

The Fisherman

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church



April 2024



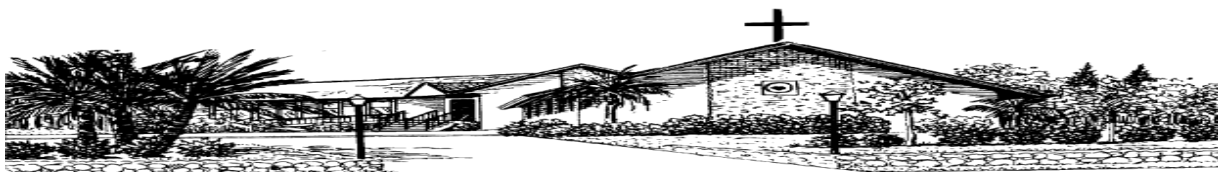
St. Peter Lutheran Church ELCA

PO Box 07310

Fort Myers, FL 33919

(239) 463-4251

Email: Stpeterfmb@gmail.com



STAFF

Pastor – Rev. Bill Stehr (941)266-3377

Office Administrator – Trudy Archer

Organist/Choir Director – Jim Kreger
Digital Ministry Coordinator – Deacon Lisa Miller

WEBSITE: www.stpeterfmb.com

Facebook – [St. Peter Lutheran ELCA, Fort Myers Beach](#)

YouTube – [St Peter Lutheran Church Ft Myers Beach](#)

Go to the website and click the YouTube icon.

OFFICE INFORMATION **Please keep us informed** if you move, change your phone number or email address! We want to let you know what's going on here, so being able to reach you is important!

EITHER E-MAIL OR SEND TO OUR PO BOX

stpeterfmb@gmail.com

St. Peter ELCA
PO Box 07310
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Please make sure to use the new address!

Our QR Code – Scan to make a donation!



We are back at Fort Myers Beach!
Sunday morning - 9:00 AM
Pastor Bill Stehr has been
a blessing for us all with messages of hope and strength.

Remember – ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Pets also!

Tell everyone!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE – ASK AN USHER

**This year our cover theme will be Florida wildlife
This month is the Sandhill Crane**

Sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis*) are long-legged, long-necked, gray, heron-like birds with a patch of bald, red skin on top of their head. Cranes fly with necks outstretched like geese, whereas herons fly with necks tucked in on their backs. For positive identification, look for reddish skin on top of the crane's head.

The Florida sandhill crane can reach a height of 47.2 inches (120 centimeters) with a wingspan around 78.7 inches (200 centimeters) (Nesbitt 1996). This species is gray with a long neck and legs, and a bald spot of red skin on the top of its head. The sandhill crane is unique in flight as it can be seen flying with its neck stretched out completely.

Florida sandhill cranes inhabit freshwater marshes, prairies, and pastures. They occur throughout peninsular Florida north to the Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia; however, they are less common at the northernmost and southernmost portions of this range. Florida's Kissimmee and Desoto prairie regions are home to the state's most abundant populations,



From the Worship and Music Committee

MARTIN LUTHER QUOTES



"True humility does not know it is humble. If it did, it would be proud from the contemplation of fine a virtue."



so

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"All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired."

W.E.L.C.A. Anne Myrtle Circle

Hebrews 13:8

*"Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever".*

W.E.L.C.A. is in the process of discerning what God has in store for us. We are open to ideas and welcome your prayers for the future. See Diane Allen or Marilyn Torstveit if you have any questions or thoughts.

\* \* \* \* \*

Open hands



Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”

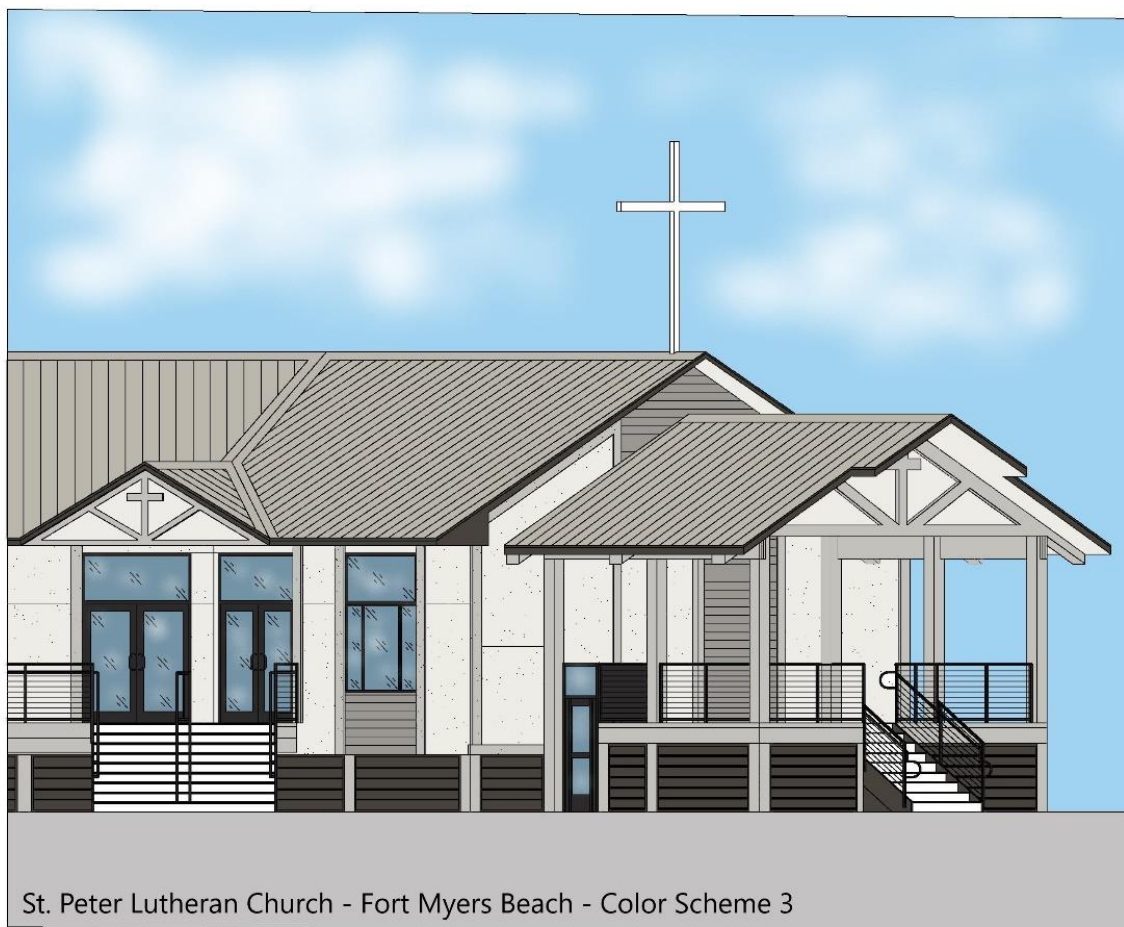


# UPDATES ON THE BUILDING

**From this --**



**To this**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul shares a list of nine characteristics that come to fruition in the lives of Christians when they are full of the Spirit of God. He focuses on how God's Spirit gives us the power to serve others in love and suggests that we must allow the Holy Spirit to lead us. Please note that in verses 22-23 patience is one of these virtues.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

It has been almost 18 months since Hurricane Ian crashed ashore at Ft. Myers Beach and ravished our little piece of paradise. During this time, we have had to exhibit an abundance of patience. But God is good all the time and I write to you with some exciting updates regarding the progress at St. Peter.

- With the assistance of Keys Claims Consultants, Council settled with Citizen's Insurance to close the wind claim. This resulted in an additional \$94,100 for St. Peter above the original settlement offer of \$182,819.82 which is an approximate 51% larger settlement after fees. The check has been received and deposited into our account.
- A contract has been executed with Valco Contracting, LLC, a general contractor, to begin the process of the repair and rebuilding. The repair of the flooring in the sanctuary has already begun and plumbers will start by the end of the week.

- The cross from Lua Hall was salvaged during demolition and will be installed at the top of the sanctuary building. Engineering details have been completed and the structural framing and stainless brackets are being purchased and fabricated. We are hoping that the cross will be a beacon of hope from its new location in a short two weeks.
- A contract with GSD Construction Services, LLC has been signed for a new metal roof. Materials are being ordered and the tear off and dry-in should be started within two weeks.
- An electrical permit should be issued any day and power will soon be restored to the building.
- A completed set of construction/permit drawings for the renovations to the St. Peters Lutheran Sanctuary have been finished. This includes plumbing and electrical drawings for updating the restrooms for ADA compliance, the engineering for the cross, new stairways and ramps to access the building, a new lift for wheelchair accessibility and a redesigned entranceway to replace the old breezeway.
- Council has voted to purchase a new 12x16 shed to replace the one lost. This will allow the storage of furniture, materials, etc. during construction and into the future.
- We continue with the assistance of Pastor Stehr to successfully hold regular Sunday service under the tent. This has been well received and attended with an average weekly attendance of over 75 people.

We understand that exhibiting patience can be difficult. Thank you for your patience and for the trust you have placed in the hands of the council. Let’s continue to celebrate all the things God has bestowed on St. Peter and pray for the future of St. Peter and Fort Myers Beach.

In service,  
Dr. Jason Kurtz, Council President



## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Jason Kurtz, Arlene Burm, Jana Clevenger, Jim Look, Doug Eckmann, Trudy Archer, Pastor Bill Stehr. Absent: Mark Venturin, Courtney Eckmann.

A motion was made by Arlene and seconded by Jana to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed.

Opening devotions and prayer by Pastor Stehr.

A motion was made by Jana and seconded by Jim to approve the January 18, 2024 council minutes. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Jana and seconded by Jim to accept the December 31, 2023, treasurer's report. Motion passed. A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Jana to accept the January 31, 2024, treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Mutual Ministry: Mark has been our liaison to this committee but because of his involvement with property and maintenance he would like someone else to resume this committee. Doug will ask Courtney if she would be willing to be the liaison.

Social Ministry: WELCA collected over 60 cans of soup on Super Bowl Sunday to be brought to the Baptist church for distribution to the needy.

Old Business:

Paper work is almost finished to turn in for permits.

Demolition of Lau Hall is complete at a cost of \$51,201 by PAWS.

Work Day has been rescheduled for February 24, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Keys Claims Update: Citizens has offered \$100,000 more on our insurance claim but we will continue to hold off for more money.

Worship: Since it is difficult to hear the music by the keyboardist we will look into obtaining a small speaker by the keyboard to help. Comic has been rescheduled for Feb. 25 because of predicted rain.

Shed quotes: Jim Look will continue to look into obtaining a shed for storage so that we do not have to keep paying rent on the pod.

New Business:

Recap of Feb 10 meeting with Pastor El-Yateem and representatives for Chapel-By-the-Sea: We felt that from our perspective the meeting was beneficial in order to express our feelings about a joint venture. Chapel has not made any decisions yet and will be meeting on Feb. 25 to get input from Chapel members. We will meet again on March 12 at 4:30 to get their input on going forward. Malana Scrubbs is their liaison.

Discussion ensued about moving forward with the rebuild of St. Peter. Estimated costs were looked at and because we are within the FEMA guidelines we will proceed with the projects as soon as the permits are issued.

A motion was made by Doug and seconded by Jana to issue a 25% deposit of \$38,755 to Valco construction. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Doug and seconded by Jana to authorize GSD Roofing for a new metal roof not to exceed \$100,000.. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Arlene to authorize Haines for new HVAC system not to exceed \$52,000. Motion passed.

Pastor will check with Pastor El-Yateem to see if the synod can help us with any of the expenses.

A motion was made by Arlene and seconded by Jana to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Motion passed.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next scheduled meeting will be March 21, 2024 at Arlene's house.

Arlene Burm, Secretary

## **April Birthdays and Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

*4/3 John Torstveit*

*4/13 Mary Anne Maiser*

*4/4 Virginia Hunt*

*Fran Nielsen*

*Owen Kurtz*

*4/15 Becky Grothe*

*4/7 Fred Keeton*

*4/16 Bob Stenerson*

*4/8 Paul Grothe*

*4/23 Tom Magley*

*4/12 Arlene Burm*

*4/27 Yvonne Mayberry*

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

*4/1 John & Candy Palmer*

*4/6 Scott & Charlene Grabow*



"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good,  
but that God will make us good because He loves us."

C. S. Lewis





### **Our Prayer List**

Adler, Joy, Karen, John Jr., Barbara, Ernie, Linda, Jack & Shirley, Kim, Michelle, Andrea, Jim, Bill & Maloa, Miranda, Nancy, Marilyn, Bruce & Diane, Larry, Scott, Debbie and Ryan, Paul and Debbie, Alexis, Liz & Mark, Jim & Carol, Jack, Peggy, Sam, Brooker, Cherie, Karen, Bob, Ron, Lorrie, Linnea, Ed, Pat, Travis, Joe, Jennifer, Tim, Louis, John, Dale, Noah, Beth, Rachel, Andi, Mano, Mary Anne, Christine and Raye family and our family serving in the military – Marshall and Robert. We pray also for all those still struggling after Hurricane Ian. We pray for all those affected by conflict throughout the world.



## **2024 – CHURCH OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT..... Dr. Jason Kurtz**

**VICE PRESIDENT.....Mark Venturin**

**SECRETARY .....Arlene Burm**

**TREASURER.....Doug Eckmann**

**MEMBERS:**

**Jana Clevenger – Jim Look – Courtney Eckmann**

**You can still call the church office at 239-463-4251!**

**It rings to Trudy's cell phone!**



**Faith is taking a step in  
the same direction that  
the evidence is pointing.**

Lee Strobel