

NEWS AND NOTES for March 18 & 19, 2023

March 2023 Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "In the Shattered Bliss of Eden" (LSB 572). Like so many hymns of Stephen Starke, this hymn excels in Lutheran theology with a strong confessional foundation. It is filled with biblical imagery from both the Old and New Testaments. This hymn text was written by Pastor Starke in 2002 for the fiftieth anniversary celebration of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Clinton Township, Michigan. It was published by Concordia Publishing House in a concertato by Kevin Hildebrand the following year. Its inclusion in *LSB* marks its first printing in a hymnal. The melody used for this hymn was written by famous nineteenth century British composer C. Hubert H. Parry. It is named after Rustington in Sussex, the composer's place of residence when he died in 1918. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)

Lenten services Our Lenten series is called Promised Treasures. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land of heaven. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3; Ephesians 4). This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of God's eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 6:30pm

Theme: Bread of Life

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 6:30pm

Theme: Palms and Victory

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023, 6:30pm

Theme: Water and Blood

Good Friday, April 7, 2023, 1:30pm & 6:30pm

Theme: The Old Rugged, Wooden Cross

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023, 7:00am & 9:30am

Theme: Welcome to the Promised Land of Milk and Honey

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.

	January 2023	February 2023	2022-23 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 98,555.97	\$ 83,943.52	\$ 802,380.42
General Fund Expenses	\$ 96,130.11	\$ 120,232.51	\$ 783,309.28
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ 2,425.86	\$ (36,288.99)	\$ 19,071.14
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 553,801.00	\$ 270,168.00	\$ 3,191,607.85
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,435.00	\$ 2,285.00	\$ 21,796.00


Church Attendance Last Week: 220 (101-119); Communion: 187; Wednesday: 115

Notes:

- Any donations for Lent will go to Mission Fund unless specified otherwise.

In Memory of Cheryl Braley, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Bob & Chelle Dankert, Joyce Burdo, Dan & Brenda Preuss, Gerald & Nancy Preuss, Tom & Jeanette Wardin, Paul & Lauren Moeller, Donald & Denise Potter, Edwin & Pat Watson, Russ & Carol Darby, Dennis & Renee Herhold, Carla McQueen, and Lydia Mueller.*

Easter Flower Orders are due by April 3rd. Just fill out an order form located on the back table in the narthex. You can either mail to the church office or drop your order forms and payment in the memorial stand. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church.




Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

On Our Way to \$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts: \$ 2,400,742

Gifts Received: \$ 1,443,711



Ladies Aid will meet on March 21st at 12:00 noon in the multipurpose room at church. Please bring your own lunch, dessert will be provided. This will be our last business meeting until fall. The April meeting will be a dine -out.

Men's Club Fish Fry The St. Peter Men's Club would like to thank everyone who helped to make our first family style fish fry in three years a success. Many people were needed to serve a meal like this. First of all, we would like to thank all of the people who donated items. Next, we appreciate everyone who worked in the afternoon and evening. This includes the adults, members of our Youth group, and many other young people. Thank you!!! It's always good to see everyone enjoying Christian fellowship. Proceeds from the meal will be used to support our Church and School at St. Peter.

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 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.

Mary Martha. Ladies Aid and all ladies of the congregation- Our Spring dine out is Tuesday, April 18th @ 6:00p.m. located at Sullivan's on Gratiot in Saginaw. Come and enjoy the great food and fellowship. RSVP by April 17th to Coleen Schantz 989-642-2038.

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.



2023 Annual PTL Auction Update: We are just one month away from our auction which will be held at Swan Valley Banquet Center on Saturday, April 15 at 6:00pm (doors open at 5:00pm). Auction tickets are on sale in the school office for \$25 each. There is also the option to purchase a table for an additional \$100. Please click anywhere for more information on the night's festivities. If you have any questions, please contact *Jenn Hahn* at 989-928-3284, *Trisha Knezek* at 989-598-0104, or email stpeterptlauction@gmail.com. Donations will be accepted until March 23 and may be dropped off in the school office. If you have a large item to donate, you may call/text *Trisha* to set up a pick up or drop off time.

Richland Lutheran Cemetery It is time to clean up the grounds and prepare for spring. Please clean off all winter decorations such as grave blankets and wreaths off gravesites by April 1st.

Help Wanted!! We are looking for more volunteers to be videographers for church services. No experience needed. You will be trained to use the equipment. Any help would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested, please call the church office (989.642.8188).

Lenten Suppers *Spencer Marlow* (St. Peter Class of 2022) will be hosting Lenten Suppers during our Lenten season from 5:00pm-6:15pm in the school gym. All meals will include a side salad and beverages. Menu is March 22 - Taco Night with beans and rice.

Looking for a way to serve? Have a desire to make a difference in helping those in need? **God's Helping Hands** collects and distributes free food, clothing, blankets, diapers, and household items. A collaboration between St. Peter Lutheran & Zion Lutheran (17927 Dice Rd.). It is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month from 10AM-noon (9AM-11AM Summer Hours). Volunteers are needed at these distribution times and also on Thursday mornings from 9AM to noon for organizing goods. Interested or have questions: Contact Paul Bohn 989-642-8489 or Joyce Linville 989-642-2047. For more information check their Facebook page.

Sacred Christmas Music... In observation of The Annunciation of Our Lord, You can listen to sacred Christmas music on Saturday, March 25. Listen at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, TuneIn, 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, March 26th, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. John Nunes'* sermon is titled, "Is God Missing in Action?". Is God "missing in action?" Not if we see things from God's eternal perspective.

Community Events:

➤ **The Tri-City Good Friday Worship Service** will be held on April 7, 2023, at the Horizon's Conference Center at 6200 State Street in Saginaw Township at 1 pm. Reverend David A. Davis will be the guest speaker. He is the 13th President of the Michigan District - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod elected to his first term in office in June of 2022. In order to underwrite the cost of this service, we are seeking support from congregation members as we have done in the past. If you would like to donate, place an envelope or a check made out to "Good Friday Service" in the collection. Thank you for any support you can give, and invite your relatives, friends and unchurched acquaintances to join us at the service.

Ushers for next week: Wednesday: *Zack Holifield, Eric Bates* **Saturday:** *Nate McQueen, Gary Graf*
Sunday: *Joe Wardin, Mark Chapin*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"When we ignore the baby in the womb and focus instead on what is now being labeled as the rights of the mother and women's health care, we are turning our backs on God. Never has God authorized killing and called it a right. Never has God condoned promoting abortion and called it health care. His love for life is written throughout Scripture. What are we doing when we ignore His sacred Word?"

- *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life*

Lectionary Summary **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Isaiah 42:14-21

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41 *or* John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

By His Word of the Gospel, Jesus Calls Us Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. "*For his righteousness' sake,*" He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns "*the darkness before them into light*" (Is. 42:16) because He is "*the light of the world*" (John 9:5). The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh "*while it is day,*" until that night "*when no one can work*" (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though "*at one time you were darkness,*" now "*you are light in the Lord*" (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to "*awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead*" (Eph. 5:14).