

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](mailto:office@stpeterelca.org)

Website: [stpeterelca.org](http://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

October-December, 2023

Cause and effect is one of the more satisfying principles in our daily lives. You flip the light switch, and the light turns on. You flip it again, and the light turns off. You put brownie batter in a hot oven, and end up with brownies. You turn on the air conditioner, and the house cools down. The cause and effects are so automatic in our lives that when they don't work, we get frustrated, like when the power goes out, or the oven stops working, or (heaven forbid) we lose WIFI.

And we wish that our faith lives would work the same way. For example, we want to have strong faith and end up with a good (and easier) life. We want to pray and get the answer to prayer that we desire. And when that doesn't work, we can start to think that faith doesn't work. When we see God answer some prayers and not others, then we can start to think that something is wrong with us.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Christian life simply doesn't follow the normal patterns of cause and effect that we know and love. Again and again, we are drawn back to the old adage, "God is God and we are not," or even the biblical pronouncement that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8). It can seem unfair when someone else's prayer gets answers and ours doesn't. It can seem downright cruel when someone else gets the miracle we desperately want and need. Yet it doesn't make God any less good.

In Daniel 3, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego get thrown into the fiery furnace. Since we know the end of the story, we know that they get their miracle, but what is most amazing to me in their story, is their comments *before* they get in the furnace. King Nebuchadnezzar asks them to defend themselves, and they reply,

King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **But even if he does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up. (Daniel 3:16-18)

It's the almost-passing comment, "but even if God does not," that sticks with me. Even if God doesn't save them, they will trust God; even if God doesn't rescue them, they will not abandon their faith. This is the challenge and the blessing of Christian faith.

I recently experienced something of a miracle myself. In response, someone shared with me that God can work in impossible situations, and I was in the perfect position to share this message, especially given the events in my life and my occupation. However, I could only think about the people that don't get the miracle, those who don't see the answer to prayer.

My prayer for all of you is whether you get the miraculous answer you desire or not, that you know that God is with you and so are we at St. Peter. My door is always open, whether you need to scream in anger, weep in deep sorrow, or celebrate with great joy.

*Pastor Stephanie Woods*

**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.*

# We're pregnant!

It is with great excitement that David and I announce my pregnancy to all of you. We expect our bundle of joy to arrive in late March 2024. This will present some changes and challenges for the Easter season. Council and I will keep you informed as we have more details about what it will look like at St. Peter during my absence. We are grateful for the prayers that have gotten us to this point and ask for your continued prayers throughout the course of this pregnancy.

## OCTOBER:

### STEWARDSHIP MONTH

It's again time to think about God's generous love and to plan how we will give back to God. Throughout October, we'll hear stories of generosity in this congregation. Then, on October 23rd, we will collect 2023 pledge cards. If you have a story of generosity or have questions, please contact Pastor Stephanie.

Time and talent sheets will be due November 20<sup>th</sup>. These will be passed out and discussed during worship, then collected during the service.



## Let's Give Thanks

Fall is here, but Jesus never leaves.

This year, in addition to our pledge cards, we want you to help fill our tree with leaves by writing ways you give and serve St. Peter and the community and considering why you give.

We will celebrate Consecration Sunday on October 29 by praying for our monetary pledges and all the ways we give to this community.





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

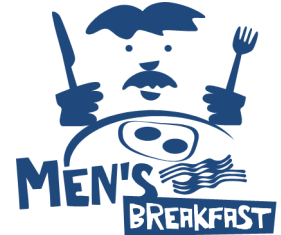
- October 16
- November 20
- December 18

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.*

- October 10
- November 14
- December 12



Join us for good food, GREAT fellowship!



**On November 5<sup>th</sup>**, we'll remember those saints that have gone ahead of us. Please bring in pictures of your saints, including those who have died in the last year and those who have been gone for years, between October 29 and November 3. Also let us know the names of your loved ones who have died in the last year so that we can include them by name in the prayers. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Stephanie or the church office.



The Advent devotional is a treasured tradition at St. Peter. This year we are focusing on our treasures. As Jesus preaches in the Sermon on the Mount, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." When we share our treasures with others, we are also sharing a piece of our hearts.

This Advent, our devotional asks, "What are your treasures?" Maybe you treasure a particular person (ask them or change the name!). Maybe it's a particular memory or Christmas tradition. Our devotional also asks, "Where is your heart?" Maybe your heart is rooted in family, and you have a specific story to share about family. Maybe there's a particular mission or ministry that draws you in. Maybe your treasure and heart are in helping others in some way. Maybe you see your heart in a particular song, Bible verse, Christmas ornament, or gift.

Wherever your treasure and your heart are, we want to know!

# THANK YOU!

St. Peter Family,

Just to thank all of you at St. Peter's Church for years of support with cards, prayers, cookies, and visits! I wanted to let you know that I have moved to my daughter's house. Please stay in touch! My new address is listed below: 24061 Gore Orphanage Rd. New London, OH 44851.

May God Bless you all!

Betty Kreiling

# Fall Gathering

OCTOBER 15TH @ TEGTMEIER'S HOME

JOIN US FOR A FUN FALL EVENING AT TEGTMEIER'S HOME! COME HUNGRY, AS SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED. WE WILL START COOKING OVER THE FIRE AT 6PM. PLEASE BRING A CHAIR IF POSSIBLE! QUESTIONS? ASK JILL, RITA OR S&O.



94th

## RABBIT SUPPER



**Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

**Time: 6:30 PM**

Mark your calendars for our 94th "Rabbit Supper" which will be held on Wednesday, November 15th. More details will be coming soon, along with sign-up sheets for food prep, desserts and attendance!

❖ Please bring your own table service. ❖

*Good Food! Good Fellowship! A wonderful event...for 94 years!!!*



What has happened? How can it be Fall already? It seems we were just planning on what to plant in the garden and now we are planning to clean it up. The days go slow, but the weeks fly by.

As we get our Fall chores completed, it is time to reflect on what we have accomplished as a congregation. Our Church continues to grow and evolve. So many people are involved in different projects. Guiding us through everything is our tireless Pastor. October is Pastor Appreciation Month. This is the perfect time to let Pastor Stephanie know that although we often overlook all the time and energy she invests in the workings of the church, we truly appreciate all she does. Not every student of the Word can be planted in rural Wayne County and bless backpacks and fields, pray for cows and pigs, learn the difference between tractors and combines, and comfort those have lost loved ones seamlessly. She has truly bloomed where she was planted. Thank you, Pastor Stephanie.

**The Mutual Ministry** - on behalf of our congregation

# Hat Ministry



In January, my neighbor showed me the looms that she was using to make hats. There are four different sizes... 5", 7", 9", and 11". I have never knitted before, but thought it looked like fun. I loved making them from the beginning. When people at St. Peter heard about my project through Pastor Stephanie, my care was filled with yarn that next Sunday. I can't tell you how much all that yarn meant to me! Thank you again for making my hat ministry so special. Not very many days go by that I don't add another hat or two to my pile.

So far I have made 441 hats. I have 250 hats that will be sent to Mountain Vision Ministry in Valleyhead, WV around Thanksgiving. First Church of God in Wooster is the local connection. 100 hats are being sent in early October to Forest Hill Elementary School (K-5) in Akron. This elementary school serves students from Nepal, Afghanistan, and other countries. I have already delivered 25 hats to Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO), 15 hats to Pregnancy Care Center, and 10 to Orrville Public Library.

I was contacted by Operation Christmas Child to see if I would be willing to make hats to go in the Christmas shoeboxes. I have made 36 for that project so far. I need to have them turned in by November 1. However many I make will be very much appreciated. I will continue to make them for next Christmas.

I was recently presented with a \$200 Joanns gift card from LORAC to help with the purchase of yarn. I know Mary Kinney passed my name on to them. What a blessing! It is amazing how things have fallen into place so easily. I will continue making hats for as long as I can. It has been a very special project. All the hats are made with love. A special thanks to Pastor Stephanie for blessing many of my hats!

*Judy Frank*

# YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



♥ **TRUNK OR TREAT AFTER PARTY: OCTOBER 28**

Join us for at Pastor Stephanie and David’s house immediately following Trunk or Treat. There will be food, fun, and game!

♥ **NOVEMBER 5TH**

We will be serving lunch to the congregation after church to raise money for some very special Christmas gifts for the Blessings in a Backpack families of Northwestern. Bring your best smiles and cooking skills to help make this a successful fundraiser!

♥ **DECEMBER: DATE & TIME TBD**

SPYA will come together to ring bells for Salvation Army, then we will do some Christmas shopping for the Blessings in a Backpack families of Northwestern and probably get some food, too! :) Watch the Weekly Messenger and Facebook for more details!

*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.*



JOIN US DURING WORSHIP  
**OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 17**

HEAR GOD SPEAK IN OUR LIVES ~ SPEAK OUT ABOUT OUR FAITH ~ SPEAK LIFE INTO THOSE AROUND US



# PANDA PRESCHOOL

Things are going great at Panda Preschool and we are enjoying sharing our mornings with your precious children.

In October we will be studying pumpkins and fire safety. We will be having our annual Halloween costume party.

In November we will center our month around Thanksgiving and how God provides for us and how thankful we are for that.

**Panda will be closed November 7th for voting and 22nd —27th for Thanksgiving Break.**

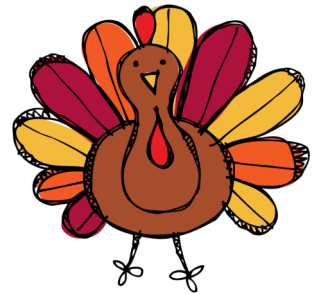
What a perfect month to tell someone how thankful you are for them!

We have a Facebook page! Be sure to check it out and like our page!

Happy Turkey Day!

*Miss Tara*

Panda Administrator



## Butter Braid Fundraiser



Please join Panda Preschool with our Butter Braid Fundraiser **September 28<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup>.**

We are raising funds to buy educational materials for the school. You can place your order with any student, teacher or board member.

Cost is \$14/16 each; payment is due at the time of placing your order. Butter Braids are so delicious and will **arrive November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, just in time for the holidays!

Thanks for supporting Panda Preschool!!!

## 4th Annual Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 28th. @ 5-6:30 PM

Whether spooky tricks or sweet treats are your thing, there's room for you at Trunk or Treat! This year, we are looking for more of you to join us. Don't have a clue how to decorate a trunk? We'll decorate it for you! Worried about the amount of candy it might take? We're here to help! Have a trunk, but want to walk around with your own kids? We've got extra people to stay at your trunk! Look for a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. For more information, please contact Kristen Hudson or Pastor Stephanie.



## Mark your calendars! Christmas is Coming!



We will have two Christmas Eve Services this year:

10:00 AM—Family Service

7:00 PM—Traditional Candlelight

The services will be different enough you may want to put both on your calendar!



## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

### August 9, 2023 7:00 PM Secretary's Report

Church Council met August 9, 2023, with ten members present. Ruth Ann Keener was absent. Joni Hagans shared devotions.

The Treasurer's report was approved. A correction was made to the Secretary's report in that the next meeting was August 9, not August 2. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Angie Yarwood reported that VBS was a success. One hundred children registered with an average attendance of 80 daily. Over 40 volunteers helped with VBS. Back to School Blessings will be included in worship on August 20 as will a Junior Church graduation for those members entering high school.

The Giving Tree recipients are September-Panda Preschool; and October-West Salem food pantry (Thanksgiving Meals).

Properties committee rep Jon Kinney reported new door locks were installed and a Ring Doorbell was purchased.

Worship and Music committee met July 26. Dave Tegtmeier purchased a rechargeable microphone and will be replacing the projector. We have eight youth planning to confirm their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 29. All Saints Sunday will again honor those who have passed away within the past year. The theme for the Christmas season is "Treasures". The committee is hoping to publish a devotional booklet again. The Fourth Sunday in Advent falls on December 24 (Christmas Eve). The 10am service will be a traditional Christmas Eve service with an evening service at 7pm.

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 VBS followed by the Friday Family Night which brought the community together and her recent vacation time.

Our September meeting will be one week earlier, September 6 at 7pm, due to the Wayne County Fair. We closed the meeting with prayer.

Joni Hagans  
Parish Council Secretary

### September 6, 2023 7:00pm Secretary's Report

Church Council met September 6, 2023, with ten members present. Dave Tegtmeier was absent. Jon Kinney shared devotions.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved. Angie Yarwood reported September 17 will begin (and continue the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month) break out during worship for our middle school and high school youth. Several adult members have stepped up to lead this group.

Evangelism rep Kristen Hudson announced Trunk or Treat will be October 28<sup>th</sup>. Plans are underway to block off a portion of the parking lot to make it safer for the children.

The Giving Tree recipients are September-Panda Preschool and October-West Salem food pantry (Thanksgiving Meals).

We have eight youth planning to confirm their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 29. All Saints Sunday will again honor those who have passed away within the past year. The theme for the Christmas season is "Treasures". The Worship and Music committee is hoping to publish a devotional booklet again. The Fourth Sunday in Advent falls on December 24 (Christmas Eve). The 10am service will be a traditional Christmas Eve service with an evening service at 7pm.

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: great youth participation in the Back to School Blessings; volunteers secured for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month with the middle school and high school youth; fruitful confirmation session; and congregational support for those who are struggling. As a result of the pastor shortage in the NEO synod, Pastor Stephanie has agreed to be a pastor of record and will support St. John's in McZena, as they are without a pastor to preside over council meetings.

The Sloan family has approved using Polly's memorial money on a new Paschal candle. It will be shorter and much easier for the acolytes to light.

It was mentioned that some new babies didn't have a carnation on the altar. We will try to do better. We would also like to have a greeter at the cement room door as many enter on that side of the church. If two are scheduled, one should greet at the cement room and the other at the front doors.

Stewardship will kick off on October 1 with a display of the handcrafted yarn hats Judy Frank has been making all year long. A date for Consecration Sunday will be set soon.

Committee annual reports are due November 13. The Nominating committee should begin work on securing new committee members and slate of officers for next year. This proposed slate should be published in time for our annual congregational meeting on December 3.

The children's Christmas program will be December 10. Pastor Stephanie will take a few days vacation in October and her final week of vacation will be December 25-31.

The next meeting will be October 11. We closed the meeting with prayer.

Joni Hagans, Parish Council Secretary

# FINANCIAL CORNER

<b>FINANCIAL CORNER</b>	<b>8/31/2023</b>
<b>Checking Account - For Current Expenses</b>	
August Offerings	\$11,225
<b>Year-To-Date Offerings</b>	<b>\$109,842</b>
Projected Offerings	\$94,430
<b>Total Expenses Year-To-Date</b>	<b>\$94,073</b>
Checkbook Balance	\$46,258
<b>Other Offerings Given During This Month</b>	
Noisy Offering (Blessings/Backpack)	\$59
Weekday Rel. Ed.	\$250
Building Fund	\$94
<b>Memorial/Youth Min. Balance</b>	<b>\$23,517</b>
<b>Contingency Fund (MIF) Balance</b>	<b>\$29,185</b>
<b>Build./Maint. Fund (MIF) Balance</b>	<b>\$40,191</b>
<b>Scholarship Invest. (LPL Financial)</b>	<b>\$24,451</b>
<b>Endowment Fund (all accounts)</b>	<b>\$101,805</b>
(Balance as of 12/31/2022)	

<b>FINANCIAL CORNER</b>	<b>7/31/2023</b>
<b>Checking Account - For Current Expenses</b>	
July Offerings	\$14,428
<b>Year-To-Date Offerings</b>	<b>\$98,618</b>
Projected Offerings	\$83,638
<b>Total Expenses Year-To-Date</b>	<b>\$82,117</b>
Checkbook Balance	\$48,070
<b>Other Offerings Given During This Month</b>	
Noisy Offering (Blessings/Backpack)	\$936
(VBS Offerings were \$892)	
Building Fund	\$500
Scholarship Auction/Donations	\$657
<b>Memorial/Youth Min. Balance</b>	<b>\$23,502</b>
<b>Contingency Fund (MIF) Balance</b>	<b>\$29,170</b>
<b>Build./Maint. Fund (MIF) Balance</b>	<b>\$39,437</b>
<b>Scholarship Invest. (LPL Financial)</b>	<b>\$24,276</b>
<b>Endowment Fund (all accounts)</b>	<b>\$101,805</b>
(Balance as of 12/31/2022)	

STOP at St. Peter

**BOOKMOBILE**

**SCHEDULE**

WAYNE COUNTY

The Bookmobile Schedule

Dates: 9/7, 10/15, 10/26, 11/16, 12/7, 1/4

New Pittsburg 2:30-3:15 PM.

Watch for the updated schedule.

## 2023/24 Bi-monthly Newsletter Schedule

Submission and assembly dates

Issue	Submissions Due	Assembly
Jan/Feb, 2024	Dec 18	Dec 22
Mar/April, 2024	Feb 19	Feb 22
May/June, 2024	April 22	April 25
July/Aug, 2024	June 24	June 27
Sept/Oct, 2024	Aug 19	Aug 22
Nov/Dec, 2024	Oct 21	Oct 24

**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](http://stpeterelca.org).

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

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

### JULY 2023

2	62	10 AM / Live Stream: 15
9	81	10 AM / Live Stream: 18
16	87	10 AM / Live Stream: 40
23	51	10 AM / Live Stream: 18
30	87	10 AM / Live Stream: 26

### JULY, 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

### AUGUST, 2023

6	61	10 AM / Outdoor Worship
13	86	10 AM / Live Stream: 21
20	95	10 AM / Live Stream: 20
27	73	10 AM / Live Stream: 15

### AUGUST, 2022

7	94	10 AM / Outdoor Worship
14	81	10 AM / Live Stream: 10
21	91	10 AM / Live Stream: 26
28	58	10 AM / Live Stream: 12

## GRACIOUS GIVERS

of St. Peter's

For the month of September we will be supporting Panda Preschool. October we will be supporting West Salem Food Pantry. Keep an eye in the weekly messenger for further information.

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church**

9451 Ashland Road  
Wooster, OH 44691

Address Service Requested.

*Mailed on or before 9/26/23*

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



Youth Events — Page 6

Panda Preschool — Page 7

Save  
the Date

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP