

NEWS AND NOTES for May 17 & 18, 2025

Pastoral Candidate, Michael Speckhard was assigned as our Associate Pastor! He and Meagan have five children: Eliza (8), Levi (6), Ezra (4), Delilah (2), and Andrew (1). We are so very thankful that the Lord is sending them to be part of the St. Peter family! He still has classes to attend and papers to write. May 23, 2025 he will graduate. The Speckhard's have found a house in Hemlock. He will be ordained and installed here at St. Peter on June 29th @ 2:00pm. Please pray for them in this transition and thank and praise God for sending us this beautiful family! God be praised!



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Gifts Received: \$ 2,737,531

Ascension Service Join us as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord on Thursday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. Both adult and children's choirs and handbell ensembles will be participating in the service. There will be five combined choir songs featured at the service, along with songs sung by each individual choir. Student artwork will also be on display in the gathering space before the service. Be sure to invite your family and friends to hear the wonderful music prepared by our choirs for this celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord.

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.

GriefShare This is a grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. Please join us: Wednesdays, June 4th - August 27 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 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/247821 or call the church office to register.

Little Lambs Bible Time Join our weekly bible fun for kids & caregivers this summer. Designed for children ages 3 to 6. Older siblings are welcome too. Gather with us each week for stories, songs, and activities that teach God's love in a fun and engaging way. Tuesdays 10am to 11am starting June 24 to August 19. For more information or to register, call the church office, 989.642.8188.

VBS Registration is Open All children from preschool - 5th grade are invited to join the fun and go on an EPIC Australian Adventure! Vacation Bible School will take place June 16-20 from 9:00am-12:00pm at church. To register for VBS go to <https://www.myvbs.org/stpeterlutheranhemlock>. If you have questions, please contact church office or 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.

	March 2025	April 2025	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 121,853.30	\$ 137,447.71	\$ 1,369,062.38
General Fund Expenses	\$ 119,960.11	\$ 104,766.91	\$ 1,236,653.45
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ 1,893.19	\$ 32,680.80	\$ 132,408.93
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 15,631.00	\$ 9,305.00	\$ 1,133,500.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 10,522.00	\$ 7,312.00	\$ 36,327.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 316 (74-242); Communion: 231

Ink Cartridges the church will no longer be accepting ink cartridges.

St. Peter Lutheran School Cook Position Open We are currently seeking a new cook for the 25-26 school year. Please contact *Mr. Eric Hagenow* for more information about the position. *Mrs. Becky Chanin*, our school cook, will be retiring at the end of this school year, and we are so thankful for her dedicated service to our school.

Dying Well in Christ: A Forum on the Church's Care at Life's End, is a conference for pastors and the people of God who seek to learn more about and help foster a faithful practice of merciful care at life's end within the body of Christ. Join other faithful Lutherans July 7-9, 2025 on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis Missouri. Use this link to learn more and register: <https://www.csl.edu/dying-well-forum/>

Others Talk, We Have Something To Say... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent topics include: The Promotion of "Rogue"

**Summer Worship Schedule
begins next week!
Divine Services
Thursdays @ 6:30pm &
Sundays @ 9:30am**

Seminaries in the LCMS, The Movie "Thunderbolts," A Christian's Joyful Countenance, The Biblical Foundation for the Nicene Creed and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and 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, May 25th, Guest Speaker *Rev. Gregory Manning's* sermon is titled, "What's Your Story". Our difficulties often become the backdrop against which God reveals His faithfulness. Each challenge is an opportunity for Him to display His power.

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

Ushers for next week: Saturday: Kurt Cicinelli, Ryan Cicinelli **Sunday:** Leonard Krueger, Mike Stavelly

Videographer for next week: Sheila Bauer

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"Live abundantly, friends, graduates, loved ones, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! Know who you are and to whom you belong."

- Deaconess Janet Nicol, *Word of Hope*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 11:1–18

Revelation 21:1–7

John 16:12–22 or John 13:31–35

Jesus Turns Sorrow into Joy

On earth "*you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy*" (John 16:20). Already the Spirit grants you peace and joy through the forgiveness of your sins. For by the cross of Christ, "*God has granted repentance that leads to life*" (Acts 11:18). His Gospel is "*a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household*" (Acts 11:14). He gives freely "*from the spring of the water of life*" (Rev. 21:6), "*and death shall be no more*" (Rev. 21:4). He dwells with His people, adorning His Church as a bride for her husband, "*making all things new*" (Rev. 21:5). Therefore, as the Son of Man is glorified by His cross, "*and God is glorified in him*" (John 13:31), so He is glorified in us by our "*love for one another*" (John 13:35), which His Spirit works in us by His grace.

Dear Members of St. Peter

"Thank You" is too small of an expression for all of your outpouring of love and appreciation you showed me last week. But I want to express a BIG THANK YOU to all of you anyway. It was great. Thanks to all who organized the reception in the Great Room. Very nice!

First, my thanks to Pastor Morris and to the Elders who asked me to assist over the last 11 years. It was a privilege and honor to serve with them in the Lord's work.

Second, I would like to thank the congregation for being so supportive of me during my cancer bout and showing your expressions of love and mercy.

Third, I would like to thank the congregation for the privilege of serving and ministering to you these many years.

And finally, and most importantly is my thanks to our God and Savior Jesus Christ who gave me the privilege and blessing to share His Word and sacraments among you, That I am eternally thankful.

I pray that our new pastor may be loved and cared for as you have done for me all this time. You will still see me and my family sitting in the same place (creatures of habit) for worship, and enjoying all blessings God has to give at this place...St. Peter Lutheran.

THANK YOU!

In His Name and at Your Service,
Pastor Hagenow