

## NEWS AND NOTES for April 20 & 21, 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)

**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 13** Today's lesson, "A King Forever," looks forward to our forever King, Jesus. God sends Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel, with the reminder, "The Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). God rejects each of Jesse's sons, so Samuel sends for the youngest, David, whom God has chosen to become the greatest king of Israel. Surviving Saul's insane jealousy, David becomes king and establishes Jerusalem as his stronghold. As a family, talk about how God used David to unite His people and how Jesus will unite all believers. Everyone is welcome to join us at Bible Study. **Reminder - No Pastor Morris Bible Study this morning**

**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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup>! 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.



### Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Commitments and Gifts:       | \$ 2,573,615 |
| Gifts Received:              | \$ 2,249,394 |
| Remaining Commitment Amount: | \$ 250,606   |

**Call Accepted:** Ms. Kelly Dressler has been led by the Holy Spirit to accept her call to First Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Fort Smith, Arkansas. As we are saddened that she will not be with us next year, we are very happy for her on her new ministry that she will have in Fort Smith. We pray God's blessings as she finishes her year with us, and as she starts her new teaching ministry in Arkansas.

**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!

**God's Helping Hands** is looking for a few good men to help us pick up & transport the food we purchase from the food bank. The food is always delivered on Tuesdays approximately 9:30am in the parking lot at Gratiot & Center, Saginaw. We purchase food about every 5-6 weeks. If you are interested in help, please call Joyce Linville 989.642.2047.

**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        | \$ 1,114,615.06             |
| General Fund Expenses            | \$ 123,707.03         | \$ 114,400.74       | \$ 1,126,406.46             |
| <b>Gain or (Deficit)</b>         | <b>\$ (23,357.65)</b> | <b>\$ 28,294.07</b> | <b>\$ (11,791.40)</b>       |
|                                  |                       |                     |                             |
| Building on the Cornerstone Fund | \$55,912.00           | \$381,292.00        | \$ 2,800,729.72             |
| Missions (Goal: \$35,000)        | \$3,587.00            | \$9,281.00          | \$ 30,298.00                |

**Church Attendance Last Week: 289 (74-215); Communion: 183**

**Sunday Morning Bible Class: 63**

**Community Open House** you are cordially invited to come walk through our recently added addition to the church on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Feel free to bring friends, family, or community members to come walk through the new facility.

**Voters' Meeting**  
**April 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 7:00pm**

### **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](http://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.

**Defending The Faith, Teaching The Truth...** 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 subjects include: Biblical Christianity vs. Progressive Christianity, The Movie "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire," Polygamy in the Bible, Responding to Roman Catholic Proof Texts and more. You can listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), 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](http://www.lhm.org). Next Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "We Can't Stop Talking". Jesus calls His followers to undergo transformation, endure opposition, and engage others in conversation. Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect.

**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.
- ❖ The Michigan LLL District invites you to come together and celebrate the impact that the Lord makes in people's lives every day at their annual convention on Saturday, May 11 at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church Worship & Event Center in Frankenmuth. 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. 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](mailto:pamoeller@aol.com))

**Ushers for next week: Saturday:** Gary Graf, Corey Harry **Sunday:** Matt Wardin, Larry Graf

**Videographer for next week:** Landon Sherry

***A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan***

"Scripture and prayer are our strongest weapons to change hearts, and we must persist and never give up, no matter how disappointing things get with evil laws being enacted or evil intent coming our way."

- Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 4:1–12

1 John 3:16–24

John 10:11–18

***Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life for the Sheep***

The Lord Jesus is "*the good shepherd*" who "*lays down his life for the sheep*" (John 10:11). His life is not taken from Him, but He lays it down willingly, of His own accord, because He knows and loves the sheep. As the One sent by the Father, He has the "*authority to lay it down*" and the "*authority to take it up again*" (John 10:18). So has He done, and now He continues to love and serve as the Good Shepherd of the sheep by the voice of His Gospel. He thus calls all people into the fold of His Church, so that there may be "*one flock, one shepherd*" (John 10:16). That is why the apostles "*were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead*" (Acts 4:2). Since "*there is salvation in no one else,*" His voice rings out to this day through the preaching of His name, "*for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12). His voice comforts our hearts against all condemnation and gives us courage to "*love one another*" and "*to lay down our lives for the brothers,*" as He laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16, 23).