

NEWS AND NOTES for May 11 & 12, 2024



The altar flowers this weekend is honoring all mothers on Mother's Day.

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 Declined I am very blessed to be a called teacher at St. Peter. God has shown me over these past few weeks that my ministry at St. Peter is still needed. I didn't know how deep my love for St. Peter was until these weeks of deliberation. The Holy Spirit filled my heart with all the great things about St. Peter, especially all the wonderful people that have helped to guide and instruct me as a student when I came to St. Peter in first grade (1992) to now, a first-grade teacher (2024). I feel God has directed me to remain a teacher at St. Peter, and I pray that I may continue to do His work here as I serve. *Psalm 28:7 "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him and He helps me."* -Mrs. Patrice Sherry



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,578,944
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,263,198
Remaining Commitment Amount:	\$ 236,802

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 3 pm to 4:30 pm. We will meet in the Youth Room in the Church.

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	\$ 2,814,533.72
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$3,587.00	\$9,281.00	\$ 31,602.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 315 (59-256); Communion: 221

Ladies Aid- World Relief Quilters will not meet on Tuesdays after Memorial Day. Those that wish to continue working on World Relief quilts will meet on Thursdays with the hand quilters anytime time from 10am-2pm in the church craft room during the summer. The Tuesday meetings will start back up in the fall.

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.

Limited Space For "Making The Case" Conference... There are less than 100 slots left for the 2024 Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13 at Concordia University Chicago. Speakers include: 12 Time All-American Swimmer Riley Gaines, Mollie Hemingway of Fox News, Mark Hemingway of RealClear Investigations, Pastor Chris Rosebrough of Fighting for the Faith, Aaron Renn of The American Conservative, Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller of "Has American Christianity Failed?," 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, May 19th, Guest Speaker *Rev. Dr. Jason Broge's* sermon is titled, "Waiting, But Not Alone". Jesus leaves His followers waiting for Him to return but He promises they will not be left alone.

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

"Now we get to receive and enjoy our times and our lives as blessings. And we get to do the same with the gifts and privileges that each of our neighbors embodies, from unborn to elderly and from fertilization to forever. The Lord our God has blessed us for the purpose of life, and He has blessed us for the duration of life. So, let's partake in the blessing of proclaiming God's truth and putting Christ's love into practice, even as the Psalmist himself does!"

- *Pastor Michael Salemink*

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:12-26

1 John 5:9-15

John 17:11b-19

Our Great High Priest Preserves Us in the Name of His Father

On the eve of His Passion, Christ Jesus intercedes for the disciples as their merciful and great High Priest. He prays that His Father would protect them "*from the evil one*" and preserve them in His name (John 17:11-12, 15). Along with His prayer, Christ Himself comes to the Father by His self-sacrifice upon the cross, thereby consecrating Himself for the sake of His disciples, "*that they also may be sanctified in truth*" (John 17:19). To that same end, He speaks to them in the world and gives them His Father's Word, that is, Himself. His apostles, in turn, have written these things "*to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life*" (1 John 5:13). For "*this life is in his Son,*" whom He has given by His Word, and "*whoever has the Son has life*" (1 John 5:11-12). By this apostolic testimony, disciples are gathered together "*with one accord,*" as one Body in Christ, "*devoting themselves to prayer*" and waiting upon the Lord in "*the upper room*" of His Church on earth (Acts 1:13-14).