

THE INFORMER



St. Peter Lutheran Church

6745 Palms Road

PO Box 350405

Fair Haven, MI 48023

810-765-8161

www.stpeterfairhaven.org

January 2022

Come, my soul, with ev'ry care, / Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray, / Therefore will not turn away.

As we face another year, we realize that we live in uncertain times. Even as we enjoy the celebrations of Christmas and the New Year, we're not sure how this New Year will present itself. Uncertainties in the economy, in health care, in our abilities to maintain the lifestyles we've enjoyed in the past, and the future prospects for ourselves, our families, and our friends add a note of concern to our considerations.

Thou art coming to a King, / Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and pow'r are such / None can ever ask too much.

Fortunately, our heavenly Father knows our concerns and has promised to be with us through everything we face. He is unlimited in His ability to respond to our every need and His steadfast love for us is our constant companion as we face the triumphs and troubles of this fallen world.

With my burden I begin; / Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt, / Set my conscience free from guilt.

In coming to our loving heavenly Father, we first repent: we repent of our own sinfulness in thought, word, and deed, the things done and the things left undone, all of which adds to this life's burden of sorrow and difficulties for ourselves and those around us. As we repent, we receive forgiveness through our Savior, Jesus. He lifts the burden of our sin and clears our consciences in order to live in Him joyfully.

Lord, Thy rest to me impart, / Take possession of my heart;

There Thy blood-bought right retain / And without a rival reign.

As our God cleanses our consciences, He offers us His peace: the peace that passes all our human understanding. That peace settles within us and protects us from the trials and turmoils we face in this life. The Holy Spirit reminds us Whose we are as we fix our hearts and minds on our gracious Savior.

While I am a pilgrim here, / Let Thy love my spirit cheer;
As my guide, my guard, my friend, / Lead me to my journey's end.

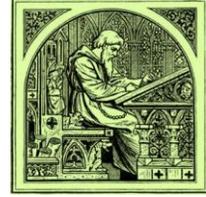
Now we face the coming year in confidence! Protected by our God's peace, comforted in His love, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we face the future. In Christ we are able to stand faithfully through whatever may come to us, whether they are wonderful blessings or difficult trials.

Show me what is mine to do; / Ev'ry hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith; / Let me die Thy people's death.

In this confident, prayer-filled life, we follow our God's leading. We do what He gives us to do and we rejoice in the opportunities He gives us to serve Him. In the strength of His might we live lives of faithfulness; lives which honor and revere our God. And our God cares for us. In good times or in bad, in sickness or in health, in times of peace or in times of turmoil, our God is faithful and will lead us safely through everything we face. Now *that* is a wonderful perspective for starting a New Year!



The Elders' Corner



**“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”
~ Proverbs 17:22**

It isn't unusual to feel a bit of a let down after the holidays. The colorful decorations are put away and the bright lights are turned off for another year; this time of year can feel as grey and gloomy as the weather often is.

But we are God's children, whether we are celebrating Christmas or we are shoveling another late January snow fall. We live in the “joy to the world” the angels announced so long ago. The joy of Christmas dwells within us because the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

Are you feeling a bit blue? Remember your loving heavenly Father and His kindness toward you. Remember your Savior, Jesus, and His sacrifice for you. And remember your constant companion, the Holy Spirit, who opens your eyes to the Father's love for you. Then... have a joyful January!!

Dear Friends at St. Peter,

New Year's blessings to all the members and friends of our family of faith here at St. Peter Lutheran Church! Debi and I are grateful for all those who remembered us with their cards, gifts, and other acts of kindness during this Christmas season. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness! May the joy of Christmas be with you all throughout the coming year!

Pastor & Debi Hoerr



St. Peter's Trusty Trustees

Remember that winter is here! Watch out for slippery areas in our parking lots and walkways. Make sure you have good visibility through your windshield and windows before heading out on the roads, and drive with a bit more caution. With a little care we should be able to enjoy our winter wonderland without too much slipping or sliding!

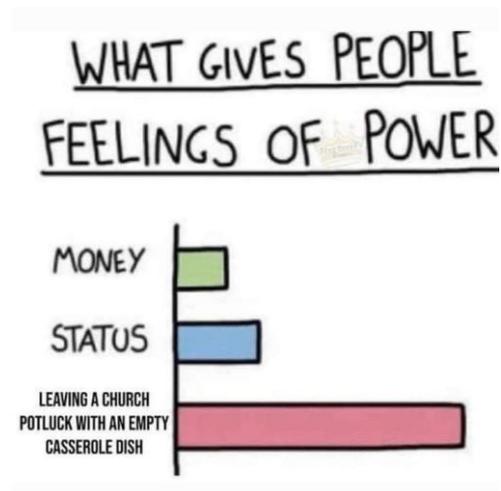
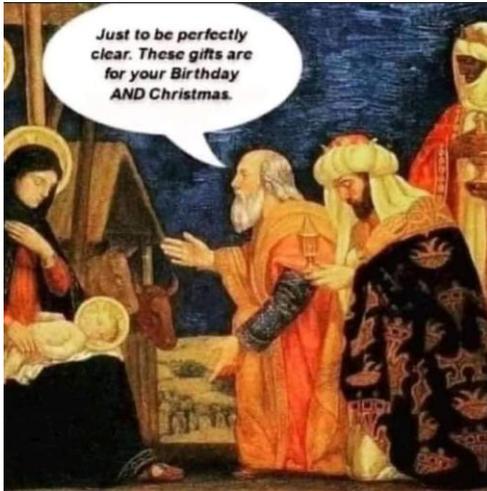


Choir News

Your St. Peter Choir is taking a much needed break after Christmas and New Year's and then we'll be back to work! Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, February 10th, and continue every Thursday evening at 6:30. We're a welcoming bunch that really enjoys our time together and takes great pleasure in singing. If singing gives you joy, this is the place for you!



Lutheran Funnies

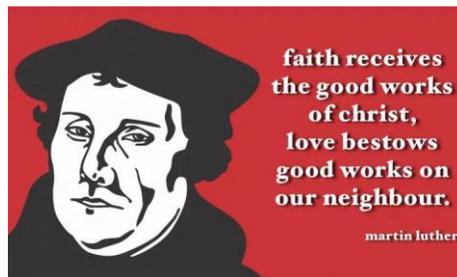


**I can't believe it's
Omicron season
already.
I still have my
Delta
decorations up.**

**I've opened a can of
worms.

They just sit there,
the worms. Hardly
the chaos that's been
advertised.**

funny.co

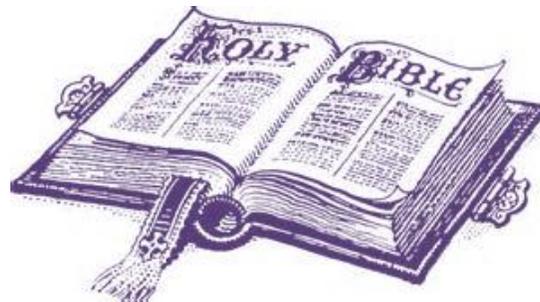


Begin the New Year with our Bible Reading Program!

The Psalmist proclaimed, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path!” St. Paul urges us, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” The writer to the Hebrews reminds us that “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

God’s Word is a glorious gift our heavenly Father has given to us. By it He leads and guides us, He keeps us safe from false teaching and equips us with His Word as we live in this fallen world, and He gives us His salvation through His Word as He cuts away the deceit of sin from our hearts and minds. The same powerful Word that spoke this world into existence and which continues to keep and sustain it has been given to us for our benefit. The Holy Spirit Himself is our teacher as He opens our hearts and minds to our God’s revelation of Himself through His Word. Through His glorious Word we meet with Jesus and are strengthened and established in the true faith which gives us life everlasting.

We renew our practice of providing a Bible reading schedule for each month in the Newsletter. By following this reading schedule, the entire Bible can be read in a one year period. Take this opportunity to join in the pleasure of reading God’s Word and benefiting from the Holy Spirit’s leading through that Word!



A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~ January

Day	Old Testament	New Testament
1 st	Genesis 1, 2, & 3	Matthew 1
2 nd	Gen 4, 5, & 6	Matt 2
3 rd	Gen 7, 8, & 9	Matt 3
4 th	Gen 10, 11, & 12	Matt 4
5 th	Gen 13, 14, & 15	Matt 5:1-26
6 th	Gen 16 & 17	Matt 5:27-48
7 th	Gen 18 & 19	Matt 6:1-18
8 th	Gen 20, 21, & 22	Matt 6:19-34
9 th	Gen 23 & 24	Matt 7
10 th	Gen 25 & 26	Matt 8:1-17
11 th	Gen 27 & 28	Matt: 8:18-34
12 th	Gen 29 & 30	Matt 9:1-17
13 th	Gen 31 & 32	Matt 9:18-38
14 th	Gen 33, 34, & 35	Matt 10:1-20
15 th	Gen 36, 37, & 38	Matt 10:21-42
16 th	Gen 39 & 40	Matt 11
17 th	Gen 41 & 42	Matt 12: 1-23
18 th	Gen 43, 44, & 45	Matt 12:24-50
19 th	Gen 46, 47, & 48	Matt 13:1-30
20 th	Gen 49 & 50	Matt 13: 31-58
21 st	Exodus 1, 2, & 3	Matt 14:1-21
22 nd	Ex 4, 5, & 6	Matt 14:22-36
23 rd	Ex 7 & 8	Matt 15:1-20
24 th	Ex 9, 10, & 11	Matt 15:21-39
25 th	Ex 12 & 13	Matt 16
26 th	Ex 14 & 15	Matt 17
27 th	Ex 16, 17, & 18	Matt 18:1-20
28 th	Ex 19 & 20	Matt 18:21-35
29 th	Ex 21 & 22	Matt 19
30 th	Ex 23 & 24	Matt 20:1-16
31 st	Ex 25 & 26	Matt 20:17-34



LOOKING AHEAD

**“Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”
~ Romans 13:11**

“The hour has come.” In the Bible, that statement usually occurs right before something important happens... typically something dramatic or even history making. And most of the time it is used by the Holy Spirit to point out something our God is doing for us, His fallen creatures.

But that is not how it is used in this passage. The Holy Spirit is reminding the Christians in Rome... as well as reminding us... that it is time to wake up. It is time to wake up. But from what are we to wake up?

We, just like the Christians in Rome, live in a world that rejects our God’s created order. Fallen humankind loves, honors, and reveres itself more than it cares about God. And, to make matters worse, we as Christians often fall into the same habits of thinking. We become acclimated to operating the same way as those who are lost operate in this world. We often live with the same values and motivations that they do.

The Holy Spirit wants us to wake up from that kind of thinking. We have been influenced by it for too long. It is time to wake up, to realize the harm it does to our souls, and to turn our hearts and minds back to our loving heavenly Father.

As we begin this new year of 2022, let’s realize that the day of salvation is closer now than it has ever been. Let’s allow the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts and minds, to clear away the cobwebs of this world’s ways and instill in us His wisdom and His ways. Welcoming that in our lives will truly make 2022 a year of great blessing for each of us and for our St. Peter congregation!