

NEWS AND NOTES for March 16 & 17, 2024

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 9** As we gather today, we will study “A Loving Law.” Months into their wilderness wanderings, the Israelites arrive in the wilderness of Sinai. God comes to the mountain in clouds and thunder – fire and smoke – as He establishes His covenant with His people through Moses, His chosen intermediary. There on the mountain, God gives Moses His Ten Commandments. Discuss why the Ten Commandments are still important in our lives today. Everyone is welcome to join us at Bible Study.

March 2024 Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "The Tree of Life," (LSB 561). Pastor Steven Starke found his chief inspiration for this hymn text in the words of the Preface for Holy Week. While leading the Divine Service, he read the words, “And that he who by a tree once overcame likewise by a tree might be overcome.” He wrote this hymn to develop a broader understanding of the theme that although Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat of the tree in the Garden of Eden, he was ultimately overcome by Jesus, who saved all people by the tree of the cross. This hymn was written in 1993 and was intended to be sung with the Irish Christmas song “Wexford Carol.” Ultimately the hymn text was paired to a new hymn tune written by Bruce Becker. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)

Call Received Ms. Kelly Dressler received a call from First Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Please keep Ms. Dressler in your prayers as she deliberates this call and her current call to St. Peter. May the Holy Spirit guide her in her decision.



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:	
Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,562,750
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,186,753
Remaining Commitment Amount:	\$ 313,247

Volunteer pairs/groups/families needed! If you love serving others, we need your help! As we begin our new fellowship time after Sunday morning church service, we need small groups of 2-3 folks each week for making coffee, setting out cookies and greeting others. You may sign up alone or sign up with a friend, child, or family member. Training will be given. A sign-up sheet will be available each week during fellowship time or call the church office. Please see Emily Abraham with any questions. Thank you as you prayerfully consider how to serve our faith family here at St. Peter!

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.

GriefShare is a grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. Please join us: January 28 – April 28 from 4 to 6 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 or visit griefshare.org/groups/175182 to register.

Divorce Care Please join us: January 28 – April 28 from 1 to 3 pm. Divorce Care is a 13-week support group that helps you heal from the pain of separation or divorce. It is held in a caring, confidential environment led by people who understand what you are going through. You’ll learn practical information that will help you deal with the challenges of divorce. Best of all, with this Christ-centered care, you will gain hope for the future. For more information, contact Deaconess Shirley or visit divorcecare.org/groups/175181 to register.

Ladies Aid will meet at noon in the craft room at church on March 19th. Please bring a sack lunch dessert will be provided.

Men’s Club News: The St. Peter Men’s Club says “Thank you” to everyone who helped to make our family style fish fry a success. We served a total of 560 meals. This would not have been possible without the help of many people. To everyone who made donations, who prepared and served the meals, and who purchased dinners, we say Thank You! Proceeds from the fish fry will be used to support the church and school.

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.

	January 2024	February 2024	2023-24 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$103,390.03	\$100,349.38	\$ 979,526.80
General Fund Expenses	\$ 131,974.21	\$ 123,707.03	\$ 949,780.01
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (28,584.18)	\$ (23,357.65)	\$ 29,746.79
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$87,202.50	\$87,202.50	\$ 2,338,088.72
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$2,644.00	\$2,644.00	\$ 23,142.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 255 (77-178); Lent: 120; Communion: 179

Sunday Morning Bible Classes: 69

Notes:

- Any donations in Lenten envelopes will go to the Mission Fund unless otherwise specified.

Inkjet Cartridges Please bring your used ink cartridges to the church to be recycled. A collection bin is available in the chapel.

Richland Lutheran Cemetery It is time to clean up the grounds and prepare for spring. Please clean off all winter decorations such as grave blankets and wreaths off gravesites by April 1st.

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, 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.

19th Annual PTL Auction 2024: The auction is less than a month away! Purchase tickets for the "Mystery Dinner" Auction on Saturday, April 13, 2024, in the school office. Tickets are \$30 each and will not be sold at the door. There are a couple of reserved tables still available for \$100. Donations are being accepted and may be dropped off in the school office. For more information click anywhere in this article.

Important Auction Update: This is GREAT NEWS!!! All proceeds from this year's auction will be matched dollar for dollar by a very generous donor. We are very thankful for this special donation. A majority of the auction funds will go towards our Early Childhood playground and to add a special latex layer on our new track.

Galatians Bible Study... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon begins a study this week on the Book of Galatians. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, the LPR mobile app 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, March 24th, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, “Repurposed Joy and Junk”. There are artists who can take old junk and turn it into something new and beautiful. Dr. Michael Zeigler tells how Jesus repurposes both the junk and the joy in our lives.

Community Events:

- ❖ **Hemlock VFW Fish Dinners** will be every Friday, Feb 16 thru March 29. Dine in & take out served 4:00-7:00pm, Perch \$18, Frog legs \$17, Shrimp \$16, Chicken Strips \$15, Combo Platter \$25. All meals include french fries or baked potato, coleslaw, roll, & dessert. Support your veterans while enjoying a delicious meal.
- ❖ **The Tri-City Good Friday Worship Service** will be held on March 29, 2024 at the Horizon’s Conference Center at 6200 State Street in Saginaw Township at 1 pm. Reverend Dean Davenport, a Vice-President of the Michigan District Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and a Pastor at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia, will be the guest speaker. In order to underwrite the cost of this service, we are seeking support from congregation members as we have done in the past. If you would like to donate, place an envelope or a check made out to “Good Friday Service” in the collection. Thank you for any support you can give, and invite your relatives, friends and unchurched acquaintances to join us.

Ushers for next week: Wednesday: *Kyle Smith, Josh McQueen* **Saturday:** *Brad Smith, Ray Wardin*
Sunday: *Matt Wardin, Joe Wardin*

Videographer for next week: Sunday: *Scott Neumeyer* **Wednesday(20th):** *Sheila Bauer*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

“God loves everybody. God loves people that are big and small. God loves people that are every age. God loves people no matter where we live. All people are special to God. The Bible says, ‘For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand’ (Ephesians 2:10). God has good things for each of us.”

- Timothy, a sixth grader from southern Minnesota, who has Down syndrome

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jeremiah 31:31–34
Hebrews 5:1–10
Mark 10:(32–34) 35–45

In the Holy Sacraments, We Share the Glory of the Cross of Christ

Jesus catechizes His disciples in the way of the cross, revealing that He will be condemned and put to death “*and after three days he will rise*” (Mark 10:33–34). But the Twelve do not understand. Instead, they argue among themselves about who will be the greatest, with James and John requesting the places of honor on either side of Jesus in His glory. However, Jesus has come to make Himself the “*slave of all*” and “*to give his life as a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:43–45). He shares the true glory of His cross with all who are baptized with His Baptism and with those who drink His cup of salvation, the New Testament in His blood (Mark 10:39). By these Holy Sacraments, the Lord makes Himself known to all His people, forgiving their sins “*from the least of them to the greatest*” (Jer. 31:33–34). Though He is the very Son of God, “*he learned obedience through what he suffered*” and so became our great High Priest, that we may enter His glory by the way of His sacrifice (Heb. 5:8–10).