



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Parish Visitor



418 East Sumner Street
Northfield, MN 55057

507.645.8252

Church office hours:
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

Worship

Sundays 9 a.m.
Coffee + Social 10 a.m.
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Education

Sunday School
10:10 a.m.

Wednesday Confirmation
6:30 p.m.

Staff

David Weeks, Pastor, ext 203
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pastordavidweeks@northfieldstp.org

Mary Kay Bougie
Director of Music + Worship, ext. 208
marykaybougie@northfieldstp.org

Terrence Hassanally
Financial Administrator, ext. 205
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Allie Machacek
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Dear Saints of St. Peter's Lutheran:

Ecclesia,

You may not be familiar with this word. It's Greek. In the New Testament, it is often translated "church." Hence, we get the English word *ecclesiastical*, which means "relating to the Christian church, or its clergy."

Though *ecclesia* is translated church, it is not a religious word. It simply means "a gathering" or "an assembly."

I've been thinking about the gift of *ecclesia* because I recently experienced the blessing of *ecclesia*. St. Peter's threw a little party and celebrated my ten years of serving as your pastor.

I think of it as a ten-year partnership in proclaiming, sharing, and living the incredible and outstanding news of God's love for us.

Thank you for all the kind words and cards, ice cream and almond bars. I am grateful for ten years of Christian ministry together. I deeply appreciate your friendship, love, laughter, dreams, and support.

The anniversary party reminded me of the gift of *ecclesia*. The Christian faith is not lived in isolation from the community. Discipleship to Jesus is not an individual endeavor.

Though we who comprise the *ecclesia* share in doctrinal beliefs, it is our love and appreciation for one another that we most treasure. I know many of you check in daily with dear friends, who are also part of the St. Peter's *ecclesia*.

You bring meals, you give rides. You share your joys and sorrows with each other. I am exceedingly grateful for the presence and revelation of Jesus in *ecclesia*. Each and everyone of you is a gift, and brings gifts to our community. In partnership with us, we reach out to the world with God's love and grace. In gratitude for all that you are and all you do,

In gratitude for all that you are and all you do,

Pastor David Weeks

St. Peter's Celebrates Holy Week



You're Invited to St. Peter's Summer BBQ



WELCOME
SUMMER

Come one...Come all!

Our annual Welcome Summer! party is Wednesday, May 15. We will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. Serving begins at 5:30. We will have outdoor games and activities--bean bags, badminton, etc. With youth sports, vacations, weekends at the cabin, etc., summer is a busy time. Hope you can join us for good food, laughter, and fun!

Church Council Retreat



On April 13, 2024, the Church Council and Pastor David participated in a retreat led by Pastor Barb Streed, with the SE Minnesota Synod Office. The all-day retreat was held at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center. Pastor Streed led us in a discussion about our personal strengths and how those strengths can be used on the council. Additionally, we discussed survey results on the Vitality of St. Peter's that we had taken in preparation for the day.

Celebrating Pastor David's 10 Year Anniversary at St. Peter's



Pastor David's decade in the pulpit at St. Peter's Lutheran was marked after the April 14 service with a Fellowship Hall celebration featuring ice cream and almond bars – two widely known favorites of the honoree.

About 80 people attended the party, including Pastor David and Michon's three adult sons and their families, which include three grandchildren. Pastor's parents and his sister and her husband also attended.



This Month + Next Worship Leaders




If you are unable to assist on the date assigned, please change with someone else on the list and contact the church office so that the bulletin can be updated. 507.645.8252.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Date	Time	Ushers	Reader	Communion Server	Coffee/Kitchen	Live Stream
May 5	9:00 a.m.	Diane Boyum Laura Gilligan	Kirsten Croone	Jolene Manzey Sheryl Kleppe Richard DeBeau	Don + Roberta Bonrud	Bill Bleckwehl
May 12	9:00 a.m.	Pat + Dennis Kenison	Beth Berry	-	David + Polly Hendee	Megan Culhane
May 19	9:00 a.m.	Dennis + Janet Hahn	Mike Eaves	Dale Ness Linda Ness Evonne Clay	Mary Bleckwehl Carmen Sevcik	Megan Culhane
May 26	9:00 a.m.	Eldon + Doris Hill	Steve Hill	-	Doris Welke Richard DeBeau	Nick Paulson
June 2	9:00 a.m.	Borris + Joyce Mokoff	Patrick Bougie	Michon Weeks Doris Hill Laura Gilligan	Connie + Mark Albers	Bill Bleckwehl
June 9	9:00 a.m.	Don + Roberta Bonrud	Avonne Kaplan	-	Nick + Emily Paulson	Naomi Ziegler
June 16	9:00 a.m.	Pat + Dennis Kenison	Lorraine Rovig	Ramona Pumper Mary Peterson Julie Klock	Marilyn Finneseth Thelma Winter	Megan Culhane
June 23	9:00 a.m.	Phil + Joanne Olson	Pete Pedersen	-	Mary + Brian Peterson	Bill Bleckwehl
June 30	9:00 a.m.	Linda + Dale Ness	Michon Weeks	-	Phil + Joanne Olson	Megan Culhane

May Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30pm Jubilee Bells 6:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm SPY 7pm Worship Choir Happy Birthday Dale Finger Madyson Sevcik Violet Weed	2 7am Table Talk 8am BGs + MGs 12pm Executive Committee Happy Birthday Tom Metz	3 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast 9am-3pm Red Cross Blood Drive Happy Birthday Jean Spittle	4 8-11:30am Church Cleanup
5 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School 10:10am New Member Class Happy Birthday Dale Boyum	6 Happy Birthday Nancy Nytes	7 10am Staff Meeting 12pm Executive Committee	8 1pm Worship Band 5:30pm Jubilee Bells 6:30pm Youth Service Night - Ditch Cleanup 7pm Worship Choir Happy Birthday Borris Mokoff Chad Seeley Terra Wierson	9 7am Table Talk 2pm New Spirit Circle 7pm Faith on Tap	10 9am LUV Quilters 10:30am Gospel Band Happy Birthday Barb Liebenstein Wendell Spittle Madeleine Douah	11 8am-4pm SE MN Synod Assembly
12 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School 10:10am New Member Class 3pm Sons of Norway Happy Birthday Laura Gilligan Lorraine Lemke	13 9:30am Eve Circle 6:30pm Big Giants 4-H	14 9:30am Hannah Circle 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Rachel Circle 6pm Faith Formation Committee 7pm Church Council Meeting Happy Birthday Bob Baker	15 1pm Worship Band 5:30pm Welcome Summer BBQ 6:30pm SPY Summer Party 7pm Worship Choir	16 7am Table Talk 11:30am SOLOS (Arby's) Happy Birthday Peter Lovoll Nolan Thompson Harland Wegner	17 8:30am Women's Fellowship Study 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Brian Paulson	18 Happy Birthday Karen Johnson John Schmitz
19 9am Worship with Holy Communion + New Member Sunday 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School 3pm Troubadours Concert	20 Happy Birthday Thomas Culhane	21 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday David Boyum Dan Scharber	22 1pm Worship Band 2-4pm SE MN Synod Open House 6pm Musician Party Happy Birthday Steve Reindal	23 7am Table Talk	24 10:30am Gospel Band Happy Birthday Naomi Ziegler	25
26 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship Happy Birthday Kristin Harner	27	28 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Seth Thompson Carol Irwin Dominic Humann	29	30	31 9am LUV Quilters 10:30am Gospel Band Happy Birthday Dianne Peterson	

Music Notes



For this month, I am cutting, pasting, and updating parts from previous May newsletter articles – as the information is still relevant to our worship at St. Peter's.



WORSHIP CHOIR AND JUBILEE BELLS: This month, we are wrapping up another year of making music together! I'd like to take a moment and thank all of St. Peter's musicians. Our bell choir and worship choir members are very committed and a joy to direct. Did you realize that there is room for new members?

Jubilee Bells practice at 5:30 on Wednesdays during the school year, and play one Sunday a month for worship. We have enough bells for 12 people to ring. We currently have 8 ringers playing.

Worship Choir meets at 7 pm on Wednesdays during the school year, and typically sing at 2 services each month. The number of singers needed for a choir is limitless. There are basically four sections in our choir. Men and women each split between higher range and lower range.

Jubilee Bells and Worship Choir meet from September to May. I have a schedule made up well in advance, so you can plan accordingly. I also have an "absent" list for when you know you will be unavailable. There are no "three strikes" rules! We have a lot of fun and laughs, but the musicians would also tell you that these groups become a support for each other.

We have other music opportunities at St. Peter's as well – let me know if you'd be interested in being part of the worship band or the gospel band!

SUMMER WORSHIP MUSIC: If you would like to help with summer worship music, this is the time to let me know! I know there are St. Peter's students AND adults, who play instruments and/or sing! I am available to help find music for you, if you would like suggestions. This is your chance to praise God with music! If you don't believe me, read Psalm 150:

Praise the Lord!
Praise God IN HIS SANCTUARY;
praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with TRUMPET sound;
praise him with LUTE and HARP!
Praise him with TAMBOURINE and DANCE;
praise him with STRINGS and PIPE!
Praise him with clanging CYMBALS;
praise him with LOUD clashing CYMBALS!
LET EVERYTHING THAT BREATHE
Praise the Lord!



See you in church!
~ Mary Kay

Council Notes

To express God's love and grace in building a community where people **believe** in God, **belong** to Christ, and **become** disciples who serve in day-to-day living.

Devotion: Pastor read Colossians 3:16-17 and asked Council members to share why each joined the congregation and in what ways each has been spiritually nurtured anywhere in the Christian community.

Pastor's Report: Attendance at the midweek Lenten services was steady; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter were good. Thanks to music director Mary Kay Bougie and the musicians for their extra work. The Easter dramatization and processional received many positive comments. Confirmation classes return to a regular post-Easter schedule. The congregation's website is updated and will be refreshed regularly with a focus on visitors, rather than members. Planning and strategies continue for refurbishing the second-floor restrooms. New-member classes are scheduled April 21, May 5 and 12. Tharan Leopold, an ELCA gift planner based in Minnesota, and Terrence Hassanally, the congregation's financial administrator, will lead a conversation during the April 28 coffee hour on "Creative Strategies for Leaving a Thoughtful Legacy."

Council President: The Personnel Committee's meetings with church members and groups learned that the congregation hopes whoever fills the open staff position will provide educational opportunities from birth to grave. The council and committee plan to schedule a meeting with Rev. Barb Streed from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod to discuss the congregation's options.

Treasurer: March giving was very good, about \$2,700 over budget for the five-Sunday month. "It's a positive report, but you can find negatives if you dig into it," Olson said.

New Business: The annual, day-long Council retreat will be Saturday, April 13, at Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center near Farmington. Paulson plans to organize another CPR-training class for congregation members sometime in coming weeks or months. A class was held last year. The possibility of publishing a new church directory is under review. The current directory was printed in 2018, the congregation's 125th anniversary. Olson relayed a suggestion from his wife, JoAnne, that the congregation use one week's Fellowship Hour contributions (about \$20) each month to purchase food for the curbside pantry on the east side of the church. The shelves sometimes hold meager supplies or are stocked with inappropriate items. A motion by Kleppe (seconded by Thompson) was approved to use the offering from one coffee-hour gathering each month to replenish food in the pantry. Motion approved. The Council scheduled a spring cleanup of the church interior and grounds for 8 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 4. Coffee and treats will be provided to volunteers.

Adjournment: Motion by Paulson and second by Thompson to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, in the Fireside Room. (Executive Board meets at noon April 2.)



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

St. Peter's Mission Statement: Believe. Belong. Become. To express God's love and grace in building a community where people believe in God, belong to Christ and become disciples who serve in day to day living.

COUNCIL

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Sarah's House, the congregation's former parsonage, received a light landscaping makeover from volunteers on Earth Day.

The April 22 work was part of a project by Homes for God's Children, a Bethel Lutheran Church initiative to raise money to pay utility bills at Ruth's House in Faribault this year – and do landscaping touchups at Sarah's House in Northfield.

Volunteers included Dave Detert and Judy Code from Bethel, and Bette Lee with grandson Hunter, and Mark Shaw from St. Peter's. They pulled weeds, raked garden debris, applied mulch and set out new patio furniture. Detert said volunteers would probably need to return to followup and finish.



“Homes for God's Children is a five-year commitment to see if we can make a difference in the community, even in a congregation with an aging demographic,” Detert said. “If you're always looking inward, you're already dead. This is our attempt to do more.”

St. Peter's owns the old parsonage and rents it to the non-profit organization that operate Sarah's House. The facility provides a safe, sober and short-term environment for women recovering from addiction. The intent is for the women to transition into healthful, independent living. A caseworker helps residents set goals, locate resources, find employment and develop coping skills.

Bethel launched Homes for God's Children after paying off the church's mortgage a few years ago. Under the new program, the congregation provided all appliances to Community Action Center's Hillcrest Village on the north edge of town in 2022. It worked with Habitat for Humanity in 2023. This year are the Ruth's House/Sarah's House projects.

Thanks to the TORCH committee donations of snacks, gift cards and cash, 5 care packages were sent to first generation college students as they study for finals. We would like to invite others who wish to join our group to please contact Mona Weselmann (mona.weselmann@gmail.com). Our next care packages will be assembled in the fall.

