

NEWS AND NOTES for January 27 & 28, 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 2** -Today, we will study "The Fall and a Promise." The slithery serpent caused Eve to doubt God's Word with one simple question: "Did God actually say . . .?" (Genesis 3:1). Seeking to gain wisdom, Eve and Adam rebel against their Creator. Suddenly aware of their condition before God, they vainly attempt to hide their sinful exposure. With sin comes punishment that is just; yet our heavenly Father does not leave humankind without hope. Instead, He promises One who will come to rescue His people from the jaws of death and Satan. As a family, discuss the importance of God's promise of the Savior. Everyone is welcome to join us at Bible Study.

Extending a call At the voters' meeting on January 29th the congregation will decide upon extending a call to *Mrs. Kaeleen Homrich*. Mrs. Homrich finished her colloquy this school year and is now eligible to be a called teacher at St. Peter. The colloquy program prepares men and women who are currently serving in ministry roles for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as Ministers of Religion—Commissioned.

January 2024 Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered," (LSB 404). In 1999, Pastor Stephen Starke wrote this hymn in order to provide a more complete picture of what Baptism is and what it does for the Christian. The hymn begins with the image of Jesus being baptized as one of the people, moves to John's confession of Jesus as the Lamb of God, then to Jesus' prayer and desire to save His people, and finally to Jesus' death and resurrection. By drawing on the entire life of our Lord, we see how Baptism is not just a single event with no future consequences, but rather is an event with consequences that are both life changing and eternal. This hymn is most often sung for the First Sunday after the Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord. The tune for this hymn, "Mississippi," was written by William Roberts, who was a native of the state of Mississippi. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,544,469
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,069,923
Remaining Commitment Amount:	\$ 430,077

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. Please see Emily Abraham with any questions. Thank you as you prayerfully consider how to serve our faith family here at St. Peter!

Mary-Martha Mark your new calendars for the **LWML Prayer Day, Sat. Feb. 3rd** at 10:00 AM at Faith Lutheran in Bridgeport. All ladies are invited to attend! While you have that calendar out, please note that our next Mary Martha meeting is **Tuesday Feb. 13** at 7:00 PM. We will meet in classroom 1 in the new addition.

We need your help! The church is looking for more volunteers to help with Videography. No experience is necessary. It's a very easy system to use. Training will be given. Please call the church office if you are interested 989.642.8188.

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.

	November 2023	December 2023	2023-24 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$137,770.51	\$165,781.01	\$ 791,193.32
General Fund Expenses	\$ 157,536.48	\$ 124,130.85	\$ 771,556.36
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (19,765.97)	\$ 41,650.16	\$ 19,636.96
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$87,202.50	\$141,575.90	\$ 2,221,258.72
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$2,644.00	\$5,990.00	\$ 15,843.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 392 (54-338); Communion: 216

Sunday Morning Bible Classes: 64

Notes:

- **The next Voters' Meeting is Monday, January 29th @ 7:00pm**

A **GriefShare** grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one is starting soon. 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. The cost is \$20 for the workbook.

Divorce Care is starting soon. 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. The cost is \$20 for the workbook.

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.

Preschool Open House: Our Preschool Open House will take place on Monday, January 29 from 5:30pm - 6:30pm at the school. Current preschool students who will be returning next year do not have to attend.

Expert Guests, Expansive Topics, Extolling Christ... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Responding to the Cliches of Pop American Christianity, The Epiphany Hymn "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise," An Update on an Attempt by Concordia University Texas to Reject the Governance & Oversight of the LCMS, The Benefits of Liturgical Worship and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod or your favorite 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, February 4th, Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's sermon is titled, "Nature Abhors a Vacuum". What fills the heart that has no room to forgive?

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.

Ushers for next week: Saturday: Nate McQueen, Ryan Hyatt **Sunday:** Mike Stavely, Gary Graf

Videographer for next week: Sunday: Scott Neumeyer

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"The Holy Spirit teaches us and enables us to be more effective with our body language, to hold the hands of those who are afraid of walking alone, to hug the ones who are falling apart for whatever reason, to lift those who sinned against God and against their brothers. We do all this by sharing the forgiveness that is found in Christ."

- Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Mark 1:21–28

Our Lord Jesus Christ, True God in the Flesh, Cleanses Our Consciences from Sin

As He promised, the Lord our God has raised up "a prophet" like Moses, namely Jesus, our brother in the flesh.

"To him you shall listen," because the Word of the Lord is "in his mouth" (Deut. 18:15–18). Indeed, He is more than a prophet and more than a scribe of the Scriptures; He is the incarnate Word, and He speaks "a new teaching with authority" (Mark 1:22, 27). He enters "the synagogue" of His Church and provides true Sabbath rest, using His authority to silence and cast out "even the unclean spirits" (Mark 1:21–27). By His Word of the cross, He removes the accusations of the Law and of the devil, and He cleanses our consciences before God the

Father, "from whom are all things and for whom we exist." Hence, we are now set free from bondage and commended to God by the one Lord, Jesus Christ, "through whom are all things and through whom we exist" (1 Cor. 8:6). Therefore, use your freedom to care for your brothers and sisters, neither causing them to stumble nor wounding their consciences (1 Cor. 8:9–12), but cleansing and strengthening them with the Gospel.