

St. Peter's Epistle



May 2025

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday School
Recognition &
Confirmation
Sunday May 4

Voters' Meeting
May 18th at 11 am

Men's Bible Study
May 17

Family Movie Night
May 9

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. Ted Myers,
Parish Ed Board Chairman
tedmyers2020@gmail.com

From the Desk of Pastor Conradt

"I Don't Know"

I struggled with what to write about for this newsletter. And then I prayed. I asked for guidance. And Lord gave it. There are a number of questions that have come up recently and I find myself answering, "I don't know" to them.

When we received the news that we were not getting a vicar this year. What is the path forward?

When we received the joyful news that our talented organist/choir director/Council Secretary/all around great guy, Daniel (who has been with us since November of 2018), got engaged we were excited, until we found out that meant he was becoming a "Hamburger" by moving to Germany, (half-kidding: we are still excited for you, but sad to see you leaving *temporarily*). What is the path forward?

As we continue looking for God's plan moving forward with the rich tradition of Christian Education here at St. Peter's both in Preschool and Day School. What is the path forward?

I wish I knew what the Lord's plan was in these things. But I know He has one. We are situated in a richly blessed congregation. With an average weekly attendance so far in 2025 of about 200, we are in the top 10-11% of Missouri Synod congregations (~5700 nationwide) for attendance. We have been blessed with YOU! We have people of all ages gathering week after week.

On Palm Sunday our Sunday School children sang beautifully, we had three first communicants, and the father and mother of our newest baptized member were confirmed! What a joy!

25% of our membership is children, and you can see the majority of them gathered here weekly with fathers and mothers, grandpas and grandmas, with our newest members and our most seasoned members. The Lord has richly blessed us and it behooves us to pause and thank Him for it all.

I don't know what the Lord has in store for us with vicarage or the house, and yet, believe we are a prime location for one if He wills (may God grant His Church the pastors and seminarians that she needs). We have many opportunities to use His gifts.

I don't know what the Lord has in store for the music here (although He is making some movement already on that front).

I don't know what He has in store for the education of the children here and in our community (although I have seen many pieces put into place and a renewal of fathers and mothers reclaiming their God-given authority in that training).

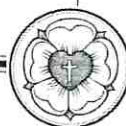
God is with us in all of this. I continue to see spiritual growth in our church family. I see growing and healing happening in our community. I see God raising up leaders to carry that out, and this congregation as a growing part of that community. I see the blessings—time, talents, and financial—that He has given and ask for wisdom to know what to do with it. Thank you for being a part of it all.

I pray not my will, but Thine be done.
And I know it will be.
Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Pastor Conradt

Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod

OFFICIAL ACTS

FIRST COMMUNION

Hannah Rose Kenitzer
Margaret Grace Kenitzer
Emilia Rose Stephan



NEW MEMBERS

Adult Confirmation

Andrew Kempken
Anna Kempken

Baptism/Adult Confirmation

Travis Pikus



† DEATHS †

Mr. Carl Thompson
8/10/1934 4/20/2025

RAINBOW PRESCHOOL

We are enrolling for Fall 2025!
20% off Monthly Tuition for regular (2x or more per month) attending members. *Please let your friend and family know about our Christ centered, play based, learning rich environment that we offer at St. Peter's.* Members with Preschool age children (ages 2-5) are encouraged to utilize our 2, 3, or 5 day full or half day programs that we offer. Contact Mr. Beversdorf (262-534-6066) if you have any questions or would like a tour.



VERSE OF THE MONTH

I Corinthians 5:20 "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

FINANCE UPDATE

<u>2025 First Quarter Summary</u>	<u>Budget Forecast</u>	<u>Actual Results</u>
Total Income (Offerings and other)	\$ 90,250	\$ 75,584
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 89,989	\$ 73,651
Difference	\$ 261	\$ 1,933

The church ended 2025 Q1 (Jan-March) with a surplus of \$ 1,933. We were again blessed with a surplus in the first quarter, which adds to the \$26,509 surplus for all of 2024. These surpluses provide for future needs and keep the church's finances in good order.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date for VBS – Wonder Junction! The train pulls in for faith, fellowship and fun on July 7-10th. Please reach out to Jacquie via email or phone if you would like to help. Watch bulletins and newsletter for more information. Jacqueline.hunt07@gmail.com or 262-492-9139.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



The Board of Parish Education continues to host "Family Movie Night" at 6:00pm in the parish hall. The May 9th movie is *Dora the Explorer*. There will be some time for "open gym" after the movie. We will have popcorn, and juice; attendees can sign up to bring a snack to share.

MAY 2025 MISSION OF THE MONTH

FOOD FOR THE POOR

Food for the Poor, Inc. is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization based in Coconut Creek, Florida that provides food, medicine, and shelter, among other services, to the poor in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Food For The Poor partners with local organizations in the countries where they work. Jamaica, the first country assisted by Food For The Poor, today includes more than 1,800 churches as partners in the distribution of food, medicine, educational supplies and other needed items.

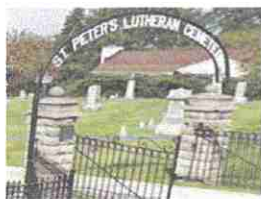
Since 1989, the charity's street feeding program in Kingston, Jamaica has been operated in partnership with the Salvation Army.

Haiti, the largest recipient of aid from the charity, has an expansive network of island-wide distribution hubs, and supports thousands of partners in feeding the poorest of the poor.

June/July Newsletter Submissions

Due by May 22nd

LAWN MOWING The Board of Trustees is looking for people to join the lawn mowing crew this year. Contact the church office or Terry Jacobs. 262-581-3313



CEMETERY clean-up is scheduled for May 3rd at 9:00 am. If you have anything placed at the cemetery that you would like to keep, please remove it before the clean-up date.

STICKERS NEEDED – If you have unused stickers at home, we would be happy to have them to use in our children's activity bags. Please bring in a bag or an envelope and place them on the counter in the office.



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to request a prayer on Sunday morning for anniversaries, illnesses, etc., please call the church office. We would be happy to share with you those special days in prayer.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Flower Chart is in the Narthex, to the right of the door to the sanctuary, and to the left of the coat racks. You can sign up to provide and place Chancel flowers in church for a birthday, anniversary, or any special occasion or memorial.



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 only do so if you let him know.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Please keep in mind that the doors may be locked around lunchtime in the event we leave the building.

RECIPE CORNER



Pretzel Torte

Submitted by Sandy Senft

2 ½ cups crushed pretzels
¾ cup sugar or a little less
2 sticks of melted butter

Crush pretzels, mix sugar & melted butter. Add to the pretzels. Pat all but 1 cup on bottom of greased 9 x 13 pan. Refrigerate.

2 – 8 oz packages of cream cheese
½ cup powder sugar
1 carton 8 oz cool whip

Mix softened cream cheese with powdered sugar until creamy. Fold in whip cream. Put ½ cream cheese powdered sugar mixture over pretzel crust.

Spread 1 can cherry pie filling over mixture. Spread remaining cream cheese powdered sugar mixture over cherry pie filling. Top with reserved pretzel crumbs.

Refrigerate overnight.





St. Peter's Lutheran Preschool

From the Director - Melvin Beversdorf



*Then the king [David] said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing."
So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.
So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land...2 Samuel 24:24 -25*

The Bible verse is the ending of a story about David, who sinned by counting the people that God had blessed him with. The Angel of the Lord was going to kill him, but relented and David gave thanks and sacrificed. As you may know, many things in life seem to come down to money and numbers. That is not the mission of the church which per the St. Peter's Constitution is **"the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments according to Christ's command."** (Article Four). We were bought with the price of the blood of our savior, Jesus. We live out our lives in thankfulness and to share the good news. Section three denotes the third purpose is to **"Foster Christian education among young and old in our midst [Matthew 28:20]."**

To that end, the Board of Parish Education functions to run a preschool, the Sunday School, support parents with elementary and high school children through the Scholarship fund, and currently have a survey out concerning classical education. At the May Voters' meeting, they will propose to run the Genesis Project. This is a feasibility study of the congregation and community to see if a classical school model would fit at St. Peter's and in the greater Waterford community. *Remember this is not a question about whether or not to start a school*, is it simply a question asking for support to research about the feasibility and interest in a classical school. **Please fill out a congregation member survey about the classical school so the Board of Parish Ed starts to understand the interest there may (or may not) be for such an endeavor.** In addition, there are additional surveys for those who currently homeschool and for non-members who attend our preschool. Contact me for more info.

The Genesis Project is a process that the Board of Parish Education would start, with myself, and form a **steering committee of 8 to 12 interested volunteers** that would work with the LCMS consultant / team. The costs include an initial start fee of \$500 and then paying for the consultant's visit (est. \$1500 - 2500 for airfare, hotel, meals, etc.) later in the year-long process. **This needs to be approved by the voters to move forward.** *While not guaranteed, there may be a chance for some reimbursement of cost from grant money from the LCMS - South Wisconsin District.* Find more details at: <https://www.luthed.org/genesis-project-school-startup/>

Preschool update: We have 12 enrolled currently for Rainbow Preschool. We have 3 on staff - Director, Lead Teacher, Co-Teacher (Asst.) For the Fall, **we have 10 signed up already** and hope for more sign ups soon.

Running a preschool has had its ups and downs in the last 33 years. There have been extremely profitable years and there have been working in the red years. It is the hope that the preschool would continue to thrive and be a place where congregation and community members can find a solid education foundation for their children, as well as a place where faith abounds and grows in the lives of the children through the Bible stories, songs, and encouragement they receive from their teachers and peers.

May God bless what He has begun here at St. Peter's!



Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me! Psalm 66:20

Meet the Board of Elders:



My name is Matt Dolezal. I am honored and humbled to introduce myself to you as one of your elders. As I have stepped into this role, I want to share a little about myself, my journey in faith, and my commitment to serve you and the church family in this capacity.

Initially baptized and raised in the Roman Catholic faith, I converted to a Missouri Synod Lutheran in 2010 after meeting my now wife Katie and became a member of St. Peter's. Over the past 15 years as a member here, I have witnessed the love, unity, and faithfulness of this congregation. I am fortunate to say the St. Peter's has been a staple in my life as it was the foundation of our wedding, and we have been able to baptize all 3 of our children here and complete our eldest daughter's First Holy Communion.

My wife and I have 3 beautiful daughters: Lillian 8, Marian 5, Evelyn 2. In addition to working full-time as Trouble Shooter/line mechanic with WE energies, we also live/work on my in-law's family farm. As a family we enjoy spending time outdoors, camping and enjoying the North woods where I am originally from. As an elder, I am committed to shepherding and guiding this church in a manner that honors God and strengthens our collective walk with Him. My goal is to encourage and support each of you, and to work alongside Pastor to ensure that our church remains rooted in sound doctrine and loving fellowship.



Steven Grindeland will begin his third term as an elder in June this year. Steven and his family joined St. Peter's in early 2020. He has served as Sunday School Superintendent and on Social Ministry, as well as Parish Education. Currently, he serves on Stewardship and hopes to succeed Daniel Grosskreuz as Council Secretary. A husband and father of four daughters, Steven's formal education includes a focus on both electrical engineering and art. He is self-employed as an electrical consultant in the water/wastewater industry at Grindeland Engineering. Steven enjoys singing as part of a heavy rock/metal band and has a passion for reading theology, history, and philosophy. Over the past five years, he has read more than 40 books, including the Bible and Apocrypha, the Book of Concord (Lutheran Confessions), the Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent, Augustine's Confessions, Luther's The Bondage of the Will, Erasmus's On the

Freedom of the Will, as well as writings by Polycarp, Clement, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Ignatius, Chrysostom, and other Church Fathers, as well as various works by Lutheran Fathers like Chemnitz, Gerhard, et al.



Matt Kenitzer is an elder candidate for his first term. Following 14 years at John Deere in Iowa, Matt and his family recently relocated to southeast Wisconsin where he is employed at Generac as a Director of Operations. Prior to joining St. Peter's, Matt and his family were active in their previous congregation, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, where Matt was an elder since 2013 and twice served as Head Elder, most recently since 2022. Matt is also active in the larger church community, serving as circuit delegate to the 2013 Convention of Synod and most recently as elected member of the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Board of Regents since 2023. Matt and his wife, Emily, have three children – Hannah, Maggie, and Heinrich – and live in Wales.

Additional Elders to be featured in June's newsletter.



Lutheran Women *in Mission*

invites you to the

41st Biennial Convention

Thursday, June 26–Sunday, June 29, 2025

in Omaha, Nebraska

Convention Theme:

Growing in God's Grace

Scripture Verse:

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18).

Convention Goal Statement:

Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory.

2025 Convention Objectives:

Each convention attendee will be:

- ▶ Inspired to dig deeper in God's Word.
- ▶ Nurtured to share the love of Christ with enthusiasm.
- ▶ Encouraged to support missions and our mission goal with joy.

Convention Logo Explanation:

The 2025 Lutheran Women in Mission Convention logo features green leaves sprouting up and revealing the Lutheran Women in Mission icon to signify Growing in God's Grace. It is based on the convention verse, 2 Peter 3:18 — *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

A fresh, bright green color is used for the leaves and the word "grace" to indicate new growth and to connect it with God's grace. Including the Lutheran Women in Mission icon links the logo with our organization and the convention goal "Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory."

Stay Connected

Be the first to see convention updates and announcements from **Lutheran Women in Mission.**

Sign up for eNews:
lwml.org/stayintouch

Follow us on social:
Facebook @TheLWML
Instagram @lwmlnational



St. Peter's Semi-Annual Rummage Sale

August 8th & 9th, 2025

We are again asking for donations of your gently used, "unneeded" items for our semi-annual rummage sale. Donations may be brought to the church starting **Monday, August 4th thru Wednesday, August 6th**. **On Thursday, August 7th last minute details and any pricing will be done. The Sale is August 8th & 9th from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm (\$5.00 bag sale from 12-1 on the 9th).**

We will accept rummage items, set up and have the sale within a one-week period. We ask that you place your donated items on the appropriate marked table or designated area. This is extremely helpful in organizing the sale in a short time frame. Someone will be here to help you find the marked table/areas so you can set your items out. Please plan additional time for this. Following the sale, unsold items will be boxed for donation to local charities.

St. Peter's Rummage sale has a good reputation in the area for the quality and quantity of the items at the sale along with its neat presentation, so we always have a good turnout, and bargain hunters look forward to this sale. This sale is not only a good fund raiser for the church, but it provides a service to the community.

Items that we are looking for are many and varied, and all cannot be listed here, but suggestions are: clean wearable clothing, household linens, kitchen and dining room items (glass, china, silverware, pots and pans, etc.), records, tapes, books, toys, sporting goods, purses and suitcases, baby items of all sizes and shapes, canning materials, knick knacks, craft items, lamps, frames, gardening equipment, etc. We gladly accept furniture. If you have something that you are not sure of, contact information will be in the upcoming newsletter and bulletins. If you have an appliance or large furniture to donate – we will accept a photo and details with your contact information so we can connect the buyer right to you. We will post the flyer at the sale and assist as needed.

EXCEPTIONS: *We are not able to accept pillows, tires, paint, chemicals, open containers of household cleaners, varnish, oxygen, welding tanks, appliances, microwaves, electronics - console stereos, computers, radios, cell or land line phones, speakers & TVs.* Basically, items that contain hazardous materials. We are not able to dispose of these items.

Again, we will be accepting donations and setting up **Monday, August 4th through Wednesday, August 6th, TIMES TO BE DETERMINED**. During the week of the sale we need your help and on sale day, we need people to greet our customers, tend the cashier desk, help bag items, and help maintain some order. We are also asking for volunteers on Sunday, August 10th to help with cleaning up.

Please come and help for an hour or two or come each day - whatever works for you. (Even an hour is appreciated.)

So, mark your calendars, and please, please, come and join us.





MAY BIRTHDAYS

Eileen North	5/01
Gail Andrich	5/03
Linda Ketterhagen	5/03
Patty Guentzel	5/04
Trevor Myren	5/04
Jarrold Morby	5/05
Jean Abramowski	5/06
Mary Niederer	5/06
Elizabeth Poulter	5/06
Ryan Domke	5/07
Joseph Greenamyier	5/07
Nola Hunt	5/07
David Engelmann	5/08
Ryan Mittelstaedt	5/08
Jaxson Mittelstaedt	5/09
Paul Terry	5/09
Gregory Foat	5/10
Sandi Czuta	5/11
Amy Griebel	5/12
Liam Koch	5/13
Ronald Burke	5/14
Bryan Fischer	5/15
Cory Foat	5/15
Jeffrey Ostovich	5/15
Dale Rogahn	5/15
Gerald Storm	5/15
Harrison Foat	5/16
Jennifer Brown	5/17
Mark Siddons	5/18
Jake Krueger	5/19
Judith Knoblauch	5/20
Barbara Arneson	5/21
Benjamin Conradt	5/21
Sandra Dessecker	5/21
Anna Leece-Kempken	5/21
Katharine Conradt	5/22
Cecelia Walbrant	5/23
Arnold Oelkers	5/24
Seth Scott	5/25
Courtney Beaston	5/27
Quinn Bennington	5/27
Sharon Krueger	5/27

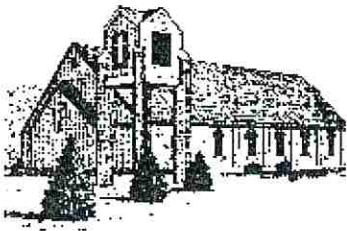
Jessica Mehring	5/27
Sharon Jardas	5/28
Beckham Mamerow	5/28
Nathaniel Brintnall	5/29
Harper Foat	5/29
Lynne Van Hulst	5/29
Mike Whittow	5/29
Savannah Domke	5/31
Steven Strueder	5/31

HAPPY MAY ANNIVERSARY

To the following couples who are celebrating May wedding anniversaries:

Terry & Mona Jacobs	5/04
Scott & Terri Jung	5/09
Gregory & Whitney Poulter	5/09
Kurt & Kim Acker	5/15
Nick & Amy Szeklinski	5/17
Glen & Valerie Kimball	5/22
Andrew & Holly Handeland	5/28





May 2025

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church Waterford, WI

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Cemetery clean up 9:00 am
4 Sunday School Recognition 8:15am Worship with Confirmation 9:30am Choir practice	5	6 W.B.S. 1:00pm	7 Worship 6:30pm	8	9 Movie Night 6:00pm "Dora the Explorer"	10
11 Worship 9:30am Choir practice <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 Sr. Group and LWML 11:00am Finance 6:00pm Council 7:00pm	13 W.B.S. 1:00pm	14 Worship 6:30pm Elders 7:30pm	15	16	17 M.B.S. 8:30am
18 Worship 9:30am Voter's Meeting 11:00am	19	20 W.B.S. 1:00pm	21 Worship 6:30pm	22	23	24
25 Worship 9:30am Choir practice	26	27 W.B.S. 1:00pm	28	29 Ascension Day Worship 6:30pm	30	31