

# THE INFORMER



## St. Peter Lutheran Church

6745 Palms Road  
PO Box 230405  
Fair Haven, MI 48023  
810-765-8161  
[www.stpeterfairhaven.org](http://www.stpeterfairhaven.org)

## July 2018

Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below, Boundless in power and love.  
Our thanks we bring; In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise to You, our King!

We celebrate the Fourth of July this month! We remember the great blessings of freedom our God has given us through the toil and blood of those who have gone before us. We remember the sacrifices made to establish a nation under God; a nation where the rights of the individual are protected against the whims of government or the machinations of others. We celebrate our freedom: freedom as citizens of these United States, and freedom as the children of God. We praise our heavenly Father for allowing us the privilege of being free to worship and to follow Him according to the dictates of consciences enlightened by His Word.

The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.

For this bright day, For this fair land - Gifts from Your hand - Our thanks we pay.

As citizens of this great nation, we have been blessed with peace, with prosperity, with comfort, and with rest. We enjoy lifestyles which are not even imagined in much of the world today. We live in our homes and communities with little fear of sudden violence or unwelcomed intrusion. These blessings may appear to come to us through this nation's rule of law, but we recognize the hand of our heavenly Father, who, surrounding us with His protective care, has blessed us with these wonderful gifts.

Earth hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.  
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore, And bow before The Crucified.

Unfortunately, we have begun to see cracks in this freedom. We see large portions of society turning from the revelation of God's Word and choosing lifestyles contrary to that revelation. We see attitudes and behaviors, once condemned both in God's Word and in society, be accepted and advocated as appropriate exercises of American freedom by portions of this society. Instead of calls for repentance, we hear cries that sin must be accepted as the practice of this nation's fundamental right of personal freedom.

And when in pow'r He comes, Oh may our native land  
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,  
A countless throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Salvation's song!

But as God's chosen people, called and equipped by the Holy Spirit to live faithful lives in this faithless age, we continue to speak the truth in love: never equivocating about the wickedness of sin, while always encouraging about the blessedness of repentance and forgiveness. We are the voices calling in the wilderness; pointing the way to salvation, to turn to God, to turn from sin, to receive forgiveness, and to receive the true freedom that only comes to the children of our God.



# **St. Peter Church Picnic!**

**Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 pm**

**Hosted by Jim & Laura Neumann**

**Mark your calendars!!!**



**More information to follow!**

## **Sanctuary Tech Upgrade News**

**We have been blessed with a great group of volunteers who help with the service slides during the service! Our newest additions have been Dan Stahl, Ryan Osterland, Christian Neumann, and Dustin Vernier. They have each shown themselves to be capable as they enhance our Sunday service experience.**

**We continue to look for additional volunteers. If you are able to climb the stairs to the balcony, are able to read, are able to pay reasonable attention, and are able to push a key on a laptop, you are well-suited for this service to our congregation. Please let Pastor know if you are interested, or if you would like to see what this opportunity entails.**

**Many thanks to all our volunteers!**

**We also appreciate the work Renee Jones has been doing in learning to edit and upload the audio recordings to the website and the video recordings to YouTube. She has learned the intricacies of these operations and has been a great help in performing these activities when Pastor is out of town.**





## FEED THE HUNGRY

Your food donations, placed in the box on the collections table, are regularly delivered to the food pantries in Algonac and Marine City. If you know of other food pantries that serve our area, please let us know so we can add them to our list.

“Thank you” to the Carrs for their work in dropping the donated food at the food pantries, and a big “thank you” to *everyone* who regularly donates to this worthwhile work!

## Veterans



We continue to collect needed items for the Veterans in the VA hospital. The list of needed items is posted on the Veterans Box located on the collections table. The list varies, so, if you're interested in providing items for our Veterans, please refer to the list prior to shopping for items.

We certainly appreciate Bob and Linda Wasil's dedication in championing this effort and in helping us remember those who have served in our nation's armed forces.



## The Elders'



The Summer schedule is in full swing! All those plans to slow down and take it easy are now being followed... and we find that we're moving just as fast in our “relaxation” as we were in our “regular” schedules! We all face the risk of falling into a chronic busyness that seems to suck the little pleasures out of our day to day lives. The small joys... those little gifts from our loving heavenly Father... dry up and blow away as we rush past them without notice. Our efforts to do everything we think we might like to do and our concern that we may miss something often conspire to fill our schedules to overflowing. Add in the unexpected events that require our attention, and soon we find the days flying by in a hurried, harried blur.

As this Summer rolls on, let's give a few moments of prayerful reflection on our heavenly Father's intentions for our use of the time He's given us. Psalm 31 reminds us that our times are in our heavenly Father's hands. In Psalm 90, we're reminded to go to our heavenly Father for help with managing our days. It's good for us to pray with the Psalmist, “Teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Our loving Lord is both interested and involved in how we spend the time He has given us in this life.

Remembering that our gracious heavenly Father is intimately involved in our lives is a great remedy for that chronic busyness that takes the joy from our days. Begin each day by remembering the truth: “This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it!” That joy, and the peace that only our God can give, are the gifts we're offered each and every day of our lives. In Psalm 34 we're invited to “taste and see that the Lord is good!” That's an invitation to each of us for every moment of every day. Let's remember our God in these Summer days and let's let the joy of the Lord be our strength!

## **A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~ July**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Job 20 & 21	Acts 10:24-48
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Job 22, 23, & 24	Acts 11
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Job 25, 26, & 27	Acts 12
4 <sup>th</sup>	Job 28 & 29	Acts 13:1-25
5 <sup>th</sup>	Job 30 & 31	Acts 13:26-52
6 <sup>th</sup>	Job 32 & 33	Acts 14
7 <sup>th</sup>	Job 34 & 35	Acts 15:1-21
8 <sup>th</sup>	Job 36 & 37	Acts 15:22-41
9 <sup>th</sup>	Job 38, 39, & 40	Acts 16:1-21
10 <sup>th</sup>	Job 41 & 42	Acts 16:22-40
11 <sup>th</sup>	Psalms 1, 2, & 3	Acts 17:1-15
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 4, 5, & 6	Acts 17:16-34
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 7, 8, & 9	Acts 18
14 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 10, 11, & 12	Acts 19:1-20
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 13, 14, & 15	Acts 19:21-41
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 16 & 17	Acts 20:1-16
17 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 18 & 19	Acts 20:17-38
18 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 20, 21, & 22	Acts 21:1-17
19 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 23, 24, & 25	Acts 21:18-40
20 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 26, 27, & 28	Acts 22
21 <sup>st</sup>	Ps 29 & 30	Acts 23:1-15
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ps 31 & 32	Acts 23:16-35
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ps 33 & 34	Acts 24
24 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 35 & 36	Acts 25
25 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 37, 38, & 39	Acts 26
26 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 40, 41, & 42	Acts 27:1-26
27 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 43, 44, & 45	Acts 27:27-44
28 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 46, 47, & 48	Acts 28
29 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 49 & 50	Romans 1
30 <sup>th</sup>	Ps 51, 52, & 53	Rom 2
31 <sup>st</sup>	Ps 54, 55, & 56	Rom 3



# LOOKING AHEAD

As you may know, St. Peter Lutheran Church is in the process of reviewing and revising the Constitution and Bylaws of our church. As we continue this important review and revision work, our dear friend, Martin Luther, can help us keep the right perspective. Luther's distinction between the "kingdom of the right" and the "kingdom of the left" provides a helpful backdrop for this review and revision work.

The "kingdom of the right" is the kingdom of heaven: the kingdom of God which is ruled by grace and dwells in eternal perfection and holiness. The "kingdom of the left" is the kingdom of this world: the temporal kingdom perverted by sin where Satan holds sway and wickedness is held in check by the Law.

As human beings, we dwell in the "kingdom of the left". We live our lives in this world. As Christians, God's children saved by faith in Jesus Christ, we dwell in the "kingdom of the right". We dwell in both kingdoms. So too does the church. We are God's people gathered in this place to receive His gifts (the "kingdom of the right"), and we are a human institution, organized under the laws of the State of Michigan as a not-for-profit corporation (the "kingdom of the left").

As we consider the future of St. Peter Lutheran Church, it's helpful to keep this distinction in mind because, as a church, we exist to carry out God's work in this sin-corrupted world. Our Savior has given us our marching orders: we are to abide in His love and, as we abide in His love, we bear His fruit. We demonstrate our heavenly Father's love as we share the hope of His salvation with this hopeless world. That's the priority of the "kingdom of the right".

But as a human institution, a "kingdom of the left" institution, we are required to fit within the framework of a 501c3 corporation. That framework requires that we organize and operate the organization according to the terms of a Constitution and By-laws. Since that is the case these documents are being updated and revised in order to better reflect the organization that now is St. Peter Lutheran Church.

You are encouraged to take part in this needful work! The next meeting will be Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the evening. Thank you for your participation!



**Paul R. Wills** *Vice President – Marketing*

**Church Extension Fund** of the Michigan District LCMS  
3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-3098

☎ 800.242.3944 ☎ 734.213.3242 ☎ 734.332.7811

✉ [paul.wills@mi-cef.org](mailto:paul.wills@mi-cef.org)

🌐 [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org)

From long and short term savings plans to traditional and Roth IRAs, investments in the Church Extension Fund help fund your future and the future of congregations right here in the Michigan District. To learn how you can make a difference call CEF at 800.242.3944 or visit them online at [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org).