

NEWS AND NOTES for May 4 & 5, 2024

May 2024 Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure," (LSB 654). With the widespread usage of the three-year lectionary in many Lutheran churches today, a great need developed for hymns that matched the assigned readings for each day. This text by David Rogner on some of the "kingdom" parables in Matthew helps meet that need. He attended a workshop for hymn writers before *LSB* was published, where the request was made for new hymns pertaining to the parables that were now being read more regularly in Sunday services. After that workshop, he wrote this text based on Matthew 13, which refers to five of the seven parables concerning the kingdom of heaven in that chapter. The text was then paired with a new melody written by Joseph Herl, Professor of Music at Concordia, Seward. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)

Call Received *Mrs. Patrice Sherry* received a call from Peace Lutheran Church and School in Saginaw, MI. Please keep *Mrs. Sherry* in your prayers as she deliberates this call and her current call to St. Peter. May the Holy Spirit guide her in her decision.

St. Peter Ascension Hymn Festival - All of the adult and children's choirs of St. Peter Lutheran Church and School are excited to once again join together to present an Ascension Hymn Festival on Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m. A number of combined choir songs celebrating our risen and ascended Lord will be featured at the service. If you enjoyed the Choral Advent Service, you won't want to miss this event. Plan to invite your friends and neighbors for what is sure to be an exciting celebration. We hope to see you there!



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,576,600
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,255,149
Remaining Commitment Amount:	\$ 244,851

Graceful Threads Females of all ages from nine (9) and above are welcome to join in fellowship and charitable work to God's glory. This group will gather for the purposes of Bible study led by Deaconess Shirley while attendees create charitable gifts by crocheting, knitting, small looms, or hand-sewing. Gifts shall include blankets, hats, scarves, or other such items for the purpose of human comfort and care. No skills necessary, we can teach you the basics. Materials will be supplied and donations accepted. 2nd & 4th Tuesday (Starting Apr. 9) 3 pm to 4:30 pm. We will meet in the Youth Room in the Church building.

VBS registration is open! At Celebrate the Savior VBS, children look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and discover that Jesus gives us the joy of eternal life with Him! Our loving God has given us so much to celebrate – join us June 24 - 28, 9 am to 12:30 pm as we discover how the love of Jesus fills us with joy. Visit myvbs.org/stpeterlutheranhemlock to register. Interested in volunteering, contact Deaconess Shirley or the church office for ways to help!

Family Game Night and buffet-style meal is starting May 10th! Time is 5 pm to 8 pm, open house style (come when you can). This free monthly event promises to bring families and friends together for an evening of enjoyment, connection, and delicious food. It will be held every 2nd Friday of the month. Volunteers to help host are always welcome! Do you have any board games, puzzles, or card games you would like to donate to the supply? Contact Deaconess Shirley or drop them off at the church office.

Another series of GriefShare is beginning June 4th. This is a grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. Please join us: Tuesdays, June 4 through August 27 from 10:30 am to noon. At GriefShare you'll watch a weekly video with counsel and insights from respected grief experts and relatable personal stories – followed by a time of sharing and support. Led by Deaconess Shirley, session topics include what's normal in grief; how to handle difficult emotions; and what to do with regrets, questions, and worries. For more information, contact Deaconess Shirley. Visit www.griefshare.org/groups/235053 or call the church office to register.

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.

	February 2024	March 2024	2023-24 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$100,349.38	\$142,694.81	\$ 1,155,011.31
General Fund Expenses	\$ 123,707.03	\$ 114,400.74	\$ 1,193,257.51
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (23,357.65)	\$ 28,294.07	\$ (38,246.20)
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$55,912.00	\$381,292.00	\$ 2,806,484.72
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$3,587.00	\$9,281.00	\$ 30,670.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 224 (63-161); Communion: 179

Sunday Morning Bible Classes: 67

Articles for the June-August Newsletter will be due to Laura in the Church Office by May 10th!

The St. Peter Men's Club will dine out at Cody's Landing on Midland

Road on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00p.m. Wives and Guests are also invited. If you have any questions, ask Rich Schiemann, Larry Graf, or Jim Bluemer. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sunshine Seniors Dine Out Everyone is invited for a dine out meal on Tuesday, May 14th at 12:00 p.m. at Cam's Brick Oven in St. Charles. We will meet at there at 12:00 p.m. See you there!

In Memory Of:

✠ **John Vogt**, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Carol Wardin, Mary-Martha Society, Wayne & Linda Ackerman, Paul & Lauren Moeller, Harold & Sue Schroeder*. Gifts were also given to the General Fund from *Roger & Pam Breternitz and Ray & Sharon Wohlfeil* and the School Aid Fund from *Carl & Anne Neuenfeldt*.

✠ **Thomas Wenzel**, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Brad & Lynn Smith, Rosemary Burdo, Andrew & Krista Hagarty, Sue Holtrop, Carol Wardin, Dennis & Renee Herhold, Dave & Sharon King, Wayne & Linda Ackerman, Don & Denise Potter, Glenn Hubbell, Fred & Alice Stimpson, Rich & Kathy Schiemann, Andrew & Susan Neuenfeldt, Ronald & Karen Chapin, Sara Wardin, Robert Zastrow, Jim & Donna Bluemer, Carl & Retha Neuenfeldt Sr., Marian Martin, Michael & Marlene Stavely, Rev. Robert Koeppe, and Ernie & Barb Miller*. Gifts were also given to the General Fund from *Roger & Pam Breternitz and Fred & Rhoad Nehmer*.

✠ **Janice Ector**, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Larry & Sheila Bauer, Jean Klug, Harold & Sue Schroeder, Wayne & Linda Ackerman, Karen Pringle, Rev. Robert Koeppen, Mary-Martha Society, and Jim & Donna Bluemer.*

Panther Press Highlights

Artist of the Century: After 53 years of teaching art to many, many artists, *Ms. Lois Parsell* will be retiring at the end of this year. *Ms. Parsell* started teaching at St. Peter in 2014 after a long career of teaching at Vassar High School. We have been blessed with her joy, excitement, and positivity in our school, and our young artists have thrived these last ten years under her guidance and encouragement. Thank you, *Ms. Parsell*, for continuing to remind us all to really look until we see!

Retirement Celebration: We will recognize *Ms. Parsell* at our closing awards ceremony on the last day of school, June 5, and we will have a reception for her following the closing service. There will be a card box available at the celebration to express your thankfulness to her.

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, 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.

Quality, Quantity, Qualified... *Issues, Etc.* is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Movie "Civil War," Brokenness Theology, Pascal's Wager, The Hymn "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth" and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod or 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. Next Sunday, May 12th, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "Unforecastable". It's been said the God's call often comes as a surprise. In Acts 9, we meet three men who found themselves called in ways they could neither forecast nor control.

Community Events:

❖ **The Hemlock Lions Club** is having great success with the scrap metal drive so they are extending until the end of May. Clean up your scrap metal and bring it to the dumpster behind the Richland Township Fire department 1099 N Hemlock Rd. Funds raised will be used to support community of Hemlock.

Ushers for next week: Saturday: *Kurt Cicinelli, Zack Holifield* **Sunday:** *Mark Chapin, Mike Stavely*

Videographer for next week: *Landon Sherry*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ's goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven."

- *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 10:34–48

1 John 5:1–8

John 15:9–17

The Lord Jesus Is with His Church in the Apostolic Ministry of the Gospel

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus is with His Church through the word of His apostles, who "*are witnesses of all that he did.*" He was anointed by God "*with the Holy Spirit and with power,*" and "*he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,*" and so He was with those whom He sent "*to preach to the people*" (Acts 10:38–42). The Holy Spirit is bestowed on those who hear that apostolic preaching, who are "*baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,*" so that "*everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name*" (Acts 10:43–44, 48). For as He came by the water of His Baptism, even to the blood of His Passion, so the Spirit testifies to the truth with "*the water and the blood*" in the apostolic ministry of the Gospel (1 John 5:6–7). By these means, Christ Jesus speaks to us, that His joy may be in us and that our "*joy may be full.*" For this purpose, He appointed the apostles to "*go and bear fruit*" in order to make known His divine friendship to us (John 15:11, 15–16).