

I love decorating our condo for Christmas. The tree and all the decorations lighten my heart every time we prepare for Christmas. I become like a child with the tree going up and every ornament that is hung. There are Christmas pillows and blankets to be put on the couch. A special snowman cookie jar that I can't wait to be filled. With all that is being put up I have my favorites, my grandmother's nativity set, our Charlie Brown nativity set, and Cherrie's grandmother's nativity set. All of them have their special place. There is always one in view when you are in the living room or kitchen. My grandmother's is under the tree, Charlie Brown's is on the half wall dividing the kitchen and living room, and Cherrie's grandmother's is on top of the cupboards above the stove.



This year I was playing Christmas music as I put up Cherrie's grandmother's. It is a wonderful, eye-catching, white ceramic scene. The figures range from three or four inches tall to more than a foot tall. Each figure has great detail. It is beautiful! In order to put it on top of the cupboards, I perch myself on a chair. I have the whole scene laid out on the counter top and reach down from my perch and take hold of each figure. Then I carefully put them in the place I have planned out in my mind. The nativity scene should be just how I think it should be. As I picked up the last figure, a shepherd standing with a single sheep at his feet, my fingers ran over the many cracks in the sheep. Those cracks represent the numerous times I had to repair the figure. It seems like this one, out of all the others, was always the one knocked over by the kids and even myself. It found the floor almost every Christmas. Now as I put it in its place, I heard the words to a song in the background saying, "Come and see what God has done..."

I was struck by the fact of how much this shepherd and I have in common. I have fallen and have been broken more times than I can count. Yet, God has put me back together each time. Even though at times it may not have been what I thought should happen, God's work is better than what I could have done. I think to myself "look what God has done!"

As we celebrate the light that has come into the world, I think of John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Maybe it's a good time to look at our life and say, "Come and see what God has done."



**Blessed Christmas to all,  
Pastor Mark Arendell**

**Worship**

**Pg. 3**

**Service**

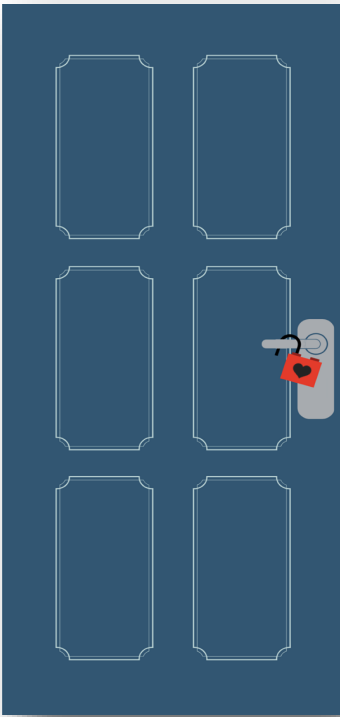
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## Stewardship Drive – 2022

### ***“Unlock the Door – Finances – the Stewardship of Giving from the Heart.”***

Stewardship tithing is something that our members strive to do annually. We encourage our members to prayerfully consider their regular intentional giving to support the mission and vision of St. Peter in the coming New Year. Everyone should give, not out of responsibility, but with a grateful heart for all God has done for him or her.

This year, members will be able to pledge on-line and/or in person. To pledge online go to [www.St.PeterMacomb.com](http://www.St.PeterMacomb.com) and click the following three (3) buttons: Church, In the Know and the name of this year’s campaign, “Unlock the Door – Finances – the Stewardship of Giving from the Heart.” There you will find a form to help you enter your desired regular intentional giving for 2022, a 1-Year Pledge. Once submitted, the Finance Office will receive notification and your stewardship tithe will be recorded into the Church database. To make on-line payments, you can follow the “Link”

provided at the bottom of the form and/or click on the “Giving” tab. When setting up on-line payments for your “General Operating (Tithe)” and/or “Less Debt, More Love (Debt Reduction),” be sure to read the steps listed. If new, create a profile and indicate donation frequency and start date. Your profile is always amendable and the Finance Office is available to help if you want assistance and/or encounter any issues. Don’t hesitate to call!

If you are not filling out a pledge card on-line, we will have them available in the Church Office or in the Narthex area of the Church. You can place the form in an offering plate or bring/mail to the Church Office. For your convenience, there is a DROP BOX located on the brick wall just outside the Church Office entrance (Door #28).

### **HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES – DECEMBER**

The office will be closed on Friday, December 24, Monday, December 27, and Friday, December 31. The office will be open on Thursday, December 30, to receive year-end charitable contributions.

Contributions received or postmarked by Friday, December 31, will be applied to your 2021 financial statement. If you give on-line, it takes several days for these transactions to clear and actually hit St. Peter’s bank account. If a contributor wants their ACH or credit card donation posted in 2021, they must appear on St. Peter’s bank statement by December 31 (not after). Should you have any questions, please contact Diane Hernden.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES!**

2022 offering envelopes have been renumbered! Please be sure that you pick up your “new” envelopes in the Narthex area. Please, DO NOT USE old envelopes as your number may not be the same as it was previously and your donations could potentially be posted to the wrong individual/family.

*For questions, please contact Diane Hernden, Business Mgr. (586) 781-3434 or [dhernden@splcs.net](mailto:dhernden@splcs.net).*

# Worship

Join us as we welcome Pastor Kurt Wenzelburger and his wife, Shelley, as he is installed at all services the weekend of December 11 and 12!

## ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 8, 15:

3:30 p.m. - Traditional

(3:30 p.m. Livestream)

7:00 p.m. - Modern.



## Christmas Eve Services

TRADITIONAL: 1, 7 & 9 P.M.

MODERN: 11 A.M. & 3 P.M.

LIVESTREAM: 1 P.M. & 3 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY: 10 A.M.



### Robert's Music Spotlight

Christmas is just around the corner and everything has started to get a little crazy. As a Worship Director, Christmas is one of my most challenging seasons. It always feels like I am just trying to keep up. Between teams, practices, services, music selection and just the myriad of distractions that come with the season, by the time our big Christmas Eve services start, I have been surrounded by the noise of Christmas but not necessarily the heart of it. If you want to know when the switch happens and I finally feel the gravity of what we are celebrating, it's when we sing "Silent Night" to close the Modern services. Singing the lyrics to this song written by Joseph Mohr remind me of what this celebration is all about. How on this silent night, set apart for all eternity, our Savior came in a most humble state to forever change our lives. (Luke 2:10-12) Merry Christmas everyone and remember what we are celebrating!

Robert W. Costa  
*Director Of Modern Worship*

# Service

It is time to celebrate the birth of our Savior and make Christmas for a metro Detroit child a wonderful one. Last year, we changed the way the program was managed by requesting families to ship gifts directly to the schools, and it was a success. For 2021, the process will be the same. The goal is to keep everyone safe and still supply gifts to children at Crossbridge Preschool at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bethany Lutheran Church Preschool, and Pan De Vida Hispanic Church in Detroit.

GIFTS FOR ALL  
GOD'S CHILDREN

Introducing **SHOP AND SHIP**—we are asking you to follow these easy steps:

1. **SIGN UP** to sponsor a child: Click on signup button next to the code for the child you would like to sponsor. You can view the list of recipients at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4BA4A928A6FC1-gifts>

*IMPORTANT NOTE: IF YOU WOULD LIKE COMPUTER ASSISTANCE TO HELP YOU SIGN UP OR HELP WITH SHIPPING YOUR GIFTS – PLEASE CALL ROSEMARY WEIDNER AT (586) 924-5661 AND SHE WILL HELP!*

2. **PURCHASE** the gifts. We ask to have at least 5 if possible.

3. **REMOVE** price tags.

4. **WRAP** gifts and pack in a shipping box.

5. **SHIP** directly to the specific address of the churches listed below.

Children with “PDV” at the beginning of their description:

Pan de Vida

Attn: {INSERT CHILD’S CODE i.e., PDV-12A}

22835 Lisa Court

Farmington Hills, MI 48335

Children with “BNY” at the beginning of their description:

Bethany Lutheran Church

Attn: {INSERT CHILD’S CODE i.e., BNY-3B}

11475 E. Outer Dr. Detroit, MI 48224

Children with “CBP” at the beginning of their description:

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church-Crossbridge Preschool

Attn: {INSERT CHILD’S CODE i.e., CBP1-3} 5323

Southfield Rd. Allen Park, MI 48101

Please gift wrap and box up your purchases. Send your box via USPS, FEDEX, or UPS. **PLEASE DO NOT DROP GIFTS OFF AT ST. PETER.**

THE CHURCHES MUST HAVE THE PACKAGES TO THEIR LOCATIONS BY **DECEMBER 13 OR EARLIER!** PLEASE SHIP AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID SUPPLY CHAIN DELAYS.

The Board of Outreach understands the challenges with people shipping their own packages and truly appreciates everyone’s willingness to continue to serve others with a generous heart! Please call Michele Jones (586) 260-6576 or Rhonda Fiebelkorn (586) 925-2203 if you have any questions.

Blessings on this season of Thanksgiving to you and yours,  
*St. Peter Outreach Board*



# Hope for the Hungry Food Pantry

Volunteers needed for truck unloading:  
December 15 from 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Food distribution:  
December 2 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
December 16 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

We gave out 70 turkeys and sides on November 4-6  
and 18. Families were most grateful!

We received a new 54" commercial refrigerator from the Macomb Food  
Program. What a blessing!

Kroger food drive is coming in January. This has been one of our most  
important food drives of the year and we will need volunteers to hand out fliers  
at Kroger stores, transport food, sort and put away. More details when the  
pantry receives dates and times.

Donations can be dropped off at the pantry by arranging day and time with  
Karen Foust (586) 491-0652.

Thrivent members, remember you can apply for two Thrivent action grants per  
year up to \$250. We are happy to help you with the applications and let you  
know what we can use. Also, Thrivent choice dollars can be directed to Hope  
For the Hungry Pantry. We are registered with Thrivent.

All blessings, honor and glory to our God, who's Son's birth we will be  
celebrating.

**Karen Foust**  
**Hope for the Hungry**  
**(586) 491-0652**  
[karenwiegand@gmail.com](mailto:karenwiegand@gmail.com)  
[hopeforthehungrypantry.org](http://hopeforthehungrypantry.org)



**Christmas Gifts for Nursing Home Residents** Women's Ministry will be collecting gifts for the residents at the Advantage Living Center in Armada. It's a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus and a sure way to make someone's Christmas just a little more special! This year they are asking for general gifts for men and women. Please wrap them and leave them in the Church Office or by the Sunday morning desk on or before December 6. You can sign the gift tag or card with your name and also St. Peter Lutheran Church. Please label the gifts with the contents so the Activities Director will know how to distribute them.

Suggested gift ideas are: flannel pajama bottoms, cozy socks, diabetic socks (Debby's Dollar usually has them), devotional books, Christmas or Country CDs, light catchers, large print word search books, adult coloring books, Christmas throws, music boxes, calendars, body spray or body lotion, and men's toiletries. Please no food or candy. They also like lap blankets.

**Christmas Caroling** at the nursing home in Armada is tentatively set for Friday, December 17. However, participation will depend on COVID restrictions at that time. Thank you all in advance for participating in this wonderful ministry! If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Wangelin at (586) 749-3325.

We continue to collect magazines for the Advantage Living Center in Armada. The collection box is in the Coat Room. Our elderly friends there sincerely appreciate the magazines.

**Christmas Decorating** Our holiday calendars fill up fast so please save Saturday morning, December 11, at 9:00 a.m. to help decorate the sanctuary and put up the outdoor nativity. With some good music, some good laughter, and many willing hands, the work is made light and we will be done by 10:30 or so. The Christmas trees in the narthex will be decorated earlier that week. Any questions, please contact Vickie Wangelin (586) 749-3325. (Take down will be on January 8, 2022.)

*Board of Trustees and Altar Guild*

**Quilters** meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in sewing/quilting and would like to help, please call Mary Ann Demetrakeas at (586) 854-0548. You can assemble quilt squares at home, or put quilts together at St. Peter as a team – all help is needed.

Always needed are large pieces of cotton fabrics (any solid colors or prints), and sheets (full size best) and light weight blankets or flannel sheets (for backings). Materials can be dropped off by calling the Church Office (586) 781-3434.

**Meal Care Partners Needed:** Are you looking for a new way to serve your fellow members of the Body of Christ? Do you need a project that does not require a huge time commitment? Do you feel blessed to be a blessing? St. Peter has a group of dedicated people who prepare an occasional meal for a person or family going through a short-term difficult time due to illness, grief, or another stressful situation. We are currently looking to add to our list of persons willing to serve in this manner. A Care Calendar is utilized to schedule these meals. You would be asked to prepare the meal and deliver it to the family on a one-time basis. For more information, please contact Paula Hoegemeyer at (586) 322-2319 or [hoegemeyer@att.net](mailto:hoegemeyer@att.net).

**POINSETTIA ORDERS** If you would like to place an order for a Christmas Poinsettia which is used to decorate our altar area the order forms are in the church office. Cost is \$14.00. The plants must be paid for when you place your order. Checks should be payable to the Women's Ministry. All orders must be in by December 7, 2021. You may pick up the plants after the Christmas Day service. Please call Vickie Wangelin (586) 749-3325 if you have any questions.

## Memorial Offerings

***In loving memory of Michael Hammer***, a contribution has been given to:  
**Church Ministry** by Elly Sullivan

***In loving memory of Edwin Kreger***, a contribution has been given to:  
**Church Ministry** by Jack and Beverly Conner, Eldon Kukuk, Roy and Joyce Schwark

**Moving Forward** by Leroy and Donna Lambert, May Schramm, Nelson and Barbara Schramm, Jerry and Janet Stange, Wilma Wangelin

**DID YOU KNOW** that you can remember a special occasion or loved one by purchasing flowers for the front of church? Maybe it's a birthday, anniversary, baptism, wedding, or just a special day to honor someone.

***Please sign up in the Church Office.*** It's easy to do and it will be noted in the weekly bulletin. The cost is \$25. Checks made payable to: *St. Peter Women's Ministry.*

***Questions? Please call the Church Office.***



# Thank You...

Dear St. Peter Lutheran Church and School,

Thank you so very much for all of your support toward our recent October Outreach Ministry Event at Peacemakers International on Chene Street in Detroit.

Our day on Saturday, October 16, was totally blessed by your prayers and your time spent shopping, looking, carrying, sorting and organizing items.

Your generosity of items donated included: winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, new packages of underwear and socks, baked goods, quilts and blankets, hygiene items and Thrivent gift cards.

We ministered to about 80 homeless men and women from the area.

We served a hot meal to 134 total people. This number was made up of St. Peter members, homeless people from the Chene Street area, and the Peacemakers ministry volunteer team. We have been participating in this Christ centered ministry for over 20 years!

Every year we go to Peacemakers, to work with them in their service to the homeless community.

By working with them, we come away being totally blessed because we have reached outside of ourselves and been a blessing to those in need.

God is so good to all of us!!

May we all continue to reach outside of ourselves, and to help those around us who are less fortunate than we are.

May God's richest blessings continue to be poured out to you and your family! Thank you again for everything!!

In His service,

*St. Peter Chene Street Ministry Team*

**HEROES SAVING LIVES** Thanks to all who donated to our American Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, November 7! We collected 29 pints of whole blood, 4 pints above our goal. Many area hospital patients including our own members were helped by the generosity of our St. Peter community. We are thankful for the able assistance of Lillian, Jeanette, Anita, and Megan in making this drive a big success. Praise God for lives being saved through your generosity! Watch for our next blood drive to be held on March 20, 2022. Blessings, Paula Hoegemeyer

I'd like to thank everyone who visited, called, texted and sent meals to my home, but especially prayed for my recovery during my 10 day hospital stay. God heard your many prayers and I feel I'm on the road to recovery, although I've been told I have a ways to go. Thank you, Pastor Arendell, for your prayers and your home visit. A special thanks to Robin Boeling for picking up my handbell director duties, and to my handbell ringers for your dedication and fortitude to push forward without me. You are a special group of ladies that I love with all my heart. To God Alone Be The Glory! *Joyce Gozdor*

# Connection



## **Women In The Word Wednesday Bible Study**

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Large Conference Room - Enter Door #28

**Will Meet: December 8 and 15**

**Recess for Christmas and return on  
January 5, 2022.**

"Joy," a Study of Philippians

By Deb Burma...Books are available

Contact: Karen Gluski at (586) 207-6201  
or [gludog2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gludog2003@yahoo.com)

## **ACTS IN ACTION**

Ever wanted to take a complete look at a Book of the Bible without feeling rushed? You now have that opportunity. The Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will study a small portion of the Book of Acts each week. See what life was like for the early Christians. Because each of the lessons will cover a separate topic or two, please come even if you are not able to attend every week. The class meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Library.

HOLIDAY CHEER? You made it through Thanksgiving, but maybe it was more difficult than you anticipated. And now the Christmas season is fast approaching. If you have recently—or not so recently—experienced the death of a loved one, or if there is a new family dynamic because of divorce or separation, you are facing a Christmas celebration that might be missing the celebration part! If you are looking for support or for help in getting through these days, please join us for Surviving the Holidays on Sunday afternoon, December 12 at 2:00 p.m. There are separation gatherings for those experiencing grief and those dealing with divorce. We meet in the office wing. Please join us and invite other family members and friends.

AVAILABLE SUPPORT: GriefShare and Divorce Care continue to meet on December 14 with the final GriefShare gathering on December 16. We will take a break until late January but will then resume this valuable ministry. If you are in need of a listening ear because of any loss or just because life has thrown you a curve ball, Stephen Ministers are always available. Call Linda Dunklau at (586) 247-5329 to be paired with a confidential Christian brother or sister.

**LGBT Family and Friends Support Group:** Do you have a family member, loved one, or have an acquaintance with someone who is not engaging in a relationship by God's design? Do you struggle with how to interact with them, not wanting to judge others but to show God's love and just accept them where they are at? Then the Family and Friends of LGBT support group is for you! ***We will meet tentatively on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Small Conference Room in the Administration Wing.*** For questions, please call Carol Poterek at (586) 566-3785.



### **Stay Healthy Exercise Class**

Are you feeling tired, stiff or just not yourself? We have the answer. Join some spiritual men and women in a morning of exercise and motivation. People of all ages are welcome and can benefit. Shannon, our instructor, tailors the class to the audience. We work on our hearts, minds, and souls as we stretch, lift weights, and raise our heart rate slowly through low impact, easy to follow movements. Grab water, weights (2 to 5 pounds), and a mat, and join us each Monday morning. We will help you feel better from your head to your toes! Classes are \$5/session on a drop-in basis and are held in the Church Narthex. Enter through Door #1. Contact Paula for more information [hoegemeyer@att.net](mailto:hoegemeyer@att.net) or (586) 322-2319.

**Euchre & Pinochle**—If you are interested in playing cards, this group is for you! They meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the Fellowship Hall (Kitchen side). You can enter through Door #1 or Door #29. Please be at the church by 11:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch. After a brief meeting and lunch, the games begin!! Cost is \$1.00.

### **Blood Pressure Screening**

High blood pressure is often silent and can cause significant health problems when not controlled. The Parish Health Team conducts blood pressure screening on the second Sunday of each month between the 8 and 9:30 worship services in the Brides Room behind the sanctuary. The next screening will be held on December 12. Stop by for this important health check!

## **ST. PETER WOMEN'S MINISTRY DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT**

To: All St. Peter Women

From: Women's Ministry Board

"Advent by Candlelight" replaced the December meeting.

**ACTIVITY:** This year the COOKIE WALK will be held December 11 and 12 in the Fellowship Hall. Each lady is asked to bring her favorite homemade cookies in a DISPOSABLE CONTAINER in whatever amount she is able to make. Cookies may be brought to church, Door 1 or Door 29, on Saturday, December 11 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., or after 5:00 p.m. There will be a cart at each entrance to put them onto.

**Set up:** Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Lois Bellhorn, Gwynn Oberly and Jeanette Yonka

### **Sell:**

After Saturday, 6:00 p.m. service - Phyllis Stade and Marie Niemann

After Sunday, 8:00 a.m. service - Joyce Schwark, Linda Schwark, Ruthann Bettcher

After Sunday, 9:30 a.m. service - Darla Bratkowski, Rebecca Ward, Susan Koss

After Sunday, 11:00 a.m. service - Darla Bratkowski and Diane Robertson

### **Tear down:**

After 11:00 a.m. service Sunday, December 12 - Evelyn Haley and Phyllis Stade

Mark your 2022 calendar for the January 13, 2022, meeting. More information will be in January Keynotes.

*Thank you! Women's Ministry Executive Board*

### **Christian Yoga Class**

Come join us for a faith filled gentle yoga experience. Becky will guide us through prayerful meditation, stretching, and postures, embracing our mind, body, and spirit that God has given to us. All ages are welcome. Bring a yoga mat, water, and a joyful spirit for this class that will meet every Thursday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Church Narthex. The cost is \$10/session drop in. Enter through Door #1. Contact Paula for more information [hoegemeyer@att.net](mailto:hoegemeyer@att.net) or (586) 322-2319.

# Education

Our entire Sunday School; Teachers, Helpers and Students are busy practicing songs and recitations for our Christmas Service.

We will present the service entitled, "Sound The Bells! The Savior Is Born"! Sunday, December 12 at the 9:30 a.m. service.

Our November Bible lessons revolved around the reason for the season, so now we are all excited to celebrate Jesus' birth and proclaim the "Good News," Jesus Christ, Our Savior is born.

Parents of our Sunday School students, please have your child (children) in Sunday School, December 5, for our mass rehearsal (which will be held in Kaiser Hall) to prepare for our special service, December 12, at the 9:30 a.m. service.

Our Sunday School values St. Peter's Mission Statement:

"To glorify God by making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ!"

Wishing you a very Blessed Christmas!

*Pat Losey, Sunday School Superintendent*

## Sunday School



## Keep your faith and the faith of your family growing!

Here are dozens of great devotions, ideas, Bibles and other resources. (Viewing Keynotes online? Click the links below, or visit the Sunday School page on our website.)

[Ages: Baby - Toddler](#)

[Ages: 10-12](#)

[Ages: Preschool](#)

[Ages: 12-14](#)

[Ages: 5-8](#)

[Ages: 14-18](#)

[Ages: 8-10](#)

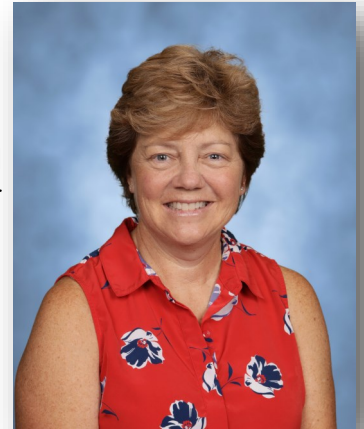
Additional resources for adult devotions and online Bible studies are available on the [Resources page](#) of our website.

# Meet Our Staff: Kindergarten

## **Mrs. Debra Washburn**

*Kindergarten Teacher*

My name is Debra Washburn and I am beginning my 38th year of teaching. I have wanted to be a teacher since I was 8 years old because I had two wonderful Lutheran teachers that I wanted to emulate. I have had the opportunity to minister to many children and families over the years. I completed my Bachelor's Degree at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. I began teaching at Emmanuel Lutheran School in Dearborn, MI. I continued to study at Eastern Michigan University, earning a Master's Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Language Arts. In 1999, I began teaching Kindergarten at St. Peter. It has been a blessing to me and to my family to be part of the congregation here at St. Peter. I am thrilled to share the love of our God with the children I teach daily. It is amazing to hear them proclaim Jesus' love confidently.



My husband, David, and I have three daughters. Katy works for 9 & 10 News in Cadillac, MI. She is married to Chris. Kristine teaches in Chicago, IL and is married to Tisch. Kallie is in HR and she is the source of many adventures.

Along with teaching, I coached one amazing volleyball team with Mrs. Katie Tobey. I am a part of the preschool committee and have volunteered for VBS. I helped to build a house in the Dominican Republic in 2019. I enjoy the Detroit Tigers, reading, crafting, and visits with family and friends.

My favorite Bible verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

## **Mrs. Katie Tobey**

*Kindergarten Aide*

My name is Katie Tobey and I am Mrs. Washburn's Kindergarten Aide. I am married to Jeff, and we have three children, Joshua, 16, Grace, 13, and Emma, 9. Grace and Emma attend school here at St. Peter (8th grade and 4th Grade). While Joshua is a Junior at LHNW.

I went to elementary school at St. Luke in Clinton Twp and graduated from Lutheran North. I went onto Oakland University where I graduated with a Business degree. I had no intention of working in a school. That all changed when my son, Joshua, started preschool. I began helping out in the classroom and loved it!



We became members of St. Peter when Joshua began Kindergarten. After Emma was born, I started to sub in the Preschool and eventually became an aide for Mrs. Brendle in her 4 year old class. I worked with Mrs. Brendle for 4 years. Preschool will always have a special place in my heart!

Then I graduated up to Kindergarten. I worked with Mrs. Wargo, part-time, for a year, before I moved to Mrs. Washburn's room, full-time. We've been a dynamic duo for almost 5 years! We laugh, we have fun, we get into a little mischief, and we love to teach kids about God's love! I even managed to convince Mrs. Washburn to coach Volleyball for one year. I hope to continue at St. Peter's for many years to come.

**Mrs. Nicki Wargo**  
*Kindergarten Teacher*

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High! Psalm 9:1 [I give thanks to God for the opportunity to teach kids...and families...about Jesus and His love, forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life in heaven through sharing God's Word, singing, teaching, celebrating and growing together as unique children of God! Each day we get to use our creativity and imagination to explore His world, and grow in the gifts He has blessed us with as a family of God!]



My name is Nicki Wargo. I grew up locally, worshipping at Immanuel, and attending both Immanuel and Lutheran High North before I attended Concordia University, Chicago. My family has a strong history of many pastors and teachers within the LCMS, including my mom, and I am blessed to have always attended Lutheran schools where Christ was at the center of my learning. Through Concordia, I completed my B.A. in Elementary Education with specializations in Early Childhood Education and Music and completed my Lutheran Teaching Diploma. Throughout my 24 years of teaching, I have taught kindergarten through 6th grade at 3 schools in 2 states, directed choirs for kindergarten- 8th grade, directed handbells and drama/school musicals, been involved in women's ministry teams, workshops, and retreats, participated in VBS as director, teacher, and song leader, led junior and senior high youth groups, and been a part of praise teams, choirs, and instrumental ensembles.

At Concordia, I met my husband, Phil, who is also a Lutheran teacher. Together, we have served at 5 different Lutheran churches, and have been married for over 22 years. I was called to St. Peter in 2006, and have taught 2nd grade, 4th grade, and kindergarten, directed choirs, sung in praise team, and assisted in leading youth group and VBS. Our twins, Keecie and Tai, are in 8th grade at St. Peter and have been attending St. Peter since 3 year old preschool. They have participated in many St. Peter sports and activities and are looking forward to their new Lutheran High North experiences. Our family enjoys spending time together with our extended family at our cottages on the water at Crystal Lake and Harsens Island, Michigan and Perdido Key, Florida. We have been blessed to grow in faith together through our time at St. Peter.

**Mrs. Michelle Thies**  
*Kindergarten Aide*

My name is Michelle Thies and I am currently in my 4th year as an aide in Mrs Wargo's kindergarten room. My family and I have been members of St. Peter for 11 years now. I have 3 children, all of which have been students here at St Peter. My daughter graduated from St. Peter 2 years ago, my son is currently in 8th grade here at St. Peter and my youngest son is in 4th grade at St. Peter as well. I graduated from Central Michigan University in 1999 with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation. In my spare time, I enjoy watching my kids play sports, shopping, and traveling. I enjoy being part of St. Peter School and sharing this place with my children!





**Mrs. Cheryl Ratusznik**

*Kindergarten Aide*

My name is Cheryl Ratusznik. I am one of Mrs. Wargo's Kindergarten Aides. This is my third year with Mrs. Wargo. I am married to Mike and we recently celebrated 24 years of marriage. We have one daughter, Sarah, and an 8 year old Lab, Bubba. Sarah attended St. Peter from preschool through 8th grade. She is currently a Junior at Romeo High School.

I attended Catholic schools for my elementary and high school years, St. Veronica in Eastpointe and then graduated from Regina High School in Harper Woods.

When it was time for our daughter to go to school, we did our search for the best school out there. Our neighbor had sent her children to St. Peter and highly recommended it. We came to the Open House and instantly agreed it was the school we were looking for.

While she was here, I volunteered as much as I could for her teachers and in the Library. I have worked in the nursery, kitchen, subbed for some teacher's aides and in the Library. I was Troop coordinator and leader for American Heritage Girls for 4 years.

I helped at VBS at St. Peter for about 3 years and enjoyed it. I then started volunteering at St. Isidore at VBS. There I was Director for the preschool/kindergarten program for 9 years. I was also a Faith Formation instructor for 8 years at St. Isidore.

When I do have some extra time for myself, I enjoy taking pictures, reading, crafting, traveling and love being by the water. Family and friends are everything to me. There are two things that make my heart swell. One is hearing high school and college students not afraid to talk about Jesus, that they joyfully follow the Lord. The other is hearing kindergartners spontaneously singing songs about Jesus, over and over. They are the best! I am very blessed and thankful to be here. God is good!



**Mrs. Jessica Leonard**

*Kindergarten Teacher*

My name is Jessica Leonard. I married my husband Bob in 2006. We have 3 children: Lucas 10, Ryan 7, and Lexi 6. We live in Richmond, but make the long drive here because I went to school here and wanted my children to experience the same Lutheran education I did. I graduated from Baker college with a degree in elementary education in 2010. I worked as a substitute teacher while I stayed home and raised my children. This is my second year teaching Kindergarten at St. Peter. I previously worked in the preschool as a teacher in the 4-year-old classroom and as an aide in KinderBridge. I have loved every minute of the last 4 years working at St. Peter. There is nothing better than hearing little voices praise our Lord.



**Mrs. Rosa Dillon**  
*Kindergarten Aide*

Hi, my name is Rosa Dillon. I am going into my second year as a Kindergarten Aid for Mrs. Leonard. It has been an amazing journey leading children and growing their faith.

I have been married for 15 years and currently have twin boys in first grade and another boy in kindergarten.

During our free time, we enjoy spending time with family and friends, going up north, and traveling to new places.



**Mrs. Lindsay Oliver**  
*Kindergarten Aide*

My name is Lindsay Oliver. I have been married to my husband, Dominick, for 14 years. Together we have 4 children; Dominick 10, John 8, Mary-Ella 5, and Annamarie who was born October 17, 2021. We also have a one-year-old Pomeranian named Cupcake. I have my bachelors degree in elementary education from Oakland University. I am in my second year of working part time alongside the wonderful Mrs. Leonard.

I am a person of strong faith and I believe faith and education go hand in hand. I love working at St. Peter with the extraordinary staff and being able to embrace and share my Christian faith and values with the students and their families.

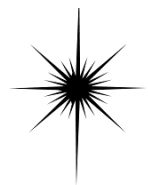
Some things I enjoy are going for long walks, reading, shopping at T.J. Maxx, watching my boys play tennis and spending time with the people I love.



**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:** We are currently looking for substitute teachers. Having a BA degree is a must. Background or experience in Education would be helpful but is not required. You must also complete a background check. If you are interested, please contact our Principal, Mr. Tim Leinberger, at [tleinberger@splcs.net](mailto:tleinberger@splcs.net) or our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Sandra LaPerriere, at [slaperriere@splcs.net](mailto:slaperriere@splcs.net).

We want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from our Board of Education, administrators, teachers and staff!

*"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
Isaiah 9:6*



# Life Team

## December Focus: Why Social Media Shouldn't Define Your Teen

Although watching that creative video is fun and harmless, hanging out online isn't without risks. We already know that teens using social media give away every detail of their lives. This can lure stalkers, provide bullies with potential fodder, and affect how future colleges or employers view them. There's also a serious issue that is a growing problem with teens: technology and smartphone addiction. New research shows that half of American teens believe they are addicted to their smartphones.

**The Reality of Media Addiction** - Researchers believe that as teens become hooked on social-media apps, they are less able to regulate emotions, manage impulses, and make good decisions. Social-media addiction also creates lower self-esteem — the direct opposite of what teens use social media for. This addiction has also resulted in the nation's first cellphone addiction rehab center for teens.

The bottom line is that when our teens spend an excessive amount of time online, they are on a journey to find their identity by comparing themselves to others. The fame, beauty, wit, status, and identity of other online teens become the measuring stick by which they judge their value. They can never measure up; they are susceptible to anxiety and depression.

A parent's greatest error could possibly be turning a blind eye to how much time teens spend online and what they're doing there and why. Fortunately, there are things we can do to help our teens using social media to appropriately navigate technology and avoid becoming addicted to its promises of identity, fame, and celebrity status.

**Set Limits** – The biggest problem with a teen's value being formed by media is that teenagers are often being lied to. How many of those Instagram photos of your daughter's friends are perfected beyond reality? Being aware of the content your teen is consuming and setting limits can help them accurately see reality.

**Content on Media** – One reason we set limits is so that our children can live in the real world with real relationships — friends who have zits, pores, and love relationships built on serving each other. What can you do? Limit the exposure and boycott the bad stuff. It's OK to say no. You are the parent. It's your job to discipline and correct your teen when their desires run counter to what God says is best for them.

**Identity in Christ** – Christ offers a real and lasting sense of worth. Instagram doesn't. Self-denial, not self-esteem, is the solution to our insecurity as we find our value in Christ. Despite what the culture tells your teen, that's the way to overcome their insecurity, not another follower on their Instagram profile.

Spend time in prayer, asking for the Lord to be with your teen as they interact with and consume media. Take time praying with your teen, encouraging them to seek refuge in the Lord, not in social media. Find time in the Word, find scripture to uplift your teen with when their hearts become heavy with anxiety from social media.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8

\*\*\*If you have concerns regarding what our children are being exposed to through social media, internet, television, some public-school systems, and peers; if you are alarmed by the dramatic increase of teenaged depression and suicide; if you want tips on how to communicate with your children this seminar is for you.

MENTAL HEALTH AND CHILDREN SEMINAR being held at Our Savior Lutheran School, Hartland, MI

**FEBRUARY 12, 2022** -- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Speakers: Chris McKenna (Founder of Protect Young Eyes) on "Digital Top Safety Tips & Tricks" ; Rev Michael Salemin (National Director of Lutherans For Life) on "Transgenderism" plus "Sexuality & Purity"; and Eric Hipple (Former Detroit Lions Quarterback) on "Depression & Suicide"

\$15 per person -- Morning refreshments and lunch included.

Register on-line at Eventbrite <http://oursaviorlifeteam0222.eventbrite.com>. Questions call (248) 887-4300. Registration closes Saturday, January 29 due to lunch supply chain concerns

*For Life Team questions, comments or concerns, please contact Carol at [carolpoterek@gmail.com](mailto:carolpoterek@gmail.com) .*



**Rev. Mark Arendell**  
*Interim Sr. Pastor*



**Rev. Craig Meyer**  
*Pastor Emeritus*



**Mr. Tim Leinberger**  
*Principal*



**Mrs. Sandra LaPerriere**  
*Assistant Principal*



**Mrs. Deborah Lowry**  
*Preschool Director*



**Mr. Robert W. Costa**  
*Director of Modern  
Worship and Communications*



**Mr. Jason von der Lage**  
*Director of Student Ministry*



**Ms. Diane Hernden**  
*Business Manager*

## ST. PETER'S VALUES

### **Our Mission Statement:**

To glorify God by  
making and growing  
disciples of Jesus  
Christ

### **Matthew 28:19-20**

Go therefore and make  
disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the  
name of the Father, of  
the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit, teaching them to  
observe all that I have  
commanded you. And  
behold, I am with you  
always, to the end of age.

Articles for **January Keynotes** must be submitted before 4 p.m. on December 15.  
**Please submit all articles for consideration by email** to Allison Tebay -  
atebay@splcs.net. All submissions should include your contact information.  
Please submit articles without formatting in a Word document. Thank you!



17051 24 Mile Road, Macomb, Michigan 48042  
Church: (586) 781-3434 School: (586) 781-9296  
[StPeterMacomb.com](http://StPeterMacomb.com)

### Worship Service Times:

Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Traditional
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Traditional
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Traditional
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Modern

Please visit **StPeterMacomb.com** to see other  
opportunities to worship through Sunday School,  
Bible studies, small groups and more!

St. Peter Lutheran Church and School is a member congregation of The LCMS.