

# The Light



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St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
St. Clair, Michigan



## Baby Pantry

Members of St. Peter's have been researching a new outreach ministry that reflects our mission as a congregation - Welcoming all to know and love Jesus. People will know Jesus through acts of love and compassion through our ministries to the community. We have spoken to and shared emails with various community members that work with young families to assess the need for a Baby Pantry in our area and we have concluded there is a need. The Baby Pantry we envision would offer diapers and wipes to families in need and would operate out of our own church building. We now need to assess if there is congregational support for this new ministry. Please consider if you could provide ongoing support for a Baby Pantry with donations of diapers or wipes, funds to buy diapers or a gift of your time to volunteer for the pantry. This will be an informal assessment of interest, so please let Pastor Ken, Christine Simone (313) 655-7367, or Chris Ritter (810) 305-7007, know your thoughts on supporting such an endeavor.



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St. Peter's Lutheran  
St. Clair, MI



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## Winter Notes

Dear friends in Christ,

I don't remember when exactly I was given my first train set, but I do remember it was a Christmas gift from an aunt and uncle. My Dad helped me lay the track on a piece of painted plywood. My parents even let me put the layout in a corner of the living room for a while.

As some of you know, I still have a model train layout, but it's a lot different than that very first one. I've learned a lot about model railroading in the last 35 years or so, and every time I look through a model railroading magazine, I see that there is still so much more I could learn.

Our Wednesday Bible study group is reading *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. The author, Amy-Jill Levine suggests that the kingdom of heaven "occurs when people take the words of Jesus in these chapters to heart and live into them." She is specifically referring to Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), but the same could be said of all of Jesus' teachings. The kingdom of heaven occurs when we take Jesus' words to heart and live into them.

Levine then suggests that the Sermon on the Mount can be thought of as a beginner's guide to the kingdom of heaven. In other words, it is a good place to start, but it certainly doesn't tell us everything we need to know about the kingdom of heaven.

The same can be said about faith in general. The life of faith is a lifelong journey. There is always something new to learn about God and God's ways. As we go through life, our experiences may cause us to ask questions or have doubts. Our understanding of God might change over time.

One of the gifts of belonging to a community of faith is being connected with others who are also on this lifelong journey, others who don't have it all figured out, others who have questions, others who are still learning about God and God's ways. We have the opportunity to share our experiences with others, support one another and learn from one another. We get to worship together, learn together, serve together, and laugh and cry together.

The season of Lent begins on February 22. I invite you to consider how this upcoming season can be a time for reflection and growth. Maybe it is a time to worship more regularly, try praying in a new way, attend a Bible study, or find an opportunity to serve others. If you aren't sure where to start, I am happy to listen and guide.

May God be with us as we journey through the Lenten season.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Ken

P.S. If you are looking for details about Lenten Bible study or worship, please watch the weekly announcements. Plans for the season will be finalized soon.

### Mason Update

Mason is now two and half years old. The process of weaning him from the ventilator is complete. He has been completely off the vent since October 31. Mason had his tonsils and adenoids removed in early October. Later this year, he will have an airway reconstruction surgery. After recovering from this surgery, the process of removing the trach will follow. We appreciate your continued prayers.

Pastor Ken, Pastor Joyce, and Mason

### Pastoral Care

Pastor Ken is in the office at least one day per week (usually Wednesdays). Though he continues to work mostly from home, he is available by phone and email. You can reach him at (810) 892-3043 or [pastor.kenstaib@yahoo.com](mailto:pastor.kenstaib@yahoo.com). Pastor Ken will gladly bring Communion to those who are unable to attend worship in person. Please contact Pastor Ken if you or a family member are interested, and he will make arrangements.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 22. Watch the weekly announcements for details about Ash Wednesday worship.

### Sunday School

Sunday School for grades pre-K through fifth grade will be offered on February 5. There will be no Sunday School on February 19, due to mid-winter break. During March, Sunday School will be offered March 5 and 19. On those Sundays, children will be dismissed from worship after the children's sermon and then return to worship before Communion.

### First Communion

Pastor Ken is offering a First Communion class on Saturday, March 18 from 9 am-12 pm. Youth in second grade or older are welcome to attend. First Communion will be celebrated in worship on Sunday, March 19. Please let Pastor Ken know if your son or daughter will be attending.

### New Member Class

A two-part new member class will be offered on February 12 and 26, immediately after worship for anyone interested in becoming a member of St. Peter's. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, March 5. If you are interested in attending the class, please let Pastor Ken know.

### Bottle and Can Collection

Thank you to those who have signed up to return cans and bottles. There are still a few months available starting with February. Proceeds go towards future youth activities, including the 2024 youth gathering. Sign up using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E48A8A62CA5FC1-canand1>

### Summer Camp

Even though winter has just begun, it's not too soon to be thinking about summer camp. We will once again be going to Stony Lake Camp in New Era, Michigan. A new pricing structure called "Welcome to All" was recently announced. Families will have the choice of paying full price, half price, or no price for youth attending camp.

This year, we will be going to camp from June 18-23, 2023. This year, we will be going the same week as some of the other ELCA congregations in our area.

The following programs are available that week: First Timers (grades 1-3), Discoverers (grades 3-6), Confirmation (grades 6-8), Servant Hearts (grades 8-12), and Counselor-In-Training (grades 10-12). Registration for camp opened on January 15, 2023.

For more information about camp pricing and summer programming, you can check out their website

<https://elcalivingwater.com/welcometoallpricing/>.





2/01 Gary Eisen  
2/07 Zachary Mathews  
2/11 Bryan Neiman  
2/14 Avery Paul  
2/16 Julie Alley  
2/19 Ashley Mathews  
2/20 Evelyn Alley  
2/21 Mike Furtah  
2/21 Delaney McDonald  
2/22 Ronald Lindsay  
2/23 Shannon Furtah  
2/24 Jeanne Sullivan 82  
2/24 Janice Peters  
2/27 Taylynn Trombley

## Do You Love to Sing?



The "St. Clair Community Singers" are looking for you! The group is always eager to welcome new members: everyone who loves to sing is invited. The spring 2023 season will culminate in a performance on Sunday, May 7 at St Peter Lutheran Church in St. Clair. Practices are held on Monday evenings (beginning February 13) at 6:45pm, also at St Peter's: stop in! (Call first so we can have music ready for you!)

For more information, call Cori at 719.271.4188, Marti at 810.434.1925, or Madonna at 810.689.6350.



# Christmas in July



Mark your calendars for July 23.

We will once again collect winter hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves so that local charities have some available for those late fall cold spells.

Purchased and homemade items are welcome, so shoppers grab those winter clearance items, and crafters grab your yarn and fabric as we get ready to celebrate Christmas in July.



## February Worship Assistant Schedule


<b><i>Volunteer task</i></b>	<b>Sunday February 5</b>	<b>Sunday February 12</b>	<b>Sunday February 19</b>	<b>Sunday February 26</b>
<b><i>Scripture Reader</i></b>	Del Vogel	Katy Emerich	Ian Boden	Sue Daniels
<b><i>Media Ministry</i></b>	Ian Boden	Tim Evans	Tim Evans	Dawn Lambrecht
<b><i>Projectionist</i></b>	Carol Vogel	Marc Simone	Jan Allington	Bob Coffey
<b><i>Usher</i></b>	Chris Ritter	Charles Butler	Charles Butler	Ron Meiselbaugh
<b><i>Dismissal</i></b>		Mila Emerich		
<b><i>Communion Assistant</i></b>	Patty Yax	Chris Ritter	Sue Daniels	Ian Boden
<b><i>Altar Guild</i></b>	Karen B. Bob C.	Karen B. Bob C.	Karen B. Bob C.	Karen B. Bob C.

## In Our Prayers

Nancy Dease  
Tom Latowski  
Patti Jones  
Paulette Lindsay  
Todd Bodany  
Margaret Danneels  
Mike Morenko  
Ruth Reyelts  
Tom Peters  
Dennis Rocker  
Janice Convis  
Sharon Ann Wheeler  
Pat Greenwood  
Bernie Nummer  
Ruth Morris  
James Mitchell  
Marlene Hand  
Douglas Hand  
Norma Schoenrade  
Eleanor Schroeder  
Kay Folk  
Thom Dewey  
George Eisen  
Johanne Bodany  
Marge Guinther  
Bryan Neiman  
Tim, Ali and Andrew  
Jack & Char Boulier  
The Lindsay-Morris Family  
Pastor Ken, Pastor Joyce,  
and Mason  
Those affected by COVID-19

Please call or email the office to update this list  
[stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net)  
810-329-2174



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 1pm  Confirmation 6:30 pm	2 Groundhog Day	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 Worship 9:30 am  Sunday School	6	7 Church Council Meeting 6 pm (Via Zoom)	8 Bible Study 1 pm  Confirmation 6:30 pm	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 Worship 9:30 am  New Member Class Following Worship	13	14 	15 Bible Study 1pm  Confirmation 6:30 pm	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 Worship 9:30 am	20 Presidents Day	21	22 Ash Wednesday  Bible Study 1pm  Confirmation 6:30 pm	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 Worship 9:30 am  New Member Class Following Worship	27	28				

# St. Peter's Financial Information

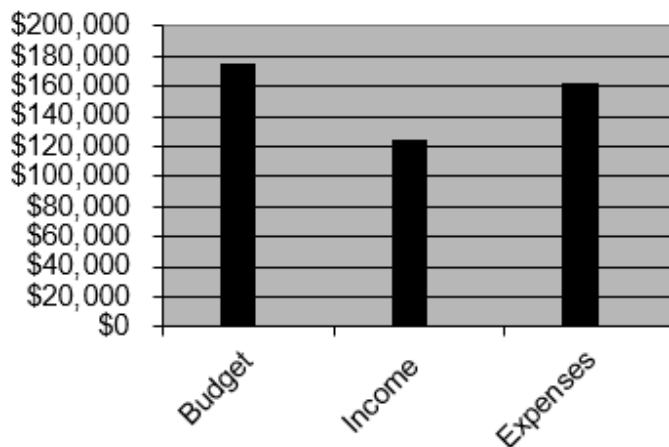
Month Ending 12/31/22

	<u>Actual for Month</u>	<u>Budgeted for Month</u>	<u>Income Over (Under) Budget</u>
General Fund Income	\$ 10,981.85	\$ 14,575.00	(3,593.15)
General Fund Expenses	<u>(13,787.07)</u>	<u>(14,575.00)</u>	
Increase (Decrease) Cash	<u>(2,805.22)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	

## Cash Balances as of 12/31/22

General Fund	\$ 5,733.75
Designated	\$ 87,075.54
Sunday School	\$ 2,939.91

## Year-to-Date 12/31/22



## Money Counters

January: Dave & Erin Vogel  
 February: Ron & Gayle Meiselbaugh  
 March: Joanne Neiderhauser  
 Chuck Butler

## Giving Options

The Amazon Smile program will be available to accrue funds for St. Peter's until February 20, 2023. The program will no longer exist after that date. Until then, you may click the link below to start shopping, make sure to mark St. Peter's as the designated organization.



The tithe.ly app is an easy way to support the ministries of St. Peter's. To download the app, search for Tithe.ly in the App Store or Google Play. Once the app is downloaded you can search for "St. Peters Lutheran." The default giving option is the General Fund, but there are options for seasonal giving envelopes and memorials. You can also set up recurring payments. Click the link below to give online.



# St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes  
(Zoom Meeting) – DRAFT January 3, 2023

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 6:05 PM, via Zoom.

**Council members:** Pastor Ken Staib, Jan Allington, Chuck Butler, Bob Coffey, Tim Evans (Secretary), Marty Green (Vice President), Ashley Matthews, Chris Ritter, Chris Simone, Carol Vogel (Treasurer), Steve Vogel, Del Vogel (President). (Those absent from the meeting are marked with an \*).

**Devotions:** Pastor Ken

## **Election of 2023 Officers:**

The following Officer positions were unanimously approved:

President: Del Vogel  
Vice President: Marty Green  
Secretary: Tim Evans  
Treasurer: Carol Vogel

## **Review of Minutes of December 2022 Council**

**Meeting:** Motion by Carol to accept minutes. Supported by Chris R. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carol Vogel submitted the report for December 2023. General Fund income was \$10,982 vs. expenses of \$13,787. Motion to accept Treasurer's report, by Marty, second by Tim. MC.

**Pastor Ken Staib's Report:** As Submitted. Motion to accept by Tim, supported by Ashley. MC.

**Suggestion box:** None. If anyone has suggestions, they can be emailed to Pastor ([pastor.kenstaib@yahoo.com](mailto:pastor.kenstaib@yahoo.com)), or Del ([delvogel@yahoo.com](mailto:delvogel@yahoo.com)).

## **Old Business:**

**Review Dashboard:** Attendance continued to improve, but giving is still not keeping up with expenses.

**Bathroom handrails:** Tim is investigating options and will report before the next Council meeting.

**CPR class:** So far, not many people have signed up, but several people have indicated interest. A number of Council members indicated that although they hadn't signed up, they would like to attend.

**Additional Council Member:** No suggestions or volunteers, so far.

**Review membership, including active vs. inactive:** Pastor, Carol, and Del will meet in January to review.

**Transfer to ICON new membership system for January 1, 2023:** No 2023 postings will be done until the new system is online.

**Meetings with Holy Family:** Our two worship committees will meet January 26.

## **New Business:**

**Office Administrator changes:** Due to family obligations, Cheryl has indicated that she will be unable to do in-office work starting in April. She is willing to continue doing some remote work, including preparing Bulletins and PowerPoints. She currently works about 15 hours per week, of which 6 are in the office.

**Better Together Conference Jan 28:** Several Blue Water ELCA congregations intend to have additional discussions regarding how we can work together. Please talk to Pastor Ken if you are interested in attending, or go to the following link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/Bgsvwwn9qTfJs1GN6>.

**Effective Council Meetings:** The Synod is sponsoring a training program to improve the effectiveness of Council meetings. There will be 4 Zoom sessions in Jan, Feb, Mar and Apr. The introductory, one-hour, meeting is Jan 9 at 7:00 PM. The Synod is paying half the cost, so the cost to our congregation would be \$125, total. Let Del know if you are interested in attending.



Transfer of \$10,050 from designated memorial to General Fund: The General Fund balance at the end of December was \$5,262. At our current monthly deficit rate, this balance would be exhausted in two months or less. Since the congregation has significant other assets, this does not mean that we would actually run out of money. As discussed at the Annual Meeting, it does mean we might need to borrow from Designated Funds and carry a negative balance in the General Fund. Most designated funds are for specific purposes, but a \$10,050 gift to Louis Eisen's memorial was designated for parking lot maintenance, "...or greater need". The Council believes that the General Fund shortfall constitutes a greater current need. Consequently, Bob Coffey made a motion to transfer \$10,050 from the Louis Eisen memorial to the General Fund. The motion was supported by Chris Ritter and carried unanimously. The Council wishes to express their sincere thanks to Louis's family for their exceptional generosity.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Fellowship Outreach (Chris Ritter): Verbal report. The committee reviewed the list of past ushers and is contacting them. Christine Simone is investigating starting up a program to help families with baby/young children needs. There appears to be a community need for this support, since it is largely outside the mandates of the Ecumenical Food Pantry and of Kids in Distress.

Worship (Bob Coffey): Verbal report. The committee will meet with Holy Families on January 26.

Parish Education (Steve Vogel): No report.

Property (Tim Evans/Chuck Butler/Marty Green): Verbal report. There is a broken window on south side of the church, it appears that stained glass is not damaged, but the outer glass will need to be replaced. There is a small (less than one gallon per day) leak on one of the hot water pipes in the boiler room. If it gets substantially worse, we will probably contact a plumber for repair, otherwise we should be able to wait until warmer weather and attempt an in-house repair.

Stewardship (Jan Allington/Chris Simone): Verbal report. Most of the offering envelopes have been picked up. The committee will distribute the remaining ones.

Youth and Family Ministries (Ashley Matthews): There will be a meeting January 29, immediately following the service, to plan for the Youth Gathering and other 2023 activities.

2023 Committee assignments: Chris Ritter will move to the Stewardship Committee, and Christine Simone will move to Fellowship Outreach. There are no other changes from 2022 assignments.

**Next meeting:** February 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM (By Zoom)

**Devotions for next meeting:** Chris R.

**Closing:** Motion to close the meeting was made by Chris R. supported by Ashley. MC. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Evans

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