



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Keynotes

February 2016



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**St. Peter's Lutheran
Church exists to
prepare God's people
with God's
promises for God's
purposes.**

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A Letter from the Pastors

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On February 10th the Church enters into a new season in the Church year known as Lent. It can be hard to imagine that Lent is already here. After all, it feels as though we celebrated Christmas just last week. Nonetheless, the season changes and with the new season comes new things; both which we see and focus on.

The colors on the altar will be changed to purple. Purple is the color of repentance. During the season of Lent, God's people focus on and recognize their sins and turn towards Jesus who brings mercy and forgiveness.

Traditionally, in the season of Lent, God's people have given certain things up so that they might in a small way share in Christ's sufferings, but, perhaps more importantly, they give things up so that they might spend time focusing on Jesus. As a Church, we will give up singing Alleluias, singing the joyous Hymn of Praise, and playing trumpet until Easter. (This will be a hard task!) Many of you will also give up personal things. Perhaps such things as soda, chocolate, Facebook, etc. Whatever you might give up, I pray it helps you to spend more time in prayer, to study of God's Word, and to think about Jesus' sacrifice for you.

In Lent, God's people not only give things up, but they also add things. Some people will add family devotions so that they might spend even more time contemplating Jesus' sacrifice. As a Church we will add midweek Lenten services. On Wednesdays at 12pm and 7pm, God's people will gather together to hear His Word, to confess their sins, and to rejoice in His forgiveness. This year during our Midweek services, we will hear about the places of the passion. We will hear the spiritual wonders of Jesus' work and His strength in the midst of our weaknesses.

As Lent begins many things change for the people of God; both what we

see and what we focus on. It is my prayer that what changes most of all is your heart! The psalmist prays in Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." The psalmist's prayer is our very own prayer. We boldly confess our sins to God with the promise that He will forgive us and will create in us a right spirit.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Ahlersmeyer & Pastor Schultz

Lenten Worship Series

Mid-week Lenten worship services begin with Ash Wednesday on February 10 and continue through March 16. Services are offered at noon and 7:00 pm.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day penitential season of Lent with the imposition of ashes and the celebration of the Lord's Supper in preparation for the festival of Easter. This is a solemn event marked with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" as ashes are placed on the forehead or hand to remind us of our sinful condition and the need for a Savior to take away the sins of the world.

This year during Lent, we will offer a sermon series titled *Places of the Passion*. With thematic inspiration drawn from the Gospel of St. Luke, *Places of the Passion* focuses on the spiritual wonders of our Lord's work; the places where He demonstrates His strength in the midst of our weakness; and His timeless love in the midst of our temporal darkness. Jesus never leaves a place as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them.

Sent to Share Celebration

We praise the Lord for His faithfulness! The pledging stage of our Sent to Share Capital Campaign came to a close on December 31, 2016 (although it's never too late to make a pledge!). Our Campaign pledges now total \$1,664,266.51, putting us over our \$1.6 million Celebration goal. These pledges were made by 300 of our giving units.



Now we enter the Fulfillment Phase. There are several ways to fulfill your Sent to Share pledges.

- The main way is to use your offering envelopes. Simply include

your pledge amount with your regular offering. Indicate on the front of the envelope how much goes toward Sent to Share.

- You can also drop your payment off in the church office or bookkeeper's office. There's a deposit slot by the Bookkeeper's door.
- A third way is to set up a direct deposit plan. Call the church office for more information.

Please note - we will not be using special pledge envelopes as we did in Building on the ROCK.

Our monthly loan payment is \$32,000, with the potential to lower our interest rate by participating in some LCEF programs. (This, in turn, will reduce our monthly payment.) As we fulfill our Sent to Share pledges, we will be able to make our payments for at least the next 4 years. We pray for the Spirit's continued presence throughout our Sent to Share Fulfillment Phase!

Our Building on the ROCK campaign, which came to a conclusion at the end of December, raised over \$2.4 million. Add the \$1.6 million pledged to Sent to Share, and we have a total amount of slightly over \$4 million. Thus, at the end of our 3-year Sent to Share fulfillment phase, we will have paid off nearly two-thirds of our building debt in only 6 years. What an amazing accomplishment; one that can only be completed through the Spirit of the Lord!

In one short year of operation, we've seen over and over again how our addition has been a blessing to our ministry. We've also been blessed through the commitments we've made in supporting it. Not only has our church grown stronger, but we as individual members have grown stronger in the faith as well. May He continue to bless us as we work for Him in His Kingdom!

WHO-WHAT-WHEN-WHERE

GREETER SCHEDULE [Click here to see the February greeter schedule.](#)

ALTAR FLOWERS

The following dates are open for altar flowers for 2016:

April 24, May 1, June 19, July 3, 17, August 7, November 27, and December 18. To reserve a date, please contact Doris Martin (260) 444-2838.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

In a way to better utilize the blessings God has given us, we have some good men over the age of 30 playing pick-up basketball here at St. Peter's. We have started playing on Thursday nights at 8:00 p.m. in the church gym.

You don't have to be an All-Star, if you are still interested in getting together to play basketball and to meet members of the congregation, please contact Don Kidd at 260-438-0363 or Dave Horacek at 260-760-7020.

MOM'S GROUP SCHEDULE SET!

This group will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month (through May) from 8:30-10:00 am in the Cornerstone Room, so the next gathering will be on Feb. 3. Moms of any age and stage are invited to join us! For more information, contact Joy Weller or Michelle Leahy.

WILDCAT BENEFIT PRIDE AUCTION

**Saturday, April 16th, 2016
at the Church Gymnasium.**

We're extremely excited to announce that after a sold-out, record-breaking fundraiser in 2015, the Wildcat Pride Benefit Auction will now be an annual event supporting our school & church.



Help us make 2016 even better - you won't want to miss this entertaining and rewarding evening!

Tickets: \$50/person.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities or auction donations, contact Nicole Bolinger at nbolinger@clhscadets.com.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

GO WHERE? NICARAGUA, THAT'S WHERE!

In June a team of Indiana District Lutheran Women's Missionary League women will be going to Nicaragua to help with an eyeglass clinic and share the good news of Jesus. Maybe we can't go but ALL of us CAN help with the need for 3,000 eyeglasses! Needed: outdated adult and children's prescription eyeglasses, non-prescription sun glasses, soft cases, reading glasses. That's right for \$1.00 you CAN help, just visit the Dollar Tree. St. Peter's LWML is helping with this project through February's Compassionate Care Collection. Collection baskets are in the Ministry Center and North Corridor.

OLDER ADULTS

February 1, 2016 @ 11:30-1:00

Please consider joining other older adults to have lunch with Pam Launer and hear about her life and ministry at Lunch with a Staff Member on Feb 1, 2016 at Ziano's restaurant in Chapel Ridge. Please sign up on the sheet on the lectern. Include your phone number in case inclement weather forces us to cancel the meeting.

February 16, 2016 @

11:30 a.m. for lunch

12:30 p.m. for presentation

Valentine Party in the Cornerstone room. This will be a Lunch and Learning event. The Lunch will cost \$5.00. The sign up will include a place to mark whether you are coming for lunch or not. We need this information to have enough food for all. This will be followed by a presentation at 12:30 p.m. by Darlene Hoover. She makes gifts of love and has begun a grief ministry with the families of babies that die at birth. She makes angel outfits for those children from used wedding gowns, truly a unique way to share God's love and the Gospel with the families. Also, there will be a cookie decorating demonstration. Sign up on the sheet in the ministry center. Remember to include your phone number in case of bad weather

and indicate weather you are coming for the meal. Questions? Call Art Wenzel (749-5816 ext. 224) or Ron Fiebig (483-7474).

IN District Senior Adult Program - Senior Adult Fest 2016

April 23 @ Holy Cross

All Seniors are invited to Senior Adult Fest 2016 - "God's Gifts of Heart, Mind and Soul." The Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, former Lutheran Hour Speaker and presently the President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Plenary speakers will include Rev. Ed Keinath, Director of CrossLife Ministries; Ms. Trisha Neary, Senior Director of Sales and Marketing for Lutheran Life Villages, and, Ms. Lesley Freidel, Senior Director of Program Development at Lutheran Life Villages.



Enroll now for Preschool

Preschool enrollment begins for St. Peter's church members on Feb. 15 and for the community on Feb. 22. Classes are available for children who will be two years of age by August 1 thru age five. You may pick up a registration packet at the Ministry Center or print from from our website. For questions, please call the preschool at 748-0775 or email Michelle Kidd at preschool@stpetersfw.org. Tell your friends and neighbors!

Sports Day, Pajama Day, Wacky Day... oh my!!! Add a field trip to More Than Gymnastics and that is how preschool celebrated the blessing of being a Lutheran School during National Lutheran Schools Week! Lots of fun was had by all of the children and especially the preschool staff! WE LOVE OUR SCHOOL!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR AREA

Concordia Lutheran High School

[Click here to view the latest updates from Concordia Lutheran High School.](#)

Concordia Seminary Guild

The Concordia Seminary Guild will meet on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Luther Hall. All ladies are invited.

Cross Connections Comedy Event

Ready for Spring? Need a night of laughter? Join the Biblical counseling ministry of Cross Connections on **Thursday, March 3** for the 5th annual "It's a Spring Thing - a Cross Connections Comedy Event" featuring the talented duo of Barnes and Miner.

Visit the Event Page at www.CrossConnectionsCounseling.com for more information and to purchase tickets, or call Matt Konow at 260-373-0213, ext. 103 if you are interested in sponsoring.

February Birthdays



February 1st - 7th

(1) Barbara Borchers, Michael Bute; (2) Ralph Scheiwe, Linda Hallien, Jeanette Baumert, Eric Worden, Brandon Wiggins; (3) Kevin Pennell, Nicole DePue, Brianna Moehnke; (4) Noel Crismore, Julie Rekeweg, Martha DePue, Patrick Flanigan; (5) Seth Bleke, Karen Clark, Jennifer Grisez, Scarlett Horacek, Kaia Recker, Stephanie Renninger, Carl Witte ; (6) Craig Fails, Audrey Haiflich, Jennifer Monn; (7) Cameron Bohnke, Nicole Bolinger, Bryleigh Cobbs;

February 8th - 15th

(8) Leah Fultz, Kara Vonderau; (9) Jenna Bingham, Brian Brenneke, Scott Buhr, Louise Hartman, Nicole Klotz, Dale Miller, Noah Olson, Max Springer; (10) Madelyn Biggs, Todd Buuck, Walter Langley, Cheryl Nietert, Gregory Reith; (11) Bob Berning, Luke Bentz, Lauren DenHartog, Kandace Ehresman, Andria Folsom, Joshua Hauschild, Rachel Hauschild, Hope Liechty, Kathryn Mills, Taylor Roach, Autumn Rogers, Jacqueline Przeniczny, Marie Shaw; (12) Sarah Cripe, Lauren Frick, Paul Kohn, Charles Newbauer, Kristin Newbauer, Brianna Schmitt, Joseph Strong; (13) Karen Hoffman, Robert Sutter; (14) Marinn Korte, Ashley Wierzbinski; (15) Ian Brown, Mary Ann Dressler, Sheri Egbert, Michael Reidt, Jennifer Thomas, Alaina Ulewicz, Brett Wiggins;

February 16th - 22nd

(16) Jack Baumert, Daniel Bradtmueller, Greg Goeglein, Christian Hicks, Maria Mazur, Olivia Vowels; (17) Nathan Falkensten, Chad Goeglein, Rhoda Goeglein, Olivia Haiflich, Biden Paulin, Anthony Wiedeman, Chelsea Wiggins, Jaunita Voltz ; (18) Landon Coil, Bonnie DeCamp, Leah Reese, Dennis Shadle, Krista Thena, David Yarman; (19) Mark Busche, Anna Christian, Verna Ehle, Andrea Hoffman, Halden Krauter, Richard Vonderau; (20) Lanell Miller, Cameron Rekeweg, Jacob Steele, David Ward; (21) Dale Ehle, Andrew Fultz, Jennifer Meyers, Jacob Rhodes, Darcy Ringenberg, Hayley Roberts, David Sheets, Lincoln Thomas; (22) Meghan Beverly, Nicholas Derheimer, Julie Laisure, Selena Stankovic, Anna Wells, Joyce Westrem;

February 23rd - 29th

(23) Noah Dyer, Brock Fuller, Eric Komosinski, Madelyn Meyer, Paul Wiedeman, Naomi Woehner (24) Kim Bartlett, Madison Folsom, Matthew Goeglein, Zachary Pettit, Daniel Smith, Rogan Thiele, Blake Vanderford, Paula Wise; (25) Barbara Bubb, Vera Buhr, Steven Burchardt, Janet Green, Daria Klotz, Morgan Moher, Gary Painter, Scott Thiele, Susan Wetzel; (26) Greg Baumert, Sara Darmawan, Statton Geary; (27) Bailey Berning, Alivia Bolinger, Eric Geiger, Jordan Jones, Edith Miller, Christy Sampson, (28) Elise Koenemann, Jeffery Massucci, Garry Morr, Joseph Nuthals, Steven Singer; (29) Jack France

