


## NEWS AND NOTES for February 10 & 11, 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 4** In today's lesson, "A Call to Action," Abram responds to God's calling as he leaves his idolatry and homeland to follow the one true God. Abram takes his wife, Sarai, and nephew Lot as they journey to the land of Canaan. The Lord's appearance prompts Abram to build an altar, celebrating God's promise to give this land to his descendants. Discuss how God guides and leads us by His Word today. Everyone is welcome to join us at Bible Study.

**February Featured Hymn:** This month our featured hymn is "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart," (LSB 641). When the 41st International Eucharistic Congress was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in August of 1976, a competition was held for the hymn that best expressed the theme of the conference. This hymn by Omer Westendorf was chosen from over two hundred entries. While it was a Catholic hymn in origin, it has become popular in many other churches since then. This hymn was originally titled "Gift of Finest Wheat." The tune was composed by Robert Kreutz. It was named Bicentennial since it was written in 1976, the same year as the bicentennial celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which also has connections to the city of Philadelphia. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns) Perhaps we can look forward to a new hymn being written in the year 2026 with the tune name Semiquincentennial.

	<b>Building on the Cornerstone Campaign</b>	
	<b>\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:</b>	
	Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,550,093
	Gifts Received:	\$ 2,080,407
	Remaining Commitment Amount:	\$ 419,593

**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. Please see Emily Abraham with any questions. Thank you as you prayerfully consider how to serve our faith family here at St. Peter!

**We need your help!** The church is looking for more volunteers to help with Videography. No experience is necessary. It's a very easy system to use. Training will be given. Please call the church office if you are interested 989.642.8188.

**Did you know??** You can access the weekly order of service and news notes on our website. Go to [www.stpeterhemlock.org](http://www.stpeterhemlock.org). At the top and click on the Church heading. A menu will drop down revealing links to the Weekly Order of Service and Weekly News & Notes along with many other resources at your fingertips.

**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.

	November 2023	December 2023	2023-24 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$137,770.51	\$165,781.01	\$ 819,781.16
General Fund Expenses	\$ 157,536.48	\$ 124,130.85	\$ 816,944.66
<b>Gain or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (19,765.97)</b>	<b>\$ 41,650.16</b>	<b>\$ 2,836.50</b>
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$87,202.50	\$141,575.90	\$ 2,231,742.72
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$2,644.00	\$5,990.00	\$ 17,023.00

**Church Attendance Last Week: 293 (78-215); Communion: 219**

**Sunday Morning Bible Classes: 68**

**Notes:**

- **Any donations in Ash Wednesday/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.

**Sunshine Seniors** Everyone 50 and older is invited to the St. Peter Sunshine Seniors potluck and gathering at the church on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 12:00 noon. Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Our Richland Township Police Chief, Jack Doyle will be our speaker. Come and bring your friends.

**Mary Martha** St. Peter Ladies please join us for our next Mary Martha meeting Tues., **Feb. 13**, at 7 pm. Wear your red and we'll share some Valentine treats before our business meeting. We will meet in the church conference room where the church office use to be located. Hope you can join us and bring a friend.

**St. Peter Fish Fry** will take place on Friday, March 8 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. More details to come. Volunteer help and donations will again be needed. Profits from the Fish Fry are used for School and Church projects.

**Ladies Aid News from World Relief Quilters** we are all settled into our wonderful new quilting room at the church and are hard at work piecing, layering, and hand tying our world relief quilts. Our goal this year is 100 quilts. At this point we have several quilts layered and waiting to be hand tied. We could use help tying the quilts, no fancy stitching required. It is just tying threads that holds the quilt layers together. So, if you are interested come join us on Tuesday mornings anytime from 9am to noon. If you know a friend that would be interested, bring them along Any questions contact Sharon King at 989.233.1164.

**GriefShare** grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one is starting soon. 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](http://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](http://divorcecare.org/groups/175181) to register.

## 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.

**Sacred Music For The Season Of Lent...** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," "My Song Is Love Unknown," "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth." Beginning Ash Wednesday, you can listen to sacred music for the season of Lent 24/7 at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), TuneIn, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

**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, February 18<sup>th</sup>, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "Redeeming DIY". Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about spiritual growth in the season of Lent and dying to self in a "do-it-yourself" world.

### Community Events:

❖ **VLHS Benefit Dinner & Auction!** Our Theme is "Monopoly" This year's annual auction is set for Saturday, February 24, 2024, at The DoubleTree in Bay City. Your support has impacted Valley Lutheran with improvements in programs, equipment, transportation, physical school improvements, and most importantly STUDENT AID. We could use your help again - we are asking for items to be donated and put up for bid (merchandise, tickets, services, vacation homes, gift cards, etc.). There are also opportunities to participate by way of prayer, advertising, sponsorship, attending the auction or bidding virtually. Go to [www.vlhsauction.com](http://www.vlhsauction.com) for more information and check out our often-updated list of items. For further information or questions, you may call Heidi Behnke at Valley Lutheran at 989-790-1676, Beth (Lambert) Kaul 989-754-5918 [bkaul@vlhs.com](mailto:bkaul@vlhs.com).

❖ **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.

**Ushers for next week: Saturday:** Kurt Cicinelli, Ryan Cicinelli **Sunday:** Larry Graf, Mark Chapin

**Wednesday (21<sup>st</sup>):** Ray Wardin, Corey Harry

**Videographer for next week: Sunday:** Landon Sherry

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

"We live dripping with the promise of Baptism. We live fueled by the fire of God's Word. We live created on the sixth day and recreated by God's grace to be followers of Jesus seven days of the week until that great eighth day, called eternity, when we will sing praise in His presence forever. We live and we love and we are loved in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, sin forgiven, shame erased, status: all very good."

- Rev. Dr. John Nunes, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"

### **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

2 Kings 2:1-12 or Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (14-18); 4:1-6

Mark 9:2-9

### ***The Face of Jesus Christ Manifests the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God***

It was "a hard thing" that Elisha asked, but by his persistence he was able to see the prophet Elijah being taken "by a whirlwind into heaven." Although "chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them," Elisha received Elijah's cloak and a "double portion" of his spirit for preaching the Lord's Word (2 Kings 2:9-11). It was a hard thing, too, for Israel to see Moses and come near to him, when "the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God" (Ex. 34:29-30). Therefore, after "he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai," Moses "put a veil over his face" (Ex. 34:32-33). Only the Word of the Gospel lifts the veil, and "only through Christ is it taken away" (2 Cor. 3:14). Thus are we able to behold "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ," who is "the image of God" (2 Cor. 4:4-6). For the Law and the prophets are all fulfilled in Him. Therefore, "listen to him," and fix your sights on "Jesus only" (Mark 9:7-8).

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**For church or school inquiries, please contact:**

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