

ST. PETER'S MESSENGER

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Reedsburg, Wisconsin www.stpetersreedsburg.org

Proclaiming JESUS Savior and Lord for LIFE

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Paul M. Crolius, Pastor

Roger Tessendorf, Principal

FROM THE PASTOR

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

Dear Friends in Christ,

The "Star-Spangled Banner," written by Francis Scott Key in 1814, was adopted as the national anthem of the United States in 1931. Each of its three stanzas ends with this same line: "O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave." Freedom for all was the foundation on which this nation was built.

Freedom is something we treasure in our land. It is what Independence Day is all about. The history of this country is a history of the struggle to guarantee to every citizen the freedoms many of us take for granted.

But no constitutional provision, presidential proclamation, or civil law can set us free from the passions, prejudices, pride and sin that enslave us. The anthem boldly declares in its third stanza, "And this be our motto, 'In God is our trust.'

Only God can truly set free any man, woman, or child. And that He has done! He knew we have been enslaved by sin. His Son, Jesus, lived a perfect life in our place, died the death we deserved for our sin, and rose victorious to deliver us. In this act of grace we delight and depend and are truly free. For that act of grace we give thanks today and every day.

The problem is that we often take the blessings of God for granted. We often do not appreciate the freedoms that we have as Christians. At times, we don't take advantage of the freedom to read His Word and worship the Lord as often as possible. This is always a temptation for Christians when things are going well. Sadly, when the tougher times hit us we find ourselves running back to God for His deliverance and care.

We can truly thank God for the freedom He has given us in a free country. But may we most of all give thanks for the spiritual blessings that God has given us in Christ, namely the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has given to us the greatest blessing of all that we have received through our Lord. Every day is a day in which we can praise God and thank Him for all His blessings. May we be empowered regularly through His Word and Sacrament to give thanks to our gracious God who loves us with an everlasting love and is most worthy of all praise and adoration. May He also empower us to share the hope and freedom we have in Jesus to the numerous people in our world who are still lost and enslaved to sin. God help us to be faithful in this loving task.

> In His Service, Pastor Crolius

FUNERALS

Doris Gade died on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, and was given Christian burial on Saturday, June 22, 2019.

Leonard Alexander died on Friday, June 21, 2019, and was given Christian burial on Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

MEMORIALS

Given in memory of Irma Lowery

\$225.00
\$200.00
\$100.00
\$250.00
\$780.00
\$500.00

Given in memory of Linda Hinz St. Peter's Church \$320.00

Given in memory of Merle GroenerRoof Fund\$ 165.00Radio Broadcast\$1,035.00

Summen Summen WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Bible class will follow at 10:15. a.m.

This change is in place beginning May 26, thru September 1, 2019.

GOLDEN AGERS

Golden Agers met at Pizza Ranch on May 14th at 1130 am. The meeting opened with prayer and lunch was enjoyed by all. The Secretary and Treasurer reports were read. Dee Duley read a beautiful poem. Golden Agers will resume meeting again in September.

LADIES AID

Ladies Aid met on June 15th, in Concordia Hall. Vice President, Eldarene Bowlin, brought the meeting to order and led us in devotion.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were given.

A thank you was read from the families of Ed Strampe and Merle Groener. Also, read was a thank you from the Boy's & Girl's Club and Missionaries, Jim and Susan Kaiser.

It was discussed to give a donation to the "Feed the Poor".

Sunshine Committee will continue visiting the shut-ins.

Birthday wishes were sung to Kate Lindloff and Eldi Bowlin.

No scheduled meeting for July.

Next meeting will be held August 7th, at 11:30 a.m. at Pizza Ranch. There will be a brief meeting followed by Bingo. The Executive Board will get prizes.

Meeting closed with prayer and everyone enjoyed a lemon dessert and fellowship.

Kay Klitzke, Secretary

<u>LWML</u>

Julie Thompson opened the meeting with a poem titled "The Summertime". Phyllis Schenck then graced us with a very meaningful reading from an older quilting book she had come across called "A Quilter's Prayer".

We started our business meeting reciting our League Pledge. The Secretary's Report was read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was read and filed for audit. We agreed to send a \$70 gift to Cindy Wrucke for May and June to continue to support her mission work in the Eurasia Region.

Committee Reports were given for quilting, hygiene items and baptisms with Lettie Schulenburg being named as the last baby being baptized.

A "Thank You" was received from Cindy Wrucke for the last monetary gift we sent her.

Marcia Christensen reported that we collected 24 jars of peanut butter and 16 jars of jelly during our May drive for the Food Pantry. We want to thank everyone who contributed. A new "Greeters List" has been completed for the summer months, and Betty has given everyone their list.

We will be looking to elect a new Vice President and Secretary for the next 2 years.

"Happy Birthday" was sung to three of our ladies with June birthdays – Ev Klitzke, Mary Schwenkhoff and Betty Andreasen. It was nice to have Dee Breight with us again and we thanked her for her delicious angel food and strawberry dessert."

Mary Schwenkhoff led us in a Mite Devotion based on our mission grant "Christ for Veterans and Their Families". She reported that our South Wisconsin District has met its first 5 mission grant goals and is working on #6.

In Christ's Service, Julie Thompson, Secretary

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Special Voter's Meeting June 24, 2019

The purpose of the meeting was to Call a teacher for the seventh-grade teacher vacancy at St. Peters.

Congregational Vice-President Matt Dehn opened the meeting with a scripture reading and a prayer. A sign-in sheet and candidate profile for Brittany Hokana were made available.

Brian Albrecht shared the following information:

- Tim Eigenfeld declined the call we extended to him

- the only other available candidate is Brittany Hokana

- should Mrs. Hokana decline the call, we will need to go forward with contracting a teacher.

The Board of Education is recommending extending a Call to Brittany Hokana. After discussion a ballot vote was taken with "Yes" indicating permission to extend the Call to Brittany Hokana. A "No" vote would allow the Board of Education to go forward with seeking candidates, interviewing and offering a contract.

Elders collected and counted the ballots with "Yes" votes receiving the majority. Motion was made by Craig Hillman to make it a unanimous vote, Phil Rogers second. Carried by voice vote.

Motion to adjourn made by Phil Rogers, second by Bob Corey.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Mary Vethe, Secretary

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL <u>NEWS</u> by Mr. Tessendorf

The 2018-2019 school year has been completed. Our Real Present God was evident throughout the year. The year got off to a late start with flooding in the area, however our God was right on time. Improvements were made and are being made to the building through the DOJ grant and generous donations, yet we know our God is perfect.

We had the opportunity to practice the safety procedures on two occasions, knowing we are always safe in our Father's arms. The school calendar was adjusted to accommodate the number of snow and cold days we were absent from school. Our God is never absent. Yes, 2018-2019 was a year we learned of our Real Present God.



I am blessed to serve as the principal of St. Peter's Lutheran School for two years. Time flies when you are having fun! I am looking forward to the 2019-2020 school year. The theme is Joy:Fully Lutheran based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

"Joyfully Lutheran," provides an opportunity for St. Peter's to celebrate how fully God has blessed and continues to bless this important ministry of St. Peter's. In Jesus, we are more than JOY FULL. We are also THANK FUL, PEACE FULL, FAITH FULL and HOPE FULL. Our God is not a God of partial grace and blessing. In Christ, He fills all in all.



First Thessalonians 5:16–24 provides textual focus for celebration of NLSW. In this passage, God's Word promises, "He who calls

you is faithful; he will surely do it." Blessed by a faithful God, may we FAITHFULLY celebrate His presence during the 2019-2020 school year.

Summer Facility Enhancements: We are planning to have the new Gym Mats and a Traversal Climbing Wall installed by the start of the school year. The Safetbolt classroom locks, blackout window shades and the window film are also scheduled to be installed this summer. We are thankful for everyone who has made these improvements possible and give of their time to install them.

Survey Information: Information from the Surveys in April will be shared at the Principal Chat on September 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Discover Wisconsin History: Mrs. Vossen's 4th grade students did their research and presented their findings to parent visitors and fellow classmates. Each student had a display of their research and was able to answer questions you may have had about Wisconsin History. Here are just a few of their displays. Visit our Facebook page for many more students proudly displaying their work.



Dear St. Peter's Congregation

Hi! I am Josiah Schultz, and over the next year I will be serving at St. Peter's as an intern director of Christian education (DCE). In technical terms, a DCE is a synodically certified, called, and commissioned life-span educational leader prepared for team ministry in a congregational setting.

During the internship year my primary responsibility will be to serve as the youth leader, and I am looking forward to serving St. Peter's in that capacity!

After the completion of my year as an intern I will be a rostered DCE awaiting a call. I am excited to get to know the body of believers at St. Peter's, and I ask that you would pray for me as I begin this process!

In Christ, Josiah

Youth

We are looking forward to the arrival of Josiah on July 3rd. A reception to welcome Josiah will be held on Sunday, September 8th between service. Please take time to introduce yourself and welcome Josiah to St. Peter's.





ROOF REPAIRS

The roof project has been completed. Interstate Roofing has invoiced us for 90% of the

project (\$154,000) and the remaining balance will be paid when we receive the final invoice. This project will then be PAID IN FULL!!! There will be additional work to be done on the interior of the church from the roof previously leaking. God has truly blessed St. Peter's!!



2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 5 - 9, 2019 9:00 - 11:30 A.M.

STUDENTS ENTERING K – 5TH GRADE

REGISTRATION FORM CAN BE FOUND ON THE BACK PAGE OF THE MESSENGER



St. Peter's LAMP Mission Team will be leaving traveling to Garden Hill, Manitoba, Canada July 19 – 27. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel to Canada to share the love of Jesus during a week of Vacation Bible School.

Thank you from the LAMP Team for your support and prayers.

Mark and Marti Meyer, Anna Meyer, Connie Meyer, Matthew Dietz, Molly Leatherberry, Angela Gasser and Aaron Finkel.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions also vary.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though, as Lutherans, we know we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement, the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take, for example, the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all he has and give it to the poor and then follow Him.

This rich young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions. Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God's favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know their duty as Christians in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, "What should I give?" with the question, "What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?"

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe -10 percent - of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

"And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves.

"And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

"At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do." (Deut. 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth the following:

We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2) Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov.

3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the "Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This is our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we have also been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us, like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame, likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God's giving to us.

And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us - with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love – to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

GIVING TREE

The LAMP Mission Team and St. Peter's Youth are asking for your support in their upcoming travels. The LAMP Team will be teaching VBS in Manitoba, Canada, and the Youth will be traveling to MN for the National Youth Gathering. A Giving Tree has been placed in the narthex, choose an envelope. Your gifts may be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

Listed below are those youth that will be attending the national Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Matthew Dietz Derek Halvensleben Molly Leatherberry

Myah Ferguson Ella Halvensleben Eric Peterson Grace Rogers

David Finkel Emma VanEtten Angela Gasser Makenna Halvensleben Nicholas VanEtten

Adults Leaders: Jennifer Anderson Betsy VanEtten

Aaron Finkel

Marti Meyer

Josiah Schultz

The National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis is just around the corner!! We are super excited!! All final plans for our trip are coming together, but we are still in need of drivers to transport us to Minneapolis on Thursday, July 11th at 8:00 a.m. and to pick us up on Monday, July 15th at 12:00 p.m.. A \$50 gas card will be given to drivers for each trip. Vehicles that carry more passengers are also best. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Anderson by email at jennifer.anderson82@outlook.com or at 260-443-1171. Please keep the youth and adult leaders in your prayers as we prepare for this awesome event!! May our hearts grow ever closer to our Real. Present. God. Thank you and God's blessings to all of you!!



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 346 N. LOCUST STREET, REEDSBURG, WI - 608-524-4066



AUGUST 5 - 9, 2019 9:00 - 11:30 A.M.

STUDENTS ENTERING K – 5^{TH} **GRADE** *Return registration forms to the St. Peters office.*

Name of Parent/Guardian				
Address	Phone			
Contact in case of an emergency	Phone			
I would like to help with: provide snack ite assist with dee				
Please enroll the following students in Vacation E	Bible School:			
Name:	Age as of 6/1/19 Grade next school year			
Name:	Age as of 6/1/19 Grade next school year			
Name:	Age as of 6/1/19 Grade next school year			
Food Allergies? Medical concerns? Y N Please list:				
People who may pick up my child:				
We need YOU!!!!!! We are looking for leaders (6 th grade and up) This brief commitment make children of our congregation and communit	**************************************			



BRANDT, ASHLYN7/27MORTIMER, MELYNDA7/27MORTIMER, MELYSSA7/27	-	MEYER, CRAIG7/28OTT, MATTHEW7/28PETZKE, GERALD7/28STANDO, REBECCA7/28LABANSKY, PAULA7/29MEYER, DUANE7/29REUSCH, MALLORY7/29SCHULTZ, GARY7/29	MORTIMER, MELYNDA MORTIMER, MELYSSA	7/27 7/27
	BRANDT, ASHLYN7/27MORTIMER, MELYNDA7/27MORTIMER, MELYSSA7/27MEYER, CRAIG7/28	BRANDT, ASHLYN7/27MORTIMER, MELYNDA7/27MORTIMER, MELYSSA7/27MEYER, CRAIG7/28OTT, MATTHEW7/28PETZKE, GERALD7/28STANDO, REBECCA7/28LABANSKY, PAULA7/29MEYER, DUANE7/29REUSCH, MALLORY7/29	FRIEDE SR, ROGER KLITZKE, CHLOE	7/26 7/26

