

The

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
From the Pastor

July, 2025

Almost Perfect

Imagine that you are a major league pitcher working on a perfect game. After six innings, not a single opponent has reached base. The same was said for the seventh and then the eighth innings. The excitement builds as you continue your masterful performance. In the ninth inning, you mow down the opposition. Perfection!

Well, kind of. You see, your team hasn't scored, so you are going to extra innings. In the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth innings, you continue to baffle batters and remain perfect after 36 outs. But still your offense hasn't supported you. In the thirteenth inning, your defense fails you – an error allowing a runner on base. After an intentional walk, the next batter doubles home the one run that ruins your stunning effort.

This nightmare actually happened to Pittsburgh's Harvey Haddix on May 26, 1959 against the Milwaukee Braves.

"For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it." James 2:10

'Almost perfect' was still a loss for Harvey Haddix. 'Almost perfect' is a far more serious defeat for you. St. James points out that keeping the entirety of God's law in every way for your entire life except for one, teeny-tiny sin still results in a loss: still results in you being counted as a lawbreaker and transgressor. And you know what that means: *"Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law"* (Galatians 3:10); *"The wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23).

But the apostle Paul does not leave you in death with this message. (That is actually the good news to which ALL of Scripture points). *"Through the obedience of one man, the many will be made righteous... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord"* (Romans 5:19, 6:23). Jesus was numbered among the transgressors so that His sinless death upon the cross would count as your death to sin (Isaiah 53:12).

If you want to be blessed by God, you must be perfect and holy as the Lord your God is perfect and holy. You must be cleansed from sin... and this is what Jesus has done for you in your Baptism: He washed you in the flood of forgiveness that flowed from His side at Calvary. This cleanses you from sin (Romans 6:22) so Jesus may present you as holy and righteous to God, our heavenly Father (Ephesians 5:26-27).

Having been freed from the power of sin, now you live in and for Christ! *"We make it our goal to please Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:9), *"putting off our old self which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, and putting on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness"* (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Thanks be to God that your eternal life does not depend on how well you do at keeping the entirety of God's Law. Yes, we try to live a God-pleasing life, but in crucified and risen Jesus – despite your transgressions - God already sees you as perfectly holy and as an heir of eternal life. There is no 'almost' about that!

Pastor Lorenz

News and Notes of St. Peter



Congregational Christian Care

Please pray for, phone, visit and or send a card or note to the following members/friends of members recovering in local facilities or home bound.

Canterbury Nursing & Rehab Center – Dan Schmalzried

Envive Health Care – Brian Bowers, Cindy Smith, Paul Stohlmann

Heritage Point of Huntington – Georgianna Bischoff

Lutheran Life Village (Pine Valley) – John Bischoff

Meadows of Coventry – Julie Hardy, Linda Wolfe

The Village @ Pine Valley – Barba Eickhoff

Tipton Place – Sandra Hauenstein; Rolland Hoch

Waters of Huntington – Ruth Guy; Sandy Stonebraker; Kay Whitesell

Home – Penelope Brown; Asa Elett; Bradley Heideman; Brenda Kline; Diane & Michael Scher

Prayer List: Bill Armstrong (Heart); Jay Beekman; Robin Burnau (cancer, nephew of Shirley Burnau); Joyce Gravley; Maddox Haney (cancer, friend of Dewayne & Sharon Anderson); Larry Hollowell (cancer, Brother-in-law of Linda Hollowell); Don Letterman (cancer, friend of Linda Crider & Mary Ellen Fuller); Mark Richardson (cancer, nephew of Lowell Richardson); Rick Rogers (cancer, friend of Linda Crider & Mary Ellen Fuller); Doug Thornburg.

Please call the church office to let us know the status of the people on the Prayer list.

If you are homebound or temporarily homebound and would like to receive communion because you are unable to come to church, please contact the church office and ask to be placed on pastor's visitation list.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes will begin Sunday, August 10.

If you would like to enroll your child, contact the church office ASAP.

Stewardship

Have you considered the benefits of electronic/automatic giving? You can automatically have your offering sent to the church directly from your bank account. For more information, or for help setting this up, contact Leigh Ann Jones at 260-519-3083. You can also set this up yourself by visiting the church website, under "Support Us".

Community Canvas

We are looking to continue the canvassing work that was begun with our intern, Owen Dawson. We need *your* help to do this. Our intent is to partner you with an experienced canvasser to cover a set number of homes (This will take 1.5 hours, or until the completion of the assigned area). We are asking for volunteers to help on the following Saturdays; July 12, 26; August 9, 23. If you would like to assist in July or August, contact Jeremiah Davis.

St. Peter Organizations

Dorcas Circle: The July meeting will be on July 16th with Eleanor Smith as hostess. The meeting will take place in the lower level of the education building. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. Please let Eleanor know if you plan to attend.

Family Night: Summer Break, we will reconvene in September.

LWML: Mites will be collected in church on July 6. The next gathering will be July 24, 2025 at 7pm. We will hear about convention and have a Bible Study.

LYF: Will not meet during the summer months but will attend Higher Things in July.

Men's Club: NO meeting in July. We will meet August 2nd with a cookout. Watch for details.

Monthly Tuesday Morning Bible

Class: We will not meet in July. Will begin August 5 with studying the book "Bright Valley of Love"

Quilters: Summer quilting will be open to anyone who would like to volunteer on Wednesday's 9-noon. We will not have coffee or refreshments. For information contact Judy 317-691-8425 or Sue 260-417-9138

SPARKS (St. Peter Association of Retired

Keenagers): Will NOT meet the summer months (July & August). We will resume in September meeting at noon at Nick's Country Café.

Tape Ministry: If you are homebound or in a nursing home and would like to receive the weekly video recording of the service on a tablet (no internet needed) or a printed copy

of the sermon, please contact the church office at 260.356.6528 to make arrangements.

Tuesday Morning Bible Class

Each month, on the first Tuesday of the month, our group has gathered to read and study books together. So far, we have read "Handling the Word of Truth: Law and Gospel" and – most recently – "I Married You." On August 5, we will begin a new book, "Bright Valley of Love" by Edna Hong. This is a true story of a handicapped child who finds a haven of love in the nightmare of Nazi Germany.

If you would like to study this book with us and would like Pastor Lorenz to order a copy for you, please let him know by Monday, July 14 so he can place one order and have the books available by the first class. Each book is \$10. If you would like to purchase a copy on your own, it is available on Amazon (or in person for \$15 at the bookstore at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft Wayne).

Volunteer Needed

We are in need of a volunteer(s) for our tape ministry to members who are home-bound or in care facilities (both in the Fort Wayne and Huntington areas). Portals of Prayer & Hopeful Living need to be delivered quarterly. Bulletins and sermons need to be delivered or mailed weekly. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office for more information.



2025 Greeters

July Unity Sunday

July 6, 2025

After Church – 11:30 AM

Please join our St. Peter congregation in celebrating a shower for expectant parents Nathaniel & Rachel Hall (Our field worker & wife) at our July Unity Sunday luncheon event on Sunday, July 6.

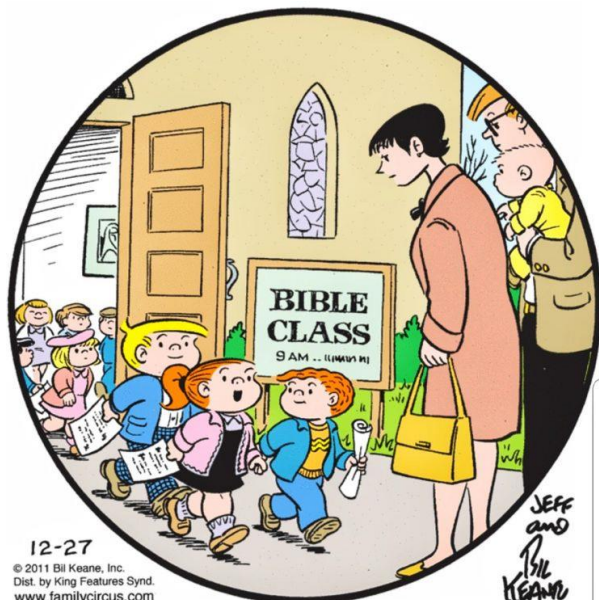
A special table will be set up with a cake (for dessert that day) to celebrate the occasion. Cards, well wishes and gifts are welcome. Nathaniel & Rachael have completed a registry for baby Simeon Hall at: my.babylister.com/bxhajtzm

The committee will furnish Chicken, cake for dessert and drinks. We are asking everyone attending to bring a dish to share. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex of the church or call the church office by July 1st so the committee will know the amount of chicken to purchase.

2025 GREETERS		
August	Saturday	Linda Hollowell & Shirley Burnau
	Sunday	Carmen Matheson
September	Saturday	Richard & Ellen Prange
	Sunday	Diana Mason, Sophia and Noah
October	Saturday	Jim & Nancy Bowland
	Sunday	Karen Smith
November	Saturday	Paul & Sue Kellam
	Sunday	Jeremiah, Ginger & Claudia Davis
December	Saturday	Don & Rhonda Webb
	Sunday	Linda, Ian & Andrew Crider



A Little Heavenly Humor



12-27
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"We learned the fourth commandment:
'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"



Happy 80 Plus July Birthday's

Day		Yrs.
1	Larry Hitzfield	89
8	Ruth Ann Whitesell	92
10	Shirley Baker	90
12	Judith Juergens	85
18	Jack Slusser	89
31	Joyce Gravley	81

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:00 Diaper Store 1:30 Envive Bible Study 5:00 Diaper Store	2 9:00 Quilting	3 Noon Bulletin Deadline	4 Holiday – Office Closed	5 UNITY SUNDAY
6 UNITY SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/communion 11:30 Unity Gathering	7 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions 6:30 Elders	8 1:30 Envive Bible Study 6:00 Unity Committee	9 9:00 Quilting	10 Noon Bulletin Deadline	11	12 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/communion
13 9:00 Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/communion	14 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions 7:00 Council	15 11:00 Diaper Store 1:30 Envive Bible Study 5:00 Diaper Store 7:00 Stewardship	16 9:00 Quilting 12:30 Dorcas Circle	17 Noon Bulletin Deadline	18 2:00 Messenger Deadline	19 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/communion
20 9:00 Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/communion	21 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	22 1:30 Envive Bible Study	23 9:00 Quilting	24 Noon Bulletin Deadline 7:00 LWML	25	26 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/communion
27 9:00 Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/communion	28 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	29 Higher Things	30 9:00 Quilting Higher Things	31 Noon Bulletin Deadline Higher Things	Aug. 1 Higher Things	Aug. 2

NOTES

SERVING THIS MONTH

JULY 2025

ELDER

SATURDAY: RANDY PRANGE

SUNDAY: ERICH HAUENSTEIN

GREETERS

SATURDAY: Diane Campbell

SUNDAY: Mary Ringel

ALTAR CARE: Judy Turgeson & Diane Campbell

			Saturday	Sunday
Sunday, July 6	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Randy Prange
Unity Sunday		Communion Assistant		Andrew Crider
		Acolyte		Abby Lorenz
		Organist		Trentin Worsham
Saturday, July 12	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Trentin Worsham	
		Communion Assistant	Eliot Brown	
		Acolyte	Hannah Dorsett	
		Organist	Leigh Ann Jones	
Sunday, July 13	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Dick Winkelman
		Communion Assistant		Brad Frederick
		Acolyte		Noah Mason
		Organist		Angie Brubaker
Saturday, July 19	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Ted McElhaney	
		Communion Assistant	Adrian Brown	
		Acolyte	Ted McElhaney	
		Organist		
Sunday, July 20	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Larry Baade
		Communion Assistant		Ben Kiltz
		Acolyte		Noelle Lorenz
		Organist		Jeff Derr
Saturday, July 26	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Fred Lange	
		Communion Assistant	Chad Worsham	
		Acolyte	Fred Lange	
		Organist	Hannah Dorsett	
Sunday, July 27	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Jermiah Davis
		Communion Assistant		August Applegate
		Acolyte		Sophia Mason
		Organist		Angie Brubaker

If you are scheduled at a time that does not work for you, please contact an acolyte or communion assistant listed to take your place and let the office know so changes to the bulletin can be made. Thank you for your commitment to serve at St. Peter Lutheran Church