Did You Know?

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*Colossians 3:15-17*

Believe it or not…2023 is here! And with it brings what every year brings…a new beginning and yet another opportunity to boldly place our trust in the One who continues to pour out His grace, mercy, and love. In fact, I can’t see a better way to approach a new year than by approaching the throne of Jesus Christ who came to free us from the burden of past sins and gives us yet another opportunity to receive His grace and once again put our trust in Him.

I have to admit, I’m excited to see what 2023 brings – especially in the life of our congregation. The reason I say this is because God has made clear that He has placed St. Peter Lutheran in the midst of Macomb for a purpose; and as God continues to open more doors, we can now talk about even more ministry and what this means.

One such area of discussion is the opportunity to bring a Specific Ministry Pastor of Men’s and Couples’ Ministry on board. The addition of an SMP would not only allow us to refocus already established areas of ministry, but it would also help us to continue *glorifying God by making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ.* That’s why I’m excited to share the following.

*Did you know* that both of our LCMS seminaries offer a path into the pastoral ministry by way of the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program? The SMP program was established to allow congregations the opportunity to encourage and support a man in their midst who has the characteristics of a pastor and is also willing to take seminary courses while remaining on site and shepherding the congregation.

The SMP program consists of four years of seminary education. In the first two years, the SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) is considered a Vicar who is to be Called and Ordained after he reaches the midway point in the program. However, at that point, he is still required to complete two more years of education in order to complete the program.

The SMP also serves in an area of specific ministry. If there is no other pastor on site, he serves as any other pastor would. If he is a part of team ministry, he works under the supervision of another pastor (Senior Pastor) while focusing on the areas of ministry to which he has been assigned.

Because an SMP is not considered “certified” as a general pastor, he is not eligible to be Called by any other congregation, nor can he serve at another congregation in this role. However, both seminaries offer additional coursework where the SMP could become “certified” and eligible to serve as a general pastor within our synod.

*Did you know* that we have an opportunity to build upon and strengthen the ongoing ministry of St. Peter Lutheran by taking part in the SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) program? Because God continues to graciously pour out His blessings, our congregation is now in a position to respond to the opportunity to encourage one of our very own members to enroll in the SMP program while serving in our midst.

*Continued on p. 2*
Currently, I’ve been in conversation with our lay leadership, Planning Council, and our Board of Elders for the purpose of encouraging one of our Elders, James Compton, to enter into the pastoral ministry by way of the SMP program. Likewise, James and I have been in conversation with the St. Louis Seminary and the Michigan District of the LCMS since a strong partnership and commitment is essential.

More specifically, this will allow James to serve on site while taking seminary courses, and it will also allow him to begin transitioning from his current job to eventually a full-time pastoral position. While the specific ministry to which James will be assigned has to do with Men’s and Couples’ Ministries, I will be working with him to find the right balance of time and commitments.

As we look ahead to 2023, please keep James, his family, and the future ministries of St. Peter in your prayers. Please also plan to join us for our Voters’ Meeting on Sunday, January 15 in the Fellowship Hall where we hope to share more information and opportunities to support this endeavor, as well as information on the ongoing work of our Call Committee as we also continue the search for an Associate Pastor of Discipleship.

We have much to be thankful for as we enter into the New Year, just as we have much to look forward to in 2023; but, as always, we ask the Holy Spirit to lead us to follow Him and His will this year and into eternity while we glorify God by making and growing disciples.

As we approach the season of Epiphany, we will turn our focus to see what God’s Word has to say about what we think and, even more-so, we will dive into what we are truly entitled to as people who live in the light of Jesus’ forgiving and life-altering cross and empty tomb.

On the weekend of January 7/8, join us for our newest sermon series titled “Entitled” to hear what we are truly entitled to as God’s people.

January 8 - Entitled to Live in the Light
January 15 - Entitled to Life
January 22 - Entitled to Faith and to Trust
January 29 - Entitled to Mercy and Forgiveness
February 5 - Entitled to Generosity
February 12 - Entitled to Love
February 19 - Entitled to Pray

"ENTITLED"

It’s no secret that we often live as if we are entitled to so many things. Whether we chalk it up as the American way, or we simply admit that we like things to go our way, entitlement within society (and even among God’s people) appears to be at an all-time high. But...are we entitled to anything in this life?

As we approach the season of Epiphany, we will turn our focus to see what God’s Word has to say about what we think and, even more-so, we will dive into what we are truly entitled to as people who live in the light of Jesus’ forgiving and life-altering cross and empty tomb.

On the weekend of January 7/8, join us for our newest sermon series titled “Entitled” to hear what we are truly entitled to as God’s people.

New Year’s Worship:

New Year’s Eve: Saturday, December 31 at 6:00 p.m. (Traditional)

New Year’s Day: Sunday, January 1 at 9:30 a.m. (Traditional) and 11:00 a.m. (Modern), livestream at 9:30 a.m.

(No 8:00 a.m. service or 11:00 a.m. livestream)
“Children of Light”

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

Greetings in Christ!

I hope that each of you had a wonderful and joyous Christmas. Thank you so much to all who assisted and served for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. St. Peter congregation is blessed by you! Our many gifted musicians also did a fantastic job proclaiming the birth of the newborn King and the promise of salvation freely given through Him alone.

The themes that we encounter throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons do not necessarily go away when Epiphany rolls around on January 6. Throughout the winter months, when we have fewer hours of sunlight compared to other times of the year, we find ourselves singing hymns revolving around “light.” This is not something unique to our age; the earliest hymns in Christianity (primarily written in Greek) frequently allude to “the light of Christ to the Gentiles” in contrast to darkness. This emphasis has continued in the Church’s song throughout its history, including the hymnody of Martin Luther, who placed great value on theological contrasts.

One of the “light hymns” that is sung throughout the church year and in the Epiphany section of our hymnal is “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (LSB 411), which we will sing during our observance of Epiphany on Sunday, January 8. It was written in the summer of 1966 by Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934), an accomplished organist and church musician who for much of her career was based in the St. Louis area. The summer of 1966 brought a heat wave to St. Louis, and Thomerson decided with her family to escape to her mother’s home in Houston. She had recently been concentrating on Scripture passages that dealt with childlike faith, and while she had no intention of writing a hymn and no experience doing so, the hymn “composed itself” phrase by phrase, both text and melody. The hymn was ultimately completed upon arrival in Houston, which became the name of the tune (if you look in LSB, it will be printed in the bottom right-hand corner of the first page of the hymn).

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” was first sung at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Houston, where it became incredibly popular and began to spread to other congregations. While originating in the Episcopal Church, the hymn is now included in the hymnals of many denominations and is translated into languages including Welsh, Japanese and Hmong.

While it is placed in the Epiphany section of the hymnal, the text is applicable through many seasons of the church year in addition to weddings and funerals. One of the growing themes throughout the text is Christ dwelling within the heart of the Christian, inspired by Ephesians 3:17, “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” This is expressed in the final words of the refrain, “Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.” The refrain additionally calls us to 1 John 1:5, “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

Continued on p. 4
It is always interesting to see where the high point of a hymn tune takes us; a good hymn tune reinforces the high point conveyed by the text. The high point for this tune is at the line “The Lamb is the light of the city of God,” which is almost a direct quote of Revelation 21:23, “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.” Ultimately, this hymn brings us back to the words of Jesus in Matthew 18, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Christ uses a child as an example of humility, evident especially in dependence to one who is “greater.” Humbleness is the sign of greatness in God’s kingdom; it means to confess our complete inability to anything to become worthy in His eyes. Humility, the faith of a child, depends on “God’s mercy for forgiveness. It looks to Jesus Christ as the Savior who became one with sinners to redeem them.” Happy Epiphany!

In His Service,

Charlie Russell, Director of Traditional Music

Sources:


2023 Offering Envelopes

This year, the 2023 offering envelopes will be directly mailed to your home. We hope that you will have received your first packet of envelopes. If not please look for them in early January. The envelopes are sent by bulk mail and sometimes delays can happen. If you do not receive your first packet, please feel free to put your donation(s) in a plain envelope with your name and envelope number recorded on it. You could also use an old 2022 envelope, cross out the date at the top and write in the correct 2023 date. Either option will assist the Finance Office greatly. We do appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this new process.

If you have any questions about offering envelopes or electronic giving, please contact the Church or Finance Office. The contact information is listed below:

- Please contact the Church Office and ask to speak to Frieda Schluessler or email her at fschluessler@spcls.net if you have any questions about offering envelopes.
- Please contact the Finance Office and ask to speak to Maria Morelli or email her at mmorelli@spcls.net if you have any questions about electronic giving.

Robert’s Music Spotlight

This month I wanted to share with you the song, “Promises” by Maverick City Music. In my daily devotion time I often use music to help me focus and let the lyrics become part of my prayer. This song blesses me so much in this way. As I start to sing the words I am reminded that in every storm I have weathered His faithfulness was greater. (Psalm 36:5 and Lamentations 3:22-24) Whatever you may be facing right now as we enter into this new year I challenge you to let prayer and worship be your first response. (Psalm 34 and Acts 16:25-26) Happy New Year!

Robert W. Costa
Director Of Modern Worship
GLEANERS SPONSORED KROGER FOOD DRIVE- January 14 & 15
Hope for The Hungry Pantry is kicking off 2023 with a HUGE food drive. In past years, we have received 70-80 shopping carts of food! Many volunteers are needed for this two-day food drive on January 14 and 15. Volunteers can hand out fliers inside the store from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., transport food back to the pantry, sort and put food items on shelves. The food drive is located at two Kroger stores: 26 Mile Road & Van Dyke and 23 Mile Road & Hayes. Please consider volunteering for as many hours as you can and for multiple days. Youth groups, teams and Scouts are welcomed with adult supervision for those under 16 years old. Contact Karen Foust at (586) 491-0652 or email her at karenwiegand@gmail.com

PRAISE REPORT
The Pantry was so blessed during the Christmas Season! Thank You to all the volunteers, bakers and little angels with big hearts that made Christmas so special for those in need. A huge thank you to Immanuel Lutheran Women’s Ministry who provided fleece blankets and pillows, Macomb Orthodontics Food Drive for 649 lbs. of food, St. Peter KinderBridge for personal care totes, Anchor Bay Angels U13 softball team for personal care items, Lucas Larvae and Armada School for their food drive, Tiger Cub Pack 252 for volunteering at distribution, St. Peter Women’s Ministry for their cookie donation and all the wonderful bakers who made 130 dozen cookies!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Truck Unloading**: January 4 and 18 from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Volunteers may be asked to help empty truck or SUV, date boxes and put items on shelves.
- **Food Distribution**: January 5 from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and January 19 from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Volunteers may be asked to prepare produce boxes, bag frozen items, help load cars and clean areas.
- **Apartment Deliveries**: January 7 help is needed to pack and deliver food to two local apartment complexes. Stephen Ministry accompanies the delivery for residents that would like to talk or pray. This is an ongoing event the first Saturday of each month.
- **Packing Boxes** is always available for families, teams, groups, or individuals. Most Mondays and Wednesdays 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m. are currently available but arrangements must be made in advance.

If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact me or visit hopeforthehungrypantry.org.

Yours in Christ,
Karen Foust, Chairperson
(586) 491-0652 or karenwiegand@gmail.com
THANK YOU to everyone who helped put up the Christmas decorations inside and out. Our church looks so beautiful. Also a huge thank you to Hessell's Greenhouse for donating the large wreaths! Please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 14. We will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. to take down the outdoor nativity and inside trees. We sincerely appreciate everyone's help.

Board of Trustees and Altar Guild

Sunday Morning Co-op Nursery

In an effort to provide a safe nursery space for our young children during the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. church services, we would like to offer families the opportunity to participate in our co-op nursery. How this would work is as follows: if you would like to utilize the nursery during a church service, you would need to sign up to volunteer in the nursery on a rotation basis. How often you would work will be dependent upon how many families would like to participate. Lutheran North students are also invited to participate in order to earn NOAH hours. Anyone who would participate would need to complete the St. Peter Safety training, and high school students need to have a signed parental permission slip.

If you are interested in this service, please contact the nursery coordinator, Kaitlyn Anspach, at Kaitlyn.anspach@yahoo.com.

St. Peter Women’s Ministry/Lutheran Women’s Missionary League continually contribute Mites to fill LWML Michigan District Grants as well as LWML National Grants. For many years, the Mite contributions have supported Christian outreach in 42 countries on five continents as well as Michigan Grants.

There are copies on the Welcome Center desk in the Narthex of who will be receiving grants for the 2022-2024 Biennium. Anyone can support these missions by picking up one of the small Mite boxes at the Welcome Center desk in the Narthex or simply depositing any extra change into the large Mite box there. When ready to return the Mite Box you can drop it into the large Mite box, bring it to a Women’s Ministry Meeting or take it to the Church Office.

Thank you for your support,
Women’s Ministry Board

CALLING ALL COFFEE AND DOUGHNUT LOVERS!
WE NEED HELP WITH DOUGHNUT CLEAN UP ON SUNDAYS!

The Christian Growth Board needs your help! If you attend St. Peter church services on Sundays, you may know that doughnuts and coffee are served in the Crossroads before/after all services. It is a great way to catch up with family and friends over a fresh brewed cup of hot coffee (or tea) and enjoy a delicious fresh doughnut! Fellowship at its best!

In order to continue offering this service, we need volunteers to help clean up the doughnuts and coffee after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sundays. (Approximate time is 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.). If you can spare some time to help keep this service rolling, we would appreciate your help!

Use the link below to select a date your family can help. If you need to change your date, please follow the instructions on the SignUpGenius reminder so we are notified.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Christian Growth Board Members:

Beth LaFave - (586) 260-1577 - balafave@yahoo.com
Liz Lee - (586) 623-7100 - Lizboik@yahoo.com
Lisa Ventimiglio (586) 405-9272 - lventimiglio@splcs.net

GOD BLESS YOU! WE "DONUT" KNOW WHAT WE WILL DO WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f45a9ac22a3fd0-sunday
We are again beginning the year collecting the following items for the Wellness Kits for Lutheran World Relief:

- Bath-size bars of soap
- Bath-size towels (new or gently used)
- Adult tooth brushes
- Combs
- Metal nail clippers

If you wish to donate any of these items, you may deposit them into the bin marked Lutheran World Relief in the Church Coat Room off of the Narthex.

Note: Also continue collecting used postage stamps, lotions, soaps, shampoos, etc. These are also deposited into the appropriate drawers in the Church Coat Room. These items are sent to “Stamps for Wounded Warriors” and Samaritan’s Purse (Shoebox Ministry).

If you have questions regarding any of the information, please contact Joyce Schwark, St. Peter LWML Rep. at (586) 524-9328. Thank you!

DRIVERS NEEDED Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store, or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can make it possible for them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program is in need of volunteers who can provide transportation in the local area. We especially need drivers who are available during daytime business hours - mornings and afternoons. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You tell us what days, times and areas are convenient for you, and we call you with specific appointments that meet these criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and we will call you another time. Even one more ride a year will make a big difference to the person who needs it! Please call our office today at (586) 757-5551. [Learn more about our work at www.ivcinfo.org.]

Thank You...

St. Peter family, Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you. I am humbled, grateful, and blessed to receive your support. Your prayers and monetary support not only enables me to pursue the calling to become a pastor, but also provides great encouragement. My heart overflows with appreciation. Not only does your support help me, but also my family as we strive to walk in His path set before us. Many thanks. Jason von der Lage & family

Memorial Offerings

**In loving memory of Annette Konupek,**
a contribution has been given to:
**Endowment Fund** by Robert Konupek

**In loving memory of Ray McKinley,**
a contribution has been given to:
**Church Ministry** by Linda Heidebrecht

**Missions and Outreach** by Mary Ann McGill

Thank Offerings

**In celebration of Joey Poley’s 5th birthday,**
a contribution has been given to:
**Church Ministry** by Shelly Penzien

**In celebration and thanksgiving for their 29th wedding anniversary on October 8,**
a contribution has been given to:
**Moving Forward** by Hank and Kim Stallmann

DID YOU KNOW that you can remember a special occasion or loved one by purchasing flowers for the front of church? Maybe it’s a birthday, anniversary, baptism, wedding, or just a special day to honor someone.

**Please sign up in the Church Office.** It's easy to do and it will be noted in the weekly bulletin. The cost is $25. Checks made payable to:
**St. Peter Women's Ministry.**

Questions? **Please call the Church Office.**
Connection

For more information about current and upcoming Bible studies and small groups, please visit stpetermacomb.com

January/February Wednesday Bible Class
“Something to Sing About”
Singing the Christian Faith

A new Wednesday evening Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we explore “Something to Sing About: Singing the Christian Faith,” a course written by Lutheran hymn-writer Jaroslav Vajda (author of hymns such as “Go, My Children, with My Blessing,” among others) and led by Charlie Russell.

The course will run for six weeks, meeting on the following Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.:

- January 11 The Gift of Song and of Revelation
- January 18 The Gift of Creation and Redemption
- January 25 The Gift of Life and Faith
- February 1 The Gift of Love and Peace
- February 8 The Gift of Hope and Joy
- February 15 The Gift of the Church and of Wonder

Come prepared to sing and study the Word that we confess and proclaim in the Song of the Church!

Wednesday Women In The Word Bible Study

Bring the “Joy,” of Jesus into your hearts as we begin the New Year. Our Woman’s Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumes on January 11 from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Large Conference Room - Enter Church Office Door #28.

New Members are always welcome! For more information contact Karen Gluski (586) 207-6201 or gludog2003@yahoo.com

“Body and Soul” Bible Study
Led by Terry Davis
9:30 a.m. on Sundays

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”
Colossians 4:2

Moms in Prayer- Moms…and women! Come and join us each week as we pray for our children, schools, and community. Groups meet Mondays from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (Zoom), Tuesdays in-person from 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. at His Rock (doors open at 8:00 a.m.) and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. (Zoom). Please contact Kelly Chirco or Nicki Wargo (nwargo@splcs.net) for more information.

Men and dad prayer warriors? We are looking for a leader for a Dads in Prayer group. Please contact Nicki Wargo if you are interested (nwargo@splcs.net).
**LGBT Family and Friends Support Group** Do you have a family member, loved one, or have an acquaintance with someone who is not engaging in a relationship by God’s design? Do you struggle with how to interact with them, not wanting to judge others but to show God’s love and just meet them where they are at? Then the Family and Friends of LGBT support group is for you! **We will meet tentatively on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Small Conference Room in the Administration Wing.** For questions, please call Carol Poterek at (586) 566-3785.

**NURSING HOME MINISTRY** Everyone is welcome to join us on the fourth Thursday of each month as we gather at the Orchards - Armada Village to sing and have a short worship service with the residents. We also walk across the parking lot to do the same with the residents at the assisted living center. We currently have a few St. Peter members there who really enjoy our visits. We meet at 2:00 p.m. Please call Vickie Wangelin (586) 749-3325 if you have any questions or would like to carpool. Just a smile and sharing the love of Jesus brings so much joy to our elderly friends.

---

The fall session of **GriefShare** wrapped up in mid December. We will begin our next session of GriefShare in January. The Tuesday night session will begin at 6:30 p.m. on January 10 and the Thursday morning session begins at 10:00 a.m. January 12. If there is anyone you believe may benefit from GriefShare please let them know about the new sessions starting in January. Also, as a reminder, if you have already come to previous sessions of GriefShare, you are welcome to attend again.

St. Peter Lutheran hosted “Surviving the Holidays”, a one session class with careful suggestions for the holiday season, in November and December. Many grieving people attended these sessions. Set up like the one session “Surviving the Holidays,” our church will also be hosting “Loss of a Spouse” on January 8 at 2:00 p.m. This session is for those who grieve the loss of their husband or wife. We will also be offering the same session in February.

If you have any questions about GriefShare or Loss of a Spouse, please call the Church Office at (586) 781-3434 or Darcel Bennett at (586) 255-7090.

---

**Support the Honduras Mission Trip Team - Organ Recital (Charles Russell)**

Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 p.m.

St. Peter Lutheran Church
17051 24 Mile Road
Macomb, MI 48042

Featuring organ works by Mulet, Widor, Bruhns, Reger, Bach, Russell and Zimmermann.

A free-will offering will be collected to support the Honduras Eyeglass Mission Trip being led by Pastor Arendell. Checks should be made payable to “St. Peter Lutheran Church” with the memo line reading “Honduras Mission Trip.”

---

**Annual St. Peter Gala Auction**

Friday, March 3, 2023
Palazzo Grande
6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

We are pleased to announce the annual St. Peter Gala is back! Tickets are $75 per person through January 27. Prices increase to $85 per person after that date. Sponsorships are also available for purchase. Gala tickets include dinner, open bar, music, and auction.

To purchase your tickets or sponsorship, please register online at stpetermacomb.com on the In The Know page. Be sure to complete the registration form and follow the instructions for payment. Tickets are only reserved once the online registration and payment have been received. For more information contact Leanne Stallmann at lstallmann@splcs.net.
January 2023 Women’s Ministry Meeting

Invitation

To: All Ladies
From: Women’s Ministry Board
When: January 12
Place: Fellowship Hall
Time: 10:00 a.m. fellowship, meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.

Devotions: Vickie Wangelin
Brunch Committee:
   Captain: Marian Krakowski.
   Helpers: Karen Bowers and Phyllis Stade.
Mite Box Counters: Sue Koss, Lois Bellhorn, Joyce Schwark
Activity: Making fleece blankets for Compassion Pregnancy. Bring one yard each of 2 different pattern type fleece materials, scissors, and straight pins.

Please remember to bring your Mite boxes or drop them into the large Mite box ahead of time which is located on the Welcome Center.

See you on the 12th!

Women’s Ministry Board

2023 Healthy Living Opportunities at St. Peter

Stay Healthy Exercise resumes on Monday, January 9.
Are you feeling tired, stiff, or just not yourself? We have the answer. Join some spiritual men and women in a morning of exercise and motivation. People of all ages are welcome and can benefit. Shannon, our instructor tailors the class to the audience. We work on our hearts, minds, and souls as we stretch, lift weights, and raise our heart rate slowly through low impact, easy to follow movements. Grab water, weights (2 to 5 pounds), and a mat, and join us each Monday morning from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. We will help you feel better from your head to your toes!

Classes are $5/session on a drop-in basis and are held in the Church Narthex. Enter through Door #1 on the southeast side of the Church. Contact Paula for more information hoegemeyer@att.net or (586) 322-2319.

Christian Yoga resumes on Thursday, January 5.
Come join us for a faith filled gentle yoga experience. Becky will guide us through prayerful meditation, stretching, and postures, embracing our mind, body, and spirit that God has given to us. All ages are welcome. Bring a yoga mat, water, and a joyful spirit for this class that will meet every Thursday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Church Narthex. The cost is $10/session drop in. Enter through Door #1 on the southeast side of the Church. Contact Paula for more information at hoegemeyer@att.net or (586) 322-2319.

Ratification of Constitution Amendment - In order to preserve the sanctity of worship, Church Council proposed a minor change to the St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church of Macomb Constitution. The change was unanimously approved by the SPLCS Voters at the October 2022 Voters’ Meeting and now must be ratified at the January 15 Voters’ Meeting.

The change is to Article 10: Amendments:

“A. This Constitution may be changed or amended, with the exception of the Articles listed in Section B of this Article, by a three-fourths majority of the votes cast in a regular meeting of the Voting Membership, and ratified at a subsequent meeting also by a three-fourths majority of the votes cast, provided that: ..."

Current wording: “… the intention to amend the Constitution and the wording of the amendments proposed shall be read to the congregation assembled for worship on two different Sundays prior to the date upon which the amendment is presented for action.”

Proposed wording: “… the intention to amend the Constitution shall be announced and the wording of the amendments proposed shall be provided in writing to the congregation assembled for worship on two different Sundays prior to the date upon which the amendment is presented for action.”

This change will be read at worship services the weekend of January 1 and January 8, and then voted on at the January 15 Voters’ Meeting.
Our entire Sunday School, teachers, helpers and students enjoyed presenting "Celebrate the Names of Jesus" at the 9:30 a.m. worship service, December 11. We all worked very hard as a team to present this beautiful service written by Nancy Aman, a member of our congregation. Our service included twenty-one beautiful banners that depicted the names of Jesus.

Our very devoted and dedicated staff are ready and willing to teach your children the love of Jesus. If you have your child (children) registered in our Sunday School, please continue to bring them to Sunday School. We will be back in our classrooms after our Christmas break, Sunday, January 8, at 9:30 a.m. Any new students are always welcome.

God’s Blessings for a most blessed New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Pat Losey,
Sunday School Superintendent
Life Team

This month’s Life team article focuses on Lutherans for Life Ministries. January 15 -21 is Life week. Blessed for Life is the Lutheran’s for Life’s theme for Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 22. The Life Sunday theme for 2023 is based on Psalm 41 with emphasis on verse 2. – The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.

- Blessed with the gift of life
- Blessed by God for one’s entire life
- Blessed to be a blessing to others

If you have not had the opportunity to check out the Lutherans for Life website, I encourage you to take the time to visit the site and see what the ministry is all about. You can engage with a nationwide network of voices proclaiming the sanctity of life and putting it into practice and discover upcoming events in your community and across the country. You can find a host of resources about life issues such as surprise pregnancy to terminal diagnosis with a constantly-updated archive of articles, podcasts, videos, and their resources.

You can also locate and connect with other life-minded individuals and celebrate how God creates, redeems, and calls, every human life as His own precious treasure from Fertilization to Forever!

On Sunday, January 15, we will be celebrating Life Sunday and introducing our new Life Team banner. With the presentation of the new Life Team banner, we will remember our Life Team Leader, Connie Davis, who had served as the President of Lutherans for Life for 20 years, was a speaker for Lutherans for Life Michigan and was St. Peter’s Life Team Leader for many years. Connie had a true servant heart for all Life issues, and embraced the motto – ‘From Fertilization to Forever.’

For Life Team questions, comments or concerns, please contact Carol at carolpoterek@gmail.com.

lutheransforlife.org
www.lflmi.org

Keep your faith and the faith of your family growing!

Here are dozens of great devotions, ideas, Bibles and other resources. (Viewing Keynotes online? Click the links below, or visit the Sunday School page on our website.)

- Ages: Baby - Toddler
- Ages: 8-10
- Ages: Preschool
- Ages: 10-12
- Ages: 5-8

Additional resources for adult devotions and online Bible studies are available on the Resources page of our website.
It is important to remember that St. Peter History is not meant to show how great St. Peter is, but how amazing God is as He works through His Word and Sacraments among us. History is His story. Our History is a Ministry that proclaims His great deeds to future generations.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Historical Marker

On Nov. 30, the Michigan Historical Marker was dedicated after the Advent service. Pastor Wenzelburger, Pastor Arendell, and Pastor Meyer led the dedication inside due to the windy and cold weather. Guests included Rev. William Wangelin and State Rep. Jeff Yaroch. Wilma Wangelin and Milt Miller unveiled the marker outside with Pastor Wenzelburger finishing the dedication.

The dedication concluded a four-year effort of work detailed in the November Keynotes. The text on the marker is as follows.

**Side 1**

On February 20, 1882, thirty founders signed the charter of the Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter Church. They laid the cornerstone of their first church on May 29, 1882, across from the school built by their former congregation in 1877. Within the cornerstone was a letter to their descendants. It began, “We, your ancestors, once immigrated from Germany, from Mecklenburg, to this new western land America to begin a new home. We joined the Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel’s Congregation in Waldenburg, since their confessions and beliefs agreed with those in our old fatherland.” Pastor Friedrich Boeling dedicated the white, wooden church and cemetery on December 10, 1882. He served both congregations until Pastor Oscar Wuest became St. Peter’s first resident pastor in 1887.

**Side 2**

By 1880 numerous Germans had settled in Macomb Township. Many of them established farms in the Clinton River Basin. Of more than two thousand people in the township, some thirteen hundred were foreign-born or second-generation Germans. They were part of a fifty-year migration that brought more than two million Germans to the United States. For more than seventy years St. Peter Lutheran Church held services in German. Monthly English services began in 1923. Although altered since its construction in 1926, the red brick school to the south has long served the congregation and community as a place for social events and meetings. In 1962 the congregation built a new four-room school on this corner of 24 Mile Road; it soon became the foundation for an expanding church and school campus.

The marker is a reminder for the congregation and the community on how God has used St. Peter to glorify His work.

In His Service,

Submitted by Shelly Fowler and Dawn Miller, Historical Committee members
ST. PETER’S VALUES

Our Mission Statement:

To glorify God by making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of age.

Articles for February Keynotes must be submitted before 4 p.m. on January 15. Please submit all articles for consideration by email to Allison Tebay - atebay@splcs.net. All submissions should include your contact information. Please submit articles without formatting (table, text boxes, etc.) in a Word document. Thank you!

Worship Service Times:

Saturday 6:00 p.m. Traditional
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Traditional
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Traditional
Sunday 11:00 a.m. Modern

Please visit StPeterMacomb.com to see other opportunities to worship through Sunday School, Bible studies, small groups and more!

17051 24 Mile Road, Macomb, Michigan 48042
Church: (586) 781-3434  School: (586) 781-9296
StPeterMacomb.com

St. Peter Lutheran Church and School is a member congregation of The LCMS.