

## NEWS AND NOTES FOR JANUARY 28 & 29, 2023

☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ **Reminder! Voters' Meeting Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm** ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

The Nominating Committee would like the congregation to be aware of the positions that are open for the January election. Contact the Nominating Committee for more information or to place your name on the ballot. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talents for the following positions:

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| <p><b>Chairman</b> (1-year term)</p> <p><b>Vice-Chairman</b> (1-year term)</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> (3-year term)</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> (3-year term)</p> <p><b>Assistant Treasurer</b> (3-year term)</p> <p><b>Elder</b> (3-year term)</p> <p><b>Trustee</b> (3-year term)</p> | <p><b>Head Usher</b> (1-year term)</p> <p><b>Assistant Financial Secretary</b> (3-year term)</p> <p><b>Board of Finance</b> (3-year term &amp; 2-year term position)</p> <p><b>Board of Education</b> (3-year term)</p> <p><b>Evangelism Committee</b> (3-year term)</p> <p><b>Board of Financial Review</b> (3-year term)</p> <p><b>Nominating Committee</b> (3-year term)</p> |
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**January 2023 Featured Hymn:** This month our featured hymn is "From God the Father, Virgin-Born" (LSB 401). The origin of this Epiphany hymn is unknown. It is found in a number of eleventh-century manuscripts, but its author is anonymous. In its original Latin form, it is an alphabetical hymn, with the first words of the second through last lines beginning with a successive letter of the Latin alphabet: *ad, baptisma, cunctos, de, excepit, faacturam, gaudia, hoc*, etc. The English translation we sing in our hymnal was published in 1875 by John Mason Neale, with some alterations made by the hymnal editors. Although this hymn is typically sung during the Epiphany season, the reference to consecrating the font in stanza one, the gift of healing in stanza three, and taking away the stain of sin in stanza four make the first four stanzas of the hymn appropriate before a Baptism in any season. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)

**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.

	November 2022	December 2022	2022-23 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 81,418.61	\$ 108,155.24	\$ 647,854.86
General Fund Expenses	\$ 125,501.26	\$ 112,277.21	\$ 606,146.55
<b>Gain or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (44,082.65)</b>	<b>\$ (4,121.97)</b>	<b>\$ 41,708.31</b>
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 1,359,699.00	\$ 303,210.06	\$ 2,866,808.85
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 6,653.00	\$ 16,436.00

**Church Attendance Last Week: 380 (56-324); Communion: 223**

**Sympathies to Joel Wardin and family** upon the death of Joel's brother-in-law, Michael Neely.

**Church Newsletter** If you have an article to go into the March-May church newsletter please have it to *Laura* by February 13<sup>th</sup>.



### Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

On Our Way to \$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts: \$ 2,381,721

Gifts Received: \$ 1,318,912



**Building on the Cornerstone Updates:** There are many things happening with our building project including work being done by our subcommittees. Below are some points of interest as to what is taking place:

*Subcommittee for Interior Design:* This committee is working on different areas of the new addition, as well as the current narthex and multipurpose room. There are several floor samples in the multi-purpose room being reviewed by the committee. An interior decorator will be assisting with flooring, window treatments, and furniture.

*Subcommittee for Sanctuary Modifications:* This Committee is looking at modifications for lighting, pews, and flooring in the balcony, chapel and sanctuary. They have also been visiting other churches to get ideas.

*Subcommittee for Security and IT:* This subcommittee involves itself with audio, video, network, Wi-Fi, telephone, door security, and camera systems. They are ensuring the church service audio/video is functional in the gathering space and fellowship hall, creating a large projection and audio system to support presentations in the fellowship hall, investigating additional improvements for hearing impairment support, and making video feeds and announcements available to various rooms.

*Organ Update:* The metal and wood pipes are being constructed and the windchests are currently being engineered and designed and may be completed earlier than anticipated. The organ construction is on schedule, and everything is moving along well.

**Church Pictorial Directory** The church office is starting to gather information and pictures to complete a church pictorial directory. If you have a recent family picture that you would like to use, you can submit it one of the following ways:

1. Email a digital copy to [laura.kopplin@stpeterhemlock.org](mailto:laura.kopplin@stpeterhemlock.org) and fill out paper contact form.
2. Bring a physical copy of your picture into the church office with paper contact form.
3. Submit your information and photo through the google form on our website under Church then Member Information Form.

Copies of Update Contact Form are located on the table in the narthex. Once we are able to determine how many families still need pictures, we will be able to get more details on the next step.

**Do you need your picture taken for the church directory?** Shutter the Thought Photography has graciously offered to take family pictures. Karen will be on site to take pictures February 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-4:30pm and February 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-2:00pm. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Please stop and sign up for a 15-minute time slot or call the church office to see what time slots are available. If your family would still like their picture taken but you are unable to make it that weekend, please put your name and contact information and Karen will arrange for another time.

**Groundskeeper Position** The St. Peter Board of Trustees is seeking a groundskeeper for the Richland Lutheran Cemetery. Some of the duties include cutting and trimming of grass, spring and fall clean up, trash removal, etc. A full listing of the job duties is available upon request. If interested, send your resume to St. Peter Lutheran Church, 2461 N Raucholz Rd., Hemlock, MI 48626 or send via email to [church@stpeterhemlock.org](mailto:church@stpeterhemlock.org). If you have any questions, please call the church office 989.642.8188.

**Pastor Hauser's Retirement** Pastor Paul Hauser has retired from the ministry on December 31, 2022. He has faithfully served at Zion, Hemlock for the past 22 years. A retirement celebration will be held at Zion Lutheran 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock on Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 pm. All are invited to join us in this celebration. Following the worship service, you are invited for a catered meal in our fellowship hall. In order to plan we ask that those wishing to stay for the meal to please RSVP by February 1 by calling 989-642-5909 and leave a message or email [ikruth@hotmail.com](mailto:ikruth@hotmail.com) or [admin@zionhemlock.org](mailto:admin@zionhemlock.org).

### **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](http://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.



**Preschool Open House** You're invited to come and learn about our awesome 3- and 4-year-old preschool programs. Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-6:30pm. You will be able to meet both teachers-who are passionate about children and Jesus, tour our safe learning environment, and register your child for the 2023/2024 school year. Returning preschool students to St. Peter do not have to attend the open house. For more information please contact: Kelley Fehn, Early Childcare Director: 989-642-5659

**Unanswered Bible Questions...** Issues, Etc., a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio, will have Pastors Bryan Wolfmueller and Brian Kachelmeier respond to your unanswered Bible questions. You can submit your question via email: [talkback@issuesetc.org](mailto:talkback@issuesetc.org), Facebook: [facebook.com/issuesetc](https://facebook.com/issuesetc), or the Issues, Etc. Comment Line: (618) 223-8382. You can listen to the interview at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

**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](http://www.lhm.org). Next Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Guest Speaker *Rev. Dr. John Nunes'* sermon is titled, "Your Time to Shine". Light is necessary for life; God's light, even more so.

### **Community Events:**

- **Hemlock/Merrill VFW Fish Fry** January 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00- 7:00pm, Perch Dinner \$17, Shrimp Dinner \$15, Chicken Strip \$14, Frog Legs \$16 comes with fries or baked potato, coleslaw, and dessert.
- Do you enjoy card games? Would you like to support the Valley Lutheran Booster Club? Then mark your calendars for Saturday, February 4! **The VL Booster Club is holding a Card Night Fundraiser** beginning at 6 p.m. (please arrive at 5:30 to learn the rules!) at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Saginaw. No experience needed and everyone is welcome! \$20 to play. Head to [www.vlhs.com/VLcardnight](http://www.vlhs.com/VLcardnight) to learn more, or contact Jenny Rauschert ([jenrausch@gmail.com](mailto:jenrausch@gmail.com), 989-751-4525) or Cathy Miller (989-790-1676) by January 30 to RSVP.

**Ushers for next week: Saturday:** Leonard Krueger, Ray Wardin **Sunday:** Mike Stavelly, Ryan Hyatt

**Videographer for next week:** Sheila Bauer

### ***A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan***

"Pre-born babies are patients who deserve the rights and protections applicable to children and adults."

- Dr. William Lile, Pensacola, Florida

### ***Lectionary Summary*** **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

Micah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

#### ***God Manifests His Glory in the Humility and Weakness of Christ Crucified***

The Lord tells His people, "*I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery*" (Micah 6:4). By the sacrifice of His beloved Son, He has redeemed us from our slavery of sin and death; He has forgiven our transgressions by the shedding of His blood. His great mercy and salvation lead us "*to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly*" with our God (Micah 6:8). We boast only in the incarnate and crucified Lord Jesus. He is "*the power of God and the wisdom of God*" (1 Cor. 1:24). He is our life and salvation, our "*wisdom*" and "*righteousness and sanctification and redemption*" (1 Cor. 1:30). Now He opens His mouth and teaches us His wisdom. By His cross and Passion, the kingdom of heaven is ours. We receive mercy and are satisfied; we see God and are called sons of God in Christ. "*Blessed are you,*" therefore, "*when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely*" on account of Christ (Matt. 5:11).