


NEWS AND NOTES for March 2 & 3, 2024

Sunday Morning Bible Study Please join us after Divine Service from 11:00 to 11:45am located down the hall in the classrooms and Pastor Morris' Bible Study located in the fellowship hall. **Lesson 7** Today, we will study "Fiery Directions." Miraculously rescued through the waters of the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter, Moses escapes the condemnation pronounced on the other Hebrew boys. Leaving behind his life of privilege, Moses flees to Midian, where he encounters the living God in a burning bush. Through this encounter, God directs and equips Moses to rescue His chosen people from their slavery in Egypt. Discuss how we are saved through the waters of Baptism. Everyone is welcome to join us at Bible Study.

March 2024 Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "The Tree of Life," (LSB 561). Pastor Steven Starke found his chief inspiration for this hymn text in the words of the Preface for Holy Week. While leading the Divine Service, he read the words, "And that he who by a tree once overcame likewise by a tree might be overcome." He wrote this hymn to develop a broader understanding of the theme that although Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat of the tree in the Garden of Eden, he was ultimately overcome by Jesus, who saved all people by the tree of the cross. This hymn was written in 1993 and was intended to be sung with the Irish Christmas song "Wexford Carol." Ultimately the hymn text was paired to a new hymn tune written by Bruce Becker. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)

Call Received Ms. Kelly Dressler received a call from First Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Please keep Ms. Dressler in your prayers as she deliberates this call and her current call to St. Peter. May the Holy Spirit guide her in her decision.

	Building on the Cornerstone Campaign
	\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,555,781
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,132,240
Remaining Commitment Amount:	\$ 367,760

Volunteer pairs/groups/families needed! If you love serving others, we need your help! As we begin our new fellowship time after Sunday morning church service, we need small groups of 2-3 folks each week for making coffee, setting out cookies and greeting others. You may sign up alone or sign up with a friend, child, or family member. Training will be given. A sign-up sheet will be available each week during fellowship time or call the church office. Please see Emily Abraham with any questions. Thank you as you prayerfully consider how to serve our faith family here at St. Peter!

Easter Flower Orders are due by March 11th. Just fill out an order form located on the memorial stand in the gathering space. You can either mail to the church office or drop your order forms and payment in the memorial stand. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Inkjet Cartridges Please bring your used ink cartridges to the church to be recycled. A collection bin is available in the chapel.

St. Peter Fish Fry will take place on Friday, March 8 from 3:30 - 7:00 p.m. The dinner will be held in the school gymnasium. Take-outs will be available from 3:30 - 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$17.00 for adults; \$8.00 for children 6-12; Kids 5 and under Free. All Take-outs are \$17. Please let the church office know if you can volunteer to help and donations will again be needed. Profits from the Fish Fry are used for School and Church projects.

Sunshine Seniors The St. Peter Sunshine Seniors will meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m. (instead of 12:00 noon because of various conflicts of that time). Our speakers will be Hannah and Tyler Shephard who will talk about their interesting organic farm and what it all entails. We will have a potluck, so bring a dish to pass, your own drink, and your own table service. Bring a friend, too!! See you there.

Mary Martha please join us for our last business meeting of the school year. Tuesday March 12 we will meet at 7:00 PM in the church conference room. Topics to be discussed include CD funds decision, Confirmation reception, upcoming LWML events, and Ladies Dine out. All ladies welcome! Please bring some of your favorite homemade baked goods (cookies, pies, small cakes, breads) for the upcoming Fish Fry Bake Sale on Friday March 8th!! Please aim to have your items at the school gym on Friday by 3:00 PM. Thank you for your support!

Richland Lutheran Cemetery It is time to clean up the grounds and prepare for spring. Please clean off all winter decorations such as grave blankets and wreaths off gravesites by April 1st.

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.

	December 2023	January 2024	2023-24 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$165,781.01	\$103,390.03	\$ 921,464.62
General Fund Expenses	\$ 124,130.85	\$ 131,974.21	\$ 940,906.69
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ 41,650.16	\$ (28,584.18)	\$ (19,442.07)
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$141,575.90	\$87,202.50	\$ 2,283,575.72
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$5,990.00	\$2,644.00	\$ 19,735.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 354 (78-276); Lent: 73; Communion: 252

Sunday Morning Bible Classes: 69

Notes:

- Any donations in Lenten envelopes will go to the Mission Fund unless otherwise specified.
- In memory of Roy Burdo's 88th Birthday gift was given to the Building on the Cornerstone Fund from *Russell & Carol Darby*.

GriefShare is a grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. Please join us: January 28 - April 28 from 4 to 6 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 or visit griefshare.org/groups/175182 to register.

Divorce Care Please join us: January 28 - April 28 from 1 to 3 pm. Divorce Care is a 13-week support group that helps you heal from the pain of separation or divorce. It is held in a caring, confidential environment led by people who understand what you are going through. You'll learn practical information that will help you deal with the challenges of divorce. Best of all, with this Christ-centered care, you will gain hope for the future. For more information, contact Deaconess Shirley or visit divorcecare.org/groups/175181 to register.

God's Helping Hands In case you didn't see it on Facebook, the students from our school held a peanut butter drive for us. Peanut butter is a great source of protein and goes out almost as fast as it comes in. This past Saturday, Feb 13th, Merrill Sports Boosters donated 113 blueberry pies. 81 families visited our pantry that weekend. So, everyone who wanted a pie got one. We are very grateful for all of the community support.

Panther Press Highlights

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, 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.

PTL Auction 2024: The 19th Annual PTL Auction will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024 with doors opening at 5:00pm. This year's theme is "Mystery Dinner". Come solve the mystery of who committed the crime! Tickets will be on sale in the school office for \$30 each. There are also reserved tables available for an additional \$100. Payment for tickets and/or tables may be made with cash, check or by charging to your FACTS account (school families only). Bidding for auction items will be done **in-person**. The dinner menu will be Chicken Marsala, Red Skin Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans, Side Salad, Roll & Dessert. Donations are being accepted and may be dropped off in the school office. Thank you for your support of our school!

Habakkuk 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 Habakkuk. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, 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, March 10th, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "All Bets Are Off". Jesus engages his opponents in battle of wits and wins -for us.

Community Events:

- ❖ **Hemlock VFW Fish Dinners** will be every Friday, Feb 16 thru March 29. Dine in & take out served 4:00-7:00pm, Perch \$18, Frog legs \$17, Shrimp \$16, Chicken Strips \$15, Combo Platter \$25. All meals include french fries or baked potato, coleslaw, roll, & dessert. Support your veterans while enjoying a delicious meal.
- ❖ **The Tri-City Good Friday Worship Service** will be held on March 29, 2024 at the Horizon's Conference Center at 6200 State Street in Saginaw Township at 1 pm. Reverend Dean Davenport, a Vice-President of the Michigan District Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and a Pastor at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia, will be the guest speaker. In order to underwrite the cost of this service, we are seeking support from congregation members as we have done in the past. If you would like to donate, place an envelope or a check made out to "Good Friday Service" in the collection. Thank you for any support you can give, and invite your relatives, friends and unchurched acquaintances to join us.

Ushers for next week: Wednesday: Gary Graf, Zach Holifield **Saturday:** Tom Wardin, Carl Neuenfeldt Jr.

Sunday: Ryan Cicinelli, Ben Wardin

Videographer for next week: Sunday: Anthony Wolter **Wednesday(6th):** Sheila Bauer

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"[W]e were made for light and life. God's Word and Sacraments cast darkness aside in our lives; they draw us closer to Him and make us strong unto salvation ... cling to the promises of Christ. May we recognize that we are blessed For Life even when we are surrounded by darkness, and may we in our darkest seasons, through the work of the Holy Spirit, lean toward the Son for light and for hope."

- Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 2:13-22 (23-25)

The Crucified and Risen Body of Jesus Is the True Temple of the Lord

The Lord rescues His people, Israel, "out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex. 20:2) and makes His gracious covenant with them, defined by the Ten Commandments. Since He has become their God by His grace, they shall be His people, having "no other gods" before Him (Ex. 20:3). He is "jealous" for them as a husband for his wife and as a father for his children. He has named them with His name and called them to rest in Him (Ex. 20:5-9). The incarnate Son, Christ Jesus, is likewise jealous for His Father's house, because it is to be a place of divine grace and Sabbath rest for His people, and not "a house of trade" (John 2:16-17). His zeal consumes Him as He gives up "the temple of his body" to the destruction of the cross, but in three days He raises it up again to be the true temple forever (John 2:17-21). By His crucifixion He cleanses the entire household, and in His resurrection He becomes "wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30).