

### **Building Together on Purpose for a Purpose**

Several years back, a book written by Rick Warren focused on churches becoming purpose-driven through Jesus Christ. The book, “A Purpose Driven Church,” essentially shared a five-point strategy that would allow churches to grow through fellowship, discipleship, worship, ministry, and evangelism.

As the book grew in popularity among the members and leaders of many congregations, the reactions and reviews from within the Christian community are what drew my interest. Some congregations adopted methods and suggestions found within this book. Others took portions of what they thought might be most effective for their particular situation. And, still others, blasted the book as if it was part of a great heresy that would aid in damaging the Christian Church.

Whatever the reaction, the underlying message of this book could be summed up with a guiding question: What is the purpose of the Church? It’s an interesting question that appeared to draw out a number of answers.

Some suggested that the purpose of the Church is to remain faithful in rightfully proclaiming and administering both Word and Sacrament. (And they were right!) Others said that the Church was here to serve as ambassadors for Christ. (Right again!) While still others said that the Church was formed by God to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples of all nation. (And, yes, they were right, too!)

The truth is that the Christian Church was established by Christ and led by His Spirit to do all these things, since each and every one is centered on the forgiveness and new life offered through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

What I’ve discovered, though, is that when it comes to discussions and thoughts on the purpose of the Church, unfortunately the attention can so easily be focused on the individual lives of each member. And, while every member of the body of Christ is certainly important, there’s a danger in focusing too much on the individual members – especially when it draws attention away from what Christ has done in and through the perfect life that He lived, the sacrifice that He became, and His victorious resurrection on our behalf. No doubt...there is a danger in looking too much at ourselves or within ourselves instead of looking to Christ. I’m not suggesting that Rick Warren did this or intended for this to happen when writing his book, but it is our nature to remain self-centered – even when it comes to our faith life.

This is probably why so many churches have become cruise ships over the years – becoming not much more than glorified social clubs focusing on the needs and wants of their own members instead of those who have yet to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. It’s also why we (this congregation and school placed on the corner of 24 Mile Road and Romeo Plank Road in Macomb, MI) must constantly revisit the purpose for which we have been placed here. While our purpose has already been established by God, revisiting and understanding what it is that we have been set apart to do as God’s chosen and forgiven children is of utmost importance.

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After all, throughout Scripture, we see that Jesus certainly knew what His purpose was. Just read through the Book of John and you'll find occasion after occasion where Christ speaks of His purpose. (See John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38, 7:29, 8:29, 9:4, 12:44-45, 12:49, 13:20, 17:3, 17:8, 17:18, 20:1) He was to do the Father's will – bringing salvation to the world; and, as a part of this, He has set us apart to do likewise. I'm not suggesting that salvation is found in us or by anything we do on our own, but as God's people we have been chosen to bring the Good News of God's saving work to those around us. In fact, my prayer is that the world will take notice that our purpose is HIS purpose – to make known the love and mercy of God through the life, death, and resurrection our Savior, Jesus.

As we continue in this season of Lent, and as we now approach the second year of our Building Together campaign, may the Holy Spirit lead us to share Jesus on purpose and for the purpose of sharing forgiveness, grace, and new life.

Building Together...on purpose and for a purpose,

*Pastor Kurt Wenzelburger*

**Upcoming:**

- **March 4** - Lenten 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 - Women's Ministry: Sloppy Joes
- **March 11** - Lenten 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 - Christian Growth Board/Preschool: Pasta
- **March 18** - Lenten 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 - Board of Education/PTL: Hot Dogs and Mac & Cheese
- **March 22** - Easter Egg Hunt - 12:30 p.m. - Gym
- **March 25** - Lenten 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 - Trustees/Finance: Chili
- **April 2** - Maundy Thursday service - 3:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- **April 3** - Good Friday services - 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- **April 4** - Easter Vigil service - 6:00 p.m.
- **April 5** - Easter services - 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 11:00 a.m. (Modern)
- **April 5** - Easter breakfast - between services - Fellowship Hall

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

# Worship

## Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

**For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! Job 19:25-27**

Greetings in Christ!

On Sunday, March 1, we will be singing a hymn that is likely new to you, but one which has been sung in Lutheran congregations for centuries, “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” (TLH 429, LSB 708). This is actually one of my favorite hymns and one which I have already jotted down to be sung at my funeral. Described by a professor of mine as a “hymn and a half” (referring not only to its length, but content), this hymn actually covers two full pages of our hymnal! I will share the words and some thoughts below; on March 1, the choir will lead us through the first two stanzas, after which the congregation will join together on Stanza 3. I encourage you to reflect on these comforting words!

“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” speaks of justification, vocation and the hope of the resurrection, all of which are important doctrines for us to learn; it also uses personal, subjective language to express this doctrine in the form of a prayer. The tune adds to the depth and beauty of the text- if you are a fan of J.S. Bach, you may recognize this hymn as the closing chorale of his St. John Passion. The text was written by Martin Schalling (1532-1608), a Lutheran pastor who studied under Philipp Melanchthon. Twice he lost his position for holding to his Lutheran beliefs. Interestingly, he lost his position a third time, though this was due to his refusal to sign the Formula of Concord, which Lutheran pastors and teachers today swear to uphold in their ordination/ commissioning/installation.

*Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart, With tender mercy cheer me. Earth has no pleasure I would share. Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in Thee can nothing shake. Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought. Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.*

*Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have In this poor life of labor. Lord, grant that I in every place May glorify Thy lavish grace And help and serve my neighbor. Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile. Give strength and patience unto me To bear my cross and follow Thee. Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy comfort still afford.*

*Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home, That I may die unfearing; And, in its narrow chamber keep My body safe in peaceful sleep Until Thy reappearing. And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see, O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend, And I will praise Thee without end.*

Amen!

In His Service,  
Charlie Russell, Director of Traditional Music



## Robert's Music Spotlight

This month I wanted to share with you the song, “The Lord Will Provide” by Passion. It pulls from the book of Matthew where Jesus reminds them not to concern themselves with earthly treasure. He speaks about the birds of the air, and if God provides for them, how much more does he care for you. (Matthew 6:26-27) The song goes on to remind us to put God's Kingdom first in our life, and our true needs will be met. (Matthew 6:33-34) Some might confuse this song with a type of “prosperity gospel,” but what the song is truly pointing us to is that our Heavenly father is our true Provider. When we put Him first in our lives, we don't need to worry. He will provide for our needs. If you reflect on these principles, I am sure you have already seen this at work in your life.

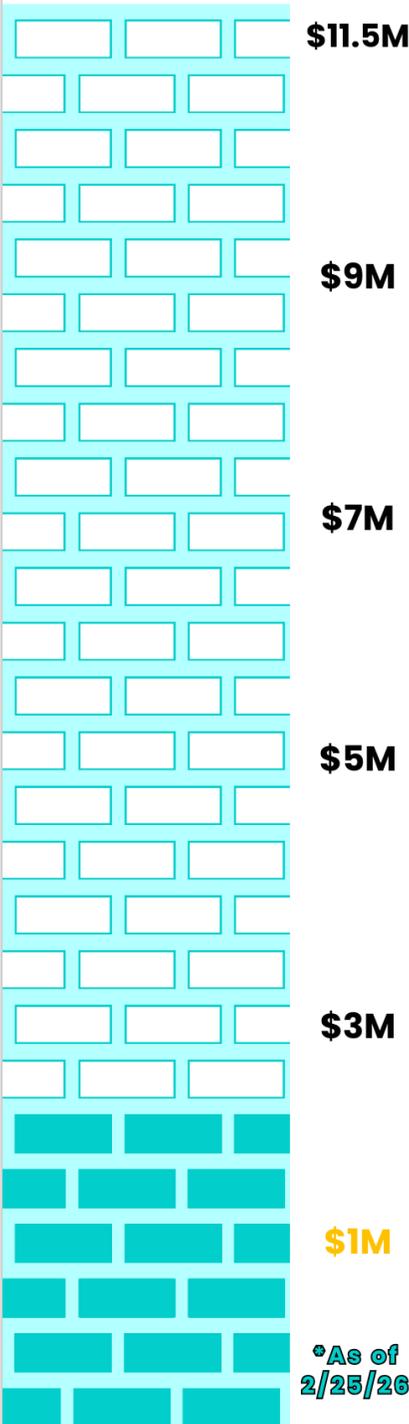
Robert W. Costa, *Director of Modern Worship*

# Service

*Building Together*

RAISED SO FAR:

**\$2,023,062.06**



## 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](http://stpetermacomb.com). Thank you for your support!



### Questions? Contact us:

-  [churchoffice@splcs.net](mailto:churchoffice@splcs.net)
-  (586) 781-3434

[stpetermacomb.com/church/building](http://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](http://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.



**JUNE 21-28**

**MCREST COMMITTEE**

URGENT: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO JOIN OUR MCREST COMMITTEE

Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team

**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. St. Peter has been hosting a week in June with the MCREST homeless shelter in Mt. Clemens for the past 15+ years! At the current time, MCREST assists 50 women and children, but they're 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! There are many opportunities to volunteer for this week of serving those in our neighboring community who are much less fortunate than us. Currently, 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 fill out the form by scanning the QR code (above) or by going to [stpetermacomb.com](http://stpetermacomb.com).

May God continue to richly bless you and your family as we prepare to richly bless the people living in the MCREST homeless shelter. Please contact Rhonda with any questions or concerns that you might have about this worthwhile Outreach program.

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

**EASTER FLOWERS** Would you like to place an order for an Easter Lily or a pink Azalea in memory or honor of someone or just for blessings received? These beautiful flowers from Hessel's Greenhouse will be used to decorate our chancel and may be picked up after the last Easter Service. The cost is \$25 each and must be paid for when ordered. Please make checks payable to Women's Ministry. Order forms are available in the Church Office or at the Narthex Welcome Desk. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 22. Please call Nanette Mapes at (586) 243-1394 if you have any questions.

**The Green Thumb Group** is looking for a few volunteers who would be interested in keeping our campus looking beautiful by weeding the garden beds throughout the growing season. You would be responsible for weeding your assigned area about once a month from May through October. High school students needing to fill volunteer hours can grab a couple friends and earn hours in a flexible schedule. Confirmation students are also welcome to volunteer with a parent. For more information or to sign up, contact Virginia Ellsworth at (586) 260-5429 or [vellsworth@splcs.net](mailto:vellsworth@splcs.net).

**COAT ROOM CLEANUP** In the past few months, many items have been left in the Narthex Coat Room making it look very cluttered. Please note that we are no longer collecting magazines, calendars, or devotion books. If items are requested to be delivered to the coat room, there will be a bin labeled for that purpose. If you bring a coffee mug, water bottle, hat, gloves, glasses or other items to church, please take them home with you. Lost and found is located on the left shelf of the Coat Room. If items are not picked up by the end of each month, they will be donated. Thank you for helping to keep our church neat and welcoming!



**CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OUR EASTER EGG HUNT!**

PLEASE DROP OFF ANY CANDY DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT LIZ AT [LIZBOIK@YAHOO.COM](mailto:LIZBOIK@YAHOO.COM).

THANK YOU!

**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.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

KAISER HALL

7:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

REGISTER AT REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG

ENTER THROUGH DOOR #12 ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CAMPUS.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ANN MEERSCHAERT AT (586) 524-0469.



**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](mailto:churchoffice@splcs.net) for further information.**

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.
- **Michigan Wash & Seal** will donate 10% of the total price for any services purchased by St. Peter Church and School families. Non-members who have been referred by St. Peter families will also receive a 10% donation towards the building campaign. Services include commercial/residential power washing, window cleaning, concrete and paver sealing, joint sealing & gutter cleaning. Please call David Schwark for more info (586) 709-5041. Website: [miwashandseal.com](http://miwashandseal.com)

# Memorial Offerings

*In loving memory of Richard Meier,* contributions have been given to: **New Building fund, Church Ministry Fund, Debt Reduction Fund,** and **Music & Organ Fund** by: Marion Krakowski, Karen Gluski, Stuart & Mary Arends, Scott & Lisa Higley, Bob & Judy Juengel, the Adult Choir, Ray & Pat Czaiczynski, Shelly Penzien, Marvin & Pat Warnez, Mark & Linda Schwark, Roy & Joyce Schwark, Matt Miller, Janet & Jeff Wilson, the Clark Family, Milt Miller, Roxanne Sander, Ann & Ron Thume, and Lee & Donna Lambert

*In loving memory of Ralph Marcat,* a contribution has been given to: **New Building Fund** and **Church Ministry Fund** by: Paul & Dianne Wright, Gerald & Andrea Wangelin, Debra Wangelin, Gary & Phyllis Stade, Barb Schramm, Tim & Jeanne Reiter, Shelly Penzien, Tim & Debbie McNabb, Mike & Susan McClelland, Leroy & Donna Lambert, Ray & Denise Jasion, Lorraine Hengasbach, Vicky Bolitho, Dale Hengasbach, Robert & Lori Herbert, Richard & Donna DeVriendt, Rod Boch, Dawn & Mike Bettcher, Lori Ruppel, Lou Ann Friedli, Eldon Kukuk, John & Dianne Dau, and Bob & Judy Juengel

*In loving memory of Larry Boeling,* a contribution has been given to: **Music & Organ Fund** by: Debra Closurdo

*In loving memory of Corrine Schraffenberger,* a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by: Marvin & Patricia Warnez

*In loving memory of Donna Eplett,* a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund, Church Ministry Fund,** and **Debt Reduction Fund** by: Jerry & Jan Stange, Shelly Penzien, and Frieda Schluessler

*In loving memory of Michael Chirco,* a contribution has been given to: **Endowment Fund** by: Jim & Cindy Moschel

*In loving memory of Larry Kulhavi,* a contribution has been given to: **Church Ministry Fund** by: Shelly Penzien

*In loving memory of Donna Zuehlk,* a contribution has been given to: **New Building fund** by: Susan Glaser

## Thank You...

Our family would like to thank our St. Peter family for their support during the past several months. Whether you called, texted, emailed, sent cards, stayed with Richard so I could go shopping or to a doctor appointment, but most of all your prayers. A special thank you to Pastors Wenzelburger and Meyer for their visits while Richard was in the hospital, rehab, and finally home. I would also like to thank Pastor Arendell for his phone calls.

God's Blessings to everyone,  
*Deborah, Aaron, Duane Meier*

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

A big THANK YOU to all the ladies and pastors that attended the St. Peter Ladies' Aid / Women's Ministry's 100th Anniversary luncheon on Thursday, February 12. A total of 83 persons were in attendance. And it was so wonderful to see so many ladies there that were once, or are currently, a part of the organization. We took a trip down memory lane with a beautiful slide show created by Joyce Gozdor. If anyone would like a copy of the slide show (on a flash drive), you can purchase one for \$10 by contacting Nanette Mapes at the following email address: [womens.ministry@splcs.net](mailto:womens.ministry@splcs.net). To God be the glory for a wonderful day and event!

# Connection

***For more information about all current and upcoming Bible studies and small groups, please visit [stpetermacomb.com](http://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](mailto:kellychirco@comcast.net)) or Nicki Wargo ([nwargo@splcs.net](mailto:nwargo@splcs.net)) for more information.

**Wednesday Women In The Word Bible Study** March is a great time to join us for Bible Study as we study "Be Still and Know," by Deb Burma. God's promises found in Psalm 46. Rest, Refuge, Strength, Help and Hope. Each week we begin a new chapter. Books are available. We meet each Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. in the North Fellowship Hall - Enter Door #28 (Church Office door). Contact Information: Karen Gluski: (586) 207-6201 or [gludog2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gludog2003@yahoo.com).

**Foundations: Parables** 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 prophesies, 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](mailto: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)



# DIVORCE Care

**13-WEEK SESSION BEGINS MARCH 10  
SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM  
6:45 P.M.  
REGISTER ONLINE AT DIVORCECARE.ORG.**

For more information, contact Anne Westphal at (248) 909-4230  
or awestphal56@hotmail.com.



**GriefShare** continues to meet on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. We are meeting in the Small Conference Room which is just off the Church Office area. Please enter into the through Door #28. Look for the GriefShare sign just outside Door #28. If you or someone you know is mourning the loss of a dear loved one please join us. GriefShare is a world wide organization dedicated to helping people who are struggling with the passing of a loved one. The 13-week sessions are designed to aid in the process of healing turning mourning to joy. If you have questions concerning GriefShare please call the church office at (586) 781-3434 or Darcel Bennett at (586) 255-7090. You can also visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) for additional information.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** Spring is on the horizon, and we all want to feel renewed and “ready to go,” but maybe you’re still feeling stuck and not motivated. Here at St. Peter we offer ministries for people grieving and for people experiencing divorce. However, maybe your dilemma doesn’t fall into either of those two categories. If you just want to “vent” or “unload” or share a concern, you may benefit from talking confidentially to a Stephen Minister. We are available to meet with you once or multiple times. For more information, or to get paired with a Stephen Minister, call the church office or Linda Dunklau at (586) 247-5329.



## FESTIVAL CHOIR

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SINGING WITH THE FESTIVAL CHOIR DURING HOLY WEEK AND EASTER, REHEARSALS ARE HELD ON THURSDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUSIC ROOM. PLEASE CONTACT CHARLIE RUSSELL WITH ANY QUESTIONS - [CRUSSELL@SPLCS.NET](mailto:CRUSSELL@SPLCS.NET).

**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](mailto:kwise@splcs.net) or (586) 871-4891.



## Organ Recital

*with Organist, Charles Russell*

Free-will offering to benefit the St. Peter 2026 Guatemala Eyeglass Mission Trip

**Sunday,  
March 15  
3:00 p.m.**



**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.** Questions? Contact Carol Poterek at (586) 566-3785.

**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>.



**OSL Men’s Retreat 2026** March 13-March 15 at the Weber Conference Center (Adrian, MI). Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse. “Reading the Psalms Christologically and Devotionally.” For more information or to register, go to [ourshepherd.net](http://ourshepherd.net).

**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](http://www.michigandistrict.org/lag26)

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

### March Women’s Ministry Invitation

When: Thursday, March 12  
 9:30 a.m. – Fellowship and refreshments  
 10:00 a.m. – Speaker: Sue Nellis from Compassion Pregnancy Center  
 10:30 a.m. – Meeting

Where: Fellowship Hall (south end)

To help the Compassion Pregnancy Center restock their pantry, consider donating any of the following items that they currently need most, and bring them to the meeting on March 12. Anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated!

- Diapers (sizes 3,4,5,6)
- Baby wipes
- Teething rings
- Baby bath towels
- Crib sheets (new or gently used)
- Baby bottles (plastic or glass, new only)
- Toddler sippy cups
- Baby food pouches
- Toddler snacks/Gerber Puffs
- Baby hygiene items (baby wash, shampoo, powder, lotion, diaper rash ointment)
- Adult personal hygiene items (shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant, soap)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:hoegemeyer@att.net) or (586) 322-2319.



*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/spbtopgolf)



**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). All women are welcome to join! Please enter through **Door #28**. They also have packets of quilts squares available for anyone that would like to sew from home. Any cotton material is always welcome (clean cotton/flannel sheets any size or 4yards of new material). 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.

St. Peter Macomb Women's Ministry  
invites you to their  
Spring Retreat...



• • • **REST** • • •

Presented by  
Pastor Justin Krupsky

“In a world that celebrates hustle and self-sacrifice, Sacred Rest is an invitation to pause, without guilt. This retreat seminar offers a gentle, life-giving space to exhale, be cared for, and reconnect with the rest your soul has been craving. Together, we'll explore what it means to embrace rest as holy, necessary, and deeply restorative, not something you earn, but something you're worthy of right now. Come as you are—tired, hopeful, stretched thin and leave renewed, seen, and reminded that you were never meant to carry it all alone”

**THURSDAY  
MAY 7, 2026**

**SYCAMORE HILLS  
GOLF CLUB  
48787 NORTH AVE  
MACOMB, MI 48042**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.  
DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.**

**\$35.00 PER TICKET**

*Cash Bar*

**“COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED,  
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST” MATTHEW 11:28**

**TICKETS FOR SALE IN THE ST. PETER CROSSROADS AFTER ALL  
SERVICES ON APRIL 19 OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW.**

**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:**

**JULIE WRIGHT - WRIGHTJ531@HOTMAIL.COM**

**SHELLY PENZIEN - (586) 855-4067**



*Scan this QR code to  
purchase your ticket.*



# Education

## STUDENT MINISTRY



MARCH  
2026

Angela Schepmann

aschepmann@splcs.net

(586) 615-4186

### SPRING HILL!

#### AT THE CENTER- COL 1:15-23

Last month, we took 16 youth and 5 adults to Spring Hill Winter Retreat. We had a great speaker, awesome band and so much fun playing broomball, tubing and relaxing by the fire!

It was such a great weekend meeting new people and enjoying all the activities. Special thank you to Mr. Griffin, Mr. Novodoff and Mr. Roberts for chaperoning!



### MI DISTRICT GATHERING

#### JUNE 28-JULY 1

Last day to sign up for the Mackinac trip is March 15. \$100 deposit is due. Use the QR Code to sign up!



### Morning Meet-up

Join us at His Rock for a delicious breakfast and devotion on March 19.

Starting at 6:30 a.m.  
until 7:30 a.m.!



### Upcoming!!!

- We are back at His Rock on Sundays! ReCharge March 1, 8, 15, and 22!
- Watch at the end of the month for Home Plate Ticket Sign up!
- Have you ever wanted to work with amazing youth? Student Ministry board openings!



2026/2027

PRESCHOOL - 8TH GRADE

# APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!



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?

-  (586) 781-9296
-  17051 24 Mile Rd. Macomb, MI 48042
-  [stpetermacomb.com](http://stpetermacomb.com)

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

### EMBRYO DEVELOPMENT



The American Heritage Dictionary, Second College Edition, defines “life” as “the property or quality that distinguishes living organisms from the dead or inanimate matter manifested in functions such as metabolism, growth, reproduction, and response to stimuli.” These four criteria can be used to judge whether some object is alive or dead.

Science has taught us that the process of human development begins when the male sperm penetrates the female egg. This triggers a series of events leading to division of the fertilized egg. Hence, a single cell divides into two cells, those cells divide into four, those cells divide into eight, and those cells divide into sixteen. This all occurs before the fertilized egg attaches to the wall of the uterus. By seven days, or when implantation begins, a significant cell mass has developed. At 10 days, the cell mass shows signs of differentiation as the cells become specific in their nature. At three weeks, the cardiac or heart muscle fibers may be seen that can contract. By six weeks, brain waves appear and, by eight weeks, the human form has appeared and organs are developing. By 15 weeks, fetal movement is evident and, by 24 weeks, the fetus is a viable person. By 36 weeks, we have a full-term infant.

This process, from fertilization through delivery of the infant, is continuous, without interruptions. There are no stops and no pauses in the process. Once fertilization occurs, bio-chemical events are initiated that continue until a mature human being is formed. So when does life begin? To answer that question, it is well to go back to the definition of life and use the four end points for judging if life exists. These include metabolism, growth, reproduction, and response to stimuli.

Immediately after penetration of the egg by the sperm, bio-chemical events start the process of development. Thus, the metabolism end point has been met. When the cells begin to divide, the growth criteria have been met. Third, when the cells are reproducing during their division, the criteria required for reproduction is met. The fourth end point, response to stimuli, is a little vaguer. It is clear, however, that any cell when confronted with a toxic stimulus will respond by changing the movement of its membrane.

Based on this analysis, one is led to the inexorable conclusion that life begins at the time the sperm penetrates the egg, and life continues until death.

[Lutheransforlife.org/article/made-for-life-from-the-very-beginning](http://Lutheransforlife.org/article/made-for-life-from-the-very-beginning)

For Life Team questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Carol at (586) 321-9500 or [carolpoterek@gmail.com](mailto:carolpoterek@gmail.com).

[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) | [www.lflmi.org](http://www.lflmi.org) | Check us out on Facebook!

# 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.*

*This is part of a series of the school buildings St. Peter has had over the years.*

## **St. Peter's Second School - The Red Brick School**

In 1926, plans were made to build a new red brick school with a multipurpose room to serve the needs of the growing congregation. The congregation banded together and helped in one way or another. Farmers gathered teams of horses to dig the basement. The Alwardt brothers laid the foundation. Building materials were purchased from Hubbarth & Schott Co. Fundraisers were held to purchase equipment. The cornerstone was laid on July 19 and the dedication was on October 3, 1926.

The school was called "the most modern schoolhouse in all Macomb County". It had indoor plumbing, tilt windows, pedestal benches, three walls had blackboards and a trough for the chalk. The lower level was a multipurpose room which the congregation used for meetings, Sunday school, dinners, and social functions.

In 1946, a 60'x16' annex was added to the west side of the building and some remodeling was done. A kitchen, new furnace, hot water heating system, and confirmation room was in the new addition. Fluorescent lights were added, a water foundation was installed, and a Ladies restroom was added. By 1950, a second teacher was needed for the lower grades so considerable alternations were necessary.

The first teacher was Mr. W. Danker who was replaced by Mr. C. F. Kaiser in 1927. By 1957, a third teacher was added and the enrollment was approaching 100 students. More classrooms were needed. It was time to build a new school.

After a new school was built in 1962, the red brick school saw little use until 1973 when Lutheran High North rented the building for several years. The old school also was used for kindergarten and the middle grades during the late 1970's. In 2004, the building underwent extensive remodeling for a youth center. It became His Rock and is still used





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

**Please submit all articles for consideration by email** to Allison Costa at [acosta@splcs.net](mailto: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](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](http://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.