

The

# Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

## From the Pastor

July 2017

### Happy Independence Day!

This July, as we celebrate our freedom, it seems to be an appropriate time to remind you of the battles we are currently facing within our country. Author Bill Hecht writes about these struggles in his book, “Two Wars We Must Not Lose.” Both wars directly impact our freedom of religion.

The first war we face here in the United States is the war of **secularism**. To summarize Hecht’s argument: Those who are seeking secularization desire not ‘freedom *of* religion,’ but ‘freedom *from* religion,’ (having no ties to religion at all). What path does this lead to? A society devoid of all moral and religious values.

You can see this at work in our country already – where the intrinsic value of life (a religious value, based upon the value of our life in God’s eyes) is denied, leading to legalized abortions, assisted suicides, and the like. Furthermore, “freedom *from* religion leads to religious suppression, where any public expression of faith is prosecuted and condemned. (Consider the number of businesses that are being taken to court and put out of business because of their opposition to birth control, abortion causing birth control, or to homosexuality. Note especially how an East Lansing farmer’s market banned Steve Tennes, a devout Roman Catholic, from selling produce because of his opinions on marriage). All this is an effort to silence the religious beliefs of individuals.

As a result, you will hear secularists promote “freedom of worship” and not “freedom of religion.” In other words, ‘keep your religion in the church pew and check it at the door of the church on the way out.’ Clearly, this is a battle that we as Christians in the United States cannot afford to lose. Historically speaking, the United States has not been a Christian nation, but it has been a nation made up of Christians (for more on this, watch Lutheran Hour Ministries, “The Intersection Between Church and State”). What we believe leads to how we act, which leads to how we vote and participate in our government; our morals and values influence how we run our homes, businesses, and government.

The second war that we must not lose in the United States is the complete opposite of secularization: it is the war of **theocracy** (specifically referring to Islam). Islam is not only a religion, but is also a system of government which happens to be governed by religious laws: the Islamic religion rules over all, even those who do not profess faith in that religion.

So, for example, consider the Islamic law that women must wear traditional Islamic dress and cover themselves from head to toe in public. If you were a Christian woman living in Iran, you must make sure that you are covered from head to toe by your clothing. Or, consider the Sudanese Christian mother who was jailed (and was to be executed) for renouncing Islam and embracing Christianity; her husband is also Christian, and they have 2 children, who remained with the mother in jail. Islamic law prohibits Muslim children from being adopted or placed with non-Muslims: since the mother was born Muslim, the Sudanese government is refused to grant custody of the 2 children to the Christian father (of United States citizenship). The moral of the story? - Even if you do not confess Islam, you must live under Islamic religious laws.

It should be concerning to us that Islamic Sharia law is creeping into the United States and that, bit by bit, Christians (and non-Christians) are being placed under Sharia law. According to the New York Times, some school districts have already banned pork in schools (eating pork is against Sharia law).

If we lose the war by allowing religion to take over our government, then we will lose our individual religious freedom, along with many other freedoms, as has happened in many countries already. We will lose the freedom to believe and live out the Christian faith without fear of persecution by the government.

Let us thank the Lord that He has placed us in this country and has allowed us to believe in Jesus without fear of persecution from the government. But even as we give thanks, let us continue to be responsible citizens and continue to

fight these wars against our freedoms, so that our children and grandchildren, too, would enjoy the same liberties that we have today.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you, our country, and all of our government officials. Amen.

-- Pastor Lorenz

## News and Notes of St. Peter



### Congregational Christian Care

Please pray for, phone, visit, and or send a card or note to the following:

Jimmy Barnhart (cancer), relative of Laurie Trlak; Jay Beekman; Niki Boswell (stroke), niece of Diana Mason; Bertie Brooks (cancer), aunt of Leah Hiers; Maryann Clemmer (cancer), friend of Sandy Gast; Frank Cozzen (surgery), brother-in-law of Dewayne Anderson; Nancy Cozzen (healing), sister of Dewayne Anderson; Dorothy Davis (heart), friend of Norman Kochensparger; Don Fox (health concerns), brother of Barba Eickhoff; Robert Gernand; Pam Hite (terminally ill breast cancer), friend of Pam Wertenberger; Dolly (Ahlschwede) Kikuchi (cancer), relative of Diana Mason; Mark Mason (cancer), friend of Larry & Susie Baade; Dennis Miller (heart & stroke), friend of Ruth Moon; Kathy Neumann, friend of Laurie Trlak; Kelly Detamore-Palmer (heart), daughter of Madonna (Maybee) Detamore; Steven Spear (stroke), nephew of Donna Smith; Geneva Stetzel (stroke), aunt of Leah Hiers; Brandon Trlak (cancer); Christy Trlak (treatment); Steven Welker (stroke), son-in-law of Donna Dennis.

**Heritage of Huntington** – Maxine Stetzel

**Heritage, Warren** – Edward Campbell, Jr.  
(Room 277)

**Miller's Merry Manor** – Neil & Sandy Stonebraker  
(Room 35); Charles Weicht (Room 54)

**Markle Health & Rehabilitation** – Jean Simmons

**Norwood** – Wilbur & Ginger Van der Zee

**Home** – Jason Cozad; Robert Gernand; Shirley Powell;  
Pete Weicht (heart)

If you discover that the information has changed, please call the Church office so we can update this list.

### Tape Ministry

If you are unable to attend the worship services for any reason, including short-term recoveries, we would be happy to drop off a copy of the sermon or tape of the service which includes a bulletin. Please call Pam and Jack Wertenberger at 356-8139 or Pam's cell phone: 260-388-2507 to arrange for delivery. If you have received and listened to previous tapes, please place in a bag on your door to be picked up when a new tape is delivered. Thanks for your help.

Jack & Pam Wertenberger



### Greeters

Greeters for the following months are:

#### AUGUST

Sat	5:00	Diana Mason
Sun	10:15	Rolland and Vel Hoch

#### SEPTEMBER

Sat	5:00	Sue Ann Eltzroth and Roseanne Christ
Sun	10:15	Linda Hollowell

#### OCTOBER

Sat	5:00	John, Jennifer and Jase Gunn
Sun	10:15	Dick and Jane Winkelman



## ***Mission Envelopes***

Please prayerfully consider using your mission envelopes each month. Mission envelopes are in your pledge envelope box at the beginning of each month.



Thank you all for attending my most remember able 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party and cards received. I was able to enjoy it! It was like a reunion to greet all the relatives, nieces, nephews, cousins as well as all the friends. Also I think of and send prayers to the ill members who were not able to attend. God bless them all! Nearly 40 attended.  
Sincerely  
Maxine Stetzel

Thanks to everyone who remembered me with cards on my birthday – Anita Prout.



## **80 Plus Birthdays this month!**

### ***July***

Date		
July 8	Ruth Ann Whitesell	84
July 10	Shirley Baker	82
July 13	Betty Riggers	87
July 18	Jack Slusser	81
July 30	Neil Stonebraker	80



## ***A Little Heavenly Humor***

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked."

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

## **Our Confirmands**

St. Peter was blessed to have two young people confirmed on June 4: Samantha Weicht and Kaiden McClurg, with Pastor Lorenz.



# Organizations

**Ladies' Guild** – Will meet on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 in the lower level of the education building.

**St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS)** – Meeting at noon on July 12<sup>th</sup> at **Wings Etc.** Join in the good food and fellowship.

**Dorcas Circle** will NOT be meeting during the summer months.

**Quilters** The quilters will NOT be meeting during the summer months. Quilters will resume on Wednesday, September 6.

**LYF Youth** will be meeting on July 23 at the 4-H Fair Church Tent to help work.

**Choir:** Do you like to sing? Please join the choir on Wednesday evenings at 7PM starting in September. Gather in the church by the piano. If you have questions, please call Keith Crider at 260-356-8097.

Happy Anniversary

## July Anniversaries

Date		# Years
July 10	Rolland & Vel Hoch	57
July 15	George & Judith Juergens	16
July 17	Christopher & Camy Rodenbeck	13
July 21	Bruce & Sue Holtz	33

# VBS Happenings



Opening/Closing Devotions



Giving the Castle of Cans to LOVE



## Our BIG EVENT of Summer 2016

St. Peter Lutheran 4-H Fair Food Tent at Hiers Park. Please save these dates to gather together to help with food preparation, set up and serving our community in any way that you can help.

### **Food Tent**

Set Up Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Set Up Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

### **Serving Food**

Saturday, July 22 through

Thursday, July 27

### **Chicken Preparation**

Tuesday, July 25 @ 8:00 a.m. to noon

### **Tear Down**

Thursday, July 27 from 3:00 p.m. to?

### **Helpful Donations**

All-purpose flour

White sugar

Cider Vinegar

Coffee

Paper Towels

Onions

Cucumbers

Cantaloupe

Helping hands in the form of Volunteers

**PRAYERS**



Your Fair Committee is calling workers to help with the Church food tent at the 4-H Fair. Beginning on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> many families and friends of St. Peter will be helping at the fairgrounds. Every member is invited to help. Please fill out the form below with ways and days that you will help this year! You may call the office at 356-6528 (Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon) or call Sandy Slusser at 356-4755 to volunteer or leave information about helping.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help set up the tent Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help set up the tent Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 am

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help in the kitchen at church on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am to prepare the baked chicken.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can cook or serve at the tent on (circle one or more)

Sat. (7/22), Sun. (7/23), Mon. (7/24), Tues. (7/25),  
Wed. (7/26), Thurs. (7/27)

\_\_\_\_\_ I can work lunch, dinner (circle one or more) short time or all day

\_\_\_\_\_ I can work (circle your preference) a.m. prep, p.m. prep or clean up (short time, or all day).

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help tear down and pack away on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> after 3:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm not sure what I can do. Please give me a call and we'll discover what God is calling me to do.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to help, but I will pray for good health and safety of our guests, volunteers, and for Jesus to prosper our efforts at the Food Tent project.

Lunch time is 11a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner time is 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Preparation help is needed beginning at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Clean up begins at 8:00 p.m.

# SERVING THIS MONTH

## JULY 2017

### ELDER

**SATURDAY: GEORGE JUERGENS**

**SUNDAY: RICHARD SMITH**

### GREETERS

**SATURDAY: DIANA MASON**

**SUNDAY: GEORGE & BARBA EICKHOFF**

**ALTAR CARE: SUE KELLAM & JUDY TURGESON**

JULY			
SAT JULY 3	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RON BROWN
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	ADRIAN BROWN
		ACOLYTE	ERIKA BROWN
SUN JULY 4	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JEFF DERR
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	RANDY PRANGE
		ACOLYTE	DREW DORSETT
SAT JULY 10	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	SAMANTHA WEICHT
SUN JULY 11	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	MIRANDA SPITLER
SAT JULY 17	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	TED MCELHANEY
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	JORDAN JONES
		ACOLYTE	TED MCELHANEY
SUN JULY 18	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LARRY BAADE
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	HAROLD BENNETT
		ACOLYTE	BRIANNA THOMAS
SAT JULY 24	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	IAN CRIDER
SUN JULY 25	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	NOLAN HUGHES

If you are scheduled at a time that does not work for you, please contact an acolyte or communion assistant listed to take your place and let the office know so changes to the bulletin can be made.

Thank you for your commitment to serve at St. Peter Church.

## ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
<b>2</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion	<b>3</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 1:30 General Guild 6:30 Elders	<b>4</b> Office Closed	<b>5</b> 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store	<b>6</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:00 Divine Service
<b>9</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Service	<b>10</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council	<b>11</b> 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood	<b>12</b> 12:00 SPARKS	<b>13</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
<b>16</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion	<b>17</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	<b>18</b> 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline Messenger Deadline  4-H FAIR Set-Up	<b>21</b>  4-H FAIR Set-Up	<b>22</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service  4-H FAIR
<b>23</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service LYF at the FAIR  4-H FAIR	<b>24</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton  4-H FAIR	<b>25</b> 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood  Pastor at Higher Things 4-H FAIR	<b>26</b>  Pastor at Higher Things 4-H FAIR	<b>27</b> 12:00 Bulletin Deadline  Pastor at Higher Things 4-H FAIR	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
<b>30</b> 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion	<b>31</b> 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton					

**July, 2017**

**NOTES**