

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church From the Pastor

March 2026

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want...._thou anointest my head with oil.” (Psalm 23:1, 5)

As summer in the high country moves gradually into autumn, subtle changes occur both in the countryside and the sheep. This is the season of the rut, of mating, of great battles between the rams for possession of the ewes. The necks of the monarchs swell and grow strong. They strut proudly across the pastures and fight furiously for the favors of the ewes. The crash of heads and thud of colliding bodies can be heard through the hours of day and night.

The shepherd knows all about this. He knows that some of the sheep can and will actually kill, injure, and maim each other in these deadly combats. So he decides on a very simply remedy: at this season of the year, he will catch his rams and smear their heads with grease. Then, when they collide in their great crashing battles, the lubricant would make them glance off each other in such a ludicrous way that they stood there feeling rather stupid and frustrated. In this way, much of the heat and tension is dissipated and little damage done.

Among God’s people, there is considerable amount of knocking each other. Somehow, if we don’t see eye to eye with the other person, we persist in trying to assert ourselves and become “top sheep”. A good many become badly bruised and hurt in this way. (Excerpt, “A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23” by W. Phillip Keller)

In the days leading up to his crucifixion, our Lord’s 12 disciples were caught up in bickering and rivalry for prestige. We are no different: our sinful nature leads us to bicker and shove and butt-heads with others in the Lord’s flock. What is the solution from our Good Shepherd? Return to His gift of Baptism, where you were anointed with the Holy Spirit and received - not only the gift of forgiveness – but also holiness of life. In Baptism, the Holy Spirit endowed you with His gifts: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control so that you may be a blessing to those around you.

What happens because of this anointing? Because of this baptismal life that you have received? Now your old Adam and your brother’s old Adam collide and glance off each other so that you stand unharmed – though feeling rather stupid and frustrated.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: you are the children of God and members of his beloved flock. On our Lenten journey towards the cross of Jesus (and, indeed, throughout the year), let us not bicker with each other or tear each other down, for the Lord has called each of us to be his own beloved children. Instead, let us live in our Baptism (the anointing of the Holy Spirit). Forgive each other. Deal kindly with one another. Overcome your brother’s sin with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, forgiving each other as in Christ, God has forgiven you. What a joy and how peaceable our life together can be!

The Lord bless the days of your Lenten observation.

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

Kingston on Dupont – Linda Wolfe

Meadows of Coventry – Julie Hardy

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; Kris McFarland; Diane Scher

Prayer List: Jay Beekman; Ruth Dolby (friend of Pam Wertenberger); Ellen & Richard Prange; Mark Richardson (cancer, nephew of Lowell Richardson).

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.



2026 Lenten Services

When: Wednesdays

Time: 7pm

Theme: "The Sounds of Lent"

Most of the time, we focus on what we can see. This year, we invite you to listen to the sounds of your salvation.

March 4 "The Sound of Closing Doors"

March 11 "The Sound of Flowing Liquids"

March 18 "The Sound of Tearing Fabric"

March 25 "The Sounds of Violence"

April 2 (Maundy Thursday) "The Sound of Breaking Bread & Hymns"

April 3 (Good Friday) "The Sounds of Death"

Unity Sunday

No Unity gathering in March

St. Peter Organizations

Dorcas Circle: Will NOT meet the month of March. We will resume in April.

LWML: The next LWML gathering will be April 23, 2026 at 7pm. Election of officers will be held as well as delegates to Indiana convention. We will also have a Bible Study. *Mites continue to be collected in church on the first Sunday of each month.*

We are also collecting used pill bottles to send to "Matthew 25" where they will then be sent to other countries needed to keep medicine clean and dry.

LYF: March meeting will be March 1 at 11:45 AM.

Men's Club: We continue to have the opportunity to gather together as the men of the congregation on the first Saturday of each month. Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 7 at 10am. The Study will be led by Seminarian Nathaniel Hall. Please join us as we grow together as members of Christ's body.

Monthly Tuesday Morning Bible Class: We are studying the book "Bright Valley of Love". 10:30 am, in the school library. We meet the 1st Tuesday of every month. Next meeting: March 3.

Quilters: Are now meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are looking for sheets to be used as fillers for the quilts. Please drop off in the lower level of the education building or give to a quilter.

SPARKS (St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers): We will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at noon at Nick's Country Café. Teresa Pinkerton was winner of the February drawing. Everyone is welcome to join us for food and fellowship.

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.

LYF Easter Breakfast

The April unity gathering will be the Easter Breakfast on April 5th sponsored by the youth group. This will be held before church at 8:30 a.m. and will be held in the gym. Menu will be egg casserole, coffee and juice. There will be a free will offering going to the LYF group to attend Higher Things this summer.

Happy Anniversary

<i>Day</i>		<i>Yrs.</i>
23	<i>Steven & Michele Lahr</i>	35



Happy 80 Plus March Birthday's

<i>Day</i>		<i>Yrs.</i>
4	<i>Stephen Doerscher</i>	85
7	<i>Jack Dial</i>	80
10	<i>Mary Ellen Fuller</i>	86
27	<i>Jay Beekman</i>	82

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 UNITY SUNDAY 9:00 SS & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 11:45 LYF	2 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions 6:30 Elders	3 10:30 Monthly Bible Class 11:00 Diaper Store 1:30 Envive Bible Study 5:00 Diaper Store	4 10:00 Quilting 7:00 Lenten Service 8:00 Choir	5 Noon Bulletin Deadline	6	7 10:00 Men's Club 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
8 9:00 SS & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service Jr. Confirmation	9 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions 7:00 Council	10 1:30 Envive Bible Study	11 10:00 Quilting Noon SPARKS 7:00 Lenten Service 8:00 Choir	12 Noon Bulletin Deadline	13	14 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
15 9:00 SS & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service Jr. Confirmation	16 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	17 9:30 Pastor Circuit Meeting 11:00 Diaper Store 5:00 Diaper Store 7:00 Stewardship	18 10:00 Quilting 7:00 Lenten Service 8:00 Choir	19 Noon Bulletin Deadline	20 Noon Messenger Deadline	21 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
22 9:00 SS & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service Jr. Confirmation	23 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	24 1:30 Envive Bible Study	25 10:00 Quilting 7:00 Lenten Service 8:00 Choir	26 Noon Bulletin Deadline	27	28 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
29-Palm Sunday 9:00 SS & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	30 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	31 1:30 Envive Bible Study				

Notes Jr Confirmation (3rd Year) meet at noon on Sundays

Jr. Confirmation (1st Year) meet at 1:00 pm on Sundays

SERVING THIS MONTH

MARCH 2026

ELDER

SATURDAY: RANDY PRANGE

SUNDAY: ERICH HAUENSTEIN

GREETERS:

SATURDAY: Ted & Janet McElhaney SUNDAY: John Wegmann

ALTAR CARE: Rachela Worsham

			Saturday	Sunday	Mid-Week
Sunday, March 1, 2026	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall	
		Communion Assistant		Andrew Harrill	
		Acolyte		Adaline Brown	
		Organist		Trentin Worsham	
Wed, March 4, 2026	7:00 PM	Acolyte			Landin Kiefer
		Organist			
Saturday, March 7, 2026	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Ted McElhaney		
		Communion Assistant	Eliot Brown		
		Acolyte	Landin Kiefer		
		Organist	Trentin Worsham		
Sunday, March 8, 2026	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall	
		Communion Assistant		Andrew Harrill	
		Acolyte		Abby Lorenz	
		Organist		Angie Brubaker	
Wed, 11, 2026	7:00 PM	Acolyte			Oliver Lorenz
		Organist			
Saturday, March 14, 2026	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Chad Worsham		
		Communion Assistant	Andrew Crider		
		Acolyte	Chad Worsham		
		Organist	Leigh Ann Jones		
Sunday, March 15, 2026	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall	
		Communion Assistant		Andrew Harrill	
		Acolyte		Sophia Mason	
		Organist		Jeff Derr	
Wed, March 18, 2026	7:00 PM	Acolyte			Noelle Lorenz
		Organist			
Saturday, March 21, 2026	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Fred Lange		
		Communion Assistant	Jeremiah Davis		
		Acolyte	Fred Lange		
		Organist	Drew Dorsett		
Sunday, March 22, 2026	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall	
		Communion Assistant		Andrew Harrill	
		Acolyte		Noah Mason	
		Organist		Angie Brubaker	
Wed, March 25, 2026	7:00 PM	Acolyte			Adaline Brown

		Organist			
Saturday, March 28, 2026	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Trentin Worsham		
		Communion Assistant	Ted McElhane		
		Acolyte	Trentin Worsham		
		Organist	Leigh Ann Jones		
Sunday, March 29, 2026	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall	
Palm Sunday		Communion Assistant		Andrew Harrill	
		Acolyte		Landin Kiefer	
		Organist		Jeff Derr	
		Torch Bearer		Nathaniel Hall	
		Torch Bearer		Andrew Harrill	
		Cross Bearer		Brad Frederick	

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



2026 Greeters

APRIL	Saturday 5:00	Nora Roth
	Sunday 10:15	Diana Mason, Sophia and Noah
MAY	Saturday 5:00	Jack and Sandy Slusser
	Sunday 10:15	Sue Holtz and Gabe
JUNE	Saturday 5:00	Donna Dennis and Diane Welker
	Sunday 10:15	Teresa Pinkerton
JULY	Saturday 5:00	Diane Campbell
	Sunday 10:15	Mary Ringel
AUGUST	Saturday 5:00	Barbara Spreen
	Sunday 10:15	Carmen Matheson
SEPTEMBER	Saturday 5:00	Richard and Ellen Prange
	Sunday 10:15	DeWayne and Sharon Anderson
OCTOBER	Saturday 5:00	Jim and Nancy Bowland
	Sunday 10:15	Andy and Rachael Ford
NOVEMBER	Saturday 5:00	Paul and Sue Kellam
	Sunday 10:15	Valerie Hughes
DECEMBER	Saturday 5:00	Don and Rhonda Webb
	Sunday 10:15	Linda, Ian, Andrew Crider

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Stewardship Thoughts – March

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.

We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;

We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;

Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.

When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,

And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.

To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

Thank You

To all the saints of Saint Peter, Lorraine and I are incredibly grateful for the many gifts and cards we received throughout the Christmas season. Thank you all very much. We are blessed beyond measure by your kindness and generosity. You have all embraced us with open arms, for which we are incredibly thankful. God's blessings to you all in this new year!

Blessed Epiphany!

Andrew Harrill

LWML

LWML: St. Peter LWML is collecting used pill bottles (Prescription and over-the-counter). Please remove the label and wash with soap & water, then bring to church and put in the box marked for Matthew 25. We will package at our next meeting and send to Matthew 25 where they will then be sent to areas of the world needed to keep medicine clean and dry.