



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 2026

St. Peter Lutheran Church
17877 W. State Route 579
Martin, OH 43445

Phone: 419-836-8903

Web: stpeterblackberry.org
facebook.com/spblackberry

Email: stpeterblackberry@gmail.com

Roamin' Through Romans: Learning Gospel Fluency

Preaching Series

May 31 – September 13, 2026

This summer will be making our way through St. Paul's letter to the Romans. We will begin on May 31 (Holy Trinity Sunday) and end on September 13 (God's Work, Our Hands Sunday).

Below is a schedule of the preaching texts (in parentheses) and corresponding chapters of Romans to read each week. If you'd like to order a copy of a Bible journaling version of Romans, see Pastor Matt. Copies are \$7 (cash or check payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church).

May 31: I am not ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28), read Romans 1-3

June 7: For this reason it depends on faith (Romans 4:13-25), read Romans 4

June 14: At the right time Christ died for the ungodly (Romans 5:1-8), read Romans 5

June 21: United with him in a death like his... and in a resurrection like his (Romans 6:1b-11), read Romans 6

June 28: The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:12-23), read Romans 6

July 5: I do not do what I want (Romans 7:15-25a), read Romans 7

July 12: For God has done what the law cannot do (Romans 8:1-11), read Romans 8

July 19: Suffering, Spirit, longing (Romans 8:1-11), read Romans 8

July 26: We know that all things work together for good... (Romans 8:26-39), read Romans 8

Aug 2: It depends not on us but on God (Romans 9:1-16), read Romans 9

Aug 9: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news (Romans 10:5-15), read Romans 10

Aug 16: So that he might be merciful to all (Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32), read Romans 11

Aug 23: Do not be conformed... be transformed (Romans 12:1-8), read Romans 12

Aug 30: Never avenge yourselves (Romans 12:9-21), read Romans 12

Sep 6: Owe no one anything, except... (Romans 13:8-14), read Romans 13

Sep 13: Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? (Romans 14:1-12), read Romans 14-16

Grace and Peace,

† Pastor Matt

Stewardship Reflections

MAKING THE ROUNDS

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32 (NRSVUE)

As I watered my pothos plant, I thought of its history. The original plant was given to my mother as a housewarming gift close to 60 years earlier. When I moved into my first home, Mom gifted me with my own plant grown from a clipping. I eventually propagated another plant, which I displayed in my office.

Throughout the years, I shared clippings with other family members, friends, and co-workers. When I think of all the homes that have welcomed that plant, it strikes me...it has really made the rounds! Through the years, how many people have I shared that plant with and, in turn, how many of those folks shared clippings from their plants as well?

It pleases me to know I've reached others through this act of sharing.. It makes me even happier to know that a similar generosity in the recipients may keep the plant making the rounds for years to come. I hope to spark this same synergy each time I share the love of Christ through words of encouragement, a forgiving heart, a touch of compassion, and a spirit full of charity. Sharing God's goodness can have far-reaching results.

Prayer: Generous Creator, may we strive to share you love each day in awareness of the far-reaching effects of our actions. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: I will reach out in kindness to others—every day.



Our Outreach Ministry Members are Steve and Barb Yunker, Claudette Allred, Pam Frayer, Rufena Hartford, Jean Witt, Cindy Bench and Pastor Matt. Reach out to any one of them if you have ideas.

1. Our Blue Barrel Items for June will be Canned Fruit going to Elliston Food Pantry and July is Red/White/ and Blue foods going to LSS. Thank you for your continued support of collecting food for our area folks.

2. Our congregations have such generous hearts. We extend a BIG thank you for your Lenten Outreach collection which is going to the Melenga congregation as they continue to build a new church building. Their original building is literally crumbling and their congregation is growing. To date we have raised (5/22/26) **\$418.00.**

3. Another BIG Thank You for all who lent a hand with the Easter Meal at Salem Lutheran. They truly appreciated the ham meal and the WONDERFUL desserts. Such willing, working hands made this possible. In addition to the meal we donated items for their annual Baby Shower. They sponsored 5 young ladies this year and were able to provide them with a good start for their babies.

4. And another big thank you for those who participated in the Bingo Party we held at LHOM April 11th. We used the Bingo Prizes collected last September and the residents truly enjoyed the outing. They especially loved the stuffed animal prizes. It is always good to be a help in our community.

5. We have been collecting funds to help the Kisereny Preschool operate during the coming school year. To date we have collected (5/29/26) **\$6,604.13**. Your contribution helps impact the lives of those who have little hope. Your contributions are always welcome to make this preschool fully funded. Donations will be collected until the end of June.

6. MARK YOUR CALENDARS. Our annual Ice Cream Social will be held **August 16th from 1pm - 3pm** in the Fellowship Hall at St. Peter's. Bring a friend or a neighbor for some great fellowship and build your own ice cream treat. We plan on having Lyle Diefenthaler play his great music to make for a perfect afternoon.

7. Be on the lookout for ways to help the Isaiah House as they begin operating at full strength. We will let you know items they need as they let us know. This amazing ministry reaches out to children in their most disruptive time at the beginning of Foster Care. There is also information on other local ministries we will be sharing as the needs arise. At the time of printing, Isaiah 117 House is in need of men's large & X-large sweatpants, PJ's for Girls: size 7/8 & 2 toddler, also girl's 6-9 month old outfits. (All clothing must be **NEW**).

Matthew 9:38 "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

8. God's Work Our Hands will be September 13th this year. If you know of any projects in the area that could use a helping hand for a couple of hours please let a member of the Outreach Ministry know. We truly make a difference in those 2 hours of volunteering.

SALEM/NORF-END NEIGHBORS LISTS is available on the table in the Narthex. Please check it out. After you have done your spring cleaning and don't know how or where to dispose of items no longer needed, check out this want/needed list. Here is a list of items: Household items: bath curtains, rugs, window curtains/rods/bowls, plates, forks/spoons (plastic & silverware), pots/pans, cooking utensils. Men/Women/Children summer clothing & shoes, belts, toys for children of all ages, blankets/sheets/pillowcases (all sizes), book bags, DVD movies (all kinds), canes, alarm/wall clocks. Hygiene Bags: pads/tampons, adult briefs, toilet paper, razors, deodorant, lotion, socks, band aids, tissues, floss, toothbrush, toothpaste, small bottles of mouth wash, small first aid kits/band aids. Please do not donate any sharp objects, stained clothing, or used underwear.

THANK YOU

Hello Church Family,

As I sit here reflecting on the last 4 months, I wonder how I could have got thru it without the love, support, kindness and prayers from not only my family but my church Family. Thank you all for your calls, texts, cards, the flowers, the food and mostly more importantly the prayers. I truly believe all the prayers I received carried me. Your kindness overwhelms me. Thank you again for the minute you took out of your day to pray for me. Just so you know, I'm so grateful to have you all in my life.

Love, Rufena

Abigail Circle

June & July
Meetings TBD

Hannah Circle

Tuesday, June 16; July 21
10:30 AM @ St. Peter

Book Club

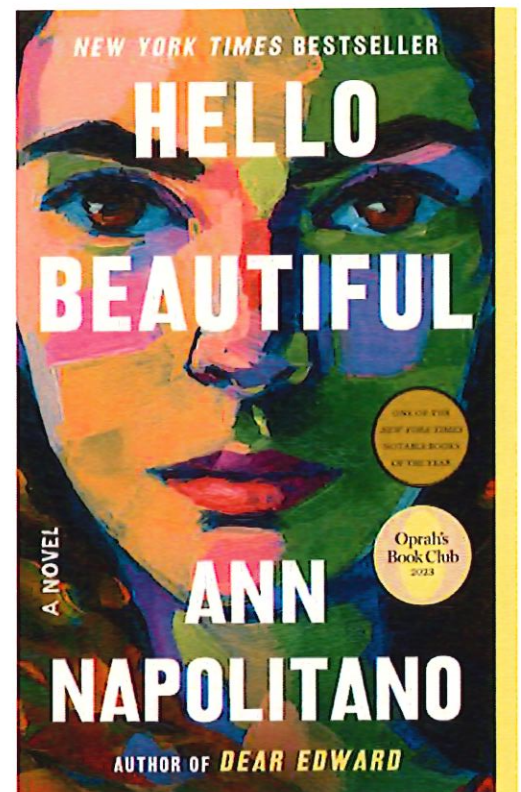
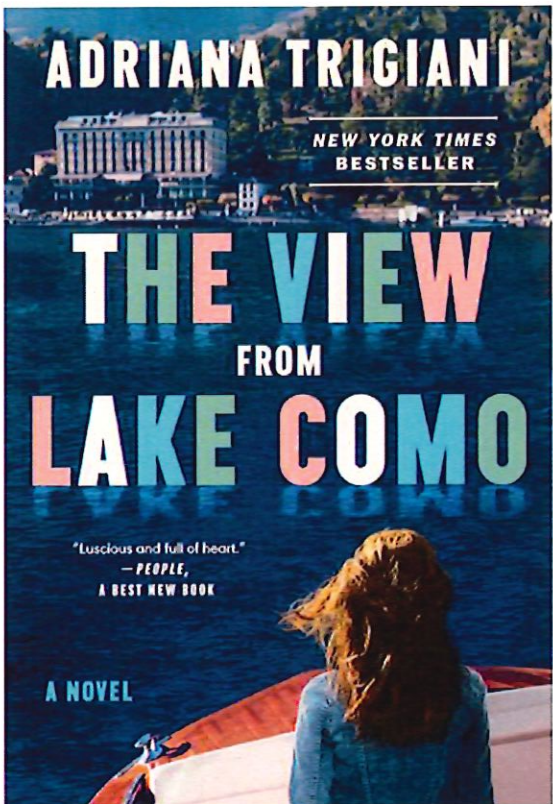
Wednesday, June 10; July 8
10:00 AM @ St. Peter

Sew Group

Every Tuesday
9:00 AM @ St. Pete

Bible Study

Will resume in October to
March, the first Wednesday of the month
12:00 PM at St. Peter.



Selection for June is: *The View from Lake Como* by Adriana Trigiani. From the beloved New York Times Bestselling author Adriana Trigiani, a “dazzling” storyteller (Washington Post), and a “comedy writer with a heart of gold” (NYT), comes a novel about one woman’s quest to build Her own life before it’s too late.

Selection for July is: *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. “Another tender tearjerker... Napolitano chronicles life’s highs and lows with aching precision.”—The Washington Post.



JUNE

- 3 - Rebekah Perry
- 4 - Robert Allgier, Sr.
- 5 - LeAnne Jaeger
- 7 - Julie Overmyer
- 8 - Nicole Beyer
Gary Diefenthaler
- 9 - Don Radsick
- 11 - Cindy Musteric
Ryder Nino
- 12 - Michael Jasinkowski
- 16 - Bonnie Dobrosky
- 17 - Hunter Lacer
- 18 - Rachael Goulette
Jim Vermilyea
Emersyn Diekman
- 19 - Bowen Peeler
- 20 - Mary Dehring
- 21 - Shirley Witt

JULY

- 2 - Wyatt Miller
Lucy Musteric
Judson Overmyer
Merrick Wolff
- 3 - Carol H. Foss
Rufena Hartford
Jennifer Wolf Cutlip
- 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



June

- 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

July

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION: Remember, aluminum can collection is the second Sunday of every month. June 14th and July 12 are the next scheduled dates.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER & GRADUATE RECOGNITION

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our Sunday School Teachers. It is very important to show our appreciation to our teachers as they guide our youth on the Christian journey. **THANK YOU** for your dedication and work. Our teachers for the 2025-2026 school year are Cindy Bench, Dawn Bolen, LeAnne Butzin, Christy Diekman, Lisa Diekman, Charlie Jaeger, LeAnne Jaeger, Wendy Millinger and Jim Vermilyea. **THANK YOU** for your dedication and work to guide our youth on their Christian journey.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY has been set for Sunday, June 14, at 8:45 AM worship service. Our high school graduates of 2026 are Simon Amonette, Caitlin Lohner and Austin Sorg. If you are a graduating college senior, or received any degree please reach out to the office so that we may also honor you. You can email: stpeterblackberry@gmail.com or call 419-836-8903 and leave a message.

Kisereny Kindergarten Update

Since St. Peter and St. Luke's began sponsoring Kisereny's Kindergarten, enrollment has grown from 35 children in 2022 to 42 children in 2026. Providing food for the children is the kindergarten's largest expense. The cost to feed one child for one year \$126. (That's a total of \$5,292 for 42 children currently enrolled). Our total goal this year is \$10,362 to fully-fund this mission project. As of 5/27, (combined giving with St. Luke's), \$6,604.13 has been gifted to the Kindergarten.

GIVING LEVELS

- \$42 – food for one child for 3 months
- \$84 – food for one child for 6 months
- \$126 – food for one child for 9 months (one school year)
- \$180 – one month teacher's salary
- \$588 – food for 42 children for one month
- \$1080 – one semester teacher's salary
- \$2160 – one year teacher's salary

If you would like to contribute, you may make checks payable to either congregation below with "Kisereny, Tanzania" in the memo line.

St. Peter Lutheran Church, 17877 W. SR. 579, Martin, OH 43445.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 20 S. Yondota Rd., Curtice, OH 43412.

An updated booklet about the Kisereny Kindergarten is available on the table in the Narthex.

*****With this publication being the combination of June & July, the Council minutes were not able to fit. They are available on the table in the Narthex.*****

June 2026

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
	1	2 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING	3 8:00 PM AA MEETING	4	5	6																																																																																												
7 8:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE	8	9 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING	10 10:00 AM BOOK CLUB 8:00 PM AA MEETING	11	12	13 5:30 PM SATURDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE																																																																																												
14 8:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE GRADUATE RECOGNITION 10:00 AM PROPERTY COMMITTEE ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION FLAG DAY	15 6:30 PM FINANCE COMMITTEE 7:30PM CHURCH COUNCIL	16 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING 10:30 AM HANNAH CIRCLE	17 8:00 PM AA MEETING	18	19	20																																																																																												
21 8:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE FATHER'S DAY FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	22	23 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING	24 8:00 PM AA MEETING WELCA Summer Gathering @Lakeside Chautauque	25	26	27																																																																																												
28 10:30 AM COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE @ ST. LUKE'S	29	30 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">May 2026</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jul 2026</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																												
					1	2																																																																																												
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																												
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																												
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																												
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																												
31																																																																																																		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																												
				1	2	3	4																																																																																											
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																												
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																												
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																												
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																													

