

# THE INFORMER



## St. Peter Lutheran Church

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## September 2021

**“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.”**

**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

Here we are, back after a prolonged break caused by the Covid situation. None of us know when or how the impact of that will finally be behind us, but we know that life cannot stop indefinitely, regardless of the circumstances.

The verses above are the words of our God as He spoke to His people who were in exile in Babylon. He reassured them that the terrible circumstances they faced were not their final end. He assured them that He had their future in His hands.

And so too does our God have our future in His hands as well. Both individually and together as His Church here at St Peter, our

faithful heavenly Father knows all the things we have been through and all the changes that we as a congregation will face in the future. He is neither surprised nor worried about the future of His Church in this place.

In fact, we are more fortunate than some congregations as we had already begun working through changes to our methods of planning and carrying out activities. Back in 2019, many of us took part in the work of the Parish Organization Group as we sought to maximize our activities while minimizing the time spent in meetings for those activities. We now actually have something of a roadmap as we work to reinvigorate ourselves after this long hiatus.

**On Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, a Parish Planning Meeting is being held at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.** This meeting will provide the congregation with a voice in defining the ministry and fellowship activities we will pursue in the next several months. After such a long time of inactivity, it will be refreshing to define, implement, and take part in the continuing life of this congregation!



## The Word from the Chairman!



It has been a long time since I wrote an article for our newsletter. Events at St. Peter really changed but are slowly getting back to "NORMAL" whatever that is. There are those who still have that fear of Covid and that's okay, we have to trust in the Lord that He will bring us through this "Situation".

We may never know who or what started this pandemic, some say it was the Chinese, by accident or on purpose... we may never get a straight answer. But I know who will end it. I pray every day that He will find a way to stop the suffering that has occurred in the past months. But He doesn't do it alone: we

have to do our part. Unfortunately, not everybody is working together. The politicians are fighting amongst themselves over stupid things. Don't they know problems get solved when you work together?

Here at St. Peter our problems are relatively small but have to be addressed sooner or later. One of the biggest ones we have been dealing with for some time is going to be dealt with and save us some money. (More to come) Keep praying that this Pandemic will have a solution and we can get back to "NORMAL".

Kevin Labuhn



## St. Peter's Trusty Trustees

**Your St. Peter Trustees are on the job!**

**We are beginning preliminary work for the septic field renovation. This will involve adding an additional tank, a pumping system and a new raised field. Preliminary plans intend to keep the system where the old septic field used to be so there will be minimum disruption to our paved areas.**

**In the next few weeks we will be having the exterior of our building scrubbed and washed to remove the dirt, cobwebs, and green growths that have been compromising the appearance of our church. We're all looking forward to seeing our building shiny and clean!**

**Several other updating and renovating projects are in discussion as well. This is an exciting time as we work to keep our facilities in good order!**

**Please contact one of your Trusty Trustees if you notice anything needing maintenance or improvement.**



# Volunteer Opportunities



## Sunday School

Our Sunday School program is looking for teachers and helpers to assist them in our Sunday School classes. This is a wonderful opportunity to help in sharing Jesus with the next generations of St. Peter members! If you would like further information concerning this opportunity to serve, please speak to Linda LeLacheur or Pastor.

## Burn Crew

We record each Sunday's sermon and distribute them to our home-bound members. Each sermon is emailed to the Burn Crew members and are burnt onto CD's for distribution. If you would like to be a part of this service to our home-bound members, please speak to Debi Hoerr or Pastor for more information.

## Volunteers Needed

There are many activities here which cannot happen without an individual or couple being willing to keep them going. In the past we have collected food items for the local Food Pantries and personal care items for the VA hospital. If you would be willing to periodically drop the food off at the pantries or deliver the items to the VA hospital, please speak with Pastor.

## Volunteer Groups

There are many groups with which you can be involved: the Parish Planning Group welcomes anyone interested in helping to set the agenda for our Church activities. There's also the Choir, the Garden Club, the Altar Guild, and the Cemetery Committee, to name a few. If you're interested in participating in any of these groups, please don't hesitate to ask Pastor about them!

## Confirmation for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

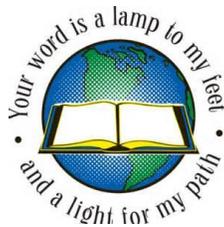


If you know of any children entering the seventh or eighth grade this coming school year, please give their names and contact information to Pastor Hoerr. A child's seventh and eighth grade school years are the years for Confirmation study and now is the time to plan for this worthwhile education!

We will be beginning Confirmation instruction on **Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm** this year. We will be including both first-year and second-year students in one class for the majority of the year.

This year's focus will be on Luther's Small Catechism as we explore the faith in light of God's revelation of Himself through the words of Holy Scripture. A comfortable familiarity with God's Word and the Small Catechism is a blessing which remains with us forever!

Please contact Pastor with the names and contact information for the children who will be receiving instruction this year.



**Altar Guild**



The St. Peter Altar Guild continues their faithful service to our congregation week after week, month after month, and year after year. We have been blessed with a wonderful group of volunteers who help keep our services running smoothly and pleasantly. As we continue to re-start our normal activities, we will also resume the regular Altar Guild schedule starting in September.

Our St. Peter Altar Guild monthly volunteers are currently as follows:

January ~ available

February ~ Marie Brockmiller

March ~ Jessica Hoerr

April ~ Debbie Beres & Carrie Cain

May ~ Karen Williams

June ~ Sandy Carr

July ~ Claudis Methner

August ~ available

September ~ Chris Turpen

October ~ Laura Neumann

November ~ Debbie Labuhn

December ~ Debi Hoerr

If you would like to serve on the Altar Guild for one of the available months, please see me. All training and support are provided.

Thank you very much to all our Altar Guild volunteers. Your work is a great blessing to all of us!

Debi Hoerr



## Choir News

**Your St. Peter Choir will begin practices on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will have weekly practices leading up to the Festival of the Reformation, where we will once again add our voices in praise to our God.**

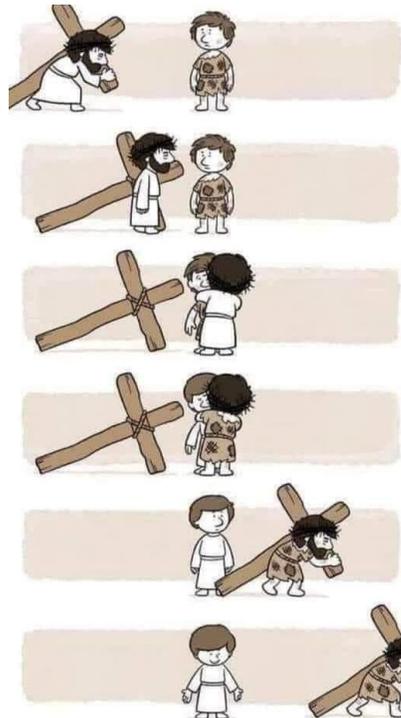
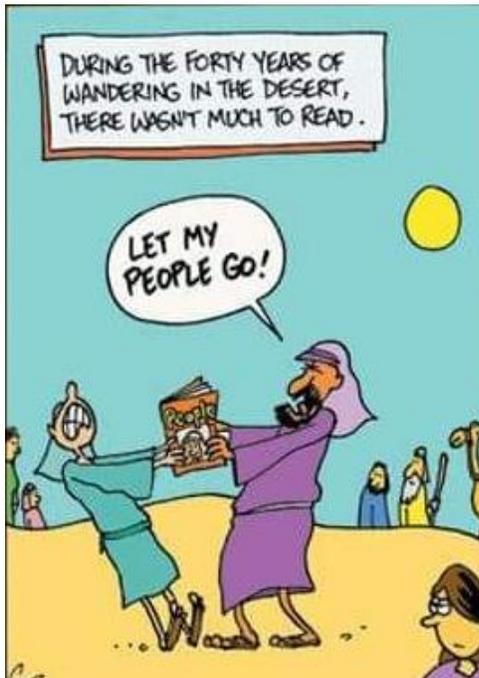
**As a congregation we have faced a lot of changes in the past couple years and some of our members are not able to participate as they once were able. This is especially true for our choir. So as**

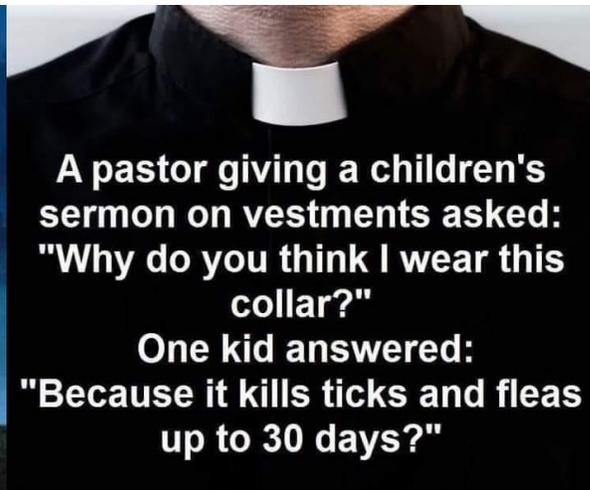
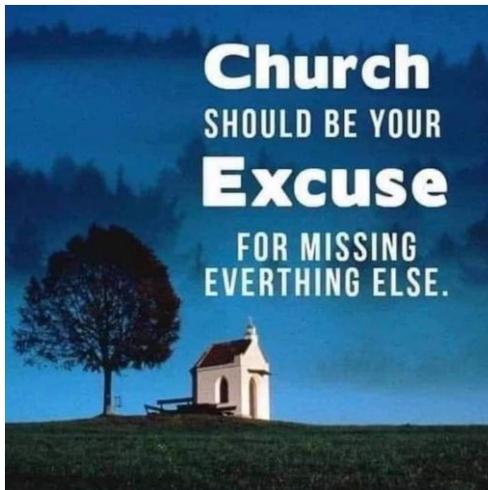
**the choir again begins to gather and practice, we hope some new voices will join in and help add to the joy of singing!**

**Your choir meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. There are no qualifications needed to join in the fun, so if you enjoy singing and like the company of friendly and supportive people, this is the group for you!**



## ***Lutheran Funnies***





## LOOKING AHEAD

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor. 2:14-16

Is the glass half empty, or is it half full? It's a matter of opinion, right? The glass... well, the glass is just a glass. How we interpret the things we see ascribes meaning to what we see. That's why one may see a negative circumstance while another sees a positive circumstance.

Whose "eyes" are we using? Whose "mind" do we allow to define the things going on around us? Are the circumstances around us happening out of random, chaotic chance? Some live this life thinking they're unwilling passengers on a crazy rollercoaster... just pushed along by blind chance and uncaring fate.

But that's not how *we* see things, right? No, "we have the mind of Christ", meaning we have our God's revelation of Himself, which reminds us of His love for us, His salvation for us, and His constant attention toward us. He is the Creator of all and, even though sin has really messed everything up, He is never worried or uncertain about accomplishing everything He has promised.

Forget what you see. Remember what you know. Our God reigns!

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Cor. 15:56-58