

## NEWS AND NOTES for November 2 & 3, 2024

✠✠✠✠ Flowers by the altar are in memory of *Jean Thomas* given on behalf of the St. Peter faculty & staff ✠✠✠✠  
**November 2024 Featured Hymn:** This month our featured hymn is "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart," (LSB 641). When the 41<sup>st</sup> International Eucharistic Congress was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in August of 1976, a competition was held for the hymn that best expressed the theme of the conference. This hymn by Omer Westendorf was chosen from over two hundred entries. While it was a Catholic hymn in origin, it has become popular in many other churches since then. This hymn was originally titled "Gift of Finest Wheat." The tune was composed by Robert Kreutz. It was named Bicentennial since it was written in 1976, the same year as the bicentennial celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which also has connections to the city of Philadelphia. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)

**Sanctuary Rededication Celebration** The rededication of the sanctuary will be November 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am during the divine service. A brunch will follow with John Pankow's egg casserole, fruit bowls, and donuts/sweet treats. **There will be NO divine service on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



### Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,657,126
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,561,195

**Newsletter Articles** The church newsletter for December 2024 through February 2025 will be published soon and needs your articles! Please get them to Laura in the church office no later than November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Volunteers needed** to help with Sunday Morning Fellowship. Join our Sunday morning Fellowship crew and help spread smiles one cup at a time! No barista experience required, just a willingness to brew, chat and share a smile with others. Deaconess Shirley will show you the ropes. Sign up for a Sunday (or two 😊) in the church office or call to pick a date.

**Prayer Shawl Circle** - You are warmly invited to join our Prayer Shawl Circle! Together, we will create shawls that offer comfort and love to those in need, whether they are facing illness, loss, or any life challenge. We will pray through the Psalms as we work on the shawls. Meeting weekly on Mondays from 1 pm to 2:30 pm in Classroom 2. Yarn, materials and patterns will be provided or bring your own. For more details, contact Deaconess Shirley.

**Apple Pie Sale** is Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. As always, they will be made with love ready to bake or freeze. You can enjoy them during the holidays or give them as gifts. The cost will be \$14.00 each. There will be a sign -up sheet for the number of pies you would like. You can also text or call *Frank Buckbee* at 989.996.1801 or *Sheila Bauer* at 989.860.3927 to order pies and/or sign up to join in on the fun of processing this year's pies. Deadline for ordering will be Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. All proceeds will go towards the general fund so it may be used where it is most needed. Pies will be available for pickup on Saturday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> between 9:30am and 12:00pm at the school.

**GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays** is a helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after a loved one's death. The seminar will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 2:30 pm in the church conference room. There is no cost. Topics to be discussed include dealing with hard-hitting emotions, what to do about traditions, how to survive social events, and where to find comfort and strength. Call the church office at (989) 642-8188 for more information or to register. You can also register online at [www.griefshare.org/events/246984](http://www.griefshare.org/events/246984).

**We are excited to announce the reopening of our church library!** Come explore our collection and discover a welcoming space for study and reflection. This month, we're highlighting **\*\*Blessings on Weekly Communion\*\*** by Kenneth W. Wieting. Be sure to check it out. "Blessings on Weekly Communion" offers a compelling exploration of the significance of regular communion in the life of the church. The book encourages a return to the practice of weekly communion, highlighting its spiritual benefits and the rich tradition behind it. Wieting's insights are supported by scriptural references and historical context, providing a well-rounded perspective. Overall, it's a thoughtful and inspiring read for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of this vital sacrament.

**St. Peter PTL Christmas Bazaar:** Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2:30 pm. Featured are crafts, holiday baked goods, quilts, rock candy, fresh greens, white elephant sale, and more. Luncheon from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. Contact Julie Ryan (989)245-7114 to rent a table or space. WSGW will be there!

**Sunshine Seniors** Everyone 50 and above is invited to the next St. Peter Sunshine Seniors meeting on Tuesday, November 12 at 12:00 noon at the church. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service for a delicious potluck meal. Our speaker will be the director of the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum. If you can, please bring something from their needs list to the meeting such egg cartons, new or empty Kleenex boxes, newspapers/magazines, paper plates, scotch tape, copy paper, spiral notebooks, empty paper towel and toilet cardboard tubes, pipe cleaners, blue or red ink pens, pencils. Invite a friend and see you there!! In December, the Sunshine Seniors will go out to eat at a restaurant. Watch the bulletin for the time and place.

**Mary-Martha** We welcome all ladies of St. Peter to come to our November Mary Martha meeting. We will meet Tuesday Nov. 12 at 7:00 PM in classroom 3 at church (which is located down the educational wing hall just past the church office on the left). Plans will be finalized for all our Christmas activities associated with the Christmas Bazaar in addition to church decorating and caroling. We begin with devotions by Deaconess Shirley and a treat; we hope you can attend.

**Below are the General Fund Income and Expense numbers**, as well as others, for the prior months and the current fiscal year to date. We hope that these numbers provide a clear picture of our operating status.

	August 2024	September 2024	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 136,792.60	\$ 149,195.02	\$ 379,493.32
General Fund Expenses	\$ 136,584.28	\$ 122,738.74	\$ 388,283.75
<b>Gain or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 208.32</b>	<b>\$ 26,456.28</b>	<b>\$ (8,790.43)</b>
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 47,967.00	\$ 88,209.00	\$ 357,164.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,996.00	\$ 2,277.00	\$ 5,896.00

**Church Attendance Last Week: 285 (65-220); Communion: 210**

**Karaoke For Lutheran Hymn...** You can sing hymns like "For All the Saints," "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "Abide with Me" and more. Lutheran Public Radio has produced YouTube videos of almost 50 hymns with text and music featuring the Lutheran Public Radio Choir. Sing along at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org).

**The Lutheran Hour** is broadcast Sundays on WSAM 1400AM Saginaw at 8:30am and XM 131 at 10:30am. It can also be heard on-line at [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). Next Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, Guest Speaker *Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola's* sermon is titled, "My Name Is Now Yours". God comes to renew us with His forgiving love, rename us in Baptism, and remain with us through His Word.

**Mary Martha Christmas Bazaar Workshops- Anyone is invited to participate!**

**Rock Candy:** Come to help make candy on Wed., Nov.13<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm, in the school kitchen. Call Jenny Curry (989) 482-3100 for information.

**Fresh Green Arrangements:** Wed., Dec.4<sup>th</sup>, at the Eimer's barn starting at 9 am. Lunch provided. Something for everyone to do! Coleen Schantz (989) 295-1393

**Christmas Cookie baking:** Bring a rolling pin and a few medium cookie cutters to the school kitchen on Thurs, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. We will start at 6:00 pm. Sheila Bauer 860-3927 Sharon Wohlfeil 989-239-4575

**Help frost and decorate cookies:** Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 in the gym. Bring friends who are 8<sup>th</sup> graders or older, please. It takes many hands If you have 30 minutes or 2 hours - please help!

**Bazaar Donations:** We'd be so grateful!

- Cookie sprinkles
- Bake a pan of bars or small cookies for the bazaar luncheon
- dessert. Deliver to the school kitchen on Fri., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> or Sat., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

**Lutheran Hour Ministries,** LHM, has staff on the ground in ore than 35 countries that allow them to share the Gospel in ways that reach more than 60 countries. One ministry Center is located in Latvia. To learn more about LHM's ministries in Latvia check out the poster on the bulletin board in the gathering space.

**God's Helping Hands** We have been given the opportunity to distribute Senior Food Boxes (60 years old). The boxes are in connection with the Federal Assistance Program. They will be distributed on the fourth Saturday each month at God's Helping Hands. There are applications on the table in the gathering space and can be turned into Laura in the church office.

**Advent By Candlelight** Sunday, December 1, from 4:30-6:00pm, come and prepare your hearts for the Advent season. Soup, salad, bread and desserts will be served. An inspirational message, meaningful conversation and Christmas hymns will be enjoyed by all. Please reserve your spot by contacting church/school office or email *Mrs. Kelley Fehn* at [kelley.fehn@stpeterhemlock.org](mailto:kelley.fehn@stpeterhemlock.org) Space is limited to 60 people. This event will take place in the school gym.

**7th-8th Grade Class Trip Fundraiser** Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be holding a wreath and grave blanket sale with proceeds to benefit their class trip to Washington D.C. in April. Completed order forms and payment can be turned in to any 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student or the school office. Money cannot be collected at the church. You may order now through November 17. Orders will be ready for pick-up on Monday, December 2 and Tuesday, December 3 from 3:00-6:00pm in the church pavilion. We thank you for your support of this great opportunity for these students.

**Community News:**

\*See flyers on the bulletin board in the gathering space\*

**Ushers for next week: Saturday:** *Ryan Cicinelli, Carl Neuenfeldt Jr.* **Sunday:** *Mike Stavely, Mark Chapin*

**Videographer for next week:** *Scott Neumeyer*

***A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan***

"In the fullness of time, our Lord was born for our sake. In the fullness of time, He will bring all the faithful into eternal fellowship with Him. In the fullness of time, He will dry every tear and fulfill His will for all mankind, as John the Evangelist witnessed in the Revelation God granted him."

- *Deaconess Bethany Stoeber, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas*

**ALL SAINTS' DAY**

Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

***Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ***

"A great multitude ... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages," cry out, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne" (Rev. 7:9-17). Faith-filled saints from every place and time, with unified voices, eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, "shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:1-3). Joined with the throng of angels and myriad saints, we shall "serve him day and night in his temple" (Rev. 7:9-17). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit through faith in Christ propels us forward, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament, to our eternal home. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1-12).