

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



In-Person Worship

SATURDAY @ 5 PM

SUNDAY @ 8 AM

SUNDAY @ 10:30 AM



Live Stream Worship

Sunday @ 10:30 AM

www.Facebook.com/StPetersFW

CONNECT

CONNECT TO CHRIST WITH US

February 4-5, 2023

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Communion Weekend

Wildcat Bells Ring @ the 10:30 Sunday Service

<https://www.facebook.com/StPetersFW>



Sermon

"Seek His Face, Part 2"

Text: *Isaiah 58:3-9a & Matthew 5:13-20*

Pastor Nathan Widener

Worship Readings

Old Testament: *Isaiah 58:3-9a*

Epistle: *1 Corinthians 2:1-12*

Gospel: *Matthew 5:13-20*



Prayer Text Hotline

Text requests to
260-468-5816

**On-Call Pastor
(Call or Text)**

260-888-6888

**New National Mental
Health Emergency
Phone Number**

988

Special Voter's Meeting

A Special Voter's Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 12th immediately following the 10:30 service. All supporting documents can be found in the Ministry Center.



Letter from the Pastors

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to ask you a favor. Along with the input of our Board of Directors, our Parish Administrator, our School Principal, and some of our key leaders, I have put together a "Case Statement" that gives an overview of some critical and exciting things that need to be addressed as we endeavor to share the gospel in 2023 and beyond. So, would you please read over this "Case Statement" following this letter and provide us with your feedback by filling out the online survey? (For our members receiving a physical copy of News & Notes, we encourage you to send us your feedback by way of email or U.S. mail.)

As we contemplate taking this next step to do some critical and exciting things here at St. Peter's, I want to thank you for your investment in this ministry through your time, talents, and treasures. God is doing amazing things through the many activities and ministries that are taking place at our preschool, day school, and, of course, in our church. Lives are being truly changed and transformed through the proclamation of the gospel. All thanks, praise, and glory be to God for allowing us to join Him on His mission of saving souls through the faithful proclamation of the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ to all people! You know, that mission has been carried out by the faithful people of St. Peter's for the past 168 years and it's our earnest prayer and intention for it to continue to be carried out until the Day of our Lord's return. Again, thank you for taking the time to read and respond.

Serving Him with you,

Pastor Steve

Case Statement for a 2023-26 Capital Campaign

Since 1855 the people of St. Peter's Lutheran Church have been a steady presence in offering salvation through Christ Jesus to the community around us. Our use and care of the 40 acres of our property give testimony to the faith we profess as God's people. Our sanctuary serves as the hub from which flows a variety of ministry activities. In the sanctuary baptisms are administered, Holy Communion is celebrated, and God's Word of forgiveness and salvation is proclaimed to us. In the sanctuary we sing hymns of praise to our gracious and loving Lord, offer up our prayers to Him, and boldly confess Him as the one, true and living God. Yes, from cradle to grave, our sanctuary is the central place where God's people are served with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ and where His holy name is acknowledged and praised.

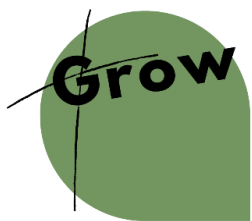
The faith that is initiated and sustained through the Word and Sacrament ministry that takes place in our sanctuary continues to be nurtured through a variety of ministries that serve all ages. Our preschool, located in the lower level serves 82 children with a wide range of educational and faith enrichment programs. Our Day School, across the street from the sanctuary, serves 212 children from Kindergarten through 8th grade with a quality Christ-centered education. Our Parish House located on the south portion of our property serves as gathering place for our Jr. and Sr. high youth groups, as well as a home for our Knotters group. Since the expansion and renovation project that was completed in 2014, we have used practically every square foot of available space to nurture the faith of our children, as well as the faith of our adults. Adult Bible studies, fellowship gatherings, and service groups have utilized all available spaces to carry out their various ministry tasks.

The 2014 facility expansion and renovation project has proven to be a tremendous blessing for St. Peter's in its mission to minister to people of all ages. By creating a "Community of Care" model for ministry, we are in the midst of forming an effective system that addresses the many needs and life circumstances that individuals and families encounter in those seasons of life that take place from the cradle to the grave. Preschool, Day School, and "Community of Care" have not only nurtured our St. Peter's members, but they have also proven to be an effective outreach to the surrounding area. In just a short time since the Community of Care was launched, we have already welcomed new individuals into our St. Peter's family who came to us with healing needs and stayed because of the love of Christ and His community they found here. Therefore, to keep our ministry going and growing, our Board of Directors (with input from Pastor Steve, Jenny Reith, and Principal Brune) have identified three critical issues that, if successfully addressed, will enable us as a congregation to continue to be that steady presence of offering the wonderful gift of salvation through Christ Jesus both now in the present as well as in the years to come. Those issues include:

- **Retire our loan balance.** The people of St. Peter's have done an outstanding job of moving Faithfully Forward to pay down our building debt. In fact, currently that debt, which began at \$6.6 million (plus interest), is now under the \$1 million mark. God be praised! It is, however, critically important that we have a plan to retire this debt completely so that the ministry work laid out in our annual operating budget can continue without the added stress of a mortgage payment. Retiring our debt not only allows us to continue with our budgeted ministry work uninterrupted, but it will also give us the freedom to explore what God might have in mind for us in the future in terms of ministry opportunities and facility improvements as laid out in our Master Plan.

- **Renovate our sanctuary.** As stated earlier, the sanctuary is the hub of all that we do in the name of the Lord here at St. Peter's. In addition to over 300 worship services held in our sanctuary every year, it is also the place where funerals, weddings, baptisms, and a host of other special services and events are carried out. For those who are new to St. Peter's, this worship space offers the first impression to the overall ministry and tells a story of the care we show our church. Over the course of time, things wear out, repairs become necessary, and updates are needed in order to keep the sanctuary functional and inviting. Our pipe organ is a wonderful instrument that has faithfully led us through literally thousands of worship services over the past 63 years without any major malfunction. However, it is now clearly near the end of its life and is in dire need of a major overhaul and refurbishment. In addition, with the advancement of audio-visual technology to aid us in worship and to live stream it out to the community, now is the time to reconfigure our balcony space so that both music and A/V needs are adequately met. Also, the sanctuary flooring as well as the pew cushions are in need of replacement and repair. The replacement of the sanctuary flooring provides the perfect opportunity to consider the addition of new technology that would enable our hearing-impaired worshipers to connect to the A/V system to clearly hear all aspects of worship. Finally, due to the disruption that these various repairs and renovations would create, it would make the most sense to do all of these things in a coordinated way at the same time.
- **Repair our school.** Our day school ministry is critically important in carrying out our overall mission of making disciples. We have been blessed to operate a Lutheran day school, which keeps Christ at the center, since the conception of this congregation 168 years ago. Our day school is housed in a building that was built in 1948 and then added on to in 1957 and again in 1978. We have been good caretakers of a building that has seen a lot of wear and tear over the years. In 2014 some additional improvements and upgrades were made, but there are some things that still need to be addressed. For example, in the school gymnasium that is over 65 years old, the deteriorating ceiling needs to be replaced and painted. Furthermore, several windows have surpassed their useful operational life and are in need of replacement. Finally, we would like to finish providing A/C to the rest of building. During the renovations of 2014, A/C was added to the office and classrooms; however, other high use areas, such as the cafeteria and school gymnasium, remain without. These repairs and replacements will be prioritized and addressed as the funds become available while keeping debt reduction a top priority.
- **Where do we go from here?** We will be asking all our members – of all generations – to participate in a three-year campaign so that together we can accomplish these three goals to retire (our building loan), renovate (our sanctuary) and repair (our school). The total estimated cost to reach these three goals is \$1.6 million. Lord willing, a three-year campaign to raise that total amount would conclude right on the heels of the celebration of our 170 th anniversary as a congregation; what a wonderful way to cap off our 170 th year of existence as a congregation! By God's grace, we will have a renewed, inviting, and practical facility fully paid for, one that will serve both our present needs as well as the needs of the future so that St. Peter's can continue to be a solid and steady presence of faithfulness to Christ Jesus our Lord in this community and beyond.

Retire – Renovate – Repair – RENEW!



GROW IN HIS GRACE WITH US

Bible Studies

Sunday Bible Study

Sunday bible study continues in Leviticus with Pastor McDowell.

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study

Large Conference Room from 9:30 - 11:00 am

The present study is, "1 and 2 Kings: God the Promise Keeper." We will be exploring Solomon's reign and Temple, the divided kingdoms, and the ministries of Elijah and Elisha. While 1st and 2nd Kings teach us what can happen to any nation that idolizes itself and turns away from God, its central theme is God's rich mercy in Jesus Christ. God is faithful!

Tuesday Evening Care Groups

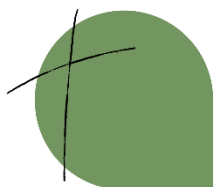
(These groups will pause during HOPE Sessions-join us there at 6:15 pm, or come earlier for a dinner & fellowship!)

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

Bible Study will be Thursday mornings at 6:30 am in the Cornerstone Room. Pastor Nate will be leading this week's study.

Pastor Steve's Thursday Noon Bible Study

A weekly noon Bible Study focused on the book of Revelation.



February: Heart Healthy Month

St. Peter's Community of Care is focusing on the Physical Wellness spoke of the Wellness Wheel for the month of February. If you missed the HOPE Session Class diving into the Wellness Wheel, you can request a physical copy be mailed to you. Below are some great opportunities here on site and off site to support your physical wellness and heart health.

1. Save a Life, Learn CPR

Saturday, February 18: 9am-1pm

When someone's heartbeat and breathing stops, every minute thereafter without giving CPR and using an AED, the survival rate drops 7-10%. One way we can help is to learn the basics of CPR and the use of an AED. Brian West, one of our Church Elders and a Red Cross Instructor, will be leading a class at the Jackson Lehman YMCA on Saturday, February 18 from 9 am to 1 pm. The registration fee is FREE for the first 10 members that sign up and \$30 for each member after that. Click the flier button for more information on the class. Find the sign-up sheet in the Ministry Center or you can email Brian West with any questions or to register.



2. Drums Alive every Thursday

Thursdays, Cornerstone Room 6-7pm

Ready to put a little fun in your workout? We are so excited to be able to extend our Drums of Praise HOPE Session! Using the Drums Alive program, we're able to schedule this into a regular class every Thursday evening in the Cornerstone Room from 6:30-7:30 pm (except on Ministry Impact Team meeting nights, 1st Thursdays, which will move the time up to 6-7pm). This course is designed for all ages and all abilities from low mobility to expert. This is open to all members and guests of members as an easy opportunity to increase your Physical Health.

3. Pickleball every Sunday

Sundays, Church Gym, 5-7pm

Our St. Peter's Pickleball Club has been going strong for nearly a year now! It's a fun activity to play whether you're a beginner or have loved the game for a long time. We have everything you need from equipment, people to teach you, and an easy access atmosphere for anyone who would like to join! Tony Acosta facilitates this program every Sunday in the Church Gym from 5-7 pm.



Chicken Dinner Tickets

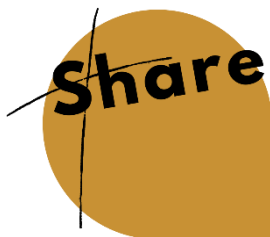
If you got your chicken dinner tickets before February 5th, be ready to pick them up on Sunday, February 12th in the Cornerstone Room Kitchen following the 10:30 service and after the Special Voter's Meeting.



Winter HOPE Sessions: Our Final Tuesday Together until our Spring Sessions Begin

- Dinner @ 5:30 pm (Cornerstone)
- Whole Group Devotion @ 6:15 pm (Cornerstone)
- Classes @ 6:30 pm (ALL Church)

Dinner for 2/7
Meatloaf
Twice Baked Potato
Casserole
Fruit & 🍌
Texas Sheet Cake



SHARE HIM WITH OTHERS

Social Ministry Team: SOUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE 2023

It's that time of year for the Super Bowl football game. This year's game will be played in Glendale, AZ with kick-off scheduled for Sunday, February 12. That means it is also time to give thought to our St. Peter's SOUPER BOWL food collection to help feed those in need, in and around Fort Wayne. The food collected will be delivered to The Associated Churches Food Bank downtown. Food will be collected at all weekend services for Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12. Please, donate only non-perishable food items that are not marked with an expired date. Tables will be set up in the west hallway to receive your donations. The Social Ministry Team sincerely appreciates the generous support shown by our St. Peter's membership over the years for this worthwhile event. Thank you and God bless you.

Compassionate Care Collection

February Mission: Mustard Seed

Mustard Seed provides household furnishings to families and individuals as they rebuild their lives after suffering disaster, personal tragedy, or other misfortunes. Items needed:

- **Spatulas/Cooking Spoons**
- **Painter's Tape**
- **3" Clear Plastic Box Tape**

Collection baskets are in the Ministry Center and North Corridor. Thank you to all who contributed to Turnstone. What a wonderful supply of items collected to be given to a great program!





Stewardship Corner

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Stewardship Corner as of 1/22/2022

God certainly gives us what is good; let us return a portion to him!

February Special Offerings are going to Connect Allen County, a full in-house resource center for families in need.



	Month to Date	Year to Date
Total Giving	\$82,607	\$629,137
Budget	\$90,813	\$645,016
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,206)	(\$15,879)
Loan Balance		\$943,476

Our special offerings total report for the last quarter of 2022:

- August: Preschool Tuition Assistance \$1,145
- September: Cross Connections \$251
- October: LWML \$763
- November: Associated Churches Food Bank \$865
- December: No Special Offering
- January: Uruguay Mission – still totaling

LORD'S WEEK AT A GLANCE

Saturday, February 4

5:00 pm - Worship w/ Communion

7:00 pm - HSYG Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, February 5

8:00 am - Worship w/ Communion

9:15 am - Adult Bible Study (Cornerstone)

9:15 am - Public School Confirmation (Large Conference Room)

10:30 am - Worship w/ Communion

5:00 pm - Pickleball (Church Gym)

Monday, February 6

5:30 pm - Preschool Board Meeting (Large Conference Room)

6:00 pm - District Preschool Directors Meeting (Cornerstone)

7:00 pm - Brass Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 7

9:30 am - Tuesday Ladies Bible Study (Large Conference Room)

5:30 pm - Hope Dinners (Cornerstone)

6:30 pm - Hope Sessions (All Church)

Wednesday, February 8

6:30 pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal (Cornerstone)

Thursday, February 9

6:30 am - Men's Bible Study (Cornerstone)

9:00 am - Ladies Aid Quilting (Cornerstone)

12:00 pm - Pastor Steve's Bible Study (Large Conference Room)

6:00 pm - Shepherding Care Team Meeting (Ministry Conference Room)

6:30 pm - Drums Alive (Cornerstone)

7:00 pm - Board of Elders Meeting (Large Conference Room)

