

The

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

October 2024

“But when ye pray, use not **vain repetitions** (βατταλογήσητε), as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” Matthew 6:7 KJV.

The KJV translates βατταλογήσητε as vain repetitions, from ‘battos’ (stammer) and ‘logos’ (word) – the thought being that stammerers often repeat the same sounds/words. It is from this translation that some Protestant church bodies get the notion that using written or memorized prayers is forbidden by Christ. What do we say about this?

“Vain,” or useless, prayer is the key here. Matthew 6:7 echoes Elijah’s showdown with prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18:26-29. Elijah mocks them because he knows their hours of repeated prayers are useless – there was no one to answer. This was typical of pagan worship in Jesus’ time too. The Gentiles believed they had to repeat their prayers over and over for their gods to even hear and answer them at all.

Jesus’ point about vain repetitions is that prayer to false gods is *always* vain. But he also has a message for our prayer/worship life too: the words we address to God must come from the heart, and must not simply be “empty phrases” or thoughtless prayer (babbling, as other translations render Matthew 6:7).

Repeated prayer itself is certainly not bad. Scripture is filled with such prayers – many of them recited in the actual presence of God. Consider

- Revelation 4:8: “the four living creatures ... day and night ... *never cease to sing, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*”
- Psalm 136, recited at every Passover and many other solemn occasions, has a repetitive framework integral to the Psalm itself, and also repeats the phrase, “for his steadfast love endures forever,” 26 times.
- In Luke 18:3-9, Jesus uses the parable of the persistent widow and unjust judge to teach his disciples that they “ought *always* to pray and not lose heart.” This widow “kept coming” to the judge, saying the same thing: “Vindicate me against my adversary” – essentially a repeated prayer. Jesus then confirms that God will *quickly* answer those “who cry to him day and night” repeatedly asking for his help.
- In Mark 14:33-39 Jesus himself repeated his own prayers: “remove this chalice from me; yet not what I will, but what you will ... And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.”
- Jesus himself, when instructing the disciples to pray, gives them words to repeat each time when the pray, saying, “When you pray, say, ‘Our Father...’ (Luke 11:2).

Thus, not only is repetitive prayer permitted and encouraged, it is answered.

Dear brothers and sisters: if you want to pray from your heart without using memorized prayers, that is good and right. If you want to pray using formulaic prayers you have memorized and repeat, that is good and right also. Whichever you use, pray in faith knowing that your heavenly Father hears you and has promised to answer.

And if you still have concerns about using pre-written prayers, consider this: In Deuteronomy 6, the Lord instructs His people to impress His word upon the hearts and minds of their children. An old Latin proverb states that 'repetition is the mother of learning'... so perhaps memorizing prayers and using them repeatedly (with faith) just does have some benefit and merit in the life of a Christian, for it can instruct us in the Word of God and imprint it upon our hearts.

Pastor Lorey

Save the Date

LYF Bazaar
Saturday, November 2
9am - 1pm

Looking for: Craft Items, Baked Goods and volunteers.

Bring food donations on Friday, November 1 between 4-8pm.

Craft items can be brought to the reception room during office hours the week of October 27th.



Happy 80 Plus October Birthdays

Day		Yrs.
7	Ronald Brown	87
18	Donna Dennis	87

Flowers for Altar

Flowers may be placed on the Altar by calling the church office. They can be placed in memory of someone, to honor a birthday or anniversary or for no reason.

2024 Greeters



November	Saturday	Paul & Sue Kellam
	Sunday	Carmen Matheson
December	Saturday	Don & Rhonda Webb
	Sunday	Linda, Ian & Andrew Crider

News and Notes of St. Peter



Congregational Christian Care

Please pray for, phone, visit, and or send a card or note to the following members that are recovering or home bound.

Canterbury Nursing & Rehab Center – Dan Schmalzried

Envive Health Care – Cindy Smith, Paul Stohlman

Heritage Point of Warren – Pat Cluver

Lutheran Life Village (Pine Valley) – John Bischoff

Meadows of Coventry – Julie Hardy, Linda Wolfe

The Village @ Pine Valley – Barba Eickhoff

Tipton Place – Rolland Hoch

Waters of Huntington – Ruth Guy; Sandy Stonebraker; Kay Whitesell

Home – Asa Elett; Bradley Heideman; Brenda Kline; Ruth Moon

Prayer List: Jay Beekman; Georgianna Bischoff; Brian Bowers (brother of Cheryl Canvin); Penelope Brown; Allen & Mary Couch; Shirley & Eugene Daigle; Asa Elett; Josie Fogo (Cousin of Teresa Pinkerton); Rolland Hoch; Mark Richardson (cancer, nephew of Lowell Richardson); Dianne & Michael Scher; and Doug Thornburg (son-in-law of Ruth Whitesell).

Please call the church office to let us know the status of the people on the Prayer list.

If you are homebound or temporarily homebound and would like to receive communion because you are unable to come to church, please contact the church office and ask to be placed on pastor's visitation list.



LWML Potato Bar

Baked Potato with toppings

When: Sunday, October 6

Time: Noon

Place: The lower level of the education building.

Cost: Free will offering

Proceeds going to St. Peter Field Workers.

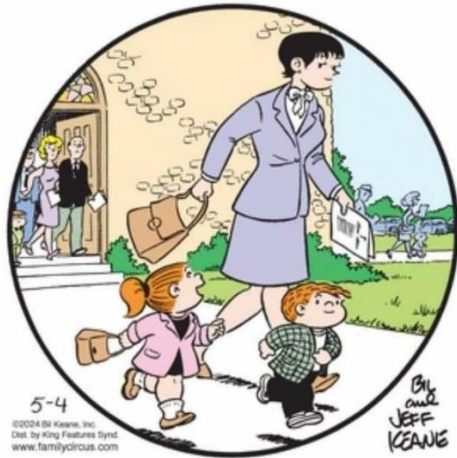
Lutheran Hour

Did you know that the Lutheran Hour is Just a phone call away ?

The Lutheran Hour is now available by phone! Dialing in to hear The Lutheran Hour is a great alternative listening option for those who cannot access The Lutheran Hour via the radio, smartphone app, or the internet. Any landline, cellphone, or smartphone will work. To listen to a recent The Lutheran Hour sermon, please call 1-800-876-9880, and then select option three.



A Little Heavenly Humor



5-4
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"That sure made me hungry
when we sang 'Lasagna
in the Highest.'"

St. Peter Organizations

Dorcas Circle: The October meeting will be October 16th with Carmen Matheson as hostess. The meeting will be in the education building. Please let Carmin know if you plan to attend.

Family Night: Join us for a 'Tree of Life'. We will meet Friday, October 25th from 5:30 -7:30 pm. Dinner is provided along with family activities and Devotions. All ages are welcome! Bring your family and friends for a great time of fellowship.

LWML: The annual Potato Bar will be Sunday, October 6 at noon in the lower level of the education building. Proceeds going to St. Peter Field Workers.
The next meeting will be October 24, 2024 at 7pm. We will have collection of Mites, a Bible Study.

St. Peter Organizations continued

LWML South Zone Fall Rally – Saturday, October 19, 8:30-11:30a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne.
Speaker Ralph Schmidt from The Orphan Grain Train.

LYF: Meeting Sunday October 20 at 11:30 am to make fudge for bazaar.

Men's Club: The next meeting will be on Saturday, October 5th at 10 AM in the lower level of the education building.

Quilters: Our regular quilting season has started again. We meet on Wednesdays, at from 9-12 with a snack break at 10:30. We meet in the lower level of the Education building.
May God continue to bless us and the work of our hands and hearts.

SPARKS (St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers): Winner of the September drawing was Jack Slusser The October meeting will be Wednesday, October 9th at noon. We will meet at Nick's Country Café (Nancy's).

Tape Ministry: If you are homebound or in a nursing home and would like to receive the weekly video recording of the service on a tablet (no internet needed) or a printed copy of the sermon, please contact the church office at 260.356.6528 to make arrangements.

Monthly Tuesday Morning Bible Class: Begins a new study on "I Married You" by Walter Trobisch. October 1, 10:30 a.m. School Library.

***Introducing
Nathaniel Hall & Family
1st Year Field Worker***

Dear Saints at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church,

It is a great joy for Rachel, Zechariah, and I to meet you all and become part of your church family. I look forward to all the opportunities I will have with you over the next 2 years as we serve one another in the love of Christ.

Rachel and I are both from Virginia, Rachel from the northern area around McLean and I am from the central part around Richmond. We both went to Virginia Tech for school where we were very involved in our campus ministry there. Rachel got her degree in computer science, and I have degrees in math and engineering. We met through the LCMS campus ministry sponsored by our home congregation and have been married for close to 2 years now. The Lord has blessed us in our marriage with Zechariah who is 11 months old and continues to grow very quickly on us! Rachel is a homemaker and does a great job caring for Zechariah and our household. For the last 6 years I have worked as an engineer for a company in Virginia that makes electric motors, but ever since finishing college, coming to seminary has been in the works. The Lord has provided me many wonderful opportunities to serve in His church as a layperson through council, teaching Sunday school, and assisting with campus ministry. I look forward to His continual formation of me as His servant and I am thankful to God that I get to do that with you all at St. Peter.

Nathaniel Hall



***Introducing
Jacob Franck
2nd Year Field
Worker***

My name is Jacob Franck. I'm in my second year at seminary. I'm twenty-four years old. I have lived in Duluth, Minnesota for my entire life. I have ten siblings ranging from the ages of thirty-five to six and I am right in the middle. My family does foster care for infants, and we have adopted two little girls who didn't have anywhere else to go. My family back home also has three golden retrievers, a pet rabbit, and we used to have some chickens for eggs. Some of my hobbies include reading, outdoor swimming, watching baseball and football, and playing sports. My dad is a pastor, and my mom is a stay-at-home mom who homeschooled us all. My parents homeschooled me until my junior year of high school at which point I attended a local community college for dual credits. I then went to Concordia University Chicago where I graduated in the spring of 2023 with a Theological Languages major, a philosophy and theology minor, and a pre-seminary certification. In my second year of college, I felt that it was God's will for me to enlist in the Army Reserves, and I am currently a 92G which is a culinary specialist although I am switching over to the chaplain candidate program currently.

SERVING THIS MONTH

OCTOBER 2024

ELDER

SATURDAY: RANDY PRANGE

SUNDAY: RICHARD SMITH

GREETERS

SATURDAY: Jim & Nancy Bowland

SUNDAY: Karen Smith

ALTAR CARE: Nancy Bowland

Saturday, October 5	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Chad Worsham
		Communion Assistant	Larry Baade
		Acolyte	Hannah Dorsett
		Organist	Trentin Worsham
Sunday, October 6	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant	Jacob Franck
		Communion Assistant	Nathaniel Hall
		Acolyte	Abby Lorenz
		Organist	Jeff Derr
Saturday, October 12	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Ted McElhaney
		Communion Assistant	Adrian Brown
		Acolyte	Ted McElhaney
		Organist	Leigh Ann Jones
Sunday, October 13	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant	Jacob Franck
		Communion Assistant	Nathaniel Hall
		Acolyte	Noah Mason
		Organist	Angie Brubaker
Saturday, October 19	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Fred Lange
		Communion Assistant	Eliot Brown
		Acolyte	Trentin Worsham
		Organist	Drew Dorsett
Sunday, October 20	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant	Jacob Franck
		Communion Assistant	Nathaniel Hall
		Acolyte	Noelle Lorenz
		Organist	Jeff Derr
Saturday, October 26	5:00 PM	Communion Assistant	Trentin Worsham
		Communion Assistant	Erich Hauenstein
		Acolyte	Trentin Worsham
		Organist	Hannah Dorsett
Sunday, October 27	10:15 AM	Communion Assistant	Jacob Franck
Reformation Observed		Communion Assistant	Nathaniel Hall
		Acolyte	Sophia Mason
		Cross Bearer	August Applegate
		Torch Bearer	Jacob Franck
		Torch Bearer	Nathaniel Hall
		Organist	Angie Brubaker

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30 Monthly Bible Class 11:00 Diaper Store 1:30 Envive Bible Study 5:00 Diaper Store 7:00 175th	2 9:00 Quilting	3 Noon Bulletin Deadline	4	5 10:00 Men's Club 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/communion
6 9:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/communion Noon Jr. Confirmation	7 5:30 Board of Property 6:30 Elders	8	9 9:00 Quilting 12:00 SPARKS	10 Noon Bulletin Deadline	11	12 5:00 Divine Service w/communion
13 10:15 Divine Service w/communion	14 7:00 Council	15 11:00 Diaper Store 5:00 Diaper Store 7:00 Stewardship	16 9:00 Quilting 12:00 Dorcas	17 Noon Bulletin Deadline	18 NOON Messenger Deadline	19 LWML Zone Rally 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/communion
20 9:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/communion 11:30 LYF Noon Jr. Confirmation	21 FALL PASTOR'S	22 CONFERENCE	23 9:00 Quilting Dorcas Circle	24 Noon Bulletin Deadline 7:30 LWML	25 5:30 Family Night	26 4:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/communion
27 9:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/communion Noon Jr. Confirmation	28 9:15 Envive Devotions 10:15 Tipton Place Devotions 1:30 Heritage Devotions	29 1:30 Envive Bible Study	30 9:00 Quilting Circle	31 Noon Bulletin Deadline		

NOTES:

October 7-13 HCCSC Fall Break

“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”¹ Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace

For life and vision, for a purpose clear,

For Christ Your Son, and for each human face

that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of

Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!