



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

September - May
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
terrencehassanally@northfieldstp.org

Allie Machacek
Communications Coordinator + Admin
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Dear Saints of St. Peter's

Our Advent-Epiphany theme this year was Words for the Beginning. Mary Kay and I both received many positive comments on the worship services. Thank you for your feedback.

Christmas—with all the extra gatherings, events, baking, traveling, etc.--is now behind us. As lovely and delightful as Christmas is, it is also exhausting.

We now begin a new calendar year (2025) and a new ecclesiastical season (Epiphany).

I invite you to join me in asking, "what word(s) do I want to lean into as we begin a new year?"

What word(s) do I want to shape and direct my life in the coming year?

Grace is the first word I would choose. Classic Lutheran theology emphasizes grace as our starting point with God. We are justified by grace. We live by grace—pure trust that God loves and forgives us.

Our world could use a large measure of grace. Too easily we become self-righteous and judgmental of other people's opinions, lifestyles, and choices.

In his explanation of the Eighth Commandment, You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor, Luther wrote that "we should defend, speak well of, and explain our neighbors actions in the kindest way."

We can also be overly harsh on ourselves. We have trouble forgiving ourselves for stupid mistakes we made years ago.

Jesus began his ministry with the word repent. Repentance literally means to turn around and go in the opposite direction. Repentance is the opportunity for a new start.

"It is never too late to be what you might have been." ~ George Elliot

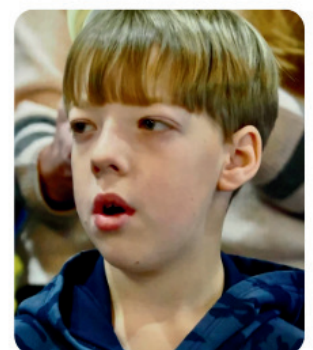
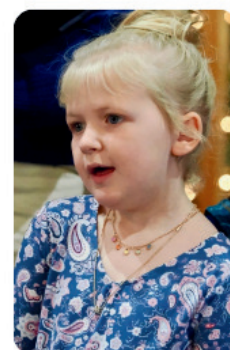
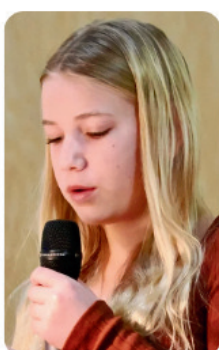
Beginning with grace, I want to begin the new year also with the words love, understanding, and peace. Inspired by Ted Lasso, I would also like to be a bit more curious.

What word(s) do you want to lean into as you begin a new year?

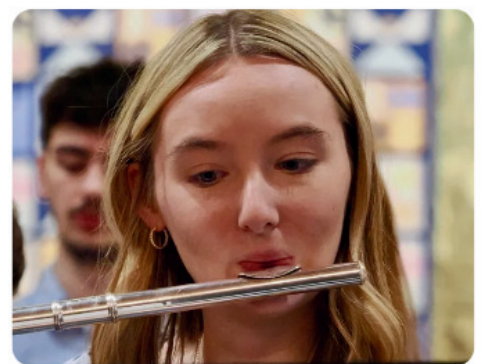
Peace,

Pastor David Weeks

St. Peter's Christmas Program



St. Peter's Christmas Program



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
January 5	9:00 a.m	Mary Bleckwehl Mary Boyum	Lorraine Rovig	Beth Eaves Mike Eaves Laura Gilligan	Richard DeBeau Doris Welke	Bill Bleckwehl
January 12	9:00 a.m	David + Polly Hendee	Pete Pedersen	-	Dennis + Janet Hahn	Naomi Ziegler
January 19	9:00 a.m	Lyle + Nancy Gunderson	Julie Klock	Ginny Paulson Beth Vivant Michon Weeks	Dennis + Beth Berry	Rebecca Peterson
January 26	9:00 a.m	Matt, Danielle, Quinn, + Riley Crise	Steve Hill	-	Phil + JoAnne Olson	Megan Culhane
February 2	9:00 a.m	Joan Paulson Mickey Brodin	Kirsten Croone	Sheryl Kleppe Doris Hill Ramona Pumper	Mary Bleckwehl Ginny Paulson	Bill Bleckwehl
February 9	9:00 a.m	Doris + Eldon Hill	Marilyn Finneseth	-	Richard DeBeau Doris Welke	Naomi Ziegler
February 16	9:00 a.m	Dennis + Janet Hahn	Beth Vivant	Beth Vivant Avonne Kaplan Julie Klock	Brian + Mary Peterson	Megan Culhane
February 23	9:00 a.m	Mike + Beth Eaves	Michon Weeks	-	David + Polly Hendee	Naomi Ziegler

January Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy Birthday Joan Olson Reid Soltis	2 7am Table Talk 8am MG's + BG's	3 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Steve Hill	4 Happy Birthday Kathy Plante
5 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School Happy Birthday Richard Kuntz	6 Happy Birthday Nevaeh Hanson Donavin Prescott Reyna Riveria	7 10am Staff Meeting 12pm Executive Committee	8 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule	9 7am Table Talk	10 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Brad Anderson Deb Laven	11 Happy Birthday Melissa Little
12 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School 3pm Sons of Norway Happy Birthday Eldon Hill	13 6:30pm 4-H Big Giants Happy Birthday Heather Payne Madison Simonson	14 9:30am Hannah Circle 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Rachel Circle	15 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule	16 7am Table Talk 11:30am SOLOS (Applebees) 7pm Faith on Tap	17 8:30am Women's Fellowship Study 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Chad Olson Barb Reindal	18 Happy Birthday Ryan Behrens Harvey Blood Reinhold Lemke Shawna Meliza
19 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School Happy Birthday Doris Hill Ashley Terpstra	20 9:30 Eve Circle	21 10am Staff Meeting 7pm Church Council	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule	23 7am Table Talk Happy Birthday Ava Quinnell	24 9am-3pm Red Cross Blood Drive	25 Happy Birthday Phyllis Finger Rich Laven
26 9am Worship 10:10am Sunday School 10am Coffee + Fellowship Annual Meeting + Celebrating January Birthdays Happy Birthday Rick Opatrny	27 Happy Birthday Donna Ozmun	28 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Randy Blood Jill Hughes	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule	30 7am Table Talk 9am LUV Quilters	31 Spring Creek Elementary Kindness Retreat Happy Birthday Tyler Bleckwehl Riley Crase Mary Fransen Myrtle Ringlien	



Wednesday Evening Schedule

- 5:30pm Hand Bells Practice
- 6:30pm Worship
- 6:30pm J-term Confirmation
- 6:30pm SPY (1st + 3rd Wednesday)
- 7:00pm Worship Choir Practice

Happenings at St. Peter's



Advent Peace + Healing



December 4F Outing



Worship Choir Christmas Party



Christmas Eve Worship



Council Highlights

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 the second Sunday of Advent lesson from "Words for the Beginning," the devotional series the congregation is using this year. The reading – titled "We Can't Go Alone" – was the story of Ruth and Naomi.

Pastor: The congregation's shared Thanksgiving Eve worship service with Bethel and St. John's, followed by the Pie Fest, was another festive evening. Pastor is grateful for the generosity and hospitality of the congregation providing pies. The worship theme through Epiphany Sunday (Jan. 5) is "Words for the Beginning." A free devotional book is available to worshippers. The Wednesday midweek worship service again uses Holden Evening Prayer with the traditional Advent theme of hope, love and joy. Severe cold weather has hurt attendance. Pastor is beginning work in the Leaderwise program. Christmas Eve worship is at 3:30 and 5 p.m. Pastor will be gone Jan 1-14. Mike Zaske, a friend from southwest Minnesota, will preach. Confirmation J-term classes will be Jan. 5, 15 and 29. Beth and Mike Eaves and perhaps others will teach a baking course at St. Peter's for the students. Pastor will take students on a hike Jan. 15, and teach "Holy Spokes: The Spirituality of Biking" on Jan. 29. The middle school and high school youth trips will be to Christikon, the ELCA faith-based summer camp in the Montana mountains north of Yellowstone National Park, on July 19-27. The congregation's annual meeting is Jan. 26.

Council President: Kleppe facilitated requests to the Mission Endowment Fund committee for continuing education funds for Pastor to participate in the Leaderwise program, and congregation member Phyllis Swanson's request for a donation to Lutheran Bible Translators. The council plans to resume devoting \$1,000 in continuing education funds for the pastor in the congregation's annual budget.

Treasurer: Olson presented a 2025 budget proposal of \$399,298. It's a 2.3 percent increase from the 2024 budget of \$390,125. Olson said he expects the church's mortgage to be paid off in June 2025. The mortgage balance Jan. 1 will be \$12,300, down from \$35,700 a year earlier. Bleckwehl moved to approve the proposed budget; Eaves seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Loose offerings in January and February will be donated to the congregation's LUV Quilters to help purchase batting and other supplies.

Council Vacancies: The Nominating Committee will seek candidates for three Church Council vacancies in 2025..

Cub Scouts: A possible request for permission to use the church Fellowship Hall and a few Sunday school rooms as meeting places remains tabled.

Next meeting: 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the Fireside Room. (Executive Board meets at noon Jan. 16.)



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

Sheryl Kleppe | President
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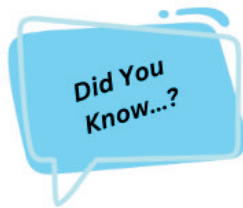
Summer Trip to Christikon

Both Middle School and High School students have an opportunity to go to Christikon this summer, July 19-27.

Christikon is a Lutheran outdoor ministry near Bozeman, MT, and offers experiences grounded in and shaped by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Middle Schoolers will stay at the base camp and do day hikes (Wayfarers). High School will backpack and stay in tents (Mountaineers). Go to www.christikon.org for more information about the camp and programs.

The cost is \$650/person, which includes registration, transportation, and food. Talk to Pastor David for more information. Registration is through St. John's at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/summer-2025>



- Kris Denison creates wonderful table decorations for the monthly Birthday Bash.
- JoAnne Olsen leads a group of people called the BGS (Bucket Gals) who thoroughly clean the kitchen and fellowship hall once a month.
- Mona Weselmann headed a crew of women providing Torch students care packages during finals.
- David and Polly Hendee headed a group of volunteers making apleskiever for about 90 people for Stewardship Sunday.
- Doris Welke, Diane Boyum, Sheryl Kleppe, and Jolene Manzey gather monthly to address birthday cards to our members.

Looking Ahead

St. Peter's Annual Meeting | Sunday, January 26 | 10am