

NEWS AND NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 2022

November Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "The Clouds of Judgment Gather" (LSB 513). The origins of the hymn date back to a twelfth-century Latin poem written by a French monk named Bernard of Cluny, who was a member of the Benedictine Abbey of Cluny. This poem, *De contemptu mundi* or *On Contempt of the World*, consists of almost three thousand lines of poetry written in dactylic hexameter, a particularly difficult poetic meter. The poem was written to emphasize the depravity of earthly life through images drawn from the Book of Revelation. The text of Hymn 672, "Jerusalem the Golden," is also taken from the lines of this same poem. The tune we sing with this hymn, *Llangloffan*, is from an early nineteenth-century folk tune that was sung in England and Wales, and is named after a hamlet in Wales. The exact origins of the melody and its composer are unknown. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns).

Sunday Morning Bible Class We are following a Lutheran Hour Ministry Bible Study, on the life of Martin Luther. From his humble beginnings in Germany, Martin Luther inspired a Reformation that reverberates throughout Christendom to this day. We meet in the chapel after the Divine Service.

Lutheran Witness subscriptions can be ordered now through December 5th. This magazine is published 11 times per year and provides Missouri Synod laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Each issue comes with the Michigan In Touch supplement at no extra cost to those who subscribe through the District Office renewal process. Yearly subscriptions (March 2023-February 2024) are \$11.60 if ordered through the church office. Payment can be dropped in the offering plate in a separate envelope marked "Lutheran Witness" or mailed to the church office. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church; include your name and address in the envelope if paying with cash. Call the church office 989.642.8188 with any questions.

Poinsettia Order It time to order poinsettia plants that will adorn the altar this Christmas season. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. Please follow the instructions on the form for placing your order. **The deadline is December 5th.**

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.

	September 2022	October 2022	2022-23 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 92,982.06	\$ 174,392.38	\$ 422,575.13
General Fund Expenses	\$ 97,127.34	\$ 106,616.47	\$ 362,974.45
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (4,145.28)	\$ 67,775.91	\$ 59,600.68
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 578,628.00	\$ 57,006.54	\$ 1,014,813.79
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 3,139.00	\$ 2,416.00	\$ 8,318.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 236 (52-184); Communion: 159

Notes:

- Any donations in Advent envelopes will go to the Mission Fund unless specified otherwise.
- If you know of any church or community member that is in need this holiday season. Please contact the church office.
- "Thank you to the Pastors for the visit during my hospital stay and during rehab." – Yvonne Mrozinski
- Thank you to Rev. Morris & Rev. Mundt for the visits and for officiating Michael's service. – George, Scott, & Melanie Hilbrandt

Choral Advent Service please join us this advent season Choral Advent Service featuring Cherub choir, Seraphim Choir, Mixed Choir, and Handbells. Wednesday, December 21st at 6:30pm.

The Life Team Thanking God for the gift of life, the Life Team is gathering diapers (all sizes) and clothing sizes newborn-4T from now through Thanksgiving. Please put your gifts in the toy box in the narthex. Thank you for supporting life! All Glory to God.

The Giving Tree the Christmas Tree in the narthex has been decorated with tags for specific items that will be a blessing for church and families in our community. With you help, we can brighten this Christmas season for those families as we share Jesus' love with others. Please take a tag from the tree, purchase and place it under the tree. These items should be under the tree no later than noon on Sunday, December 11th. Mary-Martha will be making care baskets with all of the items so no gift wrapping is needed.

	Building on the Cornerstone Campaign	
	<u>On Our Way to \$2.5 Million Matching Goal:</u>	
	Commitments and Gifts: \$ 2,326,397	
	Gifts Received: \$ 1,116,917	

Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins Come bring holiday cheer to our St. Peter Shut-Ins with Christmas Carols! Plan to meet at church Sunday Dec. 11th at 1:00 PM. We'll visit several St. Peter members and share Christmas joy by singing carols. When finished we'll head back to church for a simple soup supper! All ages are welcome!

St. Peter PTL Christmas Bazaar Saturday December 3rd from 9 am to 2:30 pm. Features crafts, holiday baked goods, rock candy, fresh green, white elephant sale, and more. Luncheon from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. WSGW will be there! Contact Julie Ryan (989) 245-7114 to rent a table or space.

WORKSHOPS: Love to have your help!

- **Fresh Green Arrangements:** Wednesday, November 30th at Eimer's barn (3294 N Gleaner Rd, Freeland) starting at 9am. Lunch provided. Something for everyone to do! Coleen Schantz (989) 295-1393.
- **Christmas Cookie baking:** Bring a rolling pin and a few medium cookie cutters to the school kitchen on Thursday, December 1st. We will start at 6pm Sheila Bauer (989) 860-3927.
- **Help Frost and Decorate Cookies:** Friday December 2nd starting at 3pm in the school gym. Bring friends who are 8th graders or older, please. It takes many hands! If you have 30 minutes or 2 hours – please help!
- **Bazaar Donations:** We'd be so grateful!
 - Cookie sprinkles
 - Bake a pan of bars or small cookies for the bazaar luncheon dessert. Deliver to the school kitchen Friday, December 2nd or Saturday, December 3rd.

Advent By Candlelight Ladies, you are cordially invited to Advent by Candlelight on December 4th, at 5:30 PM. The theme for the evening is HOPE and our guest speaker will be Elaine Bickel. This is your opportunity to come and prepare your heart and mind for the upcoming busyness of the CHRISTmas season. In addition to the message, you will be able to enjoy wonderful appetizers, festive music, and a chance to fellowship. Space is limited so reserve your spot by emailing Kelley Fehn at kelley.fehn@stpeterhemlock.org.

Holiday Treats for God's Helping Hands: For the 80th Birthday year of the LWML MI District, Mary Martha members are baking holiday treats for God's Helping Hands. We are attempting to have 80 items: plates of cookies, holiday breads, cakes, pies, and your specialty, in honor of the anniversary! Please have your items at the school parking lot on Friday, Dec. 9th, at 2:30 PM. Sheila Bauer (989.860.3927) and Sharon Wohlfeil (989.239.4575) will collect and transport the treats to Zion Lutheran to be distributed on Sat. Dec. 10th with your prayerful best wishes and Christmas cheer. We are inviting all St. Peter bakers to participate and share their Christmas Spirit. Thank you for your generosity!

White Elephant Sale When you clean out closets, attics, basements, etc., please save your unwanted, but still good, items for the White Elephant Room (sponsored by the St. Peter Sunshine Seniors), at the St. Peter Bazaar, on Saturday, December 3rd. Please bring your items to the school office Thursday, December 1st & Friday December 2nd.

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, or you can click on the QR code 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.



Sacred Music For The Advent Season... "Savior of the Nations, Come," "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry," "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." You can listen to sacred music for the Advent season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

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 27th, Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "Paradise Restored". If God is love, what are we to make of His wrath?

Community Events

- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost, 8220 E. Holland Rd(M-46) in Saginaw, Michigan, will host its 26th annual "**Living Nativity - A Journey to Bethlehem**", on Friday, December 2nd 7:00 - 9:00p.m.; Saturday, December 3rd 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 4th 6:00 - 8:00p.m. Experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on that blessed night when Jesus Christ was born. This is a free 30-minute outdoor walk, so dress for the weather. Fellowship and refreshments will follow in the school.
- The ladies of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wheeler, will hold a **Christmas Cookie Walk and Bake Sale** on Saturday, December 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. It will feature a Cookie Walk with Christmas and specialty cookies at \$7.00 per dozen, baked goods, candy, and one table of quilted items. The church is located on M-46, between Breckenridge and Merrill.

Ushers for next week: Wednesday: *Corey Harry, Gary Graf* **Saturday:** *Eric Starke, Cliff Dilleree*

Sunday: *Larry Graf, Matt Stavely*

Videographer for next week: *Anthony Wolter (Wed), Landon Sherry (Sun)*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand."

- *Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois*

Lectionary Summary

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(27 November 2022)

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:(8-10) 11-14

Matthew 21:1-11 *or* Matthew 24:36-44

The Lord Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us Now

The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem "*humble, and mounted on a donkey,*" riding on "*a beast of burden*" (Matt. 21:5), as He Himself bears the sins of the world in His body. Now He comes by the ministry of the Gospel to save us from sin, death, the devil and hell. Therefore, we sing, "*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (Matt. 21:9). For we are called "*to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob,*" His Holy Church, "*that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths*" (Is. 2:3). By His Word, we "*walk in the light of the LORD*" (Is. 2:5). That is to live in love, which "*does no wrong to a neighbor*" (Rom. 13:10). We "*cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,*" for "*salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed*" (Rom. 13:11, 12). Hence, the entire Christian life is a time to wake and watch, "*for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming*" (Matt. 24:42).