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October 25, 2020

November Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, October 20, 2020

## THE MESSENGER



October 12, 2020



# The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – October 2020

## A Little Bit of This and That .....

I just finished listening to Bishop Daniel Beaudoin share with the Northwest Ohio pastors, deacons and synodically authorized ministers about the scripture in II Corinthians 12:6 where Paul writes about having a thorn in his flesh and so he prays to God three times to remove it. God responds to Paul basically by telling him that his grace is sufficient for Paul and that God's power can be manifested when Paul has to rely on God through the weakness.

Now as I begin to write to you, I am still thinking about that. We all have thorns that come in big and small ways into our life. Sometimes we feel that we can take care of the thorn and get it out, but other times we too, like Paul pray for the thorn to be removed. When God chooses to allow the thorn to continue to stay with us, we often question our faith and the ability of God to be at work in our individual lives. This is natural, but God does not leave us or forsake us.

What I heard the Bishop reinforce today is that when we have thorns in our life and we choose to rely on God in the midst of whatever we are facing, we have the opportunity to grow in our faith as we are forced to rely on God's help and presence to be with us in the struggle. In this way God's power is manifested.

We as the church body have faced this struggle to be present in each other's lives during this time of social distancing. Our world and way of doing things has been impacted. We have prayed since March for God to remove this pandemic and have mercy on us, and yet it is being projected that we will live with it for quite a time to come. So, my question is.... how has the presence and power of God to be at work in our midst been manifested? How are we made stronger by this thorn?

I have used the analogy that we have all had to become more flexible in how we have had to adapt to change. I think that we are like a big exercise rubber band that must expand and contract in how we have chosen to do ministry. I think that the church as a whole has had the opportunity to expand exponentially in its use of various technologies to reach people. Pastors who had never used u-tube and Face Book Live have had to have crash courses. We are currently working on our technology capabilities to be able to use Face Book Live in the near future. We have had to flex in our ability to extend our Wednesday evening service through September and we are still worshipping in the parking lot on Sunday mornings. I have been so proud of you all for being flexible as we have made changes.

Your church council has had to meet multiple times to address issues dealing with the pandemic and how we as a church body respond. With that in mind, we will continue to worship outside for the time being. We have purchased an FM transmitter to broadcast

the service to aid in hearing the service. We are also still having a portion of the service re-broadcast at 11:00 AM on Sunday mornings. The council deliberated long and hard on whether to have the Pork Loin Dinner this October, and it was decided that we felt that we could follow the safety protocols to keep everyone safe.

The Sunday School Team met this week and we are aiming to start Sunday school in person the first week in November, but we also recognize that this could change if we have rising cases of COVID-19 in our community. Look for more information in this newsletter to see how we are planning to move forward.

Also, we are restructuring how and when we do Catechism and this will also necessitate new flexibility and possibly the opportunity for some new volunteers to step forward for Sunday school for those in middle school and possibly high school. In the weeks and months to come we will need to remember to remain flexible as we strive to be faithful to God and our neighbors.

This time of flexibility has created new opportunities and ways to do ministry. I am so thrilled that Susan McGue and all of you who volunteered found a way to keep the Kid's Breakfast Program going this summer. You were flexible and the community benefitted. During this time, I have been dreaming for the church and praying that God would move in all of us to continue to be flexible as we seek God in how we worship and do ministry. My heart is especially bent toward finding ways for our youth to encounter God in their lives in the church. The council voted to expand our licensing to allow for the addition of some contemporary music that might call to our youth. We will not do away with the old but we may need to be flexible to see if we can involve our youth in some sort of praise band to allow them to find a place in worship with us.

The timing is difficult and yet maybe in our weakness, it is then that we can be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst to move and help us to meet the needs of those we are called to serve. We have grown as a church body during this time to lean on God and to see his strength be made manifest.

I am so thankful to have the opportunity to serve and worship with you. There is strength and faith in this congregation and I consider myself blessed to be able to be a part of the ministry of St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Respectfully,  
Vicar Carol

“Following Jesus in the way of Love”

## ***OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS***



- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2) Shirley Ditto      | 17) Megan Weitzel    |
| 7) Paige Kloepfel     | 17) Andrew Swick     |
| 8) Joe Loetz          | 17) Derek Nomina     |
| 8) Randall Klentz     | 20) Robb Rinehart    |
| 9) Jerry Sampson      | 21) Jesse Stemen     |
| 10) Paul Wreede       | 22) Hunter Lane      |
| 10) Jaxon Prine       | 24) Michelle Kimmet  |
| 10) Jennifer Davis    | 30) Andrew Fitch     |
| 10) Jaxon Germann     | 30) Ronald Kloepfel  |
| 11) Beverly Derrow    | 31) Beth Hower-Brown |
| 11) James W. Feathers |                      |
| 13) Rick Dienstberger |                      |
| 17) Noella Brinkman   |                      |

**Clergy Appreciation Day** is Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Please let Vicar Carol know that you appreciate her being here for our congregation.



**Congratulations** to Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Megan) Wortman. They were married on September 5, 2020 at St. Peter Lutheran Church.



# General Announcements

**Radio ministry** was given to the glory of God in September by:

Dave and Connie Stemen in celebration of their 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

Ron and Sue Kloeppe in celebration of their 22<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary

Jacque Fritz and family in celebration of Ed's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday

Mark and Linda Downey



**Readers Needed** for the first and second scripture lessons and the prayers during the worship service. Your readings can be emailed to you so you can look them over in advance. Please sign up in the red book at the back of church.

## FOUR CATECHISM STUDENTS TO BE CONFIRMED



On the last Sunday in October, which is Reformation Sunday, we will confirm Lauren French, James Hastings, Noelle Prine, and Matt Weitzel. Please keep them in your prayers as they finish their studies and prepare to affirm their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.



## CATECHISM CHANGES FOR 2020

Jacque Fritz and I will be co-teaching catechism this year. We are making some changes to try to allow for the program to be two years for our seventh and eighth graders. We are working on a scope and sequence with one year focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus and how that impacts our faith. During the other year we will be focusing on what it means to be a Lutheran as we study about Martin Luther, the Apostles' Creed, The Ten

Commandments, the sacraments, and other aspects of The Small Catechism.

Catechism class will involve attending church on the first and third Sundays of the month with catechism class to follow from 11:30-1:00 on those Sundays. Students will be expected to take a few notes in worship and turn those in at the beginning of each class. We will meet in the Parish Hall and students may bring a snack to hold them over until they can get lunch. We also would like the students to attend Sunday school to learn what it means to be a part of a faith community as they experience growing in faith together.

Over the two years that students are in catechism we would like them to sign up for several projects in ministry in which they help others in some way. They may work at a church function or find other ways to serve others in need.

Catechism will run this year from November through April and May will be reserved for make-up classes due to weather cancellations or absences that prevent the students from being prepared for confirmation.

There will be a short parent meeting after church on October 18.

Jacquie and I are looking forward to working with the students and hope to provide a rich experience that grounds them in their faith journey.



### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!**

We are having a middle school class for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Vicar Carol will help in first few minutes of class, but we need several adults to volunteer to work with the students during the rest of the class time. We will structure the class to begin with sharing highs and lows of the week and then focus on one of 54 biblical stories that we all need to know. You do not have to be a teacher to do this, but to have the ability to lead, guide and listen as you work with the students. We will

have an easy to use curriculum. If we have three adults volunteer for two months at a time, then no one needs to teach the full six months. Volunteering for this may truly enrich your life as middle schoolers are neat people.

If we can get three other adults to volunteer for a high school group, we might be able to offer this as a special opportunity for high school students to share their highs and lows and support each other in faith. We might be able to bring in people to share topics that are important to the students.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Vicar Carol (419-512-4490) or Carrie Calvelage (419-233-4561).

Also, we are going to be able to move the adult Sunday school class back down to the parish hall since catechism will be held after church.



**Sacrament of Holy Baptism** – baptized September 27, 2020, Oaklyn Jo Snider, daughter of Michael and Emily Snider.



### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON PRAYER GROUP**

We are meeting from 1:00-3:00 pm on Thursday afternoons. We are sharing life and focusing on different prayer practices. All are welcome. Vicar Carol will be leading the group through the video series and study of *The Circle Maker* this fall and later she will be leading the group through faith practices using the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm as a basis for those practices. We social distance and meet in the Parish Hall. The wearing of masks is recommended but not required.



### **WORLD HUNGER NEEDS US!**

Since we have not been collecting change for World Hunger since the pandemic began, we need to have a Sunday when we try to fill the cans or better yet, a bucket with our loose change. Let's try to fill a bucket on the fourth Sunday in October. Bring your change in a zip lock baggie and make a difference in the lives of those who are depending on us.



### **YOUTH AND ADULTS NEEDED FOR PRAISE TEAM**

Do you have a guitar that is longing to be played, or do you love to sing or play another instrument? We are interested in seeing if we can start a praise team that would play special music or help lead worship on a youth Sunday. We have a new CCLI license to access many songs for the use of a praise team. Youth and adults, if this sounds interesting, contact Vicar Carol.



### **Sunday School Plans for 2020-2021**

Sunday School classes will begin meeting on November 1 at 9 a.m. The plan is to be in session each Sunday from November 1 through April 25. The different groups and meeting locations are listed below. We will be collecting a Sunday School offering each week for the Sunday School Mission Project. Each person is encouraged to give when they can in any amount (no amount is too small). The proceeds will be donated to the ELCA Good Gifts. The youth will vote on what items will be purchased and report back to the congregation at the end of April. The congregation is invited and encouraged to get involved with the Sunday School Mission Project.

Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade—Upstairs in the Lime Green Room

6<sup>th</sup> Grade--8<sup>th</sup> grade—Upstairs in the Blue Room

Adults—Downstairs in the Parish Ed Hall



### **Northwest Ohio Synod offers Fall Gatherings via Zoom**

This year, Bishop Beaudoin and staff will offer three different times to gather via ZOOM to connect with each other for our FALL Gatherings. The three opportunities will occur at different times of the day and on different days to try to fit different people's schedules. They are as follows:

October 15: Meet at the Kitchen Table- 6:00PM

October 29: Gather for Morning Coffee- 7:30AM

November 5: Gather for a Nightcap -9:00PM

We will send out the Zoom links when they become available.

## ***Altar Guild***



**Altar Guild's** regular monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of each month, but nothing is scheduled while the church is not open. You will be notified by email with any new information.

### **Remember our Shut-ins**

Sharon Reel  
Vancrest Health Care  
10357 Van Wert-Decatur Rd  
Van Wert OH 45891

Carl Dienstberger  
E Fourth Street  
Delphos OH 45833







**Keep our Military Friends and Family in your Prayers:**

Fred Hasting

Navy

Stateside

Dominic Munoz

Navy

Annapolis MD



**The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pork Loin Dinner** is Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Meals are carry-out only from 11am-1pm. The dinner is grilled pork loin, hot German potato salad, green beans, applesauce, roll and cookie. To be compliant volunteers will need to wear a mask and a ball cap or hair net. Gloves will be provided.



**Please pray for the following family and friends:** Jim

Schimmoeller, Jodi Siefker, Doug Butler, Kristin LaSeta, Kyle

Baxter, Beth Gener, Margot Tyler, Callie Tyler, Gary Turnwalde,

Barb Recker, Barb Adams, David Thompson, Sharon Calvelage,

Melissa Hover, Jay Vondran, Tom Evans, Vicki Kramer, Jerry

Champion, Ronnette St. Pierre, Erin Rammel, Mike Ammons, Janel

Donley, Bev Derrow, Dale Derrow, Jeff LeClaire, Brian LeClaire, Maya Lee-

Pletcher, Cheryl Hellman, Marty Panning, Robin Cuadill, Shirley Parsons ad Sue

Apple.

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

WELCA meeting is Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.



**There will be no noodle making this fall.** We want to keep our volunteers safe. It doesn't seem possible to practice social distancing and make as many noodles as we do. We will re-visit the possibility of making noodles in the spring.



**WELCA BAKE SALE** has been cancelled for November 2020. With the pandemic restrictions, it was voted to cancel the Bake Sale this year.

## InReach/OutReach



Prayer Chain

**Prayer Chain** – If you would like your name added to the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan on the cell phone number listed above. *Do NOT send her computer an email.* You may call or send her cell phone a text message. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office. Please have permission from the person or family before we publish any names.

# COMMUNITY



## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**American Red Cross Blood drive** will be at Knights of Columbus, 1011 Elida Ave, Delphos, Ohio on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 from 2:00-7:00 pm. Or mark you calendar for Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for Delphos Eagles, 1600 E 5<sup>th</sup> St, Delphos, OH from 10:30am-4:30pm.



## **Habitat for Humanity - Lima Area: News and Needs**

**News:** A build will begin in Delphos this fall at 712 N Washington St. This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> house in Delphos built by Habitat for Humanity-Lima Area and 56<sup>th</sup> overall since 1991.

**Needs:** 1. Regular volunteers at the ReStore or volunteer groups to come in for a day. 2. Funds for our next build (every \$62 buys a square foot of a Habitat house). 3. Monthly meal for 30 ReStore volunteers. 4. Affiliate sustaining/ongoing donations of \$10 a month (*No Place Like Home* club).

**Please contact us to volunteer or donate:** (phone) 419-222-4937, (website) [www.habitatlima.org](http://www.habitatlima.org), (email) [habitatlima@habitatlima.org](mailto:habitatlima@habitatlima.org)



**Gomer Congregational Church** will not be holding their annual Gymanfa Ganu this year, due to Covid-19. However, they will hold a virtual Gymanfa Ganu on October 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Please join on the Gomer Congregational Church Facebook page.

# Servants of the Lord

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
October 4	10:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Larry Miller, Karen Hartman

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Kloeppe, Linda Mayer

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
October 11 <i>Pork Loin Dinner</i>	9:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Larry Miller, Karen Hartman

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Kloeppe, Linda Mayer

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
October 18	10:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Sue Kloeppe, Dan Staples

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Kloeppe, Linda Mayer

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
October 25 Reformation Confirmation	10:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Sue Kloeppe, Dan Staples

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Kloeppe, Linda Mayer

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
November 1	10:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Yvonne Koenig, Rick Dienstberger

**ALTAR GUILD:** Donna Berger, Susan McGue