

### **“What if...?”**

***“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.” John 15:26-27***

Back when I first began serving as a pastor, I remember a small outreach campaign in which a number of the Milwaukee-area Christian churches were taking part. I first noticed this when I began to see banners popping up on church lawns that asked: “What if it’s true?” I admit that the signs did well to pique my curiosity, but I was a little uncomfortable with the way the question was worded.

Remember...I had just come out of the seminary where I was reminded on more than one occasion that we are called to proclaim the truth in a direct manner that never leaves anyone with questions, so I was keenly aware of two things when it came to these “What if it’s true?” signs. One, they didn’t appear to mesh with what I had been taught and, two, they were still managing to stir my taste to try anything and everything in order to reach the lost.

After looking into things, I discovered that the campaign was actually designed to reach those who were in the midst of questioning God or struggling in their walk of faith. The idea was to get people to stop asking “What if it’s **not** true?” (as so many are apt to do these days) and, instead, take a completely different angle by asking: What if it **is** true?!

What if Jesus really is who He says He is? What if Jesus **is** God in the flesh? What if Jesus really did all those things recorded in the Bible – miracles and all? What if Jesus really did die to take away our sins? What if our sins are the obstacles that God says they are? What if Jesus really did rise from the dead... ascend into heaven...and now reigns as the Almighty One – the King of kings and Lord of lords? And... what if I went on and on and on asking every “what if” question I can think of?

I admit that asking these questions still makes me a little uneasy, but I also have to admit that maybe we **should** ask these questions. Not to question God, but more-so in order to search out the truth given in His Word and rediscover that there are NO “**What ifs**” when it comes to who God is and what He has revealed.

You see...when we take time to dive into Scripture, we discover that everything about God and His Word is absolutely true concerning Jesus. And if all these things are true of Christ, then there are other “what ifs” which are also absolutely true. Like...what if Jesus really did send His Holy Spirit to do all the things He said He would do? And...what if the Holy Spirit has every intention of using people like us here at St. Peter to do His work, spread His Word, and reach out to those who have yet to have their “what if” questions answered?

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As we approach the celebration of Pentecost on June 5<sup>th</sup>, we're going to explore some of the "what ifs" that exist regarding the Holy Spirit in a three-part sermon series. Because, here's the bottom line: If church folks like us really believe what the Word of God says about the Holy Spirit, then the question we should be asking is this: *What will this mean and what will this look like for the Body of Christ who worships here at 24 Mile and Romeo Plank?*

My prayer is that, if you aren't already in a conversation with God about this, you would begin today. In fact, I pray that our June sermon series not only gets you thinking, but that the Holy Spirit moves you to search for those around us who still live with too many unanswered "what ifs" in their hearts and lives...all in order to lead them to the Truth.



**A blessed season of Pentecost to all of you!  
Pastor Kurt Wenzelburger**

## Sermon Series: What If...

### ***"What If...?"***

"What if it's true?" is a question that's often filled with wonder, amazement, and curiosity.

"What if it's true?" is also the kind of question that can lead to the reaffirmation of promises made and promises kept.

Beginning with the celebration of Pentecost on June 5, we'll spend three weeks looking at some of life's "What If?" questions and what the Bible reveals to us about who the Holy Spirit is, what He does, and how He continues to work in and through people like us. After all, if what the Bible reveals to us about the Holy Spirit is true, then the question we really should be asking is this: *What will this look like for the Body of Believers who worship here at 24 Mile and Romeo Plank?*



TRADITIONAL WORSHIP	MODERN WORSHIP	LIVESTREAM
Saturday - 6 p.m. Sunday - 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.	Sunday - 11 a.m.	Sunday - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

# Worship

## A Devotion From Pastor Arendell

I can't believe it. It seems like in a flash it is here. I won't say it because my heart won't allow me to say the five-letter word beginning in **f** and ending in **l** with an **i**, **n**, **a**, in the middle. I thought long on this and prayed about it. So many of you are a part of so many of my great blessings. So, if one memory you thought should be written was not, please know that I probably considered it and it was on my mind as I wrote these last devotions of standout memories.

This memory requires a little bit of background. Growing up and watching TV and movies a lot, I had always wanted to be a singer. I watched and listened to choirs and bands and thought how wonderful it would be to be a part of one. My dream was nearly shattered when in sixth grade I bombed the choir tryout. No doubt about it, I am not a capable singer, and I know it! Years later my dream was given a brief new life when I sang in a small church choir. That did not last! Soon the dream took a back seat to all the other things of life.

The remaining part of the dream was singing with a band. It has always been in the back of my mind, but I never really thought it would happen. Here at St. Peter we are blessed with an awesome music ministry from the organists, to the choirs, bell choir and worship band. The music here really lifts the worship up! I have been in awe at the level of talent God has blessed St. Peter with.

One Sunday afternoon, after another great day filled with music, people were on their way home and I went back up to the pulpit to grab my keys and reading glasses. The worship band started to play one of my favorite worship songs. This does not happen regularly, but it did this day. I started to sing along as I walked away. Then I noticed I was standing not too far away from where Robert was singing, so I kept singing. The church was nearly empty, but I did not care. God had worked it out so I was singing with a band and I was not going to let the opportunity pass. I sang out with all my heart, and I thanked God! I cannot describe the joy that filled my heart to be able to worship without worrying about what I am doing next. To be that close to the worship band was like I was a part of the band. It didn't matter that the church was almost empty, my heart was full!



Now that I think about all of the wonderful memories, a verse that comes to mind is Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

God is awesome! 16 years ago I had no idea how God would change my life and make it so rich with His extravagant love and overflowing grace. All of you are a huge part of the rich and extravagant love God has blessed me with. Remember our God is an awesome God and He has plans for your future.

God Bless You,  
Pastor Mark

**Please join us Sunday, June 26, as we celebrate Pastor Arendell's retirement at his last services with us as our Associate Pastor!**

## Robert's Music Spotlight



This month I wanted to share with you the song "Raise A Hallelujah" by Bethel Music. While this song came out a few years ago, it is still a relevant and mighty declaration, that even in the midst of doubt, unbelief and struggle, we will still raise a hallelujah to our sovereign King. (Psalm 34:1-4, Acts 16:25-26 and 1 Peter 2:9) This song was written after a couple took their two-year-old son, Jaxon, to the hospital with what they thought was a normal child's illness. They soon discovered that Jaxon's kidneys were shutting down due to an E-coli virus attacking his organs. Soon after, their four-year-old daughter, Addie, was diagnosed with the same infection. Worship leaders and friends in their community received news one night that the parents didn't think Jaxon would make it through the night. Jonathan Helser, the gentleman who wrote this song (along with Melissa Helser) said, "I thought, 'Jaxon's going to die tonight, we're not going to see the miracle. All of a sudden, out of my gut, this song came out in the face of the giant.'" After several weeks in the hospital, numerous treatments and countless prayers, the Taylors were admitted to go home with two healthy children. I share this amazing testimony not only to remind you that God is still working miracles today, but that in the midst of trials we still need to "Raise A Hallelujah." We serve a God who is with us wherever we are in life, its struggles and that He is holding our hand in His. (Joshua 1:9 and Isaiah 41:13)

Robert W. Costa, *Director Of Modern Worship*

Read the full article behind "Raise A Hallelujah" here: [Raise A Hallelujah - Bethel Music](#)

# INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH!

Share the love of Jesus with a neighbor, friend, coworker or family in your community. We'd love to have them be our guest!

*Invite cards available near the Main Sanctuary entrances.*



# Service

Following are the 14 LWML Michigan District **2022-2024 Grant Requests** which Michigan District President, Pastor David Maier, approved and will be voted on at the LWML convention in July. The biennium **goal is \$260,000**, and the biennium **requests are \$289,500**. Each delegate usually votes for eight or nine of the proposals as the requests are for more than the set goal. The ones that get the most votes are those that become funded up to \$260,000. Please contact St. Peter delegate, Joyce Schwark, **before July** if you would like her to vote for any particular grant request.

1. Enriching lives of children and families in Michigan's Urban Communities.
2. Lutheran Heritage Foundation- God's Word for Teenagers around the world. This Grant would support the translation and publishing of a 300 page book, "God's Word for You" targeting the teen population.
3. Gifts for All God's Children year-round program replication to additional churches. This Grant would help to deepen the relationship with 5 more congregations in the Detroit LCMS area.
4. MOST Ministries "Shepherding the Sheep" – Allows 5 Pastors and 4 members of each of their congregations to help with expenses of short-term mission trip.
5. Lutheran Braille Workers
6. Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Generational Church, Cross Point Church, LCMS, Ministry and Missions Cost. This Grant would help fund the initial cost for the church pastor, worship group, a music and youth ministry, and an outreach/ evangelism team.
7. Family of God Lutheran Church in Southwest Detroit. This Grant would provide purchasing a used trailer to store a tent, tables, chairs, etc., needed to continue Sunday worship of homeless.
8. Orphan Grain Train- Michigan - Help to ship two international shipments of clothing, quilts, medical supplies, etc.
9. Scholarships for Deaf Students - St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf is the only Lutheran Deaf school in Michigan. Offers tuition assistance through scholarships.
10. Lutheran Special Education Ministries. This Grant could fund new and upgraded programs in Michigan and across the country.
11. Passenger Van Outreach for St. Paul Community Lutheran Church, Pontiac. Grant needed to purchase a 15 passenger van. The church has 200 members, with a weekly attendance of 30 due to transportation constraints.
12. "Worship Anew" weekly LCMS television worship services on Sunday mornings. This Grant would allow expanding the sharing of Christ's love in the Michigan District.
13. Scholarships for female students studying to be a Deaconess or Professional Church Worker: This Grant would support Michigan women preparing in any of the Concordia Universities for careers in LCMS professional church work.
14. Concordia Fort Wayne Indiana Seminarians food/clothing bank.

Anyone can give toward these very worthy Grants via the MITE boxes which are available at the Information Desk in the Narthex or in the Church Office. (The name originated from the Bible story of the Widow's Mite.) Just deposit your pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters into the box and periodically bring it back to the church office or to Women's Ministry meetings and pick up another empty box.

A huge "thank you" for your support!

Joyce Schwark  
St. Peter LWML Representative  
bearhunter64@comcast.net

**The St. Peter College Scholarship Fund** This fund has been established to help St. Peter students who plan to attend LCMS colleges for the 2022-23 school year as they prepare to go into full-time church work. High school seniors and current college students may apply in the Church Office. Please read the guidelines carefully. All applications are due by June 15.

## The month of May was full of blessings!

**Meijer Simply Give Campaign was a SUCCESS!** This 3-month campaign of donations and matching dollars earned the Pantry \$6720 in food gift cards. What a blessing to have when we need it the most. Thank you for your support!

**Thrivent Choice Dollars and Action Grants have been abundant and so much appreciated.** Many supporters have directed their funds to Hope for the Hungry Pantry as a registered charity, while others have applied for grants. These funds were used for boxes, supplies, and carts that help us run more efficiently. Thank you for your generosity.

**Easter Dinner was a plus for households in April.** Hope for the Hungry Pantry was blessed this Easter with enough hams and turkeys for 130 households. This was truly an answer to many of our prayers and a pleasant surprise for all of the families!

## USPS Food Drive was another SUCCESS!

This was our BIGGEST Food Drive of the year and we received close to 4000+ pounds of food! Thank you to the 25 plus volunteers who helped with food pick-ups from the New Baltimore Post Office, sorting canned goods and stocking shelves. This will keep our shelves full for several months.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### School's out...perfect time for community hours!

- **Truck unloading:** June 1 and 15 from 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.
- **Food distribution:** June 2 from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and June 16 from 11:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
- **Apartment Deliveries:** June 4 help is needed to pack and deliver food to two local apartment complexes. Stephen Ministry accompanies the delivery for residents that would like to talk or pray. This is ongoing for the first Saturday of each month.
- **Packing Boxes** are always available for families, groups, or individuals. Most Mondays and Wednesdays (6:15-7:15 p.m.) are currently available, but arrangements must be made in advance.

### Other Ways you can help

- **Amazon:** If you're an online shopper with Amazon, you can continue to shop all the great selections and values while supporting Hope for the Hungry Pantry. For every eligible product purchased, **AmazonSmile** will donate to us with no additional cost to you! For more information visit our website, under [Volunteer](#) or [AmazonSmile](#)
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars and Action Grants:** Any St Peter members, who are Thrivent members, can help support our pantry with Thrivent Choice Dollars and Action Grants. If you have any questions or need help, you can email or call me.

All the volunteers who donated their time, talents and sometimes their muscles...you truly are a blessing! To volunteer, donate, or for more information, please contact me or visit [hopeforthehungrypantry.org](http://hopeforthehungrypantry.org) for updates.

Yours in Christ,  
Karen Foust-Chairperson  
(586) 491-0652  
[karenwiegand@gmail.com](mailto:karenwiegand@gmail.com)



**The Green Thumb Group** will be planting flowers around the church on Monday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m. If we have a rain out, we'll plan on Tuesday. The more hands we have to help the easier the job, so if you enjoy working outside please call Vickie Wangelin (586) 749-3325 to let her know that you can join us. A big thank you to Hessel's Greenhouse for donating the beautiful flowers. Everyone certainly enjoys them all summer long!

**Sower Needed:** The Christian Growth Board is looking for someone to sew our children's' church activity bags. If you would like to help, please contact Larry at [ltlney@splcs.net](mailto:ltlney@splcs.net). Thank you!

**MCREST** We are still in need of volunteers (June 12-18) for this ministry that helps homeless women and children in our community. Please use the link below or go to [stpetermacomb.com](http://stpetermacomb.com) to sign up.  
Viewing Keynotes online? [Click Here to Volunteer](#)

# Thank You...

Dear St. Peter Family,

Words cannot express our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of comfort and support we received at our time of loss. We are so blessed to be a part of this church. We thank God for each of you. To Pastor Arendell, thank you so much for all of your visits, prayers, and words of comfort. To the Women's Ministry, the funeral luncheon was absolutely wonderful. Your ministry to our family and to all of the families that you serve is such a blessing. We can't thank you enough. While we will miss our wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, we are rejoicing in God's promise that we will see her again. *"Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*  
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Sincerely,  
*The Family of Evelyn Miller*

Thank you to all who sent cards, called and said prayers for me while recuperating from shoulder surgery. *Bob Schwark*

**FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN** St. Peter Macomb is seeking applicants for a full-time Custodian. Primary responsibilities of our custodial staff is the overall maintenance and cleanliness of the interior and exterior appearance of the church and school; and to ensure that all members, visitors and staff have their facility related needs met. Applications and a full ministry position description are available by contacting Diane Hernden at [dhernden@splcs.net](mailto:dhernden@splcs.net) and/or Wayne Niemann at [wniemann@splcs.net](mailto:wniemann@splcs.net) or by calling (586) 781-3434, Ext. 119 or Ext. 127 respectively.

**DONATIONS FOR BABY CARE KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

They are in need of:

- Lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Long or short-sleeve gowns or sleepers (Gowns, rompers and top/pant sets can be substituted for sleepers)
- Receiving blankets
- Crocheted or knitted blankets made with lightweight yarn
- Cloth diapers
- Jackets
- Sweaters
- Sweatshirts (with or without hoods)
- Socks
- Hand towels
- Bath-size bars of soap (in original wrapper)

Please deposit them in the LWR tub in the Church Coat Room. Questions, please contact Joyce Schwark, St. Peter LWML Rep. at (586) 524-9328. Thank you!

**ALL YEAR LONG DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR GIFTS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN:** Following are some examples of what is needed: sample or regular size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotions, soap, deodorant, dental floss, toothpaste, etc. You may deposit them into the appropriate drawers in the Church Coat Room. Questions: Contact Joyce Schwark (586) 524-9328.

**GIVING TREE SPRING 2022**

The St. Peter Giving Tree is budding this spring with a special project designed to protect the historical value of the parsonage property. Currently, the spring focus is the replacement of all the original 1927 windows of the church parsonage. A gift of any denomination is accepted through the Giving Tree Envelopes that may be obtained and returned at the Church/School Office or the Sunday reception desk.

*The Board of Trustees and the Women's Ministry*



# Memorial Offerings

*In loving memory of Evelyn Miller, a contribution has been given to:*

**Moving Forward** by Bill and Edwina Alexander, Stuart and Mary Arends, Erv and Judy Aufdemberge, Tony and Lois Bellhorn, Eleanor Berry, Duane and Ruthann Bettcher, Lorraine Bock, Rod Bock, Carol, Lisa & Bud Bone, Chet & Diane Boss, Don & Sue Bowden, Earle and Gayle Brooks, Arthur and Karen Burke, Marilyn Clore, Ray and Patricia Czaiczynski, Sandy Dick, Will and Anne Ebel, Anthony and Connie Fazzalari, Shelly Fowler, Ed Gallagher, Roy and Lois Geer, Karen Gluski, Bruce and Evelyn Haley, Carol Harm, Neal and John and Diane Hamann, Ardell Hauss, Ron and Barbara Heckman, Robert and Lori Hermann, Neal and Paula Hoegemeyer, Michael and Pam Jagoda, Robert and Judy Juengel, Marlene Keene, Don and Cynthia King, Ruth Klein, Evelyn Klockow, Gary and Char Kogelmann, Jim and Sue Koss, Richard and Jeanne Koss, Tracy Kowalski, Joyce Kraatz, Dean and Lois Kratz, Stan and Marion Krakowski, Fred Koenig, Kathy Krause, Donald and Dorothea Kurek, Sr., Lee and Donna Lambert, Edwin and Jacqueline Lanko, John Lembke, Roger and Pat Losey, Phyllis Marcath, Kurt and Brooke Marcath, Troy and Heather Martin, Tamara McRae, Bryon and Dawn Miller, Bonnie Lee Miller, Ron and Geri Milliron, Bud and Debby Milton, Jim Moschel, Keith and Alice Mueller, Wayne and Virginia Oehmke, Joanie Oliver, Diane Penzien, Shelly Penzien, Chuck and Penny Penzien, Rosanne Penzien, Gwynn Previdi, Scott and Sheila Prior, John Rank, Loida Raver, Kathleen Reinhardt, Joe Resseel, Gerianne Roland, Shirley Roland & Family, Lorraine Rosso, Richard and Stacey Schmidt, Robert and Corrine Schraffenberger, May Schramm, Dennis and Paula Schramm, Fred and Lillian Schreiber, Doug and Heidi Schwark, Bob and Sue Schwark, Jim Schwark, Mark and Linda Schwark, Shirley Simmons, John and Leanne Stallmann, Jerry and Janet Stange, Gary and Rita Stark, Bill and Merlene Thompson, Nancy Thurston, Laurel Ulrich, Keith and Gloria Vergin, Glenn and Monica Voorhess, Gerald and Andrea Wangelin, Wilma Wangelin, Bill and Diane Wetzel, Brian and Julie Wright, Don and Diane Zienert, Lynne and Marlene Zienert

**The Giving Tree (Parsonage Windows)** by Wayne and Marie Niemann, Frieda Schluessler, Gary and Phyllis Stade, Marv and Pat Warnez, Charles and Grace Wolf, Terry and Jeanette Yonka

*In loving memory of Chuck Moschel, a contribution has been given to:*

**The Giving Tree (Parsonage Windows)** by Mary Moschel

*In loving memory of Bill and Brenda Schwark, a contribution has been given to:*

**The Giving Tree (Parsonage Windows)** by Bruce and Evelyn Haley, Jim Schwark

*In loving memory of James Blickensdorf, a contribution has been given to:*

**Moving Forward** by Jerry and Janet Stange

*In loving memory of Connie Davis, a contribution has been given to:*

**Moving Forward** by Dean and Lynne Endlich, Kathy Krause, Donna Miller, The Padula Family  
**School Ministry** by Duane and Ruthann Bettcher

# Thank Offerings

*For blessings received, a contribution has been given to:*

**The Giving Tree (Parsonage Windows)** by Sandra Lange

*For thanksgiving and celebration at the birth of our granddaughter, Summer Joy, a contribution has been given to:*

**The Giving Tree (Parsonage Windows)** by Mark and Linda Schwark

*In thanksgiving and celebration of her birthday, a contribution has been given to:*

**The Giving Tree (Parsonage Windows)** by Wilma Wangelin



# Connection



**NURSING HOME MINISTRY** - Everyone is welcome to join us on the fourth Thursday of each month as we gather at the Village Rehabilitation and Care Center in Armada to sing and have a short worship service with the residence there. We also walk across the parking lot to do the same with the residence at the Assisted Living center. We currently have a few St. Peter members there who really enjoy our visits. We meet at 2:00 p.m. Please call Vickie Wangelin (586) 749-3325 if you have any questions or would like to carpool. Just a smile and sharing the love of Jesus brings so much joy to our elderly friends.

Wednesday, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Bible Study will not be meeting during the summer months.... Looking forward to sharing God's Word with all of you in September! Thank you, Karen Gluski

**GriefShare** Tuesday evening, May 17, a new GriefShare cycle was initiated at St. Peter. Many churches do not offer this ministry during the summer, but because we are blessed with eight veteran facilitators plus two newly-trained leaders, we are able to continue reaching out to grieving people. Eight people from the community attended the first meeting. All of them are mourning the loss of a spouse or another special adult in their lives, and so they bonded quickly with each other as they shared their experiences and their deep sorrow.

St. Peter has offered GriefShare since 2017, offering three thirteen-week cycles every year. During the height of covid, we "met" via zoom. It was not ideal, but we were still able to offer hope as even more people were grieving the loss of a loved one. One hundred sixty-three people have bravely walked through our door to seek healing as they long to move "From Mourning to Joy," the title of our manual. Most of these participants are not members of St. Peter, and some of them have no church affiliation. Death was never part of God's plan at creation, but we live in a fallen world where death is a part of every life, and we are privileged to walk beside people as they mourn. May God be praised and glorified as He uses our St. Peter family to minister to His children.

For information about attending GriefShare or about becoming a facilitator, you can contact the Church Office or Linda Dunklau at (586) 247-5329.

**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 meet 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.

Have you ever wanted to stay at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island? Here's a great opportunity to attend the **Lutheran Adult Gathering** and enjoy all the wonderful amenities the Grand Hotel has to offer while hearing some inspiring speakers, enjoy talented entertainment and of course, enjoy delicious meals. There will be free time to explore the island! The Lutheran Adult Gathering is October 14 - October 16. Go to [michigandistrict.org/lag22](http://michigandistrict.org/lag22) for more information. The deadline to register is August 15. Please contact Katie May (586) 419-6952 or Vickie Wangelin (586) 749-3325 if you have any questions.

**EXERCISE CLASSES** Stay Health Exercise and Christian Yoga classes have concluded for the season. We will resume in September and look forward to your participation! *Paula Hoegemeyer*



**Run the Plank** is Saturday, June 25! Register at [runtheplankmacomb.com](http://runtheplankmacomb.com). Questions, contact Lisa at [lventimiglio@splcs.net](mailto:lventimiglio@splcs.net).

### St. Peter's 32nd Annual Golf Outing

Cracklewood Golf Course  
Friday, July 29

Deadline to register is July 26. For registration form or more information, visit [stpetermacomb.com](http://stpetermacomb.com) or contact Larry at [ltilney@splcs.net](mailto:ltilney@splcs.net).

**To:** All Ladies

**When:** June 2 (temporarily changed to first Thursday)

**Place/Time:** Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.

**Devotions by:** Joyce Schwark

**Refreshments:** Janice Davis, Diane Robertson, Rita Stark (We will be having an Ice Cream Social at this meeting.)

**Activity:** Bring an empty shoebox if you have one. The shoeboxes will be going to Grace Fellowship to be packed with children's items for Shoebox Ministry (Samaritan's Purse).

**Perennial Plant Exchange:** Bring a plant or two from your garden to take and plant at your home.

This will be the last meeting until September 8. Please continue to save your mites. You can bring them to the June meeting, drop them off in the Church Office this summer or give to one of the board members.

*Women's Ministry Board*

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

**R.O.P.E.** Throughout their child's younger years, St. Peter wants to help families take steps in spiritual growth through a combination of classes, retreats, seminars, and blessing events.

### Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Sept. 11 - 2nd/3rd grade Bible Blessing

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023 - 4-year-old Picture Bible Blessing

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 2023 - 6th-8th grade Communion Classes



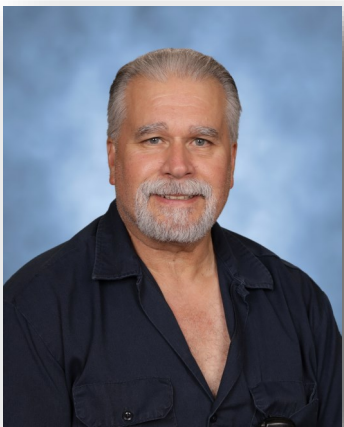
**Rites Of Passage Experience**

## "Well done, good and faithful servant!"



### ***Thank you, Pastor Arendell!***

Pastor Arendell is retiring at the end of June. St. Peter has been richly blessed to have had Pastor Arendell as our Associate Pastor for the past five years. His uplifting sermons, every day passion to serve the Lord, and the occasional making of balloon animals will be greatly missed! However, we are grateful that he will still be doing hospital visits and worshipping with us on Sundays. God's blessings on your retirement, Pastor Mark! Thank you!



### ***Thank you, Sal!***

Sal Manzella, one of our custodial staff, is retiring at the end of June. We greatly appreciate all of Sal's hard work and dedication to St. Peter. We have truly been blessed to have such an awesome member of our staff! Sal has helped to keep our church and school clean and running for many years, and his hard work has not gone unnoticed. May God bless you in your new journey of retirement, Sal! Thank you!

## God's Blessings!



God's blessings to our 6th grade teacher, Mr. Louis Ambrecht as he departs from St. Peter to serve as a teacher at Guardian Lutheran in Dearborn. We thank him for his years of service teaching the students at St. Peter. May God continue to bless him on his new journey, and may he continue to spread God's love wherever He continues to guide him.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

# Education

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School (September - May) classes have now ended until this Fall. I wish to thank my devoted volunteer staff of teachers and helpers. We all gathered for an appreciation dinner, May 17.

Following the dinner we had a very productive meeting with great thoughts as to how we can promote Sunday School this Fall.

We are very happy to report that our "Money for Missions" was quite a success with donations totaling \$545.00. That total reflects the fact that 109 children will receive a Bible Storybook or catechism written in his/her language in countries like Africa, Asia, or South America.

We would like to remind parents and especially new members that have children (age 3 yr. - 6th grade) that our Sunday School is available for them. Also, any members that would like to teach or help out in our Sunday School, please contact the church office or the Sunday School Superintendent for more information.

As many of our St. Peter Ministries recess for the summer, may God watch over us giving us a very enjoyable, safe and healthy time together with family and friends.

Yours in Christ,  
Pat Losey  
*Sunday School Superintendent*



## National Lutheran School Accreditation Update

St. Peter School and Preschool were blessed to have nine Lutheran educators in the building for our School Accreditation visit.

While they were on campus, they reviewed the self-study document and related evidence provided by the school, listened to relevant staff presentations, and interviewed school stakeholders.

They also examined additional evidence presented by the school, visited classrooms, observed instructional practices and learning environments, and collected and organized data.

**Once their assessment was complete, the Visitation Team unanimously recommended both the preschool and K-8 for Full Accreditation!**



# Life Team

## June Focus: Abortion/Past Abortion

The abortion issue has been legal since Roe v. Wade in 1973 and is again before the Supreme Court now waiting to see if it will be overturned. But being overturned *does not* mean abortion will be illegal and Planned Parenthood will go away. It will only mean that the states, not the federal government, will make the abortion guidelines.

Abortion does not only extinguish a new life, it also affects the mother, father, and families involved.

Yes, there are those who use abortion as a means of birth control and can justify to themselves that it is only a blob of tissue. But what about the young lady who finds herself pregnant and is wrestling with the thought of aborting her baby? Her thoughts run rampant—how can she raise this child when her dream was to go to college, get a degree, and have a career? And after that, get married and have a family. After all it's only a blob of tissue, right? But how can this be when the Bible says that God formed us in the womb (Isaiah 49:5, Jeremiah 1:5, and Psalm 139:13)? We know science backs this up because a baby's heartbeat begins pumping just one week after a missed period. So many people pushing her to terminate the pregnancy—her parents, her boyfriend, and her girlfriends. They make it sound so easy. This way, they tell her, you can get on with your life and not be tied down with a baby. So she decides to go ahead with the abortion. The deed is done. But is it? Now the guilt sets in.

*But there is hope.* If you are sorry and ask God for forgiveness, He will forgive. We just had that reminder and celebrated it at Easter. He redeemed us. (Ephesians 1:7) He removed our sins as far as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:12)

There are places where you can go to get help with the healing process, both are confidential and Christ-centered:

1. Word of Hope - Lutherans for Life Abortion Healing Ministry

1 (888) 271-8679

[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

[help@word-of-hope.org](mailto:help@word-of-hope.org)

2. Compassion Pregnancy Center: Past Abortion Support and Healing—individual and small groups

(586) 783-2229

[compassionpregnancy.org](http://compassionpregnancy.org)

If you are that person who had an abortion, seek out help and go forth and live your life as a redeemed child of God. He loves you so much.

If you do find yourself with an unexpected pregnancy and need help, Compassion Pregnancy offers confidential help, free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds. The program helps during the pregnancy and until the child is two years old.

**Also, the Life Team would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the Baby Bottle Drive. We collected \$5,157.47!**

**Diaper Drive:** We will be collecting diapers from Mother's Day (May 8) to Father's Day (June 19). Sizes five and six are especially needed! Diapers may be dropped off in the Church Coat Room.

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

# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY BETTY J. YOUNGBLOOD

**MORTGAGE UPDATE:** As of April 30, 2022, the Church Extension Fund loan balance was \$1,649,720. This is a reduction of 65.3% since we first started tracking the Moving Forward Campaign in November 2018.

**BUDGET UPDATE:** Following is a summary of income and expenses, as of April 30, 2022. This information is compared to the same ten-month period of the prior fiscal year (July 2020 through April 2021).

**Church Income** stands at \$1,952,143 compared to \$1,959,653 last year. This is a decrease of 0.4% or \$7,510. Previous reports have noted a small decline in church income this year. This decline has now been almost eliminated.

**Church Expenses** now total \$1,086,498, compared to \$1,591,145. This is a decrease of 31.7% or \$504,647.

**Day School Income** (tuition and miscellaneous income) now totals \$1,518,939, compared to \$1,218,114 last year. This is an increase of 24.7% or \$330,825.

**Day School Expenses** (salaries, benefits, and expenses) now totals \$1,778,230, compared to \$1,419,276 last year. This is an increase of 25.3% or \$358,954.

**Preschool Tuition** now totals \$288,219 while miscellaneous income totals \$131,282, for total income of \$419,501. Miscellaneous income includes a one-time non-budgeted Michigan grant for payroll in the amount of \$127,990.65. We are not reporting income comparisons to last year due to different accounting systems prior to merging the Preschool with the Day School at the beginning of the current fiscal year.

**Preschool Expenses** now total \$274,877. Expenses include salaries, benefits, and related educational items. As with income, we are not reporting expense comparisons to last year due to different accounting systems.

**UPCOMING REPORTS IN KEYNOTES:** The next report will be in mid-summer and will include end of the fiscal year data and analysis. It will also include a summary of changes made at St. Peter in account analysis, practices and reporting in the Business Office. With Dr. Robert Costa's assistance, several changes have and are being made to move all income and expense reporting to a GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) compliant format.

*For Treasurer's report questions, comments or concerns, please contact Betty at [bettyjyoungblood@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyjyoungblood@yahoo.com).*



**Rev. Kurt Wenzelburger**  
*Senior Pastor*



**Rev. Mark Arendell**  
*Associate 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 **July Keynotes** must be submitted before 4 p.m. on June 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!



### 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

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

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.