

# Ministry Matters

St. Peter's  
MINISTRY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

LOVING PEOPLE  
SERVING THE WORLD

September 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 summer was as enjoyable as mine was. The Hays family took in a ton of Noah's baseball games, enjoyed a trip to South Dakota (the Blacks Hills are beautiful!), and I even had the opportunity to be the camp cook for our sr. youth camping trip.

Summer time in the church is seen by many as a down time. Attendance drops, offerings are slim, and church is placed on the back burner. Be reminded that our gracious God never takes a break from us. He is invested in you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year! The act of Jesus on the cross and in the tomb gives us



reason to celebrate forgiveness and life equally so, 365 days a year!

It is with joy that I see people back in worship after an amazing summer. By the way, as you will see in the pages that follow much has been taking place at St. Peter over the summer as we plan for the fall ministries. There is no down time here! We will have a ministry fair, Oktoberfest and Trunk-n-Treat, Russ Miller from Creation, Evolution & Science Ministries as a guest speaker in Nov, and much more! I am also pleased to announce that Joanna Eden is coming back on board in Children's Ministries. She will only be leading a few specific areas of ministry as she reengages.

Enjoy the pages that follow and find some ways that you can worship, serve, and grow as we go forth *Loving People, Serving the World!*

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Jerry



## Ministry Fair

Please mark your calendars already for an exciting opportunity!!! St. Peter is hosting a Ministry Fair the weekend of September 22/23, 2018. Representatives from the ministries will be present to help you answer questions about each specific ministry and offer opportunity to join in serving. It will be an exciting event to help you decide where God may be leading you to serve.

## LERT

It has been quiet on the horizon for the last 3 months regarding responding to disasters but we praise God for that! Our LERT team is always looking for people who are ready to respond and serve our fellow neighbor in time of need. We are going to be

engaging in local training in the next month and plan on trying to serve around Columbus Day weekend. Please contact Ken Kiviranta for more information: [ken.kiviranta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ken.kiviranta@sbcglobal.net)

### **VBS**

Praise God for His awesome blessings! St Peter hosted Vacation Bible School on our campus once again this year. We served over 300 children in Bible time, crafts, games, singing and playing! Over 75 volunteers gave their time, talent, and even their treasure as we proclaimed the truth that Jesus rescues us from our troubles! We continue to host this annual event always the week following Father's Day. Place it on your calendar now and plan on helping serve the youngest in God's Kingdom!

### **MEND Mothers Enduring Neonatal Death**

The Chicagoland chapter continues to hold meetings 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](mailto:saraann@mend.org). MEND exists to be a support group to those (moms and dads) who have lost children to miscarriage, stillbirth or even death right after birth.

### **Kids Hope USA**

The Kids Hope USA program continues to be a success. Adult mentors from our church who have been trained and are thoroughly committed, have been

walking 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. The touch of our mentors carries on in the lives of these young people (*and often times into the families as well!*). If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Tony Laramie

[tlaramie@stpeterlcms.org](mailto:tlaramie@stpeterlcms.org) for more information on how your consistency can make such a difference as you read, play, converse and simply just love a child

### **Children's Ministry**

There are a few new and exciting pieces of information that I want to share with you in the area of children's ministry.

Joanna Eden has accepted a position with St Peter Children's Ministry in various areas that will allow for excellent ministry to take place as well as allow her to continue her calling as a mom to her children. She will be working especially with our 5th-6th grade youth, helping with our Family Christmas Service, helping with our VBS, and a few other things! We welcome her back and are grateful she will help children to know Jesus as their Savior!

I also am excited to share with you that Anne Marie Calderon has agreed to take on the children's Sunday Morning Sunday School. She will organize and lead the children's studies with her awesome team of volunteers

where kids will have fun learning about Jesus through Bible stories, song, games & crafts!



The summer programs are history and we are into our new school year. Our Summer Daze program netted nearly \$2000 more than the previous summer with an increase in the number of students served. This past summer also brought major upgrades to the main school facilities. Generous donors have provided a new gym floor, three newly painted and carpeted classrooms, and the remodeling of the early childhood bathrooms. The middle school science classroom, fifth and seventh grade classrooms each have new whiteboards and interactive projectors installed. We are thankful for the generosity of individuals who have contributed their time, talent and resources. We also give thanks for funding provided through our Parent Teacher League. Our building upgrades enable our St. Peter family the opportunity to enjoy the blessings shared for many years to come.

REAL. PRESENT. GOD. is our 2018-2019 school theme based on Psalm 46. Pastor Hays led the faculty in Bible study so we could take a closer look at the context of

our theme verses during our back-to-school meetings. Among other housekeeping and back to school agenda items, the faculty spent time getting to know PraxiPower, our recently adopted school management software program.

At this writing the weekend before school begins parents are still calling and walking in to enroll their students. Currently pre-school student enrollment is 112 students and elementary/middle school is at 133 for a student total of 245. We have reached the million dollar mark of incoming funding. My heart yearns for families to realize the value added a Christian education brings. With the growing trend in society to seek immediate rewards for every action, Christian education doesn't always seem to be a top family priority. As a result when many families look at tuition expense vs. not spending funds to educate their children many seek the immediate value of less cost. They consider a new car, an address to reside or other purchases. We teach for eternity. The message of our Savior's love shared on a daily basis is not something to take for granted. While our academic standards and student achievements are highly respected in our community, the benefit of Christ as the center of our education focus brings priceless life changing understandings. A number of parents tell us that the "God part" isn't the highest priority for their family. In a culture where free is good and sacrificial giving or long range planning doesn't seem to be immediately rewarded we are challenged to help families realize

and value the lifelong benefit Christian education brings. There seems to be fewer and fewer that understand the investment in their children is well worth what might be a temporary monetary sacrifice. We have been told by parents that our school does everything it should educationally—even more than many schools could ever possibly do. Our concern as a church and school family then is how do we attract families to regular corporate worship and daily Christian education when the Christian values our German forefathers held seem to be waning? Consideration about how we build and enhance relationships that foster a longing for participation and Christian fellowship and growth are impending.

This year Kindergarten through fifth grade students will experience a new hands-on interactive science curriculum to meet the Next Generation Science Standards with our adoption of the StemScopes science curriculum. Religion and Memory curriculum will be under study this year in an effort to better meet student needs and reach their families.

Last school year Nate Pfeil taught middle school music. With him taking on more church organ duties he has stepped down from school music obligations. We were able to adjust Ron Hilger's schedule for him to take on the middle school music classes. Last school year we were not able to offer an enrichment program due to staff cuts. This year we are happy to be able to offer Enrichment classes once again

with Trudy Kirsch volunteering to direct our program for second – fifth grade students. Also brand new this year is an option for a parent funded afterschool French class. With the absence of a French teacher we haven't been able to offer this option for a couple of years. Due to childcare workers moving on to college a number of new hires were made to staff our KidCare afterschool program. We were able to add more of a mature staff in addition to some new high school students. I think our new hires and the balance of maturity on our staff will bring an upgrade to our program.

God continues to bless our ministry in so many ways. We are thankful for being remembered in prayer and for the dedicated teachers and staff, parents and volunteers that make our school programs a reality.

Steve Zielke – Principal



### Student Ministry Recap

What an eventful summer we've had! The youth program has been very active all summer with events that included a hurricane relief mission trip to Beaumont, TX, a day at the beach, fun at Six Flags, and a Wilderness Retreat to Rock Cut State Park.

Our junior high group and our high school group continue to grow and form meaningful Christian relationships with one another. Looking forward, our Confirmation Classes are about to start up again and we will be preparing to confirm this year's class in October on Reformation Sunday. Big events for the youth to look forward to include Laser Tag, Paintball, and of course our weekly Youth Group.

As you can see, the months ahead are busy and exciting for these young people! As always we thank the congregation for your continued prayers for our youth as they grow in their faith and spiritual maturity.



Blessings,  
Ted Fischer



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

Greetings and Salutations!

With September comes the return of church choir practices, transitioning roles, new worship arts staff, and music writing! I have officially begun my transition to becoming the primary organist and am always constantly

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

### **Another Worship Arts Leader!**

One of our very own, Chris Errera, has been hired as my assistant! He's a phenomenal pianist, an amazing music technician, and an overall awesome musician. Chris will primarily be assisting me on the technology side of worship (Sound and Projection) as well as occasionally playing piano for our contemporary services. Let's welcome Chris to the St. Peter staff!

### **Church Choirs Are Back In Session!**

The TeDeum Vocal Choir and Joy Handbell Choir are seeking hands and voices that want to assist in leading worship through music! Both choirs will lead worship 1-2 times per month along with some scheduled holiday services.

Nervous about the time commitment? Don't be. We understand that choir is volunteer based! If you can make it one day but not the next, we understand and the directors will work with you! Know that without volunteers, we can't make a choir. You're the people who make it possible to have a choir! If you feel the Spirit tugging at your soul, come check out a practice!

If you are new to music, that's okay too! You don't have to know how to read music in order to play/sing along. You will receive basic vocal instruction and/or ringing technique in our practices! Come ready to learn!

If you feel lead to join a choir, see our choir practice times below.

-The Joy Handbell Choir, directed by Linda Scheurman, will begin practices on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the sanctuary loft and continue weekly.

-The TeDeum Vocal Choir, directed by Nathanael Pfeil, will begin practices on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the sanctuary loft and continue weekly.

### **Preaching Through Music**

I've had some members ask me where I find some of the music that I play in worship. Well...as Pastor Jerry and Pastor Greg write their own sermons, I write my own music! When I play on the organ, a vast majority of what you hear, mainly during hymns, is written and/or arranged by me.

Composing has always been a passion of mine and my transition to being the main organist has given me more of a chance to expand on that passion. Likewise, for the 5:00pm service, I've been asked to try and include a hymn of some kind every Saturday. A decent chunk of the time, I write/arrange the hymns you hear for that service as well.

Honestly one of my favorite things to do is write music for the church. Where delivering the sermon on a Sunday morning isn't 'my thing', preaching the Gospel through music is definitely up my alley! Holy Spirit willing, my overall goal is for the music in worship to uplift and encourage the congregation to sing out their praises to our Lord. If you have a special request, let me know! I'm always happy to write for the congregation!

### **Planned and Ready!**

Like I've said before, summer time is my planning time...and I'm ready to go! Choirs are scheduled, music is picked, an assistant is hired, and I'm excited for the next school year!

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

As you may already know, the summer mission trip to Haiti was postponed due to political unrest happening during the time of trip. While the team was disappointed in the postponement, they are regrouping as they discuss plan B. Septemberfest weekend typically is a great opportunity to fundraise for Haiti with Monday's nonprofit day Food Booth and the craft booth for Centre Lumiere. Unfortunately, unsafe weather took the fest by surprise and it was shut down for majority of the day. Anyone interested in the handmade Haitian Items from Centre Lumiere by go to their website and purchase at [www.centrelumiere.org](http://www.centrelumiere.org). Please pray for our team and their efforts as they have hit a few obstacles these past few months! If you are interested in

helping with this mission in any form, please contact Jeff or Kim Nyquist for more info. ([jeff\\_nyquist@yahoo.com](mailto:jeff_nyquist@yahoo.com) or [kimsjtn@yahoo.com](mailto:kimsjtn@yahoo.com))



The August 2018 Trip to Poland was a great success. To view images from the trip go to [stpeterlcms.org/Poland](http://stpeterlcms.org/Poland). The group focused on Bible-based ESL curriculum plus Vacation Bible School for youth 14 and younger at St Peter and Paul Lutheran Church in Tychy, Poland.

If you are interested in joining the efforts in Poland, please contact Maciej Kielbasinski at [maciej@kielbasinski.net](mailto:maciej@kielbasinski.net).



### Greetings from the Finance Office!

With the warmth of the summer months coming to an end, we look forward to the beautiful display of colors the Lord provides in the fall. It always amazes me the changes we witness from season to season,

not just in the weather, but in all of us.

Although we are currently slightly ahead of income projected, over the next month, we will be revising the budget for the 18-19 fiscal year as the original total income projected is somewhat higher than what is anticipated due to a number of factors.

All ministry leaders continue to monitor spending, but at the same time work very hard to ensure that their ministry goals are met.

We try very hard to anticipate all expenditures throughout the year. But there are always a handful of issues that are not accounted for in the budget which make it more difficult to adhere to hard numbers. While there are areas of expense that can be reduced, there are more that are fixed costs of operating expenses.

In closing, please know you are in our prayers each day and give thanks to our LORD for all that we receive. See you in worship!!



Blessings,  
JoAnn Lakoma

Finance / Human Resource



### Coming: First

In the Fall (usually in October) we dig into what God's word says about managing and sharing our blessings and resources. It's our "Annual Stewardship Emphasis." This year it will be from September 29 thru October 21. The theme is "FIRST: putting God first is living and giving." The First Commandment says, "You shall have no other gods." Yet, how easily God slips to second, fourth or tenth priority in our lives....or off our radar entirely! This four-week preaching series will help us take our eyes off the "shiny gods" that seduce us, and return our focus to the Real God. There will be Bible studies, a Leadership Event (October 15), children's chapel, and other features. Covenant Weekend will be October 20 and 21.

### September Ingathering by Stewardship Team

Here's what I do: on Memorial Day each year, I put my American flag out on the holder on my front porch. I leave it there all summer, and take it down after Labor Day. Sometimes, after being outside for 3+ months, it's faded or even torn. How does one dispose of a flag respectfully?

The Stewardship Ministry Team will be collecting flags for disposal during the month of September. There will be a container at the Connection Center (northwest corner of the narthex). After that we will turn them over to an appropriate military or civic organization for proper disposal.



Rev. Mark Bussert



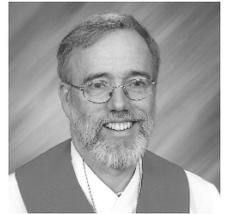
The Young at Heart Senior Group is a busy and active group. Already this year we have been to two plays: South Pacific in April and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers in July. We have also heard presentations from Phil's Friends, and from the Schaumburg Police on scams directed at seniors. We heard as well from the Schaumburg Community Services Dept. regarding services and activities available to seniors. We also enjoyed a musical performance by singer/songwriter John Sedor. In late August many went to Boomers Stadium for a baseball game and fireworks, and we are having an indoor picnic at our August meeting.

Every time we meet, we have a brief devotion with singing and

prayer, and we have lunch with each other, followed by visiting with each other and playing cards and other games. Every month we also gather donations for the St. Peter Food Pantry.

As we look toward fall and beyond, we will go on our annual boat ride with lunch on the Fox River Queen in September, and later in the fall we will look forward to our yearly lunch of pizza with the eighth graders. Finally we wrap up the year by attending Macm the Seniors' Christmas Party at the Seville.

So as you can see, this is an active group. And if you are 55 or over, you are most welcome to come!! We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. til 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!



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!