



Praise on the Prairie

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
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Prairietown, Illinois

Oliver LaMie, Pastor Melissa Burns, Principal
Youth & Adult Bible Class 9 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m. Sundays

Volume 3
Issue 5
May 2026



MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR

Dear St. Peter's,

The Bible says far more about being a good child for your parents than being a good parent for your children. This is no accident. If you're wondering how to parent, the first and most important way is by example. Instead of making your child into who you want to be, as so many do, you instead need to be the adult that you want your child to grow into. Your parenting will excel, then, if your children take your example and honor you, their father or mother, as you do for your parents. Know that your role towards your children is to raise them up into faithful, competent Christian adults who can function in their God-given roles and do good work for their neighbor - primarily their spouse, their parents (you), and their children.

Again, it's no accident, and no mere coincidence that God gave us the fourth commandment as the first commandment dealing with other people. Those of you who grew up with the 1948 edition Small Catechism learned this version, which St. Paul emphasizes in Ephesians 6:1-3: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."* God promises blessings to all who honor their parents. In the Large Catechism, Luther says: *"honor includes not only love, but also modesty, humility, and submission to a majesty hidden in them... For someone we honor from the heart we must also truly regard as high and great. We must, therefore, impress this truth upon the young [Deuteronomy 6:7] that they should think of their parents as standing in God's place. They should remember that however lowly, poor, frail, and strange their parents may be, nevertheless, they are the father and mother given to them by God. Parents are not to be deprived of their honor because of their conduct or their failings. Therefore, we are not to consider who they are or how they may be, but the will of God, who has created and ordained parenthood."*

Our call is to honor, but what exactly do we mean by that? We are called to love, honor, and respect others. To simplify it, we love the person as one created in God's image, we honor their God-given role, we respect their work as one through whom God works. We *SHOULD* do all three, but keeping these distinct is helpful. You might have a hard time loving someone – do it anyway. You might have a hard time respecting their work – in fairness, perhaps they're choosing to do evil with their life. But even for the worst of people, we can honor their role, the vocation that God has given them. The first and greatest of these are the role of father and mother. Even parents who are thoroughly evil you can honor by sacrificial love. You provide physical care for them when they need it. You live in such a way that a wise person would say, "you must have been raised right," even if you weren't, or your parents aren't around anymore. Our Heavenly Father, who is more a Father to us than any man, is fully good – let us honor Him by honoring those He used to bless us with life.

Peace to you in Christ,

- Pastor LaMie



Sun. May 3
 10:00 AM
 Elder: Don Wiemers
 Greeter: Norma Krohne
 Organist: Jim Wiemers

Sun. May 24
 10:00 AM
 Elder: Keith Toenyes
 Greeter: Keith & Amy Toenyes
 Organist: Jim Wiemers

Sun. May, 10
 10:00 AM
 Elder: Jerry Scheumann
 Greeter: Craig & Colleen Eden
 Organist: Jim Wiemers

Sun. May 31
 10:00 AM
 Elder: Jerry Scheumann
 Greeter: Gary & Missy Burns
 Organist: Jim Wiemers

Sun. May 17
 10:00 AM
 Elder: Gary Burns
 Greeter: Virginia Renfrow
 Organist: Jim Wiemers

THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS

Communion: Deanna Robertson
 Flowers: Emily Gusewelle
 Ushers: Bob Horton, Tim Cooper, Virginia Renfrow



CHURCH BUSINESS

April Attendance & Financial Report

DATE	ATTENDEES	HOME	MISSION	BUILDING FUND	TUITION	METRO EAST
04/05	117	\$5895.00	\$330.00	\$200.00	\$505.00	-
04/12	49	\$1643.00	\$45.00	-	\$75.00	\$100.00
04/19	67	\$3994.00	\$15.00	\$140.00	\$922.93	-
04/26	56	\$852.00	\$120.00	-	\$505.00	-



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

Ladies Aid meeting was called to order by President Virginia Renfrow. Roll call was taken with 11 members present. Secretary & treasurer reports were read and approved. Card committee: no cards sent, Entertainment committee: we played an Easter bingo game; Human Care Committee: Beverly Farms. Old business: discussion was held on the Salad Luncheon regarding setup & decorating the tables. Maxine

volunteered to donate the table paper. Flowers will be put on the tables. Birthday party for Jean will be held on June 17 at the 140 club in Bethalto at 11:30. New business: None. Birthday song was sung for Barb and Norma Krohne. Jean was hostess and Marie will be hostess in May. Meeting adjourned. Norma Krohne, Secretary



The voter's meeting was held on April 14, 2026. There were 17 members present. Pastor led us in devotion and a prayer. The Secretary's Report was read and approved.

The Financial Report [motion by Donna Scherff, 2nd Keith Toenyas], Mission Fund, Memorial Fund, and Building Fund reports were all read and approved [motion by Amy Toenyas, 2nd Don Wiemers].

Pastor reported that an adult confirmation class should be starting in the summer. He is working on preparing 'emergency' Sunday materials in case of a last-minute absence.

Mrs. Burns reported that the Spring Musical is scheduled. The school had a wonderful field trip to see the Ark. She said that Karlie has been a 'God-send' this year and has been contributing wonderful ideas for the school. VBS will be July 13-16t.

The Elders voted in February to use money from the Memorial Fund to repair the organ.

The Trustees have been trying to contact the company that we used for tuckpointing; we need them for additional work.

The Board of Evangelism reported that the District Mission Board is giving grants to churches in the Synod for Evangelism Projects. A plan was put together for us to host a Friendship Sunday and the application has been submitted.

The Board of Young People had their first meeting in March and hid Easter eggs for the Sunday school kids in April.

New Business: Gary is going to get a bid from Virginia Renfrow's grandson to seal the blacktop around the church. Roll Call was held and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Jamie Calcaterra



Carla Engelke is God's beloved child. The Lord led her home on February 19, 2026. She is at peace. We have lost the sparkle and joy that her voice, her laugh, her knowledge and presence gave to our family and friends.

We thank all of you for your prayers, cards, books, food, hugs, and heartfelt words of comfort. As we worked to clean out her house in AZ, the Holy Spirit filled our every moment. It's the most difficult thing that we've ever had to do, and our hearts are with all who have had to manage such unbearable pain.

Carla will be honored at a private gravesite burial in June. There was more to her than being a remarkable doctor. Carla was a gift to all who knew her. She was a compassionate human who loved to help all peoples. God's blessings and love. -Steve, Jeanette, and Mark Engelke



Church
FAMILY
—PRAYER LIST—



For all serving in the Armed Services, especially: Noah Eden (Grandson of Brenda Werner). Tyler Tedrick (grandson of Charles & Linda Tedrick)

For all members who are in CARE facilities or who are homebound: David Kinder, Fran Westerhold, Shelli Eden, Ruth Newby, George Loew at Villas of Hollybrook, Iona Goebel in South Prairie Memory Care, Dave Roberson in Cedar Hurst, Kevin Beers in Cedar Hurst, JoAnn Eden at Barnes, Mary Ann Eberhart at Cedar Hurst, Marie Ruyle at Litchfield Health and Rehab Center.

For those experiencing various problems... Fred Obrock in rehab at home; Pastor Mark Girardin rehab at home,

We also remember in prayer: Molly McCalla; Aaron Peters; David Peters; Lisa Loew; Jeff Newby; Christina Urban (sister-in-law of Jeanette Engelke), Gerald Schaefer



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

"Next Sunday's Readings" Bible study will resume on April 15th, occurring every Wednesday evening at 6:00 P.M., running year-round (except during Lent). This is a "sit-down around the table" Bible study held in the annex. Come to familiarize yourself with the readings before Sunday morning!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We welcome anyone grades prek-8th grade. We meet in the classroom in the annex at 9am weekly.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be July 13-16 from 9:00-11:30 AM for ages 4 to 5th grade. We would love to see you there!

MELHS SPRING POPS CONCERT

Looking for a special way to celebrate Mother's Day? Join the MELHS Music Department for our Spring Pops Concert on Sunday, May 10 at 4:00 PM in Henschen Alumni Hall. Enjoy performances by the Chorale, Honors Choir, String Ensemble, and Concert Band featuring music from Frozen, The Lion King, Phantom of the Opera, Enchanted, Billy Joel, and more. A dessert reception will follow — bring your sweet tooth! A free-will offering will be taken to support the MELHS Music Department.

MELHS SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

Metro-East Lutheran High School is offering a variety of summer activity camps including Volleyball, Basketball, Music and more! Please see the flyer on the church bulletin board for more information.





Nicholas Santoro *May 1*
Gwen Bilyeu *May 4*
Avañ Jones *May 4*
Deagan Jones *May 4*
Taun Spurgeon *May 5*
William Zinschlag *May 6*
Bonnie Bushrow *May 10*
Sarah Patton *May 12*
Jim Bushrow *May 13*

Tara Robertson *May 13*
Stella Hemmer *May 14*
Asher Wallace *May 20*
Nadene Buesser *May 21*
Tyler Thornton *May 22*
Van Wallace *May 22*
Lottie Dustmann *May 27*
Jeffrey Ruyle *May 28*
Elizabeth Hemmer *May 30*



Stacy and Lisa Schneck
33 Years on May 1

Allen and Margie Schmidt
60 Years on May 7

Trent and Jessica Buckingham
14 Years on May 16

Daniel and Jackie McClure
36 Years on May 22

Patrick and Kelly Thirion
20 Years on May 27





May

					1 No School	2
3 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship w/communion Elder: Don Wiemers	4	5 7am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Women's Bible Study	6 8:30am Chapel 6:00 PM Bible Study	7 Handbell Practice 6pm Elders Meeting 7PM	8 2:15pm Egg Drop Day	9 School Rented
10 Mother's Day 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Elder: Jerry Scheumann	11	12 7am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Women's Bible Study	13 PreK-8 Field Trip Day Ladies Aid 1:00PM 6:00 PM Bible Study	14 6:30p PreK4 & Kindergarten Graduation	15 Chapel & Awards Day 11am dismissal Last Day of School	16
17 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship w/ communion & 8 th Grade Graduation Elder: Gary Burns	18	19 7am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Women's Bible Study	20 6:00 PM Bible Study	21 Handbell Practice 6pm	22	23
24 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Elder: Keith Toenyes	25 Memorial Day	26 7am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Women's Bible Study	27 6:00 PM Bible Study	28 Handbell Practice 6pm	29	30
31 9:00am Adult Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship w/communion Elder: Jerry Scheumann						