

ST PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
(FUELLING)
DECATUR, INDIANA

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The mission of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church is to:
Teach the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to all;
Reach the lost with the same Word by the witness of our words and actions;
Care for all in need as we live in Christ's love through the same Word.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I write this, the snow has blanketed Northeast Indiana. Perhaps the weather at the end of January was more appropriate for Christmas. Nevertheless, we are in the midst of the Epiphany season, where Christ reveals Himself as the light of the world, the promised Messiah.

Christ our Lord says in the Gospel lesson for Epiphany 4: **But he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."** Christ's words still apply to us today. There are people in the world who have yet to hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lutheran Church is growing at a rapid pace among the countries of Africa as it seems to be ever in decline in the United States.

People are zealous for the gospel though it may not always seem like it. While our various forms of media seek to divide us, seek to paint the church in a bad light, people are thirsty for the Gospel. At some point this year, for our mission festival, Pr. Brock will speak of the work that he is doing in Tanzania, through his preaching and teaching, as well as the building of at least one orphanage.

Focusing on the home front, we have been blessed with many gifts over the past year. Our books are balanced, we have a surplus of funds, our debts are paid off. Our church continues to grow through the many young couples who have been wed and are beginning their young families. We rejoice as we have at least 6 baptisms this year alone! Thanks be to God that our church continues to grow, that these young people see the benefits of a family. We rejoice that we will have another generation of students for SPI.

Thank you to those of you who make St. Peter and SPI a wonderful places to daily carry out my vocation as pastor. Thank you to those who volunteer for various church positions, though your work often goes unnoticed, thank you for all that you do. Your work is appreciated, even if we don't always say it.

Finally, thank you for all of your cards and gifts this Christmas season. Casey, Caroline, and I feel so loved and so blessed to be in such a wonderful place. We love you all.

In Christ,

Pastor Tanksley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 ANNUAL REPORTS have been printed and are available in the Narthex.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE will be Tuesday, February 15th.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES will begin with Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2nd and will continue every Wednesday evening at 7pm through Wednesday, April 6th. A soup supper will take place at 5:30pm before each midweek service.

BIDS AT SPI: SPI is accepting bids for mowing the school yard for this year. Please contact Ralph Thieme or Ben Franz by the end of February.

CAFETERIA HELP NEEDED: Candy Terrell, our school cook, is in need of some help getting lunches ready for our students. Hours: approximately 9:00am-2:30 pm, two or three days per week. She is willing to work with you on the day or days that you would like to work. Please contact her for more details and information at Emmaus Lutheran School, 8626 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, 260-459-7722, ext. 1014 or 260-348-9655. If you know someone who enjoys working in the kitchen and would like to work part time, please share this information with them. Thank you!

DECATUR LUTHERAN BIBLE INSTITUTE RESUMES IN FEBRUARY!

The Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute (LBI) is back! After canceling the 2021 session due to the health pandemic, LBI invites you to return with us in 2022 with classes beginning February 1.

For those unfamiliar with LBI, each year it brings together local pastors and seminary professors as instructors for your choice of four different topics. This year's session includes:

“A Study of 1 Peter” by Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

“Comparing World Religions” by Rev. Zachery Oedewaldt, Zion (Decatur) Assoc. Pastor

“Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament” by Dr. Jeffery Pulse, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

“Understanding the Book of Revelation” by Rev. James Voorman, Zion (Decatur), Senior Pastor

A four part class on each of these topics is taught on consecutive Tuesday nights February 1, 8, 15, & 22 at Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School, 11565 US 27, Decatur. Tuition is just \$10 per adult (covers all 4 weeks) and free to all students. Enrollment begins at 6:30 pm on opening night followed by classes from 7-9:15 pm.

For more information, contact your LBI congregational representative.

Additional Lenten Worship Opportunities, 2022

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion
and Imposition of Ashes at 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:00pm

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday Divine Service of Holy Communion
with the Rite of Confirmation at 9:00am

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm
Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion at 7:00pm

Friday, April 15, 2022

Good Friday Service with Holy Communion at 12:00pm

Friday, April 15, 2022

Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers Service at 7:00pm

Sunday, April 17- Easter Sunday

Sunrise Matins Service at 7:00am
Festival Divine Service of Holy Communion at 9:00am

St. Peter Events in the Past

50 Years Ago - Pastor Paul F Stohlmann Jr

Marriage 2-12-1972 Larry Wayne Emenhiser & Jill Irene Fuelling Text: Matthew 19 v 4-6

Baptism 2-13-1972 Malinda Marie Gerke Father: Arnold Gerke
Born 1-24-1972 Mother: Ann Lee nee Hamand
Sponsors: Judy Gerke & Mrs Dean Wass nee Cynthia Fuelling

Baptism 2-27-1972 Jenny Rebecca Fuelling Father: Frederick David Fuelling
Born 12-4-1971 Mother: Rebecca Lynn nee Fifer
Sponsors: Teresa Ann Fuelling & Michael David Fifer

100 Years Ago - Pastor Alfred H Moeller

Baptism 2-26-1922 Lorence Heinrich Fuelling Father: Otto C Fuelling
Born 2-14-1922 Mother: Elsie nee Schultz
Sponsors: Otto Börger & J Henry Fuelling
(Lawrence H Fuelling died 3-14-1998; married Lois Mitchell)

150 Years Ago - Pastor J Andreas Fritze

Baptism 2-24-1872 Louise Wilhelmine Martha Knapp Father: Wilhelm Knapp
(Recorded at Confirmation) Born 2-17-1872 Mother: Sophie nee Nietenstein
(L W Martha Knapp died 4-11-1958; married Adam Baker)

Submitted by Allen Franz

God's Blessings to Those Celebrating in February

February Birthdays

1 Heather Franz	16 Jane Linker
1 Vale Braun	16 Oaklynn Mitchel
2 Bill Werling	17 Patty Sheneman
3 Duane Franz	20 Kiri Braun
4 Sharon Busick Howell	22 Karah Myers
4 Jonathon Fuelling	23 Nicholas Howard
4 Vickie Hammond	23 Karen Matthews
6 Hadley Fuelling	23 Landon Matthews
7 Loretta Franz	24 Keith Howard
8 Rod Busick	24 Jared Light
10 Fred D. Fuelling	25 Teresa Cochran
10 Rebecca L. Fuelling	25 Brad Fuelling
10 Kyle Scherer	25 David Linker
14 Sandra K. Franz	26 Andrew Buuck
14 Suzy Fuelling	27 Eric Fuelling
	27 Emmit Gresley

February Anniversaries

February 4
Jason & Megan Buuck

February 24, 1973
Jerry & Sandy Fuelling

February 2022

Altar Guild- Brenda Scherer and Kari Schultz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 7:00pm LBI at Wyneken	<i>2</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>3</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study/Sunday School	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 6:00pm Elders Meet 7:00pm LBI at Wyneken	<i>9</i> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Needs As- sessment Committee Meeting	<i>10</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 9:00am Divine Service; Bible Study / Sunday School	<i>14</i> 7:00pm SPI Board of Education Meeting	<i>15</i> 7:00pm LBI at Wyneken MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<i>16</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>17</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study/Sunday School	<i>21</i> SPI- NO SCHOOL	<i>22</i> 7:00pm LBI at Wyneken	<i>23</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>24</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	SPI- NO SCHOOL <i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study/Sunday School	<i>28</i>					

Duane and Karen Franz.....

On February 3, 1950, Duane Erwin Franz was born at Adams County Hospital to Erwin and Rosella Franz. He was the third child of six in his family. Siblings included Arnita (deceased), Loren (deceased), Duane, Allen, Verna (Franz) Doehrman, and Alice (Franz) Rekeweg. They lived at 17713 S. County Line Road, Monroeville, which is where he lived his entire life until he moved to Decatur in 2020. His father, Erwin, was a full time farmer. He raised corn, wheat, beans, hay, and oats, along with livestock of cows, hogs, and chickens. Rosella was primarily responsible for the chickens, and sold eggs for spending money. She also had a very large garden, estimated as being 50% potatoes, and 50% everything else.

Duane was baptized at our St. Peter church by Pastor Huffman. He later entered St. Peter's grade school and there were 5 students in his class—Don Hockemeyer, Rolland "Mickey" Fuelling, Ed Kukelhan, Joann Kukelhan, and Duane. Teachers included Mrs. Justice for grades 1 - 3; Teacher Grotrian for grades 4 - 7; and Mr. Walther for grade 8. Around the age of 10 or 11, Duane began to help with the farming. He started by milking cows by hand, filling cans of milk for sale. The cans weighed about 100 pounds and were picked up by Lloyd Scherer. Duane also started driving tractor, an Allis Chalmers WD45, pulling a hay rake. He enjoyed farming and became committed to that as a career at an early age. Eventually the family added more milk cows, raising 20 - 40 at a time, and switched to automatic milkers, where the milk went into a pipeline and emptied into a tank that held 700 gallons of milk. They sold milk to various milk companies, finishing with Schenkels in Huntington. During this time, Duane also became involved in 4-H, and stayed in 4-H for 10 years. Duane said that his family didn't take long vacations, but they did take day trips, one time going to the Cincinnati Zoo, and a couple of trips to Tiger Stadium for baseball games.

Duane was confirmed at St. Peter's by Pastor Droegemueller and his confirmation verse was based on Revelations 2:10, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life." He went on to Hoagland High School, where there were 66 students in his class. His closest friends included Larry Fuhrman, Jerry Burcamp, and Ward Guenin. His favorite subject was math. Duane continued in 4-H, participated in Walther League, and played outfield for St. Peter's men's softball team. He graduated in 1968 as a member of the last graduating class of Hoagland High School. It was at this time that he purchased his first car, a 1964 Chevy Impala.

What about Karen.....

Karen Sue Hormann was born to Carl and Della Hormann on November 12, 1954 at Adams County Hospital. She was their first child, and two years later was joined by a brother, Larry. After birth, Karen and her mother went to live with Karen's maternal grandparents near Preble, Indiana. Karen's father, Carl, was in the Army, stationed in Korea, and he didn't see Karen until she was 1 year and 11 days old! Karen was baptized at Flatrock Lutheran Church by Pastor Abram. Upon her father's return from the military, the family moved to a house in Hoagland on English Street, and lived there until they built a new home on Minnich Road. Carl worked at Rea Magnet Wire as a wire inspector until his eventual retirement. Della worked as a cook at Flatrock school, then later transferred to Heritage High school as a cook. She went on to work at Hoosier Wire Die, cleaned houses, then helped Carl with a side job of mowing lawns, including the park in Hoagland.

Karen attended Flatrock grade school, with 5 boys and 13 girls in her class. Her best friends were Terri Minnich and Terry Painter. Growing up, she helped her mother with cleaning at home, preparing meals, doing dishes, and raising a small garden. She took piano lessons for a few years, rode bikes, and played with the neighbor kids for fun. As a family, they took vacations and once traveled to Texas to visit relatives. . She was confirmed at Flatrock by Pastor Frank and then attended Heritage High School. There were 206 students in her class. Her extracurriculars included FHA, Choir and swing choir, 4-H, youth group at Flatrock, and softball as a pitcher for Flatrock's women's team. Her best friends included Shirley Buuck and Beth Will. During her junior year, Karen got a job at Happy Humpty in Decatur, where she worked as a waitress. She graduated in 1973, and inherited her grandparents 1968 blue Belaire for transportation. Karen enrolled in Fort Wayne Community Schools' LPN program. Upon graduation she began working at Lutheran Hospital on the orthopedics floor.

While attending the wedding and reception of Kent and Mary Frederick, Duane noticed Karen talking to his two sisters. It was June 25, 1976. He asked her to square dance, then asked her for a date the next night. They went to a movie in Fort Wayne, but they can't remember the movie that they saw. They continued to date

and were married one year later on June 25, 1977. The wedding took place at Flatrock, with Beth Will as matron of honor and Verna Franz as one of the bridesmaids. Duane's brother, Loren, was his best man. Allen Franz and Allen Buuck were both groomsmen. Bill Werling sang for the wedding, then his band, "Dream", played for their square dance reception at The Hayloft. They drove Duane's Monte Carlo to Virginia Beach and Washington DC for their honeymoon. When they returned, they lived in a mobile home on the Franz' family farm for about 3 years. Duane's parents then built another home on the family farm. Duane and Karen completely remodeled the two story farm house and added on to it, before moving into the renovated home before Christmas, 1980. Duane and Karen are the proud parents of Heather, Ben, Valerie, Megan, and Erica, and of 8 grandchildren.

Duane and Karen have worked together to grow their farming operation, eventually getting out of the milking business and focusing on hogs. Their son, Ben, began helping Duane, and together they farmed 450 acres using AgCo tractors. Duane also started selling corn and soybean seeds with his Dad in 1974. He left Dekalb seeds after 25 years, and began selling for Beck's in 1999. At this time, he has turned over the farming operation to Ben, and helps when needed. He continues to sell seeds for Beck's. As the kids were growing up, Karen helped serve lunch in the St. Peter building of SPI. Later she worked as a night cashier at Krogers, then at the dry cleaners, and from 2005 - 2013, returned to nursing at Adams Heritage in Monroeville.

As a couple and/or a family, they have traveled out west to Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, stopped to see a former neighbor, Ralph Lehrman, and Pike's Peak. In 1991 they took the family to Disney World for 5 days to celebrate getting out of the milking business. Their favorite trip as a couple has been to Branson, Missouri.

In April, 2020, Duane and Karen moved to their new home at 834 Sycamore in Decatur. Duane stated that his family have been members of St. Peter congregation for at least 7 generations! As servant members of St. Peter congregation, Duane has been a trustee, financial secretary, treasurer, and school board member. He is especially proud of his volunteer labor in helping to build SPI in 1998 - 1999. Karen has been a member of the choir, Ladies Aid, Altar Guild, Bereavement committee, and worked tirelessly to provide EDGE certificates for 16 - 17 years.

Thank you, Duane and Karen, for all that you have done, and continue to do for our St. Peter congregation! And thank you for sharing your story.

—Kris Bischoff

