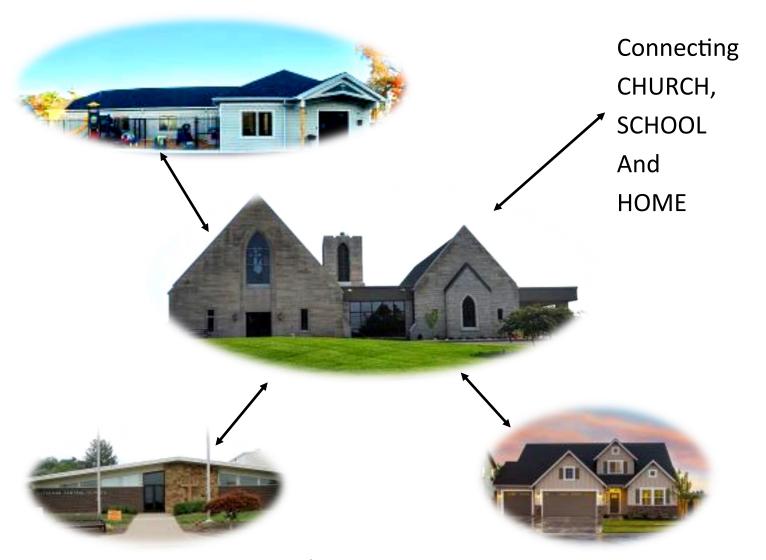
ST. PETER'S CONNECTION

St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church 403 W. Bridge Street Brownstown, Indiana

Rev. Ryan Schneider, Pastor

812-358-2539



APRIL, 2024

Our Mission: To proclaim the Gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ and fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19—Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Blessed April!

Thank you for reading our monthly connections. Our goal is to provide you with as much information as possible about events here at church, of which you are an important part.

This month I would like to introduce 3 new pages!

- 1. The first page is thoughts on stewardship. The Biblical definition of stewardship is "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation." We are so blessed! The question is how do we use the many, many gifts God gives us over and over and over. I hope these thoughts might help our perspective on God's gifts and how we use them. (page 7)
- 2. The second one contains 2 Bible verses for your family to memorize. The goal is to provide 2 verses each month for your family to memorize. Maybe as part of your daily devotions. Possibly after your closing meal prayer. Or you might wish to learn this just before going to bed. Give it a try! (Page 15)
- 3. The third page is a coloring page. Many adults like to color, but so do many children. This page might give you an opportunity to color with your children or they might prefer to color them on their own. All you need to do is print out the page, grab your crayons or colored pencils and color away! (Page 16)

Numbers 2 & 3 might be a great opportunity to involve those precious young people in the Word.

Give them a try!

Bob

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"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." 2 Timothy 4:2-4

Fruit of Patience

Those are Paul's words to Timothy, but were meant for all the people who would hear that letter, and for us as well. We certainly live in a time where there are many myths and false teachings; where there are many people with "itching ears," who listen to those who tell them what they want to hear instead of what they need to hear. And, if we're being truthful, we can fall into that trap, too. And sometimes false teaching can sound good and deceive Christians.



So how important is good and faithful preaching and teaching! And to hear it and receive it regularly. We may not like to be shown how sinful we are, but we need it. We may not like many of the truths of God's Word that go against what our current culture says and where it wants to go, but we need the truth. We need to repent, we need forgiveness, and we need a God who we can rely on for everything and at all times.

In the verses above from St. Paul, he tells Timothy to reprove, rebuke, and exhort - we like to do that! Correct others, tell them they're wrong. Just look at all the rebuking that is on social media everyday! But then he also adds: with complete patience and teaching. Some translations say careful teaching. That is, don't just fire away, carefully teach. And don't expect the results to be quick - be patient. Sometimes good teaching, mind formation, and heart transformation take time.

Patience, though, seems to be in short supply in our world today. We want what we want and we want it now! But God takes the long view of things. He's in it for the long haul. So we need to be, too. Don't give up on someone because they haven't come to church the first, second, or even third time you asked. Don't give up when what you say seems to fall on deaf ears. Don't give up when the Word doesn't seem to be working. It is. God promised that it would. Sometimes those seeds take a long time to grow. Sometimes they grow in unexpected places. But God is working. Keep going.

And as for the patience we need? God will provide that, too. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5: love, joy, peace, **patience**... So pray for patience. Ask the Spirit to work that in you. And pray for those with itching ears. Pray for those who have wandered off into myths and who do not listen to the truth. And pray that the Lord may give you opportunities to speak the truth - in patience and love! - to others, and for the Lord to work through that Word. He will. Be patient! And be prepared to be surprised.

In Christ,

Pastor Schneider



¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

	utheran Chu ry 29, 2024	rch		
Assets	Balance 01/01/2024	January Activity	February Activity	Balance 02/29/2024
Jackson County Bank Checking	02/02/2024	receivey	riculty	02/25/2021
General	79,788.83	(10,286.70)	5,499.80	75,001.93
Dedicated to Family Assistance	547.78			547.78
Special Trustee Projects	6,635.18	120.00	375.00	7,130.18
· ·	86,971.79			82,679.89
Jackson County Bank Savings				
Handbell & Music	363.68			363.68
Live Stream	1,730.00			1,730.00
Alter Guild	1,483.24			1,483.24
Interest	3,553.09	3.35	2.95	3,559.39
	7,130.01			7,136.31
Capital Campaign				
Jackson County Bank	7,130.33	(6,823.80)	(136.31)	170.22
iabilities				
Payroll Taxes Withheld	<u> </u>	(3,048.48)	(1,361.14)	(4,409.62
Jackson County Bank Line of Credit	80	858	13	-
Building Addition Loan (4.125% Variable Rate)	142,000.00	(42,031.80)	(5,911.31)	94,056.89



"I remain rather convinced of a few simple biblical principles of stewardship (Luke 14:28; Prov. 22:7). A significant one is that we should not spend more than we take in. In fact, we should make an effort to spend slightly less than we receive. 'We took some in. We spent some. And we had some left over at the end of the year.' That's an ideal financial report in my book!"

 Rev. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

St	. Peter's Lutheran Chi	urch	
	February 29, 2024		
Offerings	January Activity	February Activity	Balance Totals
Envelope Contributions	50,340.40	56,618.46	106,958.86
Loose Collection	1,265.80	1,323.03	2,588.83
General (Non Envelope)	670.00	×	670.00
Vacation Bible School		49.00	49.00
Fair Booth	54.00	2	54.00
Soup Supper	-	-	48
Cookbook Income	97.55 17.55		*
	52,330.20	57,990.49	110,320.69
Offering percentage change from las	t year (positive means offer	rings are higher)	-9.45%

Expenses		Budget to Date	Actual to Date	To Date % of Budget
	Budget			
Salaries - Preaching & Teaching				
Pastor Expenses				
Pastor Salary	69,846.00	11,641.00	9,307.60	16.7%
Housing Allowance			2,333.40	
Health Care Assistance (1/2 self, family)	24,931.32	4,155.22	4,155.22	16.7%
Health Savings (HSA)	2,800.00	466.67	466.60	16.7%
Retirement & Disability	7,648.14	1,274.69	1,593.36	20.8%
Health (1/2 self)	5,225.40	870.90	870.90	16.7%
Reimbursement Expense	3,000.00	500.00	0.00	0.0%
Substitute Pastor	3,000.00	500.00	0.00	0.0%
Organists	12,500.00	2,083.33	1,600.00	12.8%

Expenses (continued)			To Date	To Date %
	Budget	Budget to Date	Totals	of Budget
Operating Cost				
Parsonage Expenses (repairs & utilities)	7,500.00	1,250.00	1,468.93	19.69
Secretary Salary	25,208.00	4,201.33	4,200.00	16.79
Janitor Pay	10,700.00	1,783.33	0.00	0.0
Social Security Taxes	1,928.41	321.40	321.30	16.7
Retirement & Disability Employee	2,760.28	460.05	460.06	16.7
Conference/Education Expenses	750.00	125.00	0.00	0.0
Office Supplies	10,000.00	1,666.67	399.34	4.0
Copier Contract	13,000.00	2,166.67	1,866.58	14.4
Technology	300.00	50.00	0.00	0.0
Worship Expenses	7,500.00	1,250.00	381.25	5.1
Music/Choir Expenses	200.00	33.33	0.00	0.0
Cleaning Supplies	1,000.00	166.67	0.00	0.0
Utilities	29,000.00	4,833.33	4,209.17	14.5
Maintenance and Repairs	20,000.00	3,333.33	985.13	4.9
Landscaping, Yard, Snow Removal	6,500.00	1,083.33	0.00	0.0
Insurance (Property, Liability, WC)	11,000.00	1,833.33	2,608.54	23.7
Education Supplies	100.00	16.67	0.00	0.0
Christmas Expenses	500.00	83.33	0.00	0.0
Convention Expense	1,500.00	250.00	0.00	0.0
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,500.00	250.00	0.00	0.0
Loan Payment	43,000.00	7,166.67	1,033.41	2.4
Congregational Outreach	28		10	
Child Care Ministry Assistance	45,000.00	7,500.00	0.00	
Vacation Bible School	500.00	83.33	137.72	27.5
School Operation				
Lutheran Central	385,000.00	64,166.67	64,131.02	16.7
Trinity Lutheran High School	15,000.00	2,500.00	6,500.00	43.3
Expenses Not Listed In Budget	(/TO # TO	747 D-747 D	(7 4 575753774)	
Fair Stand	0.00		0.00	
Confirmation	0.00		-	
At Home	768,397.55	128,066.26	109,029.53	14.2
Missions	700,557155	120,000.20	103,023.33	
Indiana District LCMS (0.95%)	7,299.78	1,216.63	1,022.59	14.0
Lutheran Mission Federation (0.4%)	3,073.59	512.27	430.57	14.0
Haiti Mission (0.2%)	1,536.80	256.13	215.28	14.0
Totals	780,307.72	130,051.29	110,697.97	14.2
	The state of the s	and the second s	1.74%	14.2
Expenses percentage change from las	st year (negative m	eans spent more)	1.74%	
Respectfully submitted, Offerings	to Date		110,320.69	
Carol Hayden, Treasurer Expenses	1- D-1-		(110,697.97)	

Whose Is It Anyway?

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If you have every bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a "title search." Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you'll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, "That's mine: I had it first."

You can't understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor's possessions are *his*: you don't have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God's leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

LCMS.org

C 0 St. Peters EV. Lutheran Church Trustee's Meeting N March 2024 E Problems fixed this month: Church water leak verified Next steps are to repair drywall, paint, and replace ceiling tiles Announcement will be put in the bulletin for a congregation drywall being wanted for repairing the drywall only. All other tasks will be done by the trustees. Gravel lot divots 1 a. Matthew Lucas put on some gravel to fix some areas, but the lot will need new gravel over its entirety soon. Old Business: G LCMS road signs a. Completed all 3 signs for \$100 a piece Reid Sparks is to manage payment and transport Copy Machine Contract a. New copier arriving before Easter W I.T. Upgrades a. BRad is waiting to hear back from Andrea Pendleton on the possibility of the Foundation board funding these upgrades and repairs Mulching Mr. Hackman has agreed to have one of his classes spread mulch around the Н church, in the garden, and at the parsonage. b. Hackman requested that he form a quote for the mulch himself and either we pay directly or reimburse the school for that purchase. Parsonage Basement Moisture a. Brad got a quote for installing new gutters and gutter guards on the parsonage O (Faulty gutters are cause for the moisture seeping in the basement walls) This will be \$2100 for new 6 inch gutters and an additional \$1000 for the gutter quards c. Mold cleanup contractors are getting us quotes for when the gutters are R completed Mowing bids No announcement has been made in the bulletin since last meeting b. An announcement will be put in for this week T c. Stevens' has already submitted their bid Gravel lot maintenance R a. Trustees agreed that the weather is now permitting for grave to be put on the lot Parking bumpers will need to be pulled before spreading gravel c. Either Matthew or James Lucas will be delivering this gravel to the church Future Needs Committee a. Need One more trustee to attend these meetings T b. Brad volunteered to come to the rest of the meetings in the future with Emmitt E

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New Business:

- 1. Pizza oven exhaust
 - The smoke from the pizza oven being used in the basement need to be routed through the wall and directed outside
- Bills
 - a. Concordia
 - i. \$206- portals of prayer
 - ii. \$500- LSB annual subscription
 - iii. \$350- Hymn copyright annual subscription
- 3. Church Secretary monitor
 - The power supply for the current computer monitor is cutting in and out and causing a blank screen
 - Reid Sparks mentioned approving getting a new monitor and Nick Stahl agreed
 - ii. Brad will be purchasing a new monitor
- 4. Back door magnetic door locks
 - a. For a few weeks, the magnetic door lock on the rear entry doors of the church has been coming off of the door and dangling by the wires
 - B&C electric has the contract for maintaining the lock system in the church and has the parts to fix it
 - c. Will be repaired this week
- 5. Parsonage stone cracking
 - Pastor noticed a crack in the side of the parsonage that is significant in size
 - b. Brad said he will reach out to someone who can be hired to fill the crack
- Collapsed drain
 - a. There is a collapsed drain by the sidewalk going from the church to the school which is around 3-4ft in diameter
 - b. Brad said will be filling the hole with stone and dirt
- 7. Magnetic lock wiring molding
 - There is adhesive molding for the magnetic door lock system wiring that is exposed around the church
 - This is deemed to be a trustee task and not a part of the contract with B&C Electric for maintaining the locks.
- Water heater for the kitchen is not working
 - a. Brad said he would clean out the water heater this week
- Council meeting Trustee representation rotation
 - Emmitt proposed a rotating calendar signup for all trustees to attend council meetings in shifts
 - b. This was received well by the board and will be implemented from now on.

Next Trustees meeting is April 3rd, 2024

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College Scholarship Fund

The College Scholarship Fund will soon be accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year. Applicants must be attending a Concordia University for Lutheran Education or going into Church Ministry. Applications will be available in the church office after April 1, 2024 and are due back by June 1, 2024. Depending on the number of applications received, scholarships awarded will be up \$3000.



CONNECTING WITH OUR CHILD CARE



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WANT TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT IS HAP-PENING AT LUTHERAN CENTRAL SCHOOL?

CHECK OUT EITHER OF THESE TWO SITES FOR THEIR WEEKLY NEWSLET-TER!

THEIR WEBSITE

lcsaints.net

THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/lutheran.central

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APRIL 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Risen Christ Breathes His Peace in the Holy Absolution

Acts 4:32-35

1 John 1:1-22

John 20:19-31

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus appeared to His apostles on the first Easter Sunday. He "came and stood among them," and with His Word and the wounds in "his hands and his side," He granted them His peace (John 20:19–20). He sent them as ministers of the Gospel in His name to bestow the life-giving Holy Spirit for us and for His whole Church through the forgiveness of sins (John 20:21–23). Through this apostolic ministry, He calls us to believe that He "is the Christ, the Son of God," so that by such faith we "may have life in his name" (John 20:31). The apostles "have seen and heard" this divine life manifested in the flesh of Christ, and those who succeed them in this apostolic ministry now proclaim that same Absolution to us, so that we "too may have fellowship" with the risen Christ, with the apostles and "with one another" (1 John 1:1–7). The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church lives by "their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus," and all who believe this Word are "of one heart and soul," because in Him they truly have "everything in common" (Acts 4:32–33).

Acolytes: 8:00: Ava Brock & Hunter Combs

10:30: Charlotte Garrison & Belle Kiewit

Holy Communion @ 10:30

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APRIL 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Preaching of Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins Makes Us Pure

Acts 3:11-21

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36-49

W O R S H

The risen Lord Jesus taught His disciples "that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead" and "that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations" (Luke 24:46–47). Therefore, St. Peter preaches repentance and forgiveness to the people of Jerusalem. As he proclaims that Jesus fulfilled all that "God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets" (Acts 3:18), he also convicts the people of their sin, because they "delivered over and denied" this Lord Jesus and "killed the Author of life." Yet God "glorified his servant Jesus" and raised Him from the dead (Acts 3:13–15). St. Peter calls the people to repent, so that their "sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19–20). Through this forgiveness of sins and by faith in this forgiveness, the Father shows His love for us in order that "we should be called children of God; and so we are" (1 John 3:1). Thus, we hope in Him and are made pure even "as he is pure," because "he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin" (1 John 3:3, 5).

Acolytes: 8:00: Tyler Tormoehlen & Matthew Sitterding 10:30: Emma Sparks & Evan Baker

Holy Communion @ 8:00



APRIL 21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life for the Sheep

Acts 4:1-12 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

The Lord Jesus is "the good shepherd" who "lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). His life is not taken from Him, but He lays it down willingly, of His own accord, because He knows and loves the sheep. As the One sent by the Father, He has the "authority to lay it down" and the "authority to take it up again" (John 10:18). So has He done, and now He continues to love and serve as the Good Shepherd of the sheep by the voice of His Gospel. He thus calls all people into the fold of His Church, so that there may be "one flock, one shepherd" (John 10:16). That is why the apostles "were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead" (Acts 4:2). Since "there is salvation in no one else," His voice rings out to this day through the preaching of His name, "for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). His voice comforts our hearts against all condemnation and gives us courage to "love one another" and "to lay down our lives for the brothers," as He laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16, 23).

Acolytes: 8:00: Ava Brock & Hunter Combs 10:30: Beau Fritz & Graeme Hehman

Holy Communion @ 8:00



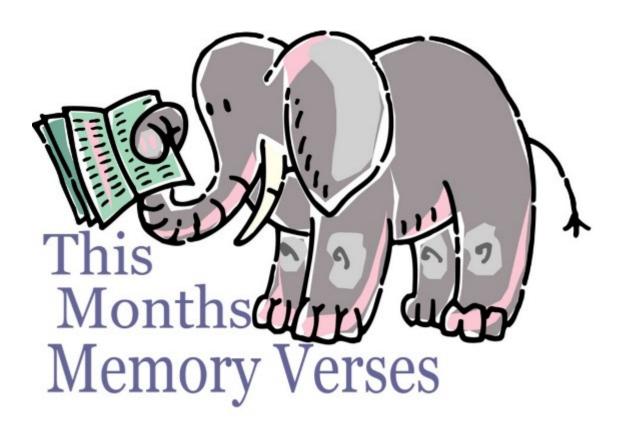
APRIL 28 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Jesus Christ is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

Acts 8:26-40 1 John 4:1-21 John 15:1-8

"God is love," and He has manifested Himself to us by sending "his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, "he has given us of his Spirit," so that we also believe and confess "that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh." In this way, we "abide in him and he in us," and we "love one another" (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip's preaching of "the good news about Jesus" to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when "they came to some water," the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into "the true vine," Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He "bears much fruit" in us (John 15:3–5).

Acolytes: 8:00: Tyler Tormoehlen & Matthew Sitterding 10:30: Morgan Wessel & Charlotte Garrison

Holy Communion @ 10:30

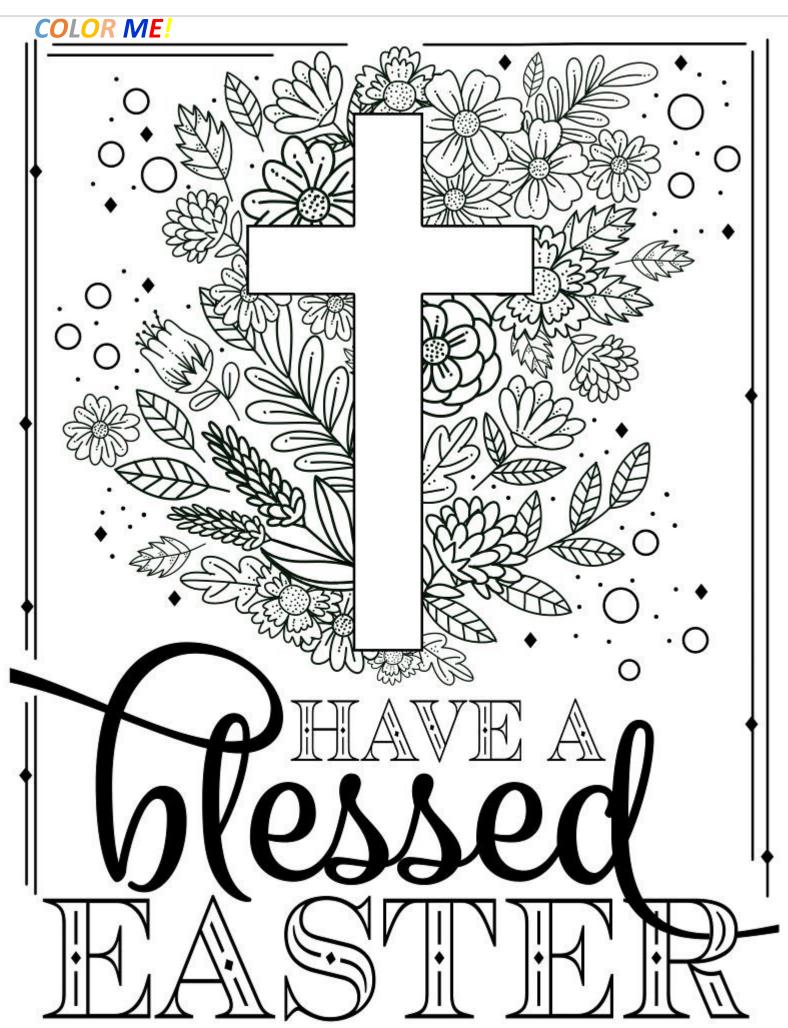


John 14:19

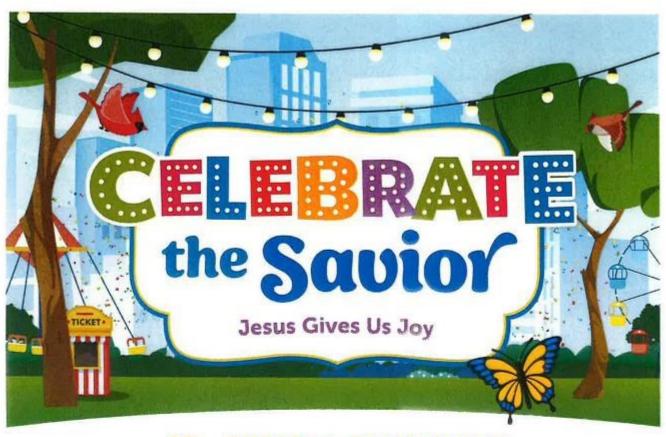
Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.







ST. PETER'S BROWNSTOWN



A VBS CELEBRATION!

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY - THURSDAY

JUNE 24 - 27

6:00 - 8:30 pm

JOIN US FOR:

BIBLE EXPLORATION, CRAFTS, STORYTELLING, SNACKS, & GAMES



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ST. PETER'S ANCHOR HOUSE DONATION DRIVE

MARCH 3 - APRIL 28



W PANTRY SUPPLIES:

CEREAL
PANCAKE MIX/SYRUP
SPAGHETTI SAUCE & PASTA
FLOUR
OIL
SUGAR
SPICES
HEALTHY SNACK ITEMS
BREAKFAST ITEMS
READY-TO-EAT LUNCH ITEMS

FAMILY SHELTER SUPPLIES:

LAUNDRY SOAP
DRYER SHEETS
HAIR CONDITIONER
LOTION
BABY SOAP
CLEANING PRODUCTS
SPONGES
TOILET BRUSHES
TOILET PAPER
PAPER TOWELS
NEW CHILD & ADULT UNDERWEAR & SOCKS



FOR MORE INFORMATION

(812) 522-9308



- 1 Breckin Curry Kayla Fritz-Housand Jacquelyn Jasinski
- 2 April Haggerty Randy & Kay Ude
- **5** Danielle Meyer
- **6** Jesse Baute David Rorig
- 7 Leon Hackman Matt Rotert Paul Zabel Andy & Linda Fountain
- 8 Dylan Wischmeier John & Margaret Chastain
- 9 Jessica Kellermeier Stacey McMahon Rossi Spencer Breanna Wheeler
- 11 Bill & Anna Middendorf
- **12** Tammi Ross Sasha Sitterding Klain Weaver

- 13 Darlene Butt Becky Hackman Marilyn Kiewit
- 14 Grant Hackman
- **15** Charles Nichols *Tony & Sue Nehrt*
- **17** Jaxon Cole Karra Hercamp David & Joan Shuler
- 18 Mason Ross
- 19 John Chastain
 Grace Dunigan
 Lindsey Sterling
 Mark & Joyce Sommers
- **20** Larry & Reta Schneider
- **21** Jenna Bolte William Jaynes *Philip & Jonra Rebber*
- **22** Heidi Bagwell Jim Nichols *Leon & Becky Hackman*

- 23 Ian & Katie England
- 24 Brandon Allman Isabelle kiewit Hank Stuckwisch Clay & Jessica Fritz
- 25 Patricia Butt Scott & Patricia Butt
- 26 Jennifer Lockhart/Hackman James Lucas Jeanette Sterling
- **27** Luke Rebber *David & Dee Kovener*
- **28** Kelian East

 Mark & Penny Persinger
- 29 Hailey Brown
 Amy Combs
 Lisa Harrison
 Karl & Catherine Turmail
- **30** Kate Butt *Kevin & Roberta Main*

