

St. Peter Lutheran Church
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DELPHOS, OHIO 45833

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April 1, A day of lighthearted
celebrations and pranks

May Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, April 20, 2016

THE MESSENGER



National Volunteer Week
April 10-16



The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – April 2016

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

This past March 12th we hosted a Healthy Congregations Workshop for our congregation. This is strongly encouraged before we begin interviewing a candidate for ministry. Pastor Jeff Gramza led the workshop and he has a lot of experience in helping congregations to move forward in a more healthy way.

One of the examples that he gave is that sometimes preparing for the future and making a significant change can happen in a very small way. What changes do we at St. Peter Lutheran need to make to open the future for our congregation? How can we prepare for where we need to go?

One of the differences in society today is that there is no loyalty to any particular denomination. Younger people chose a church not whether it is Lutheran or not but what can we provide for their family? Children are the driving factor to which a family chooses a congregation.

Pastor Jeff also told us that the average congregation in the United States today is between 50-75 average Sunday attendances. We are on the lower end of this but we also have a lot of company out there among all denominations. We are all struggling to grow and to attract new members and it is not easy.

Finally, Pastor Jeff spent a great deal of time looking at how a congregation handles the anxiety that comes with conflict. He stated that anxiety is normal and natural and is not bad in and of itself. We won't always agree. What is important is how a congregation handles this. We usually encounter anxiety when we are in conflict with one another.

When as a congregation we pretend conflict doesn't matter or we don't make the effort to listen to both sides, then we are in trouble. Every congregation has disagreements. Every congregation has conflict on how to handle certain issues and we are no different. What is important is how we handle this and how we work together. Can we learn from our disagreements and find common ground in working out a practical solution?

This takes courage and risk taking. Are we willing to sit down with those whom we disagree with and try to see their side as well as to present how we see the issue from our own perspective?

Lastly healthy congregations focus not on looking back but on looking forward. What is our mission for the future of this congregation? Do we have hope for our future? Do we have a vision of what we would like to become? And again what changes do we need to make to help our vision for the future to become a reality? It is up to us to make it happen.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!”

...and thank you for supporting the work of Christ's church!

As part of the Northwestern Ohio Synod's 4G stewardship emphasis (Grace+Growth+Gratitude+Generosity), we want to say *thank you* for your support of the work of Christ's church through the Synod. Therefore, we invite you to the:

4G Thank You Dinner for the Central and South West Conferences
Sunday, April 10, 5-7PM
St. Matthew, Cridersville
5050 Saint Matthews Dr., Lima

Cost to you- IT'S FREE LIKE GOD'S GRACE!

Who's invited: YOU ARE!

5:00 Gathering, fellowship, snacking, music

5:30 Welcome and introductions

Greeting from Bishop Marcus Lohrmann

Stories of God's good work done among the through us

6:15 Meal, more music, more fellowship

7:00 On our way in the joy of Christ

If you are able to join us, please RSVP to:

stmattooffice@midohio.twcbc.com or 419.999.5329 by April 1

Come celebrate our work together and enjoy this fellowship as the body of Christ!

Condolences to the family of Lucille Horine. She passed away in Arizona at the age of 97. She was a long time member of St. Peter Lutheran Church when she lived in Delphos. She will be missed by her daughter, Bonnie Nelson and her grandson, Roger Matthew Williams.



Congratulations to the First Communion Class of 2016. Class members who completed this important milestone in their faith journey on Palm Sunday were: Lauren French, James Hasting, Noelle Prine and Matthew Weitzel.

General Announcements



Radio ministry was given to the glory of God in March by:
The Himmeger family in loving memory of Earl Himmeger
Norma Koenig in memory of Ted Koenig
Melvin and Alma Kloepfel in celebration of Alma's 93rd birthday, Lois Ewing's 69th birthday and Ryan Kloepfel's 25th birthday.



The flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God in March by:
Dave and Linda Mayer in thanksgiving for their 45th wedding anniversary



Readers Needed for the first and second scripture lessons during the worship service for Sundays. Please sign up in the red book at the back of church.



Quilting Day is Wednesday, April 20th at 9:00 am.



Quarterless Auction was a huge success!!! Thank you to anyone who helped in any way....donating prizes, donating food, working, and bidding. We appreciate all of your efforts. \$5,796.15 was raised for the general fund.

Thank You

A BIG thank you to Brenda Hoersten and Susan McGue for the countless hours you spent making the Quarterless Auction run smoothly. The prizes were awesome, the food was great and everyone had a good time. Also, thank you to all the behind the scenes helpers, especially Linda Gorman, Melissa Trentman and Randy Rinehart.



Radio Ministry has many openings for sponsoring a Sunday morning broadcast. The cost is \$45 per broadcast and airs each Sunday at 11am. Please sign up in the red book if you are able to sponsor this important community ministry.



STEEPLE FUND RAISER "A TALL CHALLENGE"

We have ongoing repair issues that needed taken care of. We have been assessing the exterior of the buildings. Our steeple, bell tower and the perma - stone, (block covering the exterior) are in need of attention. We also have a small roof at the rear behind where the organ is located that needs attention.

What we are proposing is to repair and paint all the white from the cross down. The shutters in the bell tower need removed, repaired, and re-installed. The roof in the bell tower needs re - coated and sealed. All the top caps (white) need repaired and refinished. The perma - stone has cracks that are letting water seep in, which will lead to extensive water damage. Rear roof by the organ will be replaced. This will be done only to spouting level on the bell tower. Should enough funds over what we are requesting, become available to do more crack sealing (Tuck pointing) and waterproofing, we will continue forward.

OUR GOAL IS \$25,000.00. Work will start in the spring as weather permits. We will have a chart posted in the entry way to show where we are on raising the funds. Donated funds should be clearly marked for "STEEPLE FUND." This is above and beyond normal giving. Anyone needing to discuss this, please contact one of us. THANK YOU.

Property committee: Dan Kramer, Eric Fritz ,Randy Rinehart

To date we have raised \$6,678.00 of the \$25,000.00 needed.



Lutheran Marriage Encounter sponsors a unique Weekend-any Christian couples who value their marriage and understand that a growing marriage takes nurture and attention. The LME Weekend offers you the chance to focus on each other in an encouraging and safe environment. The next one takes place April 15-17 at the comfortable Fairfield Inn & Suites, Beachwood (or another November 11-13 at the historic Hotel Millersburg in Holmes County). For either, contact Registrars Duffy & Nan Guthrie at 440/599-9090 or nguthrie@suite224.net to ask questions, or go online to www.GodLovesMarriage.org. At the end of the Weekend you will be

asked for a confidential contribution. (By the way, scholarships are available, even for the \$100 reservation fee, just ask the Guthries about them.)

WHAT DOES A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND DO FOR COUPLES?

In 2010, a survey was sent out to couples who had attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend (of any faith expression). Over 2000 people replied online, and here are some of the key statistics:

- 97% rated the Weekend as Excellent or Good
- 73% said that the Weekend changed their relationship with the church and that they
- decided to become more active in the church afterwards
- 90% have encouraged a family member to attend

Altar Guild

Altar Guild's regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

NEWS FOR WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Good Morning/Good Shepherd Bible Study - The April meeting will be Wednesday, April 13th at Vancrest at 10:00 AM .

The topic this month is *Keep on keeping on*.
The theme verse is Philippians 4:4-23.

WELCA The regular meeting for April is on Monday, April 11th at 7:00 pm.



Graduation will be celebrated on Sunday, May 15th. Both high school and college graduates will be honored. It's hard to keep track of the college students with different degrees requiring different credits or semesters. If you have a college student graduating this year, please notify the office by April 30th.

InReach/OutReach

The next InReach/OutReach Meeting is Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 PM.



Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain - If you would like your name added to the prayer chain (e-mail or phone) please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan or the church office.

When requesting a prayer chain to be started, it would be best to call Susan at the above number in case she isn't planning on being at her computer. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office.

Keep our Military Friends and Family in your Prayers:

Jonathan Staples	Army National Guard	Stateside
John & Amber Becket	Air Force	Dalzell SC
Mike Hershberger	Navy	San Diego CA
Fred Hasting	Navy	Stateside
Collin Swick	Navy	Gainesville FL



Remember our Shut-ins

Vancrest Health Care
1425 E Fifth St.
Delphos, OH 45833

Carl Dienstberger
E. Fourth St.
Delphos OH 45833

Alma Kloeppe
Melvin Kloeppe
Ella Theis
Ralph Theis

Ralph and Ella Theis welcome visits and cards.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!
APRIL



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Cindy Weitzel | 17) Carol Metzger |
| 2) Lindzi Hoersten | 18) Charlotte Koebel |
| 2) Barbara Shafer | 22) Brenda Blauvelt |
| 2) Dianna Allemeier | 22) Virginia Klenz |
| 2) Vicki Kramer | 23) Evan Lieurance |
| 3) Douglas Fitch | 26) Brandi Taylor |
| 3) Robert Kloeppe | 28) Laura Peters |
| 5) Larry Keipper | 28) Jason Simon |
| 5) Vicki Rinehart | 29) Michael Schleeter |
| 7) Lynn Koenig | |
| 14) Matthew Calvelage | |
| 15) Nicholas Fitch | |
| 15) Richard Wreede | |

Offering Recap for March 2016

Worship attendance for 2-28-2016	54
Worship attendance for 3-06-2016	64
Worship attendance for 3-13-2016	50
Worship attendance for 3-20-2016	95

Amount needed **each week** to meet approved budget for 2016 \$2,126.11

Total donations received for General Operating Fund

2-28-2016	\$1,939.00 we missed our goal by	\$ 187.11
3-06-2016	\$3,074.25 we exceeded our goal by	\$ 948.14
3-06-2016	Quarterless Auction to General Fund	\$5,796.15
3-13-2016	\$1,803.62 we missed our goal by	\$ 322.49
3-20-2016	\$1,619.14 we missed our goal by	\$ 506.97

Year-to-date 2016 \$ **7.50**

We love seeing you at our weekly service. If you aren't able to attend please remember that our bills continue to arrive in the mail and your generous donations are greatly appreciated weekly. Thank you!

Thrivent Choice®: Strengthening communities. Changing lives.

Thrivent Choice, the member-advised charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial, continues to be a welcome funding source for churches and nonprofit organizations nationwide.



If you are an eligible Thrivent member, you likely are aware of this easy, convenient way to help make a difference for organizations you care about. The Thrivent Choice program offers a way for eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable

grant funds each year.

Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars® that they can direct, thereby recommending charitable grant funding for their choice among thousands of enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations, including **St. Peter Lutheran Church**. These funds are funneled through WELCA and have supported maintenance projects within our church.

In 2016, we have received \$867.46 to date.

If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and chapters in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grants are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's terms and conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

Community



Ohio to Michigan: Flint Water Drop There is a multi-state effort to collect and deliver much needed water to the residents of Flint, MI. The convoy will start in Cincinnati, OH and head up to Flint directly. The Lima area approved drop-off spots are at the Lima YMCA, Downtown Sounds, and Ordonez Auto Repair. Aaron Poling is the contact for the Lima area and can be reached at 419-234-5266 or at polingfamilyrenovations@yahoo.com for any questions or for more information.



Delphos Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs are sponsoring a Health Screening Program on Saturday, April 2nd, 6:30 am-9am. At the Delphos Jefferson High School cafeteria.

Testing available:

Blood screening \$35,

Pre-Diabetic Screen(AC1) \$15,

Vitamin D Testing \$40,

Iron \$15

PSA Testing \$40,

Thyroid Stimulating Hormone \$25,

Uric Acid \$15,



Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at K of C Hall on Wednesday, April 6th from 2-7pm. To schedule your blood donation appointment, call 1-800-Red-Cross or go to redcrossblood.org, sponsor code “kofcdel.”

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
April 3	10:00 AM	Emily Dienstberger	Dave Mayer	Ryan Trentman Ron Kloeppe Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Deb Trentman, Rick Dienstberger
ALTAR GUILD – Karen Hartman, Vicki Rinehart

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
April 10	10:00 AM	Maddie Weitzel	Dan Kramer	Lynn Koenig Dave Mayer Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Deb Trentman, Rick Dienstberger
ALTAR GUILD – Karen Hartman, Vicki Rinehart

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
April 17	10:00 AM	Megan Weitzel	Bob Wortman	Chuck Hoersten Aaron Kloeppe Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Deb Trentman, Rick Dienstberger
ALTAR GUILD – Karen Hartman, Vicki Rinehart

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
April 24	10:00 AM	Kylee Dienstberger	Rick Dienstberger	Butch Prine Sam Miller Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS – Deb Trentman, Rick Dienstberger
ALTAR GUILD – Karen Hartman, Vicki Rinehart

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
May 1	10:00 AM	Anna Fitch	Ryan Trentman	Larry Miller Dan Staples Volunteers

MONEY COUNTERS-Karen Hartman, Lois Ewing
ALTAR GUILD – Linda Mayer, Judy Staples

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

**SOUTHWESTERN CONFERENCE
SPRING ASSEMBLY**

ST. MARK'S, VAN WERT

160 W Sycamore St.

DATE APRIL 09, 2016

**WORSHIP & COMMUNION
PASTOR WILLIAM HAGGIS**

SPEAKER

CHAPLAIN LYDIA BRENNEMAN

She was born in Bethlehem to a Christian family.

Immigrants from diverse backgrounds.

IN KIND OFFERING

“FAMILY PROMISE”

A CHARITY THROUGH CHURCHES
HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES FIND HOUSING

Offering plates will be in place for your donations.

REGISTRATION 8:30-9 am

Registration & Lunch \$10 [pay on April 9th]

Call Carolyn Conner for reservations by April 01, 2016

419-991-2248