“He will turn THE hearts of the fathers TO THE children, and the hearts of the children TO THEIR fathers...”
MALACHI 4:6
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 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; or you may wish to help with the additional $21.00 monthly cost for 4-color front covers. 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

Website: www.stpeterfmb.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

STAFF

Interim Pastor • Rev. Charles “Rusty” May
Susan Frantz • Office Administrator  (Email: Susanstpeter@AOL.com)
Jim Kreger • Organist/Choir Director
Shirley Roe • Artist-in-Residence/Pianist
A few years ago when a pastor I know was looking for a new call the pastor asked me to look at the congregation’s website and share my read on the congregation. It was a congregation that had been growing for a number of years and had all the signs of a healthy congregation. The congregation was very up-front that not only do we have expectations of God; but that that God has expectations of how we live out our lives as disciples and the congregation posted what they considered to be marks of discipleship that were expected of all members. These marks aren’t unique to this particular congregation and I believe the congregation had adopted them from a book on church growth. In any case, that congregation had these expectations of all of its members and made sure new members understood and were willing to commit to them:

- Read the Bible every day and be a part of a group that discusses what you read
- Worship every week and invite someone to attend with you
- Pray daily and spend at least part of that time listening to God instead of doing all the talking
- Serve others in this congregation and find a way to serve the community at large
- Develop spiritual friends and regularly encourage each other to keep all of these goals
- Give of my time, talent, and financial resources and to keep the first 5 of these goals set aside 2 hours a day for that purpose and for sharing ones talent(s) and tithe 10% of one’s income to the congregation.

So, let me ask, what are the core disciplines expected here at St. Peter? How would you, as a member (both full and associate) define what it means to be a member? If a prospective pastor asked the call committee to identify any core disciplines at St. Peter, what would you hope they would answer?

Maybe the easiest way to distinguish between membership and being a disciple is to remember what Jesus told the disciples the night of his arrest (and the example he set): “26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor”. (John 12:26).

I invite you to adopt my modified list and then hold me and St. Peter accountable for providing ways for you to keep those goals...because you can’t keep most of them by yourself...you need to be with other disciples. I hope we can have a conversation about this list.

In Christ,

[Signature]
JUNE 1, 2018

ATTENTION St. Peter Church Family:

We have been without a full-time pastor for four months, but, because we have a very capable interim in Pastor Rusty, I have stayed in the background as I have been getting back into the swing of being on church council and also serving as your church president. I am being asked by a number of you where we are in the process of calling a new pastor. Instead of doing a Sunday morning temple talk, I am writing this letter so I can update all of you at the same time.

As you know, we at St. Peter consider all of you part of our church family when you come to worship with us. This includes members, associate members, seasonal members and friends. We had a Friday evening/Saturday retreat to help identify our fears and our hope and dreams as we see our church heading into the future. We had thirty-plus concerned leaders in attendance, including members, associate members and friends. This was a very open and in-depth sharing of hopes, fears, and dreams, ending in a very positive outlook for our future. After going into the retreat with a very concerned attitude, I came away in a very positive mood after hearing the enthusiasm of the participants.

We followed that up in a few weeks with a Sunday morning meeting after worship to list many of the important events in our church history, good and bad. This should give some insight to the call committee as they create our congregational profile. As you may have guessed, we are working with a very structured set of guidelines compared with those during the last vacancy. I am pleased with the changes. Within the next couple months we should be selecting a call committee. The committee will put together a profile to be used in matching us with potential candidates.

I have always tried to be very open and honest with you in all my different roles at St. Peter. In light of this I need to bring to your attention one major concern we need to address as we proceed to get ready to call a new pastor; namely, our current financial situation.
In the years from 2013 to 2017, the Restore Our House campaign was implemented. This was very successful in funding many improvements and updates to our building. Thank you for that! At the same time, giving to our current account has diminished to the point that in 2016 and 2017 we were $20,000 short each year in being able to pay our bills to keep our doors open. Thanks to a non-designated bequest, we were able to avoid officially going to the bank to borrow money.

As we now put our profile together, I think you can see how a potential candidate might react to seeing that we appear to be “circling the wagons.” I have heard some people question whether we can afford a pastor. If we are to continue as a congregation, how can we not afford a pastor? If we are going to be able to attract a candidate with the qualities to meet our needs, we must address this now.

I have struggled with this problem, praying continually about it, and experiencing many sleepless nights. I did not come to write this letter lightly. As Joyce and I discussed this, we prayerfully decided to increase our weekly giving by $20 to go the current account; bringing our tithe to St. Peter to 17%. This amounts to sacrificial giving for us. We ask all of you to prayerfully consider joining us in increasing your giving to the current account in whatever amount you are able. I know many in our church family support your northern church, but even modest gifts year round would bless St. Peter.

St. Peter is too important to all of us and God’s work in this place is too important for us to allow our congregation to live in anxiety over the future. By meeting this need we will be able to maintain and increase God’s work here.

One final note: after I finally decided this letter was what I needed to write, I have slept much better.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president.

In His service,

[Signature]

Bob Burr
Thank you so much for everyone who has helped us with the pillowcase dresses, shorts and lap quilt projects. Jana sent 100 dresses to Kenya to her friend Ken who goes to Kenya as a missionary four times a year. Joanne and Jim Johnson’s daughter Laura will be taking 103 or more to Kenya this August.

Fifty-six (56) Lap Quilts were made for those in wheelchairs. They were blessed during worship on Sunday, April 9, and delivered by Carolyn Burrus and me last week. It was a lot of fun this season. It certainly was a “community” effort. We not only had ladies from St. Peter, we had ladies from the Catholic and Methodist churches, a friend from Palmetto Palms, and Mary whose son is Eric Tibbs our financial advisor. Can’t forget the two gentlemen from our congregation who helped as well. The humane society has donated over 200 pillowcases in the last two years. A big thanks to them!!! This project will definitely resume in September. There are lots of unfinished dresses and over a hundred pillowcases.

As usual we need 1/2" or 3/4" elastic, extra wide double folded seam binding. Gift cards from Joanne’s or Walmart would be greatly appreciated.

Have a great summer. Remember St. Peter in your prayers.

See you when you return and God Bless!!!

Rhona Diamond
We’d like to share some excerpts/ideas from articles by Hugh Whelchel titled “Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship” and Bill Peel entitled “Leadership is Stewardship” that can help us all to gain perspective as well as encourage and challenge us in our Christian stewardship journey.

Every facility you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devote every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

What would you answer if you were asked, “What does stewardship look like in our lives today?” Unfortunately, many Christians today only associate the idea of stewardship with sermons they have heard about church budgets and building programs. In truth, the idea of biblical stewardship is about something much more expansive. Hugh Whelchel suggests that it is where the concepts of faith, work, and economics intersect.

To help us build a framework of understanding, Bill Peel suggests that there are four important principles about biblical stewardship that we need to understand. For this issue, we will address the first principle: **The Principle of Ownership.**

The psalmist begins the 24th Psalm with, *The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

In the beginning of Genesis, God creates everything and puts Adam in the Garden to work it and take care of it. It is clear that man is created to work and that work is the stewardship of all of the creation that God has given him. This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns everything. We are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf. Therefore, stewardship expresses our obedience regarding the administration of everything that God has placed under our control, which is all encompassing. Stewardship is the commitment of one’s self and possessions to God’s service, recognizing that we do not have the right of control over our property or ourselves. Echoing Deuteronomy 8:17, we might be tempted to think: **My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.** But Deuteronomy 8:18 council us to think otherwise: **Remember the Lord your God for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.**

May God guide us and grant us all the heart of a Godly servant.

*“Stewardship is everything we do after we say we believe.”*
LOSS in the FOLD

We are so very sorry to report that our brother, St. Peter Member FRED SCHMIESING (75), died suddenly on Friday, April 20, 2018 at his home on Fort Myers Beach.

Fred and Carol, his wife of 50 years, have been very involved at St. Peter – Fred sang in the choir, worked with the Monday work crew, served on the stewardship committee, and served as president of the congregation.

Before his retirement, Fred taught physical education and health, coached varsity boys basketball, and assistant coached varsity football at the high school level. After retirement, Fred and Carol decided to go teach abroad and at the same time travel the world: Fred taught school English and coached basketball in Tarsus, Turkey; taught high school English in Taichung, Taiwan, and also taught at Barron Collier High School in Naples, Florida.

Fred was very active in the Fort Myers Beach Lions Club, serving as President and coordinating the Beach Lions Club Shrimp Festival, which raises thousands of dollars each year to give to those in need.

A celebration of life service will be held on Friday, July 13, 2018 at 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New Prague, Minnesota.

Please lift Carol and the Schmiesing family in your prayers, for our Lord to enfold them in His loving arms of peace and comfort.

Our Deepest Sympathy

On Thursday, May 3, St. Peter friend PATRICIA (Pat) HATCH (83) passed away in Madison, Wisconsin. Pat and Jim, her husband of 62 years, have been winter visitors at St. Peter since 2003.

Pat worked for many years as a registered nurse, and was a long-time member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin. A Celebration of Life service was held on Tuesday, May 8.

Please hold Jim and the Hatch family in your prayers for the Lord’s tender comfort during this time of loss.

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:

BILL & MARCY ARENDT

ELEANOR PAULSON
Color Covers Sponsor
St. Peter FRIENDS to Gather at WALKER Minnesota

For the past several years, our northern and traveling St. Peter friends have gathered together on one weekend each summer for fellowship and fun at Walker, Minnesota. This year we are planning for July 26 & 27 (Thursday and Friday).

Jasper’s Theater outside of Park Rapids will have a show Thursday afternoon at 3 PM. No price yet, but the tickets are reasonable. If you have never been to Jasper’s, it is a family musical. When I say family I do mean family, from Grandma to 3 year old children entertainers. Bus loads of folks arrive from all over Minnesota and North Dakota. I will need reservations for the tickets. We will meet Thursday evening for dinner about 7 PM somewhere in Walker. Our favorite place was closed last year; will check that out.

Several of our group have stayed at the Country Inn Walker and have found it very nice and they serve a very nice hot breakfast. The rate is $109 plus tax, there is no elevator so if you need first floor request it early. The number is 218-547-1400.

Any questions please call Georgiann & Bob Stenerson, or email.
Sunday mornings offer a NEW opportunity for us to grow in our faith! Those who attend will study the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. It is a great way to prepare for worship... you aren’t hearing the readings cold when you hear them in worship; you’ve had a chance to reflect on them all week; you know much more about each text than I can address in a sermon (or that is included in the short paragraph in the bulletin prior to each reading). And most importantly, the conversation about the Scriptures is done with other people.

The Bible is addressed to a community of faith and is best understood when the community gathers together around the Word. When we read the Bible by ourselves, it’s easy to make the text say what we want the text to say rather than what it is actually saying. And finally, being in conversation with a group of people about the lessons ahead of time often impacts what theme or issue in the texts becomes the focus of the sermon for the following week.

**Join Pastor Rusty** in Lau Hall **Sundays, following the 9:30 a.m. worship** to delve deeper into God’s word and begin growing your faith!
We Get Mail . . .  and other News

May 17, 2018
Dear St. Peter Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Prayer Shawl – what a lovely surprise! I am recovering well from knee surgery and the shawl is perfect for laying over my legs while I’m icing my knee. Very cozy and comforting. Thanks to the person who made this shawl and to all of you for your prayers. I’m looking forward to walking on the beach next winter!

Peace,
Becky Grothe
Moorhead, Minnesota

May 16, 2018
Dear St. Peter Church,

I just wanted to take a moment and personally say “Thank you!” for the lovely quilts that were so generously made for the patients at Hope (Hospice). They are such a treasure for them and bring so much joy. Thank you again for all that goes into making such beautiful creations of love.

Renee Stack, Volunteer Coordinator
Hope HealthCare Services
Ft. Myers, Florida

May 2018
Dear Wonderful Clippers!

Thank you for sending clipped (Military) Coupons! We appreciate your personal effort in helping us with our coupon campaign for our military families overseas and stateside. We could not help our families WITHOUT YOU!

Dear Ms. Kim, Thank you for the recent batch of coupons you and the Lee Memorial Health System community have sent our way. As always, they are of tremendous help to our marines, sailors, civilians and their family members here at MCAS Iwakuni Japan. Again, thank you all for the time and effort you have put in supporting our military community. Sincerely, Maryanne

We aren’t stopping this program until the last soldier comes home. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Kim, Military Support Coordinator of Lee Health
Fort Myers, Florida

ED. NOTE: See separate article, this issue of The Fisherman, for details on how YOU can save coupons for us to send to our military personnel.

SUMMER CHOIR!!

Sunday mornings, we invite ANYONE who would like to help lead congregational singing in worship to sit in the choir loft and serve as a summer choir. You don't have to be a regular, just join us any Sunday you want!! No tryouts! Meet in Lau Hall at 9:00am on Sunday mornings for practice of that day’s “anthem.”
(Jesus said),

“Put out into deep water... for a catch.”
When they had done so, they caught
such a large number of fish that their
nets began to break. Luke 5:6

GO FISHING
with St. Peter!

TUESDAYS – June 12th and June 26th

Everyone is invited to go Deep-Sea
FISHING on Tuesdays, June 12th
and June 26th from 9:00 a.m. until
about 4:30 p.m. on Captain Tony’s
Fishing Express, located on your
right just before you cross the sky
bridge onto Fort Myers Beach.

JOIN THE FUN!

The cost is $53 each
(Cash only, no checks or credit cards).

Please contact BOB BURR immediately
to reserve your spot or for more information!
SAVE YOUR COUPONS FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

As another ongoing ministry and outreach project, our St. Peter Ladies of WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) are collecting your donations of

MANUFACTURERS’ COUPONS

Our WELCA ladies and Monday Morning “Work Crew” will send your donated Manufacturers’ Coupons to Lee Memorial Health System - Military Support Program, to be forwarded to various military bases throughout the world. The base PXs will allow the military personnel (and families) to use them at their discretion.

The manufacturers have agreed to extend the expiration dates up to 6 months!

Remember – Manufacturer’s Coupons MUST INCLUDE the Bar Coding!

Have you seen the little red coupon machines at the grocery store? Do you throw away your Sunday newspaper manufacturer coupons? SAVE ‘EM!

Ask your friends and family for their extra coupons!

We ALL can help support our military families overseas!

There is a box in the narthex for your coupon donations, or mail them to the Church.
Please SAVE These Items!

By simply SAVING the following items, we here at St. Peter Lutheran Church can benefit many worthy ministries. Thank you!

**ITEMS for SALE and to SAVE to benefit WELCA Projects:**

**PULL-TABS from Aluminum Cans** –
Benefit the Ronald McDonald House at Health Park and help to provide a place for the families of critically ill hospitalized children to find rest and comfort. The tabs are taken to Miami where they are sold and the money is used to help maintain this beautiful facility.

**LABELS from CAMPBELL’S Products and General Mills’ “Box Tops For Education” COUPONS** – Benefit Elementary Schools. Please save these labels in their entirety (whole labels) – DO NOT TRIM! The name of the soup, and the price code need to be on the label or they will not accept them. The schools use these labels to purchase computers, sports equipment, musical instruments, and more! A complete list of accepted products is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**Used POSTAGE STAMPS** –
Benefit a publishing house in Argentina which is dedicated to writing and publishing Sunday school materials in Spanish to spread the word of Jesus in 13 Latin American countries, Spain and the U.S.

Simply clip your used stamps from all correspondence you receive, leave 1/4 inch border, and bring or mail them to St. Peter Lutheran – use the container in the narthex to deposit your donations. POSTCARD – please do NOT cut off the stamp from postcards; save the entire card.

---

**PLEASE SAVE SOAP & SHAMPOO** –
As you travel, please collect the wrapped bars of motel Soap, bottles of Shampoo and Lotion. These are distributed to Lutheran World Relief, Immokalee Friendship House, AIDS Task Force and other agencies in need.

**St. Peter CRYSTAL ORNAMENTS**
Beautiful Crystal glass, etched with the St. Peter building in a red velvet pouch, makes such a nice keepsake gift for anyone who loves St. Peter! Priced at just $5 each, these make economical and meaningful gifts.

**RADA CUTLERY is the BEST!**
This is a high-quality and extensive line of knives and cutting tools, available for purchase from any WELCA member, or call the church office. There are several new items in stock, and others can be ordered. Proceeds benefit many WELCA outreach ministries.
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.

**BIRTHDAYS!**

| June 1 | Ernie Garbade          |
| June 1 | Sherry Wellman         |
| June 3 | Ryan Beaulieu          |
| June 3 | Joy Hunlock            |
| June 4 | Marilyn Housemeyer     |
| June 6 | Joshua Ehr             |
| June 6 | Tim Horvatich          |
| June 7 | Jack Butcher           |
| June 8 | Karen Magley           |
| June 9 | Maloa Palmer           |
| June 13| Skip Buehler           |
| June 13| Bob Collins            |
| June 14| Tod Kirsch             |
| June 15| Adler Biddle (13)      |
| June 16| Norma Conner           |
| June 16| Savannah Crisp (8)     |
| June 17| Beverly Trone          |
| June 18| Nash Biddle (10)       |
| June 18| Brenda Miller          |
| June 19| Bill Buehler           |
| June 19| Liam Crisp (5)         |
| June 20| Joyce Burr             |
| June 20| Richard Wellman        |
| June 21| Paul Aper              |
| June 22| Marcene Arendt         |
| June 23| Tom Coziahr            |
| June 23| Susan Mickley          |
| June 26| Joyce Timmons          |
| June 27| Larry Beck             |
| June 30| Jim Kasmala            |

**ANNIVERSARIES!**

| June 3 - Patrick & Heather Winne (12) |
| June 7 - Dwight & Janis Aitchison (50) * |
| June 7 - Richard & Sherry Wellman (43) |
| June 10 - Jason & Jessica Kurtz (12)  |
| June 13 - Bill & Cathy Figgins (59) *  |
| June 14 - Bob & Diane Baldridge (43)   |
| June 20 - Eugene & Anna Aring (65) **  |
| June 21 - Linnea & Ron Olsen (32)      |
| June 22 - Greg & Jackie Dawson (45)    |
| June 25 - Jim Kasmala & Linda Eroh-Kasmala (8) |
| June 27 - Norma Conner & Jim Wall (26) |
| June 27 - Phil & Karen Magley (50) *   |
| June 28 - Bob & Dorothy Coll.ins (38)  |

* AMAZING Love! Your love is inspiring!

**I WANT TO BE SO FULL OF CHRIST THAT IF A MOSQUITO BITES ME IT FLIES AWAY SINGING THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD!**

Celebrate Dads on Father’s Day!

**Sunday • June 17**
Sunday WORSHIP – with Holy Communion ................................................. 9:30 AM

Search the Scriptures Adult Study ............................................ Sundays • following worship

CHURCH WORKDAY (All Hands Welcome!) ........................................... Mondays • 8:00 AM

LADIES’ BIBLE STUDY .............................................................. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays • 9:30 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL ...................... Summer Hiatus until: Thursday • August 16 • 6:30 PM

FISHING with St. Peter ................................................................. all day • 2nd & 4th Tuesdays *

*ALL are welcome! Call Bob Burr for information and to reserve.
Our oldest Grandson, Evan, was baptized recently. At the service his Dad presented him with a Tow Strap.

Now you need to understand my son-in-law. He is a hands-on guy and grew up in a hard working, God-honoring family. He lives and breathes vehicles of all kinds and when he, my husband and our sons get together the conversation is sure to center on the latest vehicle project. In their town he is known as the person to go to when someone needs a hand or something needs fixing. So when he came up to speak a blessing to his son, none of us were surprised when he threw out a Tow Strap on the stage. He used it as an object lesson for the importance of knowing God's Word and in living the Christian life. He's graciously allowed me to share it with you.

The value of a tow strap is:

- It can pull you out of tight spot - like a ditch, a snowbank or thick mud.
- It can be used to help someone else out of a tight spot.
- The strap is stretchy and resilient but can only do its work if you look after it and keep it clean. You keep it clean by soaking it in warm water to release the dirt.

The parallels are pretty straightforward. As a Christian, you will be slogged through the mud, yanked hard and stressed to the MAX. Sometimes you will only need a gentle tug. Sometimes you will be the one to help someone else in their spiritual walk.

When you sin, or become muddy, stretched, yanked and tested, the best thing you can do is soak. Soak in God's word, soak with other believers in Church. God's Word is there to help you just like this tow strap.

As you can see from the pictures, Evan's Dad and Mom collected Scriptures from family and close friends and wrote them on the Tow Strap. After the service those who had a verse to give to Evan were invited to add them to the strap. He now has these verses to remind him of the support he has from his family and community. Our prayer is that he will hide them in his heart and draw on them often.

This made me think of **Psalm 119:9-12** and I have made it my prayer for Evan.

**How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word.** With my whole heart I have sought you; Oh let me not wander from Your commandments! Your Word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.

--- Bread for the Journey