

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

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March 2024

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are now in the midst of Lent with Easter coming up on us very quickly, my how time flies. I can remember my dad telling me that as he got older it seemed time would speed up. Like many thoughts he shared with me, he was so correct. Our life on this earth is dominated by time. We have schedules, calendars, and appointments, and it seems like there is not enough time in the day to get things done. In a way we become like a Martha instead of a Mary. Of course, I am referring to Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus. In **Luke 10:38-42** **38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."** Mary chose to listen to what Jesus has to say, instead of being pre-occupied with making sure that Jesus and His disciples were fed.

Now, we need Marthas as well. We need people to make sure that the lights stay on, that upkeep is maintained so the church can function properly. That is why we have elders, trustees, and other church offices. So, to all the Marthas at Saint Peter and Saint Luke, a hearty and well deserved thank you and appreciation is in order.

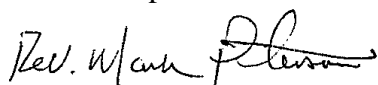
The key is balance. A balance to know that at times we will need to be Marthas, and also a time to be a Mary. When we let our calendars control our lives and dictate where we are to be, who we are to see, and what we need to do, we must always balance those responsibilities by saying no at times, by setting good boundaries to protect ourselves and our families. Even Jesus took time to Himself, and when He did so He was always in prayer to God the Father. Balance also comes in saying no as I previously mentioned. There is nothing wrong with saying no when you face the danger of becoming over extended. Even Pastors can call into the trap of being a Martha instead of a Mary. It is okay if your pastor says no to things. If that happens it is not to be taken personally, but instead respected. In my case, if I say no to a request, I am not being difficult, mean, or in any way antagonistic. I may have a very pressing church issue, a personal issue that needs to be taken care of, or I just need to step away and take time to be with my Lord. We all need that balance in our lives.

So, what are we the church to do when someone wants to be a Mary for a bit? The answer is for others to step up. To help a brother and sister when they are overwhelmed. When I worked as a hospice chaplain, one of the requirements was to be cross trained. In other words, there would be times when I would have to help with a patient in toileting, providing care, and other services. Of course, I would do this under the super vision of a trained medical person. I also recognized that there were certain things that I could not do. Administering medicines as an example. I also would train the nurses, CNAs, and social workers on appropriate practices and scripture verses to use for a patient's benefit if I could not be in a patient's room. The same principles apply to successful business as well.

With the church, we need help and assistance with all kinds of ministries, projects, and responsibilities to continue our mission to reach the lost, provide hope and comfort to our members and the community at large. In the Book of Acts, chapter 6, verses 1-3 God's Word tells us **¹In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Grecian Jews among them began to grumble against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ²So the Twelve summoned all the disciples and said, "It is unacceptable for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men confirmed to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will appoint this responsibility to them...**

So. Please prayerfully consider how together we can serve the Lord and our communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Time does fly and the time is coming when our Lord will come back, and we will be in the new heavens and the new earth that is to come. So, knowing that our Lord is coming, let us always be ready in all times to receive Him. Also, let us be about the church by doing what the Lord has called us to do. Again, we want and desire your help, your prayers, and your assistance at both churches as we work together to continue what the Lord has called us to do.

In His Grip



Pastor Peterson



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Convention:

The SWD LWML (aka Women in Mission) will hold their biennial convention this June in Sun Prairie. Major items of business will be establishing our mission goal for '24-'26, selecting our mission grants for the biennium, and electing officers. Each biennium, half of our district officers and a new counselor are selected. Our voting delegates will be Nancy Propson and Pam Menge. All women are welcome to attend as non-delegates, however registration is required. For more information, see LWML-SWD.org/convention/registration or check with Judy Paulson, Bonnie Teinert or Carol Krepline. Registration forms will be available soon on the bulletin board. Friday events will include the Mission Walk, Servant Events and Vesper Service. The business meeting will be on Saturday.

We're excited to see what our new mission goal will be! We will then know how many grants we can fund. Mission grants are funded entirely by our Mite offerings. Our current fiscal year ends March 31, and we will have directed \$205,000 to

fund LWML grants. Twenty-five percent of this goes to LWML to fund national grants, and the remaining 75% funds the grants selected by our SWD LWML. If you have worn out your mite box, we have more available on the table near the bulletin board in the narthex. The Mite box is always available on the table near the bulletin board.

Heart to Heart Event:

There is still time to register for the Heart to Heart Sisters of all Nations event on March 16 at Granville Lutheran School in Milwaukee. This is an opportunity to learn about and mingle with our Sisters of LWML of various nationalities from SWD. Registration is required. Check the website under events/workshops for directions, time, and registration information.

New Holstein Women's Day Event:

Set aside Saturday, April 6, for the annual Women's Day at Zion, New Holstein. Information is posted on the bulletin board.

Membership:

Once in a while we hear someone say, "but I'm not a member of Women in Mission". The truth is that all women of the congregation are considered members, and we would love to have you come and share your ideas and suggestions. We also have a Bible study each month as well as a devotion dedicated to one of our current mission projects.

Meetings: We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 1:00

Quarterlies: The Quarterlies that you receive each quarter of the year are provided by our local Women in Mission. We ask that you bring your copy to each meeting as we usually use one of the Bible studies from the Quarterly. Bible studies are led by Pastor Peterson.

For more up-to-date information from LWML-SWD, look at the newsletter available by going to our home page (lwml-swd.org) and tapping the gold button labeled Mission Lamp in the upper left hand corner. It will take you to our district newsletter for news from each committee of the district and for more information about upcoming events!



Mission Matters

Ministry to Children of the World

We have been talking about LWML mites a lot lately. The current mite goal for LWML fiscal year 2023-2025 is \$2,350,000! Of that goal, many of the 31 approved grants are specifically for God's children. Here is an overview of those grants:

- #2: A Healing Space for At-Risk Children – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
- #3: Serving God's Children with Special Needs – Journeys Lutheran School – Milwaukee
- #9: Equipping Young Leaders – LCMS Youth Ministry
- #12: Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth – Lutheran High School – New Orleans
- #15: Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals – Trinity HOPE
- #16: Care for Street Children of Western Kenya – Carestone Ministries
- #19: Tanzania Children's Homes – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania
- #20: Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan – Lutheran Hour Ministries
- #23: A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children – Lutheran Special Education Ministries U.S.
- #28: Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students – Nebraska

These grants total \$687,582. Of the remaining grants, many are directed toward families or communities where children are also served. More information about LWML grants is included in each issue of the LWML Quarterly and on the LWML website: lwml.org



L U T H E R A N S engage

A Vast Community of Support

Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, plays an important role in raising awareness in support of the Synod's missionaries.

Story by Megan K. Mertz

Photography by Erik M. Lunsford

The middle of an Iowa cornfield is a strange place to start a hub for international mission work. Yet, that's exactly where "Old Missionary Gary" Thies started Mission Central in 1994 — first in his basement in Mapleton, Iowa, then in a converted farmstead across the highway.

"All I had to work with was a desk, a phone and one empty four-drawer filing cabinet. I prayed that God would fill that up with the names of people who want to tell others about Jesus," said Thies. "And He did!"

Mission Central was originally a collaboration with what was then LCMS World Mission. When the Synod underwent restructuring following the 2010 convention, Mission Central became part of LCMS Mission Advancement, where it has continued unimpeded in the vital work of telling the church about the Synod's 100-plus missionaries. Today, many of the voluntary gifts and offerings God's people joyfully provide to keep those missionaries on the field flow through Mission Central.

Thousands of people have made the trek to Mission Central since its beginning. The Synod's missionaries stop by during home service, which is a regularly scheduled time for them to reconnect with supporters, family and friends. Last year alone, 52 busloads of visitors traveled to Mission Central to tour the site and hear about the Lord's command to take the Gospel into the world.

Tours include time in the on-site Creation Theater, which uses taxidermied animals donated by a

friend of Mission Central to tell the story of how God created the world and all that is in it. Just up the hill from the theater, the Barn Museum is stocked from floor to rafters with interesting items from all over the world — such as carved idols from Papua New Guinea and “spirit money” burned as part of ancestor worship in Asia.



Gary Thies, mission development counselor, speaks following a Service of Installation for Schulz in August.

“There’s no other place like this,” Thies says, explaining how God provided everything for the sole purpose of educating visitors on why sending missionaries to proclaim the hope found only in Jesus Christ is so important.

In August, nearly 100 people converged on Mission Central for the installation of the Rev. Steven Schulz as pastoral advisor and visitor host. In this role, Schulz will assist Thies in telling the stories of the Synod’s missionaries, welcoming visitors, and coordinating the flow of information between Mission Advancement in St. Louis and the staff at Mission Central. To his new role, Schulz brings more than 30 years of experience as a parish pastor in Iowa District West and the North Dakota District.

He first met Thies 29 years ago while attending his first district convention. “I’m really excited about working with Gary and raising mission awareness,” Schulz said. “A lot of people don’t realize you can adopt missionaries and email them. My hope is that the Lord can make use of me here.”

Thies is excited too. “This is an answer to prayer,” he said, following the installation service. He

hopes that “the good work that God has provided here” will continue for years to come.

But he also took a moment to dispel a misconception about Schulz’s arrival: “I’ve had several people call me and say, ‘Gary, we’re so happy that you have Pastor Schulz. Now you can retire.’ That is a lie,” Thies said with a glimmer in his eye. “The truth is, God willing, I hope to come to Mission Central and be a part of Mission Central as long as I can crawl across the road.”

A Whole Synod Approach

In addition to Mission Central, there are several other ways to connect to the Synod’s network of missionaries around the world.

Mission Senders

Individuals and families can set up recurring giving in support of one or more specific LCMS missionaries as part of Mission Senders. Working with Michelle Beckmann in Mission Advancement, anyone can build a personal relationship with a missionary family that ultimately results in helping more people to hear the Gospel. Learn more at lcms.org/missionsenders, or call Beckmann at 888-930-4438, Ext. 1047.

Together In Mission

Congregations and church groups are invited to partner with LCMS missionaries through Together In Mission (TIM). TIM congregations and groups are able to set up a yearly commitment to support a missionary family, and then renew that support from one year to the next as local conditions allow. Learn more at lcms.org/togetherinmission, or call coordinator Julie Loehring at 888-930-4438, Ext. 1651.

More Resources

Get to know many of the Synod’s missionaries at your own pace by exploring the roster online at lcms.org/missionarysupport. Or learn about how to integrate missionary support into your charitable plans through a conversation with an LCMS mission advocate. Find a mission advocate at lcms.org/your-mission-advocates.

Lutherans Engage Magazine is available in the narthex.

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve

none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead before bed on Saturday March 9th.

Our Response to His Love

	2-04	1-28	1-21	1-14	1-7
General Fund	\$2581	\$1674	\$1172	\$1746	\$1650
Missions	\$10	\$10		\$50	
Totals	\$2591	\$1684	\$1172	\$1796	\$1650

St. Peter Lutheran Church Quarterly Voters' Meeting Minutes January 28, 2024

Call To Order: Chairman Wally Jentsch called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was said by Pastor Peterson.

Approval of the minutes: Minutes from the October meeting were approved as distributed.

Correspondence: We received a Thank You from Aiden for a scholarship from St. Peter to attend Concordia.

Pastor's Report: 2023 in review

- Funerals performed by Pastor Peterson-George Schroeder, George Krepline, Scott Peters & Joe Storino. Funeral performed by Pastor Krueger-Ron Bornemann
- Baptisms-Jordan Kalies & Bailey Gardener
- New Members by baptism, transfer & release-Mark & Pam Menge (from WELS Church), Dave, Deb, Jordan & Casey Kalies (transfer from LCMS & St. Bartholomew in Brillion). Jordan is a baptized member, but not yet a confirmed member. Bailey Gardener is a communicant member.
- Joint Sunday School is going well. VBS will be held at St. Peter this year, planning will begin in March.
- Pastor is please with worship attendance & confident that it will increase.
- First & Second rounds of letters were sent to inactive families. A last group will be sent later this year. If still no response, Pastor & the elders will decide upon an appropriate course of action which may include removing them from the roster. They will we welcomed back in the future if they wish.
- Ash Wednesday service is February 14th at 10:30 am. Lenten services, February 21st, 28th, March 6th, March 13 & March 20th—10:30 am at St. Peter & 7pm at St. Luke. Maundy Thursday service at 1:00 pm, Good Friday at 1:00 pm & Easter Sunday will be at 8:30 am.
- Pastor would like to enter a joint float in the Hilbert 4th of July Parade. We'll need a truck or tractor with a trailer & volunteers to assemble & ride on the float. Contact Pastor if you are interested.

Treasurer's Report:

- We had a \$566 budget surplus thanks to a couple of generous donations.
- We have a CD at LCEF for \$22,517 that matured recently & \$80,000 invested at Thrivent. We also have 60,000 in a CD at State Bank gaining interest at 5.25%.
- Report will be filed for audit.

Board of Elders Report:

- Bailey Gardener was confirmed Jan. 14th.
- Judy Paulson will be playing organ for the mid-week Lenten services.
- Dan encouraged everyone to attend the Tuesday night bible study.

Board of Trustees Report: Nothing big that ongoing.

- There's a small leak in the roof.
- Some sort of signage for the west side of the building is being discussed.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: All is well...no problems.

Joint Parish Committee: We need one more person to volunteer to be on the committee. Current members are Dan Schroeder, Dan Koffarnus, Wally Jentsch & Dan Bergelin

New Business:

- Nicole Price, Brian Price, Brandon Price & Brad Deiner requested to be removed from membership. MMSC to approve their requests.
- It's time to assemble an audit committee consisting of the Treasurer & two other volunteers. Lori Schwalenberg volunteered. Pastor will have an announcement in the bulletin looking for another volunteer.

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 28, 2024

Adjournment: MMSC to adjourn the meeting.

Closing Prayer: We closed by saying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Submitted by Maria Schroeder

Happy Birthday

MARCH

- 9 Kurt Kamps
- 14 Casey Manders
- 15 Charley Fochs
- 16 Carissa Schwalenberg
- 17 James Fredrich
- 18 Marjean Plate
Patrick Hernke
- 22 Noah Koehler
- 23 Jonathon Ladwig
- 24 Zachary Wittmann
Devin Roehrig
- 25 Dale Mueller
- 26 Diane Roehrig
- 29 Adam Riemer
- 30 Maria Schroeder



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 11th Michael & Susan Hostettler
- March 14th Austin & Danielle Schwalenberg
- March 24th Judd & Diane Roehrig



Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

In Lamb of God, we have God's Son come to earth as the eternal Word, Jesus Christ. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus is made known to us as both God and Man, full of grace and truth. He has come into the world to seek us out—you and me—to rescue us from the power of evil, and to make us His beloved children forever.

Jesus was born for sacrifice and servanthood. As God's beloved Lamb, He intimately joined our lives in the flesh, compassionately healing, teaching, and loving us as our Good Shepherd. On the cross, He gave His life for our transgressions, and three days later He rose triumphant in victory over sin, death, and the devil.

Lenten devotions are available to print at <https://www.lhm.org/lent/>

Read or listen to daily devotions from LHM at <https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions>

Service times for Lent and Easter:

- Through March 20th – Midweek Lenten Services 10:30 a.m. (7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke)
- March 28th – Maundy Thursday Service 1:00 p.m. (7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke)
- March 29th – Good Friday Service 1:00 p.m. (7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke)
- March 31st – Easter Sunday (8:30 a.m. @ St. Peter, 10:30 a.m. @ St. Luke)

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Donna Marose DeAnn Eldred					1 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	2
3 Third Sunday in Lent <i>Violet</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	4 <i>7:00p Joint Parish Meeting @ St. Peter</i>	5 7:00p Bible Study	6 10:30 Midweek Service <i>7:00p Midweek Service @ St. Luke</i>	7	8 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	9
10 Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>Violet</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) Fellowship 9:30 Sunday School Daylight Saving Time Begins	11	12 1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	13 10:30 Midweek Service <i>7:00p Midweek Service @ St. Luke</i>	14	15 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	16
17 Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>Violet</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	18	19 7:00p Bible Study	20 10:30 Midweek Service <i>7:00p Midweek Service @ St. Luke</i>	21 6:00p Council Meeting 6:30p Elders Meeting	22 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	23
24 Palm Sunday <i>Scarlet or Violet</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School	25 Newsletter articles due	26 7:00p Bible Study	27	28 Holy Thursday <i>White, Scarlet or Violet</i> 1:00p Divine Service <i>7:00p Service @ St. Luke</i>	29 Good Friday <i>Bare</i> 1:00p Divine Service (NC) <i>7:00p Service @ St. Luke</i>	30 9:00 Decorate for Easter
31 Easter Day <i>White or Gold</i> 8:30 Divine Service						

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion