

Messenger

St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church & Day School

1343 Penniman Avenue

Plymouth, MI 48170

734-453-3393

August 2010

Have you checked out the front part of the hymnal lately? You are probably somewhat familiar with pages 15-61. Those are the liturgical services we use regularly when we gather in God's house for worship. No doubt you are acquainted with pages 63 - 122 (the Psalms). Portions of Psalms with a refrain are printed for use in worship services. But pages 157-166, I would venture to guess are less familiar to most of you.

This section is entitled "THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH YEAR." The Christian church year is unique. It does not start January 1 like the secular year. It does not start July 1 like some fiscal years. The Christian year is based on the life of Christ and the core of His work for our salvation. The Church reviews these key facts and rejoices in Christ's work yearly so that God's people are strengthened and refreshed in their knowledge and faith in Christ's work. There are two major events of Christ's life which serve as the pillars the church year is built around. The day of Christmas (December 25) and Easter were historically the days in which catechumens (those being taught the Christian faith) were baptized and brought into the fellowship of the Church. This led to the instruction periods (which became Advent and Lent) during which the catechumens prepared for their baptism and reception of the Lord's Supper for the first time.

Because the date of Easter is tied to the lunar calendar (like the Old Testament Passover) it is not a fixed date. But when Easter occurs in a given year should not be a mystery for you. This is where your hymnal comes in handy. Simply turn to page 162 and you will see the dates for the moveable seasons of the church year until the year AD 2040. And while you are there, bookmark pages 163 - 166. You will then have at your disposal the Scripture lessons for every Sunday of the church year for your home devotions and preparation for the coming Sunday. We are currently following the three year cycle of lessons (year C). At the beginning of the next church year (November 28, Advent 1-- cf. p 162), we will use series A.

The church year is a blessing to God's people because we review Christ's life for us yearly. It keeps the preacher from riding his favorite "hobby horse" for preaching subjects and the people of God are filled with the whole counsel of God.

May we truly treasure the gift of the church year and the hymnal which is a valuable able to our worship life both at home and in the parish. The next Messenger will talk about pages 159-161 "Minor Festivals."

In Christ's service,
Pastor Paul Schaefer

A Note From The Principal

I hope all of you are having a great summer. My family and I have spent our time relaxing at home, visiting family in Wisconsin and Minnesota, going to a NASCAR race (Nicholas and Mrs. Roth are going, too.), and preparing for the upcoming school year. It is truly a blessing to serve our Lord and Savior with you.

Here are a few highlights from the summer.

1. **"Saved By Grace,"** is the theme for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Christ's sacrifice showed his undeserved love for us and saved us from eternal death. His death and resurrection has given us the blessing of eternal life with Him in heaven. It is truly a blessing to begin another school year under God's saving grace. It is my sincere prayer that Christ, our Savior, will guide us through another successful school year and, more importantly, bring us ever closer to Him.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9)

2. St. Peter's Lutheran School is blessed to have a new teacher for the 5th-6th grade classroom. Mr. Steven Lehman from LaCrosse, WI, is a recent graduate of Martin Luther College. He arrived July 19th and is currently getting settled in his new apartment and is preparing for the upcoming school year. We wish him God's richest blessings as he begins his ministry with us.
3. We held our annual VBS June 21-24. We saw between 25 and 30 students attend in grades Pre-K through 6th grade. We also had numerous adults and teens volunteer their time and effort. Special thanks to all the teachers, volunteers, and Mrs. Roth for coordinating this successful event.
4. St. Peter's has the privilege to host the Michigan District Teachers' Conference this year. The WELS teachers from throughout Michigan will attend meetings, Bible studies, and other activities on our campus. We will need help ushering for the worship service as well as organizing and serving meals. Check the bulletin and school newsletter for opportunities you can help serve with this event.
5. We are having a School Work Bee on Saturday, August 28th at 8:00 am. We will use this time to clean and organize areas in the school and classrooms in preparation for the upcoming school year.
6. Upcoming summer dates
 - a. August 24: School Registration.
 - b. August 25: School Orientation
 - c. August 26: PreK Orientation
 - d. September 7: 1st Day Of School

God's richest blessings to all of you!

In Christ' Service,
Ryan Roth, Principal

Preschool

I hope you've had a relaxing summer. It is now time to start gearing up for the start of another school year. The following is a list of dates to keep in mind over the next few weeks.

- Orientation Meeting: for all parents will be Thursday, August 26 at 6:30 pm. in the gym. Please bring any forms that have not already been submitted, such as: emergency form and card, pink developmental sheet, green health form, pesticide notification and picture/website authorization form. Also, bring a check for the appropriate amount made out to "St. Peter's Lutheran School".
- Open House: An open house will take place Tuesday, August 31 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. to help students become familiar with the classroom before the first day of class. You are welcome to come and go as you please.
- Work Bee: is scheduled for Saturday morning, August 28 from 8:00 - 12:00.
- First Day of School: Both classes run from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
 - 3 year-old class: Tuesday, September 7
 - 4 year-old class: Wednesday, September 8

We still have openings for anyone who may be interested. Feel free to call me at home (734-261-2485) or school (734-453-0460). I can't wait to share the message of salvation with some of our youngest members. See you in September!

Music Department

During the summer months, the Music Department has continued to support St. Peter's worship activities with vocal music in service to our Lord and to the congregation. I have heard many appreciative comments about our soloists Lois Bude, Mark Castellese, Jim Cutler, Joan Kalish, Larry Liebau, Rich Miller, Tom Schwartz, and Doris Tomlin. Thanks go to them for the faithful use of their considerable talents, and for the time taken to prepare their selections. You will continue to hear from them throughout the year.

As the new school year begins, our adult choirs begin their season of singing and ringing hand bells to the glory of God. This is a good time for those of you who wish to serve our Lord with your musical talents to join our Senior Choir and/or Handbell Choir. The commitment is one or two hours during the week, plus singing or ringing two or three services per month. The rewards are many, the joy of making music in praise of our Lord, the development of musical abilities, and the fun of fellowship with other Christians. If you are interested, please come to our first rehearsal on September 2. This is the Thursday before school begins. Handbells practice at 6:15 p.m., and Senior Choir follows at 7 p.m., every Thursday evening, in the church balcony. We are finished by 8 p.m. When the Senior Choir sings or the hand bells ring, we practice at 8 a.m. on Sundays, before Bible class. Any instrumentalists are also welcome to join us for special services such as Reformation, the Candlelight Service, and Easter, as needed.

St. Peter's school offers many ways to make music: the St. Peter's Band, the Junior Handbell Choir, and student singing for worship services. Mrs. Sue Brooke and Mrs. Yvonne

Alaniva co-direct the handbell choir. Students in grades 4-8 with any level of music experience meet Tuesdays 7:25-7:45 a.m. to practice; they play for school chapel services and other special services throughout the school year. Mrs. Alaniva also directs the band. Students meet according to their expertise level throughout the week in the 2:30-3:00 p.m. time slot, and perform concerts (currently scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2010, and Wednesday, May 25, 2011). The school teachers guide their students in worship service singing. We will have a Junior Choir to sing during Advent and Lent, if there is enough interest. We thank the school parents for their faithful support of these choirs and the band.

If you have any questions about music activities at St. Peter's, don't hesitate to call me, Jan Jacobi (Music Director), at 248.924.2147, or email me at janjacobi@comcast.net.

Old & New Friends

Old & New Friends is a group of St. Peter's members (any age) who meet for lunch on the third Wednesday of most months. We will not be meeting in August; however, our next scheduled outing is Wednesday, September 15th. We will meet at the Ann Arbor Rd. Denny's for lunch and fellowship at noon. Please join us and bring a friend!!

Board of Trustees

In the past several months the Board of Trustees has been working on several maintenance projects throughout our Properties.

During the month of April we held our annual spring worker bee concentrating on sprucing up the church and school grounds. Thanks to all of the volunteers who braved the rain and helped with this event. During the worker bee, we weeded, fertilized, trimmed bushes, and added new mulch to the landscape areas.

In May, we removed and replaced the church carpeting. In addition to the church carpeting, we will also be replacing the pre-school classroom carpeting in early August.

In June, we removed and replaced the hot water heating tank in the school's boiler room. In addition to replacing the water heater we also installed a new circulation pump and motor. This heating unit provides hot water to the school's restrooms and kitchen.

During the month of July we have been working on several construction projects. At the Auburn Street Parsonage, we formed and poured a 20' x 18' concrete patio behind the garage and we have removed and replaced the church brick steps with formed concrete. Within the next few weeks we will complete the project by re-installing the black colored aluminum handrails.

Look for an announcement in the church bulletin regarding our annual fall worker bee.

Yours Truly,
The Board of Trustees

Board of Elders

What is the Board of Elders, what are its functions and how does it operate? Below are some "Cliff Notes" which may help you to understand this...

To quote part of the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church's Constitution, the Board of Elders is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the congregation and is under the guidance of Pastor Schaefer. These responsibilities include:

1. Aiding the Pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church.
2. Guarding the purity of preaching and teaching in the church and school.
3. Watching over the godly walk and life of the Pastor, school staff, church officers and all other members of St. Peter's.
4. Supervising the orderly conduct of our public worship.
5. Aiding the sick and needy of the congregation.
6. Assisting in support of pastoral physical care and special concerns.

To these ends, the Board of Elders specifically:

1. Helps to coordinate the Music Program by assisting the Music Director and the Pastor in the selection of the appropriate hymns for all regular and special services. Terry Smith heads up this effort.
2. Provides the necessary support for the Altar Guild in preparation of the chancel and all furnishings for all worship services. Terry Smith is also responsible for this.
3. Coordinates a" support (Benevolence) to aid and assist the sick and needy within the congregation. Jon Townsend is the new coordinator for Benevolence.
4. Coordinates the Ushers Committee, including scheduling of the five usher teams for all worship services, verifying sufficient training is obtain for all new ushers and coordinating the orderly conduct of each worship service. Gary Crabtree is the new coordinator for this committee.
5. Helps to coordinate, along with Pastor Schaefer, the encouragement of delinquent members and family units to participate in the joyful receipt of the benefits the gospel message in our worship services and through the partaking of Holy Communion. Bill Tomlin continues to labor in this effort.
6. Represents the Board of Elders as an ex officio member of the Board of Stewardship to help correlate the activities of these two Boards. Mark Castellese is responsible for this effort.
7. Assists Pastor Schaefer in the weekly distribution of Holy Communion. All of the Board of Elders, as well as the Congregation Chairman, have a hand in this activity.

As we progress through this church year, the members of the Board of Elders stand ready to assist you on any of the above listed concerns that you may have.

Bruce Winkler
Chairman
Bd. of Elders

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 12

Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes Resume
Bibles Sunday - All 2nd Graders will receive a Bible in Church

Sunday, September 19

Church Picnic at the Waterford Bend Facility (Hines Park - 6 Mile & Northville Rd.)