

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.

To the Saints of St. Peter,

It is hard to believe that we have made it through a year of a pandemic. At the time of writing things are slowly returning to normal. What is most important to remember, however, is that the Lord continues to provide for His church. Throughout the pandemic, the Lord continued to provide for His church, through the Means of Grace. We were still able to gather around God's Word weekly and for that we give thanks. The Lord has seen fit to grow his church throughout this time as well, both through the birth of children and through people desiring to worship with us.

Though the times have been tough, maybe even a little lean for some, it is greatly appreciated that your tithes still came in to support the church and the school. While we don't worship money, we still need it to keep the lights on and the doors open, so the support is appreciated.

We have received currently, one payment from the Lutheran Foundation for our grant for the organ. We should be receiving another one shortly, which would mean that they matched the half which they agreed to give us in the matching grant. On the subject of the organ, while we have no "official" timeline, work has begun, pipes are beginning to be installed, and the pieces are slowly coming together. The gentleman from Lima Pipe Organ have been extremely helpful and are working very hard and ought to be commended.

As restrictions from the pandemic begin to loosen, things at church will slowly begin to return to normal. Beginning when school is out, masks will not be worn by those distributing communion, and the tape will be taken down. For the time being, we will continue to do communion in the way which we have done throughout this pandemic and we will continue the High-Risk service on Wednesdays I ask that we still try to spread out as best as we can once the tape comes down, for the sake of our other brothers and sisters in Christ. Finally, I ask that we are patient with one another as things begin to return to normal.

Lastly, thank you for being a wonderful congregation. I know that it is not always sunshine and rainbows, but St. Peter is a special place because of all of you. You make it easy to be your pastor and Casey, Caroline, and I are so happy to be here. It has been fun to see the congregation grow and I can't wait to see what happens next. Thanks be to God for St. Peter and all of you.

With Love,
Pastor Tanksley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is Friday, May 21st.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please email, call, text, or leave a note in my box in the Narthex with any updates on name changes, phone number, e mail addresses, or addresses. I am hoping to print the updated directory in June or July. Thank you for your help!

YOU ARE INVITED to a Joint Baby Shower in honor of two of St. Peter's seminarian families - Brandon and Leslie Sullivan & Carl and Amber Petzold. Each is expecting a bundle of joy but we don't yet know the gender of the newest family members. A celebration will take place immediately following the church service on Sunday, May 23rd, in St. Peter's lower level. Brunch will be served.

BABY ITEMS: St. Peter's seminarian families, the Petzolds and Sullivans, are each expecting a baby. If you have gently used baby furniture or other items that you would like to share with our seminarians or with any of the students at the Fort Wayne Seminary, please contact Amber Petzold or Leslie Sullivan. Thank you!

St. Peter Events in the Past

50 Years Ago - Rev Roger D Eden

No events during May 1971

100 Years Ago - Pastor Ludwig W Dornseif

Confirmation 5-8-1921	Herbert Martin Heinrich Fuelling	born 26 Mar 1907	1 Timothy 1:15
	Lester Wilhelm Friedrich Bussick	born 3 Feb 1907	James 1:2-3
	Heinrich Carl Gerke	born 23 May 1907	1 John 2:28
	Ruth Marie Louise Bussick	born 3 Nov 1907	John 6:68-69
	Esther Henriette Jessie Louise Luttmann	born 21 Mar 1907	Psalms 91:1-2
	Ruth Emma Louise Clara Boehnke	born 19 Jul 1907	Revelation 19:9
Burial 5-16-1921	Rosa Lisette Sophia Wagner		Age: 13y 2m 1d
	Died 5-13-1921		

150 Years Ago - Pastor J Andreas Fritze

Confirmation 4-2-1871	Ernst Johann Heinrich Füllung		
	Friedrich Wilhelm Tiemann		
	Johann Heinrich Füllung		
	Luis Carl Börger		
	Johann Adam Ehrmann		
	Friedrich Johann Knapp		
	Christian Bucher		
	Johann Friedrich Heinrich Feuse		
Baptism 5-1-1871	Heinrich Friedrich August Busick	Fa: Friedrich Busick	
	Born 4-20-1871	Mo: Sophie nee Kükelhan	
	(Recorded at 1885 confirmation)		
	(H F August Busick died 1-4-1943; m Mary Franke)		

Compiled by Allen Franz

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to All Celebrating in May

May Birthdays

2	Lori Sprunger	18	Dan Will
3	Haley Katz	18	Rhonda Zimmerman
3	Laura Franz	18	Nathan Maldeney
5	Jason May	20	Josh Franz
7	Corey Cochran	21	Matthew Bischoff
12	Lori Matthews	22	Dave Bischoff
12	Adam Will	25	Katie Burke
15	M. Jane Sipe	27	Marie Wietfeldt
16	Dale Busick	28	Caitlyn Mishler
18	Monica Suman	30	Herb Banning Jr.
18	Justin Kukelhan	30	Matthew Ellenberger
18	Michael Linder	31	Erica May
18	Keith Scherer		

May Anniversaries

May 4, 2019
Zeke and Kari Schultz

May 27, 1988
Eric & Leesa Fuelling

May 16, 1987
Henry Kevin & Lori Lee

May 28, 1960
Dale & Leanne Busick

May 18, 2001
John & Jessica Penrod

May 28, 1983
Steve & Katherine Fuelling

May 24, 1980
Matt & Pat Braun

May 28, 2016
Matthew & Jacqueline Rumschlag

May 25, 1996
Jon & Jody Hurst

May 28, 2011
Bubba & Kiri Braun

May 27, 1967
Fred & Becky Fuelling

May 29, 1965
Ron & Marge Franz



May 2021

Altar Guild— Lori Conrad and Bonnie Crosby

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study/Sunday School	3	4	5 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm High Risk Service with Holy Communion	6 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	7	8
9 9:00am Divine Service; Bible Study / Sunday School	10	11 7:00pm Elders Meet	12 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm High Risk Service with Holy Communion	13 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen 7:00pm Ascension Service w/Holy Communion	14	15
16 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study/Sunday School	17	18	19 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm High Risk Service with Holy Communion	20 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	21 SPI LAST DAY OF SCHOOL JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22
23 9:00am Divine Service; *BABY SHOWER BRUNCH FOR SEMINARIANS*	24	25	26 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm High Risk Service with Holy Communion	27 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	28	29
30 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study/Sunday School	31					

Vern and Judy Witte.....

A lifelong member of our St. Peter Lutheran Church, Vernon Wayne Witte was born on April 7, 1945 to August H. and Esther (Luttman) Witte. Vern was their fourth of five children. His three older brothers were Delbert, Norbert, and Herman. His younger sister is Sharon. Vern was baptized at St. Peter church by Pastor Huffman, and later attended St. Peter's grade school. His first grade year was the last year that St. Peter had all eight grades in one room and Theodore Grotrian was the lone teacher. St Peter member Dorothy Crosby accepted a teaching position at St. Peter the following year and was Vern's teacher for second through fourth grade while an addition was put on the one room school. The classroom that they used later became the confirmation building and is now located on Andy and Amber Shaffer's property. For 5th-8th grade, Vern and his classmates Ron Franz, Janet Fuelling, John Boerger, and Janice Franz returned to the St. Peter school building under the tutelage of Mr. Grotrian.

During his childhood, Vern helped his dad with the farming. August Witte farmed 80 acres and also worked at International Harvester. The family's livestock included 6-8 milk cows, 6 pigs, 12 sheep, geese (enjoyed for Thanksgiving instead of turkey), and about 120 chickens. Esther Witte sold the eggs for extra money. As the fourth child, Vern worked his way up from washing dishes, to providing kindling for the cookstove, helping with chores and gardening, milking cows, and finally by the age of 8 or 10, driving tractor. His first tractor at that age was a '35 Ferguson. Vern can remember visiting a relative in Evansville once, but that was his only childhood vacation. For fun, Vern went swimming at Clem's Lake along with friend and neighbor, Don Busick. They also played basketball at Don's grandfather's house, and baseball for Decatur Little League. The field was located where the Bunge office is now. Vern was confirmed in 1959 by Pastor Droegemueller. By this time, Vern had started working at Walt Mazelin's filling station, pumping gas, changing oil and fixing tires. He attended Monmouth High School as part of a class of 36 students. He played basketball and baseball throughout high school. He also bought his first car from his brother, a '51 Chevy 2-door hardtop, for \$50.

What about Judy.....

Judith Kay Thieme was the oldest child born to Lorenz and Eldora (Schueler) Thieme on March 3, 1945. She would later be joined by 2 sisters, Mary and Sharon. Judy was baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church by Pastor Vetter. She went on to attend Immanuel's grade school with classmates Richard Wieland, Ron Thieme, Merlin Thieme, Elroy Haugk, Leroy Bohnke, and Kathy Bleeke (now Jones). Kathy was Judy's best friend all through school. Lorenz Thieme also farmed 80 acres while working full time at Central Soya (now Bunge). He worked in Steam and Power, as Central Soya tried to provide some of their own power for operation. It should be understood that the power was coal generated. The coal came from a strip mine and could arrive frozen by rail cars. Jackhammers were used to break it up and make it usable. At home, livestock included cows, pigs, and chickens/eggs. Judy helped with all of the farming/livestock/ and gardening, including walking the fields to pull weeds, and baling hay. Of note, their family had a huge raspberry patch. Judy picked raspberries and in season, may pick 50 pints per day! They had an equally large rhubarb patch and sold this produce to the general public. The occasional family vacation that they took was usually a day trip to the Ohio Caverns, Indiana Beach, or Toledo Zoo.

Judy was confirmed by Pastor Vetter and went on to attend Monmouth High School in the same class as Vern. Her favorite subject was art, especially painting. Sewing was a second favorite subject. She was a member of the Library Club where they learned filing skills, book repair, etc. Judy was also a member of the Immanuel church choir while she was in high school. Judy began working at Wertz Burgers, located on 2nd Street and Monroe, when she was 14 years old. There were no drive-ins at that time, but it was the after school and evening hangout for students at Monmouth and Decatur Catholic High Schools. After ballgames, the fan busses would stop there, and even though the restaurant was supposed to close, they would stay open to accommodate the fans. Judy worked there from 14 - 18 years old, hand dipping ice cream for shakes and malts, making cherry Cokes, homemade potato salad, and even peeling potatoes for french fries.

While Judy was working at Wertz Burgers, Vern began working at International Harvester following graduation. He said that he graduated on Friday and started at IH on Monday. Vern and Judy were married in January, 1963 at Immanuel by Pastor Vetter. His brother and sister-in-law, Herman and Joyce, were their attendants. The reception was at Preble Gardens. When asked about a honeymoon, there was no honeymoon. They had gotten 8 inches of snow on their wedding day, so Vern and Judy, plus 8 wedding guests, were snowed in at Vern's parents house! They spent the first several months living with Vern's parents until they got an apartment on Fifth Street in Decatur. In 1964 they moved to a house by Clem's Lake and roller rink. Judy said that that was a handy place to live when their children were young as they had entertainment next door.

Vern and Judy have four children: Teresa (deceased), Greg, Kathy, and Deanna. When their children were little, Judy babysat for other families, and also took in sewing and did alterations. Vern continued at IH, working there for 21 years. In 1974 they built their current house on 125 East, to be near Vern's parents. Vern continued to farm, and when IH left Ft. Wayne, he began to sub on a post office route. After 7 years, he attained a full time job with the post office. He also worked for Klenks and then for Haugk's doing plumbing, service, and repair. He retired from all jobs except farming in 2009. Vern continues to farm to this day.

After the children were in school, Judy returned to work as a morning cook at L&K restaurant, then a morning cook at Nickelodean restaurant in downtown Decatur, then the Galley. After that, she worked days as a cook for North Adams schools and worked evenings at Kmart. Her final job was as the custodian at Decatur Church of God for 15 years. Judy retired in 2011. Since retirement, they have taken a few trips, but travelling isn't their interest. Vern enjoys playing cards. Judy enjoys quilting and gardening. In addition to their 4 children, they now have 10 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Both have been very active at our St. Peter church, as trustee, school board member, financial secretary, Sunday School teacher, and landscapers. Judy was one of three women who created and painted the nativity set that we see in front of the church each Christmas. She has also made some of the beautiful banners that hang in the church. When asked about a favorite hymn, Judy chose "Silent Night".

We want to thank Vern and Judy for all that they have done, and continue to do, for our St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted---Kris Bischoff



Judith and Vernon Witte —1963

SPIrit Night 2021 Summary

Last year, we were blessed with having an in-person event while other schools had to cancel or switch to a virtual event. SPIrit Night 2021 was our year to have a virtual event. For us, it meant a drive-thru dinner and the auction was done online using a mobile bidding platform. This allowed us to still come together to celebrate the Lutheran ministry at SPI but in a safe manner in our homes or socially distanced with our friends. Even though we had several new obstacles to learn and overcome we persevered and had a successful fundraiser.

We were blessed with 3 Pastors teaming up and preparing all the brisket and the chicken for the drive-thru dinner. Pastor Koeneman, Pastor Tanksley, and Pastor Brock (St. John Bingen) spent Friday and Saturday smoking the brisket and grilling the chicken for our delicious 'Pastors Dinner'. With the transition to mobile bidding, we had to focus on item pictures and platform technology that was all new to us. The virtual event did allow us to reconnect with several donors and I look forward to seeing them at future SPIrit Nights.

Even though we had all the new things to learn and do, SPI is still blessed with generous sponsors, giving donors, and passionate attendees. This year we raised just over \$56,000 with our first virtual event during a pandemic. God is great. A brief financial summary is below.

Again, this year the committee did a wonderful job with all the new tasks that we had to manage. I would like to say thank you to the committee: Shelby Billington, Megan Buuck, Erin Franz, Lisa Howard, Kelly Schlemmer and Jennie Springer. Thank you for all your time and effort to make SPIrit Night 2021 another successful night.

As a father of an SPI alum and a current student, I want to thank the congregations for supporting the Lutheran ministry at SPI. We are blessed to be able to have an outstanding, Christ-focused education right here at St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School.

Please see me if there are *ANY* questions or comments about the event. I am more than willing to share information and always looking for improvements.

Mogan David
Chairman
SPIrit Night

2021 Financial Summary

Event Gross Income	\$56,129
Event Expenses	\$10,201.65
Event Net Income	\$45,927.35

3 Year Event Summary

2019 SPIrit Night	\$60,495.39
2020 SPIrit Night	\$71,843.45
2021 SPIrit Night	\$45,927.35
Event Net Income	\$178,266.19

