

April





ST. PETER'S MESSENGER

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

www.stpetersreedsburg.org

Proclaiming JESUS Savior and Lord for LIFE

VOLUME 267

A P R I L 2 0 2 0

NO.4

Paul M. Crolius, Pastor

Roger Tessendorf, Principal

FROM THE PASTOR

"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." 1 Corinthians 15:19-20 (NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Difficult and tragic events seem to be a regular occurrence in the headlines of the news. Most recently, we hear and are affected by Covid19 and the concern and isolation it has brought throughout our world and nation.

We hear of troubles and trials in our state, county, town and even within our circle of friends and family. All of us know people near and dear to us who have suffered much hardship in their lives. We may even say, "I don't know how much that family can take." For those we see going through these difficulties, we feel their hurt and pain as well. We as children of God are not immune to these things happening to our families, our friends or even to us in this fallen world in which we live. In hard times we may wonder where one can find hope and strength.

Thanks be to God He gives us the answer in His Word. In fact, He is the answer. Psalm 46:1 beautifully declares to us, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Soon we will be celebrating Easter and it brings the answer of hope and strength we are looking for in all times. Our strength comes from God and the power and hope He brings through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This hope is ours personally through faith in Christ as we rejoice in the victory of Easter. Our Lord's resurrection gives us through God given faith in Jesus the assurance of forgiveness and life, hope and power for each and every day of our lives no matter what!

Our Lord's resurrection declares to us personally that as a child of God, no matter what we have done, in Christ when we come to Him in repentance seeking refuge we will find forgiveness. It means that when we die, on account of our Lord we will have a place with Him in heaven. It also means that all of our loved ones who have died in the faith will be there to once again be reunited with us through faith in Jesus. Heaven is where we will live with them and God in perfect joy, peace and contentment forever all because of the Savior. This is the joy that we have in our Lord.

Our Lord's victorious resurrection also gives us further hope and strength. Since He has taken care of our greatest need, we now can be assured that He will take care of our other needs just as He has promised. He hears our prayers when we call out to Him and answers them according to His good and gracious will. It means that He is with us always and will give us through His Word and Sacrament the strength we need to get through even the worst of times in our lives. Whether these events have occurred in our past, present, or will happen in the future, this is our only true source of hope and help for all situations. May we cling to God and His love and promises at all times. He truly is a good and gracious God whose love overflows to us daily.

I pray that God will bless each and every one of you and give you hope and strength for your daily lives through the power of His resurrection. We look forward to the day when we will follow in the path of our Savior who is the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. May this be a comfort and strength to you now and always in Jesus! May it also be that we are empowered to share this hope and peace with all people. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

In His Love,
Pastor Crolius



In response to the coronavirus emergency, we are actively monitoring and following federal and state recommendations as we take additional health safety precautions in our facilities and gatherings to reduce exposure risk.

**At this time St. Peter's Lutheran Church
will discontinue worship services until
further notice.**

**Please take a moment to take the online survey on our website.
This information is helpful in knowing how we can best serve you.**

Worship services will be available online as follows:

- Reedsburg Utility Access Channel 11 will air on Sunday mornings at approx. 10:30 a.m. and Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- WCNP 89.5 Radio – Sundays at noon
- A link to services can be found on our website at www.stpetersreedsburg.com
- Like us on Facebook page at St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church
- Mid-week Lenten services will be aired on Wednesdays beginning April 1.

Non-perishable food items are being collected at the church office. These items will be delivered to the Reedsburg Food Pantry for those in need.



If you are looking for ways to continue to support St. Peter's with your offerings, here are a few options:

Mail your offering envelope to the church office.

Give electronically by going to

<https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/2c0f9c02-bbb3-48cd-b2d4-91e2de2>

FUNERAL

Mark Mead died on Monday, March 23, 2020. Private family services were held on Saturday, March 28, 2020.

BAPTISM

Gage Edward, son of Edward and Amanda (Deckard) Dorow, was born September 30, 2019, and baptized Saturday, March 28, 2020.

MEMORIALS

Given in memory of Dorothy Schrank
St. Peter's Video Fund \$1200.00
Youth & Family Ministry \$ 50.00

Given in memory of Roger Friede Sr.
St. Peter's Church & School \$80,000.00

LWML

Our LWML meeting on March 9, 2020 opened with a greeting from Julie Thompson and a poem titled "A Cross in My Pocket". Joanne Brandt then led us in a Bible Study, "Women with Jesus – At the Cross and At the Tomb", going a little into their relationship with Jesus and showing how much courage and love they had for Jesus to be with him during his ministry and at the time of his death.

We opened our business meeting with the League Pledge. The Secretary and Treasurer's Reports were read and approved. Committee Reports were given noting a baptism quilt had been given to Isabelle Mae Miller.

Marcella Harms received the final requests for Quarterlies and will get the information to Betty Andreasen to send in the order.

Our Salad Supper & Prayer Service is to be held on April 13 at 6:00 in Concordia Hall. The Prayer Service is titled "Living in Love, Bearing Fruit", and we would like to invite all ladies in our congregation to join us. Pastor Gehrke, our LWML Counselor of Trinity, Dells, will lead our Prayer Service. The Salad Supper starts at 6:00; the Prayer Service starts at 7:00 in the church sanctuary. Members are to bring either 1 large or 2 small salads. With the Thrivent Grant Money we are applying for, we will purchase coffee, dinner rolls, sherbet,

wafers and paper products. All societies in our Zone 15 are invited to this event. Julie and Betty will get invitations out to our Zone societies.

Members were reminded that our Spring Rally is at St. Paul's, Hillpoint on April 25. Items for the auction basket will be purchased and taken to this meeting for St. Paul's to put together for our "Spa Basket". at the District convention in Grafton on June 20. Proceeds from the auction go to Mites.

We also need to take pictures of our servant events for the display board for the Convention. Forms are available for anyone wanting to attend the District Convention in June. Also, Joanne Brandt has agreed to be an alternate delegate.

We sang Happy Birthday to our March birthday sister, Char Hillman.

Our mite devotion was based on mission grant "Lights for Christ Scholarships-Divine Savior Lutheran Church, Zacapa, Guatemala".

We thanked Joanne Brandt for serving a tasty pistachio dessert which we enjoyed while ending our evening together with a nice visit.

Julie Thompson, Secretary

***Please Note, events listed above may have been or will be cancelled due to recent events. Please watch for updates and events to be re-scheduled.*



If you or someone you know would like to receive the weekly bulletin and/or the monthly newsletter, either sent by email or postal service, please send a message to stpetersreedsburg@gmail.com

Visit the church Facebook page at St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church or our website at www.stpetersreedsburg.com



YOUTH

Right now, we have a lot of uncertainty in our near future. Until further notice all youth events will remain cancelled, but we will keep lines of communication open so that as things change, we are able to stay updated and connected.

I would like to see some form of Christian fellowship for the youth, even during this time of isolation. One way we may be able to do this is by using video conferencing websites such as Zoom. We could stay connected, share devotions, and even play some games over devices like laptops or phones. More information will be coming soon once we work out the details!

Also, continue to check the church's Facebook page for updates and information!
St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church

If you have any questions or concerns you can, as always, reach me at josiah.schultz@cune.org, as well as by cell (989) 450-4385.

In Christ,
-Josiah



Would like to sponsor the radio broadcast, which also includes the Lutheran Hour broadcast (\$110.00) or a video broadcast (\$35.00) or you may like to sponsor the bulletin (cost \$60.00) or flowers on the altar.

If you would like to help contribute to this wonderful ministry, your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Please sign up on the charts located on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office at 524-4512, ext. 1.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Special Voters' Meeting February 23, 2020

The purpose of the meeting was to consider extending a call to Josiah Schultz as the Director of Christian Education at St. Peters.

Congregational President Gill Biskupski called the meeting to order at 9:28 AM. A sign-in sheet and DCE job description were made available to attendees. Pastor Crolius opened the meeting with a prayer.

Seth Troxel gave an overview of the DCE role in the congregation and funding needed to support the position, then presented the following motion:

Motion to designate Josiah Schultz as our DCE and upon acceptance of the designation, extend a call to Josiah Schultz. Motion second by Mary Meyer. Carried by voice vote.

Motion to adjourn made by Matt Dehn, Phil Rogers second. Carried by voice vote. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Vethe, Secretary

RESPONSE TO THE CALL

After prayerfully considering our Call to Josiah Schultz, the Lord has led him to accept the Call to be our DCE. He will continue to serve as our DCE intern through the beginning of July, at which time we will install him as our full-time Director of Christian Education (DCE), specializing in Youth & Family Ministry. We give thanks to the Lord!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

If you would like to support the St. Peter's Youth & Family Ministry by making a contribution or pledge you may drop that in the offering plate or at the office, marked YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL
NEWS by Mr. Tessendorf



COVID-19

St. Peter's Lutheran School is and will continue to comply with Governor Evers' mandates to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The school closed Monday and Tuesday, March 16 & 17. We started Home Learning, St. Peter's version of distance learning, on March 18. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Sure, bugs have developed and adjustments are being made, but if you choose to look for the positive, you will see a LOT!

The Daycare has been closed since Monday, March 16. This decision was made to help with the effort to slow the spread of the virus.

I am very proud to be the principal at St. Peter's working with our awesome teachers, staff and parents. In just two days our teachers put together Home Learning plans. The parents have been very supportive and are working closely with the teacher to be sure the Home Learning experience is as good as possible.

Parents have been provided with information on how St. Peter's is providing spiritual support in this unique time. The church building may be closed, but opportunities for worship are being provided by St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

On a different note, please include all families who have or will be unable to work during the efforts to slow the spread of the Corona Virus. This includes some of our own faithful workers. The closure of the school, daycare and no children to feed has created the situation where some of our workers are unable to work. They are not eligible for unemployment as St. Peter does not participate in that program. We are using the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) president Trump signed on March 18 to help our workers.

Basically, we will continue to pay them at 70% of their normal pay after a two-week waiting period. Funding of the FFCRA will eventually come from the Federal Government. However, the FFCRA does not provide for the loss of income from the daycare and school lunch program. My goal in sharing this information is to make you aware of the situation and ask you to keep this situation in your prayers.

IT IS OFFICIAL

Rebecca Erdman has accepted the Call to be the 7th grade teacher next school year. We are looking forward to Ms. Erdman's addition to the faculty of St. Peter's Lutheran School.

THANK YOU once again to Swim Reedsburg and Mr. Gary William and the SOAC Program for giving our students the opportunity to learning their swimming skills.



SPELLING BEE

The Lower Grade Spelling Bee was held on Wednesday, March 4. Congratulations to all our Top Spellers. Those highlighted are the classroom champions.



Congratulations to Aurora Murphy, Lower Grade Spelling Bee Champion!!!

1st Grade

Kendall McFann
Kennedy Kettleson
Vivienne Townsend

2nd Grade

Gabby Bauer
Cooper Curtin
Ashton Schultz

3rd Grade

Lucas Breneman
Hailey Schwartz
Brock Wilson

4th Grade

Grace Abbott
Ava Mathews
Aurora Murphy



We anticipate that the annual school survey will be conducted online in April, 2020. This information is reviewed by the faculty and Board of Christian Education as well as the NLSA Accreditation Validation Team. More information will be provided when it is available.



A student new to St. Peter's this year told a teacher, "I have had more fun this year at St. Peter's than I have had my whole life!"



NLSA Accreditation Validation Team

Report: The Validation Team visited St. Peter's on February 10 -11. They are recommending St. Peter's Lutheran School be Accredited in Good Standing for another 5 years. These items were highlighted at their exit report:

- St. Peter's is blessed with AWESOME teachers and staff. The way they work together and serve the children and families at St. Peter's is a huge strength.
- The security improvements
- The Technology available to the teachers and students.
- The building is clean and
- It is obvious that the school is a Christian School.

They also make a number of recommendations that will become the bases for the School Action Plan over the next five years. More information on this plan will be shared once it is available.

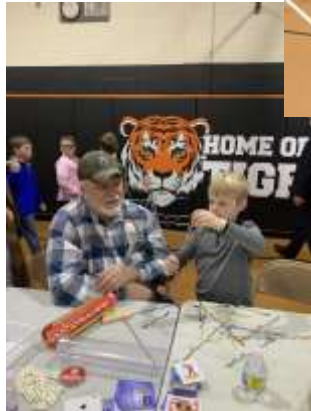


NEW PHONE NUMBER

Mr. Tessendorf has a new phone number. His new number is: 608-448-8210.

- 2020 -
**NATIONAL
LUTHERAN
SCHOOLS WEEK**

A look back at a week long celebration!! Thank you all who joined us through out the week for Spelling, Bee, Jump Rope for Heart, Grandparent's Day, Pancake Breakfast and many more good times!!





On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe. Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism’s* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I'd expect that conversation would be something like this: "I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it."

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It's not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you're giving when you're giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

Please join us for a
Retirement Celebration
Honoring

Char Hillman

Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.
St. Peter's Lutheran School gym
345 N Pine Street, Reedsburg, WI

Please send photos and memories, along with an
RSVP to tiawilliams@saintpetersls.com
or 608-524-4066 ext. 1

The retirement celebration for Mrs. Hillman
may change due to the Corona Virus restrictions. We will keep you updated



ALBRECHT, JANICE	4/1
CURTIN, DIANA	4/1
REUTER, JOHN	4/1
HARMS, RYAN	4/3
MCCAULEY, DENNIS	4/3
RYCZEK, HOLLY	4/3
WILSON, SARAH	4/3
DOWNING, BYRON	4/4
UNBEHAUN, CHRISTOPHER	4/4
WOOD, LAURA	4/4
CRAKER, SHARON	4/5
ROBERS, MARY	4/6
SCHULTZ, CAROL	4/6
GLICK, GUNNAR	4/7
KRUEGER, PETER	4/7
MORTIMER, JOHN	4/7
SCHULTZ, RHAYA	4/7
SZOPINSKI, LOGAN	4/7
THOMPSON, RALPH	4/7
MINOR, NATHEN	4/8
KLITZKE, LORNA	4/9
MEYER, JASON	4/9
WILLIAMS, TIA	4/9
COREY, ROBERT	4/10
GERIKE, VICKIE	4/10
HARMS, TAMMY	4/10
LOOMANS-JANUA, WENDY	4/10
BAUER, CAMERON	4/11
BRAUN, GAVIN	4/11
JOHNSON, LESLEY	4/11
FINLEY, GABRYELLA	4/12
GILLIS, CHASE	4/13
HOOF, BENJAMIN	4/13
KOCH, DALE	4/13
MONTGOMERY, DANIEL	4/13
FINLEY, LANDYN	4/14
MATHEWS, AUBREY	4/14
RYAN, GLORIA	4/14
THOMPSON, TANNER	4/14
WUNSCH, RONALD	4/14
BRANDT, RANDY	4/15
RUPINSKI, LAWRENCE	4/15
SCHROEDER, PHILIP	4/15

WINTHER, REBECCA	4/15
COLE, TERRY	4/16
GILLIS SR, THOMAS	4/16
NELSON, MACK	4/16
SHEPARD, DANNY	4/16
DAINO, EMILY	4/17
LUETKENS, ROBERT	4/17
MCCAULEY, MARCUS	4/17
SCHAUB, CAIDEN	4/17
GRACE, LOIS	4/18
HARMS, IRENE	4/18
ZIMMERMAN, HEATH	4/18
SMITH, DEBRA	4/19
WHITE, KATRINA	4/19
GRIEVES, ANGELENE	4/20
STANDO, ANDREW	4/21
STANDO, MATTHEW	4/21
KOPPEN, DENNIS	4/22
MCCAULEY, DONALD	4/22
MOLLING, LAURA	4/22
SCHULTZ, ANGELA	4/22
WILLIAMS, SOPHIE	4/22
ZIMMERMAN, JONATHON	4/22
GAWRONSKI, VICKIE	4/23
GLEASH, KAYLEE	4/23
HERRITZ, DONALD	4/23
KLEMM, MADISON	4/23
TREPTOW, SHIRLEY	4/23
BAUER, BRAXTON	4/24
BEYER, CARSON	4/24
BIRDSILL, DONNA	4/24
LYNCH, ETHAN	4/24
DANIELS, RYLEY	4/25
HILLMAN, CRAIG	4/25
MEYER, KINSLEY	4/25
DANIELS, KALEB	4/26
MAINOR, JUDITH	4/26
THOMAS, LAURA	4/26
BAGENSKI, VICKIE	4/27
GARDNER, CATHERINE	4/27
HON, LISA	4/27
CURTIN, KEITH	4/28
FINKEL, DAVID	4/28
MURRAY, ALAINA	4/28
PAHL, JULUS	4/28
LINDLOFF, MICHELLE	4/29
REIMER, ROGER	4/29
ADELMAN, ROBERT	4/30
HALVENSLEBEN, RONALD	4/30
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