


NEWS AND NOTES for November 11 & 12, 2023

The Nominating Committee would like the congregation to be aware of the positions that will be open for the January election. Contact the Nominating Committee (Laura Kopplin, Renee Herhold, and Lynn Smith) for more information or to place your name on the ballot. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talents for the following positions:

<p>Chairman (1-year term) Mission Treasurer (3-year term) Elder (3-year term) multiple openings Head Usher (1-year term) Board of Education (3-year term) with & without kids Board of Financial Review (3-year term)</p>	<p>Vice-Chairman (1-year term) Assistant Treasurer (3-year term) Trustee (3-year term) multiple openings Board of Finance (3-year term & 1-year term positions) Evangelism Committee (3-year term) Nominating Committee (3-year term)</p>
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Church Newsletter Articles for the Dec-Feb newsletter are due on Monday, November 13th.



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts: \$2,520,295 -Exceeded

Gifts Received: \$ 1,860,484

Remaining Commitment Amount: \$639,516.00

St. Peter PTL Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 2, 2023, with crafts, baked goods, fresh greens, luncheon, and white elephant. Crafters can rent a space or table by contacting Julie Ryan (989) 245-7114. WSGW will be broadcasting their morning shows from the Bazaar.

Mary Martha Christmas Bazaar Workshops- Anyone is invited to participate!

Rock Candy Workshop- Monday Nov. 20 at 1:00 PM (Set-up help needed Sun. night at 7:00 PM)

Greens Workshop- Wednesday Nov. 29 at 9:00 AM- until whenever you can at Paul & Pam Eimers barn at 3294 N. Gleaner Rd, Freeland, Lunch provided. No experience necessary.

Christmas Cookie Baking- Thursday Nov. 30 more details soon

Frost Cookies- Friday Dec. 1st at 3:00 PM

Evergreens Wanted - Anyone who may have pine or evergreen bushes (boxwood, yew, holly, or arborvitae, etc) and would be willing to cut piece off on Thanksgiving weekend. We would love. Please call Coleen Schantz to make arrangements for pick up on Monday, November 27th. Any questions please call Coleen Schantz at 989-642-2038.

Ladies Aid Ladies Aid will meet Thursday, November 16th in the Quilting Room at the school at noon. Please bring a sack lunch, dessert will be provided.

Mary Martha All St. Peter Ladies are welcome to join us on Tuesday Nov. 14 at 7:00 PM in the School Cafeteria for our Mary Martha Meeting. We'll have the outside door that faces the church open. After devotions and dessert, we will conduct our business meeting as we look ahead to preparations for the Christmas Bazaar. Luncheon Committee members will meet at 6:15 PM prior to our regular meeting.

Below are the General Fund Income and Expense numbers, as well as others, for the prior months and the current fiscal year to date. We hope that these numbers provide a clear picture of our operating status.

	August 2023	September 2023	2023-24 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$178,352.23	\$108,633.56	\$ 438,381.39
General Fund Expenses	\$ 170,140.62	\$ 116,679.44	\$ 414,734.97
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ 8,211.61	\$ (8,045.88)	\$ 23,646.42
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 455,234.43	\$1,064,192.82	\$ 1,604,901.75
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$2,270.00	\$1,705.00	\$ 6,895.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 277 (64-213); Communion: 199

In Memory of:

- ✠ **Ollie Boyton**, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Bob & Chelle Dankert, Joyce Burdo, and Russ & Carol Darby.*
- ✠ **Karrie Jarosz**, a gift was given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Barry & Karla Tessin.*
- ✠ **Michael Barnaby**, a gift was given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Greg & Juliann Wardin.*
- ✠ **Peter Boos**, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Richard & Judy Bluemer, Edwin & Pat Watson, Dennis & Renee Herhold, Robert & Margaret Ortman, Joyce Burdo, and Bob & Chelle Dankert.*

In Honor of their 48th wedding anniversary a gift was given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Jim & Donna Bluemer.*

Youth Church Basketball League: The high school youth church basketball league will be starting soon. If there are high school aged students from our congregation who are interested, please contact the church office (989-642-5659) to leave your name on contact information by Monday, November 27. If we are able to find a coach and at least 10 players, we will sign up to be included in this league.

Divorced? Separated? Know someone who is? When a marriage ends, the holiday season can be especially painful. We are hosting a "Surviving the Holidays" seminar which helps participants face challenges and discover: • How to deal with emotions • Helpful tips to surviving social events • Ways to help children through the holidays • Hope for the future. Join us for this encouraging seminar on November 12th from 1 to 3 pm. There is no cost. Call the church office at (989) 642-8188 for more information or to register. You can also register online at www.divorcecare.org/holidays/events/47402.

GriefShare - Surviving the Holidays is a helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after a loved one's death. The seminar will be held on November 12th from 5 to 7 pm. There is no cost. Topics to be discussed include dealing with hard-hitting emotions, what to do about traditions, how to survive social events, and where to find comfort and strength. Call the church office at (989) 642-8188 for more information or to register. You can also register online at www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/47401.

White Elephant Room the sunshine seniors will be hosting the White Elephant room. Save your good, but unneeded household items, books, toys, etc. for the White Elephant room at the St. Peter bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 2. Item drop off will not be until December 2. More information to come.

Panther Press Highlights

If you would like to see what is happening at our school, you can receive the *Panther Press* via your email. Call the school office to give us your email address and you will be added to the distribution list. You can also read the *Press* on our website www.stpeterhemlock.org, to access this week's *Panther Press* or view previous newsletters. If more convenient, there are a few paper copies available in the stand in the narthex.

Responding To Arguments Against Christianity... When people challenge the truths of the Christian faith, do find yourself at a loss for answers? You can listen to the new audiobook, "Objections Overruled: Answering Arguments against Christianity," at issuesetc.org/objectionsoverruled. This new audiobook is free and produced by Lutheran Public Radio based in Collinsville, IL. LPR produces radio talk shows, podcasts, and 24/7 sacred music and talk stations.

The Lutheran Hour is broadcast Sundays on WSAM 1400AM Saginaw at 8:30am and XM 131 at 10:30am. It can also be heard on-line at www.lhm.org. Next Sunday, November 19th, Guest Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Anthony Cook's* sermon is titled, "Until that Day". No one knows when Christ will return. Until that day, we live in certain uncertainty.

Ushers for next week: Saturday: Kyle Smith, Josh McQueen **Sunday:** Matt Wardin, Joe Wardin;

Thanksgiving Eve: Brad Smith, Leonard Krueger

Videographer for next week: Scott Neumeyer; **Thanksgiving Eve:** Brady Hagenow

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"What could be more joyful and rewarding than to share with everyone the best news they will ever hear: Jesus has saved you from sin and death and won eternal life for you as a free gift of His love. Let's roll up our sleeves and begin today with the prayer, 'Lord, help me be an eager worker in Your kingdom.'"

- *Daily Devotions, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan*

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos 5:18-24

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is "darkness, and not light" (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their "burnt offerings and grain offerings," nor will He look upon their "peace offerings" (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets "justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the "lamps" of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the "oil" of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1-4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us "to the dealers" (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we "encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes "with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God," and "we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).