

Messenger

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Day School

1343 Penniman Avenue

Plymouth, MI 48170

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February 2015

Our Lenten Journey

Our midweek Lenten services on Wednesday evenings will center on the theme,
"Jesus For Us"

The various sermon texts will lead us to know and appreciate what it means that Jesus is our Brother and what it is He has done to bring us salvation. Below is the schedule for this year's series. May we take to heart this message and use this additional opportunity to gather in God's house to be strengthened in our faith.

Preaching Texts Lent 2015

February 18 (Ash Wednesday Divine Service) Pastor Matt Schaeve

Luke 18:9-13 -- Repentance (sorrow over sin and trust in Christ's forgiveness) is necessary for salvation

February 25 Lenten Vespers Pastor Tom Schroeder

John 6:26-29 -- People look for Jesus only to meet their physical problems, and refuse to see him as the Savior from sin. Faith is God's work in us through the Gospel, so that we come to Jesus with our "spiritual hunger" for forgiveness.

March 4 Lenten Vespers Pastor James Frey

John 1:50-51 -- You shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man -- Jesus is Jacob's ladder, the mediator between God and man, the fulfillment of the Old Testament. All Scripture is a unified whole, and all Scripture testifies of Christ.

March 11 Lenten Vespers Pastor Paul Schaefer

John 5:19-30 -- The Son and the Father work together, with Jesus in obedient submission to his Father. In love for us, Jesus set aside the full and constant display of his divine glory and instead humbled himself to be our Savior. The Father fully approves of his Son's atoning work.

March 18 Lenten Vespers Pastor Guy Purdue

John 6:53-58 -- We must eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood for eternal life.

March 25 Lenten Vespers Pastor Paul Schaefer

John 8:34-37 -- Everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Only Christ can set us free. He sets us free to be members of God's family through faith in him.

A Note From the Principal

Thank you to all who have helped out with school activities. The staff and students appreciate all you do.

The Reading Challenge has been a success with the students meeting all of the goals. During the Challenge, students read a book and then took a test on-line to check for comprehension of the main points. Readers are awarded points based on the difficulty and length of a book. The Challenge ran from November 4 through January 19. Our goal was 724 points, which we surpassed by 154 with a total of 878 points. This is awesome!! The total number of words read was 2,992,871; this is a very impressive total for 23 students. Total points for the school year is 1325 points and 4,878,885 words. We will let you know when we break 5,000,000.

St. Peter's will again host Euchre Nights. They are being organized by Miss Diener and will be held on the third Saturday of the month for the next three months; February 21, March 21 and April 18 (6:30 – 8:00 PM). We will skip May and then have the Euchre Nights on the third Wednesday of the month; June 17, July 15 and August 19 (6:30 – 8:00 PM). Feel free to bring a friend with you.

Plan on attending the plays scheduled for April 24th for our Preschool through 8 grade students.

Summer Activities (3-6 year olds):

1. Tuesdays (June 16, 23 & 30; July 7 & 28; August 4 & 11) – Formal class settings at St. Peter's
2. Thursdays (July 9, 16 & 30; August 6 & 13) – Play Groups at McClumpha Park

Other Summer Activities:

1. Once again we will be hosting a Safety Night, this year it will be on Wednesday, June 24 (5:30-8:30).
2. Vacation Bible School will be July 20 – 24 with the following lessons presented: Creation, Fall into Sin, Christ the Lord is Born, Good Friday and Easter.
3. Summer Creation Series – We will be inviting everyone in Plymouth and the surrounding area to a series of four interesting events that will focus on God's wonderful creation. One of the guest

speakers will be Dr. Piel, a member of St. John in Bay City. He will be speaking on June 25 and July 23. The other speakers and dates are not set, more information regarding speakers and ways for you to help with this project will be forthcoming in the future.

4. Church Camping at Kilarney will be scheduled.

As always, we will need a variety of volunteers on many of these projects, we always appreciate the help.

Paul Pappenfuss, Principal

Bd. of Stewardship

On November 8th The Stewardship Committee hosted a Plymouth Whalers hockey that was well attended. A permit was secured for the Day School children to decorate a tree in Kellogg Park for the walk of trees which began after Thanksgiving. The Church was decorated for Christmas on November 29th and the decorations were taken down on January 10th. The WELS Connection is being shown monthly after the Sunday Service. A new Member Dinner will take place on February 8th at 11 o'clock following Church, all Members are invited and encouraged to attend if able. Lenten meals are being planned and there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for groups to volunteer which date they would like to serve.

Preschool

We are halfway through another school year (and the winter ???). I will be so thankful when spring arrives and we no longer need the snow pants, boots, hats and mittens. I know Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Lohrmann feel the same way. It takes a long time to get a classroom of preschool-aged kids ready to go outside. However, even this can be a teaching moment. Day after day, we try to encourage each child to do a little more on his or her own. We work on zipping and talk about the order in which clothes must be put on. Imagine: "You put your snow pants on backward. Take them off and try again.", "Your leg is through the strap of the snow pants. Take them off and try again.", "You can't put your shoes/boots through the legs of snow pants. Please take them off and try again.", "Please zip your coat BEFORE putting on your mittens." Now imagine about half the kids in the room asking for help and one or two who are purposely stalling so they don't have to go outside. We do eventually get to the point where most are fairly self-sufficient. It just takes a lot of time and patience.

We have had a busy couple of months. The three and four-year-olds celebrated Thanksgiving with their parents and other special people at the annual feast in November. We prepared food for our loved ones and sang songs that highlighted the blessings that God has given us - especially the gift of Jesus. In December, we celebrated the birth of Christ in a special preschool service. This was the first year we have had our own service separate from the school's. It was very well attended and received. Our intent was to share the message of Christ's birth and why He came to earth in a simple service geared for the young and those unfamiliar with Christianity. Our service explained the meaning behind each candle of the Advent wreath. A service project and refreshments followed in the school gym. Fifty duffle bags were assembled and donated to a local adoption agency to be given to children who are placed in foster care. A big "thank you" goes to Shenal Smith for organizing the project, to Thrivent who gave us some "seed" money to get the project started and also to all of you for your generous donations and time.

We are in the process of planning for the next school year. Soon, it will be time to register for preschool again. Please watch for more information in the next month. If you know of a family that is looking for a preschool, encourage them to come check us out. They may visit the classroom if they would like. We are planning on having an open house, too.

I would also encourage you to tell your friends and family about our exciting summer activities scheduled for the young. We will be offering a class on Tuesdays from 9:00-10:30 a.m. geared for 3-6 year-olds. We plan to have a different topic each week. Most are messy and involve science and/or art. A snack will be served as well. A parent or guardian will need to attend with the child or children, and there will be a small fee to cover the cost of supplies. Children may attend one class or all. The dates scheduled are: June 16, 23, 30; July 7, 28; August 4, 11. The topics we have chosen are the following:

1. Foaming Monster - mixing acids and alkalis
2. Soil and Mud
3. Slime, gloop, playdough - solids, liquids; mixtures
4. Bubbles - air takes up space
5. Water
6. Color Mixing
7. Gravity Painting

*Topics are subject to change.

In addition, we are planning on having some informal gatherings at McClumpha Park on Thursdays (July 9, 16, 30; August 6, 13). Watch for more information.

At the beginning of this piece, I talked about the patience that is required to work with young children who are learning to take care of their own needs. I am not perfect; I lose patience with them at times. However, as we move into the season of Lent I am reminded of the patience and mercy our Lord has shown us. How easy it would be for Him to say, "I am done with these ungrateful sinners." Yet, He continues to show love to us despite who we are. Thank God that He is not like you or I. His mercy and love endure forever.

Music Department

The wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas have come and gone for 2014, but the message of Christ's coming to save us remains throughout the year 2015. The St. Peter's musicians hope your festivities were enhanced by the beautiful music that they prepared and presented for the edification of your faith. We appreciate our choir members setting up the fellowship reception that followed the Candlelight Service: the Brooke family and Chris Abbott; and Jim and Barb Cutler for recording the service. All of the school children participated in the service. Thanks to the teachers and parents for their extra effort. We had a good turnout of presenters and listeners.

The Senior Choir and Handbell Choir have started to prepare for Lent and Easter. Ash Wednesday will be observed on February 18, and Easter's date is April 5. The Handbell Choir started rehearsals on January 22 for ringing throughout the winter/spring season.

The Huron Valley Lutheran High School choir will be singing at St. Peter's on March 8 for the Sunday morning service. We hope you will be present to show your support for HVL and to greet visiting parents of the singers.

The St. Peter's school children will be traveling to Huron Valley for their Palm Sunday concert on March 29 at 3 p.m. You are all invited to attend.

Other services to remember are The Ascension of our Lord at 7 p.m. on May 14, for which the school children are singing; and Confirmation Sunday on May 17.

Huron Valley Lutheran High School

HVL Staff Changes - After serving 38 years as a teacher and administrator, Mr. Schwartz recently announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2014- 2015 school year. Mr. Schwartz has been a blessing to HVL and has touched the lives of many, many students. Tom has served HVL as Math and German instructor, guidance director, vice principal, attendance officer, test coordinator, and worn many other hats. Tom has provided HVL with steady leadership, dedication and faithfulness. He will be missed. In a letter, Mr. Schwartz wrote: *After quite a bit of prayerful consideration, I have decided to retire at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. I thank the high school and the Board of Regents for the privilege of serving all the students and the parents. I know I will miss the students. I am confident the Lord has someone in mind already in His plan for HVL even though we are just starting this process. HVL will be in my prayers and I ask for yours as well.*



This school year we welcomed our new athletic director Brian Kasten to the HVL family. Brian teaches math classes and also serves as our athletic director. Brian is married to Kirsten who is teaching kindergarten at Peace Lutheran. They have daughters, Lilia and Kennedy, who are in 5th grade and 1st grade, and 5 month old, Madelyn Joy.

We also congratulate Pete Baganz who is completing twenty years in the teaching ministry. Pete leads the History department and teaches technology classes. He has been invaluable to our school in the area of internet and computer technology.

The Hawk Singers visited two nursing homes in December to sing Christmas songs. Among the residents was long time HVL supporter, Walter Trapp (pictured here). It was emotional and there were quite a few tears evident as residents joined our group and sang *Silent Night*. This event has become a yearly trip for our traveling choir because of its value to both students and residents. Students interact with residents by introducing the religious message of a few songs and also greeting them with handshakes and a very "Merry Christmas!"



International Students - HVL was approved this past summer to enroll international students on an F-1 visa. With our new status, students may enroll for four years instead of one year. This year we are excited to have six international students, four from China and two French speaking students from Senegal, West Africa; (L-R) Zhang Jianquiao (10), Wu Chengdong (11), Yan Xiang (11), Li Xiansong (11), Youssef Bakarar (12) and Ahmed Bakarar (12). Four students are housed by local family members while two are housed with HVL families, Ralph & Debbie Merian and Kim Lovell. HVL students will tell you that it's exciting interacting with our new students, but the most exciting fact is that Pastor Purdue (Our Saviour) generously volunteered to spend 40 minutes each day sharing God's Word with these young people who have no religious background. What a great opportunity!



Upcoming Events:

Homecoming - Come out and show your support for your Hawks and take the opportunity to catch up with fellow alums. JV boys basketball gets underway at 5:30 pm on Friday, February 6th. The Homecoming court

ceremony will immediately follow the JV game which will then be followed by the boys Varsity game. Homecoming tailgating begins prior to the basketball games from 5-7:00 where hot dogs/burgers will be available for all in the MPR.

HVL-LES Double Assembly is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11. Two presentations will be given: Music of Africa at 9:15 and Rock and Roll into Lutheran Schools at 10:30. All are welcome! Cost for admission is \$3.

Calling ALL 8th graders and incoming students! Freshmen & New Student Registration and Open House Night for the coming 2015-2016 school year will be Tuesday, February 24, from 3:00-7:00 in the HVL Music Room. Families may come and ask questions about HVL and may also register their student at this time. New students who register now will receive the early registration fee price. Visitors that night will also have the opportunity to take in a Hawks Basketball game (5:30/7:00 game times) and have a free slice of pizza.

NEW Auction Venue (A Western Event!) – This year's dinner auction will again include supper, new auction items and entertainment. We ask everyone to reserve the date of Saturday, April 18th to attend the auction which will begin at 5:30 pm with a silent auction, appetizers and drinks. Following at 6:45 will be an elegant buffet dinner and at 8:00 the live auction will begin. In addition to attending, supporters may sign up as a business or individual to sponsor certain aspects of the auction. Watch for more information on this in the coming weeks and be ready to purchase your tickets.

Pastoral Acts

Marriages

Carly Williams to Dillon Moyer

Transfer to Sister Congregation

Doug Moyer to Redeemer, Merritt Island, FL
Carrie Moyer to Redeemer, Merritt Island, FL
Ronald Tacia to Peace, Livonia, MI
Lynda Tacia to Peace, Livonia, MI

Burials

Donald Hamilton
Tekla Otte

Loss of Member to Heterodox

Todd Aston
Kristen Aston
(children: Elizabeth & William)