

Rev. Stephanie Woods, Pastor
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PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Office hours have changed to:
Tuesday & Thursday 9 AM – 12 PM (or by appointment)
CHURCH OFFICE: (330) 264-1986
E-Mail: office@stpeterelca.org
Website: stpeterelca.org
Facebook: [St-Peter-Lutheran-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peter-Lutheran-Church)
PANDA PRESCHOOL: (330) 264-1986 (church phone)

THE MESSENGER

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
of New Pittsburg, OH

August-September, 2023

“It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last at night.

(A Simple Way to Pray, 1535, LW 43:193)

Our VBS memory verse has had me thinking about how we might always remember God’s presence in our daily lives. This has led to thoughts about praying unceasingly (1 Thessalonians 5) and meditating on God’s word and day and night (Psalm 1). If we are to be strong and courageous and truly remember that God will be with us wherever we go, then praying unceasingly and meditating on God’s word day and night.

Neither of these are easy feats, particularly in a world with so many distractions. Luther lived in a much different world than we do—there were no cellphones to distract him—but that doesn’t mean he didn’t understand how distracted we can be in prayer, which is why he suggested first thing in the morning and last thing at night. This way pray is before and after everything else that might distract us.

Luther’s Morning and Evening Prayer

In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, *In the evening when you go to bed,*
you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me.

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well:

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have

protected me through the night from all harm and danger **graciously protected me** today.

I ask

that you would also **protect me** today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to **protect me** tonight.

Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

After singing a hymn, or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully.

Then you are to go to sleep quickly and cheerfully.

Luther wrote Morning and Evening prayers in the *Small Catechism* to guide people in how to pray at these times. These are beautiful prayers, that can still speak to us today. There is significant overlap in these prayers: the middle and right are the morning prayer, and the middle and left are the evening prayer, with the bold indication the additional overlap.

If you’d like a prayer card (or 2 or 3) of your own, you can find them in the back of the sanctuary.

May we become people who pray unceasingly as we lean on God’s many promises for us.

Pastor Stephanie

ST. PETER’S MISSION STATEMENT: As God’s family led by the Holy Spirit, we are a loving and welcoming community inviting others to share and grow in God’s Word and grace.

Vision Statement: *As compassionate people we desire to reflect Christ’s love.*



Women's Breakfast will meet the 3rd Monday of every month at 9 AM.

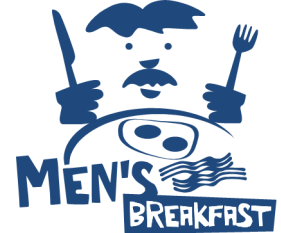
- August 21st
- September 18
- October 16

A sign-up sheet will be available so we can prepare a table large enough for us.

Please join us for good food and GREAT fellowship!

Men's Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9 AM.

- August 8th
- September 12
- October 10



Join us for good food, GREAT fellowship!

thrivent[®]

Thanks go out to Thrivent Financial for supporting our VBS and Family Picnic with Action Team grant money and free T-shirts. Thrivent members please remember to check your accounts for Choice Dollars that can also be directed to St. Peter. If you have questions about Thrivent Financial opportunities please contact Wooster representative Ryan Spengler at 330-439-1724 or Ryan.Spengler@Thrivent.com or Elaine Koch.

The Morris Family

Welcome to the Morris Family ~ John, Julia, Colton, Madeline, Carter & Clayton!

John grew up locally and attended Northwestern Schools. He and his family attended Congress Community Church where he was confirmed. Occasionally they would attend the little white church across the road from where they lived. A nice memory for him was that he and his Grandpa Morris were able to be part of the music during worship a few times.

Julia grew up in Troy, OH and graduated from Troy High School and Tiffin University. She and her family attended First United Methodist Church in Troy where they were members. She has fond memories of VBS, church camp, midnight Christmas Eve services, confirmation, high school youth group, and a mission trip to New Mexico one summer.

John and Julia met at a friend's wedding in 2007. They were married in 2009. John works in the construction and concrete business. Julia is a Financial & Budget Technician for USDA-ARS. She has always played tennis (even in college) and still loves to play when she has the chance! John plays guitar and it is one of his favorite things to do! Their family has camped at Whispering Hills Jellystone Park in Big Prairie for the past 4 years. They also love to garden and can what they grow.

Colton - 14 - Plays football and wrestles. He also ran track and did pole vault among a few other field events this past school year. He also enjoys deer hunting and coon hunting with his dad and brothers.

Madeline - 12 - Plays volleyball, basketball, and plays piano and the saxophone. She also loves to bake.

Carter & Clayton - 10 - They are identical twins! Both love to play football and wrestle...and do a lot of joking around!

All the kids attended Panda Preschool (even John when he was a kid), as well as some of the VBS's over the years. They always felt welcomed at St. Peter and the people they met along the way. They had attended other churches in the area, but really felt at home at St. Peter.

Some of their favorite things about St. Peter are the people and the opportunities for their children to grow in their faith, and also how kind and welcoming everyone has been to their family.

Submitted by Kelley Rice

Julie Keener

Julie Keener grew up in the country between Wooster and Orrville and attended Smithville schools. She has one sister who is two years older, and they spent a lot of time outside at home – whether riding bikes up and down the driveway, jumping on the trampoline or playing restaurant in the playhouse her dad built for them. Her family took an annual vacation with another family to Holden Beach where she remembers eating fried bologna sandwiches and being yelled at for playing too much Nintendo.

She attended Trinity United Church of Christ growing up and built a lot of core memories and growing in faith. She remembers hanging out in the church's youth room, lock-ins, Mother Daughter banquets, Confirmation, being an acolyte and singing in the children's choir.

Julie met Kirt (already a member of St. Peter) during her freshman year in college but didn't start dating him until a couple of years later. They were married at Grace Church on October 4, 2008. They purchased land in New Pittsburg in 2011 and finally built their new home in 2021.

After ten years working at The J. M. Smucker Company, Julie decided to make the leap to teaching in the fall of 2016. She teaches business courses at the Wayne County Schools Career Center, Smithville, Orrville, Waynedale, and Rittman. Kirt is the General Manager at Commodity Blenders and enjoys raising beef cattle. They have three children: Case, thirteen years old; Harper, ten but turning 11 soon; and Camden, seven years old. A miniature Australian Shepherd named Jack rounds out their family. We have the pleasure of worshipping with her mom, Sue Smail, sometimes too! The family spends a lot of time playing games, sports, and with their animals. Their children have shown feeder calves for 4-H and this year they plan to show pigs as well.

Kirt and Julie attended Grace Church from time to time while dating and took the children there also. They were dedicated there, going to Sunday School and VBS in the summer. With so many kids in the large church, Julie felt they weren't getting the optimum experience. She felt they would fit in better in a smaller church like her childhood church. This was the experience she wished for her children. Julie saw Angie's post about the Christmas play rehearsals starting in November of 2021 and decided to start bringing them to St. Peter. She feels a relationship with God is what most young people are lacking and it shows through their attitudes and behavioral issues. While this relationship with God does not make our children perfect, it can do nothing but help them.

Julie's favorite thing about St. Peter is how welcoming everyone was when she started attending. Even though Julie knew a lot of us, she has gotten to know so many others and can see her whole family growing in their relationships with God. Whether it is through First Communion or Confirmation (which Case is attending now) or Julie joining the church, there is growth. She loves the fellowship opportunities St. Peter offers. The soup supper and service on Wednesdays during Lent; SPYA for her children; and other Social & Outreach gatherings.

St. Peter hopes we can be the supportive church family you were seeking, Julie and we are so happy to have you as a member!

Submitted by Joni Hagans

THANK YOU!
Thank you!

St. Peter Family,

Our words and our hearts cannot express the extreme gratitude we feel for the support shown to us during Marvin's illness and passing. Thank you all for all the prayers and cards. Especially thank you to all that helped with the meal after the service. Your love and support will never be forgotten.

Connie Weisgarber & Family



St. Peter Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket. It is perfect. Thank you for thinking of me and supporting me throughout the years!

Sincerely,
Lauren Vaughan



**Congregation Fundraiser
DONATION DRIVE**

Bring your gently-used clothing and household items (no furniture) to the church starting July 31—August 11. Goodwill of Wayne and Holmes Counties will pay us by the pound for our collections.



Goodwill
Wayne & Holmes

**NEW PITTSBURGH
LIONS CLUB**



and

Chinese Raffle
to support the Joe
Lucci Scholarship
Fund.

FRIDAY AUG. 18TH

MENU

Alaskan Pollock
Ham
Beans
Cole Slaw
Roll
Dessert
Drink

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Place: New Pittsburg Lions Park

Suggested Donation:

Adult: \$12 per person

Child (12 & under): \$6 per child

*Anyone who would like to volunteer,
please contact Scott Wertz: 419-869-7344*

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



♥ GATHERING @ YARWOOD'S: AUGUST 16TH @ 6:30PM

Wednesday, August 16 at 6:30 at the Yarwoods. We will play games, have a bonfire, and watch a movie. Rain or shine, we will move it inside if necessary. Hot dogs, s'mores, snacks and drinks provided. Anyone entering 4th grade and up is welcome - hope to see you there!

♥ SAVE THE DATE! SEPTEMBER 23RD

Save the date! Saturday, September 23rd. Time and place TBD, but we will get together for a service project and some fun! Watch the FB page and Weekly Messenger for more details.

♥ SHIRTS!

If you would like a SPYA shirt, please see Angie any Sunday after church. We have lots of sizes available, \$7 each!

More events, announcements, and updates will be posted on the SPYA! Facebook page.... Join the Facebook group so you don't miss out! Please contact Angie to be added to the group - it is a private page and can only be accessed if you are added by an administrator.



PANDA PRESCHOOL

I hope everyone is having a great summer. Watch for the upcoming schedule for orientation.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:

4/5's Classes Begin *Monday, September 18.
Class 9:00 AM-12:00 PM on M-W-F

3/4's Classes Begin *Tuesday, September 19.
Class 9:00 -11:30 AM on T-TH.

Registration forms can also be downloaded from the website: stpeterelca.org under the preschool tab.

May your summer shine bright!

Miss Tara
Panda Administrator



Blessing of Backpacks

**Sunday, August 20
11:15 AM**

Blessing of the Backpacks will be held at the park on Sunday, August 20th right after church, or by 11:15 AM. School age youth (and teachers/administrators) are invited to bring their backpacks/bags to this annual event to kick off the new school year. Bring a friend! If it rains, we will move to the church basement. We will have ice cream and play in the park as weather permits! Hope to see you there!

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Do you know of a charitable organization, nonprofit group, social service agency or special project that could benefit from some financial assistance? Encourage them to submit a request to the **St. Peter Endowment Fund**. The organization or project leader can send the request to the church via mail or email by October 1. The letter should identify the organization, the need for assistance, the amount requested and contact information. All requests will be considered based on the amount of funds available and those approved will be notified by December 31. If you have questions please speak to a committee member, Larry Gortner, Scott Wertz, Roger Kamp, Elaine Koch or Tyler Keener.

Mail to: **St. Peter Lutheran Church**
Mission Endowment Fund Committee
9451 Ashland Road
Wooster, OH 44691

Request must be received by October 1

Recipients will be notified and funds will be distributed to the approved organizations by December 31.

Mission Endowment Fund Guidelines

Income from the Endowment Fund shall be distributed annually and at such other times as deemed necessary and/or feasible in support of the following:

- 1 Missions
- 2 Education
- 3 Special Ministries
- 4 Worship Life
- 5 Capital Projects

A. Annually, a minimum of 20% of the dispersed income generated shall be used for outreach programs not directly implemented by St. Peter Lutheran Church.

B. Annually, no more than 60% of the dispersed income shall be spent in any one category or on any one project.

Programs for support shall be recommended by the Endowment Fund Committee and approved by the Church Council. The program shall be voted on by the congregation according to the guidelines established by the congregation.

Disbursement of income from the Fund need not occur annually in the event causes and programs have not been approved by the Committee sufficient to utilize total income available or, if in the judgment of the Committee, total annual disbursement of income is not recommended.

New Pittsburg Fire & Rescue Homemade Ice Cream Festival

Friday, August 4, 2023



The NPFDA Auxiliary will be serving a full menu featuring homemade ice cream starting at 5pm at the fire station located at 3311 N. Elyria Rd.

Come out & support your local fire & rescue department!



FOOD*FELLOWSHIP*MUSIC

Join us for a fun evening of food, fellowship and music on August 11th from 5-8:30PM. On The Rise Bar-B-Que will be available at 5 and music by Hat Trick will start at 6. Tables will be reserved for St. Peter members and family. Sign up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

June 14, 2023 7:00 PM Secretary's Report

Church Council met June 14, 2023, with nine members present. Angie Yarwood and Kim Koch were absent. Molly Hastings shared devotions.

The Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were approved.

SPYA planted flowers and mulched at the church. They also cleaned out the lower basement. Another day they played kickball and enjoyed ice cream at Scoops. VBS is July 10-14 with the theme "Happy Campers." The last day will be a family fun night with inflatables and much more. An Amazon wish list has been set up for anyone wishing to purchase items for VBS.

The Scholarship committee is collecting items for the auction now. Bidding runs July 2-16. College scholarship applications are due July 16. Scholarship checks will be presented August 6.

Social and Outreach committee has an outdoor movie planned for July 14 at family fun night. Outdoor worship will be August 6, with a picnic to follow. The Giving Tree recipients will be July-NW Elementary (sweatpants and underwear); September-Panda Preschool; and October-West Salem food pantry (Thanksgiving Meals).

Properties committee rep Jon Kinney presented pricing on door locks and a Ring doorbell. Molly Hastings made a motion to purchase the Ring doorbell, Joe Rice seconded, and the motion carried. Dave Tegtmeier made a motion to have the Locksmith Shop install new door locks, Kristen Hudson seconded, and the motion carried.

Worship and Music committee met May 30. Organist Kay Ringley attended. Favorite hymns were chosen. Announcements will be made before the prelude. While Pastor Stephanie is on vacation, Rev. John Wannamaker will preach on June 25 and Dick Brenneman will preach on July 2. New Pittsburg UMC will be invited to our outdoor worship service on August 6.

We were given Pastor Stephanie's report of activities including time spent on pastoral care; worship; community; education; and administration. She also shares attendance comparisons and books she is currently reading. Pastor Stephanie listed things to celebrate including three baptisms, having (and hearing) babies in church, and the Mother's Day Encouragement jars made and handed out by our youth.

Council voted to discontinue our ad in The Daily Record. We reviewed the new youth policy manual. Background checks will be required for any adults working with our youth. Kristen Hudson made a motion to accept the youth policy pending some minor revisions, Ruth Ann Keener seconded, and the motion carried.

There will be no July meeting due to VBS. Our next meeting will be August 9 at 7pm. Our September meeting will be one week earlier, September 6, due to the Wayne County Fair. We closed the meeting with prayer.

Joni Hagans,
Parish Council Secretary

May 10, 2023 7:00pm Secretary's Report

Church Council met May 10, 2023, with nine members present. Dave Tegtmeier and Ruth Ann Keener were absent. Rita Tegtmeier shared devotions.

The Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were approved. A motion was made for Rita to use the leftover monies from WELCA's treasury to buy some needed kitchen supplies. The motion carried.

Education rep Angie Yarwood reported planning is under way for VBS July 10-14. As our youth in sixth grade and up age out of Junior Church, plans are being made to keep them active in the church. In the fall, the committee hopes for our older youth to meet the third Sunday of each month with adult volunteers to keep them engaged.

Evangelism committee is interviewing our graduates and new members. These interviews will be published in the next newsletter.

Social and Outreach committee met April 30. Rep Kim Koch reported they made plans for recognizing all women on Mother's Day, Pentecost Sunday May 28, and all men on Father's Day. Adults are invited to Lincolnway Vineyards on May 19. An outdoor movie will be shown on July 14. Outdoor worship will be August 6, with a picnic to follow. The Giving Tree recipients will be July-NW Elementary (sweatpants and underwear); September-Panda Preschool; and October-West Salem food pantry (Thanksgiving Meals).

Properties committee met April 19. Repair is needed on the handrail at the front steps; discussion is taking place on our outside entrance doors as we would like them to be locked while we are worshipping. A ring door bell is also being discussed. Rep Jon Kinney spread gravel to the low spots in the parking lot.

We were given Pastor Stephanie's report of activities including time spent on pastoral care; worship; community; education; and administration. She also shares attendance comparisons and books she is currently reading. Pastor Stephanie will be attending Synod Assembly with Elaine Koch May 12-13; Crossen and Miley baptisms May 14; PhD graduation in Boston May 18-21; and taking a two week vacation June 19 through July 2.

Council received Panda Preschool Board minutes from April 27. Registration for the 2023-24 school year has begun. They welcomed new teachers Amanda Doll and Joren Rickard this year. The children loved having the FFA in the classroom. Graduation is May 18 for 3/4s and May 19 for 4/5s

We acknowledged minutes from LORAC and the Christian Education Program, which has been in operation for seventy years. Their annual meeting is May 15 and all are welcome.

Our next meeting will be June 14 at 7pm. We closed the meeting with prayer.

Joni Hagans, Parish Council Secretary

NEO Synod Assembly Recap

I had the opportunity to represent St. Peter at the 2023 Northeast Ohio (NEO) Synod Assembly May 12-13 in Akron. On Friday evening, Pastor Stephanie and I joined 200 other voting members from the Synod's 164 churches for the annual event. (I was surprised to learn that some of the other Ohio Synod's only assemble every three years.)

On Friday night we enjoyed hearing from talented Bible storytellers and music by the praise band. Also on this evening Pastor Stephanie was elected to serve a three year term on the Synod Church Council as the Southwest-Rostered representative.

The Assembly reconvened on Saturday morning and additional elections were held. One contest ended in a tie and the subsequent run off was decided by only one vote!

There were two resolutions brought before the Assembly:

1. Care of Creation resolution which pertained to fossil fuels and climate change was referred back to the Synod Council.
2. Anti-Racism Resolution passed by a wide margin.

Other items of business included voting on changes to Governing Documents such as compensation standards and the approval of the 2024-2025 proposed budget. One point of concern in the proposed budget was a decrease in the support of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOMO) from a funding level of \$40,000 in the original 2023-2024 budget to \$0.00 in the requested 2024-2025 budget. After amendments to amendments were made, the voting members passed the recommendation that LOMO funding be added back into the budget. Unfortunately, the proposed budget already showed a loss of -\$109,558.

Figures of note in the 2024-2025 budget:

Mission Support Income from the churches to the NEOS= \$1,225,000

(The % of giving from each church is listed in the proceedings. The range is 0-19% with St. Peter being in the 6-7% range.)

ELCA Churchwide Support from the NEOS= \$525,000

Total NEO Synod Staff Expenses= \$770,208

Anniversaries of interest included the recognition of the 175th anniversary of St. Paul, Smithville and the 55th anniversary of the ordination of Pastor John Wanamaker.

Attending the Assembly reminded me how blessed we are at St. Peter to have Pastor Stephanie in our midst and enjoy strong financial support. If you have not attended an Assembly previously, I would recommend considering it for next year. I always learn something new about the inner workings of the ELCA. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or you may find more information at www.neosassembly.org.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Koch

FINANCIAL CORNER

FINANCIAL CORNER		6/30/2023
Checking Account - For Current Expenses		
June Offerings		\$11,816
Year-To-Date Offerings		\$84,190
Projected Offerings		\$70,148
Total Expenses Year-To-Date		\$69,834
Checkbook Balance		\$43,833
Other Offerings Given During This Month		
Noisy Offering (Blessings/Backpack)		\$56
Building Fund		\$40
Lenten Offerings		\$450
Memorial/Youth Min. Balance		\$23,574
Contingency Fund (MIF) Balance		\$29,155
Build./Maint. Fund (MIF) Balance		\$39,417
Scholarship Invest. (LPL Financial)		\$24,031
Endowment Fund (all accounts)		\$101,805
(Balance as of 12/31/2022)		

FINANCIAL CORNER		5/31/2023
Checking Account - For Current Expenses		
March Offerings		\$11,983
Year-To-Date Offerings		\$72,374
Projected Offerings		\$59,356
Total Expenses Year-To-Date		\$58,558
Checkbook Balance		\$42,747
Other Offerings Given During This Month		
Noisy Offering (Blessings/Backpack)		\$37
Building Fund		\$100
Memorial/Youth Min. Balance		\$22,924
Contingency Fund (MIF) Balance		\$29,141
Build./Maint. Fund (MIF) Balance		\$39,398
Scholarship Invest. (LPL Financial)		\$24,451
Endowment Fund (all accounts)		\$101,805
(Balance as of 12/31/2022)		

STOP at St. Peter

BOOKMOBILE

SCHEDULE

WAYNE COUNTY

The Bookmobile Schedule

Dates: 8/17

New Pittsburg 2:30-3:15 PM.

Watch for the updated schedule.

<https://www.wcpl.info/hrsloc/bookmobile>

2023 Bi-monthly Newsletter Schedule

Submission and assembly dates

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submissions Due</u>	<u>Assembly</u>
Oct/Nov, 2023	Sept 18	Sept 22
Dec/Jan 2023/24	Nov 13	Nov 17
Feb/Mar, 2024	Jan 22	Jan 26
April/May, 2024	March 18	March 22
June/July, 2024	May 20	May 24
Aug/Sept, 2024	July 22	July 25

NEWSLETTER MAILING: The newsletter is emailed to those who have shared an email address with the church. Hard copies are mailed to those with no email. Hard copies are also available at the church.

If you prefer to 'opt out' of the newsletter email, or prefer a copy mailed to you, contact the church office.

Access the newsletter from our website: stpeterelca.org.

Click MEDIA (top), then NEWSLETTER in the drop-down menu.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

MAY 2023

7	86	10 AM / Live Stream: 12
14	113	10 AM / LS: 15 Mother's Day
21	57	10 AM / Live Stream: 22
28	75	10 AM / Live Stream: 22

JUNE, 2023

4	98	10 AM / LS: 24 The Holy Trinity
11	52	10 AM / Live Stream: 20
18	69	10 AM / LS: 28 Father's Day
25	62	10 AM / Live Stream: N/A

MAY, 2022

1	88	10 AM / Live Stream: 10
8	91	10 AM / LS: 11 Mother's Day
15	70	10 AM / Live Stream: 16
22	64	10 AM / Live Stream: 12
29	61	10 AM / Live Stream: 8

JUNE, 2022

5	61	10 AM / Live Stream: 19
12	71	10 AM / Live Stream: N/A
19	59	10 AM / LS: 11 Father's Day
26	56	10 AM / Live Stream: 13

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

9451 Ashland Road
Wooster, OH 44691

Address Service Requested.

Mailed on or before 7/27/23

TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL OR EMAIL,
OR TO BE REMOVED from mailing:
Call 330-264-1986; Email: office@stpeterelca.org



Youth Events — Page 6

Panda Preschool — Page 6

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP &
CHURCH**

Picnic



AUGUST 6TH @ 10AM

Jr. Church will be in the backyard of the Parsonage, we will dismiss for Jr. Church as normal.

Hot dogs and drink are provided. **Please bring a favorite dish to share!**

ALSO BRING a lawn chair and your own table service for the meal!