

**ST PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**(FUELLING)**  
**DECATUR, INDIANA**

Reverend Leonard Tanksley, Pastor  
Church/Office Phone: 724-7533  
Cell Phone: 260-246-7470  
E-mail: leonard.tanksley@gmail.com

Jen Fuelling, Secretary  
Phone: 815-216-8516  
E-mail: splchurchsec@gmail.com  
Website: www.stpeterdecaturn.org

Volume - Number 7

Newsletter September 2022

---

*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.**

**Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, <sup>2</sup>and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. <sup>4</sup>For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Lk. 21.1-4)**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

If you would permit me for a moment, I would like to talk about sacrificial giving. That is what the widow did in the reading from Saint Luke.

It is always awkward to talk about money. It is especially awkward for the pastor to talk about money. But we are at a crossroads currently.

Looking at our accounts, it would seem as though we have an abundance of money. This is true to a certain extent. However, that money is secured for the future of St. Peter Lutheran Church and SPI. We still have obligations which are to be covered by our weekly offerings. These are included, but not limited to, paying the organist, paying our bills, paying money to SPI, buying supplies for teaching and the church, and paying your pastor. Given that St. Peter has the majority of the children at SPI, this has caused a large budget increase.

If we look hard to our accounts, we see that it is less than a year with which we can sustain ourselves at the current rate. Not to mention, we will have burned through estate money, which was supposed to go toward improvements, not toward daily expenses.

So, we need to do more. We need to give sacrificially. In a rightly ordered world, church should be taken care of first. That is what it means to be a good steward. The ministry of the church is supported through weekly giving, not through endowments given by those saints who have gone before.

I know this isn't an easy topic. I know these are tough words to hear with the economy the way it is. Yet the widow gives out of poverty, and so, too, should we. The council is looking at a way in which we may be able to go to online giving for those of us who don't like to write checks or never carry cash. Please stay tuned for that.

I invite you to take an opportunity, to talk as a family, to pray for discernment as you consider how you tithe to church this coming year.

I pray that the Lord continues to provide for His Church, for Her workers, for Her members, and for all those who would hear the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins.

A humble steward,

Pastor

# Announcements

**DEAR MEMBERS OF ST. PETER:** Significantly decreased contributions over the summer have placed St. Peter in a precarious financial situation. Increased ministry costs are putting a strain on the church's ability to meet its monthly obligations. If we continue on this path, we'll have no choice but to tap into our investment funds which are set aside for future needs and plans and for outreach beyond our walls. Please keep St. Peter in your prayers as each of us considers how we can positively impact our ministry to church, school, community, and world. Thank you.

-Serving the Savior, Treasurer Deb McDonald And your Financial Team

**ESTATE GIFT:** Saint Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School is pleased to announce that they are the recipients of an ongoing gift from the estate of Mr. Robert Lehrman. This gift will be used towards the maintenance of the SPI Building as requested by Mr. Lehrman. We are grateful that Mr. Lehrman was such a strong supporter of SPI. We give thanks to God that Mr. Lehrman will continue his support of SPI even after his passing.

**LAYING THE BRICKS OF OUR PAST:** The Friends of SPI are offering you the chance to honor and leave your legacy at SPI by purchasing a memorial brick. The bricks are from the old St. Peter and Immanuel school buildings. The bricks will form a walking path through the new landscaping and Bob Lehrman memorial garden. Each brick is \$100 with your choice of inscription. Order forms can be found in the back of church.

**SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP DONATIONS:** Seminary Food Co-op: During the month of September and October, we will be collecting "Dinner Bag" items. Suggestions are but not limited to: Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Sloppy Joe Sauce, Taco Meals, Refried Beans, Oriental Dinners, Rice, Canned Tomatoes, Chili Mixes, Macaroni and Cheese, Kidney Beans, Tuna Noodles, and Boxed Meals. We appreciate all donations- big or small. Thanks to all for your past and future donations.

**CHURCH DINNER UPDATE:** There will be a church dinner committee meeting on Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at Mike & Bonnie Crosby's shop.

**SPI FISH AND TENDERLOIN UPDATE:** The first meeting for the 2022 Fish and Tenderloin Dinner Committee will be Tuesday August 30, 3022 at 7:00 p.m. at Mike and Bonnie Crosby's shed (please contact Mrs. Fuelling in the office if you need the address). We need volunteers for the fun and amazing committee to help plan and organize the dinner and bake sale. This is a great way to meet new people, families, alumni and be a part of the SPI family. If you have questions, please call Amber Shaffer 223-9897 or Erin Franz 341-2932.

---

## St. Peter Events in the Past

### 50 Years Ago - Pastor Paul F Stohlmann Jr

Baptism 9-10-1972      Nathaniel Jared Ellenberger      Fa.      Larry Wayne Ellenberger  
Born 7-10-1972      Mo.      Jill Irene nee Fuelling  
Sponsors: Miss Debra Neadstine & Miss Sandra Neadstine

Confirmation 9-17-1972      Jackie Ray Wilson      Born 8-26-1954      Baptized 11-21-1971

### 100 Years Ago - Pastor Alfred H Moeller

No events during September 1922

### 150 Years Ago - Pastor J Andreas Fritze

No events during September 1872

Submitted by Allen Franz



## Blessings to those celebrating in September!

### September Birthdays

1	Joel Lehrman	15	Allison Kukelhan
3	Sharon Banning	16	Lizah Jane Hurst
4	Elaine Fuelling	18	Martin Fuelling
5	Margene Fuelling	20	Jim Linder
5	Jason Buuck	20	Kevin Scherer
6	Michael Crosby	21	Jocelyn Linder
6	Trey Gerke	22	Alexis Counterman
8	Jack Sullivan	24	Trou Gerke
9	Suzann Rekeweg	25	John Fuelling
9	Beau Olvera	26	Haylee Franz
10	Janell Harper	26	Maddox Warren
11	Shauna Franz	28	Arnold Gerke
12	Esme Rose Schroeder	29	Matthew Berning
13	Hazel Franz		

### September Anniversaries

September 4, 1982  
James & Rebecca Fuelling

September 7, 1985  
Larry & Kaylehn Brunner

September 12, 1980  
Chris & Cindy Kortenber

September 13, 2003  
Josh & Laura Gresley

September 16, 2005  
Aaron & Adrienne Warren

September 16, 2006  
Andy & Amber Shaffer

September 17, 1993  
Joe & Heidi Werling

September 27, 1980  
Sam & Marsha Braun

September 30, 1989  
Steve & Charli Werling

# September 2022

Altar Guild– Denise Scherer and Courtney Taylor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	2	3
4 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study	5 <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>NO SCHOOL SPI</b>	6	7 10:00am Bible Study	8 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	9	10
11 9:00am Divine Service; Bible Study	12 7:00pm SPI Board of Education Meeting	13 10:00am Circuit Meeting 7:00pm Church Elders Meeting	14 10:00am Bible Study	15 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen 1:30pm Woodcrest Service	16 <b>OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	17
18 <b>MISSION SUNDAY</b> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study w/ Pastor Brock	19	20	21 10:00am Bible Study	22 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	23	24 <b>SPI JV VOLLEY- BALL TOURNA- MENT @SPI</b>
25 9:00am Divine Service; Bible Study	26	27	28 10:00am Bible Study	29 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	30	

## John and Suzy Fuelling...

Except for travel spent courtesy of the military, John Michael Fuelling has spent his life in the Decatur area. He was born on September 25, 1949, to Fred and Donna (Grandstaff) Fuelling, the fourth of their 13 children. Siblings include George, Fred, Christine, (John), twin girls who died at birth, Jill, Jerry, Greg, Theresa, Marty, Eric, and Amy (deceased). John grew up on the family farm, which is the first house north of our St. Peter church. His father was a farmer, a bus driver for Monmouth school, and a backhoe operator for the Adams County Highway Department. In the winter, he also drove a snowplow for the county. Donna was a housewife. When Fred and Donna got married, they moved in with his parents. Shortly after John was born, his grandmother became ill. Donna took care of her until she died, while also caring for her children, husband, and father-in-law. John said that of the three adults living in the house while he grew up, his mother was the only disciplinarian.

John was baptized at St. Peter and his sponsors were his uncle, Bob Delong, and Lorney Fuelling. He walked to St. Peter grade school every day for classes. His classmates included Bruce Scherer, Dennis Boerger, Dave Matthews, Dan Wietfeldt, Cindy Wass, LouAnn Wolfe, Angela Boerger, Jean Gresley, and Susan Kimberlin. He said that Bruce Scherer was his best friend, and his favorite subject was History. John began helping on the farm around the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He drove John Deere tractors and helped feed the livestock. John was confirmed at St. Peter, then went on to high school at Monmouth. From his 8th grade class, six went to Monmouth and four went to Hoagland High School. He continued to list History as a favorite subject and added Ag class to that list. He also added Don A. Scheumann and Denny Reinking to his list of close friends. John participated in 4-H for 10 years. In high school he played baseball for four years—outfield, batted Right/threw Right. He was in Cross Country for 2 years, Golf for 3 years, and played freshman basketball. Believe it or not, John was only 5'4" as a freshman. By graduation, he had reached 6'2", and the Army measured him at 6'8". He worked at Adams Builders Supply after school and on Saturdays, unloading boxcars. During the summer, he helped his uncle Fred Kunkel, farm. He was dropped off on Monday mornings and picked up on Friday afternoons. When he graduated in 1967, he was a member of the last class to graduate Monmouth High School.

*What about Suzy.....*

Susan Jeanette Singleton was born on February 14, 1950, to Roger and Betty (Miller) Singleton. She was their second of four children. Siblings include Sandy Collier, (Suzy), Saran Winkler, and Scott Singleton. They made their home on a farm across from what is now Barrington Woods. Roger was an MP in the Army, then went on to a career in law enforcement/politics. He worked as a guard at Central Soya, then deputy sheriff, Adams County Sheriff, Country Commissioner, and State Representative. When Suzy was born, she was baptized at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church on road 750. While Roger was working for Central Soya, that company built houses for their employees on Mix and Master Drives. The Singletons moved into the first house on Master Drive. When Roger was elected Sheriff, Suzy was in the sixth grade. It was customary for the Sheriff and his family to live at the jail, so they moved to the family quarters of the jail on First Street. At that time, the jail was a large, old, brick building, built in 1884. Suzy had a room on the second floor, and on the other side of one bedroom wall were jail cells. She has many interesting stories about living at the jail. Since her father served 8 years, she lived at the jail from sixth grade until she and John were married. Suzy's mother, Betty, worked as a secretary for the Sheriff's department, then worked as a librarian for the junior high school. Unfortunately, Roger passed away at the age of 49. Betty went to nursing school at the age of 50 and worked at Adams County Hospital before remarrying and moving to Florida.

Suzy was in the first class to attend Northwest Elementary School, with about 25 students in her class. She went to Lincoln School for junior high. While growing up, she met Susie Beeler and Kathi Helm, and they became best friends. Suzy's favorite subjects were spelling and science. In the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Suzy became a cheerleader for the Northwest Lions, and continued as a cheerleader through junior high and high school. Her family took an annual vacation to Cedar Lake for a week, where they would fish and swim. Saturdays were mandatory cleaning days, and the rule on Sundays was that if you didn't go to church in the morning, you weren't leaving the house for the day. She was confirmed at First United Methodist Church on Monroe Street. She attended Decatur High School for her freshman – junior years. By her senior year, Decatur, Monmouth, and Decatur Catholic high schools consolidated into Bellmont High School, though they didn't attend school at the current Bellmont campus. Suzy was a class officer her freshman year, participated in Speech competitions, choir, and musicals. She began working at Zesto at the age of 14 and also worked at Eichhorn Jewelry while in high school. Suzy graduated in 1968.

After graduation, John enrolled at Sam's Technical Institute in Ft. Wayne, and earned an Associate's degree in Electronic Engineering Technology. He worked at King's Department Store (across from the Coliseum) in the mornings and attended the Technical Institute in the afternoon.

After graduation, Suzy enrolled at Indiana College of Business and Technology in Indianapolis and earned a Medical Assistant degree. She was hired at Caylor Nickel Clinic.

In December of 1969, Suzy and her friends went to The Other Place in Celina, Ohio, for a dance. As luck would have it, John and his friends were there, too. Some of Suzy's friends knew John, and he came to their table and asked Suzy to dance. It was very crowded that night, but they kept bumping into each other throughout the evening, shared another dance, and he asked her out for a date for the next night. On the way home from the dance that night, John told his friends that he was going to marry that girl. On the way home from the dance that night, Suzy told her friends that he was sure good looking, but he can't dance. The next night they went to a James Bond 007 movie, and then got pizza. They were married ten months later.

The hiccup to this story is that John was drafted in May 1970. He did basic training for the Army in Ft. Jackson, SC. Fred, Donna, and Suzy drove down for his graduation, and that's where John and Suzy got engaged. John thought that he would get a short vacation, but he didn't. They transferred him to Ft. Benning, Georgia, for technical school for 8 – 10 weeks. Since he didn't get a short vacation after basic, he was sure that he would get one after technical school. They scheduled their wedding for October 17<sup>th</sup> to coincide with his anticipated break. He didn't get one! They transferred him to Ft. Gordon, also in Georgia. At this point, John had to go to his commanding officer and explain that he was getting married in Indiana this weekend. That conversation didn't go smoothly, but he did get a weekend pass. The wedding was held at First United Methodist, with a cake and punch reception in the church basement. John had arrived home on Friday in time for the rehearsal. The wedding was Saturday, and John flew back late Sunday evening. He secured housing for them a few weeks later, and Suzy moved to Georgia. Later, John was sent to Vietnam for 10 months. He was stationed at Cameron Bay, where he helped train Vietnam soldiers to take over for US soldiers. He also repaired electronic equipment. While in Vietnam, he received R&R in Hawaii, so Suzy flew to Hawaii to join him, and it coincided with their first anniversary. John returned to Vietnam, but when he was discharged in February, he came home to their apartment (Suzy had returned to Decatur) and found the Christmas tree and all of his Christmas presents still waiting for him!

When Suzy returned to Decatur, she was asked by her former dance instructor to take over her dance studio. She readily agreed to do that, and a year later opened her own studio, which she continued to operate for 37 years. She also babysat for many years. John got a job at CTS in Berne, then Rieke, Valspar, and Key Fasteners---all as a production supervisor. He retired in 2016. John now works part-time at Rural King in Decatur. In addition to the dance studio and babysitting, Suzy graduated from the Reppert School of Auctioneering in 1988 and worked at the Auction Barn in Shippshewana for many years. She also sold real estate.

John and Suzy are the proud parents of three children, Jonathon, Heidi, and Tory. They also have 6 grandchildren. Family vacations in the past have included Cedar Point and King's Island, weekends in Michigan, trips to Florida, and a favorite trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, that was a gift from their children. Both John and Suzy have been very involved with our St. Peter church. Suzy has served for many years as a Sunday School teacher. John has been president, vice president, deacon, elder, financial secretary, groundskeeper, and a school board member. Both John and Suzy say that they enjoy the St. Peter Church family, and that their week is always better after attending a Sunday service.

Thank you, John and Suzy, for all that you have done, and continue to do, for our St. Peter Lutheran Church!

-Submitted by Kris Bischoff

\*Pictured provided by John and Suzy Fuelling\*

Date Night Summer of 1970  
John & Suzy in the driveway of the jail

