

# Faith Family Ministry Update

## October 2020

Greetings Faith Family,

You are an amazing faith family and I thank God for the honor to serve you. The trials of the shutdown was some of the most stressful times in my life as a pastor. The way ministry changed, none of us had been ready, but God had prepared us. God provided for the ministry through a variety of ways to reach out with the Gospel and the sharing of the Lord's Supper in many ways.

Today, we are coming back stronger than many other churches. We average 260 to 290 in-person worship every weekend. We reach between 800 and 1200 people every weekend through the variety of online options. We average 400 a week for Monday through Thursday online Bible Study. The church is alive!

Included in the packet of info is our Elders page that shows official acts for the church. We have been blessed with Confirmation of our students the entire summer with special worship services. We had baptisms take place, marriages, and transfers in. We have others who are worshipping waiting to join the church. God is good and God has given us a great faith family!

Some have wondered about worship attendance:

- Saturday 4 pm outside 80-140 each week
- Saturday 6 pm 25-50 each week
- Sunday 8 am 45-70 each week
- Sunday 9:45 am 30-50 each week
- Sunday 11 am 15 to 80 each week

(If you desire a place to sit behind a clear barrier we have that in the back pew or the balcony has only the sound and video people up there)

The month of October is opening up a few things as well:

- Sunday School is open 9:30 (meets in church lower level)
- Midweek Wednesday 6:00-6:45 pm (meets in church lower level)
- Large Print Bible Ministry
- Euchre Cards on Monday's
- Open up for quilters if needed
- Youth activities taking place
- Bible Study on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM in the church
- Bible Study on Thursday's at 10 am in the church
- Men's Bible Study in the church on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- If you have a need to meet – please contact me so we can get your group back up and running. The church is alive, doing well and growing and for this I thank God and I thank God for you. As plans are moving forward here is the continued worship plans through November 22:
- Saturday 4 pm outdoor (will go as long as we can outside) When we have to move inside the plan is to keep the 4 pm but in the church. We are in the process of testing our radio broadcaster so that those who still want to worship via the car will be able to even though

we have moved into the church. I understand that some are not ready to worship inside and so I am trying to make sure everyone is able to worship. Once we move inside, if you are in your car there will be a designated parking place so that we can bring the order of worship to you and communion as well.

- Saturday 6 pm inside
- Sunday 8 am inside
- Sunday 9:45 inside (praise team led)
- Sunday 11:00 inside with added congregational singing and similar to 6 am and 8 am

### **Upcoming Worship**

- Thanksgiving Eve at 7 pm
- Advent Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16 with two services 3 pm and 7 pm
- Christmas Eve (see survey)

### **Other**

- Cards to 5 nursing homes (around 200), Cards to Care Center Workers for both Richmond Care Centers (About 80), Collected 88 cards for Police and their families, currently collecting for Ems and Fire.
- Took Meals to Police and Ems with plans for Fire Department in Richmond
- Plans to update monthly via mailings
- Not ready to hand out bulletins each week
- Need for additional ushers at all services
- If you need communion – just ask. Will communion in church, at your home, in your car when driving by. Here to serve you!
- Paper recycle bins – the company one day picked them up and at this point they are not able to service our area with small bins. We are trying to locate a new company to assist with providing a bin.
- Please fill out the worship survey in the packet and return. This will assist the Elders with a plan for Christmas Eve and to ensure everything is being done to the best we can for meeting the worship needs of our faith family.
- Trunk or Treat following the 11 am service on Sunday Oct. 25. Kids can wear their costume to church or change after church. We need your help passing out candy to the kids. We are asking that you wear gloves and mask (If possible) to hand out candy. Let's make this a great time for the kids!
- Please note that any function outside of worship you will need to fill out a participate waiver per insurance guidelines and The Elders.

Thanks for being patient and understanding during this time. There is no handbook on what to do or how to do things. Some of the things went well and some have been a learning curve. I am striving to do my best with the talents God has given to you. I am not perfect except through God's grace. I am blest to be part of this understanding, loving, forgiving and encouraging faith family!

If I can do anything or if you need additional information, call me!  
Pastor Mark Haller (586-859-1947)

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## **Chairman News – Ed Maedel**

Dear members of St. Peter's,

2020 will go down as a year like no other. Politics, corona and civil unrest have shaken society. In spite of all the obstacles the members of St. Peter's have supported the ministry and kept it strong.

Members as well as the community have utilized our streaming services and online financial support has increased substantially. We have found ways to stay engaged with our members while continuing to reach out to grow.

We have had to cancel our usual voters meeting due to restrictions on gathering size. We are working to try to assembly a congregation meeting before the end of the year that will share a review the year's activities, proposals for future action and a budget for 2021.

I am very proud of the efforts of our leadership and the members of St. Peter's during this very difficult year. All of us need to keep up the good work. Please continue to pray for our leadership and for ways you can help grow the ministry.

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## **Financial Summary – Vern Houston**

It seems we continue to repeat the same message but what a positive message. We are current with all our bills. Through the continued giving by our congregation, we have come through the summer with the best financial condition we have had for many years. There are two items that need our attention; reduction of mortgage and bringing staff up to district standards. If the commitment to reducing the mortgage continues, we will be under \$800,000 by the end of year. It is presently being studied as to what it will take to bring us to Michigan District Scale for our staff. Your financial team continues to work to provide the best financial information for important decisions that are made.

<b>ST PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>					
<b>OFFERING SUMMARY</b>					
<b>FOR SEPTEMBER 2020</b>					
	<b>SEP 5/6th</b>	<b>SEP 12/13TH</b>	<b>SEP 19/20TH</b>	<b>SEP 26/27TH</b>	<b>SEP TOTALS</b>
<b>GENERAL (Minimum NEEDED PER WEEK for General Giving)</b>	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 48,000.00
<b>OFFERINGS :</b>					
GENERAL GIVING	\$ 12,955.72	\$ 11,698.62	\$ 13,773.06	\$ 10,320.30	\$ 48,747.70
MORTGAGE	\$ 1,322.00	\$ 1,070.00	\$ 836.00	\$ 936.00	\$ 4,164.00
MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL	\$ 565.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 370.00	\$ 1,215.00
<b>WEEKLY TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$14,842.72	\$ 12,988.62	\$ 14,669.06	\$ 11,626.30	\$ 54,126.70
<b>***OTHER OFFERINGS DESIGNATED TO SPECIAL FUNDS NOT LISTED</b>					

### **(Thought from Pastor)**

During the earlier months of shutdown many of our giving weeks had been \$14,000-\$18,000 to the general fund. This allowed for us to catch up on all bills, keep the mortgage current. As a faith family we showed that we are capable of doing more than the \$12,000 a week. Ponder this: If every one of us gives at the ability we can this will enable the ministry to pay the mortgage down faster, be equipped to do more ministry and protect this ministry for generations to come. So I ask you to look in your heart, spend time in prayer and seek God to lead you in your giving of your tithe/offering. Please know this that we have done well together but I believe we are capable as faith family to do more. If we join together and give our first fruits to the Lord I know God will enable us to do measurable more to enhance spreading the Gospel for today and for generations to come. May God bless every penny that we give to Him for His ministry!

**Mortgage Update:** When I arrived nearly 6 years ago the mortgage was just under \$1,500,000 and today as of September 30 our mortgage was at \$818,000. At the beginning of 2020 the mortgage was at \$908,000. Together we are making a difference and thank you!

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### **School Update**

The staff and students at St. Peter's are so glad to be back! We have all missed each other so much and are grateful to be together again.

- We are all adjusting well to the new routines and look forward to being here each day.
- We are blessed to have a "sneeze guard" for the desk of every student in the school
- The students are doing a great job with all of our new safety protocols in place.
- We have 58 students from Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year, including 11 new families! Which is up from last year! Praise God!
- We had many inquiries and took as many new children as space allowed; if we had one more teacher we could have had many more new students.
- The children are enjoying extracurricular activities, such as Cross Country, Robotics, Lego Robotics, Running Club, and Hand bells.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support, we appreciate each and every one of you so much!

You're School Ministry Staff is thankful to all of you!

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## Youth News

- Daily devotions are sent via email each day for all of our youth and their families, day school and their families, as well as anyone else who has requested to be on the daily devotional email list. If you would like to sign up for these daily devotions email Amanda Francek at [afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org](mailto:afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org).
- Sunday School (pre-school through high school) began on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School is every Sunday from 9:45 – 10:30 am in the lower level of the church. Contact Amanda Francek at [afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org](mailto:afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org) to register your child.
- Midweek confirmation classes (3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) began on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Classes are held every Wednesday from 6:00 – 6:45 pm in the lower level of the church. Contact Amanda Francek at [afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org](mailto:afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org) to register your child.
- Our High School Youth 2021 Mission Trip will be to Appalachia (Kentucky) in the summer of 2021. The youth will be using their talents and abilities to serve the people of Appalachia in a variety of ways, and to share the Gospel. If you have a high school aged youth who is interested in being part of this mission trip, please contact Amanda Francek at [afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org](mailto:afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org).
- To stay up to date on youth activities and happenings, email [afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org](mailto:afrancek@splschoolorichmond.org) to request to be put on the youth mailing group.

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## Adult Ministry Update

I am happy to report that we have started our Adult Bible Studies.

The **Men's Saturday study** met for the first time on Saturday, September 12.

They started their regular Bible study schedule of meeting on the first and third Saturdays on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. They meet at 8:30 am in the church.

The **Thursday Adult Bible study** began meeting on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Their Bible study begins at 10 am and meets every Thursday in the church.

**All are invited to attend these studies.**

I continue emailing a **Devotional Thought** each week day. If you are interested in receiving the devotion please email me at [jsummers@splschoolorichmond.org](mailto:jsummers@splschoolorichmond.org). Or call me at 586-808-3939.

I currently email 72 devotions each day and mail the devotions to 9 members each week.

I will be teaching **7<sup>th</sup> grade public school confirmation**. Class begins on Wednesday, October 7, with the Ten Commandments.

**Nursing Homes:** Cards were delivered to our area nursing home residents and caregivers. Thank you for your support of this activity.

Looking forward to the time I will be able to visit the nursing homes and doing chapel services with the residents.

John Summers

Adult Ministry

# 2021 Property Goals

## **CHURCH**

Bids for New Roof  
Replace carpet in Sanctuary  
Cleaning of wood and tile floor  
Resealing Balcony wood floor and pews  
Air conditioning

## **CHURCH OUTSIDE**

Caulk large separation of sidewalks  
Replace old sidewalks with snow melt system  
Replace paver and install a snow melt system  
Fix leak in heated step on north side  
Address area between sidewalk and building on the south side  
Lawn Irrigation

## **CHURCH and OFFICES**

Handicap accessibility to all three levels

## **SCHOOL OFFICES AND SCHOOL**

Summer cleaning  
Roof maintains on 2002 Addition  
Heat Pumps System for heating and cooling in the 1975 Addition

## **GYM / KITCHEN**

Gym Floor resurfacing  
Cleaning of chairs and tables  
Power jack for bleacher  
Kitchen cleaning

## **ADDITIONAL UPDATES NEEDED**

Hot water heater  
Flower Bed Cleaning  
Tree's to be trim  
Parking lot repairs  
Future desires of space

# WORSHIP SURVEY FOR PLANNING

## (WE NEED EVERYONE'S FEEDBACK)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (One sheet per family is enough)

Are you worshipping (Please circle the main one): **In-person or Online**

Online: please share how I can minister to your family: \_\_\_\_\_

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In-Person (Please circle the services you attend)

**Sat. 4 pm, Sat. 6 pm, Sun 8 am, Sun 9:45 am, Sun 11 am**

If you are not worshipping in person yet would you share why or if there is a different need that we are not meeting yet?

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\*If you are not worshipping in-person please know that I am willing to bring communion to you, meet you privately in church or even through your car window. Just let me know

Other thoughts regarding worship opportunities? (Please share on back of sheet)

### PLANNING CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Is your family planning to come to (Circle one or both) **Christmas Eve/Christmas Day**

Which Christmas Eve service are you most likely to attend: 4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm, 10 pm

How many people would typically come with you? \_\_\_\_\_

### Bible Study

Monday through Thursday I do a Bible Study online at 9 am but can be watched later

Are you coming to an in-person Bible Study? **yes/no**

Would you like a livestream study where we mail/email you the study each week to follow?

If I lead a Bible Study in the church on Monday would you come? **yes/no**

(More on back)

**(Please either bring back with you, place in offering plate, mail in or email back to [mhaller@splschoolorichmond.org](mailto:mhaller@splschoolorichmond.org))**

If I can do anything for you, please call me on my cell 586-859-1947

Thanks for being part of the faith family!

Pastor Mark Haller

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(Other Remarks/Ideas about Worship of Bible Study)



**FREE 4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ALL  
FAMILIES QUALIFY REGARDLESS OF INCOME**

**CALL 586-248-4949 for more information!**

- All Families Qualify for this preschool program!!!!
- Classes are Monday thru Thursday 8:00-2:30pm
  - Snacks and Lunches Provided!
  - Creative Curriculum/Teacher & Child Directed Activities · Large Classroom Filled with Fun Learning Activities · Educated and Caring Staff
- Applications are now available
- Classes Begin on October 12<sup>th</sup>

**Located in St. Peter's Lutheran Church and School**

67055 Gratiot Ave., Richmond, MI 48062 | (586) 248-4949