



Blackberry Beacon

*"Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16

June/July 2025

St. Peter Lutheran Church
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The Minor Prophets: Micah and Nahum

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During 2025, we will be journeying together through the minor prophets. During the month of June we will be reading the prophet Micah and during the month of July we will be reading Nahum.

Micah

The book of the prophet Micah begins with God's judgment of his people Israel, specifically that the leaders of the people have become corrupt through theft and greed. Even the prophets, those charged with being God's "mouthpiece," have sold out and tell the people what they want to hear – for the right price!

God promises judgment on the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. But, like many of the other prophets, these judgments contain words of hope, including the hope of coming Messiah King who will gather a faithful remnant. The pattern of warning, followed by hope, is picked up again in the last part of the book of Micah, summarized in its most famous verse: Micah 6:8. Look up that verse and considering memorizing it this summer.

Nahum

Have you ever wanted God to punish your enemies? Almost all of the prophetic books contain God's judgment on the nations surrounding Israel and then also call out Israel's own sins. The book of Nahum is unique in that it pronounces God's judgment on one of Israel's most despised enemies, the Empire of Assyria and its capital city, Nineveh.

Nahum also uses Nineveh as an example of how God is at work in every age. Arrogant and violent empires will not endure forever! This is good news showing how God is at work in the world.

There are also words of hope in Nahum. God will provide refuge for those who humble themselves before him.

You can find more information about these prophets on the Bible Project website.

Grace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

+ Pastor Matt

Combined Worship Service at St. Luke's
20 S. Yondota Rd., Curtice OH in the shelter house
Sunday, June 22

10:30 AM Worship with Communion

Potluck will follow the service. St. Luke's will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, drinks, and table service. Each family should bring a dish to share and a lawn chair.

Combined Worship Service at St. Peter
DATE TO BE DETERMINED

Stewardship Reflections

The Savior said, "In the same way, Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." NIV

Matthew 5:16

SAVED BY GRACE

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

By Grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NRSVUE)

I used to think I could gain God's love only through works and good deeds. I thought the more I went to church, served in ministries, and was kind and generous, the more I would be favored. I thought I was worthy only if I did something important.

Our self-esteem often rises and falls depending on our performance and people's approval of us. This can be a real motivation to do great things. But when our self-worth is based on what we do, and we establish our value apart from God, that's when we run into problems.

Today's scripture reminds us that we are saved by grace through faith. This is a gift of God. It is not by our own efforts. We are all equally and abundantly loved. God gave us this gift of grace through Jesus. And when we focus on God's love for us, we are inspired to work joyful for God's glory.

We love God, and that's why we serve. Our good works are fruits of our faith, not the source of it. Through Jesus' sacrifice. We can trust that we are immensely loved. We are blessed. We are forgiven. And we are worthy.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your love for us and for the gift of eternal life. Help us to seek your will and to become more like you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God's love is a gift freely given.

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OUTREACH

Outreach did not meet in May, but will be meeting on June 4th at 11 am. Following is a brief summary of the activities we have done, or will be doing.

Blue Barrel Collection for June is canned fruit going to Elliston Food Pantry and July will be Red, White and Blue foods to Lutheran Social Services.

Movie Night Returns at St. Luke's June 13th at 7:30 p.m. *Mufasa* will be the entertainment for the evening. Bring a snack, your pillow or sleeping bag and join the fun. Popcorn will be provided.

April's Church Picnic provided plenty of good food and fellowship. Thanks to all of those who lended a hand and who participated.

We continue supporting the Kisereny Pre-School. It is wonderful that we can support this growing program to help improve the lives of these young people. Thank you for all that you have contributed for this coming school year. We will continue to take donations at any time.

Stay tuned for information about our annual Ice Cream Social. The date is yet to be determined.

Stay tuned for a future date for assembling and distributing lunches. We will be distributing them in the 'NorfEnd this time.

Remember to set aside September 24th at 11:45 as we wrap up our series on Aging Gracefully. Jennifer Ramen will present a discussion on Estate Planning Essentials. A wonderful lunch will be provided for free. Come with your questions as Jennifer is a highly regarded attorney.

12th Annual God's Work - Our Hands Day of Service September 7, 2025

We have participated in many and various projects throughout the years. We have planted, pulled weeds, painted, cleaned, built shelves, sorted clothing, stocked food pantry shelves, played Bingo, baked cookies, written notes to Service Personnel, picked up trash, and a myriad of other ways of lending a hand in our community.

If you have any ideas for projects for this year's Work Day, please share your thoughts and ideas with a member of your Outreach Ministry. Outreach Ministry members are: Cindy Bench, Pam Fryer, Rufina Hartford, Claudette Allred and Jean Witt.

Education Ministry

THANK YOU to our 2024-2025 Sunday School teachers!

Lisa Diekman, Christy Diekman, Dawn Bolen, LeAnne Butzin, Wendy Millinger, Charles Jaeger, Cindy Bench and LeAnne Jaeger.

Congratulations to our High School Graduates – Logan Lohner, Jaxson Overmyer, Brooklynn Starkey. Graduate Recognition – Sunday, June 1.

THANK YOU!

Grace Alone Furniture Ministry Update: The ministry has served 24 individuals and families so far this year. The ministry has received many donations from individuals and from caring transitions. We have also purchased many items at auctions this year.

We would like to thank everybody at St. Peter for taking the time to look for bargains on items that the ministry needs to keep us supplied in bed sheets and dishes to give to those in need. We have met some wonderful people that we have served, and that have donated. We find it very rewarding and filling to the task that was given us.

Jim Vermilyea

Dear Church Family,

Larry and I cannot ever thank you enough for your support, love, prayers and your support over all the years for Paul. Paul's luncheon was beautiful... this is the most difficult time we have ever experienced in our life time.

In Christ's love, God's Blessings to each and every one of you.

Leanne & Larry Butzin

We would like to say "Thank you" for the support of yarn and lap quilts. It is greatly appreciated. At this time we are in need of sheets; full size and up. Again, Thank You for supporting our Ministry with yarn, material and purchasing of quilts.

The Quilt Ladies

CAKE WALK

June 15 following the Worship Service

Bake your finest, tastiest cake and join us for this fun event.
You can find the signup sheet in the Narthex.

Neighborhood Ice Cream Social
DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED



CALLING ALL GARDENERS!! What can you do with all your surplus garden produce this summer? Donate it to the Elmore Food Pantry! Help families obtain fresh produce this growing season. The Food Pantry is open the second Friday of each month from 9am to 12 noon at Grace Lutheran Church, 19225 Witty Rd., Elmore. Call head to drop-off your fresh produce the second Thursday of each month at Grace Lutheran. Call Grace Lutheran, 419-862-3630, or Pat Shaffer 419-351-0150

PHILLIP THE BLUE BARREL

“End Hunger”

JUNE	Canned Fruits – Lutheran Social Services
JULY	Red/White/Blue Canned Foods – LSS
AUGUST	Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam to St. Paul

**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
20 S. Yondota Rd., Curtice, Ohio
Curtice, Ohio

**Sunday August 3, 2025
1:00 – 4:00 pm**

Ages: 4 years - 6th grade, adults are welcome to stay and enjoy the afternoon with us.

Join in the Fun & Learning!

This year is a Food Truck theme, starting with a meal of “Quail chunks and manna.” There will be skits, “Manna” bag preparations for Toledo distribution, singing, crafts, games and day-ending desserts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

We will be holding our last seminar, September 21st at 11:45. Jennifer Ramon is an attorney who presents a great informational program “Estate Planning Essentials”. She will tell us about Estate Planning Tools, How to Avoid Probate, Protecting Assists, and more.

A meal will be provided and she welcomes your question. Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. Signup sheets will be out the end of August. This will be the final portion of our series. This is a FREE event.

Kisereny Update

May 28, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. Peter and St. Luke's.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Kisereny collection for 2025!

Since 35 households have given, the \$2,000 matching gift has been given. Including that matching gift, we are at approximately \$6,232 toward our \$8,000 goal.

If you'd like to make a gift, please do so by this Sunday, June 1.

A representative from partners at Godparents for Tanzania is in Kisereny right now and sending live updates on the kitchen renovations and preschool. Your gifts are making a difference in children's lives!

Thank you all for your generosity!

Pastor Matt

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE

3 - Rebekah Perry
4 - Robert Allgier, Sr.
5 - LeAnne Jaeger
7 - Julie Overmyer
8 - Nicole Beyer
Gary Diefenthaler

9 - Don Radsick
11 - Helen Amonette
Cindy Musteric
Ryder Nino
12 - Michael Jasinkowski
Jay Nino
16 - Bonnie Dobrosky

17 - Hunter Lacer
18 - Rachael Goulette
Jim Vermilyea
Emersyn Diekman
19 - Bowen Peeler
20 - Mary Dehring
21 - Shirley Witt



6 - Charles & Leanne Jaeger
14 - Jeff & Andrea Sorg
15 - Jim & Kathy Vermilyea
16 - Phil & Melissa Antry
17 - Larry & LeAnne Butzin

21 - Mike & Rachael Goulette
24 - Robert & Marlene Behlmer
- Marty & Christina Starkey
30 - Allen & Susan Gahler



2 - Wyatt Miller
- Lucy Musteric
- Judson Overmyer
- Merrick Wolff
3 - Carol H. Foss
- Rufena Hartford
- Jennifer Wolf
5 - Amy Behlmer
- Christy Diekman

11 - Pam King
- Trenton Diekman
12 - Jeaney Diefenthaler
13 - Marty Starkey
15 - Joe Kapp
20 - Tait Miller
21 - Logan Lohner

23 - Karen Schanke
- Athalee Starkey
25 - Becky Beyer
27 - Ron Lajti, Sr.
28 - Justin Wolff
29 - John Beamer
30 - Tristan Lacer



3 - Ken & Kathy Starkey
31 - Richard & Carol Wilburn

June Book Discussion

Abigail Circle

Monday, June 16
No July Meeting
7:00 PM @ church

Hannah Circle

Thursday, June 12
Thursday, July 11
10:30 AM @ the church

Sew Group

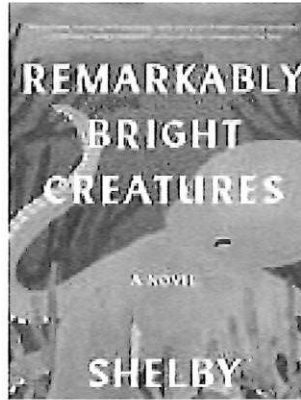
Every Tuesday
9:00 AM @ the church

Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, June 11
Wednesday, July 9
10:00 AM @ the church

Bible Study

Will resume in September



Tovar becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

July Book Discussion Mystery Month