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Oct. 26	Confirmation & Solomon Study	6:30 pm
Oct. 27	Dartball, Here	7:30 pm
Oct. 30	Trustee Meeting Sunday School Worship Revelation Bible Study	8 am 9 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm

## SUICIDE PREVENTION IS A PRIORITY.

It doesn't take a lot of digging around to find alarming statistics regarding the rates of suicide in today's youth. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, claims that suicide was the second leading cause for death among 10-24 year-olds in 2016. According to The Jason Foundation, each day in our nation, there are an average of over 3,041 attempts by young people grades 9-12.

St. Peter's will be hosting  
Sherry Laatsch on Wednesday,  
October 12th at 6:30pm.

We encourage all families and individuals to join us and hear her story and of her will to help as many teens as she can.

For more information on suicide prevention or for help, we suggest contacting NAMI of the Fox Valley at 920-954-1550 or one of your pastors for immediate concerns.

# St. Peter's Proverbs

October 2022



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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"Alive in the Spirit"

## A Message from Pastor Janice



Dear Friends,  
I'm repeating myself—but it's worth repeating!  
Jesus died to save us. To save us not just in the sense that we'll go to heaven when we die, but to save us *into* something: into a community/ a people who are part of His Kingdom (the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven).

Our salvation is very personal, we each individually have to come to believe and know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. *But it is not individualistic*—we don't live our lives here on earth as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven on our own.

Our '*natural habitat*'—what we were created by God for—was to *operate in community*—face-to-face, doing-life-together—fellowship with other believers, the family of God.

Our 'old self,' the way of the world we live in is *individualism*. In Christian community (church) we find what God wants for us: *interdependence*. We don't lose our *individuality*; we just learn to refuse to worship (and make our life decisions under the direction of) the 'idol' of individualism (the belief that: I'm on my own; I have to look out for myself; I must be self-sufficient).

If we have been born from above—saved by grace through faith—then we should continuously be GROWING spiritually, growing in our relationship with God. And an important part of that growth happens in face-to-face encounters with other believers who we've come to trust.

***Each and every believer who is a part of St. Peter's needs to be GROWING in their love of God and GROWING in their love of others.*** (That's what Jesus said the Greatest & 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest commandment was: LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS.)

**Such GROWING requires LEARNING and PRACTICING.**  
**LEARNING:** gaining new *information* from and about the Bible; gaining new information about how to live a Christian life.  
**AND PRACTICING:** Finding ways to apply what you are learning to real, day-to-day living so that you actually do grow. This is ***transformation***: being transformed (not just instructed or given information) more and more into the image of Christ.

**LEARNING/GROWING happens in various ways, of course.**  
**LEARNING IN ROWS:** The INFORMATION we need to learn to better live our Christian lives can be attained by sitting in rows in

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## OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 1	Bible Study	9-11 am
Oct. 2	Sunday School Worship with Baptism Youth Serve Lunch	9 am 10:30 am 11:30 am
Oct. 2-5	Pastor at LCMC Annual Gathering	
Oct. 4	Men's Group Quilters Town of Wyoming Meeting	8:30 am 9 am 8 pm
Oct. 5	Ladies Aid Confirmation & Solomon Study	12 pm 6:30 pm
Oct. 6	Dartball at Scandinavia	7:30 pm
Oct. 8	VDC Training	8 am-4 pm
Oct. 9	Sunday School Worship Revelation Bible Study	9 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm
Oct. 11	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
Oct. 12	Suicide Prevention & Solomon Study	6:30 pm
Oct. 13	Dartball at Weyauwega	7:30 pm
Oct. 15	Bible Study	9-11 am
Oct. 16	Sunday School Worship with Kelly Koch-Agape Revelation Bible Study	9 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm
Oct. 18	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
Oct. 19	Confirmation & Solomon Study	6:30 pm
Oct. 20	Dartball, Here	7:30 pm
Oct. 22	VDC Training	8 am-4 pm
Oct. 23	Sunday School Worship Revelation Bible Study	9 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm
Oct. 25	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am

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front of a teacher. Such things as Bible studies, instruction on how to pray, teaching about how to think about and respond to what's going on in the world around us.

**BUT OF COURSE, WE NEED MORE THAN JUST INFORMATION! WE WANT TRANSFORMATION—CHANGE OF HEART AS WELL AS CHANGE OF MIND.**

**LEARNING IN CIRCLES:** True growth—through the application and practice of what we learn in rows (new information)—happens most effectively in circles. Sitting a circle with a few other people, each able to speak and question and respond. A safe place where you can trust one another and risk sharing your thoughts and questions and experiences, and together find wisdom from God and each one's life experience. **A small group of believers intentionally meeting with Jesus and with each other for the purpose of growing in their love of God and love of others.**

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information on opportunities to learn in rows and learn in circles here at St. Peter's this fall.

Blessings, *Pr. Janice*



Aaron Koeppl	Oct. 2
Kristi Stedjee	Oct. 2
Mason Draeger	Oct. 3
Heather Haacker	Oct. 3
Nancy Morris	Oct. 6
Dan Bestul	Oct. 8
Glenn Davids	Oct. 15
Joe Stuhr	Oct. 15
Ralph Baumann	Oct. 17
Amy Bestul	Oct. 18
Sandy Krause	Oct. 20
Owen Orvedahl	Oct. 20
Stanley Phillips	Oct. 25
Beverly Stolz	Oct. 25
Jonathan Arndt	Oct. 26
Stella Koeppl	Oct. 27
Tiffany Bestul	Oct. 28



Bob & Brenda Jashinsky	Oct. 17 - 41 Years
Lee & Jackie Baldwin	Oct. 18 - 31 Years
Brandon & Sarah Blashe	Oct. 28 - 25 Years
Jeremy & Brenda Brady	Oct. 23 - 12 Years
Richard & Penny Madson	Oct. 24 - 41 Years
Nate Erin Bonikowske	Oct. 28 - 16 Years
Carlos & Jennifer Bartolone	Oct. 31 - 2 Years

## Worship in Pink Sunday

We encourage all to wear pink to St. Peter's on Sunday, Oct. 23, for the 10:30 a.m. worship, commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Krista Enoch will share her testimony and our "Noisy Offering" that day will be directed to the Sheila Schmidt Foundation, a local charity who sends much needed support to families during their diagnosis and treatment.

We ask anyone who knows someone who is a survivor or in the midst of the struggle or the family of someone who lost the fight to place your prayers on the pink prayer sheets at the back of the church so we can lift them up as we do our other prayers throughout the year.

Pink dessert and fellowship will be available after the service.

## W<sup>♥</sup>ORSHIP IN PINK



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23RD -10:30AM**

We encourage all to wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness. We will have special witness testimony from Krista Enoch followed by prayers and dessert. Join us in prayer and support for all those past, present and future that this disease touches!

## A Message from Pastor Kay



### Do You Want to be Liked or Followed?

Being 'liked' has taken on a whole new dimension since Facebook introduced the concept of 'liking' something (or someone for that matter). But for people who teach teens (parents, teachers, members of the congregation), the issue of wanting to be liked has always been a tough one.

I think we've all been at the point where we want teens to like us, where we want to feel accepted by them. We rationalize it, saying we can't really be effective in keeping kids in church if they don't like us. If we want

teens to trust us, to confide in us, we need to be liked.

Or do we?

It's perfectly okay to want kids to like you. I'd be worried if you couldn't care less. But the extent to which it influences your decisions, to which it dictates what you do, that is something to think about. After all, you're not their buddy, you're not their BFF- they have kids their age for that; you're their example, their mentor, their church family. And being a youth leader/teacher/mentor isn't about being liked. It's about leading our kids to Jesus, time and again.

We don't need our teens to like us; we need them to follow us to Jesus. That won't happen if we base our opinions and decisions on whether it will make us popular or liked. We need to make our choices based on what Christ would do, about what's best for our kids and the ministry we are working so diligently for.

There will be times when you'll need to make decisions that won't win you popularity points. There will be instances where you'll need to do the right thing, instead of the likeable thing. You may have to have some hard conversations with one of our "less-mature" believers.

When I took over the youth ministry many years ago, I tried making things very different from the same-old way of things. Some of those things were met head-on with anger-extreme anger. It wasn't the way it was done by those others who knew what they were doing! Did I care? Of course I did! It was hard for me that they were so angry with me. But I knew it was the right thing to do, even if it meant being unpopular for a time.

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And over the years (25+ now), there have been plenty of times where leading had to take precedence over being liked. You'll recognize these situations when you feel yourself conflicted over a decision and one of the deciding factors is that the kids and parents will react a certain way.

It's normal to be concerned about people getting upset, or to factor in their positive feelings about a decision. Yes, they need to like us. But it's more important that they can follow us in the right direction—towards Jesus.

Topics of suicide and abortion and other "controversial" things get discussed openly with me. Parents and students alike don't always want to hear me. Or they stop before it starts. And that makes me sad. But as a faithful member building the Lord's kingdom, I cannot be more concerned with them liking me than what Christ is leading me to do and teach. I pray that all members of our congregation can and will join me in staying faithful and leading the younger among us to Jesus. And those who are fearful – know that you are not alone. But we do not need to fear anything but the Lord. Have strength and courage in Him.

One consolation I've discovered: it gets easier over time though. The longer I am in youth ministry and the older I get, the easier it is for me to have the right perspective on this. It seems there are benefits to getting old after all. Praise God!

*Have a blessed fall! --Kay*



***A peer support group for those with mental health challenges AND for those who love them***

## **FRESH HOPE GROUP MEETING**

**THURSDAYS, 1:30-3 pm  
(starting October 13, 2022)  
at The Living Room Coffee Shop  
85 S. Main St., Clintonville, WI**