

THE INFORMER



St. Peter Lutheran Church

**6745 Palms Road
PO Box 230405
Fair Haven, MI 48023**

November 2023

Now thank we all our God / With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, / In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms / Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love / And still is ours today.

This hymn is a wonderful reminder of our heavenly Father's loving care for us. Our God has brought us through everything this fallen world, the devil, and our own sinful natures have thrown at us. His faithfulness to us is constant, unchanging, and unfailing as He escorts us through the trials and dangers of this earthly life. Even in the midst of the sorrow and pain caused by sin, our gracious God gives us joy and contentment as we travel life's road. He fills our days with His blessings as He surrounds us with the pleasures of family and friends. The call to thank our God is always appropriate and we lift our hearts and hands and voices in praise and thanksgiving for His bountiful love and protection.

Oh may this bounteous God / Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts / And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace / And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills / In this world and the next!

The Holy Spirit is with us every moment of every day and our heavenly Father keeps His angels vigilant on our behalf as we go about each day's activities. We live every day in the Baptismal grace poured out upon each of us. That grace reminds us of Jesus' loving sacrifice on our behalf and keeps our hearts attentive as we live lives of repentance; lives which look to our Savior for forgiveness and, through that forgiveness, are filled with grateful joy for our God's love. We find peace and comfort as we live in the forgiveness our gracious God has given us.

All praise and thanks to God / The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns / With them in highest heaven,
The one, eternal God, / Whom earth and heaven adore;

For thus it was, is now, / And shall be evermore.

Our heavenly Father invites us to immerse ourselves in Him as we once again approach the holiday season. The times of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Years are all occasions to praise our God for His gracious goodness and to remember His bountiful care and His glorious blessings. We are invited to join in the hymn of eternity; the hymn of praise to our God. We join the angels, the arch angels, and the saints in heaven, as we gather together around our God's altar and join in His feast of salvation. We praise our God... we praise Him in the lives we live, we praise Him as we bear witness to Him, and we praise Him as we gather as His people to receive His gifts. We live lives of praise to our gracious God and we rejoice in the lives He's given us. Happy Thanksgiving!





The Word from the Chairman!



Greetings,

October has come and gone and winter is around the corner. We had a few Indian summer days (not enough of them) and they were great to have!

We changed things up this quarter and had a voters meeting on the Sunday before the planning meeting. This seemed to work out ok, still some bugs we'll work out as we go. We will do the same format in December for the 4th quarter review and planning activities for the 1st quarter of 2024. Watch your calendars for dates.

We will be having the Congregational Family Christmas Party on December 9th. There will be a sign-up sheet and notices as we get closer to the day.

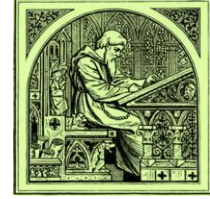
Remember soup and sandwich fellowship before the mid-week Advent services on Wednesdays in December. This is a great time for fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Watch for sign-up sheets!

God's blessings to you!
Randy Wildner

Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."



The Elders' Corner



Thanksgiving Eve Services

We will be holding our Thanksgiving Eve services on Wednesday, November 22nd. Our service will begin at 7:00 pm. Please mark your calendar and join with your brothers and sisters in Christ as we raise songs and prayers of thanksgiving to our God for His providential care and gracious love!

Hanging of the Greens

We will be decorating the sanctuary for the holidays on Saturday, December 2nd, from 9:00 am until 12:00. Join us as we prepare our facility for our Advent and Christmas celebrations!

Mid-Week Advent Services

Our mid-week Advent services will be starting on Wednesday, December 6th. We will be joining together for a fellowship meal at 6:00 pm each Wednesday to enjoy each other's company prior to the Advent service. The Advent Services will be at 7:00 pm after our fellowship dinner. There will be a sign-up sheet for providing a "soup-of-the-day" for each of these meals.

Christian Education News



Sunday school started off a little slow but we are getting back on track now. We are learning about Jesus and his wonderful works!

We are also starting to work on our Christmas program. We are busy learning our songs and starting to learn our lines. The kids are all excited about the program, which makes it a lot of fun for all of our teachers!

Parents and grandparents, we need everyone here to keep up with our learning! The children's regular attendance helps them retain what they have learned!

In other news, the faith friend program has started for another year. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Laura Newman.

We still need men's ties! If you have a few that you can live without, they will be greatly appreciated. Lastly, we are in need of snacks for our children.

The Christmas program will be part of our Sunday service on December 17th.

*Your friends through Christ our Savior,
Linda, Karen, Ann, and Jessica*



Kroger Community Rewards

St Peter has been enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. This program provides monetary donations to the church at no cost to the shopper or to the church!

In order to use this program, shoppers must first sign up. This is a one-time registration. To register:

- 1. Visit <http://www.kroger.com>**
- 2. Create or log into your Kroger Rewards account (this uses a phone number to identify the account)**
- 3. Search for “The Evangelical Lutheran St. Peters Church” by name or enter “DR466” and then click “enroll”**
- 4. That’s it! The church will receive periodic donations from Kroger based on the amount of Kroger purchases each time you use your Rewards account**

A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~ November

Day	Old Testament	New Testament
1 st	Jeremiah 24, 25, & 26	Titus 2
2 nd	Jer 27, 28, & 29	Titus 3
3 rd	Jer 30 & 31	Philemon
4 th	Jer 32 & 33	Hebrews 1
5 th	Jer 34, 35, & 36	Heb 2
6 th	Jer 37, 38, & 39	Heb 3
7 th	Jer 40, 41, & 42	Heb 4
8 th	Jer 43, 44, & 45	Heb 5
9 th	Jer 46 & 47	Heb 6
10 th	Jer 48 & 49	Heb 7
11 th	Jer 50	Heb 8
12 th	Jer 51 & 52	Heb 9
13 th	Lamentations 1 & 2	Heb 10:1-18
14 th	Lam 3, 4, & 5	Heb 10:19-39
15 th	Ezekiel 1 & 2	Heb 11:1-19
16 th	Ezek 3 & 4	Heb 11:20-40
17 th	Ezek 5, 6, & 7	Heb 12
18 th	Ezek 8, 9, & 10	Heb 13
19 th	Ezek 11, 12, & 13	James 1
20 th	Ezek 14 & 15	James 2
21 st	Ezek 16 & 17	James 3
22 nd	Ezek 18 & 19	James 4
23 rd	Ezek 20 & 21	James 5
24 th	Ezek 22 & 23	1 Peter 1
25 th	Ezek 25, 25, & 26	1 Peter 2
26 th	Ezek 27, 28, & 29	1 Peter 3
27 th	Ezek 30, 31, & 32	1 Peter 4
28 th	Ezek 33 & 34	1 Peter 5
29 th	Ezek 35 & 36	2 Peter 1
30 th	Ezek 37, 38, & 39	2 Peter 2



LOOKING AHEAD

Sometimes, **LOOKING AHEAD** is best served by looking back. We just celebrated the Festival of the Reformation and the Festival of All Saints begins this month of November. These festivals remind us of our God's continued loving care for us, and who we are in our Savior, Jesus Christ. They also remind us of the dangers we face as those who are strangers and sojourners in a world that seeks our destruction.

As we celebrated the Festival of the Reformation, we rejoiced in the freedom won for us by Jesus. We rejoice in this freedom as we discover it through our heavenly Father's holy Word. We rejoice in the realities of our God's revelation to us. Our holy God introduces Himself to us through His Word. We meet the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We meet ourselves as the beloved creatures of our Creator who have been warped and twisted by the deceitfulness of sin. And, most wonderfully, we meet our Savior Jesus Christ, who bore our sin and gave us His righteousness. During the Festival of the Reformation, we rejoice in the fact that we have been given salvation by faith alone in Christ alone by our God's grace alone as revealed in Scripture alone.

Next we celebrate the festival of All Saints. We rejoice in the realization that we as the Church gathered in this place are mysteriously joined with the Church throughout the ages. We not only rejoice *for* those who have gone before us in the faith, but we rejoice *with* them as we gather with angels and arch-angels and with all the company of heaven. We join them in receiving our Savior's feast of victory; Jesus' own body and blood, given to us for forgiveness, life and salvation. Eternity joins us as we gather in Holy Communion with our Savior.

These realities, that we are people of the Word and that we are members in the one holy Christian Church throughout the ages, serve as reminders and guides for our lives. As we continue into this holiday season, let us allow the Word of God to shape our considerations and let us take the time to allow the mysterious wonder of our inclusion in God's family to bring into our lives greater thanksgiving, greater joy, and greater peace through our Savior, Jesus Christ!