



*Ministry Matters*  
*St. Peter's*  
 MINISTRY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

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*

Greetings in the name of our merciful Savior, Jesus Christ! As time goes by we are slowly reengaging in ministries that existed pre-Covid. Just in the past few months our Young at Heart group has come together to enjoy food and fellowship. We are looking to have the church nursery and Sunday school for children up and running in the coming weeks plus our

Oktoberfest/Trunk'n'Treat Event will be on September 26th. It has been a slow yet steady process of getting back to where we once were since March of 2020. As we look back we can see areas where we have learned. As we move forward we look for opportunity. I pray that the pages that follow will give you a brief picture into the past and a large vision into the ministries for the future. To God goes all glory! I look forward to seeing you in worship!



Peace in Christ,  
 Pastor Jerry Hays



### *Desk of Pastor Hintz*

**Adult Bible Study** - "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 Sunday morning study has been on a journey to understand more of the Old Testament and how it connects with the New Testament that Jesus fulfilled. We have been studying the letter of Hebrews to strengthen our faith, and in this end, have been reminded that God has been completely faithful in guiding

His people and preparing hearts and minds for that final Day! He has given His Son Jesus as our Savior and will continue to carry out all His promises. Come gather, study and discuss the goodness of our God. Pastor Jerry, Pastor Greg and Mike Condill are the leaders for this class.

**LERT** - Storms are simply a part of life. Recovery from them is as well. Our LERT team has been deployed to local areas in Chicago because of tornadoes and have continued to do excellent clean-up work with the skills they have learned. As of this writing, many events continue to give opportunity to help people in need. LERT groups will be heading to Louisiana to help victims of Hurricane Ida that wreaked havoc along the Gulf Coast. These trained volunteers will bring healing, hope and restoration to people hurting from this natural disaster. 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](mailto: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. In-person meetings are taking place in the renovated fellowship hall. A balloon release will precede October's meeting on Oct. 5th in the parking lot to remember those babies who have gone to be with Jesus sooner than we hoped for! For more information please contact Sara at [saraann@mend.org](mailto:saraann@mend.org)



There is also an invitation to participate in "A Walk to Remember" at the Itasca Country Club, Sunday, October 17 from 3-7 pm. Tickets are available on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)



### *Desk of Steve Zielke*

The new school year began on August 16. We have a current enrollment of 248 students (116 preschool, 132 K-8). This year's school theme is based on Colossians 1:15-20 summarized as God is "In All Things".

At this writing our sixth grade class is preparing for three days and two nights at Walcamp in Kingston, Illinois. Walcamp Outdoor Ministries Center is a great place for our students to learn outdoors and bond together as a class. Last year's sixth grade class was unable to go due to COVID restrictions, so this year's class is particularly anxious. We are grateful for the PTL for underwriting much of the cost. Our volunteers, and teachers also make this trip a reality. Very positive life-long memories are made during this outdoor education experience. We are glad this tradition of learning can continue.

The "Swing for Scholarships" golf outing takes place on September 20. There still may be some openings if you are able to join us in having fun and raising funds for students who otherwise might not be able to attend St. Peter. [Register at this link](#) if you are interested.

Our last National Lutheran School Accreditation team visit was five years ago. This year brings us to another cycle of self-study and an accreditation team validation visit in the Spring. Going through the process takes a lot of time and effort, the benefits for our children are well worth it, as we work towards continuous school improvement.

God is in all things! His work is alive at St. Peter. Last year, COVID brought new students to our church and school family. This year is no different. Even though we don't always like what is going on in the world, God remains the same. We are very blessed. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In Him,  
Steve Zielke, School Principal





### *Student Ministry Recap*

**Youth** - 7th-12th grade students gather every Sunday night for some fun, food and Jesus time! We hang out, play games, laugh and grow in our faith! We find support in one another that we have a connection no matter what school we go to! Events continue to be scheduled as we move through the next season! Jr. High meets from 5:00-6:30 and High School 6:30-8pm.

**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING** - July 9-13, 2022 in Houston, TX. One item that we are excited for is the National Youth Gathering for next year. Info is coming soon so be alert as to what is taking place for meetings and registration! It is coming quickly!

Finally, we ask that you continue to pray for the search committee as we once again look to find the next person to lead our young people and their growth in Christ.



**VBS (Vacation Bible School)** - What an awesome time we had this year for our Rocky Railway VBS where we learned that JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH! Over 230 participants and volunteers were able to learn and grow in the goodness of our awesome God! What a wonderful opportunity to sing, play, learn, build and grow in the joy of Jesus! We continue to pray that more families and congregation members (our volunteers) will be able to experience the love of Jesus in this unique setting! A great

shout out to Joe Montilla and his family for making it a special year with the model trains that were set up and running throughout the event. And of course, also to Joanna Eden for leading the charge (again) using her gifts and talents to make it a year to remember!

### **Treehouse**

Learning about Jesus is always fun at the Treehouse! Pre-K through 6th graders have opportunity to learn at their level about Jesus and have fun. We'll be kicking off in-person Sunday School on October the 3rd. The Word of God is shared in a fun format 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. For more details please contact the church office, 847-885-3350, about life in the Treehouse!



### *Traditional Worship*

I hope you enjoyed the Summer break. I know we in the Music Ministry are anxious to “get back at it”. Our Traditional Choir will begin rehearsals Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8PM, in the church balcony. Anyone high school age on up is welcome, no experience necessary! This choir sings approximately once a month and at various festival services. We will take COVID protocols as needed.

Handbells will begin later in September (Watch Family Ties for the 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal!). This group rehearses on Thursdays from 6-6:45PM in the church balcony. As with the vocal choir, anyone high school age and up is welcome, no experience necessary! We have music for several different levels of difficulty and number of ringers. We will spread out as needed for COVID protocols. If you are interested in either group, please contact me at [jsawusch@stpeterlcms.org](mailto:jsawusch@stpeterlcms.org). New members are always welcome!

Sometimes technology can be intimidating, but Chris Errera has been busy learning our new soundboard and training people on it. He has also been training people to help with our live-streamed services. Thanks, Chris!

The balcony clean-up project has been postponed until this Fall. Still hoping to get that done before Christmas.

As we get ready for the Festival season of the church year, watch for opportunities for instrumentalists to help enhance worship at various services in the coming months. After a long time off, all of us in the Music Ministry are looking forward to starting this Fall! Enjoy the wonder of Fall in God’s creation!

Julie Sawusch  
Traditional Music Director





### *The Older Adult Ministry*

Our senior ministry group, Young At Heart, was so happy about meeting “in Person” once again. We resumed our 4th Thursday of each month meetings and have had two recent meetings. Our roster includes 80 members. There were 38 of us in the Fellowship Hall on July 22. We enjoyed a catered meal. Each of us were asked to fill out a survey form to help in future plans for the group. There were two questions. 1. What activities would you like to see for YAH in the Future? 2. What are some of your favorite memories about the YAH group?

On August 27, we had 27 members present. We found that hairs have grayed, styles have changed, and new members have joined. In order to get better acquainted, we arranged for name tags and lanyards. Pastor Hays led us in prayer, and presented devotions. As usual, we celebrated birthdays and anniversaries. Lunch on that day was BYOBBL (Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch). Desserts were shared by those who brought them.

Our next meeting will be on September 23 (11am – 2pm). Watch for your reminder email with further instructions for that meeting.

Marlene Jones and Gerie Kay



### *Finance Office:*

#### **Greetings from the Finance Office!**

Well...I am finally back in the finance office! No more working from home (such a long drive...haha). It is so nice to look out and see all the children returning to school and to see so many new and familiar faces!! I am currently trying to get reorganized here in the office with rearranging workspace, clearing out files and getting used to where everything is, so much room to be able to spread

out. SO NICE!!

**On to the happenings here in the Finance office...**

We have a balanced budget for the 21-22 fiscal year. This is one of the first times that I can recall that we will not have to do a budget revision in September to reduce projected income. What a blessing!

We continue to be slightly under projection for Debt Reduction. Your gifts/offerings designated for Debt reduction go strictly for the mortgage payment each month. Any gifts/offerings received above and beyond our fixed payment goes towards the principal owed.

As we move forward into the fall and winter months, we will start to prepare for the 22-23 school year along with the tasks of year end procedures for the calendar year of 2021.

In closing, I hope you enjoy the beauty of what the fall season brings. Beautiful colors, cooler days and nights, great weather for those nice nights sitting outside or taking that long walk you have been wanting to do but the summer heat was just too much!

Blessings!

Joann Lakoma

Finance / Human Resource

