

THE INFORMER



St. Peter Lutheran Church

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February 2022

Lord of glory, You have bought us / With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones / That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given / Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil / With Your own unsparing hand.

Our God provides for all our earthly needs. He provides both the luxuries and the necessities according to His perfect knowledge of what is best for us. As our Creator, our heavenly Father is intimately aware of every aspect of each of our lives and His gracious faithfulness toward us places us in His continuous providential care.

Luther's Small Catechism says this about the first article of the Creed: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." At the conclusion of Luther's answer to the question, *What does this mean*, after listing all the parts of life that our God provides for us, Luther concludes this: "All this He does only out of Fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You / Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness / Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, / Warmed by You at length believe
That more happy and more blessed / 'Tis to give than to receive.

Our God looks for our faithfulness to Him as the only appropriate response to the overwhelming bounty of care and protection He constantly provides us. He looks for that faithfulness in our dealing with others and our dealings with His Church. Our heavenly Father has no needs Himself; there is nothing He needs from any of us. So any "faithfulness" we imagine we're doing is only real if it is pouring itself out in service to others and service to His Church.

Wondrous honor You have given / To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, / "You have done it all for Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, / That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy / "Give as I have given to You."

Now, for many of us, when we are being reminded to be faithful, we often only think in terms of financial or material faithfulness. That, of course, is a part of it and ought not be neglected or excused away. But the faithfulness our heavenly Father seeks to instill within each of us is much broader and incorporates the entirety of our lives. He seeks us to be faithful “in thought, word, and deed,” in “everything that is done” and “everything that is left undone.”

Lord of glory, You have bought us / With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones / That tremendous sacrifice;
Give us faith to trust You boldly / Hope to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, / With Your love our love renew.

How can we, weak and fallen creatures that we are, hope to demonstrate true faithfulness to our holy and righteous God? We look to our heavenly Father for help! He has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness through our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we turn from the sensibilities of this sinful world, we turn to the Holy Spirit’s leading. God’s own Spirit, dwelling within us, establishes and strengthens faithfulness as we conform our lives to our God’s holy Word, as we deny our selfish, sinful nature, and as we place our confidence in our heavenly Father’s faithfulness toward us!



The Word from the Chairman!



February is the short month with a couple of big events. One is rather not so nice and the other is a lot of fun. Of course, I’m talking about tax day and Valentine’s Day. Why is property tax day and Valentine’s Day on the same Day?

How are the New Year’s resolutions coming along? How many of you stuck to your guns and kept your resolutions and how many of you didn’t even get your guns out?

Winter is slowly but surely coming to an end, I hope. Michigan is famous for changing weather and this winter has really hit home with the motto, wait 10 minutes and it will change.

For those of us that are a little under the weather and have cabin fever, the warm weather is not that far away. I know that it is hard to think about sun shine and warm weather but it will be here before you know it.

Kevin



The Elders' Corner



“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

James 1:2-4

The Bible gives us a very unique perspective about the difficulties we face in this life. The Holy Spirit, through St. Peter, tells us that we ought not be surprised when difficulties arise in our lives. The Spirit goes even further when, through the pen of St. James, He tells us to consider these difficulties as causes for joy!

The difficulties we face, often called “trials” in Scripture, are part of our lives in this fallen world. Some difficulties arise at random, some arise through those around us, and some arise as a direct result of our own decisions and actions. Whatever the specific situation or difficulty, these trials arise because of sin; whether our sin, or another’s sin, or simply the sin which infests this creation.

Regardless of how these trials arise, they often challenge our faith. These difficulties test our faith as we are tempted to question our God’s providential care for us. Our heavenly Father, however, works to bring about His good even from the evil we experience. The Holy Spirit, in the midst of terrible troubles, reminds us of our God’s love for us. We sometimes suffer, but Jesus is with us. We never suffer alone and we never bear them alone, He bears them with us.

After we have bourn some of the difficulties of this life, we realize that we are better able to face whatever lies ahead for us. The Holy Spirit makes us more steadfast in the faith. Our God works for our good through the difficulties we face. How blessed we are that we do not face life’s difficulties alone!

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” - 1 Peter 4:12

Christian Education News



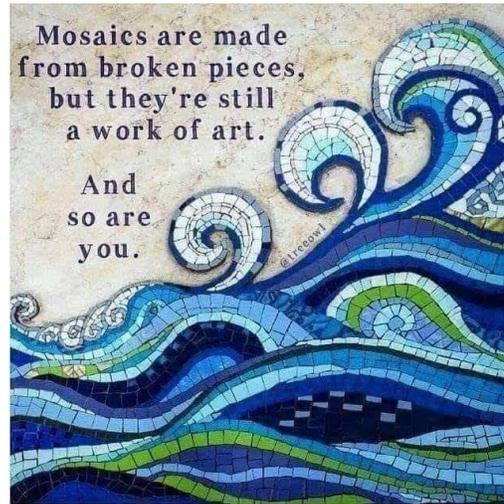
Our Sunday School may be small in numbers this year but we are mighty in enthusiasm and the joy of the Lord! All children from three to 6th grade are welcome. Sunday school is a time for all children to learn about Jesus' love for them!

Choir News

Your St. Peter Choir is ready to get back to work! Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, February 10th, and continue every Thursday evening at 6:30. If singing gives you joy and you're looking for an enjoyable opportunity, this is the place for you!



Lutheran Funnies



A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~ February

Day	Old Testament	New Testament
1 st	Exodus 27 & 28	Matthew 21:1-22
2 nd	Ex 29 & 30	Matt 21:23-46
3 rd	Ex 31, 32, & 33	Matt 22:1-22
4 th	Ex 34 & 35	Matt 22:23-46
5 th	Ex 36, 37, & 38	Matt 23:1-22
6 th	Ex 39 & 40	Matt 23:23-39
7 th	Leviticus 1, 2, & 3	Matt 24:1-28
8 th	Lev 4 & 5	Matt 24:29-51
9 th	Lev 6 & 7	Matt 25:1-30
10 th	Lev 8, 9, & 10	Matt 25:31-46
11 th	Lev 11 & 12	Matt: 26:1-25
12 th	Lev 13	Matt 26:26-50
13 th	Lev 14	Matt 26:51-75
14 th	Lev 15 & 16	Matt 27:1-26
15 th	Lev 17 & 18	Matt 27:27-50
16 th	Lev 19 & 20	Matt 27:51-66
17 th	Lev 21 & 22	Matt 28
18 th	Lev 23 & 24	Mark 1:1-22
19 th	Lev 25	Mark 1:23-45
20 th	Lev 26 & 27	Mark 2
21 st	Numbers 1 & 2	Mark 3:1-35
22 nd	Num 3 & 4	Mark 4:1-20
23 rd	Num 5, 6 & 7	Mark 4:21-41
24 th	Num 8, 9, & 10	Mark 5:1-20
25 th	Num 11, 12, & 13	Mark 5:21-43
26 th	Num 14, 15, & 16	Mark 6:1-29
27 th	Num 17, 18, & 19	Mark 6:30-56
28 th	Num 20, 21, & 22	Mark 7:1-13



LOOKING AHEAD

"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock."

Isaiah 26:3-4

In these days when there are so many things clamoring for our attention and so many voices raised in warnings of impending disasters, it is often difficult to experience the peace our heavenly Father seeks to instill within each of us. A constant flow of information pours from the media, the web, and other sources. This information calls for our attention even when it really has nothing to do with us.

In this age of information overload, our God, through the prophet Isaiah, defines the remedy for the churning we often find consuming our mental energy. Our heavenly Father reminds us that our minds are to be stayed upon our God. Our God reminds us to fix our attention on Him, not on the ever-rising level of noise surrounding us.

As our minds are fixed on our God; as we allow our minds to ponder the promises our heavenly Father has given to us through Jesus, we find the clamoring noises of this world fading from our attention. Peace comes as we allow the Holy Spirit to bring to mind the past blessings of our Lord. We are calmed as the Spirit enlightens our hearts and minds through the Word.

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Psalm 46:10