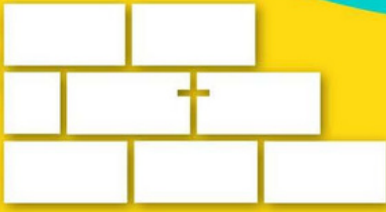


ST. PETER LUTHERAN SCHOOL 150TH ANNIVERSARY 1877-2027



**BUILDING
TOGETHER** 

A FOUNDATION OF FAITH FOR 150 YEARS

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL - MACOMB

A Service of Celebration at the 150th Anniversary of St. Peter Lutheran School Macomb, MI

Sunday, August 16, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Celebration Video

Invocation:

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: For 150 years, the truth of God has been proclaimed through our school as we confess the triune name of Him who revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ. As His people, let's join together now as we confess our belief in the One true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Song: "This I Believe" (The Creed) by Hillsong Worship

Opening Sentences (Joshua 4):

Pastor: As we approach the 150th year of Christian Education...Psalm teaches us how to respond to God's goodness and grace.

Our Response from Psalm 150:

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

² Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his excellent greatness!

³ Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise him with sounding cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

Song: Praise by Elevation Worship

Prayer: O Lord, today we celebrate all that You have done through Your faithful people, who for generations have been a part of the mission of St. Peter Lutheran Church & School. For 150 years, You have been present in this place through Christian Education. For 150 years, Your saving Word has gone out from here through Your people. Continue to strengthen us in Your Word and Sacraments. Guide us, lead us, and make us bold as we step into the future in faith, Building Together while confidently relying on You to provide an abundance of all we need to accomplish the mission that You have so graciously entrusted to us. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Matthew 18:1-6: *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"* ² *And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them* ³ *and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* ⁴ *Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* ⁵ *"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,* ⁶ *but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

Children's Message

Message: "Uh Oh, They're Awake" (Romans 13:9-12)

Song: Firm Foundation (He Won't) by Cody Carnes

Offering/Announcements/Video from President Davis

Prayers

Preparing Our Hearts (Confession/Absolution)

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution/Communion

Songs:

Build My Life by Pat Barrett

New Doxology by Gateway Worship

Blessing

Song: The Joy by The Belonging Co

Following our closing song, we want to once again invite everyone to join us over in the South Parking Lot by our new entrance to the new gymnasium as we Dedicate our new building to the Lord and have our Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

GIVE THANKS
to the LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD

PSALM 107:1

History of St. Peter Lutheran School 1877-1901

Our Christian Day School dates back to the year 1877, when Immanuel, Waldenburg (now Macomb) found it necessary to build a branch school a few miles north. For some years before this, the German population of 22, 23, 24, and 25 Mile Roads was steadily increasing, with immigrants coming from Mecklenburg and other regions of Germany. In the mid 1860s, Immanuel had tried out the branch school idea by holding classes a mile north of the church in the workshop of a member. Enrollment increased to almost 200 students at Immanuel. So, in 1877, Immanuel decided to purchase one half acre of land for the price of \$12.50, with the stipulation that the land would go back to the original owner if it was no longer used for school purposes. Construction began on a frame schoolhouse—12 ft. high, 36 ft. long, and 22 ft. wide—on the southwest corner of Romeo Plank and French Road (now 24 Mile Road). The schoolhouse fit approximately 35 students and was typical of schoolhouses of that era. Lutheran education in that day consisted of basic subjects, reading and writing German, history, basic math, and, most importantly, instruction in the Lutheran faith. Teacher Michael Pump, who had taught at Immanuel for some years earlier, taught this first school. When the school had operated successfully for five years, the parents of the children attending, along with several other families living in the area, asked for a peaceful release from Immanuel on February 20, 1882. The request was granted to the 19 families, and that same day St. Peter Lutheran Church was founded. Worship was held in the northern schoolhouse while construction began on a white frame church, which was dedicated in December of that same year. The schoolhouse continued to be used by the congregation for meetings and church gatherings.



In those first years, St. Peter was truly a "daughter" congregation, and not yet independent of its "mother" down the road. Pastor J.F. Boeling of Immanuel served the new flock for the first five years of its existence. In regard to the school, things ran quite the same for the first few years as they had before, primarily due to the busy work of establishing the new congregation and building the church. In 1883, focus was once again turned to the Lutheran Day School. The agreement was made that St. Peter would handle all school matters, but that Immanuel would still own the property and would have to contribute to the teacher's salary according to how many Immanuel members attended the northern school. Immanuel

members also were given the right to vote during St. Peter meetings when school matters were being decided upon. It was decided not to have a school board, and the responsibility was handed over to the elders.

In these early days of the church, school was held at irregular times, for longer or shorter spans each year, depending on how much money there was for a teacher. Besides a salary, the congregation was in charge of providing the teacher with firewood to heat his home. The necessity for salary and firewood would always be an issue for St. Peter in those early years. The salary for a teacher in 1883 was \$175 for 7 months of teaching, along with six cords of 4 ft. long firewood. Teacher Pump continued to serve the school after St. Peter was organized and also served St. Peter as the cantor by singing and reading during the services (for which he received an additional \$10). The new congregation found it difficult to support its teacher, but worked very hard to keep him. In the January meeting of 1885, the members of St. Peter were upset because Immanuel had not paid its share of the school money. Pastor Boeling took personal offense to their complaints and began to leave, but Mr. Joachim Schwark stood up and reminded the pastor that the issue was not about him, but about his congregation, and that they simply wanted to work things out. Pastor Boeling remained for the rest of the meeting. The issue was worked out in following meetings.

By the summer of 1885, Teacher Pump reported that he could not support his family with his teacher's salary and firewood. Although he wished to remain the teacher, the congregation knew they could not support him, and resolved to find another teacher. If that was impossible, they decided to find a pastor who could also teach the school. There was a discussion regarding whether Pastor Boeling's son could take over for a time, but by September 1885, the pastor had found a young man on his way to Chicago who wanted to take over the school, Mr. Edward Krumsieg. Teacher Krumsieg taught the school for the year, but was called home by his father that spring.

The matter of finding a permanent teacher was finally resolved when St. Peter called a new pastor, Rev. Oscar Wuest, who was installed in January, 1887. Pastor Wuest taught all eight grades for 13 years. He had three children of his own, a son and two daughters. A very sad time in St. Peter's history was when both of Pastor Wuest's daughters died three days apart in 1891 during a diphtheria epidemic. Pastors from Immanuel and Trinity, Utica came to support Pastor Wuest during this difficult time.

When Pastor Wuest arrived in Macomb, St. Peter decided to build a parsonage. The house that sat on the southwest corner of 24 Mile Road and Romeo Plank for more than 113 years was built in 1887 for the cost of \$1,000. But what happened to the schoolhouse that originally stood in its place? Mr. Johann Schwark and Mr. A. Tilch came up with the solution. Before the parsonage was built, the schoolhouse was moved across the road with a stone sled and placed next to the church, where it stood for 40 more years. Just before this, St. Peter had bought the schoolhouse from Immanuel for the cost of \$55. The schoolhouse was renovated and insured for fire damage.



School during these years focused around reading and writing in the German language, geography and history, arithmetic, music, and religion. The number of students hovered around the 50-60 range. While the schoolteacher had to be very strict to keep an orderly school, the children responded by being mischievous, and the schoolhouse often had to be repaired. In 1889, when St. Peter officially joined the Missouri Synod, a Schulordnung, or School Order, was drawn up that described how the school was to be run. Children walked to school, although the story is told of student Emma Schoff, who rode her horse Nelly to school in the mornings. After arriving at the schoolhouse, she would say, "Nelly, go home!" and the horse would return to its barn a mile up the road. The school continued with God's grace, instructing the children of St. Peter in the teachings of the Lutheran Church with the focus on our Savior, Jesus Christ.

History of St. Peter Lutheran School 1901-1926

Pastor Wuest was a dedicated servant of the Lord. What other pastor could perform his duties as well as take on 50 school children every day single-handedly? Soon Pastor Wuest's health began to suffer, and retirement drew closer. In 1900, Pastor Wuest resigned, and the search began for a new pastor/teacher. Pastor Richard Trueltzsch accepted the call to be the pastor, but did not want to take on the responsibility of the school teacher. St. Peter, being confident that they could support both a pastor and a teacher, called Teacher H. Kaeselitz in 1901. After he served four years, he accepted a call to Detroit and was followed by Teacher O. Mueller, who taught from 1906-1909 and accepted a call to Frankenmuth. Teacher H. Schwarting served as the school teacher from 1909-1913. In 1911, Pastor Trueltzsch accepted a call to Indiana. In that same year, Pastor O.H. Frincke accepted the call to be the pastor, and for the first time the English language was taught in our school. It was not taught in earlier years because it was not necessary to speak English, as the German community was so large and self-supporting.

Most members of St. Peter did not become U.S. citizens until World War I. By that time, English was spoken by many families, often taught to them by the children who learned it in school. After suffering from illness, Teacher Schwarting returned to his parents in Iowa, and Teacher R. Geiseman from that same state was installed in April of 1913. He served until 1919, when he accepted a call back in Iowa. St. Peter suffered another loss when a former student of St. Peter school was killed in action during World War I, the only St. Peter member to be killed in battle. Pastor Frincke accepted a call in 1916. Rev. Julius Held became the fifth pastor in that same year. After Teacher Geiseman left in 1919, Pastor Held may have taught the school until Teacher O. Kerkow was installed as the teacher on February 6, 1921. By this time, tuition for non-members was \$2.00, and both German and English were used in the school. Some students remember Teacher Kerkow as a stern man who dealt with mischievous students dismantling chairs and hiding chalk. What a difficult job it must have been for one person to handle the children of our congregation in those days!

In 1925, Teacher Kerkow resigned and was replaced by Teacher W. Danker. In that same year, Pastor Held left and Pastor C.J. Beyerlein came here from Tacoma, Washington. Although Teacher Danker stayed only a little more than a year, he was very active at St. Peter. He had many talents and hobbies. He played the organ for the congregation during the church services. Also, a wood carver, he carved the sign that hung in St. Peter school for decades that read, "St. Peter's Ev. Luth. School." He joined Pastor Beyerlein and 46 young people and formed the St. Peter's Youth Group - the first auxiliary of our church.

History of St. Peter Lutheran School 1926-1950

The year 1926 was a very momentous year for St. Peter school. After repeated attempts to remodel the 1877 wooden schoolhouse, it was decided that it should be replaced with a new brick school. The new school was built on the southwest corner of French Road (now 24 Mile) and Romeo Plank. The cornerstone was laid on July 19, 1926, with Director Meyer and Pastor Leitz preaching the sermons. The school was dedicated three months later on October 3. Pastors E.A. Mayer and E. Knorr delivered the dedicatory sermons. When the building began, the whole congregation banded together, and everyone helped in one way or another. Mr. William Penzien and several of the surrounding farmers gathered teams of horses to dig out the basement. The Alwardt brothers laid the foundation. The lumber, plaster, cement, lime, shingles, and milling were purchased from Hubbarth & Schott Co. The building committee on the new school was composed of Mr. Albert Luchtman - Chairman, Mr. Paul Eschenburg - Treasurer, Mr. William Penzien, the school board - Mr. Louis Schoff and Mr. Ben Kreger, and the Pastor, C.J. Beyerlein. They issued their report on the cost of the new school on November 7, 1926. The total cost for the building, material, and labor was \$8,063.78. With the church's credits totaling only \$353.06, this left the

congregation \$7,710.72 in debt. However, \$5,242.21 was procured for this cause the following year. It was truly a leap of faith. Most of the funding for the building came from pledges and donations. A large donor was Mr. Jos Masch, who put up \$100 toward the building. Other prominent contributors were Mr. Edward Kreger, Mr. Eric Sopha, Mr. Louis Wangelin, Mr. Albert Kreger, and Mr. Christian Stade.

The brick-constructed school was built with the latest attributes. The School Commissioner of Macomb called it "the most modern schoolhouse in all Macomb County." It was modern in the sense that it had water and bathroom facilities, along with something no school had at that time, tilt windows that prevented a draft no matter how hard the wind blew. They had pedestal benches, which were new in those days, and a resuscitation bench. Since teachers' visual aids and teaching media were limited, three of the walls in the school had blackboards. The school also had something else that no other school had at that time. Under the blackboards was a kind of trough with a screen over it so that the chalk always rested on the screen and fingers never got dirty or chalky. Teacher Kaiser would later attribute this invention to the Lutheran Schools' Superintendent at that time. This new school was St. Peter's pride and joy.

In September of the 1926-27 school year, the school had not yet been completed, so classes were held in a tent put up behind the church. Although Teacher Danker was the first teacher in the new schoolhouse, he did not stay long, and received a peaceful dismissal on November 11, 1926, to the school at Klinger, Iowa. Pastor Beyerlein had to take charge of the school for the rest of the year with the help of three teaching students, Mrs. L. Zeile, Mr. E. Franke, and Mr. H. Telthorster. After repeated ineffective calls, Teacher C.F. Kaiser, from Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit, heeded the call as coming from God, and was formally installed by the pastor on August 7, 1927. He took over the position from Teacher Danker as church secretary and organist, and also directed the choir and taught confirmation classes in the pastor's absence.



Apart from being an outstanding educational facility, the new schoolhouse also served St. Peter's new auxiliaries, the Youth Group, the Ladies Aid, and the Men's Club. With all these auxiliaries, St. Peter schoolhouse became the center of Christian fellowship for the whole congregation. The youth group sponsored car washes and outdoor movies with refreshments, made candles, put on plays, and held several selling projects all at this red school. The Ice Cream Social and the Easter Breakfast served after the sunrise service became annual events looked forward to by the whole congregation. The Ladies Aid held several activities in the school basement besides their monthly meetings, including pork suppers, chicken dinners, plays, and mother-daughter banquets. The Men's Club also expanded the use of the school with sauerkraut suppers, father-son banquets, family picnics, dart ball games, and other events. Other auxiliaries that used this school were the Sunday School, Parent Teacher League, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The school building was the symbol of St. Peter's active faith. More than 400 children received a Christian Education and were confirmed in the Lutheran faith. After entering this remarkable place of fellowship and education, one could hardly deny that God's face had shined on the things that took place there.

When Teacher Kaiser came with his family, the home that had been formerly used as a teacherage (which stood next to the old wooden schoolhouse) was sold and moved a mile down the road, and St. Peter's present parsonage was built in its place in 1927. The following year, the former parsonage was remodeled for the teacher and his family, and was known to all generations thereafter as St. Peter's teacherage. Teacher Kaiser taught generations at St. Peter and served as an employee of the congregation longer than anyone before or after him. The number of students that he taught in that one room schoolhouse hovered around the 50 mark until the 1950's. Tuition for nonmembers was around \$6.00. In 1935, from the church's constitution, the purpose of the School Board was "1. To do everything in its power to induce parents within the congregation to send their children to our Christian Day School when they are of school age. 2. To see that the necessary helps for teaching are acquired and kept in good condition and to this end be authorized to make expenditures to the amount not to exceed ten dollars during the time between the regular voter's meetings without express permission of the congregation."



In 1942, Pastor Beyerlein resigned because of ill health. Pastor O.H. Knoll accepted the call of the congregation and served three years before he, too, resigned because of ill health. On July 17, 1945, Pastor J.C. Boerger accepted the call to be the congregation's eighth pastor. During his pastorate, the school was redecorated, and fluorescent lights and a water fountain were installed. In the parish auditorium, with the kitchen at one end proving too small, an annex 60 x 16 was added on the west side which served as kitchen, furnace, and confirmation room. A hot water heating system was installed, and a ladies' rest room and library room were added. The total cost of this undertaking was \$10,000. Kitchen cupboards were installed in 1949. In 1950, the schoolhouse was again remodeled to accommodate the increasing ministries. In this year, the enrollment reached more than 60 students; therefore, a second teacher was called to teach the lower grades. In order to provide an extra room to teach the lower grades, considerable alterations were necessary. The confirmation room was enlarged and provided with full equipment. The heating system had to be rearranged and a boy's rest room provided. The total cost was estimated at \$2,600. Pastor Boerger received a call to Wisconsin in 1949. Pastor H.W. Brege became the congregation's ninth pastor that same year.

History of St. Peter Lutheran School 1950-1973

The 1950s and '60s saw the expansion of St. Peter's school from a one-room schoolhouse to a modern four-room elementary school with a larger staff and facilities. Teacher Kaiser continued to teach in the red brick schoolhouse. In 1955, St. Peter had already seen the need for even more classroom space and purchased a red schoolhouse one mile to the north for \$3,000. Two years later the school enrollment neared 100 students, and classes began in this branch school. The middle grades went to the branch school, while the lower grades and the upper grades remained in the 1926 red brick schoolhouse.

At the church's 75th Anniversary in 1957, member Mr. Frederick Milting wrote this verse of the beloved Teacher Kaiser:

*Oh, let us all give thanks today;
Our gratitude let's feature,
And say, "We thank the Lord always For a good Day School Teacher."*

It was in 1957 that the Parent Teacher League was established. A constitution was established by Mrs. Irene Wangelin, Mrs. Elvira Neumeyer, and Teacher Kaiser. The first official meeting was held on January 16, 1958. Throughout the years, the PTL has worked with teachers, aided in tasks where needed, and sponsored activities to raise money for the school. The fundraising activities began with bake sales. In 1958, the first Pancake Supper and Harvest sale was held. In 1960, the Spaghetti Supper was held for the first time, and it remains one of the PTL's most successful activities. The Fun Fair was added to this supper in 1967. Proceeds from these events bought much of the sports equipment as well as many other necessities too numerous to mention.

In 1959, Pastor Brege retired and was succeeded by Pastor Paul A. Weber. St. Peter looked forward to the day when the classes held in the branch school could again be joined together in a modern educational facility. Looking ahead to the future, 14 acres of land was purchased on the northeast corner of Romeo Plank and 24 Mile Road from Mr. Louis Wangelin for the cost of \$1,000 an acre. A building committee headed by Mr. Joa Penzien was appointed to plan the future needs of the congregation. In 1961, a modern four-room school with office, library, workroom, and first aid room were built at a cost of \$130,000. Pastor Weber accepted a call to Indiana in 1962 and Pastor Calvin L. Harm of Hinton, Iowa became the congregation's eleventh pastor. With the opening of the new school in 1962, the branch school was sold for \$2,500.

In 1964, Leslie Northrop was promoted to principal due to Teacher Kaiser's stepping down because of the ill health of his wife. However, Teacher Kaiser continued to teach the upper



grades until he retired in 1967 after completing his 40th year of teaching at St. Peter and 48 years in the teaching ministry! More than 600 friends gathered at Immanuel on October 1, 1967, to honor him and present him with the keys to a car purchased for him by the contributions gathered from the students he taught over four decades. After Mr. Northrop served as principal for two years, he accepted a call to Monroe, Michigan. Mr. George Roggatz was called and became the school's third principal.

In October of 1968, St. Peter joined with 15 other surrounding congregations to form the Lutheran High School Association, which eventually resulted in the building of Lutheran High North adjacent to our property. In 1972, the congregation granted the high school permission to use the old red brick schoolhouse for its first year, in which 170 students were enrolled. St. Peter continues to support the Lutheran High School Association because of its commitment to quality Christian education - teaching the Lutheran faith to the next generation!

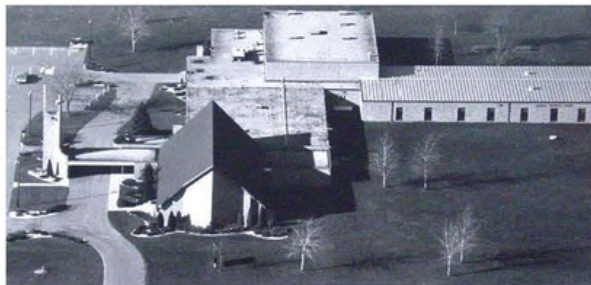
History of St. Peter Lutheran School 1973-2002

In the early '70s, there was considerable discussion in the congregation as to whether to add on to the four-room school a new church or a gym. In one voters meeting, the number of voters who favored building a new church was exactly the same as the number of voters who favored building the gym! The chairman of the congregation, Mr. Carl Stark, had to cast the deciding vote. But by 1973, God led the congregation to build both at the same time. The chairman of the building committee was Mr. Roy Wangelin. The cost of this project was \$550,000. A new church, a church lounge, and an office area were added to the east end of the four-room school. The gym, a large meeting space, a kitchen, locker & shower rooms, bathrooms, and storage rooms were added to the west end of the four-room school.

The first half-day kindergarten classroom began in 1973 by converting the school library into a fifth classroom. In 1975, the congregation called Mr. Terry Davis to be its first full-time principal and Minister of Christian Education. Mr. Roggatz was called to Director of Music and teacher of grades 7 & 8. The school's enrollment reached 155 in the fall of 1976 and a sixth classroom was added. Additional classrooms were added in the late '70s by utilizing rooms in the old red brick schoolhouse, and by using the large meeting room as a classroom. On December 2, 1979, ground was broken so that seven more classrooms and additional bathrooms could be added to the north at a cost of \$438,000. Mr. August Kogelman was the chairman of the building committee.

By 1981, the enrollment had climbed to 220 students and there were nine classrooms - each having a single grade for the first time in the school's history.

In 1982, Teacher Kaiser and Pastor Harm were both called home to be with the Lord in heaven. Pastor Wayne Wentzel became the pastor of the congregation in 1983.



In 1985, a second half-day kindergarten class was added. In 1986, the congregation added a second classroom for first grade children. In this same year, Lutheran Special Education Ministries sent us Mrs. Kathy Krause who was our first teacher to work with students who had special learning needs. Our partnership with LSEM has continued to the present day! As more classrooms were added in the late 1980s, another building committee was appointed with Mr. Wil Klein as the chairman. In 1989, the congregation once again added rooms to the north. A library, music room, nine more classrooms, bathrooms, office space, first aid room, kindergarten room, workroom, and a faculty lounge at a cost of \$1,679,000.

In 1990, at a time when women were still not allowed to vote at Voters' Meetings, a proposal was made by Mrs. Kathy Krause, Mr. Terry Davis, Mrs. Dori Dopp, and Mrs. Karen Doebler to begin St. Peter's Preschool. The congregation agreed to begin a preschool on the condition that it would be financially self-supporting. Tuition was charged to both members of the congregation and non-members in order to begin this new venture of faith. The preschool began with 34 students in 1990. Today, its enrollment is more than 200! The preschool used three rooms of the original four-room school that was built in 1961. Mrs. Krause was appointed as chairman of the preschool committee and has held this role for 35 years. In April 1990, Mrs. Anne Langewisch was hired as our first preschool director.

The Memorial Bell Tower was built in 1991 to house the original school and church bells. Also, in 1991, after several Voters' Meeting discussions, it was put to a vote and passed to rewrite the constitution to allow women to vote. In October 1991, girls participating in Confirmation were now allowed to be acolytes.

Pastor Wentzel accepted a call to Grand Blanc in 1992. Pastor Kasper succeeded him in 1993. Pastor Henry Baum Jr. served as associate pastor from 1995-1999 until he received a call to Ohio. Pastor Gregory Lorenz became our associate pastor in 2000.

Our youth ministry, under the direction of Mitch Vogeli, used the fourth room of the original four-room school. In 1995, a non-member of the congregation—out of love for God and in thanksgiving for his child's Christian education at St. Peter Lutheran School—built a computer room, a science lab, a room for the teacher from LSEM, a classroom, and the extended care room at a cost estimated to be about \$500,000. The chairman of the building committee was Mr. Michael Krause.



In that same year, with the enrollment nearing 575 students, the congregation called Teacher Robert Hoch to be the full-time Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. In 1996, Mrs. Ruth Golm became the school's first full-time computer teacher. In 1998, Mrs. Lori Looker became the school's full-time librarian and Mr. Ivan Beethe became the congregation's Minister of Discipleship and Parish Education. On July 19, 1999, the parsonage on southwest corner next to the red schoolhouse is demolished. In 2000, Mrs. Irene Beethe became the Minister of Music for both the church and school, replacing Mr. Erv Aufdemberge who retired. In 2002, in preschool through 8th grade, there were 640 children learning about Jesus, and St. Peter celebrated 125 years of Christian Education. In May 2000, St. Peter's first baseball field was constructed with the help of donations and parent volunteers.

History of St. Peter Lutheran School 2003-2027

June 1, 2003, was the groundbreaking ceremony for the third church sanctuary, future office wing, and Fellowship Hall. In the spring of 2004, the old red brick schoolhouse was converted to be used as the His Rock youth group building. In 2003, Mrs. Char Hohnstadt moved into the role of Preschool Director while also still teaching a 3-year-old class.



In 2005, our third sanctuary was completed. Pastor Kenneth Wagener was called as an additional pastor. In December 2005, the first service was held in the third sanctuary. February 26, 2006, was the dedication of the third church sanctuary, future office wing, and Fellowship Hall. This also created a new Crossroads area with the church offices off the school hallway.



Also, in 2006, Pastor Brian Davies was called as an associate pastor, then received and accepted a call to a church in Wisconsin in 2009. In 2007, we celebrated the 125th anniversary of St. Peter Lutheran Church, which was referred to as the Oktoberfest Celebration. We also called our next Director of Student Ministries, Mr. Darius (Bo) Chapman in January, 2007.

In 2010, Mr. Terry Davis retired as principal and was succeeded by Mr. Kyle Chuhran. Pastor Matthew Baye was called from the Seminary to be an associate pastor. Pastor Robert Kasper received and accepted a call to serve as an Assistant to the President of the Michigan District in 2011. Pastor Wagener was then called to be St. Peter's Senior Pastor. In 2013, Pastor Mark Wuggazer was called as an assistant pastor. In 2014, Principal Kyle Chuhran left, and Mrs. Kathy Krause took on this administrative position and became our first woman interim principal at St. Peter for the 2014/2015 school year. Pastor Lorenz also left in 2014 after receiving a call to McAllen, TX.

In 2015, the Fellowship Hall, Fellowship Hall kitchen, and ministry offices were completed. In the fall of 2015, Mr. Tim Leinberger was called as our next school principal. In 2016, both Pastors Wagener and Baye received and accepted calls. To assist in the interim, Pastor Craig Meyer joined our ministry team as a pastor emeritus. Pastor Wuggazer was then called as senior pastor in April, 2017.

In 2017, we had a 140th anniversary celebration of the combined church and school ministry. The preschool and day school students together totaled 620. Pastor Mark Arendell was called as our associate pastor. Mrs. Char Hohnstadt retired as Preschool Director and Mrs. Deb Lowry was hired as her replacement. In December, 2017, we hired our first full-time Modern Worship Director, Robert W. Costa.

In 2018, St. Peter began the Moving Forward: Less Debt. More Love. Campaign to pay off our remaining debt from our new sanctuary, fellowship hall, and offices building project. Mr. Bo Chapman received a call to Las Vegas in August, 2018. He was succeeded by Mr. Jason von der Lage who was called and began on April 1, 2019.

The 2019-2020 school year began as planned but took an unfortunate turn as we were shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our students completed the remainder of March, 2020 through the beginning of June, 2020 learning virtually. There were video and drive-by birthday and end of the school year celebrations. All worship services took place online—including Holy Week and Easter. Our 8th grade commencement ceremony took place in the parking lot with families gathering in separated parking spots. In July, 2020, we were finally able to return to in-person worship, and the 2020-2021 school year began in August with some restrictions and mandates. There was so much interest in enrollment, we were able to add a third Kindergarten class. Since then, we have added a new class to each grade every year. As of fall 2026, we have three kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classes.

Mr. Hoch retired as assistant principal in June, 2020 (after serving his 40th year at St. Peter). Mrs. Sandra LaPerriere, former St. Peter alum, was hired as our first woman assistant principal for the 2020/2021 school year. After Mr. Leinberger changed roles and became our Director of Operations in 2023, Mrs. LaPerriere was then interim principal for one year before she became our first called woman principal in 2024 and still remains our principal today.

Pastor Wuggazer took a call in 2020, and Pastor Mark Arendell took over as interim senior pastor. Pastor Kurt Wenzelburger accepted the call as our next senior pastor and was installed on December 12, 2021.

In 2022, Pastor Mark Arendell retired. On July 31, 2022, we welcomed our new called Director of Traditional Music, Mr. Charles Russell. Mr. von der Lage served as student ministries director until August, 2022, when he enrolled in Seminary. Mrs. Deb Lowry resigned as preschool director, and Mrs. Char Hohnstadt returned as interim preschool director for the 2022/2023 school year.

On November 30, 2022, the Michigan Historical Marker located across the driveway from the Church Office was dedicated after the Advent service by Pastors Wenzelburger, Arendell, and Meyer along with guest speaker Pastor Bill Wangelin. The dedication service was held partially inside due to the weather and outside for the unveiling. Mrs. Wilma Wangelin (Pastor Bill's grandmother) and Mr. Milt Miller unveiled the marker. It was the culmination of a four-year project by Mrs. Shelly Fowler, Mrs. Dawn Miller, and the Historical Committee. It was paid for by an anonymous donor.



For the 2023/2024 school year, former Assistant Principal, Mr. Hoch returned to teach in our LSEM room until he officially retired in 2025. However, he has returned again to teach for the 2026/2027 school year.

Mrs. Robyn Adams became our new preschool director starting in the 2023/2024 school year. In October, 2023, Angela Schepmann became our new student ministries assistant.

A new school wing and building updates were proposed to the congregation at the April 30, 2024, Voters' Meeting. A special Voter's Meeting was held December 8, 2024 and the new school building addition and updates, His Rock updates, new sanctuary sound system, and organ refurbishment were approved.

On July 7, 2024, seminary graduate, Pastor Dante Pronsati was called as our Associate Pastor. Also, in 2024, Steve Ameel accepted the position of assistant principal and athletic director.

In 2025, we celebrated 35 years of St. Peter's Preschool.

March, 2025 kicked off our Building Together campaign to raise money for our new addition. This \$11,500,000 building project consisted of 12 new classrooms, an additional gymnasium, a sanctuary sound system upgrade, church balcony renovation (including an elevator), and repairs to our organ. The groundbreaking took place on Ascension Day, May 29, 2025. The school year ended the next day (a week early) for the construction to begin.

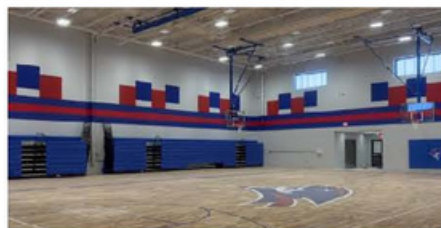
In June, 2025, former St. Peter student, Mr. Wayne Niemann, retired after 36 years as our Facility Manager. The 2025 8th Grade graduates were overjoyed when Mr. Niemann surprised them as Keynote speaker—dressed in full graduation cap and gown—at their commencement ceremony.

August, 2026 marked the completion of the new school wing and Sanctuary sound system.

In 2027, we celebrate our 150th anniversary of our day school. Our enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is 770 students in preschool-8th grade. 2027 also marks the 70th anniversary of our Parent Teacher League.

The history of St. Peter Lutheran Church and School shows God at work through His people! All the names and events that make up our history could not possibly be mentioned, but the services and deeds of those not mentioned have also been used by God to build His kingdom here at 24 Mile and Romeo Plank Roads. Today, we thank God for His continual blessings and we pray that He will guide us in the future.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



+ + + New Classrooms and Gym + + +
Service of Dedication
St. Peter Lutheran Church & School
Macomb, MI
August 16, 2026

INVOCATION:

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pastor: Today is yet another opportunity to give thanks to God, and we especially thank Him for His hand of blessing upon this congregation's school as we now approach 150 years of telling the next generation about Jesus. From its beginnings in 1877, God has done amazing things through His people, who for generations have been a part of the mission and ministry of St. Peter Lutheran School. For 150 years, God has been present in this place. For 150 years, His saving Word has gone out from here and into the world. For 150 years, the mission has remained the same – to not only educate children, but to “glorify God by making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Pastor: Today also brings with it an opportunity for us to give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Immanuel Lutheran Church who were essential in planting this school on the corner of 24 Mile and Romeo Plank Roads for the purpose of assuring families of Macomb the opportunity to have Lutheran education available to them and their children – which, in the five years that followed, would lead to the planting of a congregation that would be known as St. Peter Lutheran Church. Likewise, we give thanks to God for the many leaders of Macomb County – both past and present – who have served to encourage and support us along the way as members of this wonderful community. It has always been by the grace of God that St. Peter Lutheran Church and School have been able to remain a viable and active part of Word and Sacrament ministry, while being blessed to be placed within this wonderful community and state. We know that our history is not our story; it is HIS Story (God's story) which allows us to celebrate and give thanks for the past while always looking ahead with the Holy Spirit leading us on. As we reflect upon the past while giving thanks to God, may the Holy Spirit lead us to never lose sight of our Savior, Jesus, and His call to make Him and His salvation known to those around us in the years to come.

PRAYER

Pastor: O God, by the blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have brought us into Your Church and made us Your living stones. Long ago, You ordained that St. Peter Lutheran Church & School would occupy these corners, and 150 years ago You began to build us into a spiritual house. We come before You today with gratitude and praise for every grace and gift that You have granted to this congregation from generation to generation. We give You thanks for the faith and testimony of those who have gone before us in the history of this congregation, and we pray Your blessing on all those whose lives have been touched and will be touched by Your saving Gospel; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, the psalmist declares that the learning of God's Word is to His praise, saying, "I will praise You with an upright heart, when I learn Your just and righteous decrees. Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes." (Psalm 119:7, 12) Since the Lord has taught us in His holy Word that all things are holy when sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, it is fitting that we bless and sanctify this new addition of 12 classrooms and a gymnasium, that it may be a place where all may grow in the knowledge and wisdom of the only true and saving God.

Pastor: Let us pray: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, since you have committed the care and nurture of children to Your people, graciously enlighten those who teach and learn that, rejoicing in the knowledge of Your truth, they may worship You and serve You from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

RIBBON CUTTING

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Almighty God, to whose glory we dedicate this new gym and these new classrooms, we humbly ask that You would use this place to serve as a reminder to all of us of Your ongoing faithfulness from the time we were placed here on this site in 1877. Since the founding of this congregation and school and its ongoing witness to Your glory and goodness in this community, we thank You for the pastors, teachers, administrators, staff members, and laity who have faithfully served while living out the saving Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We also give thanks for our brothers and sisters at Immanuel Lutheran who were willing to branch out for the purpose of furthering the saving truth of forgiveness and grace found only in and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. May this building always be used for the purpose of answering Your call for us to continue to go and make disciples of all nations in our community, nation, and world – while ministering to the needs of our neighbors. Amen.

SINGING OF THE DOXOLOGY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and (+) give you peace. **Amen!**



*Celebrating
150 years
of Christian
education.*

SENIOR PASTOR, KURT WENZELBURGER

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, DANTE PRONSATI

PRINCIPAL, SANDRA LAPERRIERE

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, STEVE AMEEL

MODERN WORSHIP DIRECTOR, ROBERT W. COSTA



ST. PETER MACOMB
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL