

NEWS AND NOTES for August 21 & 24, 2025

Welcome Alex Frisco and Family We are happy to welcome Mrs. Alex Frisco, our new 5th grade teacher, and her family, Eric (husband) with children Ella, Jackson, and Samantha, to our church and school. Mrs. Frisco, will be installed during our 9:30am worship service Sunday, August 24. There will be a reception following the service and a card box to welcome her and her family to our church and school.

The Speckhard Family Dinners Meagan and I are so grateful for the wonderful reception this congregation has given us. We would love to get to know each and every one of you better. To help us do that, we are inviting you to sign up for a time to have dinner with us sometime over the next year. The sign-up sheet is in the church office on Laura's desk. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns!



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Gifts Received: \$ 2,767,743

Service Opportunity Gathering We invite you to stay after Divine Service on Sunday, August 24th for a Service Opportunity Gathering. Join us in the Fellowship Hall to learn about the various groups within our church and discover meaningful ways to serve both our church and our community. This is a wonderful chance to connect, ask questions, and find the perfect fit for your gifts and passions. The various groups/organizations will have tables set up highlighting what they do and welcoming you to join. There are opportunities for individuals and families. We hope to see you there as we prayerfully discern how we can work together in mission and service.

GriefShare is beginning September 7th. This is a grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. Please join us: Sundays, September 7 through November 30 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 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. Visit www.griefshare.org/groups/247822 or call the church office to register.

Youth Group News Attention all senior high youth, next summer is the Michigan District High School Youth gathering! This event is a three-night stay on Mackinac Island for all high school youth across the state of Michigan. This is a great time and opportunity for fellowship, and to get together with other youth groups from around the state! This event is for all current high school students, and for current 8th graders who will be in high school during the 2026-2027 school year. The dates for this event are Sunday June 28th through Wednesday July 1st, 2026. During the upcoming months we will begin fundraising for this event. Please keep an eye out in the church bulletin and the Panther Press for more information as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Wolter at 989-395-5812 or at anthony.wolter@stpeterhemlock.org. Thanks, and God's blessings.

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.

	June 2025	July 2025	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 141,917.29	\$ 184,973.51	\$ 1,733,882.73
General Fund Expenses	\$ 148,450.73	\$ 141,844.34	\$ 1,586,224.59
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (6,533.44)	\$ 43,129.17	\$ 147,658.14
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 13,022.00	\$ 9,315.00	\$ 1,159,704.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,632.00	\$ 1,469.00	\$ 39,868.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 251 (63-188); Communion: 176

Sunday Morning Bible Study begins September 7 from 11 am until 11:45 am. Pastor Speckhard will teach the Parables of Jesus in the Fellowship Hall, while the Enduring Faith classes meet in the church classrooms. Lessons explore God's faithfulness, provision, and promises across biblical history. There are three classes: adult, youth (5th-12th grade), and children (3 years through 4th grade).

Lutheran World Relief Kits Thank you, faithful LWR givers! So far, we have 57 school kits and 26 personal care kits. Keep the items coming. High demand items: notebooks, pencil sharpeners, crayons, Bath towels, bars of soap, combs, and toothbrushes. For the sewers out there, if you have sewing kits, please drop them off too. Donations can be dropped off at church in the cabinet labelled Lutheran World Relief across from the bathrooms on the north side of the sanctuary. LouAnn Krueger 989.274.9720

School Kits –

- 70-sheet notebooks (4 for each kit)
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- Blunt-tip scissors
- Pencil sharpener
- 30-centimeter ruler
- Ball point pens
- #2 pencils

Personal Care Kits –

- Light-weight, dark-color bath-size towel (approx. 52" x 27")
- 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap, equaling 8 to 9 ounces
- Adult-size toothbrush in original packaging
- Large-tooth, sturdy comb
- Metal nail clippers

Fabric Kits –

Two spools of 250-300 yards of matching general-purpose thread and **two** pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabrics in sizes below:
 · 2 ¼ yards of 60" OR 3 yards of 44" wide OR 4 yards of 36" wide

The Book Of Numbers Series... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to a series of interviews with Dr. Reed Lessing, author of the new book "Hope in the Wilderness: Practical Insights from the Book of Numbers," at issuesetc.org/bookofnumbers..

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, August 31st, Guest Speaker *Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer's* sermon is titled, "Live Narrows Down". "Life narrows down and crisis comes. There, in the narrow place stands Jesus."

Community News: *See flyers on the bulletin board in the gathering space*

Ushers for next week: Thursday: Kyle Smith, Nate McQueen **Sunday:** Ben Wardin, Tom Wardin

Videographer for next week: Charlotte Starke

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"We stand together, one in mind and heart, and with one voice, in defense of the lives of our unborn children—God's precious little ones. Yet, what we stand for is not only the lives of these precious unborn children but also the moms, the dads, the grandmas and grandpas, the young and the old, the healthy and the sick and dying. What we stand for is the very value—the very gift—of life itself."

- Pastor Paul Clark, LFL of Michigan

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 66:18–23

Hebrews 12:4–24 (25–29)

Luke 13:22–30

The Cross of Christ Is the Way into the Kingdom of God

With the cross of Christ, the time has come "*to gather all nations and tongues*" (Is. 66:18). The sign of the cross is set forth in the preaching of the Gospel, the declaration of the Lord's glory "*among the nations*" (Is. 66:19). Many "*will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God*" (Luke 13:29), but only by the narrow way of the cross. Those who refuse to follow Christ crucified will ultimately find only "*weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Luke 13:28), whereas Christ's disciples, called from all the nations, will eat and drink with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God. They will come into "*the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem*" (Heb. 12:22).

Grace in Action: A Day of Compassion & Care

Join us for a special one-day service event hosted by the Lutherans for Life team! On Saturday October 4 from 9 am until 1 pm, our church family will come together to help our elderly neighbors with light chores such as yard work, light housekeeping, and other small tasks — demonstrating Christ's love through service.

Are you or someone you know in need of a helping hand?

If you, a family member, or a friend within a 10-mile radius of the church could use assistance, please sign up to receive help.

Would you like to serve?

We invite individuals and families to volunteer their time and talents to make a difference in someone's life. If you can spare a few hours, your help is appreciated! Lunch will follow the service event. Donations of materials such as lawn bags, cleaning supplies, etc are appreciated.

Sign up for help or to volunteer at the Lutherans for Life Team table in the Fellowship Hall during the Service Opportunity event on August 24, utilize the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Space, or call the church office by September 29.

Let's show the love of Christ in action—together, we can make a real difference! Thank you for your heart to serve.