# 10:00 AM Holy Communion Service

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, Mar. 3rd</th>
<th>1st SUNDAY in LENT, Mar. 10th</th>
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<td><strong>9:45 AM German Hymn Sing</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Church Choir  &lt;br&gt;Sunday School</td>
<td><strong>Bell Choir</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<th>2nd SUNDAY in LENT, Mar. 17th</th>
<th>3rd SUNDAY in LENT, Mar. 24th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church Choir</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Sunday School</td>
<td><strong>Bell Choir</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Sunday School</td>
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| 4th SUNDAY in LENT, Mar. 31st |  
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Joshua 5:9-12  2 Corinthians 5:16-21 |  

**Church Choir**  <br>Sunday School

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**Easter Lilies**

We are asking everyone to consider purchasing one or more Easter lilies ($10.00 per plant) for use in our chancel area on Easter Sunday. You may pick up your plant(s) after 11:00 AM on Easter Sunday.

Osterliliien können jetzt für $10.00 für Ostersonntag bestellt werden um unsere Kirche für Ostern zu schmücken. Die Blumen können nach 11 Uhr Morgens am Oster- sonntag wieder mitgenommen.

**A sign up sheet is in the Narthex**
March 6, 2019

10:00 AM SERVICE

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I Don’t Pray

She shocked the circle of church members the evening she matter-of-factly announced, "I don't pray . . ." That it was the wife of the pastor who said it pestered the piety of the group all the more. The hand-holding circle of polished and pronounced prayers at the spring retreat may have been what did it to her, what zipped her lips, even more than her otherwise shy inclinations. One after another, words coupled and accumulated around the room, some gliding like monarchs among phlox, others as sirens tearing from full-throttled rescue vehicles. It was at the last when it seemed everything and anything that could be prayed for or about had been exhaled, that all eyes rested on her. All around the circle, expectant ears perked to hear her pray. Nervous to deliver a not-second-rate petition, something not already used up and amen-ed, and to disarm the charging silence, she hitched her rattling words onto the lengthening train of all the others. It was after that when she said, "I don't pray . . ."

What she hadn't said, but expected them to have understood, was "... out loud, in front of people. I don't pray out loud in front of others."

People pray, or they don't; we open our purses and lock boxes, or we don't; folks will fast, or they won't. Jesus knows that, and Jesus knows us—knows us well enough to have figured out that no amount of directing to do or not do will transform hearts or nudge souls into the kingdom of God. And so, as we begin the season of Lent, let us remember that Jesus—always more passionate about the spirit of righteousness than public approval, which is to say, more passionate about the blessedness of mercy than the performance of piety—invites us into heaven's compassionate justice, provoking and disquieting us with his immodest holy commotion for humility—all to welcome the treasure of our very own hearts.

March 10, 2019—FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Wilderness Encounter

The devil did not make him do it! No, it was not the Evil One who put Jesus on the path to the wilderness. Imagine the scene in this gospel story. Listen beyond the hissing sun and the howl of silence while you contend with this detail: It wasn't the devil's hand that tugged Jesus into the wilderness. No, it was not the diabolical villain of Eden's paradise nor the conniving accuser in Job's tragic saga that took him to taste loneliness and hunger. It was the Spirit! (Luke 4:1).

In a seemingly wretched epilogue to the grand scene by the river, Jesus, clean from the water of his baptism in the Jordan, goes to the wilderness. And yes, no surprise, in the wilderness the devil, the Great Deceiver, arrives with an unholy trinity of deceptions that offer nothing more to a hungry world than scraps that will not do. The Deceiver offers nothing more for empty lives than knock-off royal pedigrees that are cruel illusions, nothing more for unsteady nerves and faint hearts than a mockery of faith that bears no truth.

But the Spirit is there too, in this seemingly desolate place. There Jesus, the beloved Son, claims for himself more than name and ancestry; he reveals for us the holy work of God's mysterious Spirit. The same Spirit that descended on him at his baptism sustained him in the wilderness, and that very Spirit is wildly, graciously, proudly lose in the church and in the world today.

In our own wildernesses, where faith and doubt often collide, we can be sure that Jesus goes with us. The one who was led, accompanied, and followed by the Spirit in the wilderness surely does not abandon us to our doubts and fears. In places we are deeply afraid to go, Jesus waits for us with bread for the journey in his wounded hands.
THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is a story of the journey of the people of God. It is the story of us, or more appropriately “God with us”. During the season, we remember the ancient Hebrews’ journey from slavery in Egypt and a generation spent wandering in the wilderness. We also re-enact, in our own small ways, Jesus’ journey into the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil. The fast that many Christians commit to during Lent is a reflection of the 40 -day fast Jesus undertook during this time.

In the sacred time of Lent, we are the Hebrews—wandering in the desert, living in awareness of our dependence on God, and having our faith tested in uncertain times. In the sacred time of Lent, we are Jesus—alone in the wilds of the world, purifying ourselves through the discipline of fasting, and facing head-on the temptations of the world.

Lent is a journey, or a series of journeys, but what we often forget is the part that comes after the journey. The Hebrews weren’t just wandering through the wilderness; they were being prepared to be the people of God in their new land. Jesus wasn’t merely retreating to the desert; he was prepping for the start of his ministry.

In our own Lenten season, we turn inward, reflecting on our dependence on God’s grace. But the discipline of Lent are not the end of the journey. Through the four practices of Lent—repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving, and word of love—we turn inward so that we my turn outward, toward God and our neighbors. Marked by ashes at the start, we enter the 40 days of Lent with peni-tent hearts and awareness of our need for God’s mercy. Repentance and self-reflection are important practices, but it’s easy to stay here, forgetting that the season is about so much more than our won self-examination.

Martin Luther captured this well. Luther defined repentance in two ways: “Repentance … consists in contrition, and in the serious acknowledgment of sin, and in taking hold of the promise”’. And again: “There are two elements in true repentance: recognition of sin, and recognition of grace”’. Being marked by ashes, fasting, confession, and other penitent practices of Lent invite us to turn inward. But the spiritual practices of Lent also lead us to turn outward, ‘taking hold of the promise’ of God as we practice the other Lenten disciplines: sacrificial giving and works of love for our neighbors. It is the proclamation of this promise that concludes Jesus’ time in the wilderness: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18w19).

We are formed in the discipline of Lent to be church—together and for the sake of the world. After a generation in the wilderness, the Hebrews came to the promised land as a people consecrated by God to be a ‘a priestly kingdom and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6). After facing down temptation, Jesus returned to Galilee and declared the “good news” to the people (Luke 4:18). The journey is not the end of the story, for them or for us.

In Lent, we “take hold of the promise” of God’s grace together, knowing that the road does not end at Calvary but at an empty tomb—and the assurance of new life for us, for our neighbors and for all of God’s creation.
Be faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life!” Revelation 2:10

Our parish lifts in prayer to the Lord these families who last month experienced the death of a loved one.

CHRISTIAN HEINZELMAN, passed away January 1, 2019 and was given a Christian and Military burial at a later date. He is survived by his loving wife, Heidi, and his dear children Mark Heinzelman, Scott Heinzelman, Diana Morrison, Karen Keating, Lynn Keating and John Keating, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren as well as other family members.

ANTON BERING, JR. passed away on February 4, 2019. He was given a Christian burial on February 16th. He followed his dear mother, the late Rose Bering, into God’s heavenly realm. He is survived by his loving father, Anton, his dear sister Bianca, his grandmother Charlotte Klein as well as numerous other family members.

HERBERT WEIHS passed away on February 5, 2019. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 2nd at 11:00 am at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. Loving husband of Karin, he is survived by his dear children Ingrid (Robert) Ferguson and Paul (Kimberly) Weihs as well as 4 grandchildren and other family members.

“Our sorrow is one less at home with us, but greater than our sorrow is the joy that there is one more at home in heaven forever and for good.”
LENTEN FOCUS 2019

THE ALABASTER GIFT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING REHABILITATION CENTER
Rescue the Innocent—Restore Hope—Renew Life

Please donate with the enclosed envelope

Who we are-
Everyday people...just like you.

We are simply a group of people who have had our hearts broken for the injustices associated with human trafficking. The process started with a simple prayer group which grew into a movement reaching far beyond ourselves. We strongly believe that every life has value and that we are called to love, nurture, and care for each other as unique and beautiful individuals. We further believe that everyone has the basic right to live a life of freedom, wholeness and opportunities which are derived by such freedoms. We desire to create awareness, change, and hope in Michigan’s Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties concerning sexual and labor exploited women. The reality is we live in a society which promotes the exploitation of men, women and children for profit. Only through efforts put forth by our communities locally, as well as globally, will we be able to end the detestable demand for the exploitation of precious human beings. We are honored to partner with other anti-trafficking organizations locally and around the world to work to bring an end to human trafficking.

We accept and respect each individual’s beliefs and welcome women of any age, race and religion. The Alabaster Gift is a faith based organization that believes in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We are founded and directed by Christian principles; believing in freedom, restoration, reconciliation and peace.

What we do-
The Alabaster Gift is committed to nurturing women who are currently and/or who have previously been involved in sexual and labor exploitation. We desire to support them in living lives of purpose, value, and choice. We offer holistic renewal by means of restorative programs, personal relationships, and extensive resource opportunities as a service provider for exploited women. Additionally, The Alabaster Gift is dedicated to spreading awareness and education to schools, at risk people groups, businesses and the community around us. We regularly train law enforcement, counselors and the medical community to bring a new understanding about the nature of human trafficking and exploitation. We are honored to partner and support our governing bodies and other anti-trafficking organizations locally and globally to put an end to modern day slavery.
Educate Yourself-
The average American would not recognize a trafficked victim. Would you?

Attend a trafficking awareness training to learn the facts. Having basic knowledge of how human trafficking works and what to watch for makes the difference between a victim and a survivor.

Know the basics…

Watch for

- Signs of fear, withdrawn, or depressed.
- Has bruises, cuts, looks malnourished or drug/alcohol abuse.
- Is sexually exploited in strip clubs, spas, or pornography?
- Performs sexual acts as part of employment?
- Minor engaged in sex acts, “Dating” an older or controlling person?
- Has hotel keys, branding tattoos of names or symbols?
- A “handler”; a person who is in charge of someone, Guards or video cameras?

Questions to ask them?

- Are you being hurt, abused or drugged?
- Can you leave if you want to?
- Do you get to see your family and friends?
- Is someone keeping money from you?
- Do you control your money?
- Do you control what and when you eat?
- Are you fearful of your employer?
- Have you or someone you know been threatened?
- Are you allowed to have your own identification or travel documents?
Educate your business, employees or co-workers-
Awareness brings stability and safety to your business and the community around you. Let your patrons know you care about them and your neighborhood.
Do you own or manage a business? You may have trafficked victims coming through your doors and not even know it. Hold a training for your employees to educate them on how to recognize a victim, what to do and/or what to say.
Does your employer know about human trafficking? Encourage your manager to hold a training for their employees about human trafficking. Contact us to schedule an awareness training today.

Educate your school-
Do you know that the target age a trafficker looks for is a 12yr old? That is a 7th grader. Bring awareness to your school. Educate teachers, counselors and kids on what to watch for and simple ways on how they can recognize a trafficker. Help your faculty to protect your children and help your children protect themselves and their friends by knowing the signs.

Educate your Community-
When a community comes together change can happen. Awareness is the key to prevention! Let traffickers know that your community is educated and aware of human trafficking. Contact us to host a community awareness evening at your local town hall, community club house or the favorite coffee spot...get the word out and educate your neighborhood.

What about Michigan?

* Michigan has the one of the highest rates of child trafficking as well as one of the highest overall rates for all human trafficking in the nation.

* Michigan’s proximity to the Canadian border and waterways increases likelihood of trafficking in the state.

* Michigan has had cases of traffickers prostituting minors to Michigan truck stops and then over to hotels in Toledo.
Thank you to everyone who participates and shops at Kroger

If you do not already do so, please consider shopping at Kroger and obtaining a Kroger Card. Register your card online by following the steps below and St. Peter will receive a percentage of your purchases. If you do not have computer access, ask your children to register your card.

By creating an account online you will be able to:
1) track your fuel points to be redeemed at a Kroger or Shell gas station (one is conveniently located on the corner of Schoenherr & 14 Mile Rd; you can gas up on your way to and from church)
2) download coupons directly to your Kroger card
3) Receive Kroger coupons in the mail
4) see the weekly ads

St. Peter’s has been assigned NPO number QS769

TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:
- Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com
- Have your Kroger Plus card ready
- Click on Sign In/Register (create account)
- If you are a new online customer, click on SIGN UP TODAY in the “New Customer?” box
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number
- Update or confirm your information
- Enter NPO number or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization’s name of the right side of your information page
- **REMEMBER, purchases will not count for our group until after you register your card**
- Do you use your phone number at the register & don’t have/lost your card? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number
- You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your card for each purchase to count.

Ask your children and grandchildren to register their cards also. For questions or help please contact Larry Kracker.
Due to the inclement weather the Seniors did not meet in the month of February. The safety of our members is our top priority always.

The first meeting in March is on the 6th—Ash Wednesday. The day will begin with a 10:00 AM Ash Wednesday Service where everyone is invited to attend. The regular meeting will start at 11:00 AM as usual.

Future plans are as follows:

- March 20: meeting
- April 10: Easter Party
- April 24: meeting
- May 8: Mother’s Day Celebration
- May 22: meeting
- June 5: meeting
- June 19: Picnic

We look forward to seeing everyone again on March 6th!

Astrid Campbell

GOD BLESS MY SENIOR MOMENTS

By Karen O’Connor

Instant coffee or ground flax?
That was close. If I hadn’t paused to read the label, I’d have used the wrong jar.
Thank you, God, for telling me to slow down before it was too late.

Good catch, Lord!
You flagged me before I inserted my Target card into the ATM slot.

Thank you, Lord,
For reminding me to pick up the book I just bought to help me with memory loss.

Heavenly Father,
Lead me in the way I need to go when it comes to hearing the pain and hurt in another person’s life.
Give me the wisdom and patience to listen instead of barreling ahead with my woes.
**ANNIVERSARIES**

**MARCH:**

Mr & Mrs Gordon Koivu 20

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**In Nursing Home—In Care Facility:**

- Boehm, Eva
- Pridoehl, Hannelore
- Wachner, Elsa

**At Home:**

- Heinzelman, Heidi
- Klein, Charlotte
- Kraemer, Feli
- Mohr, Elisabeth

Cheer someone up by giving them a friendly call!

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**MARCH:**

- Arthur Adam 4
- Norman Jones 6
- Gerhard Weiss 11
- Larry Kracker 15
- Ernest Wachner 26
- Feli Kraemer 26
- Anita Weiss 27
- Walter Holderbaum 27

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**GERMAN Hymn Sing!**

*First Sunday of every month at 9:45 am.*

*Come sing your favorite German hymns.*

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**Raise Your Voice**

Join the Choir!
Every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, the children of the parish join in the early service through the Children’s Sermon. They are then excused to Luther Hall with their teacher for their lesson based on the Sunday lectionary used in worship.

Remember to talk to your children about the marvelous things they learned and did at Sunday School. You will see what a good time they have when they come!

Help our children meet their faithful Sunday School attendance!
Everyone enjoys the fellowship of our coffee hours after the services.

Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a cake OR won’t you please consider hosting the Coffee Hour one Sunday morning, perhaps to celebrate a birthday or anniversary?

Please let the office, 586-979-3850, or Herta Benesch know if you plan on hosting a particular Sunday.

Thank you!

Dear God,

I think you’d be proud of me! So far today I’ve done all right. I haven’t gossiped, lusted, lost my temper, or been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or overindulgent. I’m very thankful for that.

In a few minutes, though, I’m going to get out of bed. From then on I’m probably going to need a lot of help. Amen.

Respectfully, Rosi Kuhlmann

(586) 792-9080

March

3 George Cherian
6 Maria Leprich—Ash Wednesday
10 Monica Tohiman
17 Blondine Klimach
24 Adele Reinke
31 Danielle Dusza

Almighty and everlasting God, prepare our hearts this Lenten season, and lead us to repentance for our sins. Thank you for forgiving our sins through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the spotless Lamb who was slain that we might have life. Amen.

MARCH:

NO FLOWERS DURING LENT

MARCH

3 Ingrid Gablowski
10 Ulrich Wiedmann
17 John Benesch
24 Ingrid Gablowski
31 Ulrich Wiedmann

The Readers for March are as follows: