

Ministry Matters

LOVING PEOPLE
SERVING THE WORLD

St. Peter's
MINISTRY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 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

I pray that you had a blessed Christmas and New Year celebration. In every issue of *Ministry Matters* we take a moment to reflect on the past and then give much more attention to the things to come. As you read through each department of ministry it is my hope that you find one or more ways to meaningfully connect to your church family.



We are a family on mission. And that mission is clearly expressed in our church logo. In it you see

people gathered around the cross of Jesus Christ, some facing in and others facing out. The love of Jesus is expressed to one another in the family and out to the world as we serve God's kingdom. The multiple colors represent the beautiful diversity that makes up our church family. In our pursuit of mission we are basically following the model that Jesus presented to us in His life and ministry. His coming into this world, His teaching and healing ministry, and His journey to the cross and tomb are pure acts of love and service. As a result our mission is to Love People and Serve the World.

I encourage to you make your life in the St. Peter family more than a once-a-week worship experience. You will be blessed to engage in the purposeful ministries that St. Peter has to offer. If you are not certain how to engage then reach out to me and I will get you connected. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Peace in Christ,
Jerry Hays, Senior Pastor



Desk of Pastor Hintz **Sunday Adult Bible Study**

Ready to experience life to the fullest? Come join a special time of teaching and discussion as we dive deeper into God's Word and get the answers we need to live! This past fall we have finished the study of James acquired a fuller understanding of how faith and works are related. More recently, we studied 2nd Peter and looked at God's



timetable for His return and what to be aware of as we wait!

As we begin our new calendar year we are going to explore stories from the Bible that help us to understand the treasure of God's love for each of us. Each week we dive into the depths of one of the many stories to be encouraged by God's grace and mercy in action. Once that session is finished, we will be looking at our Lenten theme about Lent for All Nations – how the nationalities and ethnicities of those people in the Bible continue to point us to Christ and reminding us that we should love our neighbor!

Please join us Sunday mornings from 10:10-10:55am in the Fellowship Hall.

LERT

Volunteer members bringing healing, hope and restoration to people hurting from natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornado's, floods and fires. Ministering through labor and love to people devastated by disasters makes all the difference to those in need.

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. 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. Music, puppets, stories, and application are always part of the action to help kids understand the love of Jesus and all the stories that help us understand God's complete love for us! Treehouse meets every Sunday morning from 10:05-10:55. For more details please contact Anne-Marie amc729@yahoo.com about life in the Treehouse!

Kids Hope USA

Adult mentors from our church who have been trained and are thoroughly committed, walk alongside a student who is at risk in some area of their lives. Each adult is matched to a student at our local public school (Aldrin Elementary School) and meet one-on-one with a student for one hour a week during the school year. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Tony Laramie tlaramie@stpeterlcms.org for more information on how your consistency can make such a difference as you read, play, and simply just love a child.



Desk of Steve Zielke

What a joy-filled time of year! It is always a blessing to hear our children retell the story of our Savior's birth. The excitement and teaching

moments that abound make the Advent and Christmas time of year



especially memorable for our students and their families. Not only are we thankful for the gift of our Savior, but the opportunity to share as well.

Just before Christmas our student council visited our partner school, Christ the King Lutheran in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. We enjoyed learning more about Christ the King and worked to establish a stronger partnership. Thank-you for your generosity if you had a hand in helping us provide Christmas gifts for these urban centered students and their teachers.

A special thanks to our PTL and the Paul and Gloria Anderson family for providing new carpeting in the hallways of our school. Also take a moment to peek inside our

newly remodeled library. We are grateful to Roger and Trudy Kirsch for all their hard work and their creative talents for this recent upgrade. We are blessed to offer quality facilities in addition to excellent academic instruction.

As we move into a new decade we look forward to more event packed days. You won't want to miss viewing the 7th and 8th grade Science Fair projects. This year you will also be able to see student artwork on display. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and church narthex on January 9 at 6:30 pm to see the incredible in-depth work of our students on display. You will be amazed with the poise and expertise our students show as they talk about their projects and how they have come to their understandings. On the same night, we will have a live exhibit by our 6th grade class titled "A Night at the Science Fair" plus all classes will have participation in an Art Fair displayed in the church Narthex. Athletic and afterschool club events continue. While the choirs take a month break, Computer Club, Lego club, Cheer club, and Geography club are in full-swing.

We're celebrating Lutheran Schools Week with Lutheran schools across the nation January 26 -31. Activities begin for us with a Community Open House at 12 noon on the 26th. Parents will have the opportunity to learn about the positive difference an education at St. Peter makes. Registration for Preschool – 8th grade will be open as we populate our classes for 2020-2020, our 173rd school year. We'd love to have you bring a family so they can explore our

school's opportunities for their children.

Our main partnership with parents is to help them form and shape their children's understandings of the their Savior and the world God created. This mission is critical. George Barna, of the Barna Group, found that by the time a teenager is 13 or 14 years old, their worldview mindset is primarily set. By this age students have developed their personal convictions about Jesus, His life, death, and resurrection. So, by the time an 8th grader leaves St. Peter, their Christian view is well in place. That is not only humbling, but also a great responsibility for our teachers, coaches and staff. We thank you for your part in helping us share the Good News of Jesus. Your prayers, volunteer work, and financial contributions enable us to provide students an opportunity to form a solid foundation to stand upon as they grow and mature in the wisdom and knowledge of God. We treasure our partnership with you too. As our world changes, God's Word remains solid. The mission we share is critical. We give thanks for the blessings God provides.

Sincerely,
Steve Zielke
School Principal



Student Ministry Recap

As another year comes to a close we look forward to what youth ministry at St. Peter has in store for 2020.

Sunday morning Bible Study, Sunday night Youth Group, and Wednesday



night Confirmation class continue to offer consistent weekly fun, fellowship, and faith-based learning for the young people of the congregation. On top of that, Confirmation classes have resumed for students in grades five through nine.

The final months of 2019 were very eventful for junior and senior high students. Nineteen freshmen were confirmed in October. Junior high students had a great time figuring out "whodunit" at a Murder Mystery party. High schoolers had an overnight lock-in hosted by 10 Concordia University Students. Youth gathered together with other members of St. Peter and the Schaumburg community to help pack over 1.5 million meals for Feed My Starving Children. The youth

continued their annual tradition of hosting one of the Advent church services. Close to 30 youth were involved in every aspect of the church service, from acting in the drama, to music, and even tech crew. And we finished off the year with our annual White Elephant Christmas party.

Looking ahead into the New Year, we have lots to be excited about. There's a ski trip where 20+ youth will hit the slopes at Chestnut Mountain in Galena, IL. The Jr. High youth have their turn at staying up all night for their annual lock-in. We have also officially committed to our summer mission trip. In July of 2020, seventeen youth and three adults will travel to Appalachia to serve one of the most impoverished regions of the United States. 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 winter and spring. We will host an Escape Room, an Easter Egg hunt, a car wash and plenty 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 took second place in our first season of play and we are getting ready for

season 2 which runs from January-March. 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



Children's Ministries

Blessed
Happy New Year to you!
Thank you to the families and children who served in our
Christmas Eve Family Services!
Thank you for sharing the Good News with our members and many visitors!



ROCKY RAILWAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is pulling into St. Peter Station **June 15-19th, 2020** and preparation has begun and **ALREADY** we need your help!

Two Things: 1) We are in need of **artificial Christmas trees** (unlit) to

decorate our set for VBS in June. We can accept them now or later in May when we put out another request for supplies. 2) **VBS Station Leader meeting is set for Wednesday, February 5th at 5pm** in the cafeteria. Please come to the meeting if you have been a station leader in the past and/or want to lead a station this year. Stations needing leaders will include (4) Imagination Station/Crafts, (4) Snack, (4) Games, and (1) Registration. Other valuable areas for volunteers to serve include: Monday Morning Registration, Crew Leaders, Crew Helpers, Station Helpers, Drama, Pre-VBS Prep nights, and preparing the Decorations! New 6th Graders through adults are able to help!

It's never too early to let Joanna, Donna or Pastor Greg know if you're able and willing to serve in any of these areas. It will be an amazing ride and we hope you can get on the 2020 VBS Train with us! Contact VBS@stpeterlcms.org to sign up or with questions.

ROOT 56: Youth Group for 5th – 6th Grade Students will next meet on January 4th from 6-8pm: GYM GAMES in the Gym - Bring a snack to share.

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



The World of Worship Arts

God's Blessings to you as we begin a new year!

I would like to take this opportunity thank all the singers, ringers and musicians who helped make the Advent season and Christmas services so special. It was wonderful to see (and hear!) people sharing their talents as we welcomed our Newborn King!

And now, it is time to look forward to Lent and Easter. There will be several opportunities for you to join and share your talents with the congregation.

TeDeum Choir is always looking for more voices. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings beginning January 9th at 7 PM in the Music Room off the balcony. Anyone high school age or older is welcome. No prior choir experience is required, just a desire to join with others to sing praises to God here at St. Peter.

Joyful Ringers will resume rehearsals on Thursday, February 6th at 6 PM in the church balcony. Again, anyone high school age or older is welcome, but there are limited openings. We will be ringing during Holy Week. Please

contact me at jsawusch@stpeterlcms.org if you would like to join. Again, no prior experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn!

Instrumentalists will have the opportunity to participate in the services on Easter Sunday. We will have a Festival Orchestra to enhance the worship experience at the traditional services. Watch for more details and rehearsal times beginning in March.

As we begin this New Year, we take time to reflect on all the wonderful gifts God has given us, especially the gift of His Son!

Julie Sawusch
Director of Traditional Worship



The Older Adult Ministry

The St. Peter Young at Heart senior ministry takes place informally as our 60+seniors engage with each other on the fourth Thursday of the month from 11 am to 2 pm in the Fellowship Room. A typical meeting includes a devotion lead by Pastor Bergmann, prayers for those suggested by members present, a shared lunch and

activities ---conversation, games, guest speakers, etc.

The objectives of the group are both social and informative. Social among each other and as a way to keep in contact with St. Peter School and Church functions. The group contributes to many programs and outreach such as Food Pantry and, VA, Trunk n Treat, Restaurant Night Out, and Youth Group fundraising. Our seniors learn of and share information about options available to seniors in our community. Speakers from Township, Village, Library and Park District present their programs to us throughout the year.

Recent Activities Included:

In May we were treated to a hot lunch provided by the Schaumburg Barn Program. In June many of us attended the annual Flag Day Event held at ST. Peter. In July, we enjoyed Overshadowed Theater's production of the play "Newsies". In August, we attended a Boomers Baseball game and fireworks. We supported the St. Peter Youth Ministry lead by Ted Fischer. A spaghetti lunch fundraiser was held by the group during their spring break. In October we treated the St. Peter eighth grade to a pizza lunch with us and during their lunch time. In November the preschoolers visited our meeting with songs, pictures and hugs. Most recently many of the Young at Heart joined in with the Schaumburg Park District Seniors for a Christmas Party at the Seville. A schedule of upcoming activities for the New Year will be

out soon. Please check the Young at Heart communication board or Take Home for updates. Our next meeting will be Feb 27.



The Finance Office

Greetings from the Finance Office!

As much as I would like to be in warmer weather this time of year, I am still thankful for the warmth our Lord blesses us with each day!! Now on to the happenings here in the finance office at St. Peter.....

We are holding steady with our projected income in both tithes/offerings at this point of 2019-2020. The same goes for the Debt Reduction projections. We are in the second quarter of this fiscal year quickly approaching the third quarter (bring on the spring sunshine!).

Over the next few months we will begin the budget process for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This tends to be a very stressful time for not only me but all ministry leaders here at St. Peter. As much as we would like to be able to do all things to grow and spread the word of "Jesus", we seem to always have to reduce/cut items from our budget. Please continue

to pray for all ministry leaders to guide them in the direction the Lord has planned for us.

"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.

With the first of the year here we will once again begin the process of year end procedures.

Please know that you are all in my prayers for safe and Blessed Christmas and New Year! See you in worship!

Blessings,
JoAnn Lakoma
Finance / Human Resource



Haiti is still having great challenges with protests due to many different economic and socio-political issues. The situation in Haiti is quite dyer and all of Haiti needs prayers for resolution. Our plans to travel to Haiti are still on hold but that doesn't mean our work in Haiti isn't continuing! We are still supporting Centre Lumiere and our other friends that serve in Haiti. Here is a recent article we published on LinkedIn. Follow this link to read more about the current situation in Haiti,

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/education-action-required-jeffrey-nyquist/?trackingId=S1YwjecwcrlyiqnwSDObXQ%3D%3D>.

We are thankful for our St. Peter congregation and their support of these efforts. Please continue prayers for Haiti.



We've just held our first 2020 Poland Trip meeting. The dates have been set. Our VBS/ESL camp will be held in Tychy between August 3 and 9. This means we plan on departing on Friday, July

31 and returning on Monday, August 10.

We're at the stage of assembling a team. We are looking for 5-7 people to join us. Plain ticket purchases will be occurring in January 2020, to take advantage of lower prices. The team also plans to organize at least 3-5 fundraising events, starting as early as February. 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. Nittala's and Bushi's 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.