

St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Letter from the Pastors

Easter Worship

Jesus is alive, and His church is too, and I can hardly wait until our building comes alive on Easter morning with all of you. Perhaps one of the greatest challenges this past year has been the restrictions that have prevented us from spending time in fellowship with one another. I dream of the day when we can resume our lively congregational activities, full of smiles, handshakes, and hugs.

I am eagerly anticipating this Easter celebration, especially since we were unable to be together last year. I would like to personally invite each and every one of you to join us for Easter worship. This year we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior in a socially distant way. Due to state mandated guidelines, our Sanctuary only holds approximately 25% of its previous pre-pandemic capacity and since Easter is typically a time when we are near capacity for worship, we will have to be a little creative and flexible this year.

In order to assure that all are able to worship, we need your help. Just as we did on Christmas Eve, we will take reservations for reserved seating for each of the four worship services offered. As of this weekend, you can begin requesting seating immediately. After March 17, we will assign seats for all the reservations we have received up to that point. Following this, seats will be assigned on a first come first served basis. Requesting your reservation is as simple as following these steps:

Select your worship service.

There will be four worship services this Easter.

1. 6:30 am - Traditional worship in the Sanctuary with communion. This is traditionally a quieter service. So, if you would prefer to avoid a large crowd, we encourage you to consider this service time.
2. 8:00 am - Traditional worship in the Sanctuary with communion.
3. 10:30 am - Traditional worship in the Sanctuary with communion.
4. Stepping Stones style worship in the Church Gym with breakfast and communion. This worship service will contain the familiar liturgy and hymns but will be presented in the same style as our Monday evening Stepping Stones service. A free breakfast will be served from 8:45-9:10 for all those who will attend this service. Worship will

begin shortly thereafter. You will worship at a table with your family/group. This is sure to be a meaningful, uplifting time of worship and fellowship.

Request your seating assignment.

You can do this in 3 ways:

1. Complete the Google Request form. [Click here to complete the form.](#) Once complete, you will receive a confirmation email. You will receive a second email from the church office once your seats have been assigned.
2. Complete the paper Request form. Those are found in the Ministry Center. You can drop your completed form in the Ministry Center or mail it to the church office.
3. Call the church office. Amy and Clarissa will be happy to hear from you and can help you complete your request Monday-Friday from 8-4.

Once your seats have been assigned you will receive an email (or a letter in the mail if you do not have email) with the seating assignment, a seating chart, and an FAQ page with answers to questions such as what to do if you need to change your mind about something.

Attend worship.

Elders and ushers will be on hand Easter morning to help you find your assigned seat. Even if you forget where you are supposed to sit, we will have charts out to help everyone find a seat.

My prayer is that before too long, all these challenges of the pandemic will be just a memory. In the meantime, I thank you wholeheartedly for your help and support.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve

CONNECT to Christ with Us

Worship Times, Links & Details

In-Person Worship

Saturday w/ Communion @ 5:00 pm
Sunday w/ Communion @ 8:00 am
Sunday w/ Communion @ 10:30 am
Monday @ 6:00 pm w/ Communion (Stepping Stones - Gym)
Wednesday w/ Communion @ 12:00 pm (shortened service)
Wednesday @ 7:00 pm (full service)

Weekend Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 20:1-17
Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Gospel Reading: John 2:13-22

Weekend Sermon

"He is Wisdom"
1 Corinthians 1:18-31 & John 2:13-22
Pastor McDowell

Lenten Services

Our noon service will be an abbreviated service that involves no singing, but will include communion weekly. The 7:00 pm service will be a traditional midweek service that will also be available via live stream.

Wednesday Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 24:13-16

Epistle Reading: Acts 22:12-16
Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:57-68

Wednesday Sermon
"Return to Your Identity in Christ "
Pastor Adam McDowell

Live Stream Worship

These services can be accessed through our Facebook page
(www.facebook.com/StPetersFW).

Sunday @ 10:30 am

[Click here to access this Sunday's live stream service.](#)

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

[Click here to access the service.](#)

Stepping Stones Worship

Hey Stepping Stones family, I just wanted to reach out to you and let you know how much our service means to me, and that I was overjoyed to see all of you when I returned from quarantine. Remember to share [this video](#) with others and leave a comment as well!
Peace be with you!

For school families:

Click the button below to log livestream worship attendance.

[Attendance Log Google Form](#)

Stay Informed!

As individual Christian citizens, we have the privilege of holding and expressing opinions on the full spectrum of public policy issues. As your pastors, we proclaim to you both the law and gospel of God's Word. We trust that the Spirit will guide you as you live out the various vocations in which God has placed you – including your vocation as a citizen of this country.

Our church body (The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) has limited out its corporate speech to four specific areas of public life. Those would be: life issues, family and sexuality, religious freedom, and parental choice in education. Recently, our Indiana District President, Rev. Daniel Brege, alerted us to "The Equality Act" which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and has now moved to the U.S. Senate. If passed by the Senate and made law, The Equality Act would, "cost our country countless charitable organizations, which means fewer institutions would be available to serve populations in need," according to the LC-MS.

Our church body also states, "The Equality Act actually furthers inequality, especially for women and girls, by punishing anyone who does not affirm a single viewpoint of marriage and biological sex. A federal sexual orientation and gender identity law would empower the government to interfere in how regular Americans think, speak, and act at home, at school, at work and at play. Any bill promoting such authoritarianism is a danger to our freedoms."

In case you are not aware of this controversial piece of legislation, we wanted to draw your attention to it, both so that you could be aware of the situation and respond with prayer or, if you feel moved to do so, by contacting your Indiana representatives.

[For a one page summary of The Equality Act click here.](#)

GROW in His Grace with Us

Special Lent Family Videos

Grow in your faith as a family during the Lenten season in just 15 minutes each week. Each Wednesday during Lent, we will post a special Bible lesson video for families to enjoy with their children. Each lesson will include a short narrative from a Bible character followed by instructions for an activity or discussion at home.

These videos will post on St. Peter's YouTube channel and Facebook page each week at 6:30 pm. You will have plenty of time to complete the video and activity before settling in for 7:00 worship either in person or via live stream. (The videos will remain in both locations in case another time in your week is easier for your family.)

For this week's video, you will want to have on hand playdough or clay and toothpicks.

If you missed this week's video, click the link below:

[Visit the Temple](#)

Sunday Bible Study:

Join us on Sunday morning at 9:15 am for Bible Study either in person in the Cornerstone Room or online via our YouTube channel.

Adult Instruction Class:

A new adult instruction (confirmation) class with Pastor Steve will begin on Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. This class is for those interested in joining St. Peter's or for those looking for a refresher of what they learned in their own confirmation course.

Pastor Steve's Thursday Bible Study:

Pastor Steve continues his study of Hebrews this Thursday at noon in the Sanctuary and via live stream. This is a very in-depth and insightful study.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study:

Attention ladies! We are hoping to resume meeting together in mid-March. It would be helpful to have an approximate number of attendees so we could make necessary arrangements. If you would be willing to attending beginning March 16, please notify Barbara Borchers (485-9265 or drwho6@frontier.com). Looking forward to gathering together with you all.

HSYG

Next meeting is on 3.14 - Pi Day! Take a look at your email from Pastor McDowell for the details and the NEW Youth Challenge. Not on the Youth Group email list?

[Click here to request to be added.](#)

SHARE Him with Others

Save the Date

The Senior Saints are excited to announce that they will resume their monthly gatherings in April. Mark your calendars now for Monday, April 12, 2021, at 11:30 am. More details coming soon.

March Door Offering

Many of our children (and grandchildren) can tell you about the powerful ministry activities at Camp Lutherhaven. They share the love of Jesus in a way that really connects with our young people. Unfortunately, the past year has been a difficult one for them with camp only being open part of the year and at limited capacity at that.

Help us show our love and support for Camp Lutherhaven by contributing to this month's door collection. You can make your donation anytime this month using the special collection envelope in your offering packet or by indicating your donation on your regular envelope. All funds collected will be sent directly to Camp Lutherhaven for them to use as needed.

If you have a student planning to attend Camp Lutherhaven this summer, campsships are available. Please contact the church office for more information.

College Care Packages

The Family Life Team will assemble care packages for our college students on Wednesday, March 24 at 6:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to drop off items that we can include in the care packages. We just ask that you provide 10 of whatever item(s) you donate and that you bring them to the church office by March 23.

Reminder

There is still time to drop off a birthday card for Elias Sharp, oldest son of Missionary Sharp who is serving in Uruguay. Elias is attending high school in Missouri, half a world away from his family. Let's show him our love and support by sending a great collection of birthday cards. Cards may be dropped off in the Ministry Center before March 14 (so we can mail them before his birthday on March 21).

If you would like to send him notes directly, you can send them to the following address:

Elias J. Sharp
St Paul Lutheran High School
PO Box 719
205 S. Main Street
Concordia, MO 64020

Compassionate Care Collection

Let's help **Matthew 25** with their mission to provide health and dental care to the un or under insurance (that might be all of us at some time) Needed: adult general vitamins, Vitamin D-3 and acetaminophen (generic Tylenol) . This March collection is sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League so we can all reach out compassionately. Collection baskets in the Ministry Center and North Corridor.

Lenten Devotion with Church Neighbors

The women of Ascension are inviting us to their annual Lenten devotion –COME, FOLLOW ME. Monday, March 15 at 7 PM.
P.S. THIS INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS so please call Elise Koenemann to register or with questions: 493-3923 by Monday, March 8.

LWML Women's Retreat Deadline Extended

SECOND CHANCES ARE ALWAYS THE BEST

You are invited to attend the LWML Women's Retreat.

Date: April 16, 2021, 5:00 pm - April 17, 2021, 3:00 pm

Location: Camp Jameson, Indianapolis

Theme: I Am Preparing a Way

Cost: \$100 includes: on site modern cabin housing, 3 meals, T-shirt, all study, craft materials & snacks

Details at lwmlindiana.org

Deadline: March 15

Tithes & Offerings

To view a complete list of giving options (along with instructions), [click here](#).

Stewardship Corner as of 2/21/21

As we return to the Lord this Lenten season, let us give with cheerful hearts!

	<u>Month to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Other Revenue</u>
Total Giving	\$64,994	\$687,340	\$78,481
Budget	\$100,179	\$702,460	\$129,375
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$35,185)	(\$15,120)	(\$50,894)
Loan Balance	\$1,994,751		

Church Week with Rural King – Once again, Rural King will be supporting Christian churches and schools by donating 10% of valid and qualifying receipts uploaded to their website. Receipts must be uploaded by April 1 and be dated March 14-27. Any donations received from Rural King will support both the Middle School and High School Youth Groups. Find details or to upload receipts, go to www.ruralking.com/churchweek. Last year our youth received \$100 for this program.

School Updates

Open Enrollment

We are already looking ahead to the 2021/2022 school year. Enrollment is now open for members of St. Peter's and the community. St. Peter's partners with families to provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures faith in Christ, promotes discipleship, develops God-given talents, and encourages academic excellence. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be interested in enrolling their child(ren) age 2 through 8th grade. Contact the school office to learn more or to schedule a personal visit (enrollment@stpetersfw.org or 260-749-5811).

Church Calendar

Saturday, March 6

5:00 pm - Worship w/ Communion (In Person)

8:00 pm - Men's Basketball (Church Gym)

Sunday, March 7

8:00 am - Worship w/ Communion (In-Person)

9:15 am - Adult Bible Class (Cornerstone Room & Live Stream)

9:15 am - Public School Confirmation (Church Gym)

9:15 am - Adult Information Class (AIC) (Large Conference Room)

10:30 am - Worship w/ Communion (In-Person & Live Stream)

Monday, March 8

6:00 pm - Stepping Stones Worship w/ Communion (Church Gym)

Tuesday, March 9

All Day - Virtual Preschool Grandparents Day

Wednesday, March 10

12:00 pm - Midweek Lent Worship Service w/ Communion (In Person)

7:00 pm - Midweek Lent Worship Service (In Person & Live Stream)

Thursday, March 11

6:30 am - Men's Bible Study (Goeglein's Fireplace Room)

9:00 am - Ladies Aid Quilting (Cornerstone Room)

12:00 pm - Pastor Steve's Bible Study (Sanctuary & Live Stream)

7:00 pm - Board of Elders (Sanctuary)

8:00 pm - Men's Basketball (Church Gym)

Friday, March 12

8:00 am - Kindergarten Screenings (Cornerstone Room)