

**ST PETER (FUELLING) EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1033 E 1100 N    DECATUR, INDIANA    46733**

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Volume - Number 3

Newsletter April 2023

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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.*

**We rejoice at the birth of Pastor and Casey  
Tanksley's son, Elliott Ryan Tanksley!**



Elliott Ryan Tanksley was born on Wednesday, March 15 at 9:55am. He was 9lb 4oz and 20.5in long. Caroline is a proud big sister! Use the link below (also on the church website) to sign up to take the Tanksley's a meal as they settle in as a family of four:

[www.TakeThemAMeal.com/LAFX7929](http://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/LAFX7929)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY:** Jen Fuelling will be out of the country from March 25<sup>th</sup>- April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact Pastor Tanksley with any concerns for the bulletins.

**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES** will continue every Wednesday evening at 7pm through Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. A soup supper will take place at 5:30pm before each midweek service.

**SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP for MARCH & APRIL** - During the months of March and April we will be collecting “**Cleaning**” items for the Seminary Food Co-op. Suggestions are but not limited to paper towels, trash bags, furniture polish, liquid dish soap, dishwasher pods, window cleaner, bathroom cleaner. Another item that is always in demand is breakfast cereal (excluding Chex). All your donations are greatly appreciated by the Seminary and is a great benefit to the students and their families. Items can be placed in the gray and white bag at Church. Thank you for all your donations!

**BETHLEHEM’S ANNUAL DAN’S FISH FRY:** Mark your calendars today! Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 -7:00 p.m. at Lighted Gardens in Ossian. Offering both dine in and carry out. Meal will consist of Fish, cheesy potatoes, green beans, applesauce, roll, & dessert. Adult \$14.00 pre-sale thru April 23<sup>rd</sup>, \$15.00 at the door. Children ages 5-10, Dine-in only \$7.00 pre-sale, \$8.00 at the door. Children age 4 and under are free. See the flyer for ticket information. Proceeds will benefit the "Feeding Tomorrow's Future Today Back-Pack Program and Bethlehem Lutheran Church Project Fund.

### LWML Decatur Zone 2 Programs for 2023

**April 14-15<sup>th</sup>** LWML Indiana District Retreat at The Brown County Inn, Nashville, Indiana. Registration is now available online at [LWMLIndiana.org](http://LWMLIndiana.org)>Upcoming Events>Spring Retreat 2023  
Registration cost \$ 55.00. Room reservations average \$89 to \$139 per room. (suggest you share expense with roommates.) Registration deadline: March 6<sup>th</sup>. Space available for 190. For questions you may contact Marilyn Bulmahn 260-919-5007

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** Bethlehem-Ossian Saturday, Decatur Zone Spring Rally. Reg. @ 8:30; Rally- 9:00 A.M.  
Speaker: Tomra “Tomi” Cardin – Redemption House  
This is a transition home for women that serves as an alternative to incarceration. Programs are based on Christian principles. There will be an in-gathering of cleaning supplies.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>** St John-Bingen Saturday, Decatur Zone SRD Workshop. 9:00 A.M.  
Project: Sewing cancer pads for Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** Zion-Friedheim Saturday, Decatur Zone Fall Rally. Reg @ 8:30; Rally- 9:00 A.M.  
Speaker: Pastor Michael Wakeland, Head Chaplain, Lutheran Life Villages

### Additional Lenten Worship Opportunities, 2023

#### **Sunday, April 2, 2023**

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

#### **Thursday, April 6, 2023**

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

#### **Friday, April 7, 2023**

Good Friday Service with Holy Communion at 12:00pm

#### **Friday, April 7, 2023**

Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers Service at 7:00pm

#### **Sunday, April 9- 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

Baptism 4-15-1973	Jason Jon Sheneman Born 2-2-1973 Sponsors: Mr & Mrs Norman (Kaye) Deckard	Father: Tony Jan Sheneman Mother: Marlene Kay nee Trefun
Confirmation 4-15-1973	Patricia Ann Boerger Cynthia Kay Fuelling Treva Darlene Gerke Pamela Sue Huston Cheryl Lou Scherer Carolyn Sue Wietfeldt	Baptized 5-17-1959 Baptized 1-11-1959 Baptized 4-26-1959 Baptized 6-21-1959 Baptized 3-8-1959 Baptized 4-26-1959
Confirmation 4-19-1973	Leonard Joseph Razo	Baptized 1953
Ratification of Baptism 4-29-1973	Jonathan Douglas Fuelling Born 2-2-1973 Sponsors: Mr & Mrs Fred W Fuelling & Mr & Mrs Roger Singleton	Father: John Michael Fuelling Mother: Susan Jennette nee Singleton

### 100 Years Ago - Pastor Alfred H Moeller

Marriage 4-1-1923  
Carl H Boerger & Marie Sophie Fuelling  
Witnesses: Theo Henry Fuelling & Mildred Clara Roeger

### 150 Years Ago - Pastor J Andreas Fritze

Marriage 4-24-1873  
Edward Ey & Margaret Tiemann  
(Recorded at Adams County, Indiana Court House)

Submitted by Allen Franz



# Dan's Fish Fry

## Dine-In or Carry-Out

**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023

**Time:** 4:30 to 7:00 pm


**Place:** *Lighted Gardens* - 10794 N St. Rd. 1, Ossian, IN

**Dine-In Menu:** Fish, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, Roll, Dessert and Drink

**Carry-Out Available**

**Tickets:** Adult, \$14.00 pre-sale thru April 23rd / \$15.00 at the door  
Children ages 5 to 10, Dine-In only, \$7.00 pre-sale / \$8.00 at the door  
Children age 4 and under are free

**Contact:** Cheryl Louison 260-414-5526/clouison@ymail.com  
Pat Meyer 260-227-0400/spmeyer82@gmail.com



Sponsored By: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian  
Proceeds to Benefit: Feeding Tomorrow's Future Today Back-Pack Program & Bethlehem Lutheran Church Project Fund

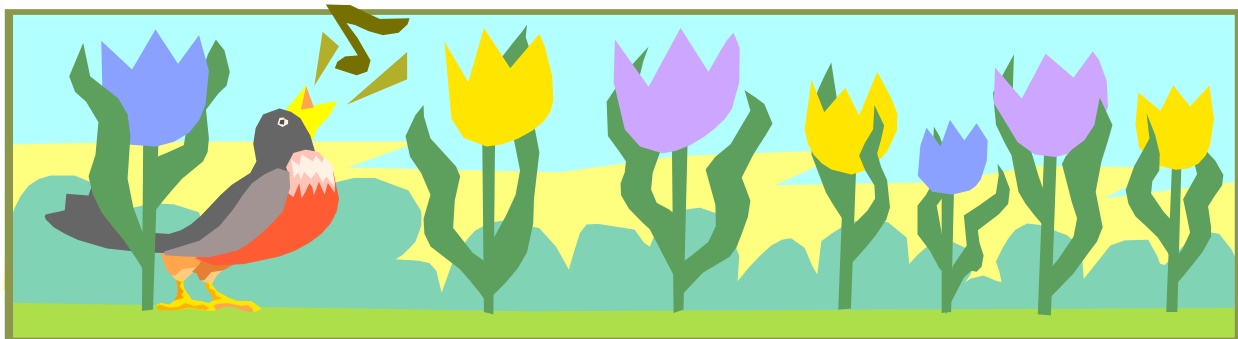
## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2	Abigail Will	14	Marjeana Lemler
2	Andy Shaffer	16	Janice Mishler
2	Noah Will	17	Sophie Busick
4	Alex Will	17	Parker Rose
5	Austin Maldeney	19	Joseph Werling
5	Darcy Wyss	20	Zeke Schultz
6	Allen Franz	25	Arlene Zimmerman
6	Douglas Fuelling	25	Jen Fuelling
7	Vern Witte	29	Steve Werling
10	Barry Scherer	29	Andy Wolf
10	Lilly Franz	30	Pat Braun
11	Samuel Will		
12	Leanne Busick		

## ANNIVERSARIES

April 4, 1987  
Tony & Lori Conrad

April 5, 1991  
Allen & Sandra Franz



# April 2023

Altar Guild—Karen Franz and Marjeana Lemler

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <b>9:00am</b> Palm Sunday Service with Rite of Confirmation and Holy Communion ; Bible Study/Sunday School	3	4	5 <b>10:00am</b> Bible Study	6 <b>9:00 am</b> Quilting <b>9:30</b> Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen <b>7:00pm</b> Maundy Thursday Service w/Holy Communion	7 <b>12:00pm</b> Good Friday Service with Holy Communion <b>7:00pm</b> Good Friday Tenebrae Service <b>*SPI- NO SCHOOL*</b>	8
9 <b>7:00am</b> Sunrise Service <b>9:00am</b> Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion	10 <b>7:00pm</b> SPI Board of Education Meeting	11 <b>6:00pm</b> Elders Meet <b>7:00pm</b> Church Council Meeting	12 <b>10:00am</b> Bible Study	13 <b>9:00 am</b> Quilting <b>9:30</b> Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	14	15
16 <b>9:00am</b> Divine Service with Holy Communion; Bible Study/Sunday School	17 <b>MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	18	19 <b>10:00am</b> Bible Study	20 <b>9:00 am</b> Quilting <b>9:30</b> Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	21	22
23 <b>9:00am</b> Divine Service; Bible Study/Sunday School <i>*Voter's Assembly Meets After Service*</i>	24	25	26 <b>10:00am</b> Bible Study	27 <b>9:00 am</b> Quilting <b>9:30</b> Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	28 <b>6:30pm</b> SPI Spring Talent Show in SPI Gym	29
30 <b>9:00am</b> Divine Service with Holy Communion; Bible Study/Sunday School						

## **Billy Dean Carpenter....**

On August 10, 1942, Billy Dean Carpenter was born to Ray and Donna (Byer) Carpenter, at the home of his paternal grandparents in Monroeville. Ray was a soldier in WW II, so he was away, and Donna was temporarily living with his parents. Billy (friends call him Billy, instead of Bill), was the oldest of three children. Both his sister, Esther Linke, and his brother, Donny, are deceased. A short time after Billy's birth, he and his mother moved in with her parents, 2 miles outside of Wren, Ohio. They stayed there until Billy was about 6 years old.

When Ray came home from the war, he moved his family to a home on Barnhart Street in Monroeville. There he opened a tv retail and repair business out of his home. He also became known as Monroeville's handyman, as he could work as a mechanic, electrician, or plumber. He later worked at, and retired from, International Harvester. Donna was a homemaker. Billy was baptized at Monroeville Methodist Church. He later attended Monroeville School for grades 1 – 12. His favorite subject was reading, and it remained his favorite subject for the rest of his life. Best friends included Neal Elliott, David Deaton, and Ronnie Lovellette. He played Little League baseball in the summer. He also was responsible for a small garden of his own, and raised rabbits, along with doing dishes, mowing, and shoveling snow. From the time that he was 6, through his senior year in high school, he would spend much of the summer at his grandparents' home in Wren, helping with milking a dozen cows, feeding chickens, and gathering eggs. When he was 10, he was allowed to drive the "B" John Deere tractor to help farm the 180 acres of land. His grandfather bought that "B" as a new tractor in 1951, and Billy still has it. While in high school at Monroeville, Billy played baseball (third base), basketball, and ran the hurdles in track for all four years. Billy graduated in 1960.

Backing up a little bit, in the fall of 1957, Billy was playing baseball with some friends, when some girls stopped to invite him to a party at Susie Scherer's home in Hoagland. He didn't know these girls, or Susie, so he said that Susie would have to invite him herself, if she wanted him to come to the party. The girls told Susie that she just had to meet this guy, so they rode their bicycles from Hoagland to Monroeville, and Susie invited him personally to her marshmallow roast. That was October 19, 1957. Susie's full name was Phyllis Sue Scherer, but she preferred to go by Susie. She was the same age as Billy, but attended Hoagland High School, and was a member at St. John's, Bingen. They continued to date throughout high school, and Billy took confirmation classes from Pastor Jacobs at Bingen. They were married at that church on February 23, 1962, and their reception was at Hessen Cassel during a huge snowstorm! After the reception, they drove Billy's '53 Ford to County Line Road 68 in Dekalb County to a housetrailer they had purchased. They moved in that night and lived there 5 years. Billy had gotten a job at Peter Eckrich and Sons in Ft. Wayne, first on the line, then later as a custodian. Their daughter, Lori, was born while they were living there.

After 5 years at Eckrich, Billy told Susie that he didn't want to work his entire life in a factory. He thought that he would like to try teaching. At that time, St. Francis college had the only 4-year program for teachers. It had been an all-girls college. When Billy inquired about attending there, they had 4 men. He would make #5. So, he quit his job at Eckrich and told Susie that there was no room for failure. They moved to Ft. Wayne and lived on Main Street. Their daughter, Toni, was born while they lived in Ft. Wayne. Billy graduated from St. Francis in 4 years with a B+ average (which he said was quite a bit better than the high school average that he enrolled with). While in college, Billy worked summers for Barkley Construction. His uncle, Bob Fritzing, also worked for them as a master cabinetmaker. Billy mostly worked with him and learned so much. At the time, he didn't appreciate how useful that talent would be, but he has used it often over the years and enjoys woodworking. Billy did his student teaching at Hoagland Elementary under Calvin Lee. He also accepted his first job at Hoagland Elementary. He stayed one year, then took a job at Washington Elementary in Ft. Wayne. He taught sixth grade there for nine years. During this time, he obtained his master's degree and was hired at Portage Middle School, again for sixth grade. He stayed there for 29 years, teaching all subjects related to sixth grade, but his favorite was developmental reading. During Billy's tenure at Portage, he implemented a "Bully Busting" program and served as a speaker for this program across the state. He was also honored as Educator of the Year in 2003-04. When most teachers begin a school year with a list of classroom rules, Billy began with a list of manners, such as saying please and thank you, I'm sorry, excuse me, etc. He told the students that if you mind your manners, we won't need rules.

In 1972, Billy and Susie bought a house and 80-acre farm at 3130 E. 1200 N-1 Monroeville, where Billy continues to live. Their son, Doug, was born after they moved there. Billy farmed the 80 acres with his John Deere tractor and enjoyed it. His son, Doug, does most of the farming now, but they still share some of the responsibilities. Also in 1972, Billy and Susie transferred their membership to our St. Peter Lutheran Church. He stated that he enjoys coming to church here and feels that he has a close personal relationship with Jesus.

Anyone who knows Billy Carpenter, knows that he spends his summers in Canada. The story of how that started is too long for this article but suffice it to say that Billy has been going to this very remote area since 1963. It is an 18-hour drive to get there, followed by an 18-mile boat trip. He lives at Fox Lodge on Fox Lake at Kipawa, Quebec. There is no electricity, no running water, and no phone service. There is a lake nearby that was carved into rock by glaciers. It is 1000 feet above the river, and you can drink directly from the lake. The island that he lives on is 440 acres of pristine forest. His cabin is the only building on the island. Billy and Susie originally did tent camping there for the first 30 years of their marriage. After that, they took over the lodge and have stayed there since. Billy has also built a bunkhouse there, which is two stories high and has three bedrooms. Guests have included Dale and Leanne Busick and their children; Matt and Pat Braun; Don and Rita Gerke; Duane and Karen Franz; the Ben Franz family, and Leroy and Pam Boerger. Billy has a sawmill there and can harvest trees that have blown down. He floats them down the river to the island, wenches them out of the lake, and takes them to the sawmill. If remote vacations are of interest to you, please ask Billy about his experiences!

Many of us at St. Peter knew both Billy and his wife Susie. Susie passed away on January 17, 2020. She was very active at St. Peter. As mentioned earlier, Billy and Susie have three children, Lori, Toni, and Doug. They have been blessed with 5 grandchildren. Our St. Peter congregation has been blessed to have Billy and Susie as members. Thank you, Billy, for sharing your story with us!

Respectfully,  
Kris Bischoff

