

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

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 5

Newsletter June 2023

---

*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 Saints in Christ,

At the time of writing we just finished up with several funerals. Blessed are those who die in the Lord! Though they are all different people with different family dynamics, they all have entered into the loving arms of their Lord and Savior. And we rejoice with them, **for to me to live is Christ and to die is gain**, as St. Paul says in Philippians. We are saddened in our mortal bodies at the death of our loved ones, but we rejoice, for they have put off the flesh and have put on Christ, they have gained immeasurable riches!

It really is a joy to proclaim this message every Lord's day, but also delivered to families during a funeral. It is a message which the world doesn't like. It is a message contrary to what the world says. No amount of science and technology, vaccine and medicine, elixir and tonic, can cure death. Only Christ is the cure.

Yet, society doesn't want to hear that. Society doesn't trust in that answer. They say that there is nothing after life. It's the end. But for Christians, for those in Christ, this simply isn't true. Christ was victorious precisely so that death wasn't the end; so death doesn't get the last word. Instead as St. Paul continues in his letter to the church at Philippi: **Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

This is the message the church proclaims boldly in the face of death. It isn't about relevance or felt needs. It is about Christ and His name. That is the message of the church. And it is a joy to be able to talk about it and preach it, especially in the face of death.

Thank you to the bereavement committee and the work that they have put in over the last several days for the many meals prepared for the families. Thank you to all who donated their time and talents making salads and desserts for the meals, I know the family appreciated it. Thank you also to Vickie for playing for the funerals. Thank you, also, to the cemetery committee for taking the time to make sure things were in proper order.

In Christ,

Pastor  
Easter 7, 2023

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOTE:** Jen Fuelling will be on vacation July 10-16<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Pastor Tanksley with any bulletin information or other concerns. Thanks!

**THE COMBINED JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**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!

**ST. PETER IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL** is searching for a teacher for their 3rd & 4th Grade classroom for the coming school year. Interested persons should contact Mr. Greg Becker, Principal, at 260-623-0297 or [principal@spilutheran.org](mailto:principal@spilutheran.org) regarding qualifications and a job description.

**SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP THEME for JUNE - "SAUCES":** During the months of May and June we will be collecting "Sauces" for the Seminary Food Co-op. Suggestions are but not limited to: ketchup, mustard, mayo, BBQ sauce, soy sauce, marinades, salad dressing, buffalo/wing sauce. Other items that are always in demand are breakfast cereal (excluding Chex) and tomato products. All your donations are greatly appreciated by the Seminary and are a great benefit to the students and their families. Many report that **75-85%** of their grocery needs are met at the Co-Op. Items can be placed in the gray and white bag at Church. Thank you for all your donations.

**LWML:** Please donate all your old bedsheets for our LWML Ladies to recycle into Cancer Pads for the Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana. Contact Marilyn Bulmahn, 260-919-5007, for pick-up.

---

### St. Peter Events in the Past

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

No events during June 1973

#### 100 Years Ago - Pastor Alfred H Moeller

Baptism 6-3-1923

Robert Albert Hugo Scherer  
Born 5-18-1923

Fa. Louis Scherer  
Mo. Pauline nee Boerger

Sponsors: Albert Scherer & Hugo Boerger  
(Robert A E Scherer died 3-29-1996; married LaVon Bauermeister)

#### 150 Years Ago - Pastor J Andreas Fritze

Marriage not recorded

Johann Nietenstein & Amanda Frank  
(Recorded at Adams County, Indiana Courthouse)

Married 6-12-1873

Submitted by Allen Franz



## Blessings to Those Celebrating in June

### June Birthdays

1	Charlotte Fuelling	15	Corey Wolfe
1	Sheryl Howard	17	Ryan Frederick
2	Casey Scherer	19	Don Gerke
3	Rebecca E. Fuelling	19	Dr. David Matthews
4	Elijah Franz	20	Austin Will
5	Caroline Tanksley	21	Nathan Sheneman
8	Emily Light	21	Jeff Hockemeyer
9	Brenda Scherer	22	Brenda Wolf
10	Morgun Werling	22	Joyce Gariepy
11	Katelyn Roe	24	Emersen Howard
14	Justin Ohler	25	Crew Braun
14	Hannah Myers	26	Jessica Penrod
15	Rhea Gratz	27	Jennifer Stump
15	Gregg Kukelhan	28	Doug Carpenter
15	Bruce Scherer	30	Rhonda Busick

### June Anniversaries

June 2, 1989  
Barry & Jackie Sanderson

June 5, 1981  
Barry & Denise Scherer

June 14, 1975  
Jim & Vickie Hammond

June 17, 1988  
Greg & Mary Light

June 19, 2010  
Trent & Catherine Hullinger

June 25, 1977  
Duane & Karen Franz

June 25, 1993  
David & Jane Linker

June 28, 1997  
Alex & Deanna Myers

June 28, 2014  
John & Nicole Gerardot



# June 2023

Altar Guild—Janice Mishler and Vickie Hammond

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>8</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 9:00am Divine Service; Bible Study	<i>12</i> 7:00pm SPI Board of Education Meeting	<i>13</i> 7:00pm Elders Meet	<i>14</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>15</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>16</i> <b>JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 9:00am Divine Service of Holy Communion ; Bible Study	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>22</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 9:00am Divine Service; Bible Study	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 10:00am Bible Study	<i>29</i> 9:00 am Quilting 9:30 Pastors' Study Group, at Bingen	<i>30</i>	

## **David N. Matthews, DDS, MS in preventive dentistry**

Dr. David N. Matthews is a lifelong member of our St. Peter Lutheran Church. He was born at Adams Hospital on June 19, 1949, which happened to be Father's Day that year. He would like to give a shout out to Don Gerke, who shares his June 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since he is the eldest child of James F. and Florence M. (Heuer) Matthews, his dad became a father on Father's Day. David's siblings include Karen, Lynn, and Kay. He was raised on the Heuer family farm, located on Road 000, where his niece, Kristin, now resides. James worked for the Erie Lackawanna railroad and also farmed. Florence was a homemaker. It was during his childhood helping with cows and pulling fence rows, that David realized a farming career was not for him.

David was baptized at St. Peter and attended grade school here. He was in Teacher Grotrian's last class of his teaching career. Classmates included John Fuelling, Bruce Scherer, Dan Wietfeldt, Dennis Boerger, LouAnn Fuelling, Cindy Fuelling, Angie Boerger, Mary Gerke, Jean Gresley, and Susie Kimberlin. He said that history has always been a favorite subject of his, and he played on the school basketball and baseball teams. David was confirmed at St. Peter and went on to Monmouth High School. His class there included 53 students, and they became the last graduating class of Monmouth. His extracurriculars included student manager of the basketball team, and he played on the high school baseball team, ran track, and played golf. David graduated in 1967.

David enrolled at IPFW for two years, then transferred to Purdue, West Lafayette to complete his BS degree in mechanical engineering. Graduating in 1971, he accepted a job in engineering at Tokheim and worked for one year before deciding that he didn't want to work for corporate America. His engineering job would have him transferred to other parts of the country, or certainly traveling much for meetings. He didn't want that. He wanted to keep his roots in Indiana. David's great grandfather Christianer was St. Peter's first trustee in 1845. David's great, great, great grandfather Bleeke helped found Immanuel Lutheran Church Union Township. So, in 1972, David enrolled at IPFW (again), this time in pre-dentistry classes for two years. Graduate school for one year was next. Then he was admitted to the IU School of Dentistry for four years, graduating in 1979. In 1981 he completed his graduate degree in preventive dentistry. Dr. Matthews purchased a dental practice in Ft. Wayne on March 17, 1980, and has been there for the past 43 years. He is currently in the process of selling that practice to a dentist who lives in Decatur.

While in dental school, David met Cynthia L. Molenda, a classmate. He describes Dr. Molenda as very intelligent, vivacious, and fun loving, with a kind heart. She opened an office in Carmel, IN and maintained a practice there for 20 years. During that time, she adopted a 4-week-old baby girl, Bess. After many years of an on again, off again relationship, David and Cynthia were married in April 2005 in the chapel of a South Bend nursing home, where her father resided. They had a second wedding ceremony in August of that year at St. Paul's in Ft. Wayne. Pastor Moehring officiated both. That same year, Dr. Matthews was the president of the Indiana Dental Association. Over the years, he has been the president of several local and state dental organizations. To our benefit, he has been the president of our St. Peter

congregation three times and has served as vice president three times. David is also a member of Gideon's International.

When asked about some of his favorites, he said that his favorite car was a copper colored 1972 GTO. Unfortunately, the malfunctioning exhaust system melted the taillights, and he had to sell it. His favorite vacation spots are always historically based. He and his wife travelled to Colonial Williamsburg, the Vanderbilt Mansion, The Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia, and to Greenbriar in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The Greenbriar has a bunker that was built during the Eisenhower administration, and it is large enough to hold all of Congress.

Sadly, Dr. Molenda developed COPD and a brain tumor. She spent the last six years of her life in a hospital bed in their home. Growing up, she attended Greek school, just as David attended Lutheran School. During the last two years of her life, she was ministered to by a Greek priest. Her heart began to wear out and she passed away on December 18, 2020. She is buried at Riverview Cemetery in South Bend, IN.

David has lived in Ft. Wayne on Hartman Road for the past 30+ years. He said that given his ancestors history with St. Peter and Immanuel congregations, David supports SPI school and its Spirit night auction. "Where would I be without my education?" "The Lord has blessed me greatly!"

Thank you, Dr. Matthews, for sharing your story with us, and for all that you do for our St. Peter congregation!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Bischoff