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PERMIT #6
DELPHOS, OHIO 45833

The Mission of St. Peter Lutheran Church is to grow our faith in Jesus as we journey together and serve others.

March Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, February 18, 2024



Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 14th



Presidents' Day
Monday, February 19th

The Messenger



If you know of anyone who would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact the church office at stpeterdelphos@gmail.com. If your information or address needs updated, please let us know. Thank you.

The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – February 2024

A Little Bit of This and That for February...

The month of January has been a very interesting month so far and I am constantly being reminded of the importance of the need to trust God on all of our life's journey.

I have found that many feel that when hard times come that they have done something wrong to displease God or they feel like what is happening to them is unfair and they turn away in anger at God.

We do not see the big picture or even begin to grasp the majesty and power of this God we worship as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are called to trust God to journey with us as we traverse the good times and the hard times. Sometimes trusting gets hard but that does not mean that God is not with us.

One of the hangings in my office is a quote from I Thessalonians 5:16-18. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is GOD'S WILL for YOU in Christ Jesus.

In January, two of our dear members died suddenly at an age when we feel that they had many more years ahead to enjoy their family and friends. We want to question God and ask why, but we do not see the big picture. Our task is to trust God, no matter what.

As I am writing this, I realize how hard this can be when we face uncertainty in our lives. Our brains go wild and we cannot turn them off. It is during these times that getting quiet and asking Jesus to come is critically important. God is with us on our journeys.

When I was working on my master's in clinical counseling at Ashland Theological Seminary, I experienced a lot of anxiety. One day when I was praying God gave me this song and I often sing it. It brings peace to me. I wish you could hear me singing it over you as you face challenges. One thing I know for certain is that because we are human, we will all face difficulties at one time or another. But God is with us, present to bring us what we need. The words to the song are as follows.

Walking down the road of your life by Carol Pretorius

Walking down the road of your life.

Walking down the road of your life. Abide. Abide.

Walking down the road of your life.

Walking down the road of your life. Abide in me my child.

In this world you'll have trouble, but be not afraid.

For I will go before you, so abide, I say abide.

Walking down the road of your life.

Walking down the road of your life. Abide. Abide.

Walking down the road of your life.

Walking down the road of your life. Abide in me my child.

On New Year's Day I had a gallbladder attack followed by a smaller one on the 3rd. This led to a trip to the doctor and bloodwork and then a full abdominal ultra sound on the 12th. My results came out on My Chart the afternoon and it was then that I learned that I have some sort of large lesion on my liver. As it turns out, after a CT scan, that it is a softball size cyst that I have probably had for some time. In the coming weeks I will meet with a surgeon at OSU to make a decision about whether or not to remove the cyst. I will also need to have gallbladder surgery. I will be singing my song a lot and trusting God.

As I shared what was happening at our last council meeting, the council members laid hands on me and prayed over me and many of you prayed. Your prayers made all the difference as God went before me to open doors to get tests quickly and to see doctors. I am so grateful for the community of faith and the power we have to pray for each other.

One of the greatest gifts of being active in a Christian community is the gift we have to journey together to lift each other up in prayer and to care for each other. After all, isn't that our call as Christians, to love and care for each other. I am so thankful for all of you and for the ability to continue to serve as your pastor. May we always seek Jesus first in our lives and love each other. And, may the peace and presence of God be with each of you every day.

Love,

Pastor Carol

Please keep the families of Linda Mayer, Lance Hale Hartman, and Karen Ardner Murray in your prayers as they grieve.

Monthly Finance Reports:

InReach/OutReach

Prayer Chain – If you would like your name added to the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan on the cell phone number listed above. *Do NOT send her computer an email.* You may call or send her cell phone a text message. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office. Please have permission from the person or family before we publish any names.

Keep our shut-ins and military friends and families in your prayers.

Thank you for your service! A special thank you to all those serving in active duty or in reserves. Also, a big thank you to all the Veterans. We appreciate all our service personnel and their sacrifice for our safety and freedom.

Shut-ins

Sharon Reel
Vancrest of Van Wert
10357 Van Wert- Decatur Road
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Rose Hager
Jane Crawford

Military:

Fred Hasting	Navy	Stateside
Christian Jarman	Air Force	Stateside

General Announcements

Radio Ministry was given to the glory of God in January by:

- Norma Koenig in memory of Ted Koenig
- Himmeger Family in memory of Earl Himmeger
- Ed Fritz in memory of Jacquie Fritz
- St. Peter Lutheran Church members

Sunday School News:

Youth and Adult Sunday School is at 9:00 AM. *All are welcome!* Come. Grow your faith in Jesus as we journey together and serve others! Open to ages Preschool – adults. The Sunday School choir will be singing during church on February 18th.

WELCA NEWS:

WELCA Meeting will be on February 12th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

InReach / OutReach NEWS:

The IROR committee will be having a chunky blanket workshop on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024 at 11:00 AM. The class is approximately 3 hours. The class is \$15 per person and you will need to purchase your own yarn which is approximately \$36 when found on sale at Hobby Lobby. There is still room to sign up if you are interested! Contact Melissa Trentman or Lauren Trentman if you have any other questions.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events:



Cookie Exchange in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 11th.

More details to come! Be sure to check the upcoming bulletins for more information. This is a great way to try different kinds of cookies and perfect timing for Valentine's Day!

Paint and Praise in April – more details to come!

CHURCH NEWS:

The 2024 Radio Ministry

There will be a sign up sheet in the back of church to sign up for the 2024 church year. The new cost per week to broadcast on the radio will be \$55.00.

The 2024 flower chart is also posted in the hallway for anyone wanting to sign up for flowers on the altar.

It is very easy to use our Vanco (Tithley link) to set up payment for the service or you may write a check too. You can follow the link listed below to securely submit a payment for *radio ministry*. You will still need to call or email Lauren to let her know which service you are sponsoring as well as to let her know the wording you would like in the bulletin. You may also sign up in the red notebook at the back of the sanctuary.

<http://www.stpeterdelphos.org/giving-2/>

Thank you for supporting this very important ministry.

We need to have a few more volunteers to count the offering after church on Sundays. If interested in helping out, please let Lauren know by talking to her or emailing the church office at stpeterdelphos@gmail.com.

The 2024 offering envelopes have been delivered and can now be picked up at the back of the church.

Coffee Cup Bible Study in the Parish Hall every 1st and 3rd Saturday morning at 9:00 AM. Bring your coffee cup and a friend!

Chief Receipts:

Please save your chief grocery receipts and turn them in the container in the parish hall. The receipt will not be labeled "Community Cash" but they are accepting the receipts for the reward dollars.

Thrivent News: For those of you who have investments or life insurance policies through Thrivent, there may be opportunities for you to direct Choice Dollars to our church by logging onto your account at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice . If you have funds available, they allow you to choose an organization for which to designate.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Soup Suppers and Fellowship: Our Ash Wednesday service will be in the sanctuary at 7:00pm on February 14th. We will then have Wednesday evening Lenten soup suppers and services from 6:15 – 7:45 PM during lent. If you would like to provide soup for one of the Wednesdays, please sign up. These Wednesday evenings will be more informal with opportunities to look at the scriptures together.

Youth Group bowling on Sunday, February 11th.

Council Meeting on Sunday, February 11th after church.

Prayer Group will be meeting on February 7th and February 21st.

Catechism at Zion Lutheran will be Sunday, February 18th.

Altar Guild News:

We would like to thank the families of Jacquie Fritz, Bob Trentman, Sandy Talboom, and Linda Mayer for their generous donations to St. Peter Lutheran Church. With their donations, were able to help beautify the altar with new banners in memory of these church members.

February Birthdays If we do not have your birthday listed. Please contact Lauren to get your name on the list to recognize your special day.

5) Roger Klenz	14) Karen Hartman	22) Sierra Marlow
5) Rhett Rode	14) Rachel Munshower	24) Harper Harman
6) Daniel Stemen	16) Thomas Calvelage	24) Jordan Koebel
7) Lyla Lane	18) Jamie Wortman	

The Delphos Community Christmas Project Committee would like to thank everyone who offered any kind of support for our project this past holiday season – Christmas 2023. This year we received more than \$47,500 in monetary donations, along with gifts from the angel trees and various toy drives held within our schools, our churches, and throughout our city! With these donations we were able to provide 223 children with new toys, clothing, shoes, coats, hats and gloves. Each family also received a Chief gift card so they could purchase a Christmas dinner. Fruit plates were delivered to 185 elderly and shut ins in our community. A special thank you for allowing us to use your church Parish Hall to assemble the fruit plates! So, thank you everyone, whether you donated cash, took and angel from an angel tree, donated a toy to any of the various toy drives, took time out of your busy day to help us in any way, we are very grateful and couldn't have completed our project without you. We wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed New Year 2024!

*Sincerely,
The Delphos Community Christmas Project Committee*

The Eight "P" Word Characteristics of God

A few weeks ago, I preached about how knowing the characteristics of God are a foundational part of the fertile soil of our faith. I told you I would put these in the newsletter so you can ponder them and allow this knowledge to go deep. This information is from the book, *Praying, Finding our Way Through Duty to Delight* by

J.I. Packer & Carolyn Nystrom.

God is...

1. **Personal**-God is a being who refers to himself as "I" and us as "you."
2. **Plural** – Even in Genesis 1:26, God said, "let us make man in our image."
3. **Perfect**- God is not lacking in anything. God is merciful and gracious, and abounding in steadfast love. All that God does is worthy of praise.
4. **Powerful** – Omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), omnipresent (always present), and omniscient (able to do anything) **God is King!**
5. **Purposeful** – God has a plan to send Jesus to us, to be glorified after being crucified on the cross for us, and Jesus becomes the mediator between us and God the Father to bring us new life in Christ. As the church we worship God individually and at the body of Christ. We are to be grateful and give glory to God.
6. **Promise-Keeper** – In II Corinthians 1:20, Paul writes, "All the promises of God find their 'yes' in Christ. Our journey is to discover the promises and to pray into them.
7. **Paternal**- God treats us as a loving parent, with mother and father characteristic, but the ideal of Fatherhood blends authority, fidelity(wanting our best for us) affection, care, discipline, long-suffering and protection all wrapped up in love that wants us to grow into people of strength, wisdom, and maturity.
8. **Praiseworthy**- It is right that we should at all times praise God!

Protection Prayer – *written by Amy Schwinnen Wehri*

May the light of God surround you...May the love of God enfold you...May God place his healing hands upon you and heal you quickly... may the presence of God watch over you...wherever you are God is. Amen.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to **2024: The Year of Rest**. Our focus in 2024, is to receive and to practice God's sacred gift of rest.

In Hebrews 4, we read about the promise of God's rest.
"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9).



Most Bible scholars agree that Hebrews was written for Jewish folks who are now living as followers of Jesus, the Messiah. These early Christians are being pressured by the Jewish community to return to the old ways. The author of Hebrews relooks at Jewish tradition, values, and Scripture through the lens of Jesus. Hebrews begins, ***"Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son..."*** (Hebrews 1:1-2a).

The genius of this approach is that Jewish tradition, values, and Scripture are not cast aside, but reinterpreted through the life death, and resurrection of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. There remains a place for Torah. There remains a place for sacrifice. And there remains a place for rest. ***"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God"***.

For followers of Jesus there still remains a time to rest. A time to cease. A time to release. Though no longer a "you shall do" under the Law. Sabbath rest is a sacred gift of God that we are blessed to receive and to practice.

As we begin **2024: The Year of Rest**, I invite you to start with two simple practices related to God's gift of rest.

1. **Memorize Scripture:** ***"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God"*** (Hebrews 4:9) is our Year of Rest Memory Verse. I encourage you to memorize this verse and draw upon it to still your soul when you find yourself in the whirlwind.

2. **Read Scripture and Practice Daily Rest:** Instead of our traditional Bible reading guide, this year we have developed a calendar that will invite us to practice daily rest together. Each week we will focus on a Bible verse, followed by a daily invitation to practice one of seven forms of active rest. By grounding these practices in a weekly Bible verse, we pray this new format will help you discover daily moments of rest and peace.

To learn more about the seven forms of active rest view ["The 7 Types of Rest Every Person Needs"](#): a TED Talk and article by Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith.

