

NEWS AND NOTES for June 13 & 16, 2024



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,591,515
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,315,829
Remaining Commitment Amount:	\$ 184,171

Celebrate the Savior VBS Our loving God has given us so much to celebrate – join us June 24 – 28, 9 am to 12:30 pm as we discover how the love of Jesus fills us with joy. Visit myvbs.org/stpeterlutheranhemlock to register. Volunteers are still needed! Please contact Deaconess Shirley or the church office.

Another series of GriefShare has begun. This is a grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. Please join us: Tuesdays through August 27 from 10:30 am to noon. 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/235053 or call the church office to register.

Graceful Threads Come join us all summer long. 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 3 pm to 4:30 pm. We will meet in the Classroom 2 in the Church.

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.

	April 2024	May 2024	2023-24 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$92,680.88	\$87,365.77	\$ 1,347,015.60
General Fund Expenses	\$ 138,175.08	\$ 118,377.37	\$ 1,365,193.89
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (45,494.20)	\$ (31,011.60)	\$ (18,178.29)
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$143,830.00	\$47,132.00	\$ 2,867,164.72
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$1,951.00	\$1,643.00	\$ 33,665.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 191 (43-148); Communion: 168

Summer Church Office Hours: M-Th 9am-3pm, Fr 9am-1pm

Christian Worldview Series... What is truth? What is a human being? What should we value? What is beauty? What is the source for morality? You'll find answers to these questions in a seven-part Issues, Etc. series based on a new resource from Concordia Publishing House, "Prepared with a Reason." 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 on-demand at issuesetc.org/preparedwithareason or with 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, June 23rd, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "You're Really into This, Aren't You?". People can be passionate about sports, gardening, videogames, or family. All those things can be good, but none of them can save you.

Ushers for next week: Thursday: Eric Starke, Ray Wardin Sunday: Eric Bates, Tyler Bates

Videographer for next week: Help?

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"I can finally perceive that God put some of the most difficult neighbors in my life at some of the most difficult times in order to bring me to the end of myself. Jesus didn't say that what God asks us to do would be easy. What God asks is impossibly difficult if God were not actually alongside us, helping us every step of the way. But the good news is that He is alongside us, helping us every step of the way."

- Donna Harrison, M.D., American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ezekiel 17:22–24

2 Corinthians 5:1–10 (11–17)

Mark 4:26–34

The Cross of Christ Is the Tree of Life, Which Bears Abundant Fruit after Its Own Kind

The parables of our Lord convey the mysteries of the kingdom of God to those who are “*able to hear it,*” that is, “*to his own disciples,*” who are catechized to fear, love and trust in Him by faith (Mark 4:33–34). He scatters “*seed on the ground,*” which “*sprouts and grows*” unto life, even as “*he sleeps and rises*” (Mark 4:26–27). “*On the mountain height of Israel,*” He plants a young and tender twig, and it becomes “*a noble cedar.*” Indeed, His own cross becomes the Tree of Life, under which “*every kind of bird*” will dwell, and in which “*birds of every sort will nest*” (Ezek. 17:22–25). His cross is our resting place, even while now in mortal bodies, we “*groan, being burdened*” (2 Cor. 5:1–4). Yet in faith, we live for God in Christ, who for our sake “*died and was raised*” (2 Cor. 5:15). We know that, in His resurrected body, “*we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*” (2 Cor. 5:1).