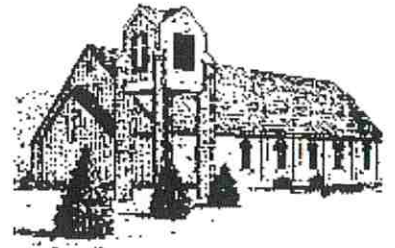


St. Peter's Epistle



February 2025

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
145 S. 6th Street, Waterford, WI 53185

Upcoming Events

Adult Catechesis
Mondays at 6:00 pm

Movie Night
None in February
Resumes in March

Men's Bible Study
Feb 15

*Be sure to follow us on facebook
and visit our website at
www.stpeterswaterford.com*

*Sign up for updates by emailing
Pastor Conradt and asking to be
put on the list.*

CHURCH

Telephone: 262-534-3639

Rev. Joshua P.H. Conradt, Pastor
pastorconradt@stpeterswaterford.com

Church Office
secretary@stpeterswaterford.com

PRESCHOOL

Telephone: 262-534-6066

Mr. Melvin Beversdorf, Director
director@stpeterswaterford.com

From the Desk of Pastor Conradt

The Responsibility of Members "Closed Communion"

The following is copied from p. 304 of *Lutheran Catechesis* by Rev. Peter C. Bender, which I use for Youth and Adult Catechesis. Why closed communion?

"To commune at a church's altar is to say "AMEN" to the faith that is thought and confessed in that church. Members of a Lutheran congregation should not commune in other churches who do not share their confession of faith. It is not the faith of the communicant that makes the Sacrament a sacrament, but the Word of Christ that is faithfully preached and administered in that place. It is false for a Christian to conclude, "I know what the Sacrament is in my heart, so even if this church teaches something different, I'm going to commune there anyway." This dishonors Christ and does not give witness to the fact that it is His Word alone that makes the Sacrament what it is. When Christians do this they are relying upon the thoughts and feelings of their own hearts, rather than upon the Word of Christ. The only ground of certainty for faith is in Christ's objective Word. When Christians commune "willy-nilly" in congregations of church bodies which do not confess their faith, they are saying that the teachings of Christ do not matter. The Word of God gives a strict warning in this regard: "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds" (II John 1:9-11). This is why church fellowship is important. We are united with churches who faithfully confess the Gospel of Christ, for it is the Gospel alone that sustains faith.

"When Christians visit sister con-

gregations within their synod, it is proper to announce to the pastor the desire to commune at the Lord's Table in that congregation before approaching the altar. Members of the congregation should also assist visitors who come with them to the Divine Service. They should know and understand why closed Communion is practiced. They should make arrangements for their visitor to speak with the pastor before the Divine Service. Members should take the initiative to contact their pastor in advance of the Divine Service, so that an adequate time for consultation can be arranged. This is very important, particularly if there is a question in the mind of the member concerning the "worthy reception" of that visitor at the Lord's Table. If the visitor is a repeat visitor and known to the pastor, individual discussions may not be necessary each time. Circumstances and knowledge of the visitor will determine the extent of the pastor's examination. The pastor will take great care in training the elders and ushers in the congregation, so that they can assist him in the faithful administration of the Sacrament.

"Closed Communion is the ancient practice of the Church. Though often misunderstood, it is born out of love for Christ and every potential communicant. It is the practice of responsible spiritual care that ensures health to the whole body and each individual member of Christ.

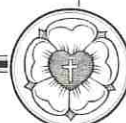
"See also Lutheran Service Book Pastoral Care Companion, "Guidelines for Pastoral Examination of Catechumens Before the Rite of First Communion or Before the Rite of Confirmation" p. 664 ff."

I Corinthians 10 & 11 are helpful in this regard as well. Questions? Feel free to ask.

In Christ,

Pastor Conradt

Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod

OFFICIAL ACTS

DEATHS

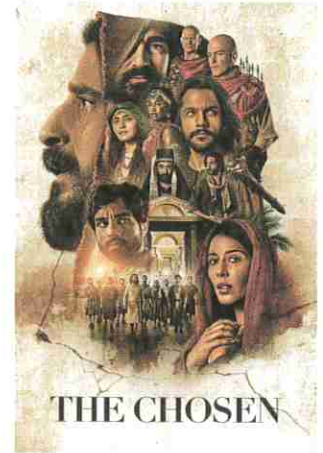


James Gumprecht
1/3/1956 1/11/2025

Patricia Karraker
9/30/1924 1/12/2025

Frank Meyer
3/16/1944 1/14/2025

“THE CHOSEN” The Board of Parish Fellowship will continue to show Season 4 of “The Chosen” through all of February after service in the parish hall. Last episode is March 2nd.



**March Newsletter Submissions Due
by February 18th.**



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Sorry – No movie night for February.

SENIOR GROUP



Attention all 55+ members (men & women) and your friends!! Join us for Christian fellowship and Bible Study every second and fourth Monday of the month here at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. We meet at 11:00 a.m. for Bible Study then a short meeting followed by your own bag lunch. Dessert and coffee are provided. Afterwards, those who want to can enjoy cards, bingo, or other planned seasonal activities. Come join us!



LADIES AID/LWML

Join us for Christian fellowship / Bible Study every second Monday of the month here at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. We meet at 11:00 a.m. (along with Senior Friendship Group) for Bible Study then a short meeting followed by your own bag lunch. Dessert and coffee are provided. Come join us!



FEBRUARY 2025 MISSION OF THE MONTH

Love Inc. A Local Need...
Answered

Love, Inc. is a 501(c) non-profit organization headquartered in Burlington, Wisconsin with programs and services dedicated to serving disadvantaged families and individuals in Western Racine County. At the heart of our work is the providing our neighbors in need with access to services and resources to help them build on their strengths and develop self-sufficiency. Their success is our success.

We take our role as stewards of the community’s donations seriously and pride ourselves on our efficiency. 93 cents of every dollar we receive is spent on our programs. Very few organizations could make that claim.

Since 1984, Love, Inc. has operated on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone involved at Love, Inc. – from our Board of Directors, to the staff and our volunteers are all invested in in the outcome of our work.

We are your local, home-grown charity that makes a difference in the lives of over 1200 of our neighbors monthly. And always, as we work to fulfill our mission, we never stop adhering to our vision and operating within our local, community-based values.



OFFERINGS



The Board of Stewardship is pleased to offer a new digital option for giving through a company that the church already uses, Vanco. The QR code listed here will allow you to give by scanning the code and then set up an account. Please note, your annual offering statement will reflect donations given via Vanco and/or your offering envelope. If you already give through Vanco on our website, you do not need to make any changes. There is no charge directly to you for this service. The nominal fee is paid by the church.



FLOWERS

Flowers are a wonderful way to honor a special occasion or remember loved ones and friends who have passed away. The signup sheet is in the Narthex by the coat racks. When signing up for chancel flowers please be sure to have the florist call the church office for delivery days and times.

PLEASE CALL



If you should find yourself hospitalized or confined to your home for health reasons, please notify the church office. Pastor can only minister to your needs if he is aware of your situation. Pastor is eager and willing to make regular visits with you, but he can do so only if you let him know.

~RECIPE CORNER~

No-Knead Bread

Ingredients: 3 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. instant yeast
1 ½ cups room temp water

Instructions:

1. Mix ingredients, cover, and rest 12-18 hours.
2. Preheat oven to 450° with a 6-8 qt. pot inside.
3. Shape dough, place in pot, and bake 30 min covered.
4. Remove lid, bake 10-15 minutes more.
5. Remove bread from pot and cool on rack.

Enjoy!

BASKETS NEEDED ~ If you have any medium size baskets (at least 10" base or larger) that you no longer need, we could use them at church for various projects. Our supply is dwindling, so we would appreciate any donation. Thank you.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following members are celebrating February Birthdays:

Taylor Himebauch	2/03
Colin Szymankiewicz	2/04
Chesney Bankenbush	2/06
Kelsey Domke	2/06
Jaime Multhauf	2/07
Jenna Keeling	2/08
Pamela Fesko	2/09
Robert Somers, Jr.	2/09
Nicholas Szeklinski	2/10
Paul Collins	2/14
Nicholas Ulbing	2/14
Kathy Anderson	2/15
Charlene Eisenhut	2/17
Thatcher Smith	2/17
Eden Conradt	2/18
Hella Goering	2/18
Dwight Jutrzonka	2/18
Boaz Beversdorf	2/21
James Dumke	2/21
Cora Ciszewski	2/22
Steve Grindeland	2/22
Joseph Schauer	2/22
Janice Kafer	2/23
Kevin King	2/24
Jan Christiansen	2/25
Jill Grindeland	2/25
Pastor Conradt	2/26
AJ Hayden	2/27



St. Peter's Lutheran - Rainbow Preschool

From the Director - Melvin Beversdorf



We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth. Colossians 1:3-6

I'm new here at St. Peter's (since last August), and I'm thankful for all who have been so welcoming to my family and myself. **Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith** was the slogan of the 150th year celebration at St. Peter's. Having celebrated our 160th last year, now is a good time to prayerfully consider what God may have in store for the future of St. Peter's. At least twice over the last 160 years, St. Peter's has had a school - at its inception and from 1999 - 2011 (most recently).

A classical Lutheran school is one that centers on Christ and the message of the Gospel, connects to ancient (Greco-Roman and Medieval) history and literature, and seeks mastery of academic knowledge and skills for the students. **What could it look like at St. Peter's?** It could look like a small school with multi-grade classrooms. A small staff (using mostly current staff) that focuses on solid academic basics, uses classics, teaches Latin, and leads children into the deep mysteries of God through Holy Scriptures. Delving into the church's and Western Civilization's history while all the time making sure that students can read, write, recite, and are learning foundation concepts and skills. Here's an example of subjects often taught at a classical school.

Kindergarten - 2nd	3rd - 5th	6th - 8th
Reading, Phonics, Handwriting, Spelling, Literature, Latin, Christian Studies, Math, Science, Art, Music, P.E.	Grammar, Composition Handwriting, Spelling, Latin, Literature, Classical Studies, Christian Studies, Math, Geography, Science, Art, Music, P.E.	Grammar, Composition Handwriting, Spelling, Latin, Greek, Literature, Classical Studies, Christian Studies, Math, World & American History, Science, Art, Music, P.E.

As you learned from Pastor's recent month's newsletter, *"All students are trained in accuracy, attention to detail, and mastery."* Mastery means that students are trained on valuable content that continually builds on what they already know and have learned. It's a way of thinking that provides a foundation for life. Classical schools focus on truth, goodness and beauty. **The truth is always based on Christ.** This world's philosophies are considered (in the middle school when their brains are ready), but always in light of the eternal truth proclaimed in God's word. Goodness proceeds from God's attributes and His work in the world. Helping students understand the social emotional relationships they experience in light of God's will and word is important. Beauty shines forth from God's eternal beauty and shines out in all kinds of ways as we see what God has done through His creating and redeeming word, and with His hand in all of history.

This month I've touched on a little of WHAT it could be here at St. Peter's *to gauge interests and to ask questions.* In March, I'll share a little of HOW a classical school operates and how it could look at our facility. **Thank you for your support** of the Preschool. We are up to 9 students this month, adding a 10th in February, and are enrolling for Fall 2025.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

lutheransforlife.org



Life Shines in Darkness by Pastor Michael Salemink

"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

The 1993 blockbuster film *Jurassic Park* didn't just spawn dinosaurs. It also gave us two of the most poignant sanctity of life affirmations in popular culture. Dr. Ian Malcolm, a chaos theorist played by Jeff Goldblum, laments that "Scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should." And the same character appreciates how "Life, uh, finds a way."

Nobody can deny that life issues involve difficulties. Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis bring significant suffering. Bearing a child is hard. Injury, illness, and impairment hurt. They impose and deprive. Feeling afraid, ashamed, impoverished, abused, or abandoned sometimes complicates the circumstances. Even Jesus recognizes the reality: "When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come" (John 16:21). "In the world," He goes on to acknowledge, "you will have trouble" (John 16:33). The Darkness is real, and it is deep.

It's just that it does not negate the light. The burdens do not cancel the blessings. The sorrows don't even equal the celebrations. God always makes life, and He always makes life worth it. The Good Giver of Life also accompanies each one as the Almighty Lord of "my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). The crucifixion forgiveness of Jesus Christ proves that He constantly populates the adversities themselves with delights.

However compromised—and we all are—every neighbor embodies a gift. However imperfect, every day comes as opportunity and privilege. They usually require patience and persistence, of course, and not a little bit of shared sweat and tears. But they turn out the sweeter for it. "When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world" (John 16:21). "Take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)!



Speaking up For Life

"What is it that is essential for your life this New Year? What gifts do you cherish? Certainly, Jesus is the most precious gift we have! Let Him shine through your whole life this year. Take Him with you everywhere. Remember whose family you belong to! Cling to Jesus, our Father's Son, this New Year! Our Father goes with you and promises His blessings, now and forever!" Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota

"Abortion has only ever represented a symptom. The sickness has always consisted of the deeper reality of sin. So, law never embodied the finish line or the prize. Our Savior's victory invites us to settle for nothing less than sharing life, abundant and everlasting, with each human being and receiving them all as gift and privilege. Let's press ahead with renewed enthusiasm!" Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life

"As Christians, each one of us should be deeply steeped in God's Word. That is where the truth lies. We don't want to be 'right' for our own sake so we can boast in our 'right-ness.' We should want to be 'right' because God is revealing His truth to us, and we have been aligned with His truth. As we labor together in the life arena, let each one of us be so grounded in God's Word that we recognize God's truth and speak it in love." Barbara Lane Geisfeldt, DVM, Lutherans For Life

Life Newsbytes

62,000 Babies Older Than 15 Weeks Are Killed in Abortions Every Year – Although historically many doctors believed that unborn babies could not feel pain until the third trimester or even well after birth, the modern scientific literature shows that unborn babies can feel pain by 15 weeks gestation, and possibly as early as 12 weeks. The majority of abortions occur in the first trimester, but a substantial number are performed at 15 weeks or later on unborn babies who are capable of experiencing pain. Due to significant limitations with U.S. abortion data, the precise number of abortions after 15 weeks is unknown, but available data suggests that tens of thousands of abortions on unborn babies who feel pain are performed at 15 weeks or later each year.

How many abortions take place in the U.S. at 15 weeks of gestation or later?

2022 abortion data from the states and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that approximately 6% of all reported abortions take place at or after 15 weeks of gestation. When applied to the Guttmacher Institute's most recent estimate of 1,032,150 abortions nationwide in 2023, this is approximately 61,900 abortions at 15 weeks or later each year. (Read more: www.lifenews.com/2024/12/23/62000-babies-older-than-15-weeks-are-killed-in-abortions-every-year)



Lutheran Women *in Mission*
PRAYER SERVICE 2025

Blessed are they...

Matthew 5:1-12



BLESSED ARE THEY

2025 Prayer Service

By Rev. Brian Noack

Introduction

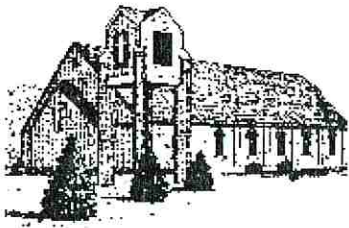
The Beatitudes are positioned at the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which runs from chapters five through seven of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. These are some of the most beloved words of Jesus, and because they are part of the traditional texts for All Saints' Day each year, they are also well known to pastors and congregations.

In them, Jesus highlights people in various stations of life, situations that are not always easy to envision as a child of God. And yet, our Lord calls each of them "blessed" and assures them of their place in the kingdom of heaven eternally. It is for this reason that some have misinterpreted the Beatitudes as Jesus' instructions for Christian living. The Beatitudes, however, are not goals for which to aim, but the constant reminder of God's blessing upon His people wherever and however they may serve in this life.

Perhaps most importantly, the Beatitudes, and the whole of the Sermon on the Mount, are a picture of the gracious activity of Jesus Christ himself. In meekness and lowliness of heart, Christ hungered and thirsted for His righteousness to be manifest in us, and so in the face of persecution unto death, He has blessed us and given to us the kingdom of heaven, making peace between the Father and us forever.

As you hear these precious words from our Lord, may you indeed be blessed and encouraged in your life of faith. Most importantly, may your mind be drawn to the work of Christ and all that He has done by His life, death, and resurrection to bless you each day until He brings you home to the kingdom of heaven forever.

LWML Prayer Service
March 11, 2025
1:00 pm
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Racine
Contract Winnie Shelton
dgshelton02@gmail.com



Abbreviations
 B.C. Bible Class
 S.S. Sunday School
 M.B.S Men's Bible Study
 W.B.S. Women's Bible Study

February 2025

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church

Waterford, WI

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Social Ministry meeting 10:00am
2 S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am Choir Practice "The Chosen" Season 4, Ep.4 after worship	3 Adult Catechesis/ New Member Class 6:00	4 W.B.S. 1:00pm	5 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	6	7	8
9 S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am Choir Practice "The Chosen" Season 4, Ep.5 after worship	10 Sr. Group and LWML 11:00am Adult Catechesis/ New Member Class 6:00 Finance 6:00pm Council 7:00pm	11 W.B.S. 1:00pm	12 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	13	14	15 Men's Bible Study 8:30am
16 S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am Choir Practice "The Chosen" Season 4, Ep.6 after worship	17 Adult Catechesis/ New Member Class 6:00	18 W.B.S. 1:00pm	19 Worship 6:30pm Elders 7:30pm	20	21	22
23 S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am Choir Practice "The Chosen" Season 4, Ep.7 after worship	24 Sr. Group 11:00am Adult Catechesis/ New Member Class 6:00	25 W.B.S. 1:00pm	26 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	27	28	