

NEWS AND NOTES for April 27 & 28, 2024

April 2024 Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow," (LSB 476). Pastor Herman Stuempfle was asked to write this hymn in 2001 on the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, a Roman Catholic group. As he retells the Emmaus story, Christ Himself is actively present with His Word, and the singer is led to recognize and receive the risen Lord in Holy Communion. The narrative of the hymn moves from the biblical past to the present and then to the future. It opens with the mourning of death and ends with the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)


Voters' Meeting
April 29th
@ 7:00pm

Sunday Morning Bible Study Please join us after Divine Service from 11:00 to 11:45am located down the hall in the classrooms and Pastor Morris' Bible Study located in the fellowship hall. **Lesson 14** "The King's Table" is the title of today's lesson. Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, suffered crippling injuries at age 5 while escaping Saul's enemies with his nurse. Once David established his kingdom, his thoughts turned to whether there were any survivors from Saul and Jonathan's line. Discovering Mephibosheth, David bestows on him Saul's land and fortune. Mephibosheth's family moves to Jerusalem, where he always eats at the king's table. Discuss how God provides for our daily needs today. Everyone is welcome to join us at Bible Study.

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!

The St. Peter 'Evening of The Arts' will be held on Wednesday, May 1st, beginning at 5:30pm. Hundreds of student artworks will be on display with wonderful music presented for your enjoyment. Viewing art project will be from 5:30pm-6:00pm with musical performances starting at 6:00pm. Students are excited to share what they have created and learned this year in their Art and Music classes. Hope to see you there! -Ms.Parsell and Mr.Heinlein



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	\$ 1,129,477.31
General Fund Expenses	\$ 123,707.03	\$ 114,400.74	\$ 1,149,055.46
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (23,357.65)	\$ 28,294.07	\$ (19,578.13)
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: 298 (63-235); Communion: 194
Sunday Morning Bible Class: 30

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!!

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.

Educating a New Generation Of Lutherans... 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: Taylor Swift's Latest Album, Men Competing in Women's Sports, The Benefits of Liturgical Worship, "I Have Overcome the World," "Love One Another" and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, 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. Next Sunday, May 5th, Guest Speaker *Rev. Dr. John Nunes'* sermon is titled, "Rejoicing On the Way". God empowers His people to share the Gospel with those they meet along the way.

Community Events:

❖ **The Hemlock Lions Club** is having a scrap metal drive for the month of April. 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.

❖ *'I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands forever; that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.'* Psalm 89:1 - 2. Join the **Michigan LLL District at their annual convention** on Saturday, May 11 at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church Worship & Event Center in Frankenmuth to strengthen and encourage your faith walk as you do the same for others. Our guest speakers are Jeff Craig-Meyer, President, U.S. Ministries and Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies, Vice President, Ministry Engagement focusing on *Energizing Mission*. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. with the convention beginning at 9:30 a.m. No cost to register - free-will offerings will be gathered during the event to assist the MI LLL District with meal costs in addition to supporting the Michigan Division of the Orphan Grain Train. Please register by May 3 for meal and seat count for the day. Join us for a day of spiritual growth with inspirational presentations to encourage and equip you as partners in His mission. Complete the registration form which you can find in the rack on a table next to the sanctuary window and return to Philip Krauss, MI LLL District Treasurer, 112 Marshall St., PO Box 74, Brooklyn, MI 49230. If you have any questions or need more information contact Paul Moeller, LHM Ambassador (989-631-1017 or pamoeller@aol.com)

Ushers for next week: Saturday: Kurt Cicinelli, Zack Holifield **Sunday:** Mark Chapin, Mike Stavely
Ascension Thursday: Eric Bates, Tyler Bates

Videographer for next week: Scott Neumeyer

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"It is He who sustains us each and every day. It is He who brings us into the world, and He who draws our earthly lives to a close at the proper time. It is He who was born for us, He who died for us, He who rose for us, and He who reigns on high for us. His is the pattern of our lives."

- *Deaconess Bethany Stoever, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:26-40

1 John 4:1-11 (12-21)

John 15:1-8

Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

"God is love," and He has manifested Himself to us by sending "his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, "he has given us of his Spirit," so that we also believe and confess "that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh." In this way, we "abide in him and he in us," and we "love one another" (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip's preaching of "the good news about Jesus" to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when "they came to some water," the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35-38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into "the true vine," Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He "bears much fruit" in us (John 15:3-5).