

NEWS AND NOTES for March 25 & 26, 2023

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.

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, 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 29, 2023, 6:30pm

Theme: Palms and Victory

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

Theme: The Old Rugged, Wooden Cross

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

Theme: Water and Blood

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 | \$ 823,905.67 |
| General Fund Expenses | \$ 96,130.11 | \$ 120,232.51 | \$ 800,098.98 |
| Gain or (Deficit) | \$ 2,425.86 | \$ (36,288.99) | \$ 23,806.69 |
| | | | |
| Building on the Cornerstone Fund | \$ 553,801.00 | \$ 270,168.00 | \$ 3,206,128.17 |
| Missions (Goal: \$35,000) | \$ 1,435.00 | \$ 2,285.00 | \$ 22,770.00 |

Church Attendance Last Week: 242 (48-194); Communion: 178; Wednesday: 127

Notes:

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

Congratulations to *Matt Wardin & Leah Gaeth* on the birth of a baby girl, *Maeve Alyne Wardin*.



BUILDING ON THE CORNERSTONE

Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

On Our Way to \$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts: \$ 2,407,656

Gifts Received: \$ 1,458,232



Directory Pictures The next date for pictures will be Saturday, April 29th 11:00am -4:00pm. Sign-up sheet is on the memorial table. If you have already had your pictures taken, you should have received an email with a link to the gallery. If you have not, please let Karen Dempsey or the Church Office know. For those without an email, Karen will be able to show you your picture Sunday after church or call Karen (989.928.7054) to setup a time.

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.

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).

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.

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: There is less than one month until 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. **The last day to purchase auction tickets is Thursday, April 6, and tickets will NOT be sold at the door so make sure you get your tickets by April 6!** There is also the option to purchase a table for an additional \$100. If you have any questions, please contact *Jenn Hahn* at 989-928-3284, *Trisha Knezek* at 989-598-0104, or email stpeterptlauction@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Premier Conference For Lutheran Laity... You're invited to attend the 2023 Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17 at Concordia University Chicago. Speakers include: LCMS President Matt Harrison, Mollie Hemingway of Fox News, Mark Hemingway of RealClear Investigations, Kyle Mann of The Babylon Bee, Pastor Peter Bender of the Concordia Catechetical Academy, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone and Pastor Will Weedon of The Word of the Lord Endures Forever. The registration fee is \$160 and includes three meals. Reduced room rates, including on-campus dorms, are available. For more information, visit issuesetc.org or call (618) 223-8385.

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, April 2nd, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "Hell: No One Has to Go There". Hell is a serious word, meant to be taken seriously. However, hell doesn't have to be one's inevitable destination.

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: *Kurt Cicinelli, Don Marcy* **Saturday:** *Ray Wardin, Josh McQueen*

Sunday: *Martin Neuenfeldt, Leonard Krueger*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"The God who chose to give us life at the moment of fertilization is the same God who chose to rescue us and redeem us and give us salvation. And He did it by sending His Son, Jesus, to experience every stage of human life so we could be forgiven and given life everlasting with Him!"

- *Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada*

Lectionary Summary **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:1-11

John 11:1-45 (46-53) or John 11:17-27, 38-53

Jesus Christ Is the Resurrection and the Life

The illness and death of Lazarus happened "*that the Son of God may be glorified through it*" (John 11:4). Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus prompted His arrest and crucifixion, whereby He would die "*for the nation*" and gather "*into one the children of God who are scattered abroad*" (John 11:51-52). As He called Lazarus from the tomb and commanded others to "*unbind him, and let him go*" (John 11:44), Jesus also calls us and releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We would not "*submit to God's law,*" nor could we "*please God*" (Rom. 8:7-8), but "*he condemned sin*" in His own flesh so "*that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us*" (Rom. 8:3-4). Now through the Gospel, "*the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells*" in us (Rom. 8:11). His Word breathes His Spirit into our mortal flesh, animating us with His own life. As His ministers preach according to His divine command, the Lord Jesus calls us from the grave into the good land that He gives us (Ezek. 37:12, 14).