



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

September 2026

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A Personal Money Autobiography

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

Have you ever told someone your life story? Have you ever written even a condensed version of your autobiography?

What about a *money* autobiography? This month I encourage you to take a few minutes and write your personal money autobiography. Here are five sets of questions to get you started:

1. What is your happiest memory in connection with money? What is your unhappiest?
2. What role did money have in your childhood? What attitude did your mother have toward money? Your father?
3. As a child did you feel poor? Rich? Did you worry about money?
4. What was your attitude toward money as a teenager? As a young adult?
5. What is your present financial status? How do you feel about it?

If you're feeling brave, you could also begin to write a congregational money autobiography. See the resources below.

Grace and Peace,
+ Pastor Matt

P.S. If you are interested in learning more, here are a few resources:

Personal Money Autobiography:

<https://www.westohioumc.org/sites/default/files/page/files/Money-Autobiography.pdf>

Congregational Money Autobiography:

https://www.lss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/SOGL_Cong_Money_Autobiography.pdf

Elizabeth O' Connor, *Letters to Scattered Pilgrims*, Harper and Row, 1982. Pages 28-30.

Stewardship Reflections

GOOD MEMORIES

READ ACTS 9:36-42

*(Dorcas) was always doing good and helping the poor.
Acts 9:36 (NIV)*

My brother-in-law Phil had been a creative man who taught art, loved nature, and made hand-crafted jewelry, wood items, and pottery. When he died, my family dressed thoughtfully for his celebration-of-life service. Instead of a traditionally somber color, I chose to wear a sweater with a design of birds and trees—natural elements Phil had loved. One of his daughters-in-law picked clothes reflecting his favorite colors. Another sister-in-law wore jewelry that he had made for her.

Seeing the way our family honored Phil reminded me of the story in today's reading. Dorcas, a disciple in Joppa, had died, and the local believers sent two men to fetch Peter. When he arrived, a group of widows gathered around him crying, showing him the robes and clothing Dorcas had made for them. Scripture says Dorcas was "always doing good and helping the poor" and in doing so, she influenced many lives with her generous, giving spirit.

God has created each of us with different gifts and talents. Not everyone will create beautiful jewelry like my brother-in-law or robes like Dorcas. But we each are called to love God and one another. As we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name we can make a beautiful impact on the lives of others that may continue long after we are gone.

Prayer: Gracious God, work through us to use the gifts you have given each of us to show love to others in your name. Amen

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: How can I use the talents God has given me to serve my community?



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. Pastor Noble attended our meeting in August to share insights from his trip to Tanzania. He had a very productive trip and brought back news concerning the Mlenga Well. The well IS WORKING...Praise God. But there are some upgrades and repairs needed. The Synod is working on proposals with Naftal who is the expert on wells in the area. They will be sharing information when all of the reports are gathered. We look forward to these updates.
2. Our Blue Barrel Items for September is cereal to be shared with the Elliston Food Pantry.
3. We are in need of Ushers as Worship Assistants. We plan on holding a training session in the Fall with hopes of having folks sign up for a month at a time to help the flow of worship. Stay tuned for this volunteer opportunity.
4. Kisereny has received the funds we raised for the PreSchool. Pastor Anna sent greetings and much thanks to all. She encourages us to read Daniel 10:19.
5. The Ice Cream Social was a great success. Nearly 70 folks attended, Lyle Diefenthaler did a grand job with the music and kids enjoyed the Chicken Dance.
6. Gods Work Our Hands is Sunday, September 13th. We are trying something different this year by going to a couple of members' homes to do handy work as needed. Please gather at St. Peter's by 11:45 so we can start off with prayer and a treat. We plan on lending a hand from 12-2. Come dressed to work. Stay tuned for further details.
7. Salem Lutheran will be holding their annual Trunk or Treat October 10th from 3-5 PM in their parking lot. They are in need of Decorated Trunks and Candy. We will collect candy beginning September 13th. Please let Cindy Bench know if you are able to attend with your Trunk.
8. We will be preparing Salem's Thanksgiving Meal in November with the date to be determined. We will need folks to roast turkeys, desserts, cooks, servers, and cleanup crew. Watch for further details.

GENTLE REMINDER: All canned food donations are greatly and very much appreciated. Please remember that outdated food is not accepted at Food Banks or Community Pantries. PLEASE continue to let Christ's light shine by providing safe food for those in their time of need.

QUILT DISPLAY SCHEDULE: The quilting ladies have finished 83 quilts this year. They will be on display in the Sanctuary September 27th and October 4th. The quilts will be packed for shipment on October 6th and delivered October 10th.

HELP TIE QUILTS - Do you have time on your hands with nothing to do? The Quilt sewing ladies are looking for additional help to tie quilts every Tuesday morning 9:00 AM to Noon. They are also looking for help to cut material into squares, which could be done at home at your leisure. For more information, contact Linda Sigurdson or come on a Tuesday morning to check it out.

Abigail Circle

Meetings TBD

Hannah Circle

Tuesday, September
10:30 AM @ St. Peter

Sew Group

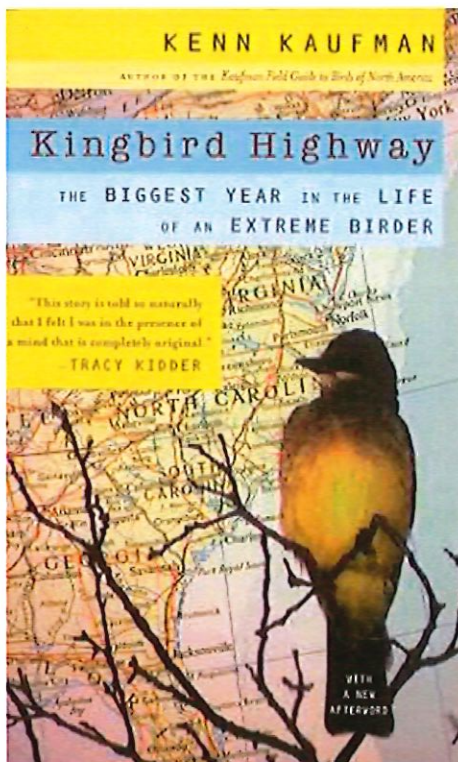
Every Tuesday
9:00 AM @ St. Peter

Bible Study

Wednesday, September 9th
12:00 PM @ St. Peter.
This year Bible Study will be held the
second Wednesday of the month.

Book Club

Wednesday, September 9th
10:00 AM @ St. Peter



SEPTEMBER SELECTION

Kingbird Highway
By Kenn Kaufman

Kenn Kaufman burst onto the North American birding scene as a teenager in the 1970s, pursuing birds all over the continent, an adventure later chronicled in his cult-classic book KINGBIRD HIGHWAY. After several years as a professional bird tour leader, taking groups to all seven continents, he shifted to a career as a writer, editor, and illustrator. Most of his energy currently goes into writing books and painting bird portraits. His 14 books include seven titles in his own series, Kaufman Field Guides, designed to encourage beginners by making the first steps in nature study as easy as possible. His most recent book, THE BIRDS THAT AUDUBON MISSED, was published in May 2024. Kenn is a field editor for the National Audubon Society and a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society, and the only person to have received the American Birding Association's lifetime achievement award twice. He lives in Oak Harbor, Ohio, with his wife Kimberly



BIRTHDAYS

8 – Hilda Blay	18 – Wes Gahler
Susan Lowell	Beth Lepper
11 – Claudette Allred	Jaxson Overmyer
12 – Mabel Royster	19 – Allen Gahler
13 – Jim Dehring	20 – Luna Clark
15 – Gail Overmyer	27 – Donald Reinhart
	29 – Mary Mustric

ANNIVERSARIES

5 - Randy & Kim Reif
Derrick & Mary Ann Siefke
14 - Bob & Marcia Amonette
19 - Joseph & Rufena Hartford
22 - Robert & Charlotte Allgier
27 - Gary & Jeaney Diefenthaler
29 - Jim & Mary Dehring

September 2026

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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6 8:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL	7 LABOR DAY	8 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING 4:00 PM WORSHIP MINISTRY MEETING	9 9:00 AM PRECIOUS MOMENTS PRESCHOOL BEGINS 10:00 AM BOOK CLUB 12:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 8:00 PM AA MEETING	10	11 PRESCHOOL PIZZA FUND RAISER BEGINS	12																																																																																											
13 8:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM PROPERTY COMMITTEE 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 AM ADULT SS ALUM CAN COLLECTION GRANDPARENTS DAY	14	15 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING 10:30 AM HANNAH CIRCLE @ ST. PETER	16 1:00 PM EDUCATION MINISTRY MEETING 8:00 PM AA MEETING	17	18	19																																																																																											
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SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION: Remember, aluminum can collection is the second Sunday of every month. September 13th, October 11th, November 8th and December 13th are the remaining dates for 2026.

SEPTEMBER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL VERSE: PSALM 118:24, *This is the day that the Lord has made.*

ONE DAY at a TIME LUNCHEON is provided through the cooperation of St. Boniface Catholic Church and St. John's Lutheran Church in Rocky Ridge. The ODAAT team is reaching out to the community for help to reach and welcome individuals who may be interested in attending the monthly luncheon.

We meet the second Thursday of each month at St. John's Fellowship Hall. It is easily accessible for anyone who is handicapped. St. John's is located at 450 N. Rocky Ridge Rd., Oak Harbor, Oh 434449.

Any additional questions may be addressed to any member of the ODAAT team:
Sandy Kremer: 419-262-2638, Jane Whitaker: 419-304-5877, Brenda Goetz: 567-419-0425 or Ruth Whipple: 419-898-3929.

The luncheons begin at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All widows/widowers are welcome to join us for lunch plus fellowship with games, cards, or visiting until 1:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month. Please RSVP to Sandy Kremer by the dates listed below...41-898-2337. Leave a message with your name and phone number and how many will be attending.

LUNCHEON DATE	RSVP DATE	PLANNED MEAL
Sept. 10	Sept. 6	Coney dogs/Sloppy joes, cheese optional, cucumber salad, apple dessert
Oct. 8	Oct. 4	Pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, Pumpkin dessert
Nov. 12	Nov. 8	Turkey & gravy over mashed potatoes, Vegetable, pumpkin pie
Dec 10	Dec. 6	*Catered luncheon
January 2027		NO LUNCHEON
Feb. 11	Feb. 7	Chef's Choice

ST. PETER LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, June 15, 2026
(June minutes approved at August Council Meeting-No July meeting held)

Attendance: Gary Diefenthaler, Jared Diekman, Judy Gahler, Wes Gahler, Pastor Matt Musteric, and Jon Overmyer

The meeting was called to order by Wes. Pastor Matt covered Martin Luther's Small Catechism: The Lord's Prayer: The Resolution and ended with a prayer.

Jon made a motion seconded by Judy to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2026 council meeting. MC.

The May 2026 Treasurer's report was presented to Council. Still getting accustomed to the new report look from Shepherds Staff software. Jon made a motion seconded by Gary to have the May 2026 Treasurer's report filed for audit. MC.

Pastor's Report: Worship: June 28: joint outdoor worship service at St. Luke's. **Pastoral Acts:** Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) for Mallory Amonette, Hope Musteric and John Wolf; June 8: Funeral for Mike Phillips, brother of Claudette Allred, Freck Funeral Home. **Pastoral Care and Visits** totaled 12. **Other:** Vacation: June 28 – July 2 Greg Olsen presiding, July 15 - July 19 Greg Olsen presiding, July 27 – Aug 1 no Sundays. **Continuing Education:** July 6-10 ELCA Rostered Minister's Gathering and Fundraising course, Indianapolis, Sabbatical grant announcement in late August, **Ongoing:** Christmas Eve Worship 2026.

President Report: No report.

Vice-President Report: Working on transferring funds to Genoa Bank and Ameriprise investments. Separate accounts can be setup with Ameriprise for Memorial, Sunday School and Christian Life funds in "Spirit" accounts, that carry moderate risks.

Executive Committee: No report.

Congregational Life: Getting gifts for Father's Day. Looking at BBQ racks.

Education: No report. Next meeting July 14 at 1pm.

Finance: Discussing fundraising activities to possibly wax floors or give the kitchen a facelift. A percentage of the fundraising proceeds would go to outside organizations, as a benevolent action. **Property:** HVAC is being worked on. One pump has been fixed and the other is on order. A/C unit has been ordered. Electrician has been working on kitchen issues. Water cooler may need a thermostat.

Outreach: Blue Barrel Collection: May- Toiletries St. Paul, June- Canned Fruit Elliston, July- Red/White/Blue canned goods LSS; Kisereny PreSchool Collection through June \$10,000 goal to support 50 children; Ice Cream Social Aug 16 1-3pm Lyle Diefenthaler providing music; God's Work Our Hands September 13 looking for projects, Isaiah 117 House Jim Vermilyea keeping ministry informed. Next meeting August 10 at 10am.

Worship: No report. Looking at baking communion bread in the Fall.

Women of the Church: 3 persons going to Lakeside Chataqua on Wednesday 6/17.

Old Business: Automatic doors have been repaired. Reviewed church logo design proposals from Congregational Growth. Jared will put up a display to have congregation vote on designs.

New Business: We need to look at the church as a business and set goals. Ministries would set goals to help meet the church goals. A new freezer has been purchased. Judy made a motion seconded by Jon to not have a July council meeting. June Treasurer's report will still be issued. MC

Jon made a motion seconded by Gary to adjourn the meeting. MC. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: August 17, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Gary Diefenthaler