

NEWS AND NOTES for September 16 & 17, 2023

*****Annual Reports - Please have your reports to Laura in the church office by September 20th*****

September Featured Hymn: This month we resume our featured hymn series by singing "Come Down, O Love Divine" (LSB 501). The writer of this hymn, Bianco da Siena, was a member of an Italian community of unordained men devoted to preaching and works of mercy. This hymn is one of 92 "laudi spirituali" or spiritual songs he wrote during the 14th century. His songs were preserved in manuscript form and were not published until almost 500 years later. This hymn became popular in the early 20th century when a new tune was written by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams for the 1906 "The English Hymnal." It is named "Down Ampney," which is the village in Gloucestershire where Vaughan Williams was born. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns).

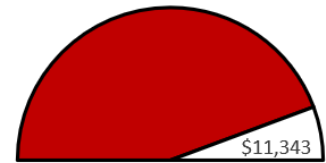
Lutheran World Relief The items are still rolling in. Thank you for the items for both the school kits and personal care kits. Next week we'll have an update on where we are with those. Keep the items coming. Lutheran World Relief Coordinator, *Lou Ann Krueger* 989.274.9720 or 989.642.2886



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

On Our Way to \$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,474,849
Gifts Received:	\$ 1,715,076
Remaining Amount:	\$ 11,343.00



**Last \$100,000
Almost To Our \$2.5 Million Goal**

In Memory of:

- ✠ **James Laurenz's birthday**, a gift was given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Helen Laurenz*.
- ✠ **50th Wedding Anniversary of Curt & Janis Sheltraw**, a gift was given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Janis Sheltraw*.

Board of Christian Education Opening: We are currently seeking to fill a position on the Board of Christian Education. This position is for a member who does not have children in the school. Please contact Mrs. Karin Keel-Todd, Board of Christian Education Chairperson, or Mr. Eric Hagenow if you are interested.

Festival Service For St. Michael And All Angels - On Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m. St. Michael Lutheran Church in Richville, Michigan will be hosting a festival Evening Prayer Service for St. Michael and All Angels. The preacher for this service will be Michigan District President Rev. David A. Davis. Kantors for the service will be Jon Eifert, Nathan Beethe, and Brian Heinlein. There will be a Mass Choir comprised of members from area congregations, instrumentalists, and pipe organ. Anyone who wishes to participate in the mass choir should contact Brian Heinlein or Nathan Beethe at kantor.graceauburn@gmail.com. Please mark your calendars for this exciting event. We hope you will join us.

Apple Pie Sale Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 11, 2023, for this year's apple pie sale. As always, they will be made with love ready to bake or freeze. You can enjoy them during the holidays or give them as a gift. The cost will remain \$13.00 this year. There will be a sign-up sheet for the number of pies you would like. You can also text or call Sheila Bauer at (989)860-3927, Frank Buckbee at (989)996-1801, or church office (989-642-8188), to order pies and/or sign up to join in on the fun of processing this year's pies. **Deadline for ordering will be Sunday, November 5th**. All proceeds will go towards the general fund so it may be used where it is most needed. Pies will be available for pick up on Saturday, November 11th between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

LWML FALL RALLY: All Ladies of St. Peter are invited to attend the LWML Saginaw Zone Fall Rally at Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Charles, on Sat. Oct. 14 from 9 to noon. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The cost is \$5.00 and includes lunch. The Ingathering is personal care items for Hygiene Kits. Each kit needs a: bath towel, wash cloth, bath size bar of soap, plastic soap box holder, toothbrush, sturdy comb, 6 band-aids (1/2" or 3/4"), 1 small pkg facial tissue, nail clipper, 1 piece of strong ribbon or cord. Even if you are unable to attend the rally, you can bring these items to our October 10 meeting.

St. Peter Trunk or Treat Join us at St. Peter Lutheran Church on October 27th from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. Members of St. Peter Church & School are welcome to host a parking spot for a decorated trunk. Call or text Mrs. Kelley Fehn at 989-295-5763 to register for a spot. This year's "Best Decorated Spot" wins bragging rights for the year! Please stay away from scary costumes. All children through 8th grade are welcome. Only store-bought wrapped candy, treats, or trinkets are to be handed out. Please park in the church parking lot if not hosting a spot.

Advent by Candlelight will be December 3rd with a new start time of 4:00pm - 5:30pm. More information to come.

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.

	July 2023	August 2023	2022-23 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$95,026.09	\$178,352.23	\$ 230,140.21
General Fund Expenses	\$ 106,942.60	\$ 170,140.62	\$ 178,261.71
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (11,916.51)	\$ 8,211.61	\$ 52,878.49
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 56,977.00	\$ 455,234.43	\$ 507,562.25
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,870.00	\$2,270.00	\$ 3,630.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 279 (99-180); Communion: 200

Panther Press Highlights

St. Peter Sawdust Parade Float: The Hemlock Sawdust Days Parade will take place on Saturday, September 16. We welcome and encourage all of our students to join in the parade and walk behind our float in any of their St. Peter gear. The parade will line up at 9:40am and there will also be firefighter helmets and badges handed out to wear to go along with the Sawdust Days theme "Community Strong". We hope to see you there!

Lutheran Talk And Music Mobile App... You can listen to Lutheran talk and music 24/7, anytime, anywhere with the free Lutheran Public Radio app. You can download for your cell phone at the App Store, Google Play or at issuesetc.org.

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, September 17th, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "Pure Michigan and the Problem of Praise". People praise that which they find laudable, valuable, beautiful. But when does praise become a problem?

Upcoming Community Events:

➤ **Come take a peek at Valley Lutheran.** We invite prospective 7th and 8th grade students and their families to a *Peek at Valley* on Thursday, October 5th. These one hour guided tours provide a peek into the Valley Lutheran experience and what sets Valley apart. Please let us know you're coming and pick an arrival time at www.vlhs.com/takeapeek. Contact Amy Cooper, Director of Communications and Admissions at acooper@vlhs.com with any questions.

Ushers for next week: Saturday: *Eric Starke, Zack Holifield* **Sunday:** *Eric Bates, Tyler Bates*

Videographer for next week: *Sheila Bauer*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"There is no more valuable work for God and for all of Christendom than bringing up your children in the faith and trust of Jesus! It's not hard to believe that if this were our primary aim, that our children would not question their gender, that they would respect their neighbor and love their spouses, that they would welcome the opportunity to serve the public with politics that reflect solid biblical values, and that they would continue to attend church well after confirmation!"

- *Rev. Jeff Duncan, Lutherans For Life*

Lectionary Summary

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Romans 13:1-10

Matthew 18:1-20

Living as Humble Little Children of the Father

True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, "you will never enter the kingdom of heaven," but whoever is humbled like a little child will be "the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3-4).

Though in our sin we deserve to be "drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt. 18:6), we have instead been drowned ("buried") with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7-9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which "is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we "pay to all what is owed to them" (Rom. 13:7) and we "owe no one anything, except to love each other" (Rom. 13:8).