


NEWS AND NOTES for May 10 & 11, 2025

Pastoral Candidate, Michael Speckhard was assigned as our Associate Pastor! He and Meagan have five children: Eliza (8), Levi (6), Ezra (3), Delilah (2), and Andrew (1). We are so very thankful that the Lord is sending them to be part of the St. Peter family! He still has classes to attend and papers to write. May 23, 2025 he will graduate. The Speckhard’s have begun the process of looking for a house. He will be ordained and installed here at St. Peter. It is impossible to set a date as there are many things that need to happen first. Please pray for them in this transition and thank and praise God for sending us this beautiful family! God be praised!

Life Team will be giving out carnations to honor all mothers and the sanctity of life this weekend. The children will be handing them out to everyone who is a mother or has a mother.



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:
Gifts Received: \$ 2,731,648

Ascension Service Join us as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord on Thursday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. Both adult and children's choirs and handbell ensembles will be participating in the service. There will be five combined choir songs featured at the service, along with songs sung by each individual choir. Student artwork will also be on display in the gathering space before the service. Be sure to invite your family and friends to hear the wonderful music prepared by our choirs for this celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord.

Volunteers needed to help with Sunday Morning Fellowship. Join our Sunday morning Fellowship crew and help spread smiles one cup at a time! No barista experience required, just a willingness to brew, chat and share a smile with others. Deaconess Shirley will show you the ropes. Sign up for a Sunday (or two 😊) in the church office or call to pick a date.

GriefShare This is a grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. Please join us: Wednesdays, June 4th - August 27 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. 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/247821 or call the church office to register.

Little Lambs Bible Time Join our weekly bible fun for kids & caregivers this summer. Designed for children ages 3 to 6. Older siblings are welcome too. Gather with us each week for stories, songs, and activities that teach God’s love in a fun and engaging way. Tuesdays 10am to 11am starting June 24 to August 19. For more information or to register, call the church office, 989.642.8188.

VBS Registration is Open All children from preschool - 5th grade are invited to join the fun and go on an EPIC Australian Adventure! Vacation Bible School will take place June 16-20 from 9:00am-12:00pm at church. To register for VBS go to <https://www.myvbs.org/stpeterlutheranhemlock>. If you have questions, please contact church office or Deaconess Shirley.

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.

	March 2025	April 2025	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 121,853.30	\$ 137,447.71	\$ 1,343,334.11
General Fund Expenses	\$ 119,960.11	\$ 104,766.91	\$ 1,168,014.47
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ 1,893.19	\$ 32,680.80	\$ 175,319.56
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 15,631.00	\$ 9,305.00	\$ 1,127,617.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 10,522.00	\$ 7,312.00	\$ 35,671.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 351 (51-300); Communion: 218

Ink Cartridges the church will no longer be accepting ink cartridges.

Church Newsletter Articles are due May 16th for the June- August newsletter.

Sunshine Seniors The Sunshine Seniors will have their annual end of the year dine out at Timbers Bar & Grill on State Street on Tuesday, May 13 at noon. Contact Rich Schiemann at 989.642.8923 with any questions.

St. Peter Lutheran School Cook Position Open We are currently seeking a new cook for the 25-26 school year. Please contact *Mr. Eric Hagenow* for more information about the position. *Mrs. Becky Chanin*, our school cook, will be retiring at the end of this school year, and we are so thankful for her dedicated service to our school.

Music Festival The Annual Lutheran Schools Music Festival will be held on Friday, May 16, at Valley Lutheran High School. Everyone is invited to attend the various school performances throughout the day. We have also been asked to remind visitors that it is important to be quiet in the hallways so as not to disturb the performances inside the classrooms. The Seraphim choir will be performing at 1:15 p.m. and the following St. Peter students will be participating in solos and ensembles:

9:16am - Brinley Sullivan, Rozlynn Prentice, Vocal Room 2	11:16am - Rozlynn Prentice, Vocal Room 1
9:32am - Brinley Sullivan, Rozlynn Prentice,	11:32am - Connor McKenzie, Instrumental Room 3
Dean Thomas, Ava Hyatt, Vocal Room 1	11:08am - Charlotte Starke, Jason Good, Instr. Room 2
10:52am - Dean Thomas, Instrumental Room 3	11:40am - Charlotte Starke, Instrumental Room 3
11:16am - Dean Thomas, Kaeden Watson, Instr. Room 1	

Dying Well in Christ: A Forum on the Church’s Care at Life’s End, is a conference for pastors and the people of God who seek to learn more about and help foster a faithful practice of merciful care at life’s end within the body of Christ. Join other faithful Lutherans July 7-9, 2025 on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis Missouri. Use this link to learn more and register: <https://www.csl.edu/dying-well-forum/>

Declaring To You The Whole Counsel Of God... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent interview topics include: Papal Indulgences, A New Report on the Dangers of the Abortion Pill, God’s Revelation in the Genesis Account, Government Incentives for Increased Fertility and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a 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 18th, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler’s* sermon is titled, “Truth That Takes Us In”. Jesus is the Truth Who will take you in to live like He lives, planted in God His Father’s love.

Community News: *See flyers on the bulletin board in the gathering space*

Ushers for next week: Saturday: *Nate McQueen, Jordan McQueen* **Sunday:** *Brad Smith, Tom Wardin*

Videographer for next week: *Scott Neumeyer*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

“As Christians, we know that God’s commitment to upholding life started long ago—before photos—before the beginning of time even. From His ordered creation of the world to His ordered creation of you in your mother’s womb, God’s work has always been life-affirming. Grafted into His family through Baptism, we have become children of God and inheritors of eternal life.”

- *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 20:17–35
Revelation 7:9–17
John 10:22–30

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came from the Father and became flesh among us in order to rescue us, His sheep. He laid down His life for us and took it up again in order to give us eternal life. By the preaching of His Gospel, He calls His sheep to Himself and keeps them with Him forever. As they hear His voice and follow Him, *“they will never perish”* (John 10:28), for *“no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand”* (John 10:29). In the same way, faithful pastors (literally, “shepherds”) *“care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood”* (Acts 20:28), *“testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Acts 20:21). Therefore, with all the company of heaven, the Good Shepherd gathers His flock in worship, as they cry: *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”* (Rev. 7:10).

Dear Members of St. Peter

“Thank You” is too small of an expression for all of your outpouring of love and appreciation you showed me last week. But I want to express a BIG THANK YOU to all of you anyway. It was great. Thanks to all who organized the reception in the Great Room. Very nice!

First, my thanks to Pastor Morris and to the Elders who asked me to assist over the last 11 years. It was a privilege and honor to serve with them in the Lord’s work.

Second, I would like to thank the congregation for being so supportive of me during my cancer bout and showing your expressions of love and mercy.

Third, I would like to thank the congregation for the privilege of serving and ministering to you these many years.

And finally, and most importantly is my thanks to our God and Savior Jesus Christ who gave me the privilege and blessing to share His Word and sacraments among you, That I am eternally thankful.

I pray that our new pastor may be loved and cared for as you have done for me all this time. You will still see me and my family sitting in the same place (creatures of habit) for worship, and enjoying all blessings God has to give at this place...St. Peter Lutheran.

THANK YOU!

In His Name and at Your Service,
Pastor Hagenow