

The

# Messenger

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St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church  
From the Pastor

September, 2025

July 29 – August 1 marked the Lutheran invasion of Calvin University & Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan (a hospitable campus of the Reformed Church). 770 attendees from 79 churches, 21 states, and 2 countries (welcome, Canada!) packed together on the campus for this year's conference. Our time there was spent learning, worshipping, and having fun. By the end, the youth were contentedly exhausted while the chaperones were absolutely worn out. New friends were made, old friends were seen, and memories were made (just ask about the sleeping Jimmy John's employee where we ate lunch!)

The conference this year focused on the Resurrection, and each session gave a heavy dose of the Gospel. The smaller, breakaway classes centered on topics that youth are confronting in their lives, such as suicide (suicidal friends), bullying, and friend groups. There were also 'more fun' topics such as extraterrestrials, and Luther's use of humor (spoiler alert: Luther loved poop and fart jokes!)

With that introduction, enjoy the pictures and hearing about the conference from the youth themselves! If you would like to know more, please ask the youth about their experience.

*Pastor Lorenz*

**Abby Lorenz**

This year was the fourth year I have attended the conference and just like the previous years, the conference was jam-packed with fun activities and diving into the word of God. This year our conference theme was "All Things New". This conference was mostly about how God will make things new on the last day when he comes. Some of the other points that were hit hard during the conference were 'what happens after death?' and 'what will happen on judgement day?'.

My favorite part of this conference were the opening and the closing Divine Services. While many services we had were beautiful and special in their own way, the opening and closing services were to me the most beautiful. What made the opening and closing services different from the rest was that the services had a lot more music, which (if you have never been to Higher Things) is one of the most beautiful things I have experienced in my entire life.



One of the activities that we participated in multiple times was playing sand volleyball. Our group kept returning to the sand volleyball court because the company of other groups was enjoyable and everyone kept blaming Noah for every mistake that was made. (As a joke, of course!) Some of the other activities we participated in were swimming, human foosball, laser tag, and playing card games with other groups.

To wrap up my Higher Things experience, I just wanted to thank everyone who helped support our trip to Higher Things and to everyone who supports our youth group in general. Your supports help us go back each year to educate us and help us have an enjoyable time!

### ***Sophia Mason***

Higher Things was at Grand Rapids, Michigan this year and it was so much fun. We did a lot of activities while at Higher Things including, church services, plenary (big-group lectures), breakaways (small-group classes), free time, and eating a lot of food. Once again, I was in the choir and it was so much fun because I got to sing more, which I love to do. The church services were amazing with a lot of beautiful singing and great sermons. In total, we went to 9 church services, 5 breakaways, and 4 plenaries.

The breakaways I went to were “For the Bullied”, “Organ Boot Camp”, “Hurt”, “Do Not Be Anxious”, and “A Good and Virtuous Life”. My favorites were “Hurt” (which taught about friends who are suicidal) and “Organ Boot Camp” (which taught about music and how an organ works). My favorite plenary that we went to was Plenary 3; in this plenary, they talked about judgement day and the process of it. It was very interesting to learn about. My favorite church services were Evening Prayer and the Opening and Closing Divine Services.

We did a lot of different activities during free time. We rock climbed, played volleyball, human foosball, laser tag, swam, and painted. My favorite things that we did were volleyball and human foosball. We all played a lot of volleyball and made a lot of new friends because of it. We played every day and it was so fun. We also played human foosball a lot. It was like normal foosball except giant. It was very fun. One night we played in a tournament and our team got 3rd overall and we won 100 points for our tetramorph.

There are 4 different tetramorphs, Vir, Bos, Leo, and Aquilla. This year we were Bos, but sadly, we ended up getting last place. Other than getting last place, the whole rest of the conference was very fun. Thank you for helping us be a part of this amazing experience and to help us learn more about God.

### ***Noelle Lorenz***

This was my first year that I went to Higher Things, and it was so exciting and fun. One of my favorite things from the trip was listening to all of the beautiful voices in the chapel. I also enjoyed playing sand volleyball and playing the board game “Catan” with Pastor Lange and his group. We also played a lot of human foosball - which was fun – but not when the other team accidentally kicks your ankle!

Many of the breakaway sessions were very interesting and some of my favorites were “Hurt (What I Wish I Could Tell Ashley)” and “For the Bullied”. Both had a great message and helped share the Gospel very well. I also enjoyed the chapel services a lot. All of the singing was so beautiful with a lot of natural harmonies. We also got to sing a lot of my favorite hymns and it was so fun to sing great hymns with a lot of amazing singers.

Higher Things was a great experience that I really loved and enjoyed. I am looking forward to attending the Higher Things conference next year.

## **Noah Mason**

This was my first time going to Higher Things. Once we got there, the first thing we did was go to a church service. The singing sounded beautiful. There were people doing harmonies, playing violins, clarinets, and the piano. My all time favorite thing had to be playing volleyball. Everyone played and was very supportive and funny. Another thing I liked was that everyone was very nice: if you ran into someone else (because there were a lot of people around and in the cafeteria), they would say 'sorry'.

Thank you to anyone who donated time and money to help us go on our trip. Without you, this wouldn't have been possible. I had a lot of fun and would love to do it again. Again (one more time), thank you!

## **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; Matt Brubaker; Robin Burnau (cancer, nephew of Shirley Burnau); Marvin Crider (brother-in-law of Linda Crider); Joyce Gravley; Maddox Haney (cancer, friend of Dewayne & Sharon Anderson); Don Letterman (cancer, friend of Linda Crider & Mary Ellen Fuller); Rev. Mark Moog (Past LWML Indiana Pastor Counselor, 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; and Don Webb.

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.

# St. Peter Organizations

**Dorcas Circle:** The September meeting will be on September 17<sup>th</sup> with Mary Ellen Fuller as hostess. The meeting will take place at her home on Flaxmill Road. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. Please let Mary Ellen know if you plan to attend.

**Family Night:** Is in need of a new director. Contact Kristin Lorenz for information.

**LWML:** LWML will be the host for the October Unity Sunday with a potato bar. A basket will be available for donations with the offering going to our two Field Workers for seminary, book costs or what their needs might be.  
*Mites continue be collected in church on the first Sunday of each month..* The next LWML gathering will be October 23, 2025 at 7pm. We will have a Bible Study.

**LYF:** We will resume meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>, after church. October meeting will be October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Men's Club:** Is currently on sabbatical. Watch for announcements when we will gather again.

**Monthly Tuesday Morning Bible Class:** We have started studying the book "Bright Valley of Love". 10:30 am, in the school library. Not too late to join us. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month.

**Quilters:** Our regular quilting season will start up again on Wednesday, September 3 from 9-12 with a snack break at 10:30. A number of quilters enjoyed volunteer time thru the summer. "Thank You" to them. We look forward now to gathering and enjoying our 24<sup>th</sup> year of this project "Comfort the Needy". God has truly blessed our project and us as we enjoy the fellowship as well as the work.  
 We want to welcome others who may be interested in this worthy project. Stop in

anytime. We meet in the lower level of the Education building.  
 May God continue to bless us and the work of our hands and hearts.

**SPARKS (St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers:** SPARKS will meet on Wednesday, September 10 at noon at Nick's Country Café. Everyone is welcome.

**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.

## Sunday School

Sunday School for youth will begin September 7 at 9am. We gather in the school basement, and then split into our classes.



## 2025 Greeters

2025 GREETERS		
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



## Happy 80 Plus September Birthday's

Day		Yrs.
2	Allen Couch	87
3	Michael Scher	82
13	Janet Bennett	85
13	Eugene Daigle	85
13	Barba Eickhoff	90
17	Richard Smith	88

## September Unity Sunday

September 7  
After Church – 11:30 AM

The September Unity gathering will be the October Fest with Brats. The committee will furnish Brats/Buns, Condiments, Drinks (water, lemonade, cider & coffee) and Dessert (cake). We are asking that you bring your favorite side dish to share. If you have a family German recipe we invite you to make it and share with us.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex of the church or call the church office so that the committee is sure to have enough Brats.

## Voters

**Voters Meeting September 15 7PM**

**Lower level of Education Building**

## LYF Bazaar

The youth group will again sponsor the Bazaar to be held **this** fall. Donations of craft items as well as candies, jellies, jams, canned good and baked goods will be welcomed. Watch for details in next month "Messenger" and the weekly Bulletin.

## Choir Practice

Choir will meet on Wednesday Evenings from 7pm – 8pm. Contact Gillian Lintz for information

## A Little Heavenly Humor





# ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

## September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>Labor Day- Office Closed</b>  <b>9:15 Envive Devotions</b> <b>10:15 Tipton Place Devotions</b> <b>1:30 Heritage Devotions</b>	<b>2</b> <b>10:30 Monthly Bible Class</b> <b>11:00 Diaper Store</b> <b>1:30 Envive Bible Study</b> <b>5:00 Diaper Store</b> <b>6:30 Elders</b>	<b>3</b> <b>9:00 Quilting</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Noon Bulletin Deadline</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>UNITY SUNDAY</b>
<b>7</b> <b>UNITY SUNDAY</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Class</b> <b>10:15 Divine Service</b> <b>w/communion</b> <b>11:30 Unity Gathering</b> <b>Noon LYF</b>	<b>8</b> <b>9:15 Envive Devotions</b> <b>10:15 Tipton Place Devotions</b> <b>1:30 Heritage Devotions</b> <b>7:00 Council</b>	<b>9</b> <b>1:30 Envive Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 Unity Committee</b>	<b>10</b> <b>9:00 Quilting</b> <b>Noon Sparks</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Noon Bulletin Deadline</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>4:00 Adult Bible Class</b> <b>5:00 Divine Service</b> <b>w/communion</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Class</b> <b>10:15 Divine Service</b> <b>w/communion</b> <b>Jr. Confirmation</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9:15 Envive Devotions</b> <b>10:15 Tipton Place Devotions</b> <b>1:30 Heritage Devotions</b> <b>7:00 Voters</b>	<b>16</b> <b>11:00 Diaper Store</b> <b>1:30 Envive Bible Study</b> <b>5:00 Diaper Store</b> <b>7:00 Stewardship</b>	<b>17</b> <b>9:00 Quilting</b> <b>12:30 Dorcas Circle</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Noon Bulletin Deadline</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Noon Messenger Deadline</b>	<b>20</b> <b>4:00 Adult Bible Class</b> <b>5:00 Divine Service</b> <b>w/communion</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Class</b> <b>10:15 Divine Service</b> <b>w/communion</b> <b>Jr. Confirmation</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9:15 Envive Devotions</b> <b>10:15 Tipton Place Devotions</b> <b>1:30 Heritage Devotions</b>	<b>23</b> <b>1:30 Envive Bible Study</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9:00 Quilting</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Noon Bulletin Deadline</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>4:00 Adult Bible Class</b> <b>5:00 Divine Service</b> <b>w/communion</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Class</b> <b>10:15 Divine Service</b> <b>w/communion</b> <b>Jr. Confirmation</b>	<b>29</b> <b>9:15 Envive Devotions</b> <b>10:15 Tipton Place Devotions</b> <b>1:30 Heritage Devotions</b>	<b>30</b> <b>1:30 Envive Bible Study</b>				

## NOTES

Jr Confirmation (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) meet at noon on Sundays

Jr. Confirmation (1<sup>st</sup> Year) meet at 1:00 pm on Sundays

# SERVING THIS MONTH

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

## ELDER

**SATURDAY:** RANDY PRANGE

**SUNDAY:** RICHARD SMITH

## GREETERS

**SATURDAY:** Richard & Ellen Prange

**SUNDAY:** Diana Mason & Sophia & Noah

## ALTAR CARE:

			<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Sunday, September 7	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall
<b>Unity Sunday</b>		Communion Assistant		Larry Baade
		Acolyte		Abby Lorenz
		Organist		Trentin Worsham
Saturday, September 13	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Trentin Worsham	
		Communion Assistant	Eliot Brown	
		Acolyte	Hannah Dorsett	
		Organist	Leigh Ann Jones	
Sunday, September 14	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall
		Communion Assistant		Adrian Brown
		Acolyte		Noah Mason
		Organist		Angie Brubaker
Saturday, September 20	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Ted McElhaney	
		Communion Assistant	Erick Hauenstein	
		Acolyte	Ted McElhaney	
		Organist	Drew Dorsett	
Sunday, September 21	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall
		Communion Assistant		Andrew Crider
		Acolyte		Noelle Lorenz
		Organist		Jeff Derr
Saturday, September 27	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Fred Lange	
		Communion Assistant	Chad Worsham	
		Acolyte	Fred Lange	
		Organist	Hannah Dorsett	
Sunday, September 28	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant		Nathaniel Hall
		Communion Assistant		Brad Frederick
		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

## Work and Keep

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

Genesis chapters one and two are familiar to us. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar, “let there be...and there was” directives. Chapter two gives us the account of Adam (the man) being formed from the “Adamah” (the dust) and becoming a living being when he receives the breath of life in his nostrils. Because of this, it would be quite easy to simply lump these two chapters into the category of creation accounts.

But do not be too hasty in this! While these two chapters do faithfully relate to us the account of creation, they also give us the creation of the “office” of steward. The man, created in the image of God in Genesis 1 and formed from the dust in Genesis 2, is created for a distinct purpose. He is created to be a steward of the perfect and beautiful creation that the Lord has made! In fact, this is THE reason that man was made. He — and we — were created in the image of God to be stewards of God’s creation.

This purpose is spelled out in verse 15 of Genesis 2. The steward has one job, with two purposes. It is fitting that in the month that our nation marks Labor Day, we consider the task of steward. The first purpose of the job of steward is to work. The steward is the caretaker of the Garden. Being a steward is work! Before the fall into sin, this was not an onerous task. But it was an active thing.

Imagine being a farmer in the Garden of Eden! Work would be only harvest. No plowing. No planting. No cultivating. No weeding. The perfect garden that the Lord had made would simply produce automatically to provide for man, woman, and all living beings!

But there is a second task in verse fifteen. The word “keep” is not just a synonym for work. This second task is related to defending. This garden, holy by virtue of its being called into existence by a holy God, needed to be defended. Here is where the vocation of steward becomes priestly. The steward was to defend the perfect and holy garden from that which was unholy. Later in the Old Testament, this was the task of the priests in the tabernacle and temple. They were to defend with their lives the Holy of Holies. This too is the labor of stewardship. It is a labor that calls the steward to be willing to put the garden before life!

Stewardship was always work. It only got burdensome after the original steward, Adam, failed to defend the garden from the alien word of the serpent. But this was not a failure of harvest. It was a failure to defend the garden! As a result, all work that followed that failure became burdensome.

The steward failed but was never fired. That is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That is why we in the church need to be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards. We so easily forget that this world is not ours to do with as we please. Nothing is ours. We are but stewards entrusted with managing the creation for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor.

It is a daunting task. But it is the one to which we have been called. We cannot do it on our own. Apart from the grace of God shared with us through Jesus, we would be burdened to the point of temporal and eternal death. But the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel! This Gospel connects us to the fertile garden of Christ’s Work on our behalf. Now we are stewards of that grace! The Holy Spirit works this in and through us today and every day.

This is the work of the church. It is also the work of the individual steward. The Lord has placed us in the “garden” with the same twofold purpose: work and keep! Enjoy your labor. For in the Lord, our labor is never in vain!