

St. Peter's Epistle



March 2026

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

Upcoming Events

Lenten Midweek Vespers
Wednesdays
March 4- 25 6:30 PM
With soup suppers at 5:00PM

Men's Bible Study
March 7 & 21
NEW TIME 7:30 AM

Chosen Bible Study
after service

Holy Week
Starts Sunday March 29
Service times are found in
the article to the right

Movie Night
Off till April

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

Holy Week

It's that time of year. Lent gives way to Easter. Sorrow gives way to joy.

Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday where we hear the Passion according to St. Matthew and some of our children will receive their first communion after they have been privately examined, and absolved.

We are having spoken Divine Services at church on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday at 6:30 PM each day. We will hear the Passion according to Sts. Mark & Luke.

On Maundy (Holy) Thursday our Triduum (three day service) begins at 6:30 PM. As we have done for multiple years that service will conclude with the choir chanting Psalm 22 as the altar and chancel are stripped and reverently cared for by me and the members of the altar guild. Jesus likely also sung these words as He hung on the cross.

Good Friday has two different worship services and times. The first is the Chief Service, which will be held at 1:00 PM. The Chief Service features some beautiful pieces of liturgy including the Reproaches, the Bidding Prayer, and the Passion according to St. John interspersed with the hymn "O Sacred Head Now Wounded".

The second is Tenebrae Vespers at 7:00 PM. This service features the extinguishing of candles as the light grows dimmer in the sanctuary and finally all light is gone and what is called the "strepitus" occurs. That is the loud slamming sound meant to repre-

sent many different things including the scourging by the soldiers, the earthquake at the moment of Christ's death, or the closing of the tomb.

The next service is held at sunset (7:23 PM) on Holy Saturday. This service is explained in detail on the next page so I will not go into detail here. It is called the Easter Vigil and is one of the oldest services we have. We often have adult baptisms and confirmations at this service.

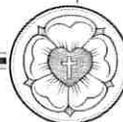
Lastly, we have Easter Sunday (April 5th). The Divine Service will be celebrated at 7:00 AM & 10:00 AM. Easter breakfast is served from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM.

Easter is the highest feast of the Church year; it is called the "Queen of the Feasts". The Feast of the Resurrection is the reason the Christian Church switched the Holy Day. As God created the earth He set Friday sundown to Saturday sundown as the Sabbath Day. But in honor of Christ's resurrection from the grave—His victory over death—the Christian Church moved the Lord's Day to Saturday sundown to Sunday sundown. Every Saturday night to Sunday night is the Lord's Day.

Perhaps you have gotten out of the regular routine of worshipping with us. Holy Week is the perfect time to return. I encourage you to take this journey from full cross to empty tomb with us.

In Christ,

Pastor Conradt



From Pastor Conrad's Desk

The Easter Vigil (reprint from 2014)

Spring is here. The death of Winter is replaced with new life. The same is true for church year. Lent and Jesus' death on Good Friday will give way to the new life on Easter.

Within the Missouri Synod and many other Lutheran denominations there has been a rediscovered zeal for traditional Lutheranism and liturgical renewal in the last 30 years or so. For many it is a desire to go back to the way things used to be. One of the things that have been reintroduced is the Easter Vigil. Maybe you have never heard of it, that's okay.

It might sound new. Rev. Dr. Burnell Eckardt Jr. serves in Illinois and is an editor of the *Gottesdienst* magazine. He has also served as guest professor at the Lutheran seminary in Russia. He writes:

"There was no Great Vigil among Lutherans in the early 20th century. The recovery of this ancient and venerable tradition has been a key ingredient in the rediscovery of liturgical beauty and importance for Lutherans. But still there is resistance, particularly among people who hadn't grown up with the tradition, and for whom therefore it represented something new. Actually it's something very old, which, like many venerable traditions, fell into disuse between the 17th and 19th centuries when Rationalism was on the rise. The recovery of Confessional Lutheranism has brought with it an awakening of liturgical piety, and a renewed appreciation for the Great Vigil."

Okay so what is it? The Easter Vigil is a service on Holy Saturday evening. It actually begins at dusk. It is part of what is called the Holy Triduum which is a three day service. Beginning on Maundy Thursday the Holy Triduum continues through Good Friday and ends with the Vigil on Holy Saturday. As it is a three day service there is no benediction on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.

Rev. Dr. Eckardt mentioned that the Easter Vigil service is very old. In fact it is at least 1700 years old. In the early church they did strenuous catechesis during the season of Lent for those adults who desired to be baptized. According to *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice*, "After A.D. 313 the Easter Vigil was the prime time for baptisms."

In the early church people would gather to hold vigil all night until the sunrise on Easter, they gathered

for prayers, readings, and psalms, as they waited for the celebration of Christ's resurrection. While there are still some churches where people do this, most of the Lutheran Churches that have reintroduced the Vigil celebrate it just at night.

There are four main services within the Vigil. The Service of Light begins outside at sunset where a fire is kindled. The paschal candle is the main focus for this. On the candle the cross, the letters Alpha and Omega are traced. The five wax nails are put in and it is lit from the fire. Everyone outside lights their own candles from the paschal candle and they process into the sanctuary in candlelight. The paschal candle is set in place and the Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*) is sung.

The Service of Readings is next which is a series of twelve Old Testament readings foreshadowing Christ are read. After each reading is a collect (prayer). The Song of the Three Men in the furnace concludes this section.

The Service of Holy Baptism begins with a pastoral address. While baptisms can be performed during this section, even if there are none, it is recited to point all people back to their Baptism. This is also a time where the rite of Confirmation can be performed.

The Service of Holy Communion begins with the greeting, "Alleluia. Christ is risen./He is risen indeed. Alleluia." All the paraments and items that were taken out on Maundy Thursday are replaced with Easter paraments, the pastors change into their communion vestments and we receive communion as the first celebration of Christ's resurrection.

The Easter Vigil is considered the highest point of our worship year. So I invite you to join me and our fellow saints from surrounding Missouri Synod congregations here on Holy Saturday at 7:23pm. If you would like to see the service it is in our Altar Book (I have my own copy) and I would be happy to share with you. God's richest blessings.

In Christ,



Pastor. Conrad

OFFICIAL ACTS

MEMBERS LEAVING

Transfer Out:

Ray & Virginia Morby

EASTER CROSSES A limited amount of crosses are available for purchase in the narthex. Please place your payment in the box provided. Once we run out purchases can be made at <https://eastercross.org>, however the cost is significantly more.

The cross is an important symbol during Easter, reminding us of the incredible sacrifice Jesus made. Despite all of our struggles and pain, the cross reminds us we are not alone in this world. We can find strength and comfort knowing that Jesus has already saved us from our sins. Place the cross white side out on (or before) March 22nd. Turn to the "He is Risen" side late Saturday night, April 4th, or early Easter Sunday.

RAINBOW PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME



Come and meet at the St. Peter's Lutheran playground for a time of play, singing, and activity! Designed for Ages 2-5. Families are welcomed. Please call 262-534-6066 or email

director@stpeterswaterford.com with any questions.



LENTEN MEALS



The church invites you to join us each Wednesday during Lent for a simple meal and Christian fellowship before worship. Meals will be served starting at 5:00pm in the parish hall. To defray costs a freewill offering will be gathered to support our congregation's ministries. All are welcome – members, guests and neighbors alike. Come share a meal, enjoy fellowship, and prepare your heart for our Lenten journey to the cross and the joy of Easter.

Holy Week Services

March 29th through April 4th

Palm/Passion Sunday

Divine Service w/First Communion 9:30 am

Holy Monday

Divine Service 6:30 pm

Holy Tuesday

Divine Service 6:30 pm

Holy Wednesday

Divine Service 6:30 pm

Maundy Thursday

Divine Service 6:30 pm

Good Friday

Chief Divine Service 1:00 pm

Good Friday

Tenebrae Vespers 7:00 pm

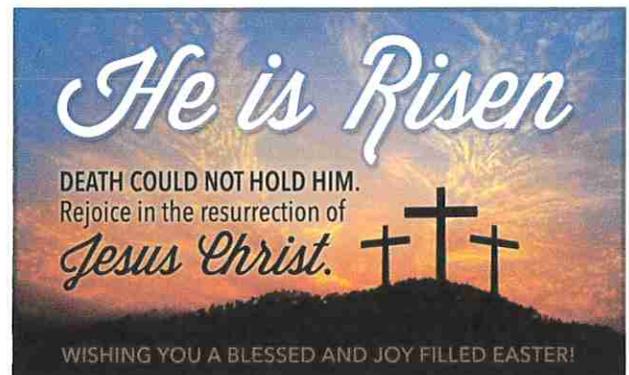
Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil 7:23 pm (sunset)

Easter Sunday

Divine Services 7:00 & 10:00 am

Easter Breakfast 8:30-9:30 am



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



No movie night for March 2026.

MARCH 2025 MISSION OF THE MONTH



March Mission of the Month is to help Pastor Moua Vang and his five children with the recent loss of his wife Kou Thao of whom passed away of breast cancer at the age of 40 on February 14, 2026. Pastor Moua came to the United States from Thailand in 1992. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and was installed as a pastor of Benediction in 2012. Benediction Lutheran Church - LCMS is located on Fond du Lac Avenue in Milwaukee. Not only is the family mourning the loss of Kou Thao but also struggling with the financial burden of medical bills. In addition to this Pastor Moua is in need of a kidney transplant. May God grant Pastor Moua, their boys, Kou's mom, and all who loved her the peace that only He can give through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS 2026

Thank you to all Thrivent clients with membership who directed Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Peter's. The grant funds we received through Thrivent helps us in our continuous ministry efforts. Each year "choice dollars" let Thrivent members choose where Thrivent directs your funds - please consider directing your dollars to St. Peter's Church. Last year's choice will not carry over so please call or logon by March 31st. Go to www.thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "choice dollars" for assistance.

FISH FRY FRIDAY

During lent attending "Fish Fry Friday" is a great way to get to know your church family better. Please see the sign-up sheets on the office window for details.



GREEN ENVELOPE DONATION



The monies given in your green envelopes are used to pay for ongoing church expenses, including budgeted

missions. The following categories are currently available to list in the "other" spot on your green offering envelope if you choose. They include building fund, vicar fund, cemetery, picnic shelter/pavilion, K-12 tuition assistance, scholarship fund, pre-school, and pipe organ.

Church Board ~ Social Ministry

The Board of Social Ministry shall be concerned with the social and temporal welfare of the congregation. Through evangelism efforts, we reach out and welcome others into the life of the church. We coordinate interested members of the congregation in providing meals for individuals who are in need, on a temporary basis, due to recovery from illness or hospitalization. We also coordinate and maintain a pool of individuals who are willing and able to provide transportation to/from worship and other church functions as well as periodically visit and provide social contact with members who are confined to their homes or residing in assisted care facilities.

As part of our Ministry we go caroling to several local senior living communities. We collect non-perishable food items in the narthex which are delivered to St. Thomas Church food pantry. The food pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 1:00-3:00pm. If you are interested in helping please contact Nancy at 262-210-3343.

Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to serving neighbors with compassion and sharing the hope we have in Christ.

A NOTE FROM Arnie Oelkers...

Thank you to Pastor and congregation for your thoughts and prayers these past six months. Continued blessings from our Lord are still needed, day by day, we thank Him.

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

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 only do so if you let him know.



April Newsletter Submissions

Due by March 24th

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!



RECIPE FOR LENTEN PRETZELS



Ingredients:

1 ½ cups warm water
1 packet yeast
¼ cup olive oil, plus extra for brushing 1 tsp. salt, plus extra for topping
3 ½–4 cups all-purpose flour
1 Tbsp. baking soda

Instructions:

1. Bloom the yeast in warm water. Stir in the oil and salt. Add the flour one-half cup at a time, mixing until a dough forms and begins to pull away from the bowl.
2. Remove the dough and knead it until smooth. Place the dough in another greased bowl, cover, and let it rise until doubled.
3. Preheat the oven to 350°F and heat a pot ¾ full of water to a boil on the stove. Dissolve the baking soda into the water.
4. Once doubled, divide the dough into eight portions. Roll each into a long strand, then bring the ends together and twist them around one another twice, laying them down and pressing to seal the pretzel shape.
5. Drop each pretzel into the boiling water and cook for 20–30 seconds. Remove the pretzel, let it drip briefly, and place it onto a lined baking sheet. Bake the pretzels for 20–30 minutes until cooked through.
6. Remove the pretzels from the oven, brush with olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Enjoy!



St. Peter's Lutheran - Rainbow Preschool & Genesis Project Update - March 2026

From the Director - Melvin Beversdorf



Messages to Churches in John's Revelation...

To the Church in Sardis *Wake up! Strengthen what remains... for I have found your deeds unfinished...*

To the Church in Laodicea *...you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!"*

Revelations 3

Now is the time to speak up...

The Board of Parish Education and the Genesis Project Steering Committee need to hear from you this month. Now is the time when they will make decisions on what direction of school concepts / homeschool options they would like to present to the congregation.



So please share your thoughts - with the Board of Parish Education members:

Rick McGaughy (Chair), Ted Myers, Jim Dumke, Mollie Hein, Kay Borgwardt, Stephanie Conradt



With the Genesis Project Steering Committee Members: *Amy West, Steve Grindeland, Melissa Eberhardt, Mark Somers, Pastor Conradt or myself.*

If you don't like speaking directly with someone, there will be a Genesis Steering Committee survey **coming soon** where you can share your family's needs and desires for how St. Peter's can partner with your family. Please invest the time to help us make good decisions about how to use

the gifts and resources God has blessed us with. Thank you!

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

1 Timothy 1:7

Preschool update - Current Enrollment is 28 students. It is exciting to see the students continue to grow in their knowledge, skills, interpersonal skills, musical abilities, and faith.

Fall 2026 Enrollment is at 18. Please continue to tell your family and friends that we are accepting registrations for the fall. We'd love to welcome 30 in the Fall. Thank you for your prayers and support!



Coming up: Preschool Playtimes - March 19, April 16, and May 14 from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

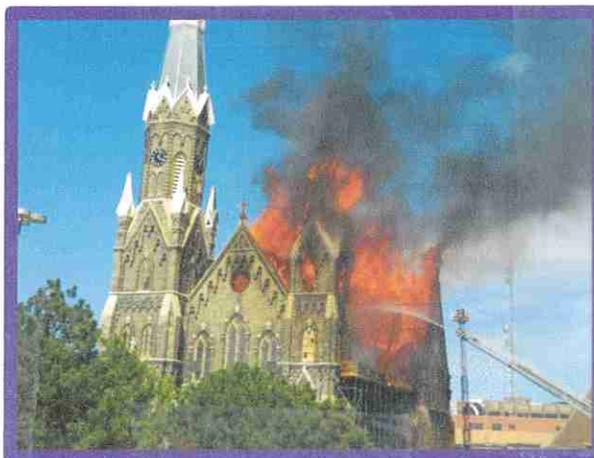
Ladies Aid/LWML March Newsletter

2024-2026 LWML South Wisconsin District Mission Grants

Grant #5 now Funded! - Mission Grant check for \$50,000 presented to Journeys Lutheran School in Hales Corners. Corners.

Grant #6 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Milwaukee Restoration \$25,000. In 2018 Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Milwaukee was extensively damaged by a fire. Insurance covered 67% of the reconstruction costs. Further funds are needed to re-furnish the sanctuary so Trinity's presence stays strong in the downtown area. Trinity plays a large part in sharing the Gospel message with diverse ethnic groups, college students, and the unchurched Trinity holds a special place in history, being on both the State Historic Landmark and the National Register of Historic Places.

Pick up a mite box in the narthex



Upcoming Events:

Zone 21 Prayer Service - Sunday March 8, 2026 2:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran, Racine. Pastor Lockie & Pastor Otten will lead this event.

Zone 21 Spring Rally - Good Shepherd, East Troy - April 25, 2026





HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

To the following couples who are celebrating
March Wedding Anniversaries:

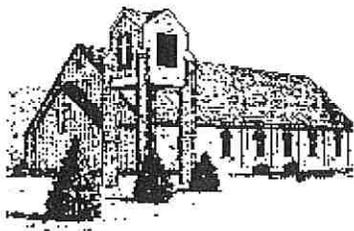
David & Debbie Mertins	3/06
Mark & Sara Somers	3/15
John & Beata Luznicky	3/19
Roman & Diana Nowak	3/19
Kevin & Patricia King	3/20
Christopher & Amy West	3/20
Clifford & Darlene Jacobson	3/21
Nicholas & Jacqueline Hunt	3/27



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following members are celebrating
March Birthdays:

Owen Kin	3/01
Desiree Buchholtz	3/02
Lauren Szymankiewicz	3/02
Jodel Jacobs	3/03
Gabriel Eberhardt	3/06
Gil Amborn	3/07
Brinley Hunt	3/07
Mason Gumieny	3/08
Raymond Morby	3/08
Karen Luick	3/10
Mikayla Acker	3/11
Scott Ten Cate	3/11
Jacob King	3/14
Lila Solar	3/14
MaryAnn Pirk	3/18
Chuck Brintnall	3/19
Bruce Grindeland	3/21
Heidi Hollander	3/21
Carrie Buchholtz	3/22
Jason Charland	3/23
Hallie Hayden	3/23
Carol Smith	3/24
Jeff Checker	3/25
Madelyn Jusuf	3/25
Bertha Neumueller	3/25
Jack Alloy	3/26
Stephanie Conradt	3/28
Kirsten Grindeland	3/28
Ronald Hunt	3/28
Robert Hassey	3/29
Ken Hein	3/29
Tammy Peterson	3/29
Brandon Eisenhut	3/30
Harry Knoblauch	3/30



March 2026

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
N.M./A.C New Member/Adult Catechesis Class

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am "The Chosen" Season 5, Ep.5 after worship		W.B.S. 10:00am	Lenten Dinner 5:00pm Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Vespers Service 6:30pm	N.M./A.C. Class 6:00pm	Friday Fish Fry 5:30pm (be sure to verify the time on sign-up sheet)	Men's Bible Study 7:30am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am "The Chosen" Season 5, Ep.6 after worship	Sr.Group/LWML 11:00am	W.B.S. 10:00am	Lenten Dinner 5:00pm Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Finance 5:15pm Vespers Service 6:30pm Council 7:30pm	N.M./A.C. Class 6:00pm	Friday Fish Fry 5:30pm (be sure to verify the time on sign-up sheet)	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am "The Chosen" Season 5, Ep.7 after worship		W.B.S. 10:00am	Lenten Dinner 5:00pm Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Vespers Service 6:30pm Elders 7:30pm	Preschool Playtime 10:15-11:15am N.M./A.C. Class 6:00pm	Friday Fish Fry 5:30pm (be sure to verify the time on sign-up sheet)	Men's Bible Study 7:30am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am Social Ministry meeting after service. "The Chosen" Season 5, Ep.8 after worship	Sr. Group 11:00am	W.B.S. 10:00am	Lenten Dinner 5:00pm Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Vespers Service 6:30pm	N.M./A.C. Class 6:00pm	Friday Fish Fry 5:30pm (be sure to verify the time on sign-up sheet)	
29	30	31	April 1	2	3	4
PALM SUNDAY S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am	Worship 6:30pm	W.B.S. 10:00am Worship 6:30pm	Worship 6:30pm	Worship 6:30pm	GOOD FRIDAY Worship 1:00pm Worship 7:00pm	EASTER VIGIL Worship 7:23pm