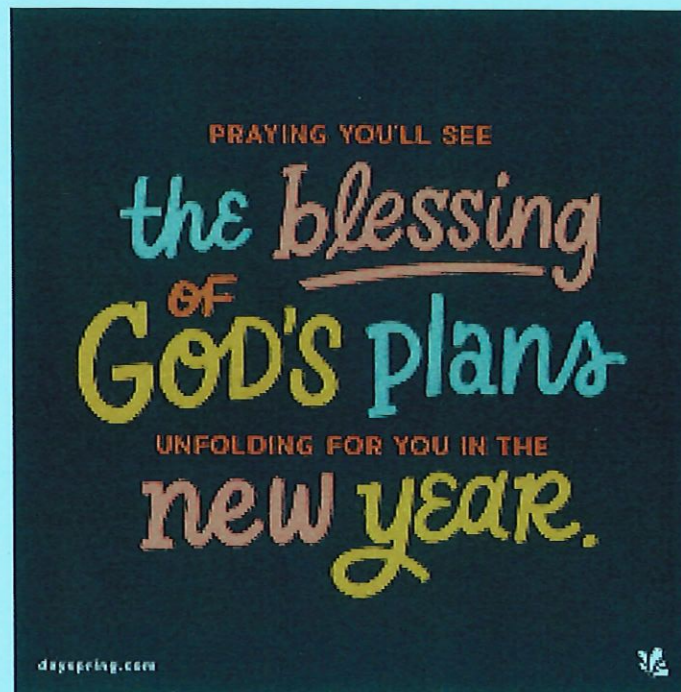




ST PETER'S

— LUTHERAN CHURCH —





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St. Peter's Lutheran Church
200 Cole St.
East Peoria, Il. 61611
Church-(309)699-5411
Fax-(309)699-9776

Rev. Brian Pape, Senior Pastor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

&

SAVE THE DATE

CREATIVE EVENT

January 28, 2024

Immediately following 10:00 AM Worship

Lunch Provided

Your presence and participation are requested as we pursue fulfilling our GUIDING STATEMENT with an action plan. This will take place with the involvement of the entire congregation at our CONGREGATIONAL CREATIVE EVENT.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT!!!

EVERY ACTIVE MEMBERS VOICE IS CRITICAL AT THIS JUNCTURE OF OUR JOURNEY.

WE ARE A BEACON OF THE COMMUNITY EQUIPPING, EMPOWERING AND SHARING THE HOPE AND LOVE OF JESUS.

What will this look like?

How will it happen?

PILLARS – ENGAGE -EQUIP – EMPOWER- SHINE

January 28, 2024

Immediately following 10:00 AM Worship

Just what's next for St. Peters Lutheran?

I've started this article several times. Any one would think that by now I would have it down to perfection. But, I don't. Just what IS next?? Wouldn't it be great if we all could look into our crystal balls and see just what is on the horizon for our lives, our family or our church? Some of us have often dreamed of such an ability. However, only God knows our futures. You see God is sovereign. In fact, of His many qualities, three stand out. They are: All-Powerful (omnipotent), All-knowing (omniscient), and All-Present (omnipresent). The Bible tells us that all of His abilities are really beyond our comprehension. And to think, after considering just how GREAT our GOD is, that in His infinite wisdom, God still desires to have a relationship with the likes of us, who are limited is so many ways. It is this relationship that fascinates me so much.

"Oh, God of the stars the sun and the moon; Oh God of the wind and the sea. Though You're everywhere how amazing it is that you can be hear with me." The uncharted planets and craters beyond, You know like the palm of Your hand. And yet You're concerned with my little world, Lord help me to understand."

God has established and sustains this relationship out of His GREAT LOVE for each of us. It is in and through this relationship that God desires to work through us - through me! One phrase that I've heard often goes something like this, "Without God we CAN-NOT." Yet, "Without us God WILL-NOT." You see, God chooses to work through us.

This past year has been a year of FAITH. Faith in our God who will never leave us nor forsake us. A heavenly Father who has held our families, our Church and our very lives in the palm of His all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present hands. And so we are called to walk by faith. And walk by faith we will!

Perhaps another good way to answer the question as to why we can't see into the future, lies with one of my heroes in the Bible - the Apostle Paul. Talk about Faith! Just look at his life that was riddled with apparent failure after failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But during one of his stints in prison, we can see from one of his letters an unwillingness to quit. "Forgetting what is behind," he wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14, NIV) No wonder he made a mark on his world. He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn't let the fear of failure keep him from trying again.

My dear brothers and sisters of SPL, New Year's is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. Trust in God's help. One (not-so) secret from the Apostle Paul: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength," he said (Phil 4:13, NIV). And God's strength saw him through a lot--through pain, through joy, and through accomplishment.

If this last year, you didn't practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution. In fact, why don't you say a short prayer right now--use these words if you like: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen." Good. Now you've got a much better chance of a Happy New Year.

Love in Christ in the New Year and Always,

Pastor Brian Pape

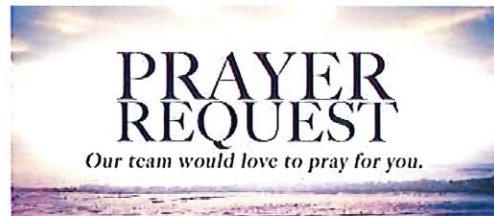
(Oh, and by the way, God has laid on my heart a number of directions/visions as together we discover more ways to BE THE BEACON - ENGAGING, EQUIPPING, EMPOWERING, & SHINING. And as I too have said the above prayer, I know my help comes from the SOVEREIGN LORD OF HOSTS!)



Hey church - Upward starts this month. We need you to be a beacon in East Peoria and come and support our kids and families. Practices are January 8 at 6-7 pm; January 9 from 6-7 pm and January 11 from 6-7 and 7-8 pm. Games are on Saturdays at 8:30-9:45; 9:45 -11; 11-12:15; and 12:15 -1:30. The first game is January 27th.

Monica Pape

Phillipians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!



St. Peter's has started a prayer chain group. If you would like to be placed on the list, please notify the office by phone or email. The email is splprayerwarriors@gmail.com. or notify Beth Underwood at 309-202-9909.

Offering envelopes are on a cart in the gallery.

Have a Blessed Day.....Hilda

Financial secretary



A great big thank you to all my St Peter family. Monica and I are so blessed to have such a wonderful caring family that supports us and encourages us as we continue to seek to follow God's will for our lives in this place. Thank you & God bless all of you in the new year

MEN OF SPL

"AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD"

The men of SPL are encouraged to come together for fellowship, growth and support.

The second Saturday of every month, we will gather at **8:00 AM**. As iron sharpens iron we will pursue building up one another, learn from various speakers, serve where God calls us and grow.

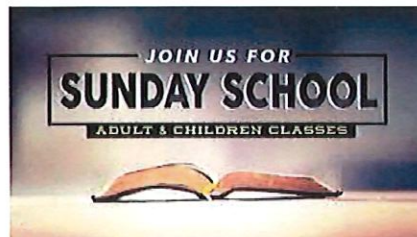
Breakfast will be provided.... Join us!



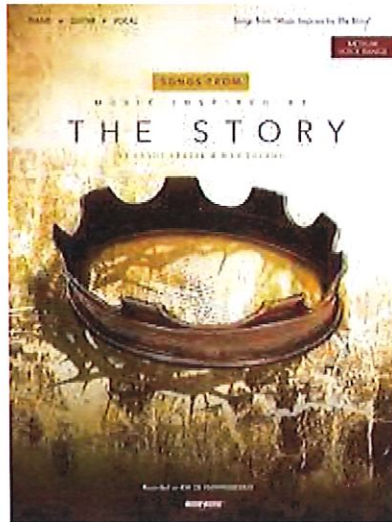
Tuesday morning Bible Study every Tuesday at 10:00am.

God's Word for Today-Colossians & Philemon

"Take A New Look At Christ



Adult & Youth Sunday School at 9:30am



Churchwide study coming soon. Please watch for more details.



Pairs & Spares

Our next breakfast will be Monday, January 8th at 8:30am at Main Street Family Restaurant in Creve Coeur (next to the Dairy Queen).

Everyone welcome!



Please keep office updated with changes.

Paul Williams, Jaxon Goldensoph, Ashley Howard, Jaxon (infant- friend of Colleen Dearman family, Debbie Inman (hip), Dawn Magnusson, Tracy Cunefare, Julie & Terry Parlier, Dave (Ron Swords brother), Marilyn Rosenberg, Les Nelson's parents, Ralph Sweazy, Pat Whitson cousin of Susan Sweazy, Bev O'Connor, Henrietta Mason.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND THOSE SERVING IN HARM'S WAY!

Ashla McCammon , Yokota Air Base, Japan granddaughter of Glen & Cindy Johnson

Brady Martin deployed to Israel. He is on the USS Eisenhower.



We do ask that you contribute \$20 for the flowers and after service you are welcome to take them home to enjoy.

January 7-

January 14-

January 21-

January 28-



Thank you St. Peter's for thinking of me at Christmas! I am blessed. Marsha

Please Join Us in the Celebration of Life!



In celebration of life God has given to each of us, the **Peoria Area Lutherans for Life** asks for your help. May each member thoughtfully consider donating to our **Pennies for Life** collection. This is an opportunity we hope you will use to express your thankfulness to your Heavenly Father by contributing a penny for each year of life that you have been granted.

(Of course, larger contributions will be gratefully accepted too.) This special collection will be taken on **Life Sunday, January 21st**. Donations collected will be used to support pro-life education and also lending financial support for local organizations like Central Illinois Right-to-Life, Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center, Women's Care Center, and Lutheran Hillside Village. We thank you for your help in our endeavor to uphold the sanctity of life.

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Happy New Year 10am Worship Service Office Closed	No Bible Study Office Closed	7pm Confirmation	Pastor Day off		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10am Bible Study	6-7 Upward Practice	7pm Confirmation	6-7 & 7-8 Upward Practice	Pastor Day off		
8am Traditional Worship	6-7 Upward Practice	7pm Confirmation	6-7 & 7-8 Upward Practice	Pastor Day off		
930am Sunday School	6:30 Finance					
1045 Praise Worship						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10am Bible Study	6-7 Upward Practice	7pm Confirmation	6-7 & 7-8 Upward Practice	Pastor Day off		
8am Traditional Worship	6-7 Upward Practice	7pm Confirmation	6-7 & 7-8 Upward Practice	Pastor Day off		
930am Sunday School						
1045 Praise Worship						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10am Bible Study	6-7 Upward Practice	7pm Confirmation	6-7 & 7-8 Upward Practice	Pastor Day off	Upward Games start at 830 & end around 2	
8am Traditional Worship	6-7 Upward Practice	7pm Confirmation	6-7 & 7-8 Upward Practice	Pastor Day off	Upward Games start at 830 & end around 2	
930am Sunday School	6:30 Church Council					
1045 Praise Worship						
28	29	30	31			
10am Bible Study	6-7 Upward Practice					
One Service at 10am	6-7 Upward Practice					
Ministry clarity brunch & meeting to follow.						

Church Classified----2024

Magnusson Construction

Mastic: Replacement Windows & Siding
Tom Magnusson, E. Peoria, Il. (309) 694-7831

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Alexandria Lamprecht (309) 439-9169
112 State St. Ste. 2C, Peoria, Il. 61602

Ron's Carpets

Sales & Service. Free Estimates
Carol Hayse, John Vollrath (309) 674-3338
1003 NE Adams, Peoria, Il.

Monica Pape (217) 714-6259

pianoteacher.MP@gmail.com
Piano lessons in my home.

Energy Savings

AAA Insulation, Don Meyer (309) 698-0062

Becca Ferro-Salon 125

125 N Parkway Dr. Pekin, Il.
(309) 863-0560

Tippy Creek

Raw (local) Honey and Honey Infused soap
Pam Nelson (309) 370-7271
Rob Preston (309) 657-5692 or TippyCreek.com

Cindy Miller, Crafts

Handmade Embroidery and Crochet items
(309) 472-2161

Genie in a Bottle Cleaning Service

Leslie Cody (309) 645-8701
Trish Woodward (309) 660-3656

Scott Roberts (309) 642-0874

Need firewood? Call me.
(pick up-no delivery)

St. Peter's Church is a covenant congregation member of Lutheran Senior Ministries and a Supporting partner of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. We are affiliated with Christ Lutheran School, 1311 S. Faraday Ave. Peoria, Il. 61605. Phone: 309-637-1512.

Office Phone: 309-699-5411

Pastor Brian Pape cell: 217-714-5562

Secretary, Marsha Roberts 309-349-2626 marsha@stpeters-epil.com

*For official church business please use **NEW OFFICE EMAIL:** secretary@stpeters-epil.org*

Facebook: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, East Peoria

Website: www.stpeters-epil.com