

Ministry Matters

LOVING PEOPLE
SERVING THE WORLD

St. Peter's
MINISTRY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

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,

Spring is in the air! While we are looking for plants to bloom we wait in great anticipation of the beauty that awaits us. We are just now getting a sneak peek at what is to come with a few of the perennials sprouting flowers and trees budding. As we approach Holy Week a similar theme presents itself.



While we are looking for the day of the coming of Jesus Christ we wait in great anticipation of the beauty that awaits us. And we get a sneak peek at what is to come in the

season of Holy Week and Easter! We enter into the week celebrating the coming of our King Jesus as the Savior we have waited for. As the week progresses it leads us to the cross and we see the harsh reality of sin and darkness that resides in the world . . . in us. Yet just three days later we are celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus. He came back and has promised to come again! I certainly love springtime because God points us to life in so many ways!

Part of life in the St. Peter Family is celebrating life together. There are so many opportunities to engage in the mission of Loving People, Serving the World. Enjoy the content to follow as we live life together reaching UP through WORSHIP, reaching IN through GROWING, and reaching OUT in SERVICE.

I look forward to worshipping with you in Holy Week and beyond!

Peace in Christ+
"Pastor Jerry" Hays
Senior Pastor
Jerry.Hays@StPeterLCMS.org



LERT

LERT continues to look grow with new members being added every month! Training and certification is done through our parent organization known as LCC (Lutheran Church Charities). Now that winter is basically done (we hope!), many opportunities have presented themselves for tree removal and limb trimming.

Future trips continue to be evaluated/assessed as many disasters come through. Flooding and wind/storm damage continue

to be the most requested deployment opportunities. Please consider this ministry to help people in time of need. We need some people who can do physical work... some to do skilled work... some to do tedious work... some to do emotional support... but most of all, people who want to share the love of Jesus in a tangible way.

MEND (Mothers Enduring Neonatal Death)

MEND has been established to care for and minister to moms and dads who have lost children through miscarriage, stillbirth, or even just after birth. A team of four ladies provide a place of hope and healing for those mourning the loss of precious little ones.

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!

Vacation Bible School

Preparations are already being made to point kids to the Truth of who Jesus is... the Lord and Savior of all! This year's theme is *The Incredible Race: One Family, One Race, One Savior* reminds us we are all God's children. The kids, along with the adults, will go on a global scavenger hunt to find clues of God's plan for loving each of us! VBS will take place June 17-21, 2019. We would love to see the

kids as well as teen and adult volunteers too! God bless!

Good Friday Family Services

"Love is... Enough!" This is our Good Friday Family Service theme this year as we complete our journey to the cross in God's love! Our service is geared to helping kids understand the magnitude of what Jesus had done for all of us. In fact, the service is really for everyone to attend. *"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."* 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a



School Ministry



As we study and learn more of our Heavenly Father's great love during this Lenten and Easter season of the church year we are reminded how blessed we are to be cared for daily. Our Heavenly Father's provision is incredible. There is so much to be

thankful for, and so much to share with our community at large. This time of year brings a flurry of activity in and outside the classrooms. We hope that you might be able to join us for some of our upcoming activities and celebrations.

The end of April finds us at mid-term of our final trimester. MAP testing will soon begin as we look to reach our schoolwide goal of having each class achieve their projected progress marks for the sixth time in the past six testing sessions over the past two years. This is no easy feat. Our results provide documented data demonstrating that our student, curriculum, and staff performance is well above the national norms.

Journeying into May we fold our hands and bow our heads with others across our nation as we participate in May 2 National Day of Prayer activities. We will thank God as we ask for continued blessings of wisdom and guidance for our country and for those in governmental authority. Our choirs are prepping for their annual Spring Choir Concert on the 3rd. Maybe you can join us at 7:00pm in the church?

Eleven of our 7th and 8th graders are taking their science fair projects to the state fair at SIU in Carbondale on May 4. The students have been working on these projects diligently since September. It amazes me that 11 of our 14 student projects taken to state regionals have earned the honor of being "state worthy". Incredible! This is getting to be the "norm" of our student performance. I can't wait to hear the state results. 7th and 8th graders are also gearing up for

their class trip to Springfield, St. Louis, and Hannibal. We are thankful for the on-site learning opportunities students will have as they visit historical sites, learn from the experts and get an opportunity to witness their faith along the way.

We will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10 with a variety of activities. We're thankful for the service and dedication of our teachers and aides. We have a couple of staff changes in the works for next year as we lose two faithful servants. Mr. Josiah Hahn (7th Homeroom) has announced his upcoming marriage and the resulting change in his having to relocate to Wisconsin. We are thankful for his two years of service to the families of St. Peter and we wish him God's continued blessings. An official Call has been extended to Miss Hannah Johnson, to serve as teacher in our middle school and assist with athletics. Miss Johnson is a December graduate of Concordia University Chicago. She majored in middle grades education with a math and literacy endorsement. We are excited about the strengths she brings and the possibility of her joining our staff. Please remember her in prayer as she prayerfully considers our Call and God's plans for her service. Mrs. Pam Johnson has served St. Peter families for 26 years at St. Peter. She has announced her retirement effective the end of this year. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 8 when we will celebrate her faithful service and recognize the gifts God has provided through her dedicated service to children

and families at St. Peter. We wish her God's best as she transitions to spending more time with her husband, family and grandchildren. A PTL sponsored Movie Night is May 11. The community is invited to visit to learn the benefits of a Christian education at St. Peter. Will you invite someone to join us? We have preschool and kindergarten celebrations, end of the year field trips and a number of special classroom projects still on the horizon. Before you know it, the eighth grade banquet, graduation and closing chapel will be a reality. Looking back it has gone all too quickly. Looking ahead we are excited about the future for our students. Please continue to pray for each of them, that they will stay connected to Christ, and that the seeds of faith that have been planted will continue to bear fruit.



Student Ministry Recap



The Lenten season is an exciting time for youth ministry at St. Peter. For Sunday morning bible studies, youth just finished the Explore God series. Our current morning

study is based on the movie: The Dark Knight. We will look at ways that Christ overcomes darkness in the world.

In other news 20 junior high youth just participated in the Windy City Bulls "Faith and Family Night." High school youth went to Main Event for a day during spring break to play some arcade games and have some fellowship. Both Jr. and Sr. high will be attending Trinity Roselle's area youth gathering at the beginning of April and the youth are very excited about that opportunity.

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 have been hosting fundraisers and will continue to do so in the coming months to raise support for their trip, so stay tuned to see how you can help!

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. Also 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 encourage people to help out with our youth program and pray that God would send the right people to aid in His ministry.

Blessings,
Ted Fischer



The World of Worship Arts



Greetings and Salutations!

I hope this Lenten season finds you good spirits and good

health! I'm excited to for our upcoming Holy Week festivities, as well as some summer plans!

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me any time!

Easter Orchestra!

Easter is upon us! Calling ALL available instrumental musicians to make a joyful noise to our Risen Lord! The orchestra is meant for musicians of ALL ages and ALL skill levels!

All you have to do is let me know and I'll get you the music!

Practices began on April 11th. One more Saturday April 20th from 10-11am. Hope to see you there!

Preparation, Planning, Writing, and Organizing

Even though our church choirs are taking a break this summer from the normal practice schedule, it does not mean that there is nothing to do! Summer time is the time where I get to plan ahead and organize! I already have a few projects planned with Chris Errera that should improve the overall function, organization, and cleanliness of the sanctuary and sanctuary technology.

Additionally, I always look to find ways to enhance worship throughout the summer with soloists and instrumentalists. While I have a long list of people to ask to use their musical gifts, I'd love to make the list longer! If you're interested in participating in our music ministry, come find me! I'd be thrilled to have you join us! If you have any different ideas to implement in worship, let me know! I'm always open to new ideas!

Lastly, I use the summer to write music! I have been writing anything and everything from contemporary arrangements, instrumental hymn arrangements, organ introductions, and choir pieces.

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

Thank you, and blessings on your day!

+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.

Haiti is still experiencing civil unrest. As a result our travel to Haiti has been put on hold. We pray for Haiti during this time and look forward to getting the green light to travel again! We would love to have you join us to assist with any of the efforts. Let us know if you are interested.

How can you help? For our future trip, cash donations would be most helpful. 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 (Go to stpeterlcms.org/haiti). 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) or Kim Nyquist (kim.nyquist@stpeterlcms.org).



Preparations are under way for the August 2019 trip to Tychy, Poland. The team will lead Vacation Bible School and teach English to a group of 50 kids age 3-17. They will also lead an Adult Bible Study. Each year there is more involvement from local congregation members. Some of last year's teen participants came back as interpreters and assistants! We are excited to see the connections to the Polish community grow. There will be a few events to help support the efforts in Poland. First is the Paint, Wine and Dine Night on April 27th at 6pm. Participants will be able to enjoy some food, drinks all the while following painting instruction from our very own artist, Joanna Eden! Next up is the Polski Grill early June! For more information go to stpeterlcms.org/poland. Contact the church office or Maciek Kielbasinski (via phone: 224-388-0610 or [email: maciej@kielbasinski.net](mailto:maciej@kielbasinski.net)) if you have any interest or questions regarding Poland.





Blessings from



the Finance Office! As I write this update on the happenings here in the Finance Office.....I do believe that SPRING is in the air!! Don't say that too loud as we don't need another quick blast of winter!

As we have now finished up with all of the year-end procedures, we look ahead to the new fiscal year of 19-20 that will begin on July 1st. Seems like that date is far away but there is much to do here prior to then.

During the months of March and April we will once again begin the budget process for the new fiscal year. Please keep all of the ministries in your prayers as they begin their projections and hopes for the direction of each ministry. Currently, we are slightly under our projections in both tithes/offerings and debt reduction.

We continue to be blessed here at St Peter by the joyful gifts we continue to receive that support all of the ministries here!

In our next issue we hopefully will be able to give an update on the budget process.

In closing, I will again continue to give prayers of thanks for all that I

witness here at St Peter...each and every day!!

Blessings,
JoAnn Lakoma
Finance / Human Resource

Stewardship Ministry -



Stewardship
Ministry Team
Plans New
"Ingatherings"
for 2019
In the 2018-

2019 year, the Stewardship Ministry Team developed a plan to encourage people to practice good stewardship of things that are often thrown away when they can be recycled or repurposed. This included our recent very successful plastic cap and lid collection, which brought in well over 500 pounds of plastic pieces (the final weighing has not been completed as of this writing). This will enable us to put a new bench of recycled plastic in the grove in front of the Historic Chapel. A huge thanks to school parent Gina Gilbert who really jumped in and did so much on this project, including creating the "cap-eating monster" for the School Lobby (and which we named "Gilbert" in her honor!). The kids seemed to love feeding him, and filled up his transparent belly on an almost weekly basis. Thanks to everyone who contributed! In May, Sarah Blanchard will deliver the plastic to a recycling plant in Evansville, IN, and bring back our bench. The SMT has now laid out a collection plan for the rest of this year, and invite you to bring in the following:

APRIL – we are once again collecting used glasses, which will be sent to an organization that provides them to low-income people in the US and a number of foreign countries. Last year we collected about 225 pairs of glasses.

MAY – do you have worn out towels, blankets and pillows? We will collect them and deliver them to a local animal shelter that uses them for bedding for rescue dogs and cats.

JUNE – School gets out, and a lot of crayons and markers get thrown out. We will provide containers for you to put them in; the plastic containers will be recycled and the crayons melted into new ones!

JULY – after the Fourth, bring your worn or faded flags; we will deliver them to an American Legion post for respectful disposal.

SEPTEMBER – used hearing aids. If you have hearing aids, you know how expensive they are! But now and then, you have to get new ones. Bring the old ones and they will be provided to people who could not otherwise afford them.

OCTOBER – Almost all of us use a lot of batteries. Many have chemicals in them that are harmful to the earth (especially the groundwater supply) if they are put in landfills. Save up your "dead" batteries and bring them in October. Like last year, this collection will also include old cell phones and other small electronics.

Let's be good stewards of this beautiful earth our God created!

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!

