


NEWS AND NOTES for December 7 & 8, 2024

The Nominating Committee would like the congregation to be aware of the positions that will be open for the January 2025 election. Contact the Nominating Committee (Laura Kopplin, Renee Herhold, and Lynn Smith) for more information or to place your name on the ballot. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talents for the following positions:

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| Chairman (1-year term) | Vice-Chairman (1-year term) |
| Building Treasurer (3-year term) | Assistant Treasurer (3-year term) |
| Elder (3-year term & 1 year term) multiple openings | Trustee (3-year term) multiple openings |
| Head Usher (1-year term) | Financial Secretary (3 year term) |
| Board of Finance (3-year term) | Board of Education (3-year term) with & without kids |
| Evangelism Committee (3-year term) 2 openings | Board of Financial Review (3-year term) |
| Nominating Committee (3-year term) | |

December Featured Hymn: This month our featured hymn is "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied," LSB 342. This hymn was written by Pastor Stephen Starke after he completed a sermon study of Isaiah 11:1-10. He wrote this hymn to paraphrase Isaiah 11, and included references to the various prophecies that point to the coming of the Messiah. The words of the hymn take us back to the garden of Eden and forward to a peace that is yet to come, through the leading of a little child, the Savior Jesus, in both His first and second comings. This hymn was first used by the Concordia Theological Seminary Kantorei in a 2000 tour and was recorded later that year on compact disc, where it used the tune from the hymn "Where Charity and Love Prevail," LSB 845. It is now paired with the nineteenth-century American hymn tune "Consolation," which is also used for LSB 348. (from Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns)

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions can be ordered now through December 10th. This magazine is published 11 times per year and provides Missouri Synod laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Each issue comes with the Michigan In Touch supplement at no extra cost to those who subscribe through the District Office renewal process. Yearly subscriptions (March 2025-February 2026) are \$21.20 if ordered through the church office. Payment can be dropped in the offering plate in a separate envelope marked "Lutheran Witness", dropped in the memorial stand, or mailed to the church office. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church; include your name and address in the envelope if paying with cash. Call the church office 989.642.8188 with any questions.



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Commitments and Gifts:	\$ 2,666,130
Gifts Received:	\$ 2,579,534

The Christmas Love Tree is up in the Gathering Space and loaded with tags to help fill the needs of the residents at HealthSource Saginaw and Wellspring Family Services. If your heart leads you to help with these needs, please take a tag or two from the tree and purchase the items. All gifts are to be left unwrapped and placed under the Love Tree no later than December 15. Thank you for your giving hearts during this joyous season.

Part-time Janitor The Trustees are looking for a part time janitor for the church to start in early December. The position requires approximately 20 hours of work a week. The janitor has considerable flexibility with setting their own hours of work. Interested candidates should contact Dave Earley at 989-737-2757 or earleyconstruction@yahoo.com.

Teacher Position Available Due to our increasing enrollment and class sizes, the Board of Christian Education has decided to split our 5th-6th grade classes next school year. The Board has requested a call list with rostered candidates from the Michigan District and is accepting resumes from qualified teachers who may be interested in these grade levels. Resumes should be sent to *Mr. Eric Hagenow* by mail or email (eric.hagenow@stpeterhemlock.org).

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.

Join Us for Family Game Night! Soups on! Get ready for an evening of fun and fellowship at our Family Game Night! Bring your family and friends for a night filled with games, laughter, and food. We'll kick off the festivities with a delicious menu of soup and sandwiches. We'll provide the sandwiches, and we invite you to showcase your favorite soup recipe! Bring a crock pot of soup (& copies of the recipe if you'd like to share). If you are going to bring soup, please call the church office and let us know so we can plan accordingly! Friday, December 13, 5 pm to 8 pm (Soups to be dropped off by 4:45 pm) Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy a warm meal, connect with others, and play some classic and new games. Whether you're a soup chef or a game/puzzle enthusiast, there's something for everyone! We can't wait to see you there! *Family Game Night will be cancelled if school is closed due to inclement weather.*

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.

	September 2024	October 2024	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 149,195.02	\$ 93,506.54	\$ 465,260.79
General Fund Expenses	\$ 122,738.74	\$ 128,960.73	\$ 456,611.33
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ 26,456.28	\$ (35,454.19)	\$ 8,649.46
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 88,209.00	\$ 220,988.00	\$ 675,503.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 2,277.00	\$ 1,623.00	\$ 8,733.00

****Any donations in Advent Envelopes will go to Mission Fund unless otherwise specified.**

Church Attendance Last Week: 232 (75-157); Communion: 185; Advent Service: 68

Sunshine Seniors will have their Dine Out December 10th at noon, at Cam's Brick Oven in St. Charles.

Ladies Aid will have their Dine Out December 17th at noon, at Miles Market 6235 Gratiot Road in Shields.

Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins You are invited to help share the message of Christ's birth to our St. Peter Shut-Ins! Plan to meet at church **Sunday Dec. 15th at 1:00 PM**. We'll visit several St. Peter members in homes and facilities and share Christmas joy by singing carols. When finished we'll head back to church for a light soup supper! This is a nice activity for the entire family! All ages welcome!

Christianity & Other World Religions... Judaism, Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hinduism, Buddhism, Atheism, Scientology. Issues, Etc., a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, is doing a World Religions 101 series with Dr. Adam Francisco of Concordia University Chicago. You can listen to this multi-part series at issuesetc.org/worldreligions.

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. Next Sunday, December 15th, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "Sorrow Welcomed Here". The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems/ Dr. Michael Zeigler says the church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow. Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler will also be having a Christmas radio special on December 10th titled, "Assignment: Christmas- A Christmas Radio Special from Lutheran Hour Ministries".

Community News:

See flyers on the bulletin board in the gathering space

Ushers for next week: Advent Service: Brad Smith; Zach Holifield **Saturday:** Kurt Cicinelli, Ryan Cicinelli

Sunday: Corey Harry, Matt Wardin

Videographer for next week: Advent Service: Landon Sherry **Sunday:** Scott Neumeyer

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"If heaven had been our home, would we have wanted to enter a world of grief and pain, of evil and death? Yet enter it Jesus did to give us His home to be ours forever. So, He loved us in undeserved grace. And so will we sing in the heavenly Jerusalem a refrain like that of our choirs: Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.' Alleluia."

- Richard Gurgel, President, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Malachi 3:1-7b

Philippians 1:2-11

Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of the Lord

The preaching and Baptism "*of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*" (Luke 3:3) prepare us for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The historic work of John the Baptist was completed with the first advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, but the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of Law and Gospel and in Holy Baptism. Through His messengers, the Lord calls people of all nations to "*see the salvation of God*" (Luke 3:6).

Our haughtiness is removed and our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. As the Lord has begun this good work of repentance in us, so also does He perfect it by

His Word and Holy Spirit, and He "*will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*" (Phil. 1:6). He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Mal. 3:3-4).