taught them the National Anthem and an Armed Forces Medley, which they sang in honor of Veterans Day. As we had some grandparents who are veterans in attendance, it was very cool to see them honor their country with national songs. Afterwards, they performed a play based on the fable A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing. They surprised me with their acting skills! They were comfortable and expressive, and it was clear in their performances that they were having fun. They even added their own twists to their characters once they'd learned their lines. Thanks to some of our lovely church members, we had a delicious brunch, and I heard lots of positive feedback from our school families.

As Advent and Christmas approach, I look forward to the extra learning and activities we will be doing, including learning more about the church calendar, making our own Chrismons for the classroom, and Christmas caroling. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful students!

In Christ,

Deaconess Harnden

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML)

Submitted by Laurie Flegler

HARK THE GLAD SOUND 349 (LSB)

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; Let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release. In Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before Him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of His grace to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim, and heaven's eternal arches ring with Thy beloved name.

As we await the coming of our Savior, let our hearts sing praises to His name. Let us welcome Him in to our homes as we invite our family and friends to gather to celebrate His birth and His second coming. Come Lord Jesus, be our guest!

LWML Michigan district mites are at work! God has blessed Living Word Orphanage Village with half of the $25,000 grant at just the right time. Pastor Moses and Alice are in Yambio, South Sudan now through January 12, 2027. They have an engineer contracted to lay the foundation for the building. They worked with a company to clear the land with a bulldozer. Mango trees were removed and land has been cleared. You can follow the progress on the Living Word Lutheran Church Facebook page. Pastor posts videos on there to share the progress with us. Unfortunately, Nancy and Rubben were not able to make the trip due to their passports not arriving on time. Please keep Pastor and Alice in your prayers, and that this building project will continue to move forward. Pray for their health and the opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus with the people.

May you find joy and peace as you prepare for Christ during this Advent season. And may you have a very Blessed Christmas!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Schedule

		Crucifer's	Acolyte's
	2nd	William Potter	Isaac Bayer
	6th	John Lebal	
	9th	William Potter	Isaac Bayer
	13th	Ezra Hicks	
	16th	Andrew Bayer	Isaac Bayer
	20th	William Potter	
Early	24th	Issac Bayer	
Late	24th	Christopher Gallo	
	25th	Andrew Bayer	

St. Peter Ladies Aid & LWML

Quilting every Thurs. mornings 9 a m.
We continue 9am-noon, join us ,you would enjoy it.
We sew for Lutheran World Relief & Safe Center.
May God bless you all!
Kathy Bond
President of our Ladies' Aid.

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

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 he 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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December 2, 2026 at 9:30 am, St. Peter's Ladies Aid will be hosting their Annual Advent Brunch in the Fellowship Hall.



Capital Area Cordesman Join us as Capital Area Cordesman will be here on Friday December 11th @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!

Altar Flowers. Starting January 1, 2027, if you would like to adorn the sanctuary with altar flowers, call the Church office at 989-224-3178, and let them know what date and what you would like in the bulletin. They could be in memory of someone, in honor of someone, to the Glory of God, etc. Cut flowers are preferred. This is a great way to beautify our sanctuary as we praise our Lord and Savior!

CHURCH ANNOUNCMENTS & NEWS

Memorials

Tom Bourdon	$100.00



Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the church office (989) 224-3178 during office hours, or send an email to church@stpeterriley.org. If in the evening or weekend, please call Pastor.

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
Bernita Sillman
Albert Smith



School Children singing at Grandparents Day, November 11, 2026



Please join us on December 22, 2026 for Children's Christmas Lessons and Carols at 7 p m.



St. Peter Youth Retreat

God’s Natural Law and Supernatural Gospel

Save the date—we are hosting another winter youth retreat January 15-16

Who: Middle and High school-aged youth (ages 11-17) from St. Peter and other churches

What: a weekend of worship, learning, and fun

When: Friday, January 15, 2027 – Saturday, January 16, 2027

Where: St. Peter Lutheran Church

Speaker: Rev. Sam Fink (Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Howell, MI)

Cost: $25

The weekend will include multiple chapel services, plenary sessions with Pastor Fink, a sleep-over at the school, meals and games together, and a closing Divine Service.

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Church and School
Rev. Timothy Bayer
Pastor, Headmaster
Deac. Melissa Harnden
Deaconess, Teacher

First Sunday in Advent, A.✢D. 2026

Dear saints,

Each year we collect a special Christmas offering over and above our regular tithes and offerings for a particular project. This year, our special Christmas offering will go toward the organ fund to help get us closer to having the funds available to install our pipe organ.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your gift. If you would like to give your gift "in honor" or "in memory" of a friend or loved one, please indicate this on the envelope. You may place your gift in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.



Midweek Advent Services (December 2, 9, and 16)
Evening Prayer at 7 pm (soup and sandwich suppers at 6 pm)

Children's Lessons and Carols – December 22 at 7 pm

Christmas Eve Services – 7 pm and 11 pm

Christmas Day Service – 9:30 am

Torah

Higher Things Conference

2027

What: Lutheran Youth Conference

Who: Middle and High school-aged youth (ages 11-17)

When: June 22-25, 2027

Where: Concordia University Wisconsin (Mequon, WI)

Cost: $625 (Potential cost reductions dependent on scholarships and fundraising)

Please let Pastor Bayer or Deaconess Harnden know if you are interested in attending. Registrations must be completed by January 31, 2027 to receive the Early Bird pricing of $625. Price then increases to $650.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets ; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

-Matthew 5:17