

## NEWS AND NOTES for April 13 & 14, 2024

**April 2024 Featured Hymn:** This month our featured hymn is "Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow," (LSB 476). Pastor Herman Stuempfle was asked to write this hymn in 2001 on the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, a Roman Catholic group. As he retells the Emmaus story, Christ Himself is actively present with His Word, and the singer is led to recognize and receive the risen Lord in Holy Communion. The narrative of the hymn moves from the biblical past to the present and then to the future. It opens with the mourning of death and ends with the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)

**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.

**Celebrate the Savior VBS** is June 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 12:30pm. A ticket board is on display in the gathering space with donation requests. Please return donations to the church on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are still looking for volunteers to help please contact Deaconess Shirley or the church office for more information.

**Family Game Night** and buffet-style meal is starting May 10<sup>th</sup>! 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.



### Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,572,258
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,216,424
Remaining Commitment Amount:	\$ 283,576

**Call Accepted:** Ms. Kelly Dressler has been led by the Holy Spirit to accept her call to First Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Fort Smith, Arkansas. As we are saddened that she will not be with us next year, we are very happy for her on her new ministry that she will have in Fort Smith. We pray God's blessings as she finishes her year with us, and as she starts her new teaching ministry in Arkansas.

**You are invited to join us** on Monday, April 15 at 9:30am or Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the church conference room to near Nathan Federwitz from Lutheran Bible Translators in Africa. LBT Missionaries live among people who have no written language in order to develop an alphabet in which eventually the Bible can be translated in the language of their heart. Hear how God has called workers in the harvest field.

**Endowment Requests** The endowment committee meets soon. Please pick up an endowment request form in the back of the church and fill it out with your ideas on how to use our available funds to further the kingdom of God within our congregation and the community. Turn in any requests by April 15th to Caleb Abraham in person, via email (caleb.j.g.abraham@gmail.com), or the Church office.

**God's Helping Hands** is looking for a few good men to help us pick up & transport the food we purchase from the food bank. The food is always delivered on Tuesdays approximately 9:30am in the parking lot at Gratiot & Center, Saginaw. We purchase food about every 5-6 weeks. If you are interested in help, please call Joyce Linville 989.642.2047.

**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	\$ 1,084,047.43
General Fund Expenses	\$ 123,707.03	\$ 114,400.74	\$ 1,069,448.32
<b>Gain or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (23,357.65)</b>	<b>\$ 28,294.07</b>	<b>\$ 14,599.11</b>
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$55,912.00	\$381,292.00	\$ 2,767,759.72
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$3,587.00	\$9,281.00	\$ 29,668.00

**Church Attendance Last Week: 262 (88-174); Communion: 188**  
**Sunday Morning Bible Class: 19**

**Community Open House** you are cordially invited to come walk through our recently added addition to the church on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Feel free to bring friends, family, or community members to come walk through the new facility.

## **Panther Press Highlights**

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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.

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**1 Peter 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 1 Peter. You can listen at your convenience at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, the LPR mobile app 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](http://www.lhm.org). Next Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "More Than He Bargained For". Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect.

### **Community Events:**

❖ **The Hemlock Lions Club** is having a scrap metal drive for the month of April. 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.

❖ Come and celebrate with the **Michigan LLL District** at their annual convention hosted at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church Worship & Event Center in Frankenmuth on Saturday, May 11, 2024. All are welcome to attend. Our guest speakers are Jeff Craig-Meyer, President, U.S. Ministries and Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies, Vice President, Ministry Engagement focusing on *Energizing Mission*. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. with the convention beginning at 9:30 a.m. No cost to register – free-will offerings will be gathered during the event to assist the MI LLL District with meal costs in addition to supporting the Michigan Division of the Orphan Grain Train. Please register by May 3 for meal and seat count for the day. If you have any questions or need more information contact Paul Moeller, LHM Ambassador (989-631-1017 or [pamoeller@aol.com](mailto:pamoeller@aol.com))

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

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

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

"So, what can we do? We must keep doing what we have always done. We must continue to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We must be sure our own church members, families, friends, and co-workers understand the value that God places on all human life."

- *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life*

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 3:11–21

1 John 3:1–7

Luke 24:36–49

### ***The Preaching of Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins Makes Us Pure***

The risen Lord Jesus taught His disciples "that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead" and "that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations" (Luke 24:46–47). Therefore, St. Peter preaches repentance and forgiveness to the people of Jerusalem. As he proclaims that Jesus fulfilled all that "God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets" (Acts 3:18), he also convicts the people of their sin, because they "delivered over and denied" this Lord Jesus and "killed the Author of life." Yet God "glorified his servant Jesus" and raised Him from the dead (Acts 3:13–15). St. Peter calls the people to repent, so that their "sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19–20). Through this forgiveness of sins and by faith in this forgiveness, the Father shows His love for us in order that "we should be called children of God; and so we are" (1 John 3:1). Thus, we hope in Him and are made pure even "as he is pure," because "he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin" (1 John 3:3, 5).