

# Ministry Matters

St. Peter's  
MINISTRY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

LOVING PEOPLE  
SERVING THE WORLD

JUNE 2018

Welcome to *Ministry Matters*! This publication will give you a regular look into St. Peter's movements in ministry and offer you opportunities to personally engage as a participant or volunteer in the detailed work in our church and community. You will see how we follow our commitment to be a church family who is *Loving People and Serving the World* as we worship, grow, and serve together.



Dear St. Peter family,

I pray that your Advent season was blessed and that you share with me in the hope of the birth of Jesus the Christ. In the articles to follow our ministry team has much to share with you concerning past ministries and things to come.



As the New Year begins, I want to also help you set your sights on our plans for early 2019. Beginning the weekend of January 12-13 we will begin a 7 week series named *Explore God*. We are joining with somewhere in the neighborhood of 1000 churches in the greater Chicago area in this initiative. Our goal for this effort is to help Christians

learn to better answer questions about their faith and also to invite others in who might have questions that they are seeking answers for. This is a perfect opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor who is curious or even in doubt to be a part of. In worship, bible study, and small groups we will tackle these seven questions:

- 1) Does life have a purpose?
- 2) Is there a God?
- 3) Why does God allow pain and suffering?
- 4) Is Christianity too narrow?
- 5) Is Jesus really God?
- 6) Is the bible reliable?
- 7) Can I know God personally?

As you can see, these are questions that many who have been Christians their whole lives ask about as well. I am looking forward to the challenges and growth that will most certainly happen as we step out of our comfort zones and *Experience God* at work in our lives and the lives of others. What a joy it is to be a part of Spirit led growth. Lets grow together!

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Jerry



## LERT

A small group of LERT volunteers led by Ken Kiviranta headed down to the Panama City, Florida area for hurricane relief. One of the common phrases used upon arrival is... "Where do you begin?" The answer is always the same to, "... just begin where you can!" Many great stories can be heard from their service, including one from Tom Amundson concerning showing the Love of Jesus and Serving the World because it's just the right thing to do!



LERT continues to look forward to the future for serving people in time of need both near and far. As of this writing, the big snowstorm that followed Thanksgiving produced many opportunities to remove trees and limbs that were heavy laden with snow and had been damaged or knocked down. Assessment and deployment continue to respond to those needs that we are able to handle. This ministry is a great physical way to bring the love of Jesus to those in need.

### **MEND (Mothers Enduring Neonatal Death)**

I am continually amazed at the necessity of this ministry and how it reaches to those in great need. Just this last month, a mother came in who lost all of her triplets... 4 years ago... and has found MEND... a place to find help/support/love during a time of ongoing crisis. This support group continues to walk alongside the ones hidden, whose hope has been shattered and is an encouragement to place trust in the ONE Who may restore all things and make them new... Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior.

Families and friends joined in with the annual Christmas tree decorating at the Brookfield Zoo for the Community Tree Trim program. As part of the witness of hope, ornaments are hung as reminders of those loved ones that are so cherished and precious, and have departed this life through miscarriage, stillbirth, or even just after birth.

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month, 7pm, at St. Peter Lutheran Church and is

led by Sara Hintz. Anyone is welcome. Loving People isn't a job, but a joy to share the love Christ has for each of us... no matter how little... or how much we've been through!

### **Feed My Starving Children**

The FMSC Hope for the Holidays Mobile Pack at the Schaumburg Renaissance Center is taking place December 9<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. 200 representatives from St. Peter will join in with thousands of other people over the weekend to volunteer, pack food and fundraise so that children and adults do not have to be hungry.

Volunteering is an ongoing opportunity to pack food and pray that all of God's children are taken care of in a most tangible way. Schaumburg is getting a new facility to also help expedite more food to those who are in need. Looking forward to hearing more as it develops.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you to all who participated in OCC. This year over 300 boxes were donated from St. Peter and a total of 135 cartons from our local collection were delivered to the next drop off location in Grayslake. Boys and girls all over the world received a Christmas present... continuing the tradition of moving from the box to the Bible. We are so excited to be part of something so simple that can have such an impact by just taking time and putting forth our resources and faith that God will work in His way and time.

We are so grateful for the leadership of Linda Scheurman as she headed up this year's efforts

to organize, collect and then send the boxes to the children. It is no small task and we are very grateful for the time and organization she brought. We are also very grateful for the 20 volunteers that gave over 100 hours of time to help count and box the gifts for shipping... it truly was a team effort.

Finally, please continue to keep OCC in your prayers as we, at St. Peter, look for another leader to take on this volunteer position. Linda will be pursuing some other family pursuits and won't be able to head up OCC next year. We know God continues to move His people to serve and will at the right time provide Whom He desires.



### **School Ministry**

Happy New Year! Yesterday our school resumed classes from



Christmas break. What an awesome gift our Heavenly Father has provided in the gift of the Christ Child. We have the actual gift that truly "keeps on giving" and we get to share the Good News that our Savior brings

each and every day in our classrooms, with our families, and in our community. Middle school, grades 3-5 and our pre-school classes had the opportunity to lead the congregation during Advent worship. What a joy it was to see our students tell the story of Christ through song and acting.

Thanks to the PTL and parent volunteers our students have had the opportunity to purchase a gift at the PTL's Holiday Shop. On December 7 we gathered for fun at the PTL's Birthday Party for Jesus. This event is always a highlight for our students. Parents, middle school students and alumni assist the younger children by working party games as we join in celebration.

Student, teacher, and a school gifts were put together for our Christ the King Lutheran School in the Bronzeville neighborhood in Chicago. St. Peter has shared God's blessings with CTK for a number of years.

Looking ahead to January 2019 means school recruitment season is quickly approaching. Yes, we are busy making plans for the graduation class of 2029. It is not too early (or too late yet) for you to share who we should contact with information about our church and school family. Mark your calendar for our school open house on January 27 from noon-2:00pm and bring your neighbors to explore all our school has to offer. They will be impressed! Tuition incentives are available for current school families bringing us students that enroll.

Did you know that 29 of our 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders volunteered and

participated in Concordia University Chicago's Science Olympic competition? What's even more impressive is that thanks to Miss Duff and teacher and parent volunteers, 21 of our 29 students earned medals in the various categories of competition. One of our students even set a competition record!

Miss Blinn and Mrs. Jungkuntz directed a special choir at a recent Wolves Hockey game at All State Arena. 100 members of our school family attended the game. Our band also performed at the game. If you haven't heard our band, join us for their concert on

In the light of new emphasis from law enforcement agencies we are revisiting our emergency plans for student safety. Miss Oleson, Pastor Hintz and I attended a recent disaster preparedness seminar at the Schaumburg Police Department.

If you have read this far in my report, Assistant Principal, Cindy Oleson will give you \$100 if you call her. Well, she probably won't, but I'm thinking it's a definite maybe she will give you an opportunity for a prize at the Wildcat Roundup Basketball Tournament on February 22-23. (I'd ask her for the money anyway. Let me know what she says when you contact her!)

Check out our school webpage under the "Why St. Peter" tab and look at our fall MAP test scores. Not only are we sharing Christ daily, the evidence also demonstrates we are strongly pursuing academic excellence! Wow we are blessed

with amazing students, parents and teachers.

God's richest blessings to you and your family. We continue to thank God daily for your support.

Steve Zielke – Principal



### Student Ministry Recap

The cold autumn air didn't slow down our youth ministry activities!



For Sunday morning bible studies, youth finished up a movie study on *I Can Only*

*Imagine*, and then jumped into a study on a different movie: *A Case For Christ*. The movie is based on a true story about Lee Strobel, an atheist journalist who comes to faith after investigating Christ. It will help us look at ways we can defend our faith in the face of tough questions.

In very exciting news, 2018's Confirmation class of 27 Freshmen confirmed their faith in Christ Jesus on Reformation Sunday. Please continue to pray for these young people that they keep fighting the good fight of faith. Junior high youth participated in a very fun Halloween tradition: "Trick or

Canning.” Youth got into costume and went out into the community, except instead of collecting candy, they collected canned goods for our food pantry. Together we gathered close to 200 cans!

It has been 3 months since we officially launched a very exciting project called the Youth Leadership Initiative. Basically, six members of the high school youth group have taken on leadership roles that assist the youth program. They have already taken charge by doing things like improving our social media presence, leading prayers, planning activities, and leading small groups during our devotion time.

Looking forward, we are continuing to prepare for the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July 2019. Every three years, close to 30,000 young Lutherans gather together in one city to praise God, serve the community, and strengthen their faith at National Youth Gathering. We are excited to be a part of that! The youth will be hosting at least 8 fundraisers in the coming months to raise support for their trip, so stay tuned to see how you can help! In November, the Junior High students went to a trampoline park and the High Schoolers are had an overnight lock-in. These events are fun, but they also help the youth build their friendships and develop a stronger internal unity within the youth group. Our December fellowship events included a trip to the German Christmas Market downtown and a White Elephant Christmas celebration.

One challenge for our youth program is finding more committed volunteers to help consistently with Sunday nights & special events. We are blessed with very committed Confirmation mentors: Teresa Buse, Joanne Unrath, Bob Schmidt, Marilyn Lemke, Marsha Edeus, and Jayne Sanne. Additionally, Shilpa Hull, Greg Frey, and Cassandra Fischer have been a blessing with their help on Sunday nights. However, due to the growing size of the youth group, we desperately need more hands on deck to ensure the safety and effectiveness our ministry provides to the youth. Please consider helping out with our youth program and pray that God would send the right people to aid in His ministry. Thanks for reading!

Blessings,  
Ted Fischer



### **The World of Worship Arts**

The World of Worship Arts with Nate Pfeil

Greetings and Salutations! Since



the last Ministry Matters, I have been slowly creeping my way into the primary organist

position, hired Chris Errera as my new assistant (Which is going great!), led choir practices and the Christmas concert, and developed the holiday service plans!

There's a lot to talk about so let's jump right in!

Thank You, Volunteers!

The annual St. Peter Church and School Christmas Concert was a success. Every single, musical ensemble of St. Peter was included in the concert including the Volunteer Orchestra, All School Choirs, the School Band, TeDeum Vocal Choir, Joy Handbell Choir, and the Sunday Praise Team. Thank you to all who participated and attended!

The Festival Choir consisted of any congregation member who wanted to participate in worship services on Christmas Eve through music! The music selected was a single 2-part choral piece and two traditional hymns. The Festival Choir sang for the Christmas Eve 10:30pm service. Thank you to all who participated!

The New Year

With the holiday season behind us, I've begun looking toward planning the Explore God series as well as Lent and Easter.

My goal, as always, is to continually enhance worship by writing music, writing special liturgy for worship, and organizing

my musical and tech volunteers. I'm always looking forward!

#### Closing

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, my door is open.

Thank you, and blessings on your day and happy new year!!!

+Nathanael Pfeil, Director of Worship Arts+



#### Haiti – Missions

Have you been to the doctor lately? Was it for your yearly check-up? Or maybe you just haven't felt yourself or your child needed stitches. This is a luxury that we take for granted. Being actively involved in Haiti, the stories can be heart wrenching. There was the boy who broke his leg and it was never set and he limped with severe pain. Or the woman who never had a regular physical exam so that a treatable form of cervical cancer was missed but now it was too late. There was the 7 yr. old boy running a high fever due to an infection from a cut on his hand which was packed with grass and leaves then wrapped with a banana leaf found lying nearly unresponsive in the dirt floor of his home. The stories go on and on.... Medical treatment

is very difficult to come by or afford for most in Haiti. We have plan, vision, or dream to make a very small but impactful step in a rural area of Haiti where the access to medical resources is even more unrealistic. Many of you have heard of the well drilling organization we have worked with called Water For Life. This group offers mobile medical clinics. They have the equipment and personnel to help lead a mobile clinic. On average their clinics treat approximate 800 people. These clinics are well defined. If you want to be seen at the clinic, you must participate in the education session offered the first day. This education session is followed by sharing the gospel in a church service which would be led by our dear friend, Pastor Paul Touloute. Then there would be 2 days of clinics where people are seen for preventative as well as diagnostic needs. They offer dental as well as eye care also. If a person requires medication, this medication is dispensed at that time. If the person requires additional treatment, Water For Life coordinates this. Our goal is to be able to partner with Water for Life and sponsor a medical clinic. The cost is approximately \$7,000 for a sponsoring organization. That is \$8.75 per person! We can simply give the money, or we can augment their staff with a medical team. We don't have a date for the clinic yet as we need to have a portion of this fee. We are looking for donations to assist with this effort. What a great opportunity to both minister to a person's physical as well as spiritual needs! Do you know a group, medical supplier or doctor's office that

might be willing to make a donation towards this goal? Interested in helping or going? We will add your name to the list as we begin selecting the date for this event.

Plans are underway for a late winter, early spring trip where the focus will be Pastoral Leadership training (up to 50 pastors usually attend), women's workshops, teaching the teachers as well as reconstruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the school at First Lutheran. We would love to have you join us to assist with any of the efforts.

**How can you help?** For our trip, cash donations would be most helpful to help cover construction material or transportation costs for the pastors who travel by foot, motorcycle or bus, 4 to 10 hours to attend. Purchasing a "Team Haiti" t-shirt for \$20 - proceeds from one shirt supports 3 families for 3 weeks for rice, buy a goat for \$60 or 2 chickens for \$35 to be presented to farmers ([Click here to donate now](#)). Know someone who may be interested in helping sponsor the medical clinic? Do you have a suggestion for a fundraising activity? We would love to hear it! Most importantly, PRAY. Pray for the pastors and Lutheran congregations that we support.

**Questions?** Contact Jeff Nyquist ([jeff.nyquist@stpeterlcms.org](mailto:jeff.nyquist@stpeterlcms.org)) or Kim Nyquist ([kim.nyquist@stpeterlcms.org](mailto:kim.nyquist@stpeterlcms.org)).



August 2018 trip to Poland was a success. 14 team members (including 2 kids) spent 10 days in Tychy, Poland, leading Vacation Bible School and teaching English to a group of 50 kids age 3-17. We have also led an Adult Bible Study. This year was a bit different from our 2017 trip because there was a lot more involvement from local congregation members. Some of last year's teen participants came back as interpreters and assistants!

Our intention is to return to Poland in 2019. We are slowly building next year's team, so anybody interested should contact the church office or Maciek Kielbasinski (via phone: 224-388-0610 or [email: maciej@kielbasinski.net](mailto:maciej@kielbasinski.net)). We are looking to send 10 people. The trip will happen in August, before new school year commences. However, we want to have the plane tickets purchased by mid to late March. Also, we are planning our fundraiser events so please be on a lookout for announcements in early 2019.



Warm Greetings from the Finance Office!

Well...the winter season brings the snow and COLD weather! At least these are the happenings outside. The good Lord has blessed us with the warm comforts of our homes. And now on to the happenings here in the finance office at St. Peter.....



We are slightly under our projected income in both tithes/offerings at this point of 2018-2019 year. As far as the Debt Reduction projections, we are currently at about 70% of these projections. We are in the first quarter of this fiscal year and hopefully will be able to offset the shortfall of our projected income in the coming months. The budget for 2018-2019 was revised and all ministries made cuts to their budgets. Over the next few months we will begin the budget process for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. We will be looking very closely for ways to reduce the expenses here at St. Peter but need to keep in mind that many of our overhead costs are fixed (utilities, insurance, etc.).

"Simply Giving" is a great way to know that your tithe/offerings continue to support the mission and ministries at St. Peter. For more info....please contact the Finance

Office X208 and we will be more than happy to answer your questions or help you to get set up with this program. You can also download the St. Peter app to give an offering, once the app is downloaded it will connect you to the "Giving" link. This too is a great way to support the ministries here at St. Peter.

We have begun the process of year end procedures.

Please know that you are all in my prayers. See you in worship!

Blessings,  
JoAnn Lakoma  
Finance / Human Resource



Stewardship Ingathering – Bottle Caps

In order to encourage good stewardship in everyday living, St. Peter's Stewardship Ministry Team has been having periodic



"ingatherings" during 2018. So far, we have collected eyeglasses, hearing aids, batteries and worn-out flags. Each was for about a one-month period. We had scheduled a bottle cap collection for March of 2019...but it has taken off early! The school and the PTL, with leadership from Gina Gilbert, has already begun collecting caps. A cap-eating monster, nick-

named Gilbert, is already filling up in the school lobby!

Would you like to join the effort? We all have dozens of products in our homes that have plastic caps. Here are the ones that are recyclable:

Snap-on lids, like on butter tubs, coffee cans (max 8"), yogurt, hairspray, shampoo bottles.

Twist-on caps, like soft-drink and water bottles, milk jugs, medicine bottles (but not the bottles), detergent jugs.

Flip-top spout caps, like ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, etc.

Please do not include the following:

Any caps with metal in them.

Pump caps with metal spring inside, like lotion or hand soap.

Fast-food drink lids.

You can bring your caps to the small receptacle at the Connection Center in the church narthex, or feed them directly to "Gilbert, the Cap Eating Monster" in the school lobby. In the spring, they will be sorted by the students to remove unacceptable materials (Miss Duff, our Junior High Science teacher is leading the charge on the environmental education side of this), then delivered to a factory in Evansville, IN, where we will pick up a plastic park bench to be placed somewhere on our property. Our goal is to collect 500 pounds of caps by next March. How much is 500 pounds? About 12 55-gallon plastic bags!

Rev. Mark Bussert



What makes St. Peter the family it is? What makes St. Peter go round? Its' people! St. Peter has numerous ways to become involved. Aside from the various groups, bible studies, classes and worship opportunities, we have many ways for the congregation to get involved. If you would like to share your talents, call us today at 847-885-3350!

