

St. Peter Lutheran Church

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DELPHOS, OHIO 45833

The Mission of St. Peter Lutheran Church is to grow our faith in Jesus as we journey together and serve others.

September Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, August 20th

The Messenger



Watch for school children and buses returning back to school.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact the church office at stpeterdelphos@gmail.com. If your information or address needs updated, please let us know. Thank you.

The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – August 2023

A Little Bit of This and That for August...

It is hard to believe that this summer is flying by and in a few short weeks the kids will be back in school. I hope that you all have had time to relax and enjoy the summer. This has been a busy summer for me. It started with a trip to St. Lucia to officiate at my nephew's wedding Memorial Day weekend and will end with the trip to Florida near the end of this month to see my mother who at 95 is in a memory care facility. Time with family is precious time and I am grateful for the opportunity to travel to be with family.

Time with our church family is also precious. When I am not with you, I miss you. In the now four years that I have been journeying with you, I feel so blessed by God. You are an amazing group of people and I feel blessed to serve as your pastor.

As a church family, we are called to spread the love of Jesus to all around us. This summer I have been focusing on the Holy Spirit to listen and ask for more of God to be at work in me through the power of the Holy Spirit. I also pray that for each of you as I wonder what God still wants to do in our midst. Each of us is important in the body of Christ as we all have gifts to make a difference in the ministry and lives of the people around us. So, I have been praying for more of Jesus and more of the Holy Spirit to come in power to allow us to discern and know how to further the kingdom of God.

One of the words that has been on my mind is the word, sanctification which simply means to be changed or transformed in our journey of faith. You see, it is the Holy Spirit who helps us to live into the transformational process of God at work in our lives. It is the Holy Spirit that calls us to faith in Jesus. Listening for the Holy Spirit is a risk, though. Author and Pastor Mark Batterson emphasizes in his book, Whisper that we need to allow for the quiet moments in our days to listen for the voice of God. It is often in the silence that we can finally get an impression of what God wants to speak into us. It is an important part of our transformational journey.

I know that in this busy and noisy world we live in, that the process of creating the time and space to get quiet before God can be a little bit difficult and even scary. We wonder... what will God ask me to do and what if I think I cannot step into that? Do I really want to follow Jesus?

I have been looking at how the Holy Spirit works and I think the process of risking to follow is an important part of the journey. God does not force us to follow, but the Holy Spirit is always present saying, "Come. I will meet you and help you." You see, it is God who calls and God who equips. The Holy Spirit is our helper.

So, as we begin to think about a new year, which in my mind always begins when the kids go back to school, I have been praying about possible practices and opportunities that the Holy Spirit is calling us to risk to step into at St. Peter? How is God calling each of us to go deeper in the transformational process of faith?

Pastor Doug and I were privileged to attend the Rostered Ministers' Gathering in Phoenix from July 17-20th. We learned what it was to be out in temperatures around 118 degrees and learned that it felt just like walking into a sauna, but without the moisture. We were able to participate in worship and learning with over 700 rostered ministers. The experience in worship and in listening to the keynote speakers was amazing. The focus was on rekindling the gifts within us. We had an opportunity to also go to breakout sessions on all kinds of topics. I am thankful for the opportunity to attend and to continue to learn and grow my faith.

Ideas to ponder for the sanctification process in our lives: There are many more than these, but these are a few to get you thinking.

1. Carve out time at the beginning and end of each day to sit in silence and ponder how God has been at work and/or just be aware of God being present with you.
2. Participate in a small group – Bible Study or Home Share group where you can risk to open up and share your faith and listen to others share theirs.
3. Risk to pray out loud and pray for others as they tell you of their pain or concerns.
4. Participate in a group to learn about Healing Prayer and God's ability to bring deep healing.
5. Sing in a young people's group to provide special music during the service. The act of praising God in song is powerful.
6. Volunteer for Lifewise one morning or afternoon a week and pray for the children and teachers.
7. Go visiting to those who are homebound or in the nursing homes.
8. Ask God to speak to you as you sit quietly and then begin to journal what comes to mind. Then share what you are hearing with a few trusted friends who are also journaling.

The journey of faith is an exciting one. God is amazing and his love for us is transforming. As we seek God with our whole heart God meets us on the journey. That is great news!

Blessings,

Pastor Carol

Monthly Finance Reports:

Committee Spotlight: Stewardship

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter,

The stewardship team would like to thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the General Fund through your offerings and seasonal giving. In past years, we have run in the red during the summer, but our financial secretary has reported that we are right on track to meet our budget, based on everyone's faithfulness. This includes the projection of the funds that are pledged to come in at the end of the year. Your support of the General Fund has been amazing! Keep up the great work.

If you have questions about your individual giving, you may contact Denise Kloeppel.
Again, thank you!

Respectfully,

Ron Kloeppel, Stewardship Chair

Eric Fritz, Council President

Pastor Carol

InReach/OutReach

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.

Keep our shut-ins and military friends and families in your prayers.

Shut-ins

Sharon Reel
Vancrest of Van Wert
10357 Van Wert- Decatur Road
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Military:

Fred Hasting	Navy	Stateside
Christian Jarman	Air Force	Stateside

Rose Hager

General Announcements

Radio Ministry was given to the glory of God in June and July by:

- Merv and Lois Ewing in honor of their 52nd wedding anniversary
- Norma Koenig in memory of Ted Koenig
- Sue, Paige and Aaron Kloepfel in honor of Ron on Father's Day and for all he does for our family. Also, in honor of Aaron's 22nd birthday and in loving memory of Melvin Kloepfel and Orville Koverman.
- Norma Koenig in honor of her family
- Deb Trentman in memory of Bob Trentman and Ted Koenig
- Dave and Connie
- Members of St. Peter Lutheran Church

Flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God in June and July by:

- The flowers on the altar were given by Lynn and Yvonne Koenig in celebration of their son in law, Mike, and their daughters Stephanie and Shelby's birthdays.

Coffee Cup Bible Study in the Parish Hall is the 1st and 3rd Saturday morning at 9:00 AM. Bring your coffee cup and a friend!

The 2023 Radio Ministry

We have had to update our equipment to record for the radio station on Sundays. The radio station is covering most of the cost of the equipment, but we will need to have an increase in our weekly costs to help cover some of the updated equipment. We also have not had a price increase for the service for many years.

The new cost per week to broadcast on the radio will be \$55.00 beginning August 6th.

It is very easy to use our Vanco (Tithley link) to set up payment for the service or you may write a check too. You can follow the link listed below to securely submit a payment for *radio ministry*. You will still need to call or email Lauren to let her know which service you are sponsoring as well as to let her know the wording you would like in the bulletin. You may also sign up in the red notebook at the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you for supporting this very important ministry.

<http://www.stpeterdelphos.org/giving-2/>

The flower chart sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please sign up for that special occasion or celebration. Let the office know what you would like printed in the bulletin.

Prayer Group generally meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Anyone is welcome to join us in the Parish Hall from 1:00 – 2:30 PM.

The 2nd Wednesday of every Summer month will be an extra special fellowship!

August 9th- Sundaes on Wednesday

Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, August 6th after church to connect, play ping pong, and eat pizza from 10:00-12:30 PM.

A day of retreat for woman at Pastor Carol's house on Saturday, September 9th. Pastor Carol would like to host this retreat between the woman of St. Peter and St. Mark's in Wapakoneta. This is a chance to push pause and gather together to support each other in our Christian walks. Lunch will be provided. More news will be provided in the coming weeks.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) School Kits:

This year, we are only needing crayons (box of 16 or 24) and notebooks (70 sheet of wide or college ruled paper, no loose-leaf paper) to complete the school kits.

Special Notes:

- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages, or your congregation's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a US Flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

If we do not have your birthday listed. Please contact Lauren to get your name on the list to recognize your special day.

August Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 2) Cindy Finn | 17) Ross Trentman | 23) Rose Hager |
| 4) Kenneth Kloeppe | 17) Kathy Vorst | 24) Linda Stockwell |
| 4) Yvonne Koenig | 19) Donna Berger | 25) Greg Dienstberger |
| 4) Randy Apple | 19) Amanda Vorst | 26) Troy Calvelage |
| 7) Norma Koenig | 19) Deanna Perrin | 28) Scott Brinkman |
| 15) Adrian Kimmett | 19) Sam Miller | 30) Seth Brinkman |

The Story of Jesus – NWOS Daily Bible Reading Guide

Aug. 1 Parable of the Fig Tree **Luke 13:6-9; Matt. 21:18-19; Mark 11:12-14**

Aug. 2 Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman **Luke 13:10-17**

Aug. 3 The Parable of the Mustard Seed **Luke 13:18-19; Matt. 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32**

Aug. 4 The Parable of the Yeast **Luke 13:20-21; Matt. 13:33**

Aug. 5 The Narrow Door **Luke 13:22-30; Matt. 7:13-14**

Aug. 6 A Warning Against Herod **Luke 13:31-33**

Aug. 7 The Lament over Jerusalem **Luke 13:34-35; Matt. 23:37-39**

Aug. 8 Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy **Luke 14:1-6**

Aug. 9 Humility and Hospitality **Luke 14:7-14**

Aug. 10 The Parable of the Great Dinner **Luke 14:15-24; Matt. 22:1-14**

Aug. 11 The Cost of Discipleship **Luke 14:25-33**

Aug. 12 About Salt **Luke 14:34-35; Matt. 5:13; Mark 9:49-50**

Aug. 13 The Parable of the Lost Sheep **Luke 15:1-7; Matt. 18:12-14**

Aug. 14 The Parable of the Lost Coin **Luke 15:8-10**

Aug. 15 The Parable of the Prodigal Son **Luke 15:11-32**

Aug. 16 The Parable of the Dishonest Manager **Luke 16:1-9**

Aug. 17 On Faithfulness **Luke 16:10-12**

Aug. 18 On Serving Two Masters **Luke 16:13; Matt. 6:24**

Aug. 19 The Pharisees Reproved **Luke 16:14-15**

Aug. 20 Concerning the Law **Luke 16:16-17; Matt. 5:17-20**

Aug. 21 Concerning Divorce **Luke 16:18; Matt. 19:1-12, Mark 10:1-12**

Aug. 22 The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus **Luke 16:19-31**

Aug. 23 Occasions for Stumbling **Luke 17:1-2; Matt. 18:6-9, Mark 9:42-48**

Aug. 24 On Forgiveness **Luke 17:3-4; Matt. 18:15**

Aug. 25 On Faith **Luke 17:5-6**

Aug. 26 We Are Worthless Slaves **Luke 17:7-10**

Aug. 27 Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers **Luke 17:11-19**

Aug. 28 The Coming of the Kingdom **Luke 17:20-37**

Aug. 29 The Parable of the Unjust Judge **Luke 18:1-8**

Aug. 30 The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector **Luke 18:9-14**

Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem (According to John)

Aug. 31 Jesus' Brothers Do Not Believe **John 7:1-9**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Northwestern Ohio Synod mission is: ***Sent by the crucified and risen Jesus to Make Disciples, Equip Leaders, Strengthen Parishes, and Nurture New Communities for the renewal of Northwest Ohio and the world.***

Sent...we are a sent church, each one of us. We are sent into the communities in which we live, play, work, and worship to engage those whom God places in our lives each day. This is such an important perspective on how we live our lives...God's calling us to "be church" right where we are and not wait for Sunday morning at 10am. Although most of us love our Sunday morning rituals and many of us find strength there, our mission and our scriptures remind us that "church" is that, but it is also soooooo much more, sooooo much bigger. Church is not only about our own relationship with our creator and our savior, but also with the one who gifts us with each other and sends us out into the world – the Holy Spirit – as we witness in Pentecost when the Spirit was gifted to us and breathed on us through those disciples so long ago.

With the gift of The Holy Spirit, we get to look up and out as a church together. Did you know there are 140 Lutheran member churches of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)? Isn't that amazing? We, the ELCA, are part of a Lutheran body that exists all over the world in 140 different iterations of Lutheran doctrine and perspective. As such, each of the 65 synods of the ELCA has at least one official international church relationship that we call a "companion synod." These relationships are concrete expressions of the communion and fellowship we are called into as the Body of Christ.

Why are companion synod relationships important?

The relationship with all of our companion synods are important because we learn so much about "accompaniment," which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment and sustainability. It is truly a give and take, total sharing relationship as we learn how God is at work throughout the church around the world. We learn from them and they learn from us as together we nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.



What we learned on our most recent trip is that the NWOS relationship with the ELCT Dodoma Diocese is a big deal in many ways, not the least of which is because the ELCT is the second largest Lutheran body in the world with 7,000,000 members and growing. There is so much we learn when we engage with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania about evangelism and mission, the excitement of the Spirit in everyday life, building relationship with "the least of these" in a wide-variety of services and education, entrepreneurship that villages and churches are creating and living out, and culture shifts weaving tribal traditions into a new Spirit-filled, vibrant church that leans into living everyday with the purpose of sharing faith and bringing more disciples to faith.

It is also a big deal because the city of Dodoma is now the Capital of the country of Tanzania. We saw the President of Tanzania on the weekend of Bishop Christian Ndoza's consecration, and the Vice President was in attendance and spoke at the Consecration as well. The city is growing by leaps and bounds: new housing, so much traffic, new businesses and restaurants, markets and commerce. It is a vibrant city and the Lutheran Church is right in the middle of it all, sharing the Good News and influencing how the city, the government and the church is growing and evolving.



We did our best to launch all of our **Vacation Bible School** participants on a cosmic quest where they had a blast learning how to shine Jesus' light to the world. We had 72 kids registered and averaged 62 in attendance each night. Our 48 volunteers rocked it, and we could **NOT** have done this event without them.

We kicked off on Sunday, July 9 and were in session from 6 p.m.—8:30 p.m. through Wednesday. On Thursday night, we kicked off Family Night with all of the kids singing and singing songs that they learned for the parents, grandparents, and friends that they invited. Then, we did some minute-to-win-it games with a boys versus the girls. The girls won, so Pastor Wayne got a pie in his face. Our mission project this year was raising money for Delphos Lifewise. Everyone responded very generously, and we collected \$1,209.45. This was a competition too, and the boys won, so Mrs. Tobe had to kiss a dog in front of everyone. After some pictures with our astronaut, Astro, that had been with us all week, the kids, their families, and some of the volunteers headed to the Delphos Pool to swim and enjoy Kona Ice and snacks.



THANK YOU to everyone that was able to help during VBS, those that prayed for all involved with VBS, and those that gave donations to Delphos Lifewise as part of the mission project. It takes many hands to make this outreach project happen, and everyone involved did their best to take the kids on an out-of-this world adventure while helping them to build their faith and have some fun. St. Peter and Delphos Trinity posted pictures and videos on Facebook for each night. If you have not checked them out, please do.

Anyone can use this prayer and the principles to pray for family and friends. These prayers were used in our healing services on July 26th and July 30th.

A Simple Prayer for Healing *from the ELW*

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake,

send your Holy Spirit upon your servant, _____:

drive away all sickness of body and spirit;

make whole that which is broken;

deliver *him/her* from the power of evil;

and preserve *him/her* in true faith;

to share in the power of Christ's resurrection

and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore.

Healing Prayer Principles

1. **Discern God's will** – *Ask if, what & how you should pray for healing*
2. **Ask Permission** – *of the person before you pray for them or touch them*
3. **Touch** – *skin to skin, the afflicted area if possible and if appropriate*
4. **Visualize** *God flowing through you & making the person whole*
5. *Pray according to your **healing gifts** and your **faith***
6. **Simple & Short, Clear & Direct Request** – *not "if it be your will"*
7. **Give Thanks** – *for what is being done*

