

Messenger

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Day School

1343 Penniman Avenue

Plymouth, MI 48170

734-453-3393

November 2015



On October 31, 1517, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the doors of the Wittenberg Church to initiate debate regarding the indulgences being marketed at the order of the pope by a German Dominican friar named Johann Tetzel. The selling of those indulgences distressed Luther because he saw it as misinforming lay people about crucial aspects of God's plan for redeeming sinners and giving them eternal life.

Yet, contrary to the popular belief and practice of the Lutheran Church since coming to the shores of the Americas, the Reformation was most definitely not about jettisoning all things "Catholic." In fact, according to Article XI of The Augsburg Confession, "Our churches teach that private Absolution should be retained in the churches, although listing all sins is not necessary for Confession. For, according to the Psalm, 'Who can discern his errors?' (Psalm 19:12)"

Furthermore, in his Large Catechism Exhortation to Confession, Dr. Luther goes so far as to instruct the pastors, preachers, and heads of household tasked with the teaching of the One True Faith: "When I urge you to go to Confession, I am doing nothing else than urging you to be a Christian. If I have brought you to the point of being a Christian, I have thereby also brought you to Confession."

This should really come as no surprise to Lutherans, though such is too often the case. Because the Reformation began with these words from Thesis 1 of the 95:

"Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said ['Do penance.'], willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance."

After all, this is what our Baptism is all about as we have learned and confessed in our Catechism training: What does such baptizing with water signify? It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and

repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts, and, again, a new man daily come forth and arise; who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul says Romans, chapter 6: We are buried with Christ by Baptism into death, that, just as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Truly, "When [your pastor teaches and preaches] you to go to Confession, [he is] doing nothing else than urging you to be a Christian." For in confessing your sins and receiving the absolution of our Lord, your personal relationship with Jesus is established and maintained by the power of the Holy Spirit according to the Father's will.

And that, dear Baptized, is the kingdom of heaven come to earth for you!

I write about this subject this month because the Ladies' Bible study that meets monthly asked about Private Confession and Absolution. I am including answer I gave so that the same information is available to all.

Q: I don't recall the exact spot in the study, but we were discussing sin and the importance of confessing it, which led to a discussion about repentance. Please elaborate on the relationship between confession & repentance. Are they the same or different or do they just overlap? Is one necessary to lead to the other? Related-I believe there are a few times when you officially offer Confession.

A: *Confession is admitting your sin and wrong to God and very often to another person.*

Repentance is related, but is more. It involves admitting sin, but then also involves the faith which receives the absolution (the assurance of the forgiveness of sins in Christ.)

I offer Private Confession and Absolution quarterly. Typically before the Penitential seasons of the church year (Advent and Lent), then around Pentecost and St. Michael and All Angels (September 29). I also give Private Absolution whenever a person desires it (by appointment.) I can be contacted directly as [\(734\)658-5735](tel:734658-5735). St. Peter's website calendar includes the specific dates.

God bless us as we continue the Lutheran Reformation in the 21st Century—and grant that we may ever remain not only the church of our grandfathers, but also the church of Luther and the litany of church fathers that stretches all the way back to Abraham, and even Adam; and gathers with us at the altar whenever we celebrate the Divine Service.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Paul Schaefer

Preschool

Promises. People make promises and people often break promises. God, however, always keeps His promises. The preschool students have been learning about promises that God has made to His people and how He has kept those promises. The most important promise that we have been focusing on is His promise to send us a Savior to save us from our sin. We heard how God first gave this promise to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. We have heard the promise repeated to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah. Soon we will be learning about the birth of Jesus, our Savior. God's promise fulfilled.

The two, three and four-year-olds will be singing about the promised Savior in a "Preschool Christmas Service" on December 6th at 2pm. We will have a time for fellowship in the gym after the service as we enjoy some desserts. We hope you are able to join us!

The students have been learning about apples. We have tasted a variety of apples and we have learned that we all like different things and that is ok. We made apple pie and apple sauce. It was delicious! We have also been learning about pumpkins. We "picked" pumpkins from the back playground with Mrs. Schroeder's students. After spending some time playing together, we all joined together for a special snack of cider and doughnuts. It was fun to make new friends! We are looking forward to celebrating our annual Thanksgiving Feast together. The students will help to prepare this meal for their families.

The students are also working on their numbers and letters. We have just started to implement the Smart Board with the preschool students. It is interesting to see how comfortable many of the students are using technology. We are blessed to have another tool to use to educate these young people!

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we share God's Word with these children and their families.

In Christ's Service,
Rebecca Lohrmann

A Note From the Principal

School activities are keeping us busy.

Thank you to all for the help and participation during Trunk or Treat. It was an opportunity for members to talk with each other and for us to have contact with local families.

Last weekend we participated in the floor hockey tournament at St. John's. St. Peter's ended up as the champions of the tournament. Everyone on the team scored a goal and our goalies only gave up 4 goals the whole tournament. The finals ended with a tie score at 1-1 so there was a shootout. Our first three shooters, Philip Schroeder, Kate Beckerman, and Michael Moore each scored, while our goalie John Lovell blocked St. John's first three shooters, the shootout was over and we were the champions!

The first quarter ended on Friday, October 30. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be this next week.

The next school activity is the Fine Arts Fair at HVL on November 21.

After Thanksgiving basketball will begin. We will have our own C-team coached by Dick Cording and Jasper Recto. Our 6-8 graders are going to join with St. John in Westland, Mark Theuer will be a Co-coach for the Boys A-team.

December will be busy at St. Peter's! Please look over the list of activities and see if you are able to help with one of them. Contact Karen Beckerman if you are interested in helping with the Book Fair. We will need help setting up, running, and taking down the book fair. We are also in need of volunteers for our Holiday Meal. This is another opportunity to interact with the preschool and Parent and Tot families, since both of those groups are invited. Contact Mr. Pappenfuss if you are able to help with that.

Wednesday, December 2

Set up for the book fair.

Friday, December 4	Book Fair (5:30-7:30 PM)
Sunday, December 6	Preschool Christmas Service (2:00 PM)
Wednesday, December 9	Holiday Meal
Wednesday, December 9	K-8 sing at Good Shepherd in Novi
Saturday, December 12	Basketball (10:30-6:00)
Sunday, December 13	Candle Light Service
Wednesday, December 23	Half Day of School
Thursday, December 24	Children's Christmas Eve Service

Bd. of Stewardship

Recent Activities Sponsored by the Bd. of Stewardship:

- The Board of Stewardship assisted The Board of Education with setting up and serving meals before the Summer Creation Series lectures.
- On September 20th we cooked hamburgers and hot dogs and served them at the Church picnic, which was well attended.
- We held a Road Rally on October 9th which ended at Jeff and Lori Schroeder's home for pizza and a bon fire.
- The MLS choir sang in the Divine Service on October 25th with the Board serving the choir a light snack before the Service. We also purchased fried chicken for the potluck which was held after church for the Choir and Congregation .

Upcoming Activities being sponsored by the Bd. of Stewardship:

- The permit from the City of Plymouth for the School children to decorate a tree in Kellogg Park for the Walk of Trees will be secured in early November .
- We are in the process of designing a post card giving the dates of The Candlelight, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services. We will ask the Congregation to hand a few out to neighbors, friends, or relatives inviting them to these services.
- On Saturday November 28th we will once again be decorating the Church for Christmas.
- The Wels Connection will be shown after Church before Bible Class starts in the Church Basement once a month.

Music

The St. Peter's Music Department has started another season of making music to the glory of God. The Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, soloists, and the school children have helped beautify our worship services. It is not too late to join our music groups!

We are entering the End Times portion of the church calendar, when we look forward to Christ's return, and backward to those who are already rejoicing in heaven with our Lord. Please join us for services centering on the Lutheran Reformation (November 1), Last Judgment (November 8), Saints Triumphant (November 15), and Christ the King (November 22). The area Reformation service was held October 25 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Livonia.

The Michigan Lutheran Seminary Concert Choir was the guest choir for our October 25 morning service, with a congregational potluck following. We thank Professor Leonard Proeber and the student singers and instrumentalists who enriched our service. The Concert Choir also appeared at the afternoon area Reformation Service.

The Music Department is also working on music for the Candlelight Service (**December 13 at 6:30 p.m.**). This year, Scripture readings will introduce "Christmas Canticles" (*Magnificat, Benedictus, Gloria in Excelsis, Verbum Caro Factum Est*). Once again, there will be Advent and Christmas carols in the program, to be sung by the congregation and choirs. If you enjoy singing these joyful carols, and listening to God's Word, please plan on attending our Candlelight Service.

The Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, school children, soloists, and instrumentalists will be participating in this special service, along with Pastor Schroeder of Good Shepherd, Novi, and Pastor Schaefer. We all hope that you will attend the Candlelight Service, so that your faith may be edified, and so our musicians can demonstrate the fruits of their hard work to a large number of people. Please show support to these faithful volunteers who bring extra beauty to our worship services all year round. The Candlelight offering is used to pay special music expenses (organ and piano maintenance, piano tuning, copyright licenses, etc.) so that cost does not have to come out of the regular budget. After the service, there will be a cookies and punch reception for the congregation.

Blessings on your holiday worship.

Chairman of the Congregation

As part of the Congregational Car Committee's Self Analysis and Adjustment (CCC SAA) process, one of the recommendations was to develop a mission and values statement for St. Peters. The statement below was developed and presented at the 10/13/15 Voter's meeting for feedback from the congregation:

St. Peter's Mission Statement

Make disciples of all nations through the teaching and use of God's infallible word (both the gospel and the law), and sacraments.

Core Values of St. Peter's

Testify To and Uphold the Scriptures

Testify to and uphold the truth of God as fully revealed in the inspired, inerrant, infallible Holy Scriptures and as articulated in the Lutheran confessions.

Evangelize

Reach out with the gospel to evangelize those who are not part of Christ's family, both in our community and throughout the world.

Nurture Faith

Help each other grow and mature in faith through public worship, Bible-based education for all ages, and continued study of God's word.

Christian Service

Gladly serve the Lord, His Church, and His World, and encourage and equip each other to apply our faith through Christian service.

Let us know what you think of how we've worded the mission and core values. While some accustomed to the business world and the ever-changing vision statement may dread seeing phrases like core values, our exercise is different. It's different because the mission itself is timeless, though the way in which we execute our mission at St. Peter's changes over time. As our community and congregation changes, our core values to testify, evangelize, nurture, and serve should be solid as the rock on which our faith is built.

Change can be difficult - - our fear of the unknown and desire to hold onto the past can be a challenge to any congregation. Our history has been a rich blessing for us; but if we aren't careful, it can hold us back in how we deliver our core values. To use a metaphor, clinging too tightly to the past is like carrying a backpack with each year represented by a stone. Every year we add another rock until our packs are so heavy, it makes it hard to move. But instead of hanging onto those rocks in our pack, we use those rocks to build foundations as we go through this life, what a rich blessing that history can be for others.

So while change in this world can swirl around us, we hold firm to the Word, confident in our redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Scott Beckerman

Bd. of Elders

The Board of Elders has been attempting to contact delinquent members of the congregation whose Narthex mailboxes had not been cleaned out for a prolonged period of time. As of July 11, 2015, there were a total of 26 names. At this time we have attempted to contact everyone on this list with the following results:

- Made contact - about 20%
- Phone number on file was disconnected, changed and the new number is unknown, or only got a busy signal - about 20%
- Reached an answering machine and left voicemail message to return our call but received no reply – about 60%

We will make at least one more attempt to call each of these members and if we continue to be unsuccessful we will attempt to visit them.

The Board is also implementing a modified version of "The Peter Plan", which is one of the modules provided by Pastor Hein of the CCC designed to help congregations deal with delinquency. This will be our method going forward:

The first step in this plan is the introduction of friendship pew registries which we started using early in October.

We will compile the information from these registries to determine if and when a member needs to be contacted. It may be related to a comment they included when they filled out the form. It may be a visitor who included their contact information.

If a member has not filled out the form for four weeks in a row they will be contacted to express our concern for their absence and to determine the cause.

For this last situation "The Peter Plan" outlines a step-by-step approach which The Board of Elders has modified to better suit our congregation.

Mark Castellese
Chairman, Board of Elders

The logo for LWMS (Lutheran World Mission Society) is centered within a dashed rectangular border. The letters 'LWMS' are written in a large, elegant, black cursive script.

The LWMS Alpha Circuit Fall Rally was held Saturday, October 17 at Trinity, Morenci. There were 68 souls in attendance. Pastor Rosenberg led our opening devotion reminding us to make note of the blessing of God's faithfulness to us. The Rally's speaker was to have been Pastor Ismael Sialer from Palabra de Vida Mission in Detroit. Due to his mother-in-law's death, he was unable to attend. In his stead, Pastor Flunker gave the presentation. Pastor Flunker serves on the WELS Board for Home Missions as the Hispanic Outreach Consultant. He spends much of his time at Palabra de Vida and is holding a call to serve there part time to aid Pastor Sialer. Pastor Sialer came to his pastoral calling later in life after having a successful career in the field of Economics in his native Peru. He is very successful in his outreach to the Spanish speaking community in the Springwells area of Detroit. Bible study hour and fellowship are very important in uniting the congregants who are from many different Spanish speaking countries. Pastor Flunker is a great asset to the mission, as he is able to bridge the language gap as the congregants learn more English. Pastor Flunker emphasized how important the transition to English is in order to maintain the strength of the mission.

The Fall Mite Box collection for the circuit totaled \$2460.69 (\$277 from St. Peter's).
25% (\$615.17) will go to the National WELS for later distribution
37.5% (\$922.76) will go to the World Mission #2014-05 Multi Language Publication Projects
37.5% (\$922.76) will go to the Home Mission #2014-26 Hispanic Outreach
Details about these projects and others are available at the LWMS website: lwms.org.

The 2016 National Convention will be June 23-26 in St. Charles, IL at the Pheasant Run Resort. The theme is: Christ Alone Our Cornerstone – Grow Where We are Planted

The Alpha Circuit Spring Rally is Saturday, April 23 at St. Jacob in Grass Lake.

Elections: Several positions will be open on the circuit board in the spring. These include Vice President, Secretary, and Spiritual Growth Laywoman. Please consider running for a position. Let me know if you are interested!

November is Befriend a Mission Month for us at St Peter's.

Our Home Missions are:

River of Life Lutheran Church in Goodyear, Arizona – Rev. Lincoln Albrecht

Good News Lutheran Church in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin – Rev. Jonathan Bauer

Our World Mission is:

Cameroon – Daniel Kroll

Please remember our missionaries with your prayers and greetings. Over the next couple of weeks, there will be cards to sign in the narthex that we will send to them. I will also be taking a collection in order to send them gift cards.

As always, check out the LWMS' excellent website: lwms.org. It is full of information on our missions throughout the world as well as devotions and other inspirational information.

Lois Bude

loheotbu@hotmail.com, 734 612 7604 (cell)

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Brady Kenneth Bauer

Marriages

Joe Bisinger to Crissy Conor

Elizabeth Schaefer to Nicholas Zupancic

Sarah Steudle to Eric Janshego

Loss of Members by Transfer

David Broekhuizen to St. John, Bay City, MI

Christina Broekhuizen to St. John, Bay City, MI
(children: Cole, Logan & Jacob)

Tyler Broekhuizen to St. John, Bay City, MI

Michael Lamb to Abiding Word, Highlands Ranch, CO

Margaret Lamb to Abiding Word, Highlands Ranch, CO

Burials

Julia Honke

Members Received by Adult Confirmation

Christopher Blasius

Natalie Blasius (child: Evan)

Loss of Members to Heterodox

Kurt Richter

Jennifer Richter

(children: Joseph, Jacob & Joshua)

Roster Updates

Delete

Julia Honke

Dave, Christina, Tyler, Cole Logan & Jacob Broekhuizen

Kurt, Jennifer, Joseph, Jacob & Joshua Richter

Michael & Margaret (Maggie) Lamb

Add New Members

Christopher, Natalie & Evan Blasius

41251 N. Maplewood

Canton, MI 48187

734-674-6519

Change of Address

Sandra Sill McDonnell

44505 Ford Rd., Apt. 511

Canton, MI 48187

Barbara Helmke

36547 Deer Run Ct. N

Westland, MI 48185

Iir & Enida Marjani

1669 Lexington

Plymouth, MI 48170

Matthew Smith

854 Adams St.

Canton, MI 48188

Ethel Eckles

42000 W. Seven Mile, #224

Northville, MI 48167

Birthdays at St. Peter's

November

1 Elizabeth Zupancic
3 Charlotte Shafer
 Robert Schultz
5 Tabitha Good
7 Arlette Stobbe
8 Julie Webber
9 Brandon Honke
 Paul Pavloff
12 Terry Smith
13 Tekla Bude
15 Steven Shafer
 Daniel Shelton
 James Shelton
17 Andy Haines
19 Erin Le
20 Kai Pearce
21 Elizabeth Good
22 Jeff Good
 Kimberly Harris
23 Ron Bude
26 Courtney Majeske
 Anne Runkle
27 Thomas Kalish
28 K. Nils Peterson
30 Deborah Cording
 Edwin Good, Jr.

December

1 Laurie Carr
4 Isabella Melvin
5 Nathan Roller
 Lucas Winkler
9 Audra Hoffman
 Colin Laycock
11 Rick Carr
12 Danielle Castellese
 Madeleine Laycock
15 Connor Ince
 Kyle Tacia
16 Alex Harris
17 Lynn Seppanen
18 Marilyn Bogenschutz
 Cheryl Smith
19 Kathleen Nordstrom
21 Christopher Berridge
 Ethel Eckles
23 Jacob Richter
24 Donald Schroeder, Jr.
26 Devon Moyer
 John Romain
30 Keldon Pearce
 Sharon Strebbling
31 Bryan Williams

January

1 Eugene Schaening
3 Mark Hannewald
 Vickie Pavloff
5 Kristen Aston
6 Jasper Recto
 Nicholas Smith
7 Julia Honke
 Katriana Pearce
9 Mimi Barber
11 Leah Brooke
12 Shenal Smith
14 Wendi LaManna
 Harry Michalik
 Philip Wendland
 Amy Runkle
 Carolyn Wendland
19 Sue Brooke
 Brian Schultz
 Johanna Townsend
20 Hannah Good
22 Drew Szewczyk
24 Logan Broekhuizen
 Lauren LaManna
 Mary Simpson
25 Doug Smith
26 Richard Cording
29 Brigitte Helmke
30 John Lovell
31 Allen Cyr

NOTE: If you have a birthday in November, December or January, which is not listed, please call the church office so your records may be updated.