

### **Neighboring 101**

(Witnessing Series – Part II )

*And (Jesus) said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19*

Some years ago, I had the opportunity to read “The Art of Neighboring” by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon. The premise of the book is one that can be summed up with this question: **When Jesus said to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself... “What if He meant that we should love our actual neighbors?”**

It’s a good question, and it’s one that we really began tackling last month when we talked about the importance of **Listening**. Listening is vital part of relationship building, and it often opens the door for ongoing communication. If we’re going to be serious about reaching out to and demonstrating Christ’s love for our neighbors (especially those who quite literally live next door), then we need to get to know them by listening to what matters most to them. As I often share with couples preparing for marriage, any good relationship includes effective listening skills; and it’s the topic of listening that leads into our focus for this month – **Understanding**.

Understanding is yet another essential building block when it comes to developing the kind of relationship that leads to effective outreach and evangelism; and because understanding is directly connected to listening, it is vital that we look for clarification through active listening skills when in conversation with someone else. To do this, practicing active listening skills is vital. For instance, asking a person what they mean when they say something you don’t quite understand, or simply asking them to elaborate, are simple ways to grow a deeper understanding of someone else’s values and what’s really going on in their life. This also allows us to highlight points of connection (things that we can relate to and talk about), and it opens more doors that help set the stage for them to share their story.

And that’s exactly what we want. Asking a person to share their story is essentially asking them to open up and allow you into their world...which is why this is something that should never be rushed. The best relationships are often forged over time, so in order to get to this point, you should plan on investing exactly that -- **time**. Whether it’s through ongoing conversations over the fence, neighborhood activities (which I believe we need more of), or while helping them out around the yard...plan to invest time in order to learn more about them and where they’re coming from. And, as you do, look for moments when they begin to invite you to share your story. This provides a more authentic approach, which is one of the best ways to witness – authentically.

Over the years I’ve grown to understand something about the people I consider to be my closest friends. First, I can say that these friendships didn’t develop overnight. They took time. Second, these are people who now know things about me that most never will...which means there’s a certain amount of vulnerability in our relationship -- vulnerability that is connected to trust. If we are going to be serious about outreach and effective witnessing, then we need to understand that the relationships we seek are those that allow others to open up, share their story, and allow themselves to become vulnerable. When the time is right, they will allow you the opportunity to do the same as you share the story that you are already living. And, oh, what an amazing story you have to share; because your story isn’t just about telling others of Jesus’s story. Jesus’ story **is** your story!

God’s blessings to you as you seek to build those relationships!

**Pastor Wenzelburger**

**Worship**

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# Ashes Already?

While it seems like we just celebrated the birth of our Lord, Ash Wednesday is right around the corner. With the season of Lent set to have an early start this year, **Ash Wednesday will take place on Wednesday, February 14.** That's right. This year, we begin the Lenten season by humbling ourselves on the same day that our culture focuses on the theme of Love.

It makes sense when we stop to think about what Ash Wednesday is all about. The central event of the Christian faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's why it was the center of the apostles' preaching, and it remains the center and theme of our liturgy and worship every Sunday. The season of Lent prepares us to remember and observe the greatest event in human history and the ultimate act of God's great love for us; which is why Holy Week proclaims the death of Jesus on Good Friday and celebrates His resurrection on Easter Sunday. No doubt, Ash Wednesday not only begins the season of Lent, but it is a day of vital importance for Christians.

Ash Wednesday also reminds us of our mortality with those words: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* (Genesis 3:19) These words were spoken to our first parents in the Garden of Eden due to their fall into sin, and God's people have continued their reflection on those words by putting them into practice.

Throughout history, people placed ashes on their heads and wore sackcloth. In fact, within the Bible, (see Genesis 18, Numbers 19, Esther 4, Job 2 & 4, and Daniel 9) we find that ashes were used as a sign of mourning and penitence. They were also used as a purifying symbol of an unworthy people; and even Jesus speaks of the use of ashes for repentance in Matthew 11:21. As you can see, this has direct connections to the ancient church's practice of using the imposition of ashes as a sign of repentance.

Today, Christians remember that they are dust by placing (or imposing) ashes on their foreheads. But the ashes are imposed as crosses to remind us that, yes, we are dust, and to dust we shall return; however through Christ's death and resurrection, God has turned our mourning into joy. In fact, in Baptism (where the cross is also imposed upon us), we have been united with Christ's great victory. Therefore, we look beyond the grave – reminded that, because of the Cross of Jesus and the empty tomb of Easter, we live with the sure and certain hope that, in His great love and mercy for us, God has raised us from the ashes of our sin and brokenness once and for all.

Make sure to **join us on Wednesday, February 14, at 3:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday services.** If you are unable to attend in the evening, please note that you can also join our students in chapel at 8:15 a.m. where we plan to include the Imposition of Ashes, as well.

## Endowment Scholarship Fund – Lenten 40-Day Challenge

We will be having a special matching giving opportunity during Lent. Be on the lookout for an envelope coming in the mail as well as updates during worship services!

## LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Ash Wednesday - February 14

3:30 p.m. (Traditional) & 7:00 p.m. (Modern) - Both services in Main Sanctuary.

### Lent Services - Wednesdays, Feb. 21 - March 20

3:30 p.m. (Traditional) - Main Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m. (Modern) - His Rock

*\*Lenten Suppers served in the Fellowship Hall between services.*

*More information on p.10*

# Worship

## A Walk through the Service: Part 1

Greetings in Christ!

Often in life, we might ask ourselves questions about why we do things a particular way. This may apply to family traditions or to our personal or work habits. One of the biggest questions we might hear in the church is about why we worship in the pattern that we do. For the next two months, I'll be sharing some background for and walking through the traditional Lutheran service, which we often refer to in the LCMS as the "Divine Service," or in the German, "Gottesdienst." In other traditions, it can be known as the "Mass."

One of the clearest ways we abide in God's Word from week to week is when we speak and sing in the Divine Service. Worship is very clearly at the heart and center of the activity of the Christian Church, as shown in Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." The form of the Divine Service has changed over time as things are added or removed and as styles change, but the basic order of the service has been used by the universal Church for the last 2,000 years. Further from there, its roots go back to Old Testament practices!

The introduction to a previous LCMS hymnal has this to say: "Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. When we say back to Him what He has said to us, we repeat what is most true and sure. The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then from us back to Him. He gives His gifts, and together we receive and extol them. We build one another up as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. The Lord gives us His body to eat and His blood to drink. His blessing moves us out into our calling, where His gifts have their fruition."

This is a beautiful picture of what the Divine Service is: it is *divine* because of God's action. We do not come to worship to give, but to receive. God serves us with His gifts of Word and Sacrament. We receive these gifts and then we offer our thanksgiving and praise! It is only fitting then, that the words we speak in the service are actually a narrative of salvation. The order of the service is a web of words from Scripture and actions that relate to each other. This form has served for so long because it so wonderfully communicates the Good News to us and delivers God's gifts to us. While those of us who grew up speaking and singing the service might think it to be too routine, another way to look at it is this: from year to year, in our hearing, speaking and singing, we are rehearsing for our lives and for eternity. We do not speak these words only to ourselves, but to each other.

*Continued on p. 4*



### Robert's Music Spotlight

This month I wanted to share with you the song, "The Way (New Horizon)" by Pat Barrett. You may have heard us use this song in worship this past month, and I believe it is such a timely song for the days we are living in. This world desperately needs Jesus and will not get any better until it follows His ways. (Romans 12:2 and 1 John 2:15-17) As a worship team we pray every week before rehearsal to be present and mindful of how God would use and lead us, not only in worship, but to our community around us. In this sermon series, "Joining Jesus on His Mission," we are being challenged to join in His mission and spread the Gospel. Jesus Christ alone is the way, the truth, and the life, and we need to share it! (John 14:6) I hope you have enjoyed this song and find the boldness to share "The Way" with those around you.

Robert W. Costa  
*Director Of Modern Worship*

To begin our walk through the service, this month we will start at the beginning and go through Confession and Absolution.

**Pre-Service Music** (1 Samuel 16:23): As we enter the Sanctuary during the pre-service music, this is a good time to personally prepare for worship and to pray. Sample prayers for before worship may be found in the inside front cover of our hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*.

**Invocation** (Matthew 18:20, 28:19; Colossians 3:17): The Service begins after the Opening Hymn with the name of God. Invoking His name makes it clear that worship is His service to us, not ours to Him. We also are reminded that we are baptized into His name which was placed upon us through water and the Word. The sign of the cross, which was placed on our head and our heart in Baptism, reminds us that we belong to Christ.

**Confession and Absolution** (1 John 1:8-9, Psalm 51, Matthew 16:19): As we approach God, we are reminded that we are beggars in need of forgiveness of our sins. When we confess our sins, we acknowledge that we are unworthy to come before God, and that He must instead come to us. In the Absolution, God, through the mouth of His servant, the Pastor, declares us forgiven because of the salvation won for us by Christ upon the cross. Every sin is covered by Him.

May the Lord be with you and grant you His peace this new month!

In His Service,  
Charlie Russell, Director of Traditional Music

### Upcoming at Our Worship Services:

- February 11 - Lutheran Hour Ministry Sunday
- February 11 - Preschool classes singing (9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.)
- February 14 - Ash Wednesday, Imposition of Ashes (3:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m.)
- February 25 - New members received (11:00 a.m.)

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP	MODERN WORSHIP	LIVESTREAM
Saturday - 6:00 p.m. Sunday - 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.	Sunday - 11:00 a.m.	Sunday - 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### REMINDER: OUR ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM IS CHANGING:

- The “**Giving**” tab on our website (stpetermacomb.com) will now direct you to the new giving platform.
- To access our previous giving platform, there is a button at the top of the “In The Know” page on our website.
- Please make every effort to cancel your recurring online giving through our previous platform and set it up with the new platform by **February 29**.
- To sign up for the new giving platform, please click the “Giving” tab on our website and create an account.
- If you have any questions about these steps, please contact Maria Morelli at [mmorelli@splcs.net](mailto:mmorelli@splcs.net).



# Service

## PRAISE REPORT

Gleaners/Kroger Food Drive was a HUGE success! Even with the challenging weather, 40 shopping carts of food were donated! A big thank you to Gleaners and Kroger located at 23 & Hayes for sponsoring this event every year. A special thanks to the shoppers who purchased & donated food and especially the volunteers who braved the elements to hand out fliers, haul, sort and put away food. Thank you, of course, to our God who continues to bless our food pantry in so many ways.

Also, thank you to Infusion Associates, ChildTime, and Macomb Orthodontics who sponsored year-end food drives for the pantry. So thankful our shelves are full again.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit our [SignUpGenius](https://www.signupgenius.com) for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

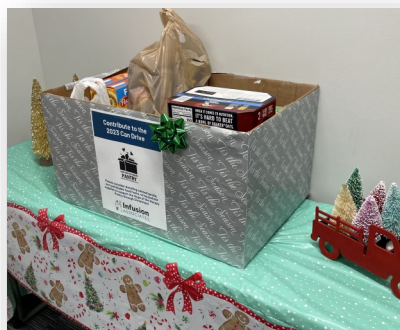
- **Food Distribution:** February 1 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and February 15 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Truck Unloading:** February 14 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- **Packing Boxes** is always available for families, teams, groups, or individuals. Most Mondays and Wednesdays 6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. are currently available, but arrangements must be made in advance.

## Sponsor a Food Drive

Although we have been blessed by so many sponsored food drives, the need for food increases each month. Please consider sponsoring a food drive in February, March or April with your sport teams, employees, or social groups. We can provide fliers with specific needs and suggestions. Be creative! Challenge another team. If you need help organizing, feel free to contact Karen.

If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact me or visit [hopeforthehungrypantry.org](https://hopeforthehungrypantry.org).

Yours in Christ,  
Karen Foust, Chairperson  
(586) 491-0652  
[karenwiegand@gmail.com](mailto:karenwiegand@gmail.com)



**Lutheran Hour Ministries** is a congregational outreach ministry supporting the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and partnering churches worldwide. It is independently funded by generous Christians who want to spread the pure and powerful message of the Savior's love in their own communities and throughout the world, in its mission of "bringing Christ to the nations—and the nations to the church." Visit [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) for more information and daily devotions. *LHM Ambassador, Duane Bettcher*

**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!

**MCREST - Emergency Shelter Fund** - Below zero temperatures across Macomb County have created an influx of vulnerable people in need of shelter. This weather puts people in the hospital or worse. Other service organizations in our county are overwhelmed in a similar fashion and need to increase room capacities for the daytime as well as bed capacities for the deadly evenings. Our staff is working overtime to serve everyone who is in need of a warm, safe place to protect themselves from frostbite and organ failure.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We need to raise funds fast to literally secure space to let people from the cold for the next several weeks.

**Our goal is \$20,000.**

Whether you can give a hundred, a thousand, or ten dollars, every penny is going to help us meet this profound challenge.

Please follow the link below. We thank you for your blessings, and will continue to serve the homeless population of Macomb the best we can!

*The MCREST Team*

Click here to donate: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=GDG3M4MX9YSVY](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=GDG3M4MX9YSVY)

**The Christian Growth Board** needs your help! 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 keep this service rolling, we would appreciate your help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094BADAEE2DA1FA7-44641920-sunday/118641298#/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Christian Growth board members:

Liz Kukuk  
(586) 623-7100  
[Lizboik@yahoo.com](mailto:Lizboik@yahoo.com)

Lisa Ventimiglio  
(586) 405-9272  
[lventimiglio@splcs.net](mailto:lventimiglio@splcs.net)

# Memorial Offerings

*In loving memory of Melissa Murray,*  
a contribution has been given to:  
**Church Ministry** by Kathy Krause  
**School Ministry** by Neal and  
Paula Hoegemeyer

*In loving memory of Lorraine Rosso,*  
a contribution has been given to:  
**Buildings and Grounds** by Fred Koenig  
**Missions and Outreach** by Ray and  
Pat Czaiczynski

# Thank Offerings

*For blessings received,*  
a contribution has been given to:  
**Church Ministry** by  
the St. Peter Exercise Group

*In celebration and thanksgiving for their  
50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 2,*  
a contribution has been given to:  
**Debt Reduction** by Don and Diane Zienert.

*Thanksgiving for blessings received from  
successful knee surgery,*  
a contribution has been made to:  
**Endowment Fund** by Fred Steele

**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.*



# PTL School Fundraisers:

On **Monday, February 19**, join us at Chula Maria Mexican (formerly Taco Loco) for lunch or dinner! Located at 52899 Van Dyke (south of 24 Mile). Please mention you're from St. Peter and a portion of your sale will be given back to our church and school. Thank you always for your support at these events!

The **Annual Gala**, held Friday, March 1, at the Palazzo Grande, is our largest fundraising event of the year, and the proceeds help the school and church to minister to our students, teachers, staff, and entire church community.

Tickets are now on sale! The cost is \$100 per person. Last year's Gala sold out and we are looking forward to another great event this year. To purchase your tickets, please register online at [stpetermacomb.com](http://stpetermacomb.com). Be sure to complete the registration form, hit "Submit", and follow the instructions for payment. Tickets are only reserved once the online registration and payment have been received.

We love to support our local St. Peter families and small businesses! If you own or know of a business interested in sponsorship opportunities or, if you would like to donate items or experiences, check out the sponsorship information at [stpetermacomb.com](http://stpetermacomb.com)!





# Connection



*For more information about current and upcoming Bible studies and small groups, please visit [stpetermacomb.com](http://stpetermacomb.com)*

## Bible Studies:

### Sundays (9:30 a.m.):

- "Foundations: Prayer" led by Chris Oberly
- "Myth or Faith?" led by Charlie Wolf (Administrative Conference Room)
- "Book of Matthew" led by Terry Davis (Fellowship Hall, north) An in-depth Bible study of the first book of the New Testament.
- Youth Bible Study, ages 7th - 12th grade, led by Joel and Angela Schepmann (Library)
- Sunday School, ages 3 yr. old - 6th grade

### Women in the Word Wednesday Bible Study

Bring the Joy of Jesus into your heart and join our Women in the Word Weekly Bible Study

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Large Conference Room

Enter Door #28 (Church Office door).

We continue with "Waiting," by Sharla Fritz. Each week is a new discussion. Books can be purchased on Amazon or [cph.org](http://cph.org).

For further information, contact Karen Gluski at (586) 207-6201.

**"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](mailto:nwargo@splcs.net)) for more information.

**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.



**GriefShare:** Are you or is someone you know grieving the loss of a loved one? Are you suffering from mental fog, insomnia or perhaps numbing pain? Give GriefShare a try. This program helps to start the healing process through videos, a workbook and discussion. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and an identical session on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Enter into the Church Office through Door #28. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at (586) 781-3434 or Darcel Bennett at (586) 255-7090. We would love to assist you on your healing journey.

### **February Women's Ministry Invitation**

When: Thursday, February 8  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship and brunch  
10:30 a.m. – Meeting begins

Where: Fellowship Hall (south end)

Activities: Write out Valentines for St. Peter shut-ins and widows/widowers. Visit from Tim Leinberger on St. Peter security.

Devotions: Darla Bratkowski

Brunch Committee:

Captain – Shelly Penzien

Helpers – Nancy Dodson, Dianne Wetzell,  
Mary Ann Demetrakeas

Mite Counters: Marlene Zienert, Rita Stark,  
Joyce Schwark

Don't forget your mite boxes! See you there!

### **Bunny Bash/Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, March 23, from Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Meet & greet with the Easter Bunny at St. Peter Lutheran Church Macomb in the Fellowship Hall. Candy, crafts, and pics. This is a FREE event. Ages 10 & under and families.

Hosted by the St. Peter Christian Growth Board.

### **Congrats, Virginia Oehmke!!**

Virginia Oehmke has been voted  
"Council of Lutheran Women – St. Peter Woman of  
the Year 2024"

The date for the 2024 Annual Luncheon is  
**Tuesday, March 19**, at  
The Mirage, 16980 – 18 Mile Rd., Clinton Twp.

Watch for details in the bulletin on how to get tickets,  
and join Virginia in recognizing her as  
Woman of the Year.

### **Grains of Wheat: A Hymn Festival and Organ Dedication**

Honoring Peter Paselk's 40 Years of  
Service in Music Ministry

Sunday, February 4 - 3:00 p.m.

Ascension of Christ Lutheran  
Church  
16935 W. 14 Mile Road  
Beverly Hills, MI

Featuring:

- Charles Russell, organist
- Michigan-Ohio Chorale (Erv Aufdemberge, Director) with the Ascension of Christ Choir
- Trinity Brass (Brian Pollatz, Director)

*Light reception to follow.*

## *Lenten Suppers*

**Feb. 14** – Taco Bar (*Elders*)

**Feb. 21** – Chicken Patty Sandwich/Salad (*Outreach/Youth Ministry*)

**Feb. 28** – Sloppy Joes (*Women's Ministry*)

**March 6** – Chili (*Trustees & Finance*)

**March 13** – Lasagna (*Christian Growth Board/Preschool*)

**March 20** – Hot Dogs and Mac & Cheese (*BOE/PTL/School Staff*)

All meals come with the fixings – salad, bread/rolls, coffee, lemonade,  
and of course, delicious desserts!

THE SUPPERS ARE FREE-WILL OFFERING. IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND,  
PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING A DONATION TO THE SEMINARY FUND. THIS  
CAN BE DONE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE. PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS  
PAYABLE TO **ST. PETER SCHOLARSHIP FUND** AND PUT "SEMINARY  
FUND" IN THE MEMO. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND THANK YOU  
TO ALL THOSE WHO PREPARE AND SERVE THE SUPPERS!

# Education

## Sunday School



We have welcomed back our teachers, helpers and students after enjoying our Christmas break. We are back in our classrooms teaching New Testament lessons using Concordia Publishing House curriculum for our winter and spring series.

Our devoted and dedicated staff appreciates parents and guardians bringing their children to Sunday School each Sunday to learn and grow in God's Word. We always welcome new students throughout the Sunday School year (September - May).

February 25, is our "Kick-Off Money for Missions." This year we are supporting a children's mission project, "Set Free By Jesus" - Bible books for kids in West Africa. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation provides our Sunday School with materials and resources that show us how we can share our mission offerings that provide Bible story books and catechisms for children in Africa. Every \$5.00 we gather provides a child their own Bible book. May God richly bless us as we move forward with this mission.

Our classes will start practicing the songs they will be singing in church March 3, (3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th grades) and March 10, (3 yr, 4yr, KDG, 1st & 2nd grades) during the 9:30 a.m. service. We always look forward to singing to our Lord and our St. Peter family.

Always in Christ,  
*Pat Losey Sunday School Superintendent*



ST. PETER  
LUTHERAN  
SCHOOL  
MACOMB

**APPLICATIONS  
FOR 2024-25**

**OPEN FEBRUARY 1**

STPETERMACOMB.COM

### Preschool-8th Grade

#### What We Offer:

- Christ-Centered Environment
- Small Class Sizes
- Academically Challenging Education Program
- Gifted and Talented
- Half Day, Full Day and Progressive Kindergarten

#### Contact Us:

[Istallmann@splcs.net](mailto:Istallmann@splcs.net)  
**586-781-9296**

I think I have restarted this article about 17 times already. Every time I would start to write, I would just erase it because I didn't like what I wrote. It didn't sound right. The words were all wrong. Who am I kidding, no one will probably read it anyways. I don't have anything that important to say... Then it hit me! This DOUBT and NEGATIVE TALK in my head is another weapon the devil uses against us.

Doubt can snowball into so many areas of our life and can ultimately affect our relationship with God. Jesus knows about doubt, He saw first hand what doubt can do. Think about Peter in the storm in Matthew 14. Peter got out of the boat during a fierce storm and walked on water towards Jesus. "But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" (Matt. 14:30 - NIV). When Peter stepped out of the boat, he had faith that Christ would protect him.

Each morning that we wake up, we are stepping out of the boat to join Jesus in the mission field of our daily lives. But then the devil kicks up the winds of self-doubt and negative talk that cause us to be afraid of what the world thinks. But just like Peter, Christ is there to reach out His hand and catch us from sinking into the waves of negativity and doubt. And when He calms the wind and the waves, we can boldly say that "Truly (He is) the Son of God" (Matt. 14:33b) by living our faith, Inside Out!

### EVENTS COMING UP:

- SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 a.m. in the Library
- RECHARGE: Sunday, February 4, and Sunday, February 25, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- YOUTH-ASSISTED LENTEN SERVICE AND SUPPER: Wednesday, February 21
- SPRING HILL RETREAT: February 16-18 - NO Sunday Morning Bible Study or Recharge
- ST. PETER GALA: Friday, March 1

### **NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING 2025: Informational Meeting over ZOOM!**

If you missed our first meeting in January, please join us on ZOOM February 12 at 7:00 p.m. (It is the same information from January so if you came to that meeting, you can skip this one!) We will be discussing the basics including cost, fundraising and just what the NYG is! This event will be held July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans. The gathering is open to all students who are at least 14 years old OR starting 9th grade in the fall 2025 up to 20 years of age.



Please join us on ZOOM (link at [stpetermacomb.com](http://stpetermacomb.com)) if you have any interest in this event. It is a commitment but it is such an awesome experience to join over 20,000 other Lutheran teens/young adults in strengthening our faith and learning more about JESUS! THEME: ENDURE based on Hebrews 12:1-3.



## February Focus: Fetal Development

The Life Team of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Macomb, MI exists to educate, encourage, and empower the members of our congregation to be gospel-motivated voices for life. This is our mission statement and defines how we encourage our members to approach life issues. The focus of this month's article is fetal development.

*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Psalms 139:13-16*

God's word points us to the fact that the process of fetal development is an intricate one- "you knit me together in my mother's womb." Although I have never knitted, my crafty daughter has tried to teach me to crochet before and I can attest to the fact that is it quite complicated. Thanks to modern technology, including 3d and 4d ultrasounds, we have gained much insight into the incredible development process that a child undergoes within their mother as a result of God's intelligent design. Here are just a few of the major milestones in that process:

- Immediately upon conception, cellular development begins. Even before implantation, the genetic identity is complete, including sex, hair color, etc.
- At 18-22 days, the child's heartbeat begins.
- At 22-28 days, the eyes, ears, spine, arm buds, kidney, liver, and umbilical cord start to form.
- At 36-42 days, brain waves are measurable. The eyelids, fingers, and joints are all forming. The baby may experience hiccups and makes slow body movements.
- At 56 days (eight weeks), the name of the new life is changed from embryo to fetus. All organs are functioning-stomach, liver, kidney, brain-and all systems are intact. There are lines in the palms. All future development of the new life is simply that of refinement and increase in size.
- At 10 weeks, the child squints, opens mouth, and moves fingers and toes. External genitalia are now visible. The child's bones harden, and body hair develops.
- At 16 weeks (four months), the baby grasps with its hands, swims, kicks, turns somersaults, swallows, and sleeps.
- At 18 weeks, the child's vocal cords are working and the baby can cry.
- At 20 weeks, eyebrows and fingernails are complete and the child has fingerprints.
- At 21 weeks, if born, the child could possibly survive and at 24 weeks, the survival rate is 60-70 percent.

Do you want to learn more? The Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY has an exhibit called "Fearfully & Wonderfully Made." It features intricate lifelike models, a detailed developmental timeline, as well as biblical and scientific teaching. Here is a description of the exhibit from their website: "The Bible informs us that every human being from the moment of fertilization is made in God's image, both male and female. This is true regardless of one's level of development, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, or age. Although issues regarding life in the womb are hotly contested in our world, the matter is settled by the ultimate authority: the very words of our Creator. The Fearfully & Wonderfully Made exhibit calls attention to the biblical and scientific truths about the unborn while pointing guests to the hope and forgiveness that can only be found in the gospel of Jesus Christ."

<https://creationmuseum.org/fearfully-wonderfully-made/>

For Life Team questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Carol at [carolpoterek@gmail.com](mailto:carolpoterek@gmail.com).  
[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) | [www.lflmi.org](http://www.lflmi.org)



# HISTORY CORNER



*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.*

## THE LENTEN WREATH

The Lenten Wreath is made of Birchwood, in the shape of a hexagon, symbolizing the six weeks of Lent, with a candle at each corner. Lent is a season of repentance. The five violet candles symbolize the scarlet of our sins and our need for repentance. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...." (Is. 1:18). "Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). The black candle pictures the blackness of sin resulting in death. "The wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:23). The lighted candles are a symbol of Christ as the "Light of the World." (John 8:12)



All the candles will be lit for all services through the first week in Lent (through the Wednesday following Ash Wednesday). Beginning with the second week in Lent, only five candles will be lit, the third week only four, and so on until on Good Friday only the black candle is lit. At the close of the Good Friday service, this black candle will be extinguished, signifying the death of Jesus Christ.

On Easter Sunday, and during the Easter Season, all the candles will be replaced by white candles and all will be lit. The white symbolizes the "white as snow" (Is. 1:18) purity that sinful men find through faith in Christ who died for them and rose again, and lives forevermore.

The symbols on the six sides (between the candles) also have deep religious significance. Two crosses adorn the wreath; remind us that on His cross, Jesus gave His life as a ransom for our sins. "The Son of Man came...to give His Life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). The cross over the world shows that He is the Savior of all people, so that "whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The cross with three nails reminds us that He was fastened to the cross with nails. The fourth nail which is invisible really held Him there. That invisible nail is the nail of His love. The crowing rooster reminds us that He was denied by a confessor (Peter). The moneybag with thirty pieces of silver indicates that He was betrayed by a friend (Judas). The chi Rho symbol (which looks like an X and a P in our alphabet) are the first two letters in Greek for Christ. The fish is a symbol used by the early Christians to identify themselves to one another as followers of Christ. The Greek word for fish is IXOYE (ICHTHUS). The initial letters for the phrase, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" in Greek spell the word ICHTHUS (fish).

*Taken from St. Peter Archives, Submitted by Joyce Schwark, Historical Committee Member*



**Rev. Kurt Wenzelburger**  
*Senior Pastor*



**Rev. Mark Arendell**  
*Pastor Emeritus*



**Rev. Craig Meyer**  
*Pastor Emeritus*



**Mrs. Sandra LaPerriere**  
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**Mr. Tim Leinberger**  
*Operations & Project Management*



**Mr. Charles Russell**  
*Traditional Worship Director*



**Mr. Robert W. Costa**  
*Modern Worship & Communications Director*

## 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 **March Keynotes** must be submitted before 4:00 p.m. on February 15.  
**Please submit all articles for consideration by email** to Allison Tebay at [atebay@splcs.net](mailto: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!



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

## 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!

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