

Ministry Matters

LOVING PEOPLE
SERVING THE WORLD

St. Peter's
MINISTRY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

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.



Desk of Pastor Hays

Dearest St. Peter Family,

This has been a Lenten season like no other. Every pastor out there is missing their church community. Pastor Greg and I miss you dearly. We are all missing the opportunity to come together around God's Word and Sacraments.



Yet we are thankful that technology allows us the opportunity to virtually be with one another. Imagine this same scenario in 1980. The technology

would not be in place but we would no doubt adapt just as we are doing today. I keep sharing the mantra, "God's Word will not be contained!"

Before I get into the nuts and bolts of this writing I want to extend a great amount of thanksgiving to the St. Peter staff. The dedication and creativity that is coming forth is amazing. Granted, we are working the kinks out of some things, but they jumped on task and won't give up. Please find ways to express your gratitude to them as well.

I do pray that you are being nurtured through the daily devotion that Pastor Greg and I are writing each day and the services that are on our website, Facebook, and even through a phone service. We also have several volunteers making phone calls just to reach out to some who might be more isolated than others. We have a team of Response Runners that will go to the store or pharmacy should you have need. Please let us know if

there are other safe ways that we can serve the community.

What does the future hold for Holy Week? I know many of you are pondering this question. Some churches are postponing it while others are going forward. We are going to do a "Both/And." We will have Holy week services with a few adaptations and broadcast them as we have been our regular services. However, when we are given the green light we will have a great reunion in our house of worship as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

We all probably have our own ideas about how long this Shelter-in-Place order will last. While inconvenient, it does help to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable. With that in mind we will continue to navigate these times just as we have been. We will continue to pray for all who are struggling through this time. I don't know about you, but I just want to do something to help others. I echo the words of the Apostle Paul when he writes,

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)." We know the comfort and security that comes through faith in Jesus. And we have the opportunity right now to share that comfort with others. Once again, if you have ideas of how we, the St. Peter Family, can rise up and help others let us know.

In closing I quote Paul again, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-6)

Enjoy this issue as you see how each department of ministry is creatively carrying on their ministry responsibilities. Happy social distancing!

Peace in Christ,
Jerry Hays, Senior Pastor



Desk of Pastor Hintz

Adult Bible Study – Sunday Mornings

- We have been continuing on Sunday mornings with the Red Letter Challenge, specifically focusing on the parables that Jesus told to those he came in contact with and then to his disciples to teach His timeless truth.



As many of you know, the Corona Virus (Covid-19) has given us issues to resolve with getting God's Word out, but we have managed to get a few things rolling! Technology can be used as an incredible gift and is allowing us to have group talk, Bible study and even fellowship time... even if it is by audio and video.

Since we are in the pattern of wait and see, we cannot announce which format the Bible studies will be, but we can announce what we will be studying. Paul's letter to the Philippians with help to bring encouragement to you and me during this unusual time in our nation's history. Knowing how to have joy, living in harmony and unity, and being at peace are all

part of what the Scriptures offer to people who are searching for this good news.

Please join us Sunday mornings from 10:10-10:55am in the Fellowship Hall or online for our continued "coverage" as we make our way through this difficult time.

LERT - Volunteer members bring healing, hope and restoration to people hurting from natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornado's, floods and fires.

As of this writing we had members of our team and a neighboring LERT group head down to Tennessee to work with those who were affected by tornadoes. Tree cutting, removal of brush, cleaning debris, and whatever else our crew could get their hands on, they worked, "...as serving the Lord!"

Upon returning from TN, group members have also been able to help two members of the congregation deal with significant safety issues. One member had a tree that was leaning across the yard into the neighbor's driveway and was just waiting for the next strong wind to come and knock it down... LERT got to it first! 😊 At the second residence, an old shed had been a rest stop for critters in the area and needed to be taken down. Both families were extremely happy to have their issues resolved and we give praise to God no one was injured!

Please consider signing up to be involved in this uplifting experience, not only for those who receive the help, but also for those who bring it! For more

information, contact Ken at: ken.kiviranta@sbcglobal.net

MEND (Mothers Enduring Neonatal Death)

Ever mindful of mothers who have lost children to miscarriage or stillbirth... MEND exists to be a support group to those (moms and dads) who have lost children in this way. The Chicagoland chapter meetings are held once a month on the first Tuesday of every month. Sara Hintz leads this group with a volunteer support staff to encourage and be "Jesus in the flesh," to those who are suffering.

At the time of this writing, the April meeting slated for the 7th will be held on a Zoom call. For more information please contact Sara at saraann@mend.org

Treehouse

Learning about Jesus is always fun at the Treehouse! Pre-K through 5th graders have opportunity to learn at their level about Jesus and have fun

We are currently looking at some technological ways to bring the word of God to the littlest of these. Please continue to check out our website for updates with Bible stories, crafts or coloring pages, and maybe even a surprise or two!! Treehouse normally meets every Sunday morning from 10:05-10:55, but due to circumstances will come as an electronic format. For more details please contact Anne-Marie amc729@yahoo.com about life in the Treehouse!

The Future to Come

Due to the nature of the Corona Virus and its effect on people, we

are forever looking at ways to serve the body of Christ. I continue to ask for your prayers that while we dream, we would continue to keep our feet on the ground in service to one another. As we look at ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus, we are looking at expanding our Small Group Ministry to make it more effective. We are looking at starting new ministries such as Safe Families Foster care or at least in that same area of helping families in need. And as always, looking at ways to bring comfort to the hurting through support groups.

I look forward to watching the future unfold, because I know Who holds it! It is Jesus Christ, our Savior, Who continually loves us and has redeemed us and has called us His own!



Desk of Steve Zielke

About a month ago I had a face to face meeting with our twelve state regional representative in charge of our NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing. We talked about student progress, testing procedures and general information about our school and congregation. The rep told me that she had pulled our reports and was impressed. Our

half hour scheduled conversation ended up being an hour and a half. At the end of our meeting I was informed that NWEA wants to do a spotlight on our school. She said they highlight huge districts with 90,000 students with multitudes of teachers, curriculum specialists, etc.. She is impressed at how well students perform in our setting where teachers wear so many hats. She expressed a need to share the great things we do. About a week later we emailed some teacher testimonials for them to use, started to work on some shared videos and then the virus hit. We're still on their radar, and they want to promote our school, but as you well know, we have begun to live our lives in new norms.

As I write this, students are on Spring break. Last week our teachers hit the ground running pushing out lessons so that students are able to learn from home. Parents are well pleased with how our teachers have met the new challenge. We have a few adjustments to make and we continue to tweak our delivery and what we are able to offer. Preschool families are getting an extra bonus as teachers share the full week's lessons so that even students who are registered to attend less than a full week receive lessons for every day. We are learning as we go in this new uncharted territory. Students are learning, parents and without a doubt, teachers are learning too. The St. Peter family is great!

Our main mission continues to be to share Christ. A number of our teachers have produced video devotions, we are doing a weekly

chapel, and encouraged student letters of encouragement to seniors and homebound. What a wonderful time to be creative in sharing God's Word to families. We continue to lift you up in prayer with confidence knowing that God is our strength. Isn't it great to know He cares for us?

Sincerely,
Steve Zielke
School Principal

skiing, and snowboarding on the slopes at Chestnut Mountain Resort. Over 40 junior high students had an overnight lock-in hosted by Concordia University Chicago students. In February, we ice skated on the Maggie Daley Ribbon in downtown Chicago and hosted two successful fundraisers for the summer mission trip to Appalachia.

Looking ahead, we have lots to be excited about. In July of 2020, fourteen youth and three adults will travel to Appalachia to serve one of the most impoverished regions of the United States. In Appalachia, our team will have the opportunity to lead a Vacation Bible School for the children in that community as well as performing various minor construction and repair operations on community buildings in West Virginia. Keep your eyes out for opportunities to participate in this mission through our various fundraisers this spring. We will host our annual Spaghetti Dinner and a car wash as well as a number of other events aimed at raising funds for this mission.

In other exciting news, I was tasked with assembling some kind of fellowship opportunity for the young adults connected to St. Peter so now we have our very own adult volleyball team, the Millennial Falcons! We just completed our second season of play and we are getting ready for season 3 which runs from March-May. If you or anyone you know wants to get in on the fun, don't hesitate to reach out to me. We are always looking for new teammates.

As you can see, the young life at our congregation is vibrant and growing. Glory be to God!

Blessings,
Ted Fischer



Student Ministry Recap



With all the uncertainty in our world, the Gospel prevails!

Youth ministry at St. Peter is no exception to that fact. Sunday morning Bible Study, Sunday night Youth Group and our special monthly events continue to offer consistent fun, fellowship, and faith-based learning for the young people of the congregation.

The past couple months were very eventful for junior and senior high students. In January, 20 high school youth got to experience a weekend of faith, fellowship,



Children's Ministries



With Easter around the corner and the weather warming up, I think it's safe to say that spring

has sprung! Kids are finishing up school and summer is just around the corner. I know for us, 8th grade graduation and high school years are in the near future, and we are excited to add this new chapter to our life!

At St. Peter, even though so many things seem "to be determined", we are still planning on broadcasting our Good Friday Family service online, and we are still planning on holding our annual Vacation Bible School on June 15-19th, unless the current conditions remain. That said, in order to have another successful VBS, we are needing volunteers to help lead crews around from station to station and station

leaders to lead crafts, games and snacks. Our VBS website will be up and running soon:

www.stpeterlcms.org/vbs which is where you can register your child (Ages 3-5th grade) to attend and register to volunteer (6th grade and up). Any and all questions can be directed to vbs@stpeterlcms.org where our Co-Directors, Joanna Eden and Donna Wiskirchen will be glad to help you out and get you involved!

Thank you for keeping St. Peter in your prayers!

Contact Mrs. Joanna Eden at joanna.eden@stpeterlcms.org with questions or to RSVP.



The World of Worship Arts

It's amazing how quickly time goes by. Last Ministry Matters Newsletter, we were looking far head to Easter – now it will be here in a little over a week!

Things have also changed rapidly here and around the world. In my little corner of St. Peter, most of the music ministry is “on hiatus” until further notice. As much as we were rehearsing and ramping up toward Holy Week, we are now looking forward to celebrating

Easter whenever we can safely join together.

The exciting part in all of this is that we are now “streaming” our services. This not only brings us together in these trying times but will also be a boon in the future for those who are unable to attend a service in person. We are learning much as we do more. Be sure to check the website for the service times, especially during Holy Week.

And a great big “THANK YOU” to Curt and Sandy Jungkuntz!! They are the “voices” you’ve been hearing during our services. Their willingness to give of their time to help enhance the online services has been a tremendous asset. Thanks again!

As we move toward “Summer Break”, look for some remodeling of the Music Rehearsal Room, and more clean up and clean out of the balcony/music areas. And, of course, planning for the fall season.

May you rejoice in celebrating our risen Lord – both on April 12th and whenever we can together at St. Peter!

Julie Sawusch
Director of Traditional Worship



The Older Adult Ministry

St. Peter Young at Heart Ministry gathers the 60+ seniors for lunch and activities once a month—Usually the fourth Thursday from 11am to 2pm. Pastor Bergmann is our spiritual leader.

At our February meeting, the Schaumburg Library Senior Services came with their “pop-up” assortment of books, music CD’s, movies, games and puzzles for our take home pleasure. They also signed up some of us for Library Cards and explained the drop off program for seniors.

On many occasions the group enjoys participating with our St. Peter school students. (Preschoolers to 8th graders). This gives us an opportunity to know the children in our church family and gives the children an opportunity to learn about us.

We only need to go across our parking lot to the Little Red School House and welcome the preschoolers to one of our meetings. When they come they sing songs, give us pictures and hugs.

By contacting teachers we arrange for other grades to visit. When the 8th graders come we treat them to a pizza lunch and enjoy conversations together. It is always interesting to hear of their future school plans and their interests. We invite another grade to share a brown bag plus lunch with us. The PLUS is a treat of ice-cream sundaes.

We had planned to have Ted Fischer’s youth group practice their skills by serving their famous spaghetti lunch at our April meeting this year. This fundraiser

supports their July Trip to Appalachia in West Virginia as free will offering that day goes to them. Unfortunately this has been canceled due to the Corona virus.

We are hoping and looking forward to participating in their fundraiser at a future date.

We are also hoping to meet at our scheduled April meeting.

Meanwhile, as we shelter in our homes, we remember the church is only a building and Jesus is in our heart and in our church, protecting us all.

Submitted by Marlene Jones and Gerie Kay



The Finance Office

Greetings from the Finance Office!

Over this past month we have continued to work on the budget for the 20-21 fiscal year along with our day-to-day operations of finance, school registration and preparing for the 20-21 school year.

Then it all changed.....

We are currently in the process of adapting to our new way of continuing our job. Each day

brings a new challenge, finding our way from going into the office each day to now working from home, navigating all the amazing technology to be able to still worship and meet with our co-workers.... not face to face, but lap top to lap top. All of your ministries here at St Peter are working hard to reach each and every one of you in some form or another.

Technology can be an amazing tool at times like this in which we are all able to stay connected. I have been receiving quite a few requests to set up Simply Giving for offerings. Please know that you can contact me at any time with questions, concerns or information needed to get you set up by emailing me at jlakoma@stpeterlcms.org

We all go through times where times are hard and we're distracted by life in general. It can be so easy to give in to feelings of negativity. But as Christians, we have hope in our LORD that cares and LOVES us. HE gives us strength in these times, and wants us to look to Him in prayer. Please know that you are in my prayers each and every day. Looking forward to being in worship together...soon!

Blessings,
JoAnn Lakoma
Finance / Human Resource



Life in Haiti has never been more challenging than over the past year. As many of you know, we have been praying for our friends and the country of Haiti amidst political unrest which had schools closed for months, closed many business that did hire people and made food even that much more scares. Although the mass protesting has quieted down, the issues remain and progress to resolve these issues has not been made. But then on March 20, Haiti announced immediate border closings as the first 2 cases of COVID19 were discovered.

Haiti is now on the brink of potentially a very deadly chapter in its history. The population of 11.3 million people has access to 64 ventilators and somewhere between 30 to 123 ICU beds. Experts warn that many hundreds of thousands may die from Coronavirus. Cuba is sending doctors to assist but the need is huge, and the infrastructure is not there to support this pandemic. We have sent Haitian Creole posters and information handouts to Pastor Touloute and Pastor Justin along with our other Haitian friends to spread the word on prevention and symptoms. We

continue to pray for this tiny country who is battered by struggles but is resilient to survive!

Centre Lumiere has closed the school at this time due to the virus concerns. There are a few women who continue to work in the sewing production area and take daily precautions to disinfect and maintain social distancing in the workplace. Natalie Columbus who had been overseeing the Centre while Olga and Caleb Lapp were on sabbatical was scheduled to fly home on March 22. Through divine intervention, Natalie was able to fly on a private plane with other missionaries to the US! Her time at the Centre has ended. We know the women were very sad to see her leave!

Some happy news, Pastor Justine and his wife Gureline had a baby girl! Kim-Erlene was born healthy on February 5. Mom and daughter continue to do well and thrive! Thanks be to God!

There is a dedication of the church in Charlette planned for January. If it is God's will, we are planning to be there to celebrate with our friends! Jeff & Kim Nyquist



Our 2020 Team was able to organize 1 fundraiser this year: Valentine's Day Parents Night Out. The event was a success as both the kids and childcare volunteers had a lot of fun!

Due to COVID-19 pandemic and government imposed restrictions, Lenten Soup Supper had to be cancelled and Parents Night Out rescheduled to Sunday, July 19. We are closely monitoring the situation in Poland and Europe and praying for a quick end of this crisis. Assuming travel restrictions are lifted and we determine it is safe to travel, 2020 trip is still happening. Therefore, we will be in need of your support for this mission trip to be successful. If anyone is interested in going or supporting the team, please contact the church office or Maciek Kielbasinski (via phone: 224-388-0610 or [email: maciej@kielbasinski.net](mailto:maciej@kielbasinski.net)).



Telugu Lutheran Fellowship:

Since April of 2019 the Nittala and Bushi families begun the Telugu Lutheran Fellowship. Telugu is a language spoken by about 80 million people in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

states in southern part of India where they are fortunate to have the Lutheran Faith for the past five generations. The Nittala's and Rev. John Bushi have worked together to lead a new fellowship once a month. The main focus to this fellowship is to bring families that speak Telugu language together and to attract families to St. Peter Lutheran Church and School.



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! Calling Thrivent Financial Members! If you are looking for ways to get involved and utilize your Thrivent Action Teams, email Mary Bahn at mbahn@stpeterlcms.org.

