

Neighboring 101

(Witnessing Series - Part III)

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."

1 Peter 3:15

As we conclude our three-part series on sharing Christ in the Post-Modern world, I think it goes without saying that we've been given a very powerful story to tell...and, as God's children who have been written into **THE** greatest story history will ever know, we have every reason to be bold and excited to share it. Why? Because Jesus' story **IS** our story! However, as we prepare to share it, it would do all of us well to recall the following:

1. Don't forget to listen to those you are connecting with. Listening leads to understanding; and it's vital to hear and understand their story.
2. Don't jump the gun when it comes to sharing your story. Too often, we want to rush right into who we are – albeit with good intention; but more often than not, if an invitation to share our story has not been extended and a door has not been opened, we will be talking to exactly that - a closed door.
3. Watch and listen for invitations to share your story. Invitations can range from questions like "*What do you think?*" or there may be more subtle hints that come up over time. The key is to grow a relationship that leads to understanding what the person is saying. This will then lead to a better understanding of when doors are being opened and invitations to hear your story are being extended.

Again, it's vital to remember that it often takes time to get to this point in a relationship. Certainly, there are times when we have an opportunity to share our story on the spot; but as you may already understand, this usually takes time because relationships take time. When the opportunity to finally share your story arrives, though, it's always good to be ready. So...here are some "Story Sharing Guidelines" that can help you prepare.

1. **Pray!** Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and prepare you to be a bold witness. After all, He's the One who opens doors, and He's the One who can and will see to it that His Word does not return void.
2. **Avoid being long-winded.** When sharing your story, get to the point. (Why are you a believer? What happened that caused an eternal change in your life?) Don't oversupply or overload with information. The person you're talking to can always ask questions.
3. **Be authentic.** Most people can sense whether someone is overdramatizing the story and they can often see when a person is not being a straight-shooter.
4. **Be clear.** Be specific, especially if your story includes events that were life changing. Clarity is important. (What were you like beforehand? What happened? And who are you now?)

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5. **Avoid an attitude of superiority.** Let's get right to it on this one. No one likes to be talked down to. A good rule of thumb is to avoid talking as if you are somehow wiser or better than the other person.

6. **Avoid overusing religious terminology.** Tell your story in terms that people understand. For example, being "sanctified by the Holy Spirit" is a great thing...unless the other person has no idea who the Holy Spirit is and what the word "sanctified" means.

7. **Avoid "weird" God stories.** Don't get me wrong. I'm not defining the variety of ways God works in our lives as weird; but to someone who has no faith, those things are going to sound a little "far out" and cause them to pull back and withdraw. These things can be saved for later.

8. **Last...write your faith story.** We ask our confirmands to do it, so why shouldn't we? I'm a firm believer that writing out your story will allow you to zero in on what it is that you want to say. Once again, you can always elaborate if and when the person asks questions, but this allows you to really focus on what it is that you are conveying.

A story can be a very powerful thing. That's why bookstores look for stories that are apt to become bestsellers. They know that a powerful story is a great story...especially if it's based on true events.

That's why we look for opportunities to tell our story. There is no story more powerful than one that reveals the love God has for each and every one of us in Christ Jesus – a love that is so great that He would be willing to do what it takes to rewrite the ending for all us. After all, can you imagine what our story would have been without Jesus' life, death, and resurrection? Yes...our story **IS** Jesus' story, and it's been rewritten to include a living hope that goes beyond the reach of time. May the Holy Spirit lead you to share the new story that you have been given by Jesus to live now and into eternity...so that others may have the same.

A blessed Easter to all of you as you live out your Alleluias. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



Pastor Wenzelburger

Endowment Scholarship Fund – Lenten 40-Day Challenge

Don't forget - You have a special invitation to participate in the Lenten 40-Day Challenge. Envelopes are available in the Church Office and at information centers throughout the Church Narthex area, or you can donate by scanning the QR code.



LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Lent Services - Wednesdays, March 6 - 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 2

Greetings in Christ!

This month, we will be continuing our walk through the Divine Service. Why continue to do so? As I shared last month, our speaking and singing the service is one of the clearest ways we abide in God's Word throughout our lives. Every time we gather to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament in the service, heaven truly comes to us!

Having ended last month's article with Confession & Absolution, we continue in the service knowing that as we hear and receive God's Word and Sacrament, we have been marked as God's own children through Baptism and declared forgiven.

Kyrie (Matthew 15:22; Mark 10:46-47) – Coming before the Lord and having confessed our sins and being declared forgiven, we prepare for the reading of God's Word. In the words of the Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy"), we pray as a congregation that the Lord would hear us and help us in our troubles and needs.

Hymn of Praise (Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Revelation 5:11-14, 19:5-9) – Confidently knowing that God is gracious and merciful, we sing the Hymn of Praise, either the traditional Gloria in Excelsis or "This is the Feast." The Gloria in Excelsis, the hymn of the angels sung in Luke 2, is a song that invites us to come and see our Lord Jesus in the readings from Holy Scripture.

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Robert's Music Spotlight

This month I wanted to share with you the song "No Body" by Elevation Worship. As we prepare our hearts this Lenten season, this song is a brilliant encapsulation of what Jesus did for us. This song declares that the fullness of God can't be kept in a grave, and because there is "no body" in the grave, we have access to victory through Christ and Christ alone. Christ defeated death and the grave, took the keys right from the gates of hell, all because He loved you that much. (Revelation 1:17-18) Let's celebrate this Easter that, because there is no body in the grave, nobody has to stay in a grave of their sin separated from eternity with Him. (Colossians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and 15:20-23)

Robert W. Costa
Director Of Modern Worship

“This is the Feast,” which quotes Revelation 5 and 19, is a hymn that praises the crucified and risen Christ, the Lamb Who is worthy of praise.

Salutation and Collect of the Day (2 Timothy 4:22; Ruth 2:4; Jude 25) – The Salutation (“The Lord be with you” *“And with your spirit”*) is a loving greeting between the Pastor and the congregation, and helps us to know that the Lord will make Himself known to us in His Word which will soon be heard. The Collect of the Day is a prayer that makes a request of God, and is usually based on the appointed Gospel reading for the day. Many of these prayers have been used for more than 1,500 years, uniting us with generations of old and those to come. At the conclusion of the prayer, the congregation affirms what is said with “Amen” (“yes, yes, it shall be so”).

Old Testament Reading (Luke 4:17-21) – Typically, the first reading comes from the Old Testament. The Old Testament prepares us to hear the Holy Gospel, which fulfills the prophecies and promises made in the Old Testament.

Epistle (Acts 2:42) – The Epistles are letters of the early church Apostles, which demonstrate how God’s Word is applied to us and the Church at large. In the Epistle, we are reminded that God’s Word accomplishes what it says.

Alleluia and Verse (John 6:68, 20:31) – Alleluia is Hebrew for “praise the Lord,” and is a word we sing as we prepare to hear of the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

Holy Gospel (John 6:63, 20:30-31) – The reading of the Gospel contains the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. It commonly forms the basis for the theme of the day and is tied to the other readings, prayers and sermon which are specific to the day.

Sermon Hymn and other hymns (Colossians 3:16; Psalm 78:4) – God encourages us to sing our prayers, praise and thanksgiving through His Word. In hymns, we respond to His Word by proclaiming again His marvelous works and giving thanks. Hymns allow us to join together in proclaiming the Word which is likewise read and preached. The Sermon Hymn in particular teaches again the theme of the day by placing it upon our lips.

Creed (1 Timothy 6:12; Matthew 10:32-33) – Upon hearing the Word, we respond by uniting our voices in a summary of the Christian faith. When we speak one of the historic creeds (Apostles’, Nicene, Athanasian) we express unity of faith with one another and the Church throughout the ages.

Sermon (2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:23) – Christ sent the apostles into the world to preach the Word. This Word is proclaimed in the Sermon, the pastor’s proclamation which is usually based on the Scripture readings for the day. In the Sermon the Pastor speaks God’s words of judgment (Law) and grace (Gospel).

Next month, we will continue with the Offering and Offertory followed by the Service of the Sacrament. May God grant us a blessed Lent as we reflect on our baptismal faith and life, recall and take to heart the sacrifice Christ gave for us, and as we prepare for a full and jubilant celebration of the Resurrection!

In His Service,
Charlie Russell, Director of Traditional Music

Upcoming at Our Worship Services:

- Lenten services - Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Holy Week services begin the weekend of Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday)
- Easter Sunday (March 31) - Easter breakfast between services

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.

Service

Thank you to the Thrivent members who generously directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to the pantry. We appreciate your donations which totaled \$850.

Girl Scout Troop 77176 surprised the pantry families with delicious homemade Valentine's cookies! These girls did a great job handing out the cookies and are genuinely supported by their parents who helped with the distribution.

The pantry went through a major overhaul in February by reorganizing all the food into one room. We're so grateful to Rose Ann for her vision, Karen for her leadership, Chris for his expertise, and Dave, Jerry, and Greg for their muscle and hard work. We are truly blessed to have so many dedicated individuals.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit our [SignUpGenius](#) for March and other volunteer opportunities.

- **Truck Unloading:** March 6 and March 20 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Volunteers may be asked to help empty a pick-up truck or SUV, date boxes, and put items on shelves.
- **Food Distribution:** March 7 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and March 21 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.
- **Box Packing** is always available for families, teams, groups, or individuals. Most Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
- **Saturday Apartment Delivery:** Volunteers are needed the first Saturday of each month to deliver food to two apartment complexes. Volunteers meet at the pantry at 8:45 a.m. and are done with deliveries by 10:45 a.m.
- **USPS Food Drive:** The Postal Carriers Food Drive is Saturday, May 11. This is our biggest food drive for the year! Volunteers are needed from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. to pick up food from the Post Office, date check cans, sort, and put food on shelves. Please mark your calendar and visit our [SignUpGenius](#) to volunteer and for more details.

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

Yours in Christ,

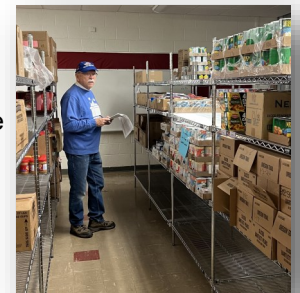
Karen Foust, Chairperson
(586) 491-0652 or karenwiegand@gmail.com



Are you a Kroger Shopper?

Kroger shoppers who are enrolled in the Community Rewards

program can help groups at St. Peter Macomb by linking their Plus Card Rewards to a specific organization. Currently, there are three groups benefiting from this program: Hope For The Hungry Pantry, St. Peter Lutheran Raise Right (formerly SCRIP), and St. Peter Student Ministry. Please consider helping one of these groups grow their ministry by following the steps at stpetermacomb.com. You can choose to enroll online or through the phone app.



ST. PETER RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood and blood products are in constant demand. When you become a donor, you help save a life. On Sunday, March 17, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. Peter will be hosting a blood drive in Kaiser Hall, which is located by entering Door #12 on the south side of the building.

We ask you to prayerfully consider becoming a lifesaver by signing up through redcrossblood.org or contacting Ann Meerschaert at (586) 524-0469.

Thank you!

Sound Equipment For Sale: Older sound equipment at His Rock (the youth house) is available for purchase. This includes soundboards, passive speakers, stage lighting, bass amp, power amp/amp mixer, and even some rack mounted compressors. If you are interested in any of this equipment, please contact Robert Costa, Director of Modern Worship. rcosta@splcs.net or (586) 433-1609.

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 (Shoebbox Ministry).

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

THE MEANING OF THE WIDOW'S MITE



During the time of Herod, mites were the smallest denomination coin in Judea. The term "Widow's mite" is based on Luke 21:1-4.

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you" He said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

As the Bible reminds us, even small offerings can make an enormous impact. The Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites"—offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and LCMS. Combined, these amount to millions of dollars for funding mission grants and providing ongoing support for various other Lutheran Women in Mission programs.

Mite boxes are available or pickup and drop off at the Welcome Center desk. Thank you for your support. "Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14.

Joyce Schwark
St. Peter LWML Representative

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/30E094BADA2DA1FA7-44641920-sunday/118641298#/>

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

Liz Kukuk
(586) 623-7100
Lizboik@yahoo.com

Lisa Ventimiglio
(586) 405-9272
lventimiglio@splcs.net

Memorial Offerings

In loving memory of Norman and Helen Niemann, a contribution has been given to:

Buildings and Grounds by Bill and Merlene Thompson.

In loving memory of Lorraine Rosso, a contribution has been given to:

Church Ministry by Nancy Aman, Tony and Lois Bellhorn, Lou Ann and Janet Friedli, Neal and Paula Hoegemeyer

Debt Reduction by Nelson and Barb Schramm, Mark and Linda Schwark

Endowment Fund by Stuart and Mary Arends, Terry and Rhonda Fiebelkorn

Giving Tree by Marvin and Dina Brohl, Bob and Judy Juengel, Jerry and Janet Stange

Missions and Outreach by Lorraine Bock, Rod Bock, Ron and Marilyn Rutz

Music Ministry by Jeanette and Terry Yonka

In loving memory of Karen Stark, a contribution has been given to:

Debt Reduction by Jim and Susan Kaiser, Roy and Joyce Schwark

Thank Offerings

In celebration of the birth of their grandson Dominic, a contribution has been given to:

Giving Tree by Marvin and Dina Brohl

In celebration of her daughter, Emily's, birthday, a contribution has been given to:

Giving Tree by Shelly Penzien

In thankfulness for blessings received, a contribution has been given to:

Missions and Outreach by Stuart and Mary Arends

Scuba VBS is coming to St. Peter from July 15-18. We are so excited to dive into friendship with God! This ministry is successful due to the outpouring of time and talents of our



many volunteers, and we are looking for you again this summer! Volunteers must be entering high school for the 2024-2025 school year through adults. Please follow the link below for more information and to register. Contact Amy Sarconi with any questions at vbs@splcs.net. Thank you! <https://vbspro.events/p/72bc3a>

EASTER FLOWERS Would you like to place an order for an Easter Lily or a pink Azalea in memory of or in honor of someone, or just for blessings received? These beautiful flowers from Hessel's Greenhouse will be used to decorate our Chancel, and then they may be picked up after the last Easter Sunday service. The cost is \$22 for a double stem Easter Lily and \$24 for a pink Azalea and must be paid for when ordered. Please make checks payable to Women's Ministry. The order forms are available in the Church Office or at the Welcome Desk. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 17. Please call Nanette Mapes at (586) 243-1394 if you have any questions.

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.

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

Ladies, please join us as we gather together during the season of Lent and complete the final chapters of "Waiting," by Sharla Fritz - a study on patience, hope, and trust.

We will meet Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, but NOT March 27.

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

Large Conference Room
Enter Door #28 (Church Office door).

For further information, contact Karen Gluski at (586) 207-6201 or gludog2003@yahoo.com.

**"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.

Monthly Men's Gathering: Hey St. Peter men! Join us on Monday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hamlin Pub (25 & Van Dyke) for our first "Men's Gathering." Take a breather. Have a beverage. Connect with others. The purpose of our Men's Gathering is simply to provide space for men here at St. Peter to connect with other men and to build a greater sense of community. Come for 5 minutes or stay all night. Old guys - young guys. It's just "guys being dudes." Questions? Contact Pastor Ken at kwise@splcs.net or (586) 871-4891.

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.

Interested in becoming a church member at St. Peter Macomb? Our next New Member class begins April 2! Register at stpetermacomb.com.

DivorceCare and DC4K On March 5, we will begin our spring sessions of DivorceCare and DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K). We meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room until May 28. Each week provides a different and stand-alone topic of care and concern for those who have been or are in the process of a divorce or separation. Topics include Deep Hurt, Road to Recovery, Anger, Grief and Depression, Loneliness, Fears and Anxiety, Family and Friends, Financial and Legal Issues, Conflict, Forgiveness, Your Former Spouse, Single Living, and Brighter Days. Each topic includes a video, workbook, and time for discussion.

If you, or someone you know is in a separation or divorce, please prayerfully consider our DivorceCare ministry. We seek to honor God in our lives and responses to helping those in need.

Also available is DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K) for children ages 5-12 whose families are in a separation or divorce. Sessions mirror that of the adult topics but are geared for the needs and concerns of the children. Like the DivorceCare topics for adults, each contains a separate and stand-alone session with video, workbook, and discussion. Children will have the opportunity to learn how to navigate the struggle of separation or divorce and come out healthy.

For more information, please contact Anne Westphal at (248) 909-4230 or awestphal56@hotmail.com. To register for DivorceCare, please visit DivorceCare.org.

GriefShare Our 13-week sessions are in full swing, but anyone who is grieving can still join us! We meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. with the identical session on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. Each lesson is independent of the others, so they do not build upon one another. Perhaps you recently lost a loved one or maybe the loss happened years ago. GriefShare is a wonderful source to help you turn mourning to joy. We would love to walk with you on this journey. Please consider joining us. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at (586) 781-3434 or Darcel Bennett at (586) 255-7090.

Women's Ministry Event

Connecting the Dots: The Biblical Culture of Israel and Ours

Presented by Rev. Dr. Chad Yeshayahu Foster

Thursday, May 2

Sycamore Hills (48787 North Ave, Macomb)

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40.00 per ticket

Hosted by: St. Peter Lutheran Church Macomb
Women's Ministry

Tickets available at the Church Office (make checks to Women's Ministry), in the Crossroads after all services on April 7 & 14, or by calling Julie Wright at (586) 344-1931 or Shelly Penzien at (586) 855-4067.

March Women's Ministry Invitation

When: Thursday, March 14
10:00 a.m. - fellowship and
brunch
10:30 a.m. - meeting begins

Where: Fellowship Hall (south)

Activity: Begin making
Recycled Cards to sell at the
LWML Zone Rally in April

Devotions: Val Dembeck

Brunch Committee:
Captain – Sue Koss
Helpers – Lois Bellhorn,
Tamara Lohan, Linda Fix

Mite Counters:
Gwynn Oberly, Hope Reed,
Joyce Schwark

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

Historic Trinity Women's Retreat: "Do These Shoes Go With This Stress?" Leaning on Jesus to lead us from stressed to blessed - April 13, from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Historic Trinity (1345 Gratiot Ave. Detroit, MI 48207). More information at www.historictrinity.org/events/2024-womens-retreat/.

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.

PTL Restaurant School Night Fundraiser—Thursday, March 21

Square One Pizzeria will donate 15% of the total sales for all call-in orders, and 20% for all app orders from 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21!

2 ways to order and support our School:

Call: 15% donation: (586) 213-1145 and mention that you are ordering for the SPLCS fundraiser

Order on the App: 20% donation (Must use promo code SPLCS at checkout)

Square One Pizzeria
395 N Groesbeck Highway
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

No flier needed, but you must mention SPLCS when calling for the donation to be recorded. Valid for pick up or delivery orders (delivery area restrictions apply).



Euchre Fundraiser for Belize

Come join us for a night of fundraising and fellowship at our Euchre tournament/dinner/night out to help support our mission group going to Belize. Saturday, March 23, arrival/bidding/fellowship 6:00 p.m., card playing to start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Pizza/salad and cash bar partnered with great card playing, door prizes, and more! Don't miss out this year (last year was a blast)! \$25 per person to play (no need to play to come, all are welcome for fellowship) Free will donation for non-players. Spots will be held upon payment! Checks can be dropped off in the Church or School Office, with the check made out to St. Peter (Euchre in comment line, please). Be sure to include the names of who is being paid for so we can hold the correct spots! Sign up for your spot at stpetermacomb.com.

Lenten Suppers

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 LUTHERAN CHURCH WITH "SEMINARY FUND" IN THE MEMO**. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO PREPARE AND SERVE THE SUPPERS!

Festival Choir Rehearsals

As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, if you are interested in singing with the Festival Choir, please join us for rehearsals at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room on the following days:

Thursday, March 7; Tuesday, March 12; Thursday, March 21 and Tuesday, March 26. The rehearsal on March 26 will be in the Sanctuary. Services the choir sings for include Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday- 8:00 and 9:30); Maundy Thursday (March 28- 7:00 p.m.); Good Friday (March 29- 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.) and Easter (6:00, 8:00, and 9:30 a.m.). If you would like to join, please contact Charlie Russell at crussell@splcs.net. Thank you!

Seminary Fund Recipient: Our Lenten suppers free-will offerings go to support our Seminary Fund. This year, our Seminary Fund assistance is going to Jason von der Lage. The following is an update from Jason and family.

To our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Peter, thank you so much for all of your support. We greatly appreciate it!

Jason only has a few months left of classes at the seminary before vicarage. He will find out in April where he will serve his vicarage year. In his spare time, he has enjoyed fishing at the Seminary lake.

Ruth is enjoying teaching her students this year, she directed a middle school play, and is starting a yearbook club this year.

Luke turned 13 years old. He was confirmed at St. Paul's last spring and enjoyed participating in golf camp this past summer. He is always drawing. He joined the Robotics Club, and started his second year of wrestling in February.

Steven is in second grade and this year he decided to play violin—and is doing very well!

Vivian turned 3 years old. She loves to talk, play tea party, dance, the color pink, and wants to be a mommy.



Our Shepherd Lutheran Men's Retreat Friday, March 15 - Sunday, March 17

Sponsored By Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Men's Ministry - Birmingham

Phone: (248) 646-6100

Highlights Include ...

- Speaker - Rev. Dr. John Nunes ("You Good?")
- Music - Updated Facilities
- Putting & Euchre tournaments, movies, & more!

Weber Conference Center* on the campus of Siena Heights University, Adrian, MI

**Modern meeting and sleeping facilities, private restrooms, meals Included, all buildings connected.*

Double Occupancy - \$160

Single Occupancy - \$210

Saturday Only - \$60

Limited number of single occupancy rooms are available... A \$60 deposit by February 28 holds your spot!

Register online at www.ourshepherd.net.



The **Life team** purchased 3 cribs and mattresses for CPC (Compassion Pregnancy Center)!

Dedication Plates—Free If you are interested in having one of the dedication plates from our first and second churches, there are a few available in the Church Office free of charge.

Thank you,
Historical Committee



Education

Sunday School continues to run weekly teaching Bible stories from the New Testament for our Winter/Spring series.

On March 3, the 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th grades will sing, "God's Sparklers," during the 9:30 a.m. service. Please enjoy seeing and hearing our Sunday School students "sparkle" as they sing this lively song.

On March 10, the 3 yr., 4 yr., Kindergarten, 1st, & 2nd grades will sing "God Loves Me Dearly" during the 9:30 a.m. service. These students have learned how much God dearly loves them by learning and practicing the verses of this beautiful hymn.

Our Sunday School continues to collect donations for "Money for Missions," our mission project for this year. This year we chose "Bible Books for Kids in West Africa." Every \$5.00 collected will purchase a Bible book for a child in Africa written in his/her language. We pray all of our students, teachers and helpers will be moved to contribute to this worthwhile cause. Our St. Peter church family is encouraged to donate to this mission as well.

On Palm Sunday, March 24, our entire Sunday School looks forward to processing with palm branches throughout our Sanctuary.

No Sunday School Easter Sunday, a day to rejoice our Lord Jesus Resurrection. We wish our St. Peter family a most blessed Easter.

Respectfully,
Yours in Christ,
Pat Losey, Sunday School Superintendent

Sunday School



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN
SCHOOL
MACOMB

**APPLICATIONS
FOR 2024-25**

OPEN FEBRUARY 1

STPETERMACOMB.COM

Preschool-8th Grade

What We Offer:

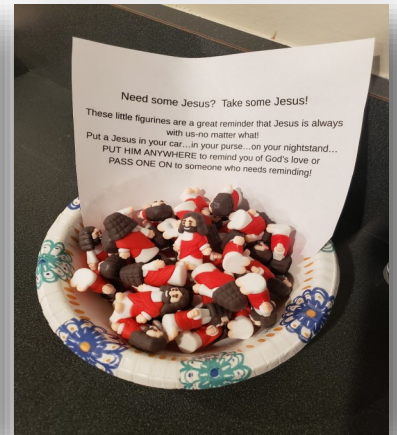
- Christ-Centered Environment
- Small Class Sizes
- Academically Challenging
- Gifted and Talented Education Program
- Half Day, Full Day and Progressive Kindergarten

Contact Us:

Istallmann@splcs.net
586-781-9296

STUDENT MINISTRIES *Angela Schepmann, Student Ministry Assistant*

Back in February, we hid 100 Jesus figurines all over His Rock and the kids found every one of them! We let them take home as many as they wanted to share or hide around their own house. It's a fun reminder that Jesus is always with us, no matter what! He goes with us, wherever we are. And, the best part, we get to share Him with anyone we meet. If you drop in at His Rock, we have extras sitting out to share with you. Please feel free to take some home and spread the love of Jesus to others, too!



Events Coming Up:

-Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. in the Library

-Recharge: Sunday, March 3 & 10, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at His Rock

-FAMILY EVENT: Sunday, March 17, 3:00 p.m. at His Rock- Not Lucky, But Blessed! Family games including 9-square-in-the-air and food.

NO RECHARGE - March 24 & 31- Have a wonderful Spring Break!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the youth-led Lenten service and Lenten Supper! We appreciate you!

Thank you to Bernadette and Mike VanOverbeke for busing our group up to SpringHill and chaperoning! Thank you to Josh Novodoff and Joel Schepmann for additional chaperone help!

National Youth Gathering: If you missed our Zoom meeting for NYG 2025, don't worry, you have time! Dates are July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans! We are just starting to plan fundraising. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or are interested in joining us! (586) 615-4186 or email aschepmann@splcs.net.



Save the Date!

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

July 30 - August 1, 2024
Frankenmuth, MI



Excerpts from: “Lessons From Will, The Doctor With Down Syndrome”

By: Kirstie Piper

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If there was one vastly underestimated resident at The Manor, it was Will, the doctor with Down syndrome. I first met Dr. Will when I was thirteen. Occasionally, I would accompany my mother to The Manor, where he lived. There, I would be given a volunteer vest and either sent down the women’s wing with an ice bucket and scoop or stationed in the kitchen to help serve lunch.

My mother became the administrator of The Manor, an assisted living center, after having spent much of her time working for Kentucky’s famous Western State Hospital. At my elementary school, playground gossip revealed that Western State was a haunted asylum for the criminally insane. Depending on which 9-year-old you asked, my mother was either “crazy” or “ultra-cool” for working there. Despite all the 3rd-grade street cred I received from having an “ultra-cool” mom, my first perceptions of adults with special needs were that they were society’s abnormalities. Sadly, I was led to the same misconceptions as most people who are unfamiliar with the special needs community:

They are abnormal, unpredictable, tragic, and even dangerous. **Thankfully, Will was there to show me how wrong I was.**

Fortunately for me, years later, my mother took a new position at The Manor, where I was introduced to new stories, first-hand. These stories, and the people I experienced, washed away all the skepticism and fear I previously had concerning those with special needs.

My favorite patient was one who wandered the halls of The Manor in a crisp white lab coat, scrubs, and a nametag that read *Dr. Will*. Before Will, I had never met an adult with Down syndrome. This wasn’t an unusual thing, given that the life expectancy for those with Down syndrome, at the time, was only 47 years. Despite having multiple health issues related to having Down syndrome, Dr. Will was approaching his fifties with an abundance of energy and joy.

What I recall of Dr. Will was that he was always smiling, hugging people, and telling them he loved him. He was also good at making my mother laugh. When volunteers and visitors arrived at the Manor, Will was the first to greet them; he was the one to hug them goodbye and tell them they were loved. When they returned, he knew them, right away.

Maybe Dr. Will didn’t have an MD, but he had patients, those who came into The Manor with hearts that needed healing from their misconceptions about those with special needs. By witnessing Dr. Will at work, many people learned that the guidelines for understanding and interacting with those with special needs are simple:

They are human, just like you and me. They have feelings, fears, hopes, and dreams. They desire and deserve patience, love, and community just as much as any other person in the world. They have impact and when we reject them from our lives, we are left misguided and incomplete.

Recently, I learned that, in the United States, around 67% of children with Down syndrome are aborted. **In some countries, every child with Down syndrome is aborted.** That means that, in some places, every single Dr. Will is denied the right to life, and millions of people are deprived of his love.

The reasons for this response to the diagnose are seemingly compassionate, but definitely misguided:

*They’ll never have the same quality of life as a “normal” person.
They’ll never be able to live on their own.
There aren’t enough resources to provide them with proper care.*

As demonstrated by the work of Dr. Will, the biggest hurdle that the special needs community is forced to face is fear; more specifically, our fear of them. The fear that we, or others, won’t accept them. The fear that they can’t handle the struggles that will be presented to them in their everyday lives.

The truth is, if we choose to live in open-minded hope, rather than in fear of what we don’t understand, we bring healing and growth to ourselves and others, just as Dr. Will did throughout his life.

**Names of people and the assisted living facility have been changed for privacy purposes.*

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

For this Easter season, we reprint a note from Pastor Knoll that was first printed in the Across the Miles newsletter of April, 3, 1944. This newsletter was sent to all St. Peter servicemen during WWII by the Walther League, our teenager and young adults' group. The Walther League was the first established group at St. Peter in 1925 and was instrumental in raising funds for our church needs and many charitable organizations. Some members of the WWII era Walther League and WWII soldiers are still with us! Thank you to all of them. Our youth group continues to this day and our service men and women are served by our Military Ministry.

Pastor Knoll's Easter message of 1944:

Christianity bases its hope and faith on one single fact, the greatest miracle of the ages, Christ's resurrection. If it is true that Christ rose, then all other facts of Scripture are true. If Christ is not risen, then the other facts matter very little. The fact that Christ rose is unique and distinctive of Christianity. Our Christian religion stands only if Christ rose from the dead.

This is Paul's argument when he tells us: "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

If Christ is not risen, then we have no Gospel. Then Paul was, and all those who preach this Gospel today are, false witnesses, telling lies. But do you think that Paul would have fought the lions at Ephesus if he had not believed that Christ had risen from the grave and that therefore his own resurrection to life everlasting was assured? If Christ had not risen, then certainly he would have been a fool to endure so many hardships and persecutions and even to suffer a martyr's death.

If Christ is not risen, our faith is vain, that glorious faith which assures us of the forgiveness of all our sins. Sin is real and sin spells disaster. Sin sends us into the depths of hell. If Christ is not risen, then this sin problem is still ours; for then our sins are unforgiven and we are eternally lost.

Truly, the outlook would be dismal and dark and gloomy. However, Paul makes the triumphant assertion: "But now is Christ risen from the dead." That fills every believer with joy and gives him the blessed assurance that his sin is forgiven and that he shall live eternally.

That this Easter joy may be and remain yours, is the ardent prayer and wish of

Your pastor,

O. H. Knoll

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Miller and Joyce Schwark, Historical Committee members.



Rev. Kurt Wenzelburger
Senior Pastor



Rev. Mark Arendell
Pastor Emeritus



Rev. Craig Meyer
Pastor Emeritus



Mrs. Sandra LaPerriere
Interim Principal



Mrs. Robyn Adams
Early Childhood Director



Ms. Diane Hernden
Business Manager



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 **April Keynotes** must be submitted before 4:00 p.m. on March 15.

Please submit all articles for consideration by email to Allison Tebay at 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

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.