


NEWS AND NOTES for December 14 & 15, 2024

The Nominating Committee would like the congregation to be aware of the positions that will be open for the January 2025 election. Contact the Nominating Committee (Laura Kopplin, Renee Herhold, and Lynn Smith) for more information or to place your name on the ballot. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talents for the following positions:

Chairman (1-year term)	Vice-Chairman (1-year term)
Building Treasurer (3-year term)	Assistant Treasurer (3-year term)
Elder (3-year term & 1 year term) multiple openings	Trustee (3-year term) multiple openings
Head Usher (1-year term)	Financial Secretary (3 year term)
Board of Finance (3-year term)	Board of Education (3-year term) with & without kids
Evangelism Committee (3-year term) 2 openings	Board of Financial Review (3-year term)
Nominating Committee (3-year term)	

December Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied," LSB 342. This hymn was written by Pastor Stephen Starke after he completed a sermon study of Isaiah 11:1-10. He wrote this hymn to paraphrase Isaiah 11, and included references to the various prophecies that point to the coming of the Messiah. The words of the hymn take us back to the garden of Eden and forward to a peace that is yet to come, through the leading of a little child, the Savior Jesus, in both His first and second comings. This hymn was first used by the Concordia Theological Seminary Kantorei in a 2000 tour and was recorded later that year on compact disc, where it used the tune from the hymn "Where Charity and Love Prevail," LSB 845. It is now paired with the nineteenth-century American hymn tune "Consolation," which is also used for LSB 348. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,682,018
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,599,577

The Christmas Love Tree is up in the Gathering Space and loaded with tags to help fill the needs of the residents at HealthSource Saginaw and Wellspring Family Services. If your heart leads you to help with these needs, please take a tag or two from the tree and purchase the items. All gifts are to be left unwrapped and placed under the Love Tree no later than December 15. Thank you for your giving hearts during this joyous season.

Teacher Position Available Due to our increasing enrollment and class sizes, the Board of Christian Education has decided to split our 5th-6th grade classes next school year. The Board has requested a call list with rostered candidates from the Michigan District and is accepting resumes from qualified teachers who may be interested in these grade levels. Resumes should be sent to *Mr. Eric Hagenow* by mail or email (eric.hagenow@stpeterhemlock.org).

Volunteers needed to help with Sunday Morning Fellowship. Join our Sunday morning Fellowship crew and help spread smiles one cup at a time! No barista experience required, just a willingness to brew, chat and share a smile with others. Deaconess Shirley will show you the ropes. Sign up for a Sunday (or two 😊) in the church office or call to pick a date.

Prayer Shawl Circle - You are warmly invited to join our Prayer Shawl Circle! Together, we will create shawls that offer comfort and love to those in need, whether they are facing illness, loss, or any life challenge. We will pray through the Psalms as we work on the shawls. Meeting weekly on Mondays from 1 pm to 2:30 pm in Classroom 2. Yarn, materials and patterns will be provided or bring your own. For more details, contact Deaconess Shirley.

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.

	October 2024	November 2024	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 93,506.54	\$ 130,112.97	\$ 603,023.41
General Fund Expenses	\$ 128,960.73	\$ 126,749.95	\$ 564,908.45
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (35,454.19)	\$ 3,363.02	\$ 38,114.96
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 220,988.00	\$ 325,748.00	\$ 795,546.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,623.00	\$ 3,027.00	\$ 11,005.00

****Any donations in Advent Envelopes will go to Mission Fund unless otherwise specified.**

Church Attendance Last Week: 232 (75-157); Communion: 185; Advent Service: 68

Church Office Hours during Christmas Break: Monday, Dec 23, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Friday, Dec 27, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Monday, Dec 30, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Friday, Jan 3, 9:00am - 1:00 pm

In Memory of:

- † **Herbert Rueger**, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Fred & Alice Stimpson* and *Roger & Pam Breternitz*.
- † **Lottie Wardin**, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Carla McQueen* and *Dennis & Renee Herhold*.
- † **Miss Jean Thomas**, gifts were given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Brad & Lynn Smith*, *Mike & Joanna Wardin*, *Rosemary Burdo*, *Joyce Burdo*, *Bob & Chelle Dankert*, *Rich & Carol Mallory*, *Barry & Karla Tessin*, *Alex & Karin Todd*, *Elenora Bohn*, *Bille Jo Bluemer*, *Richard & Jill Wardin*, *Don & Denise Potter*, *Dennis & Renee Herhold*, *Harold & Sue Schroeder*, *Roger & Pam Breternitz*, *Rich & Kathy Schiemann*. Gifts were also given to the General Fund from *Billie Jo Bluemer* and *Fred & Rhoda Nehmer*. Gifts were given to the School Endowment Fund by *Dave & Kae Pankow* and *Larry & Sheila Bauer*. A gift was given to the Student Aid Fund by *Carl & Anne Neuenfeldt*. A gift was given to Handbells by *Ernie & Barb Miller*.
- † **Dorothy Hahn**, a gift was given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Gary & Jennifer Hahn*.

Truth, Goodness & Beauty... 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: The Movie "Gladiator II," The Hymn "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," Roman Catholicism & Indulgences, Mary Visits Elizabeth, The Testimony of John the Baptist and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn or a 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, December 22nd, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?". Jesus sets a good example, but good examples can't help dead people. Only God's Son can make us alive again.

Community News:

See flyers on the bulletin board in the gathering space

Ushers for next week: Advent Service: *Dan Sherry; Todd Starke* **Saturday:** *Kyle Smith, Josh McQueen*
Sunday: *Mike Wardin, Eric Starke*

Videographer for next week: Advent Service: *Landon Sherry* **Sunday:** *Sheila Bauer*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"Who is going to be king? Christ or Herod? Christ or I? Every day we make dozens of decisions which either acknowledge Christ's lordship or which assert our own. The star of the Magi reminds the Christian that he has a gracious King to whom he can, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, submit his will and live. By His word Christ desires to reign in our hearts through faith!"

- *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)

The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice

The Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning "Rejoice!" For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; "*he has cleared away your enemies,*" "*taken away the judgments against you*" and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to "*rejoice in the Lord always,*" knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even "*the dead are raised up*" (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6).