

# THE INFORMER



## St. Peter Lutheran Church

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## August 2016

Trinity Sunday marked the beginning of the Time of the Church in our Church Year. The Sundays after Pentecost begin after Trinity Sunday and continue through the summer and autumn until Advent begins in December. The green paraments in the sanctuary remind us of the Time of the Church: the time when Jesus continues His earthly ministry through His people, His Church.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Since the Time of the Church is the time that we remember that Jesus continues His earthly ministry through us, we also find that our readings for each Sunday and our sermons address our lives as God's chosen people. We are those who have been bought with a price: Jesus' sacrifice for us. We're not our own; we're servants of God and we're called to do His work, to live His life, and to be available for Him to lead us as He wills.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

We certainly need the work of the Holy Spirit within us as our sinful nature tries to keep our hearts and minds firmly focused on ourselves: our own plans, our own desires, our own possessions, our own reputations, and our own amusements. These are the things that this fallen world, our sinful flesh, and the devil all use to draw our hearts and minds away from Christ and turn them solely on ourselves.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith and self-control.

The Holy Spirit works within us to remind us of our calling by God. Each year we grow older, we also grow either more closely to or farther from the image of our heavenly Father's beloved Son. The Holy Spirit works within each of us to reverse the destruction of sin in our hearts and minds; to turn our eyes to Jesus, to turn our hearts to His calling, to forget ourselves, and to live in the joy and freedom of the children of almighty God.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

Our loving heavenly Father saves us from the damnation of our sin through our Savior, Jesus Christ. He gives us His own Spirit by which He intends to lead us safely through this dying world and into the glorious splendor of His eternity. Since He's already promised to get us through this life safely, He expects each of us to spend the remainder of our days serving Him and His kingdom. We don't have to worry about this life because our heavenly Father has us covered. That gives us the freedom to be available to Him for whatever He may wish to do through each of us.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faith, and self-control; the fruits our heavenly Father cultivates in us as we walk by the Holy Spirit. We walk by the Holy Spirit as we welcome His leading, as we allow Him to disrupt our schedules with His motivations, as we be His instruments of love, joy, and peace in this sin-ravaged world. We bear this fruit as we live in Christ!



# The Elders' Corner



Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

At the Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod last month, the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison was re-elected to the office of president. Rev. Harrison will serve for his third term in office which covers the triennium of 2016 to 2019.

The presidential nomination process began last fall. Requests for nominations were sent to every congregation in the Synod with nominations to be received by February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The candidates for the office of president were the three individuals who received the most nominations.

The election was held online during the period of June 11<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The eligible voters in the presidential election were the congregations' delegates in attendance at the 2015 district convention. Head Elder Darryl Watt and Pastor Steve Hoerr were St. Peter's voting delegates.

The nominees were the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, the Rev. Dr. Walter Meyer, and our Michigan District president, the Rev. Dr. David Maier. Rev. Harrison received 56.96% of the votes, Rev. Meyer received 36.66% of the votes, and Rev. Maier received 6.38% of the votes.

God's blessings and guidance to Rev. Harrison as he continues to lead our Synod!

## Confirmation for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders



If you know of any children entering the seventh or eighth grade this coming school year, please give their names and contact information to Pastor Hoerr. A child's seventh and eighth grade school years are the years for Confirmation study and now is the time to plan for this worthwhile education!

We will be beginning Confirmation instruction the week of September 11<sup>th</sup> this year. Both first-year and second-year students will begin meeting that week.

This year's focus will be on the Bible. Both classes will participate in an overview study of the Old and New Testaments as they gain a better understanding of our heavenly Father's revelation of Himself and His plan for our salvation.

Please contact Pastor with the names and contact information for the children who will be receiving instruction this year.





## The Word From The Chairman!



# SUMMER VACATION!!

### **Michigan's Church Extension Fund Helps Build a Future**

Building a solid future for our Michigan District churches and schools is important. Building a solid future for your family is important as well. Why not include the ministry of the Church Extension Fund (CEF) in your investment plan and accomplish both? When you invest a portion of God's blessings in CEF, you create a personal stewardship ministry, while providing loan opportunities for Michigan District organizations that want to build or expand their facilities. Call the CEF Rate Line for this month's rates (800.232.7313) or for more information, call us 800.242.3944 or visit [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org).

## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid meetings will start on **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**. Debbie Labuhn has signed up to be the chair person for that meeting and also for refreshments. If you would also like to bring something for refreshments it will be welcomed. We would like to remind all the ladies of our congregation that they are members and we would love to have you join us. New and fresh ideas are something we are always looking for. Our first event for this year is the Christmas Bazaar in November, workers and shoppers are needed.



We held our first Sunday School meeting to set up our singing schedule and to pick new lesson materials. We discussed lots of good ideas and we began preliminary work on the Sunday School Christmas Program. Another meeting in August will be scheduled in order to pick the songs that will be shared with the congregation and to establish a tentative teaching schedule for the year.

Rally Day is being held on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Our teachers and students will be gathering to enjoy a breakfast together and to take care of the administrative tasks for the beginning of classes.

Speaking of food, we certainly have appreciated all the donations of snacks and drinks that the congregation has provided in years past. This year, we would also appreciate snack donations. Individual snack-size bags of pretzels, gold fish, Cheetos, and other non-sugary snacks would be wonderful. We would also appreciate donations of the smaller bottles of water. The children prefer to have their own bottles so the small bottles allow for it without as much waste. Thank you in advance for your donations!

We would also appreciate additional help with teaching and teacher assistants. Our goal is to find enough volunteers so that each teacher will only teach one week out of every four weeks. This allows all our teachers and helpers to attend church. If you would like the opportunity to join in this enjoyable and blessed work, please give me a call at 810-580-2364.

Your friend in Christ,  
Linda LeLacheur, Sunday School Superintendent



## A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~ August

Day	Old Testament	New Testament
1 <sup>st</sup>	Psalms 57, 58, & 59	Romans 4
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ps 60, 61, & 62	Rom 5
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ps 63, 64, & 65	Rom 6
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 66 & 67	Rom 7
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 68 & 69	Rom 8:1-21
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 70 & 71	Rom 8:22-39
7 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 72 & 73	Rom 9:1-15
8 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 74, 75, & 76	Rom 9:16-33
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 77 & 78	Rom 10
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 79 & 80	Rom 11:1-18
11 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 81, 82, & 83	Rom 11:19-36
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 84, 85, & 86	Rom 12
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 87 & 88	Rom 13
14 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 89 & 90	Rom 14
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 91, 92, & 93	Rom 15:1-13
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 94, 95, & 96	Rom 15:14-33
17 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 97, 98, & 99	Rom 16
18 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 100, 101, & 102	1 Corinthians 1
19 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 103 & 104	1 Cor 2
20 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 105 & 106	1 Cor 3
21 <sup>st</sup>	Ps 107, 108, & 109	1 Cor 4
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ps 110, 111, & 112	1 Cor 5
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ps 113, 114, & 115	1 Cor 6
24 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 116, 117, & 118	1 Cor 7:1-19
25 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 119:1-88	1 Cor 7:20-40
26 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 119:89-176	1 Cor 8
27 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 120, 121, & 122	1 Cor 9
28 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 123, 124, & 125	1 Cor 10:1-18
29 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 126, 127, & 128	1 Cor 10:19-33
30 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 129, 130, & 131	1 Cor 11:1-16
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Ps 132, 133, & 134
		1 Cor 11:17-34



## LOOKING AHEAD

**“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”**

**~ Colossians 4:2**

This verse echoes a more familiar passage from the letter to the Philippians, the fourth chapter: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

In both these letters, the Holy Spirit through St. Paul links the habit of persistent prayer with the habit of giving thanks. We are encouraged to be steadfast and watchful in prayer. As we are steadfast and watchful, we are to be thankful.

So, how do we pray in a *steadfast* manner? The word translated as ‘steadfast’ carries the sense of ‘continuing in,’ to ‘attach oneself to,’ or to ‘remain engaged in.’ Being steadfast, then, is to be regular in prayer, to be engaged in it and attached to it. Simply put, to be steadfast in prayer is to pray as an ongoing habit of our lives.

As we pray continually, we are to be watchful. We are to pay attention to what we’re doing and, more importantly, we are to pay attention to what our heavenly Father is doing in the areas for which we pray. We are often a part of our God’s actions as He addresses our prayers.

Embracing our steadfastness and watchfulness in prayer is a spirit of thankfulness. We have been given salvation and eternal life through our Savior, Jesus. Regardless of circumstances, our God protects and keeps us. That gives us ample motivation for rejoicing in our God’s goodness as we enfold our prayers in thanks for His gracious goodness!

**“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 5:16-18**