

“Guilty until proven innocent?”

During this month of February, there are many things going on. The one I want us to think about happens on Wednesday, February 18. Ash Wednesday, a day when our worship service marks the beginning of the Lenten season. It is an opportunity to come and receive ashes on our foreheads with the words “from dust you came, and to dust you shall return.”

The sobering reminder of the reality of our sinful fallen flesh and world. The Lenten season is especially focused on repentance where we put heightened emphasis on the price paid for our freedom from sin and our gift of eternal life. That price we couldn't pay, but Jesus paid the price for us; done for us out of love, because we do not deserve it.

The interesting thing is when we read about how this came about with Jesus' journey to the cross. There were many people angry at Him. Many were saying what He was doing was wrong, and that He was not who He said. Many of these people held positions of power and were threatened by Jesus.

If you are anything like me or the way I grew up, I always had a fascination with crime shows. We actually see one play out in the scriptures in a way. Jesus is put on trial, before Pilate and before the crowd of Jews. We know Pilate asked questions and even comes and says that he did not find any guilt in Jesus of what the Pharisees were saying.

That does not appease the crowd, however, they still chant to crucify Him. They chant that He is guilty and the punishment is death. The people persecuting Jesus search and search for a reason to kill Him, besides their hate for Him, but they find nothing. Nothing other than that Jesus says He is, the Son of God. They hate this so much that they kill Him.

This Lenten season we are going to try to show this in a different way. Each Wednesday, we are going to show “Christ on trial.” Each week there will be a different person who is on trial for their interaction with Jesus as the Pharisees are trying to find the proof they want to justify killing Jesus. During this series we hope that we all will get to see clearly the glory and love that is who Jesus has revealed Himself to be. Our Messiah, our Savior. The one who fulfilled what the prophet Isaiah spoke,

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:3-7)

It is through the suffering and death of the Son of God that we find our salvation, because He willingly went through all of this, because He loves you. You are worth it.

May God's innumerable blessings shower upon you,

Pastor Dante Pronsati

Worship

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Worship

A Mighty Fortress – During Lent!

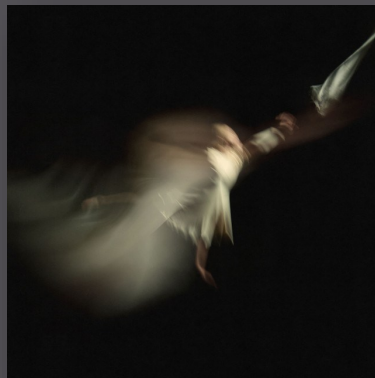
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Psalm 46:11*

Greetings in Christ!

Martin Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (LSB 656), is often referred to as the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation," and is one of the most translated hymns in Church history. We typically sing this hymn at least twice a year, with one occasion naturally being the Festival of the Reformation in October. However, the other Sunday when we typically sing this hymn is on the First Sunday in Lent, which this year is on February 22. The traditional Gospel reading for Lent 1 is the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11, where Christ takes upon Himself the curse of our sin and sets Himself against our enemy. His righteous obedience "leads to justification and life for all men" (Romans 5:18). Thinking along those lines and praying the text of this hymn, it makes sense why we sing "A Mighty Fortress" in Lent!

While we associate "A Mighty Fortress" with Reformation Day, it was not written to celebrate the Reformation. In fact, it only became associated with the Reformation festival a century after Luther published the Ninety-five Theses. We are not precisely sure when Luther wrote the hymn, though it was likely around 1527-28. These were difficult days in Luther's life- a broadsheet of "A Mighty Fortress" published in 1529 has the title "A Hymn of Comfort" based on Psalm 46. There are many reasons for why Luther could have been prompted to write this hymn. In 1527, a plague broke out in Wittenberg. In January 1528, Luther wrote that he was undergoing a horrible period of temptation, using the German word *Anfechtung*- which refers to anything that causes anxiety, doubt, fear, suffering, or terror in someone's life. During this time, Luther also lost his infant daughter. He was mentally and spiritually fatigued, but was comforted by the Psalms and trusted in his Savior.

Continued on p. 3



Robert's Music Spotlight

This month I wanted to share with you the song, "The Lord Almighty" by Bethel Music. During the holidays I had worship music playing in my car when this song came on as a suggestion. There are songs that I would classify as declarative songs which proclaim a truth. This song is a declaration of the Glory, Power, and Lordship of Jesus. When the church collectively declares and proclaims the greatness of our Lord in corporate worship there is power and beauty in those moments. It's not that we are telling God something about Himself that He doesn't know. It's an act of worship showing that we understand how great He is. (Psalm 96:3 and Isaiah 12:4) When we worship, whether it's in the car, at home, or in corporate worship, never forget to declare who it is we worship.

Robert W. Costa, *Director of Modern Worship*

Since “A Mighty Fortress” is associated with the Reformation, many people view it as a battle hymn against the Roman church. Yet, other controversies also enveloped the Church at the time, even among those who had broken away from Rome. For example, some of the other reformers argued that in Holy Communion, the bread and wine are merely symbolic. Luther, however, believed that the literal words of Jesus needed to be confessed (“This *is* my body. . .this *is* My blood”). He argued that there was nothing more true, certain, or powerful than the Word of God- the Word is a “mighty fortress.” In the middle of all of the devil’s attacks on the world (see Stanza 3), “one little word” from Scripture “can fell him.” The hymn ends by confessing that God’s Word remains in the world even when we are not thankful for it. In Luther’s time, he faced the threat of losing all that he had, yet he sang confidently that “our victory has been won; the Kingdom ours remaineth.”

In the midst of trial, temptation, and strife within the Church and in the world, we can sing this hymn anew and be comforted and given hope through God’s Word, not only on Reformation Day, but during Lent and in any time of need.

In His Service,

Charlie Russell, Director of Traditional Music

Upcoming:

- **February 8** - Preschool Celebrates 35 years! Preschoolers singing at 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Reception in the Fellowship Hall
- **February 15** - Recognition of Lutheran Hour Ministries
- **February 18** - Lent begins, Ash Wednesday services - 3:30 p.m. (Traditional) & 7:00 p.m. (Modern) - Main Sanctuary, Lenten Supper - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall - Elders: Tacos/Walking Tacos
- **February 22** - New Member Breakfast (9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall), Reception into membership (11:00 a.m. worship service)
- **February 25** - Lenten services - 3:30 p.m. (Trad.) & 7:00 p.m. (Mod.) - Main Sanctuary, Lenten Supper - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall - Student Ministry/Christian Outreach: TBD
- **March 4** - Lenten services - 3:30 p.m. (Trad.) & 7:00 p.m. (Mod.) - Main Sanctuary, Lenten Supper - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall - Women’s Ministry: Sloppy Joes
- **March 11** - Lenten services - 3:30 p.m. (Trad.) & 7:00 p.m. (Mod.) - Main Sanctuary, Lenten Supper - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall - Christian Growth Board/Preschool: Pasta
- **March 18** - Lenten services - 3:30 p.m. (Trad.) & 7:00 p.m. (Mod.) - Main Sanctuary, Lenten Supper - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall - Board of Education/PTL: Hot Dogs and Mac & Cheese
- **March 25** - Lenten services - 3:30 p.m. (Trad.) & 7:00 p.m. (Mod.) - Main Sanctuary, Lenten Supper - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall - Trustees/Finance: Chili

For additional information about any of upcoming services and events, please contact our Church Office at (586) 781-3434, or go to stpetermacomb.com.

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

Building Together

RAISED SO FAR:

\$1,903,809.96

\$11.5M

\$9M

\$7M

\$5M

\$3M

\$1M

***As of
1/29/26**

Have you made a pledge?

If you haven't made a pledge to our Building Together project, it's not too late! Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or at stpetermacomb.com. Thank you for your support!

Questions? Contact us:

- ✉ churchoffice@splcs.net
- ☎ (586) 781-3434

stpetermacomb.com/church/building



CEF – How you can help! Many thanks to the Church Extension Fund (CEF) for helping us in so many ways! Earn up to 4.16% APY and help St. Peter as well with as little as a \$500 Fixed or Variable Rate Note.

"Where can I find more serving opportunities?"

- Check out our Serve, Learn, & Grow and In The Know pages at stpetermacomb.com.
- Check out our weekly bulletins (available at worship services and online).
- Follow our social media pages: Facebook & Instagram (@stpetermacomb).
- Join our Facebook group: St. Peter Plugged In.



SAVE THE DATE: Our 2026 Annual MCREST Hosting Program is scheduled this year for the 4th week of June. Our program begins by serving dinner on Sunday, June 21; and concludes by serving breakfast on Sunday, June 28. MCREST is a homeless shelter, located in Mt. Clemens, that currently houses 50 women and children. St. Peter Lutheran Church and School, has been hosting a week in June with the MCREST homeless shelter for the past 15+ years! But, the MCREST organization is currently remodeling part of their current building to be able to also house 20 homeless men. By our hosting week in June, they hope to have the construction and funding completed. If everything is completed by June 21, we will be hosting a total of 70 homeless people.

We need your support and help! You will have many opportunities to volunteer for this week of serving those in our neighboring community; who are much less fortunate than we are here in northern Macomb.

Please be advised that several of our adult leadership team members have recently retired. The vacancies include:

- Co-Leader
- Head Dinner Organizer
- Lunch Preparation Leader
- Evening Activities Coordinator
- Daily Food Staple Shopper

If any of these titles sound interesting to you; please contact our team's Head Leader for more information. A SignUpGenius is being created with a list of all the needed adult leaders we are looking for to fill our team. This SignUpGenius will be available in early February, or you may contact Rhonda for more information. May God continue to richly bless you and your family; as we prepare in June, to richly bless the people living in the MCREST homeless shelter. Thank you for taking the time to read this article. I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have about this worthwhile Outreach program of St. Peter Lutheran Church and School.

In Christ's service,
Rhonda Fiebelkorn, Head MCREST Leader
(rhondaf85@hotmail.com)

Our **Student Ministry** team is hosting a fundraiser at Total Axe Throwing in Clinton Twp.



On February 20, we'll receive 25% of all sales at Total Axe. Families go online to Totalaxe.com and reserve their spots for that date. Cost is \$20 a person for an hour of throwing. They teach you how to throw axes and stars. Open to anyone over the age of 10. Times start at 5:00 p.m. and can be booked until 8:20 p.m.

Dear St. Peter Members:

On behalf of **Lutheran World Relief**, we want to thank you for your compassion for the past 80 years. This past year, in a significant expansion of that legacy, you brought that same generosity to neighbor's right in our own backyards. In 2025, neighbors were reached coast to coast including those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Wildfires in California, severe weather across the South and Midwest and flooding in Central Texas. 21 shipping containers loaded with quilts and kits were shipped into these areas and within 12 hours LWR Quilts and Kits were in the hands of those who needed them the most.

Your support brought immediate relief to these areas. And as needs grow, your service to others is more critical than ever. Thank you for your faithful commitment to others. While this ministry has expanded, the mission remains the same until your love reaches every neighbor.

In loving gratitude,
Lutheran World Relief Rep. Joyce Schwark

Lutheran Hour Sunday 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 LHM.org for more information and daily devotions. LHM Ambassador, Duane Bettcher

More ways to help us Build Together!

Some of our St. Peter families have offered a percentage of their businesses' sales to go to our Building Together expansion fund. If you would like to join our list, please reach out to our Church Office or Finance Department at (586) 781-3434.

- **Air-Tite Replacement Co Inc.** – Air-Tite Replacement Co Inc. (Window and Door Sales and Custom Installation) will donate 10% of the contract price to the building campaign for St. Peter church members and school families. Non-member contracts referred by church or school families will receive a 5% donation. Phone: (586) AIR-TITE (247-8483) airtitereplacement.com
- **Hauss-Modetz Funeral Home, Macomb and Tiffany-Young & Hauss Funeral Home – Armada** will donate 10% of the service charge to the Building Together Campaign for St. Peter Church and School families. Non-Members that are referred by church families will receive a donation of 5% of the service charge. Macomb – (586) 263-3100 Armada – (586) 784-9123 haussmodetz@gmail.com
- **Smith & Sarconi PLC** will donate 10% of the price of any estate plan purchased by St. Peter Church and School families to the Building Together Campaign. 13900 Lakeside Circle, Suite 203, Sterling Heights, MI 48313, (586) 884-5420, jsarconi@s2attorneys.com
- **Beninati Hot Tubs - Clinton Twp.** will donate 10% of contract price for any hot tub, Swim Spa or Cold Plunge and 5% of the contract price for any indoor or outdoor sauna purchased by St. Peter Church and School families. Please text or call Jacob for more info (810) 357-4192.

Calling all medical professionals! If you are willing to be called upon in the event of a medical emergency during our worship services, please contact our Church Office at (586) 781-3434 or churchoffice@splcs.net for further information.

DivorceCare For Kids & Help Wanted

Adults are not the only ones impacted by a separation or divorce. Children experience many of the same emotions and struggles as their world changes due to a divorce. DivorceCare offers a companion program for school-aged children with topics mirroring those of the adult program while being geared toward children. DC4K (Divorce Care for Kids) is a supportive help for children.

At this time, we are searching for someone to lead this vital program at St. Peter. If you have been divorced or experienced the divorce of your parents as a child, you have a unique perspective that will help children. Please consider leading this valuable program for the children at St. Peter. The DC4K program runs at the same time as the adult program, all materials and training are provided. For more information, contact Anne Westphal at (248) 909-4230 or awestphal56@hotmail.com.

Lutheran World Relief Baby Kits We are again beginning to assemble Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. If you would like to donate any of the following items, they can be deposited into the LWR tub in the Church Coat Room.

- Receiving blankets
- Cloth diapers
- Sleepers
- T-shirts
- Hand towels
- Socks
- Bars of Ivory soap
- Baby sweaters or sweatshirts (with or without hoods)

These items can be new or lightly used.

If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Schwark, St. Peter LWML Rep. (586)524-9328

Thank you and God's Blessings.

Memorial Offerings

In loving memory of David Dembeck, contributions have been given to: **New Building fund** and **Music & Organ Fund** by Duane & Ruthann Bettcher, Michele Green, Carol, David, Eric, & Kelly Huiskens, Kendra & Scott Dunsford, Janet & Gene Witt, Marvin & Patricia Warnez, David & Judith Woodruff, Barbara Smith, Mary Lou Moschel, Barbara Schramm, Greg & Susan Heisler, Fred & Lillian Schreiber, Matthew & Dawn Miller, Jeffrey & Rebecca Eminger, Edith Demeyere, Dennis & Lynette Seiler, David & Linda Winningham, the Sprgue Family, Philip & Patricia Wiegand, Timothy & Linda Klein, Donald & Cynthia King, Robert & Deborah Kasper, Richard & Ruth Blazeovich, Gary & Phyllis Stade, Roy & Joyce Schwark, the Kosmatka Family, Valorie Dembeck, Shelly Penzien, The Fire Fighter's Association, Carol Harm, and the Stolzenfeld Family

In loving memory of Bill Rogerson, a contribution has been given to: **New Building Fund** by Stephen & Laura Green

In loving memory of Maureen Gingrich, a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** and **Music & Organ Fund** by Duane & Ruthann Bettcher, Wayne & Marie Niemann, Jerry & Janet Stange, and Bill & Dianne Wetzel

In loving memory of Corrine Schraffenberger, a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by Duane & Ruthann Bettcher, Jerry & Janet Stange, and Bill & Dianne Wetzel

In loving memory of Richard Meier, a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** and **Music & Organ Fund** by Duane & Ruthann Bettcher, Jerry & Janet Stange, and Bill & Dianne Wetzel

In loving memory of Ralph Marcatth, a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by Wayne & Marie Niemann, Duane & Ruthann Bettcher, Jerry & Janet Stange, Joyce Kraatz, Bill & Dianne Wetzel, and Stan & Marion Krakowski

In loving memory of Larry Boeling, a contribution has been given to: **Music & Organ Fund** by Stuart & Mary Arends, and the Stolzenfeld Family

In loving memory of Rodger Gillespie, a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by Tracie Gillespie

In loving memory of Ruby Essenberg, a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by Tracie Gillespie

In loving memory of Janice Sheridan, a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by Tracie Gillespie

In loving memory of Donna Zuehlk, a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by Jerry & Janet Stange

Thank Offerings

For the birth of their grandson, Brooks Callaway McIntosh a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by Mark & Linda Schwark

Thank You...

A very special thank you to everyone who sent cards, prayers, phone calls, and food during my hip replacement recuperation. This meant so much to me. I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful church family that was so kind to do this all for me. God's richest blessings to all. Merlene Thompson

St. Peter Family, thank you everyone for the cards, prayers, gifts and support these past few months. The outpouring of support has meant so much to me and my family. Larry was always concerned about being here on Sunday morning to Usher and greet everyone. Sunday morning was his social time, and he hated to miss it. Thank you for showing me how much he meant to you and the church. You have made things easier and I can't thank you enough for the support. In Christ, Robin Boeling

Connection

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



Bible Studies:

God's Word For Today Bible Study You are invited to attend this pastor-led Sunday morning Bible study at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Moms (& Women) In Prayer Moms...and women! 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) and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. (Zoom). Please contact Kelly Chirco (kellychirco@comcast.net) or Nicki Wargo (nwargo@splcs.net) for more information.

Wednesday Women In The Word Bible Study As we continue in the New Year, join us as we study God's Word, "Be Still & Know," by Deb Burma. God's promises found in Psalm 46: Rest, Refuge, Strength, Help, and Hope. We meet each Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. North Fellowship Hall. Enter through Door #28 (Church Office). Books are available. Contact Information: Karen Gluski: (586) 207-6201 or gludog2003@yahoo.com.

Foundations: Miracles Led by Chris Oberly. Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m. (Room 29)

Creation/New Creation Led by Charlie & Grace Wolf. Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m. (Administrative Conference Room) Beginning October 5.

Tuesdays Together Bible Study We would love to have you join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a pastor-led Bible Class. We are currently working our way through the Gospel of Matthew. The apostle Matthew writes his gospel to proclaim to the world that its promised Savior has come. Pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, Matthew proclaims the universality of Jesus' love.

Sunday School St. Peter SONdays. Cool! Kids 3 years (potty-trained) - 6th grade (including additional support for kids with special needs) learn more about Jesus...the SON of God...our Savior! Sundays from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Questions about St. Peter SONdays (Sunday School)? Please contact Mrs. Nicki Wargo at nwargo@splcs.net.



Men's Bible Breakfast Led by Erv Aufdemberge. Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. (Country Inn Restaurant - 23 Mile and Romeo Plank)

The newest 13-week session of **GriefShare** recently began and will run through the middle of April. It is never too late to join GriefShare. If you are mourning the loss of a dear loved one or know someone who is, please consider joining us. Each week there is a video, a small group discussion and there is a workbook to review throughout the week. GriefShare sessions aid in the healing process from mourning to joy. We meet on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. in the Small Conference Room. Enter into the Church Office area through Door #28. If you have any questions about GriefShare contact the Church Office at (586) 781-3434 or Darcel Bennett at (586) 255-7090. You may also review the website at griefshare.org. GriefShare is looking for additional leaders for this important ministry. Would you please consider becoming an additional facilitator for this group? Contact Linda Dunklau at (586) 247-5329 or Darcel Bennett at (586) 255-7090.

Are you, or do you know of someone going through a separation or divorce? St. Peter Macomb offers **DivorceCare** support for people walking through this painful experience. Our leaders offer a safe and welcoming place where people can experience relief and comfort as they learn how to navigate this difficult journey. DivorceCare is a 13-week program offering topical videos, a workbook, and solid help as you face each challenge. Topics include exploring deep hurt, loneliness, anxiety, bitterness, anger, and grief while also exploring the life changes you will encounter, how to navigate legal and financial issues and the importance of forgiveness. Our next session begins on Tuesday, March 10, in the Small Conference Room. We meet from 6:45 p.m.-8:15 p.m. To register or for more information, visit Divorcecare.org or contact the Church Office. See p. 6 for *DivorceCare For Kids 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.

Quilters The quilting group is always in need of clean sheets, cotton and flannel along with any new material. They meet on Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (north). Please enter through Door # 28. They also have packets of quilts squares available for anyone that would like to sew from home. Donations can be dropped off in the Coat Room in the Narthex and packs of quilt squares to sew are available there. Please call Bonnie Williams with any questions (248) 790-2664.

Men's Ministry Monthly Men's Gatherings are held the 3rd Monday of each month. We meet at the Hamlin Pub (Van Dyke and 25 mile) at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to join us for a time of "Connection and Conversation." Questions? Contact Pastor Ken at kwise@splcs.net or (586) 871-4891.

St. Peter Boosters

GOLF

Outing



Enjoy golf, family fun, and fundraising for our Booster Club!



SUNDAY, MARCH 15
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

\$25 PER PERSON

INCLUDES:

- Golf
- Unlimited Soft Drinks

(food available for purchase)

Top Golf Auburn Hills
500 Great Lakes Crossing Dr,
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

**Swing into fun!
Register by March 4**

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SPBTOPGOLF](https://bit.ly/spbtogolf)



IN HIS PRESENCE

Go - Make - Share
Matthew 28:19-20



Lodging, meals, and gratuities at the Grand Hotel

\$397
per person based on quad occupancy and room selection.

Speakers
Rev. Greg Finke | Rev. Dr. Ryan Tinetti

Entertainment
Tanner Olson

Premier Sponsor
Church Extension Fund

Lutheran Adult Gathering | Mackinac Island, Mich.
October 9-11, 2026

www.michigandistrict.org/lag26

Cost: \$50/person plus lodging
Deadline to register is September 10, 2026



VBS 2027 With the exciting building expansion projects happening at St. Peter, we will not be hosting Vacation Bible School this summer (2026). While we will miss having all the kids on campus and sharing the good news of the Gospel with them, we are grateful for the improvements being made to our church and school. We look forward to **welcoming VBS back in Summer 2027**, renewed and stronger than ever! Thank you for your understanding.

HEALTHY LIVING OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. PETER In 2026—Come and join us!

Stay Healthy Exercise 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. Deb, 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 a.m.–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. Park in the north parking lot and enter through **Door #28** on the northeast side of the church. Contact Paula for more information hoegemeyer@att.net or (586) 322-2319.

Christian Yoga 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 4:15 p.m.–5:15 p.m.** in the Church Narthex. The cost is \$10/session drop in. Enter through Door #28. Contact Paula for more information hoegemeyer@att.net or (586) 322-2319.



100th Anniversary! The St. Peter Ladies' Aid/Women's Ministry is celebrating their 100th anniversary this month! A special luncheon is planned at the Italian American Cultural Center. Registration is now closed. For those attending, the event details are as follows:

- Date of event: Thursday, February 12
- Italian American Cultural Center, 43843 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton Twp. (1/2 mile south of Hall Rd. on the west side)
- Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Starts promptly at 12:00 p.m. Open seating
- Sit-down meal plus lots of memories to share from years gone by

P.S. There will be NO Women's Ministry meeting in February. This luncheon will take its place.



Join us Friday, March 6, 2026 at The Palazzo Grande for our **Annual Spring Gala and Silent Auction**. This wonderful event includes dinner, live entertainment, silent and live auction items, beautiful classroom projects made with love, and an all around amazing evening with our church and school community. All proceeds help our church and school minister to our students, staff, and entire church community.

Tickets are on sale for \$110 per person. To purchase your tickets, please register online using the provided link. 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 local small businesses and those of St. Peter



or

families! If you own or know of a business interested in sponsorship opportunities you would like to donate items/experiences please check out the sponsorship information flier and fill out our google form. Please contact the Gala Committee at stpetergala@splcs.net with any questions.

ST. PETER MACOMB PRESENTS

Annual Spring Gala

SPONSORSHIP & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Friday, March 6, 2026
The Palazzo Grande, Shelby Twp., MI
6:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

GRAND EVENT TUITION SPONSOR - \$6,000 <small>(**ONLY 1 AVAILABLE - SOLD OUT **)</small> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Featured sponsor of Tuition Raffle with the opportunity to present Tuition Raffle Winners with check at the event Sponsor Banner on display at the event Champagne Toast for the table 10 event tickets (full table) Individual "Grand Event Tuition Sponsor" banner displayed in the gym (2026-2027 school year) Full page ad in event program Logo on event slideshow, step & repeat backdrop, and weekly school email (March-June) 	
LEGACY SPONSOR - \$5,000 <small>(LIMITED AVAILABILITY)</small> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champagne Toast for the table 10 event tickets (full table) Individual banner in the gym (2026-2027 school year) Full page ad in event program Logo on event slideshow, step & repeat backdrop, and weekly school email (March-June) 	PATRIOT SPONSOR - \$3,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All GOLD level recognition 6 event tickets Logo on Patriot Banner in the gym (2026-2027 school year) Half page ad in event program Logo on event slideshow, step & repeat backdrop, and weekly school email (March-June)
GOLD SPONSOR - \$1,500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All SILVER level recognition 2 event tickets Logo in event program, event slideshow, step & repeat backdrop, and weekly school email (March-June) 	SILVER SPONSOR - \$500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition on auction website and St. Peter Macomb social media account Featured recognition at event

EVENT SPONSOR - \$1,000 EACH

EVENT SPONSORS receive featured recognition at sponsored station, logo/name in event program, verbal recognition at event, and online/social media recognition.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar Sponsor (1 <small>SOLD OUT</small>) Centerpiece Sponsor (3 available) Coat Check Sponsor (1 available) Dessert Table Sponsor (2 available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live Auction Sponsor (1 <small>SOLD OUT</small>) Music/Entertainment Sponsor (3 available) Silent Auction Sponsor (2 available) Staff Appreciation Sponsor (1 available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table Sponsors (recognition on 5 tables) Valet Sponsor (1 <small>SOLD OUT</small>)
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OTHER DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Individual items (\$25 minimum value)
- Gift baskets (\$75 minimum value)
- Gift certificates (entertainment, hotel or resort accommodations, restaurants, salon and/or spa package)

Ready to sponsor or donate?

Scan here to fill out our form
<https://forms.gle/m54bMgNga6bL39R7>

Thank you for your continued support!

For additional questions or information, email stpetergala@splcs.net or contact Bethany Blanchard (586) 764-9515.

Congratulations to Lois Bellhorn, 2026 St. Peter

"Woman of the Year!" We invite you to join us in celebrating Lois Bellhorn, our "Woman of the Year." Lois will be honored at the Council of Lutheran Women's Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, March 24, at The Mirage (16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038). The luncheon begins at 11:00 a.m., with Rev. Dr. Christopher I. Thoma as the keynote speaker. Proceeds from this event will go toward supporting our Seminarians. Tickets are \$38 per person and are available at

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/clw-2026-luncheon>.



Education

STUDENT MINISTRY

Angela Schepmann | aschepmann@splcs.net

MI DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH GATHERING

WHEN: June 28-July 1

WHERE: Mackinac Island-Mission
Point Resort

WHO: All current 8th graders to
graduated Seniors

Join us for an amazing time with
800+ other youth on Mackinac! Our
time together includes: speakers
(TANNER OLSON AND REV. GABE
KASPER), musicians (FLAME and
SWEN AND DEAN), servant event,
bike and boat rides, and so much
more!

\$100 deposit saves your spot with
our group. Due by February 20! Total
cost of registration is \$599 but we
will be fundraising will help cover
most of the cost.



Looking for help!

Student-led Lenten Worship
Wednesday, March 25, as well
as helping at the Lenten
Supper after!

Watch for information on an
upcoming Lenten Event
sponsored by Student Ministry.

Upcoming Events

- WATCH THE CALENDAR FOR
EVENTS!
- Winter Camp at Spring Hill Feb
13-15 (No Sunday Recharge)
- Morning Meetup - Feb. 19
- Activate Event - Saturday, Feb.
21 (No Recharge on Sunday)

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Home Plate Event at Tiger
Stadium on June 6 at 10:00
a.m. Game vs. Mariners at
1:10 p.m. Watch for more
information!

2026/2027

PRESCHOOL - 8TH GRADE

APPLICATIONS OPEN

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 2
9:00 A.M.



ST. PETER
MACOMB



WE OFFER:

- ✓ Christ-centered Environment
- ✓ Small Class Sizes
- ✓ Challenging Academics
- ✓ Gifted and Talented Education Program
- ✓ Half Day, Full Day, & Progressive Kindergarten



WHY CHOOSE ST. PETER?

For an unparalleled education experience that fosters excellence, innovation, and lifelong learning in every student, while glorifying God in all we say and do.



(586) 781-9296



17051 24 Mile Rd. Macomb, MI 48042



stpetermacomb.com

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.

2026 marks the 100th Anniversary of St. Peter Ladies Aid and Women's Ministry!

The Women's Ministry will be having a celebration at the Italian American Cultural Society on February 12. The Theme will be "A Century of Serving with Love." The following is a bit of history of this organization, how it began, and how it has evolved over the past 100 years.

On February 11, 1926, 36 women met in the first parsonage under the guidance of Pastor C. J. Beyerlein, to form the first **St. Peter Ladies Aid** Society or "Frauenverein," as it was called in the German language. A Constitution was drawn up and adopted in the March meeting. The first meetings were held in private homes and conducted in English, but the minutes were recorded in German until 1934. The first officers were: President, Mrs. Carl Beyerlein, who served for 12 years. Vice-President, Mrs. Vern Alwardt, Secretary, Mrs. E. Danker, and Treasurer, Mrs. Louis Schoof.

Since the founding of the Ladies Aid Society, they have always stood ready to help and donate to missions, needy organizations to the sick and bereaved, and to those who suffered misfortunes.

For the 50th Anniversary celebration, \$2500.00 was given toward the refurnishing and remodeling of the church. The first public Pork Supper and Sale was held October 1928 to raise money for needy projects. The first Chicken Dinner was held in 1931. The first play was performed in 1933.

On October 14, 1954, the St. Peter **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)** was organized under the guidance of Pastor Herman Brege. 51 ladies met and adopted a Constitution. The object of this organization was expressed in the LWML pledge recited at the opening of each meeting: "We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and gold to extend His kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and erring into eternal fellowship with Him." Since that time the pledge has been somewhat expanded.

The first officers were: President, Mrs. Irma Penzien, Vice President, Mrs. Esther Kreger, Secretary, Ms. Ruth Brege, and Treasurer, Mrs. Pearl Engelbrecht.

All monies collected through MITES go toward Michigan District and National LWML Grants which are voted on at the LWML Conventions. Michigan District Conventions are held in the even number years and the National Conventions are held in the odd number years.

In June 1999, **St. Peter Ladies Aid group and St. Peter Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) group** united to form the now **Women's Ministry of St. Peter, Macomb**. The intention, at that time, was to combine the strengths of both organizations while enhancing participation and service to the church.

The Women's Ministry Mission Statement: To serve our Lord, provide Christian services to this church and community, support outreach ministries and missions and provide opportunities for Christian fellowship.

The Constitution has been revised several times since 1926; most recent revision was made in 2025.

Members of the Women's Ministry will pursue encouraging a stronger relationship with the Lord, supporting our congregation and community through service, raising funds to support Women's Ministry activities or events, support the LWML biennial Grant goals through "Mite" offerings, and support mission projects and Spring/Fall functions. Also maintain and build a missionary focus through education, inspiration, and service and create Christian fellowship opportunities.

Approximately 70 ladies have served as President/ V. President/Co-Chair over the past 100 years. The present membership consists of 100 plus ladies.

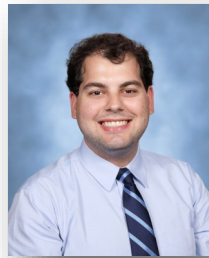
We praise God for these women and for all who follow in their footsteps as we continue to serve our Lord and our church!



Rev. Kurt Wenzelburger
Senior Pastor



Rev. Dante Pronsati
Associate Pastor



Mr. Charles Russell
Traditional Worship Director



Mr. Robert W. Costa
Modern Worship & Communications Director



Mrs. Angela Schepmann
Student Ministry Assistant



Mrs. Nicki Wargo
School Ministry & Sunday School Director



Mrs. Sandra LaPerriere
Principal



Mr. Steve Ameal
Assistant Principal



Mrs. Robyn Adams
Early Childhood 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 Costa at acosta@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.