

The Fisherman

St. Peter Lutheran Church

3751 Estero Blvd. *E.L.C.A.*
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Phone: 239-463-4251



Prayerfully Prepared Just For YOU!

AUGUST • 2011

Walk
in the
Light

Isaiah 2:5





WELCOME!

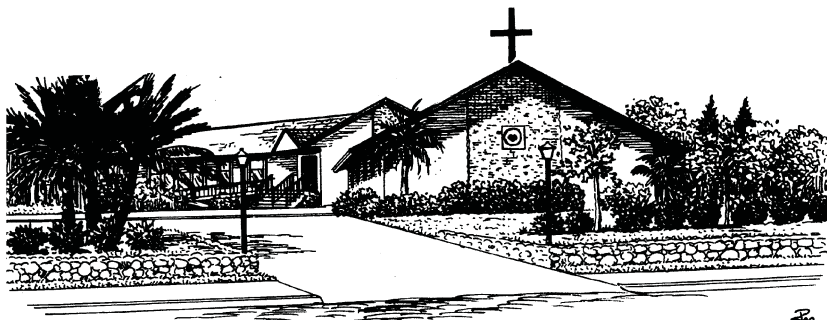
The Fisherman Newsletter comes to you on a timely, regular basis with information, spiritual helps, and interesting news items about YOU and your church. If you have something notable to share, you need only **submit it by the 10th of each month** for consideration. If you have not received *The Fisherman* mailed to your home, and would like to be included on our mailing list, please contact the church office. Extra copies are available in the narthex while supplies last.

Want to help out with the mailing costs of *The Fisherman*? You have the opportunity to **DEDICATE** a mailing of a monthly issue **IN MEMORY OF** or **IN HONOR OF** someone special, or as a **SPECIAL GIFT**. Our approximate cost for mailing *The Fisherman* is \$ **65.00** monthly. Your gift toward any portion of this cost is much appreciated! Let us know today if you are interested in giving to this ministry.

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ELCA • EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

3751 Estero Blvd. • Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931 **Phone:** 239/463-4251
Fax: 239/463-4462 **E-mail:** Stpeterfmb@aol.com **WEB:** www.stpeterfmb.com



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

STAFF

Pastor Lorrie Davison
Susan Frantz, Office Administrator (email: Susanstpeter@AOL.com)
Muriel Hale, Music Director
Shirley Roe, Artist-in-Residence



Thoughts from Pastor

What is YOUR Driving Question?

Whenever we meet someone of great faith, we may not think about the journey they have taken to deepen their faith in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Somehow it just seems as if they have always

believed the way they do today. But that is probably rarely the case.

Those of us who believe the faith statements of the Augsburg Confession have been named for Martin Luther – as Lutherans. But, Luther wasn't always the great Reformer that we take him to be. And for some, Luther was no more than a heretic. But Luther had one driving question that set him on his search of the scriptures; that kept driving him to understand something about God. It became his desperate need to find the answer for his own soul. Luther's driving question set him on a path to go in search of a merciful God. For Luther, God was a harsh and judging God, and Martin desperately needed to know if God could give mercy.

Of course, Luther also had a critical incident of being caught in a strike of lightning that made him instantly call out to God for help. And in that moment of promising God that he would become a priest his life's direction was changed forever. But, it was the events of his life that had led to his ever-pressing question – Is God a merciful God?

In our lives, if we're honest, there may be something that happens that can raise a serious spiritual question about God for each of us. Our tendency may be to just turn away. Yet an incident or a driving question always begs us to ask ourselves ... Why do I react, think, or feel this way? And just such a question can lead us to a deeper and still deeper understanding of God.

Our willingness to search grows as we experience God in our lives and experience him in different

ways. If we have something against God – something we are angry about – it could be the very thing that will turn us to repentance and to a deeper relationship with God.

If we find ourselves dwelling on God and holding him responsible for our anger or doubt or lack of faith, likely there is something underneath that emotion that could also open us up to God.

Martin Luther needed to know if God was a merciful God. What do we need to find out about God? What is OUR driving question for God?

As I once told you in a sermon my driving question was prompted by my trip to Guatemala several years ago – Can we find the same level of faith in our culture here, because of our lifestyle, that we find in developing countries of the two-thirds world where people are trying to overcome oppression? It continues to be my driving question for and to God.

“Ask and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds; and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

I encourage you to find your driving question, ask God for the courage to seek, and the door will be opened as you do. The thing that most challenges you in your relationship with God may well be the things that will draw you closer to him.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Lorrie

“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.” (Revelation 3:20, NRSV)

Embark on Your Journey of Generosity

Our journey of generosity is an adventure, measured not in miles, but in personal transformation and growth. Sometimes smooth sailing, sometimes uncharted waters – but always a course that deepens our faith and relationship with God.



What Does God Want?

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:6-8

To simplify your life – be less dependent on gadgets and less attached to stuff – is an admirable goal, but I could never go as far as Francis of Assisi. Living in the 13th century as part of a wealthy family, Francis renounced all of his possessions and lived day to day. What I admire about Francis is that his faith in God was so evident. He shared his faith in Jesus, had respect for all creation, and showed kindness to all, especially to people in need.

The people from Micah’s day were not like Francis. God’s complaint against the people is that they did not respond to his love. What does God want? Costly sacrifices? Disposal of all possessions? No, for God has made a sacrifice we can never match when he gave his Son, Jesus, for the sins of the world.

God expects that we seek justice and fairness for all. We are to reach out to each other with mercy and kindness. We are to let God be God. This is the life that comes when we walk humbly with our God.

Lord, help me respond to your love with my life. Amen.

– By Richard Siemers, New Hope, Minnesota
Storyteller and writer, member of House of Hope Lutheran Church
From *Christ In Our Home*, “Light for Today,”
October-November-December 1965, Augsburg Fortress.



Together in Mission

The Together in Mission Vision is alive and growing in the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Mission minded leaders and congregations are

collaborating and supporting one another to grow Christ's Church, imagining new and creative strategies for truly connecting with their communities and engaging neighbors with the life changing power of the Gospel.

The response to our Together in Mission Appeal is growing as well. We have a strong Steering Leadership Team and a committed Grant Team in place, significant dollars have been pledged and given toward our ultimate goal of \$2.5 million, and a Together in Mission Prayer Team are praying daily for our synod and this important effort.

It is a pleasure to share the news that at our 24th Annual Synod Assembly we were able to award the first seven grants from the Together in Mission funds. The recipients were selected from many applicants who provided proposals of creative and innovative initiatives.

I ask for your continued prayers and generous support for the Together in Mission Vision and Funding Appeal. All are invited. All are needed. Together in Mission, we can!

Edward R. Benoway, Bishop
Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA

Ed. Note: St. Peter Lutheran Church has contributed, to date, through designation of gifts at Pastor Lorrie's installation, \$571.00 to the Together in Mission initiative.

Together in Mission Grant Recipients–2011

1. All Saints Lutheran Church - Lutz, FL
Mother's Morning R & R – To create a free program to reach out to mothers of all socio-economic levels in our community to provide faith-based mentoring, support and fellowship, as well as a safe and loving preschool environment to nurture their children.

2. Lutheran Church of Haiti
Automobile – Purchase of an automobile to enable the Eglise Luthérienne D'Haiti (ELH) to serve and help grow the 12 congregations.

3. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Hernando, FL
Serving our Savior (SOS) – A ministry partnership with Good Shepherd Lutheran, Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal, Unity Church of Citrus County, House of Power, and House of Peace whose volunteers and donations feed and clothe the needy. This project is to improve our facilities and location to allow for more exposure on a main road and easier access for weekly clients.

4. Hope Lutheran Church – The Villages, FL
Growing Witness through Wellness Ministry – To grow the church's witness and expand our area congregations' health care/wellness ministries by providing quality pastoral, grace-based mental health services through a local satellite of Lutheran Counseling Services, Inc.

5. St. Mark Lutheran Church– Dunedin, FL
The Helping Hands Outreach Mission – projects will address many short-term needs in our community, by which we will be sharing the love of Christ with the poor and needy through the work of volunteers. Requested funds will serve as seed money to enable us to do high value projects to help the needy in our community.

6. Trinity Lutheran Church - Kissimmee, FL
The Community Ambassador Ministry – To select, train and supervise 25 teams from within the congregation to respond to the spiritual, material and emotional needs of homeless, unemployed, abused or neglected persons/families in our community. To provide directly or by referral, the means to meet those needs.

7. All Congregations of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA– **MissionInsite** - To provide all congregations in the Florida-Bahamas Synod support and access to regularly updated demographic data and guidance.

Here's What's News!



LOSS in the FOLD

We will miss seeing our good friend **MARION NYBOER** (90), who passed to Eternal Life on Friday, June 24, 2011 in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Marion visited St. Peter nearly every season for the past 10 years with her husband of 67 years, **Andrew (Andy) Nyboer**, retired dentist who passed away on May 14, 2011 at age 95.

She completed her RN degree at St. Luke's Presbyterian in Chicago before her marriage. After their four children had "left the nest," Marion earned a B.A. degree at Rockford (IL) College with "all those young people."

Marion's sweet smile and spirit belied the fact that she had courageously faced having Polio and Meningitis together, those diseases leaving their imprint on the rest of her life. The Post Polio Syndrome that ravaged her body never made her bitter but better. There was always a sparkle in her eyes and a smile on her lips. At the age of 90, Marion was one of the longest living Polio victims of the 1952 Polio epidemic

Please hold the Nyboer family in your prayers.



MARION NYBOER

Special Council Meeting

JULY 6, 2011-Highlights...

Following are HIGHLIGHTS of actions taken at Council Meetings. Final Minutes will be read and approved at the next monthly Council meeting, then posted on the narthex bulletin board.

A special meeting was called on July 6, 2011 to discuss compensation for the Director of Music/Organist. The Search Committee reported to council that meetings have been held and ads placed in publications for this part-time, year-around position. A total of six resumes have been received. Background checks and interviews were conducted. Out of this process a very strong candidate emerged who meets all the criteria, has the experience and who the search committee feels would be a very good fit for St. Peter.

It was the search committee's recommendation that an offer of \$20,000 annual salary be presented to this candidate, which was accepted.

Council Meeting

JULY 14, 2011 - Highlights...

- The Search Committee for the Music Director/Organist reported to council that an offer has been made to a candidate with strong qualifications for this position and a candidate who would be a tremendous asset for the congregation of St. Peter. This candidate has accepted the offer with a starting date of October 1. A contractual agreement will be drawn up shortly.

- Prior to the meeting the finance committee met with the representative from Smith Barney. It was determined that the portfolio for the Enduring Gift Fund is weighted too heavily in cash and funds need to be moved to a sector that provides more growth with the objective of having more funds available for giving. The Finance Committee may look at a new account manager or another institution for the handling of this account and will report back to council their findings.

- It was determined that a capital improvement drive/campaign needs to be created. There are many areas that are in need of improvement. A team will be created to make a list and prioritize the areas needed for capital improvement.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi Schoenberg, Council Secretary



HONOR World War II Veterans!

Sunday • August 14 • 4:00 pm

The American Legion Post 274
899 Buttonwood Drive • Ft. Myers Beach

All Veterans of World War II and their spouses are invited to a **complimentary dinner**, sponsored by The American Legion Post 274, VFW Post 10097 and Veteran's Club of America #1.

Dinner will begin at 4:00 p.m. Veterans will then be transported to Fort Myers Beach for a **ceremony honoring their service to our country**. Taps will be played nationwide at 7:00 p.m.

The dinner and ceremony will also be open to the public with transportation from the Legion to the beach and back provided; dinner is ½ rack baby back ribs dinner for \$7.00.

For those who wish to attend the service only, it will begin at approximately 6:15 p.m. at the park at Times Square, Fort Myers Beach.

Any World War II veterans wishing to attend should contact, before August 8th –

Contact: **Trudy Archer**
 Legion Post 274
 (239) 463-6591

This 'N That



A Word from Our President

It has been proposed to church council and tentatively approved that the three Mahogany trees in our front parking lot be removed and replaced with Live Oak trees.

The reason for doing this is the Mahoganies are very “dirty,” producing a large amount of leaves on the pavement that are slippery when wet and when they are dry seem to “drift” along the front curb and into the breezeway. Also, the nuts that are produced on these trees can damage automobiles. The husks from these nuts break up on the parking surface as they dry and can make walking uncomfortable and dangerous for our members and guests.

We should have a contract with a tree service to go forward with this project in the next week and work will be finished as soon as possible depending on the tree service schedule.

There are other landscape issues on our property which need to be dealt with and the property committee will give council direction on these items over the next several months.

In His service,
Bruce Allen

Thank You!

St. Peter Lutheran Church is very grateful for the generosity of the following friends, who very kindly contributed funds to produce and mail *The Fisherman* newsletter:

◆
Terry Lucia

Pray America

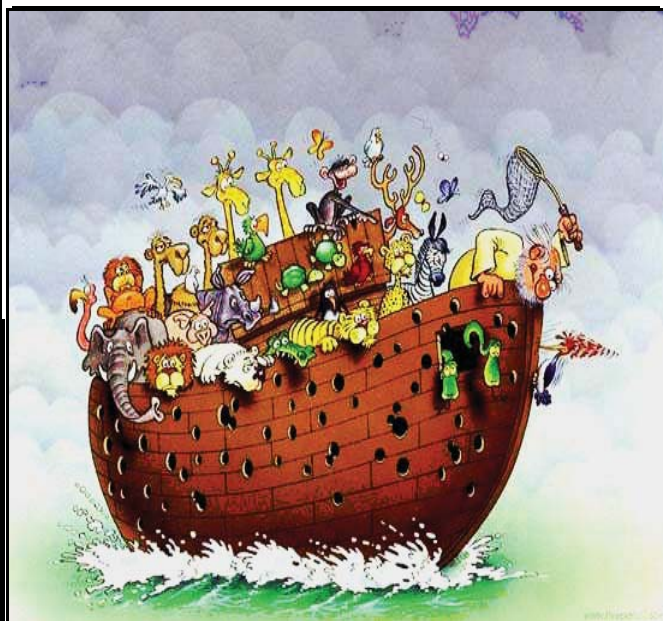
Someone has said that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Did you know that during World War II there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing everyday at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace?

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate:

Every evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time (8:00 PM Central) (7:00 PM Mountain) (6:00 PM Pacific), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for a return to a Godly nation.

Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have!

*Submitted by Frank Modafari,
from his sister Carol Sanker.*



“The Woodpecker might have to go!”

Faith *and* Fellowship Forum

8/2/11

JOIN US on Sunday Mornings following worship for a time of “**Faith and Fellowship**,” 30-45 minutes when we will discuss informally what it means to live as baptized Lutheran Christians, with open discussion and questions invited.



Based on the book “*Baptized We Live*,” by Pastor (retired) Daniel W. Erlander, our discussions will be a joyful and informative experience. Light refreshments will be enjoyed during the forum.

Beginning SUNDAY July 10th and continuing **through August 21:**

Please come and join us for this new beginning! By the end of this series we will ask for your input and suggestions to give us direction in providing a Christian Education program that is relevant for our St. Peter family. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Pastor Lorrie or any member of the Christian Education Committee.

In His Service,
The Christian Education Committee

Bob Burr, Chair • Jason Kurtz • Sherry Walker • Bernie Cardell
• Roy Patterson • Jim Fogdall

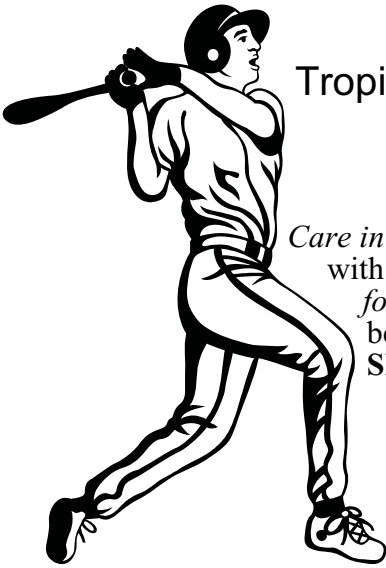
THRIVENT NIGHT at the Tampa Bay Rays!

Tampa Bay Rays vs. Seattle Mariners

Saturday, August 20, 2011

4:00 pm

Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg



Care in Regions Fund-raiser
with *Thrivent Financial*
for Lutherans to
benefit **LUTHER
SPRINGS CAMP**



**LUTHERAN
OUTDOOR
MINISTRIES
of FLORIDA**



Tickets – \$20 *Left Field*

\$5 of every ticket to benefit **Luther Springs Camp!**

Contact: Kathy Emanuelson
email: kathy.emmanuelson@thrivent.com

Get Your **ORDER FORM** or more information at:
www.lutheransonline.com/rfo190

Tickets are limited!
First 500 Thrivent Members will receive a noisemaker!

We Can WIN for St. Peter Outreach Ministries!

7/22/11

Harry Chapin Food Bank, located at 3760 Fowler Street in Ft. Myers, provides food distribution to various other food distribution locations. To see the good Harry Chapin Food Bank does in the community, see their website at www.harrychapinfoodbank.org.



Because they need many volunteers during the summer months to help sort, bag, weigh and box the food, *Thrivent Financial– Lee County* has partnered with them to provide as many volunteers as possible for the month of August.

August 1- 31, 2011

From August 1-31, **each Lutheran church in Lee County will have the opportunity to volunteer at Harry Chapin Food Bank.** The church with the most volunteer hours registered and verified will win ONE ADDITIONAL CARE ABOUNDS IN COMMUNITY PROGRAM. Also, for the church that wins, the dollar amount will be increased from the normal “up to \$600” on the approved activity (ministry outreach project), to double that amount – to \$1,200 !!

Some things to consider prior to volunteering:

- Must have at least one person in your group who can lift up to 50 lbs.
- Must be 16 years old
- Must wear closed-toe shoes
- Duties include any of the following: sorting and packing rice and beans, sorting and bagging produce, or bread, or meat, or dry goods

Whatever activity you will be assigned, you will be helping your community with your servant hearts!

If you would like to volunteer,

Please Contact our St. Peter coordinator for this project, **Pat Modafari** at [REDACTED] for proper registration and to make sure your hours will be verified.

If physically unable to volunteer, consider a monetary donation – For every \$1 donated, the Food Bank can purchase \$6 worth of food!

The People of East Africa desperately need our help!

The worst drought in 60 years has hit the region: Ten million people in Kenya, Ethiopia Somalia and Djibouti are affected. Crops have failed, livestock are dying, and families have no way to feed themselves.



We can help **Lutheran World Relief** (LWR) reach out to the people of East Africa. Tens of thousands of people are walking for 15 days by foot, to seek refuge at the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, but the camps were only built for 90,000 people. Right now more than 370,000 people are living in Dadaab with 1,300 new arrivals each day.

**Woman carries the dead at
lfo camp in Dadaab** July 10, 2011.
Reuters/Noor Khamis, courtesy of
AlertNet.org

Because the danger of famine in this region is so high, LWR is rushing \$500,000 in immediate assistance to our partner, The Lutheran World Federation. LWF is working right now in the Dadaab refugee camps to help new arrivals and vulnerable populations access life saving services like food rations, shelter and other vital services.

But the needs are still so great. Your emergency gift today will help increase our response. Please join LWR in prayer for the people of East Africa and please give what you can to extend the compassion of Christ to our brothers and sisters in need. **You may give through your church; please make checks payable to: St. Peter Lutheran Church, and on memo line write: "Africa drought."**

Lutheran World Relief is an international nonprofit organization that works to end poverty and injustice by empowering some of the world's most impoverished communities to help themselves. With partners around the world, LWR seeks to promote sustainable development with justice and dignity by helping communities bring about change for healthy, safe and secure lives; engage in Fair Trade; promote peace and reconciliation; and respond to emergencies. LWR is headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, and has worked in international development and relief since 1945.

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility.

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!" Psalm 130:1-2

Here's What's News TOO!

LUNCH BUNCH on Hiatus

The *Lunch Bunch* is a group of St. Peter ladies who get together for lunch and fellowship, usually on the last Wednesday of each month, at a different restaurant. This group will suspend its outings over the summer, and resume meeting this fall in October (so **no** planned Lunch outings for: August or September).

The Lord fills our days with His faithfulness and our tomorrows with His hope.

– Submitted by Mary Aardrup

Sink or Swim?



People's stories about learning to swim often sound like this: "My dad tossed me into the water. I didn't have choice — I flailed around until I found myself swimming!"

But an elderly Christian tells a variation of this story: "Wanting to teach me to swim, my father threw me off the dock into the lake. I sank." But then he goes on: "So my father jumped in with me."

The storyteller's wisdom shines in his application: "God doesn't toss us into life and leave us alone to sink or swim. By sending Jesus, God jumped right in with us to save us from death, hold us protectively and help us navigate life."

"Faith and Fellowship"

Come, Join Us for
"Faith and Fellowship"
on Sundays after worship.
Food and Fun – One topic each week about
being a Lutheran Christian.
Through August 21st!

*Please see separate article this issue of
"The Fisherman" for more details!*

We hope everyone is continuing to have a summer full of blessings!

Since many of you are in different places, we thought it would be fun to see where you worship when you are not at St. Peter!



**St. Peter Lutheran Church
WAS HERE!**



Why not take the yellow SIGN (inserted in this issue of *The Fisherman*) and place it where you can take a photo of the church where you worship when

you're not here (it would be great if YOU are in the photo, too!)

Please send your photo to St. Peter (U.S. mail is OK; however, E-Mail is better at: susanstpeter@aol.com). We want to make a photo board so we can see where everyone worships when they're "away from home."

Have fun with your photos!

Join the Family

at St. Peter Lutheran!



"Come with us, and we will do you good." Numbers 10:29

Several people have expressed a desire to unite with St. Peter Lutheran Church as either **Full Members** or **Associate Members**. The next NEW MEMBERS CLASS will be received on:

SUNDAY • AUGUST 7, 2011

Full Members have voice and vote at all congregational meetings, and may serve on the church council. Associate Members have voice but no vote, and may serve on committees.

If you wish to unite with the church, please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

We are delighted to anticipate your membership here!

Type of Membership Desired:

- Full Membership
 Associate Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

EMAIL: _____

Best Time to Call: morning afternoon evening

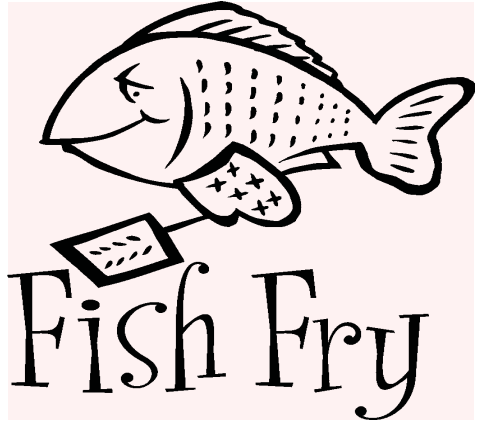
I have not spoken to you about joining, but I would like to discuss it – please call me.

7/28/11

You're Invited to Another Fabulous
ST. PETER

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 7**
at
11:00 AM

(Following the 9:30am
Worship Service)

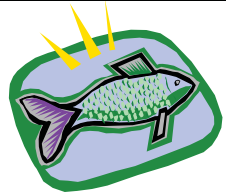


Come Enjoy!

Fresh-Caught FISH

from the Gulf of Mexico!

(Caught by our own St. Peter fishermen!)



- **HUSH PUPPIES!**
- **BEVERAGES!**

*You are Welcome to Bring
Your Favorite*

- **SIDE DISHES** and
- **DESSERTS**
to share!

**Be Sure to
SIGN UP
TODAY
on the
Sheet in
the
Narthex if
you Plan to
Attend!**

Everything is Provided
FREE of Charge (*Free-Will Offering*)

Meet new FRIENDS and enjoy Island fare!

7/28/11

Go Fishing

with St. Peter!

TUESDAYS

August 9th & August 23rd



7/29/11



Everyone is invited to go Deep-Sea FISHING on Tuesdays, August 9th and August 23rd from 9:00 AM until about 4:30 PM on *Captain Tony's Fishing Express*, located on your right just before you cross the sky bridge onto Fort Myers Beach.

The cost is \$48 each (Cash only, no checks or credit cards).

Join the FUN!

Please contact **BOB BURR** at ***immediately*** to reserve your spot or for more information!



7/29/11

We Get Mail



July 5, 2011

To my St. Peter's Family,

"Just a simple message that brings the warmest thanks."

All your wishes and prayers meant so much... and thank you all so much for the prayer shawl!



Ever prayerful,
Denise Swope
Ft. Myers, FL

Dear St. Peter Lutheran Church,

When you support the work of **Lutheran Services Florida** (*Ed. Note* – your generous gifts to **OASIS – Teen Shelter** in Lee County), you make a difference for teenagers in crisis.

Tracy* (*names and some details changed to protect client privacy) was 14 when she was referred to LSF's CINS/FINS program (Children in Need of Services/Families in Need of Services). She abused drugs on a daily basis, skipped school and routinely ran away from home – a home with no electricity or running water.

Tracy spent several months at LSF's Lippman Youth Shelter and participated in the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program. Thanks to the work of LSF counselors and shelter employees, Tracy was able to get her life back on track. Her family home remained an unacceptable environment, so Tracy went to live with her grandmother. She stays in touch with those at LSF who helped her through a rough time, and she is thriving in her new environment.

Your support of LSF makes life better for troubled teenagers like these. You also help the elderly, children in foster care, homeless needing shelter, refugees fleeing persecution and families displaced by

disaster. Last year, LSF helped more than 37,000 people thanks to your generous donations.

Please prayerfully consider going online to our website at www.lsfnet.org to make a donation, or give through your church (please make checks payable to: St. Peter Lutheran Church, and indicate "Lutheran Services Florida" on memo line). Whether you can give \$10, \$100, \$500 or more, you can make a difference. You can support LSF in our mission to bring healing, hope and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ.

In His service,
Samuel M. Sipes, LCSW, BCD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Tampa, FL

June 22, 2011

Dear Reverend Davison,

... As you know, Max Wright was the epitome of a man who loved and honored his God, his wife, his family, and his country. Anyone who met Max had to be impressed by his wonderful sense of humor, his integrity and kindness, and his love for his God.

I know how much St. Peter meant to Max, and how valued he was as a leader in your church. I have had the pleasure of reading his messages, seeing his involvement and leadership, and his generosity. I know the Monday work days were so important to both him and Mary Lou, he loved caring for his church.

Our family had the wonderful opportunity to be very close to the Wrights, we celebrated holidays, vacations, sorrows, laughter, happiness and all aspects of life with Mary Lou and Max, and their family. I can't express how much we value their love, and were blessed by their example.

So, we are looking forward to the time that we will be reunited with those who we love that have the joy of being in the presence of the Lord.

God bless,
Barb Christiansen and Family
Henderson, NV

BIRTHDAYS!

HOORAY!

ANNIVERSARIES!

- August 2 Ken Eul
- August 2 Ray Meyer
- August 5 Ella Whitaker (1)
- August 6 Arnie Johnson
- August 6 Rita Hofmeister
- August 6 Janice Wabrek
- August 8 Trudy Archer
- August 8 Camryn Cole (10)
- August 8 Kenneth Taylor
- August 9 Glenn Dane
- August 9 Ralph Moore
- August 11 Carol Dagnall
- August 11 John Palmer
- August 12 Lily Kirsch (8)
- August 12 Terry Lucia
- August 15 Bob Burr
- August 15 Myra Clark
- August 16 Marilyn Bowman
- August 16 Linda Eroh-Kasmala
- August 16 Thomas Frana
- August 16 Brian Glover I
- August 19 Roy Dagnall
- August 21 Jim Markusen
- August 21 Fred Schmiesing
- August 21 Georgiann Stenerson
- August 25 Janice Snapp
- August 27 Naomi Kent
- August 28 Art Dietze
- August 30 Bernie Cardell
- August 30 Abbey Ellner
- August 30 Marilyn Finnegan
- August 31 Bob Horning



- August 4 - Dick & Wilma Back
- August 6 - Quent & Myra Clark (50)*
*Yours is a lasting love!
- August 9 - Jim & Donna Markusen (42)
- August 12-Bob & Georgiann Stenerson (56)*
*You're in the Dictionary- under 'Lovebirds'!
- August 13 - Dick & Sharlene Schultz (56)*
*Sweethearts all over again!
- August 13 - Richard & Ginny Heckert (46)
- August 16 - Dick & Sandi Hammes (53)*
*Happy Days - Many More!
- August 17 - Charlie & Sally Rudolph (40)*
* A milestone year! Congratulations!
- August 18 - Peter & Beverly Trone (37)
- August 19 - Dieter & Pam Nickel (50)*
*A Wonderful Milestone year - blessings!
- August 20 - George & Diane Phillips (51)*
*Sweet Love - Congratulations!
- August 23 - Dean & Juliet Arnold (31)
- August 24 - Fred & Ginny Keeton (60)*
*WOW! You two are an Inspiration!
- August 24 - Jon & Barb Deming (43)
- August 26 - Dan & Trish Faust (44)

We love to celebrate your special days with you! If you would like to see your name included on our Birthday and Anniversary list, please call the church office at (239) 463-4251.



Let's Go!

2011-2012 Season

Join the *St. Peter Lutheran Church* Family & Friends for Fun Excursions!

TUESDAY • MARCH 20, 2012
BUS DAY-TRIP – Homestead / Miami
\$ 76.00 per person INCLUDES:

1. Coral Castle

Explore Coral Castle, a sculpture garden in stone built by one man - Edward Leedskaalnin, a 100 lb. Latvian immigrant, from 1923 to 1951. Without any help and using only simple tools, he excavated and secretly carved over 1,100 tons of coral rock, and his unknown process has created one of the world's most



mysterious accomplishments. Features include a 9-ton gate that moves with just a touch of the finger, a Polaris telescope and functioning rocking chairs – all made entirely of stone. Was featured on national TV's "That's Incredible," "In Search Of...", "You Asked For It!" and "Ripley's Believe It or Not". Even rock star Billy Idol wrote his hit song, "Sweet Sixteen" about Ed's lost love. **Outside Venue - please wear Walking Shoes.**

2. Bayside Marketplace

- waterfront Shopping; Lunch on your own

3. "Island Queen" Boat Tour

– Narrated Boat Tour around downtown Miami and Biscayne Bay, featuring **Star Island**, home of the rich and famous. Cash bar and snacks onboard boat.

Bus Tour Departs **Big Lots** (McGregor and San Carlos Blvd.) at 6:30 a.m., and **St. Peter Church** at 6:45 a.m. Rest Stop on Alligator Alley. Arrive Home approx. 7:30 p.m.

RESERVATIONS – Payment must be received 30 days prior to tour– February 12, 2012. Refunds up to 30 days prior– February 12, 2012.

☆ **CALL Sally Rudolph at (239) 466-1832** for Reservations or more information, or **Helen of Tours with Helen at 239-772-3272**; out of state: 866-561-9540.

Let's Go! 2011-2012 Season

Join the St. Peter Lutheran Church family & friends for fun excursions and events this Season! Price will come later.
 ☆ **CALL Sally Rudolph at (239) 466-1832** for more information.



Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre Events:

• **"SUGAR"** TUESDAY • November 8, 2011

Buffet 5:30 PM; Show 7:30 PM

• **"WHITE CHRISTMAS"** TUESDAY • December 6, 2011

Buffet 5:30 PM; Show 7:30 PM

• **"ME AND MY GAL"** TUESDAY • January 17, 2012

Buffet 5:30 PM; Show 7:30 PM

• **"BRIGADOON"** TUESDAY • March 6, 2012

Buffet 5:30 PM; Show 7:30 PM

• **"The Great American TRAILER PARK Musical"**

Buffet 11:45 AM; Show 1:15 PM WEDNESDAY • March 28, 2012

Combo Outing of St. Peter

"Let's Go!" and "Ladies' Lunch Bunch."

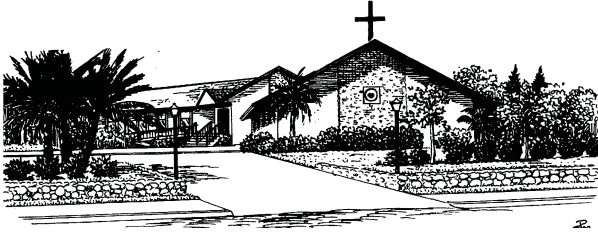
MORE FUN EVENTS!

✕ Dinner Train & Boat Ride from Fisherman's Wharf
MONDAY • December 12, 2011

✕ Early Dinner at Parrot Key Restaurant, then Sunset Cruise
on the PIRATE SHIP TUESDAY • January 31, 2012

✕ Coral Castle, with Bayside Marketplace and "Island Queen"
boat tour TUESDAY • MARCH 20, 2012

Homestead / Miami, FL • *See separate page for Details • \$76/each*



MISSION STATEMENT

of **St. Peter Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

LED by the Holy Spirit, we go forth as a Family of Faith proclaiming and celebrating the life-giving and freeing power of God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ to all people by:

STRIVING to provide time, facilities and materials for all ages through our Education programs so that God's children will have the opportunity to grow in the Gospel and experience God's presence in our midst.

USING our congregational gifts of location, compassion, generosity, friendliness, and inclusiveness to meet, through our program of Evangelism, the needs of our neighbors: seasonal visitors, the homeless, migrant workers, and young families. We will also continue our outreach to others in God's family, prayerfully meeting new challenges as they come to us.

MAKING our Property facilities accessible and appropriate so that in large or small groups, either worshipping or working, we will be able to grow in the Gospel through Fellowship and educational opportunities to provide support for those who are our neighbors.

RESPONDING in loving care and concern through the outreach of Social Ministry as we meet the needs of those in our area through material items and emotional support.

GATHERING volunteers to share the knowledge of St. Peter's local, national and worldwide ministries through appropriate Stewardship of time, talent and treasure so that we may respond to the needs of others.

PROVIDING a Worship experience through Word and Sacrament using historic and contemporary materials which will form a vibrant Liturgy for our growth in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Try to Be... a COFFEE BEAN!

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as if just when one problem was solved, a new one arose!

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off all the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl; she pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl; then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma, and then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: Boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile; its thin outer shell had

protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its insides became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water!

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this – which am I? Am I the carrot, that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg, that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or, am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you! When the hour is the darkest, and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level?

How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?



"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial..."

James 1:12

Embark on Your Journey of Generosity

Our journey of generosity is an adventure, measured not in miles, but in personal transformation and growth. Sometimes smooth sailing, sometimes uncharted waters – but always a course that deepens our faith and relationship with God.



What Does God Want?

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:6-8

To simplify your life – be less dependent on gadgets and less attached to stuff – is an admirable goal, but I could never go as far as Francis of Assisi. Living in the 13th century as part of a wealthy family, Francis renounced all of his possessions and lived day to day. What I admire about Francis is that his faith in God was so evident. He shared his faith in Jesus, had respect for all creation, and showed kindness to all, especially to people in need.

The people from Micah’s day were not like Francis. God’s complaint against the people is that they did not respond to his love. What does God want? Costly sacrifices? Disposal of all possessions? No, for God has made a sacrifice we can never match when he gave his Son, Jesus, for the sins of the world.

God expects that we seek justice and fairness for all. We are to reach out to each other with mercy and kindness. We are to let God be God. This is the life that comes when we walk humbly with our God.

Lord, help me respond to your love with my life. Amen.

– By Richard Siemers, New Hope, Minnesota
Storyteller and writer, member of House of Hope Lutheran Church
From *Christ In Our Home*, “Light for Today,”
October-November-December 1965, Augsburg Fortress.