



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
cell: 952.322.0064
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 Friends in Christ:

For the Son of Man came, not to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many. - Mark 10:45

We have just observed Lent and celebrated Easter. On Maundy Thursday, we remembered that Jesus washed his disciples' feet, and on Good Friday he gave his life on the cross. Easter is our celebration that the tomb could not contain the One who came to serve.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. - John 15:13

Jesus showed and shared his love for us by serving us. Jesus also invites his followers to do the same. We serve because Jesus first served us.

Service, sharing, and taking care of others is at the heart of the Christian message and life. The Christian faith is lived and practiced. Serving others is not an option, or a recommendation for those who have the time.

In the coming month, you will receive your Time & Talent sign-up sheet. We all have gifts, talents, and interests. In Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 14, Paul likens the church to a body. Just as a body has many parts, each with its own function, so do we in the church. Fortunately, we do not all have the same gifts or talents.

Bob Dylan sang, "*Gotta Serve Somebody*."

*You may be an ambassador to England or France
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world
You might be a socialite with a long string of pearls.
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the Devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody*

I invite and encourage you to prayerfully consider your God-given gifts and interests. Look for opportunities to serve Jesus through the ministries of St. Peter's Lutheran. How are you sharing your gifts in a manner to build up the Kingdom of God? If you have questions about a ministry opportunity, please contact the church office.

We are grateful for the abundance of gifts which God has bestowed upon you, his beloved children here at St. Peter's Lutheran.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor David Weeks

Meet The Council



Sheryl Kleppe

Church Council president, elected in 2024. Member of the congregation since 2014. Previously served five years as an at-large member of the council until about 2020. Served as a Breakfast Club volunteer, member of congregational LEAD (Living Every Day As Disciples) team, and led Bible and book studies. Served on church councils in Rockwell City and Storm Lake, Iowa. President of the Storm Lake church council.

Born: West Union, Iowa.

Hometown: West Union, Iowa.

High School: West Union High School.

College: Luther College, bachelor of arts degree in elementary education; Iowa State University, master's degree in guidance and counseling.

Career: Taught sixth grade at Rockwell City (Iowa) Middle School for five years, then third graders at Rockwell Elementary for nine years. Elementary counselor at Storm Lake, Iowa, for more than 20 years.

Family: "I have one younger sister, Kathy. She and her husband, Joe, live on their dairy farm in Caledonia, Minnesota. I have three nieces and six 'grands' ranging in age from 5 to 12."

Odds + Ends: "Jolene Manzey and I are housemates. Our realtor here called us 'The Golden Girls,' truly what we are. Jo and I taught together in Storm Lake and decided in our retirement to buy one house and share living expenses. It works well."

Music Notes

By Mary Kay Bougie, Director Music + Worship

He is Risen! Blessed Easter season to all of you!

The Easter season lasts for 40 days (until Jesus' ascension). Lent is also a 40 day season (excluding Sundays). Eastern Orthodox and Celtic Christians observe a 40 day pre-Christmas Fast (Advent).
What is the significance of the number 40?

In the Old Testament, the story of Noah had rain for 40 days and 40 nights. The 12 tribes of Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness. Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mt. Sinai. Jesus was tempted in the desert and fasted for 40 days. Saul, David, Solomon and Josiah each ruled for 40 years. Jesus spent time teaching his disciples for 40 days after his resurrection – until his ascension

The number 40 isn't the "big deal" here. It's meant to represent a complete period of time, or a large amount of time. So instead of getting into details of if these events were 32 days, or 46 years, 40 was used as a number that people would understand to be a significant amount of time.

So during our Easter Season, which is a complete period of time – it will last until May 19, let us rejoice that Jesus has conquered the grave for our sins, and is forever Lord of All! Alleluia!

This Joyful Eastertide (ELW#391)

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow! My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison, our faith had been in vain.

But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen!

SYNOD STAFF SETTLES IN UPSTAIRS



The eight-person staff of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA may not be fully unpacked, but they're comfortably working from their new leased home at St. Peter's. They moved into five available rooms in the original second-floor Sunday School wing in January. The headquarters had been at Assisi Heights in Rochester since the synod's creation in 1987.

The staff: Cheryse Brenno of Rochester, Call Process and Roster Administrator. Rev. Emily Carson of Rochester, Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant for Generosity, Stewardship and Financial Administration. Ashley Corbett of Rochester, Communications Director. Kathy Chatelaine of Owatonna, Assistant for Global Ministry. Bishop Regina Hassanally of Northfield. Rev. Matt Larson of Red Wing, Assistant for Candidacy, Leadership and Congregational Care. Sadie Short of Rochester, Office Administrator. Rev. Barb Streed of Faribault, Assistant for Call Process and Congregational Care. Also, Tharan Leopold of Faribault works from the office as a Gifts Officer and Endowment Specialist for the ELC Foundation.



While not always in the office together, the far-flung staff meets weekly in Northfield. Above, from left, Cheryse Brenno, Sadie Short, Ashley Corbett, Rev. Matt Larson, Rev. Emily Carson, Kathy Chatelaine, Bishop Regina Hassanally and Rev. Barb Streed. They serve 165 congregations with 117,000+ baptized members.



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
April 7	9:00 a.m.	Doris + Eldon Hill	Julie Klock	Beth Berry Evonne Clay Beth Vivant	Doris Welke Richard DeBeau	Megan Culhane
April 14	9:00 a.m.	Phil + Joanne Olson	Pete Pedersen	-	Mary Boyum Marilyn Finneseth	Megan Culhane
April 21	9:00 a.m.	Borris + Joyce Mokoff	Patrick Bougie	Michon Weeks Laura Gilligan Doris Hill	Ramona Pumper Emily Paulson	Nick Paulson
April 28	9:00 a.m.	Janet Gilbertson Joan Paulson	Jolene Manzey	-	Mark + Connie Albers	Megan Culhane
May 5	9:00 a.m.	Diane Boyum Laura Gilligan	Kirsten Croone	Jolene Manzey Sheryl Kleppe Richard DeBeau	David + Polly Hendee	Bill Bleckwehl
May 12	9:00 a.m.	Lyle + Nancy Gunderson	Beth Berry	-	Don + Roberta Bonrud	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.	Pat + Dennis Kenison	Steve Hill	-	Doris Welke Richard DeBeau	Nick Paulson

April Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy Birthday Steve Harner	2 10am Staff Meeting 2pm Executive Committee Happy Birthday Faith Bergemann Jamie Blood Patrick Bougie Peter Scheffert	3 Wednesday Evening Schedule	4 7am Table Talk 8am BGs 8am MGs	5 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast 9am LUV Quilters 10:30am Gospel Band	6
7 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School	8 9:30am Eve Circle 6:30pm 4H Big Giants Happy Birthday Lyle Gunderson Michael Peterson Lael Weselmann	9 9:30am Hannah Circle 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Rachel Circle 7pm Church Council	10 Wednesday Evening Schedule	11 7am Table Talk 2pm New Spirit Circle	12 9am LUV Quilters 10:30am Gospel Band	13 Church Council Retreat
14 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School 3pm Sons of Norway Happy Birthday Dennis Hahn James Johnson Troy Nystuen	15	16 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Linda Dorn	17 Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Jaynie Rezac	18 7am Table Talk 11:30am SOLOS (Hogan Brothers) 7pm Faith on Tap Happy Birthday Kay Peterson	19 8:30am Women's Fellowship Study 9am LUV Quilters 10:30am Gospel Band Happy Birthday Kristin Dennison Lois Goetz Nicole Teske	20 Happy Birthday Matt Crase Logan Miller
21 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School 10:10 New Member Class Happy Birthday Brad Willie	22 Happy Birthday Dawn Hetrick	23 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Emerson Terpstra	24 Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Lori Schmidt	25 Happy Birthday Mickey Brodin	26 9am LUV Quilters 10:30am Gospel Band Happy Birthday Beth Vivant	27 Happy Birthday Timothy Little Amanda Peterson Bonnie Van Erp
28 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship with Tharan Leopold 10:10am Sunday School Happy Birthday Eric Randall	29 Happy Birthday Eli Kopack Mason Stowe Curtis Valek	30 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Adeline Sevcik Henry Sevcik				



Wednesday Evenings At St. Peter's

- 5:30pm | Jubilee Bells
- 6:30pm | Worship
- 6:30pm | Confirmation
- 6:30pm | SPY (1st + 3rd Wednesday)
- 7:00pm | Worship Choir

Additional Notes

Torch Committee

Did you know that there is a small group of St. Peter's members who send care packages to a number of TORCH college students 3 times a year? Our church is among several other congregations in Northfield who support first-generation college students and Northfield's growing low-income population.

The Northfield TORCH program is a collaboration among members of the school district and community partners to address the issues of the achievement gap. Originally TORCH served Latino students, but because of its success, their programs are now available to all traditionally under-served students, including first-generation college students and low-income youth. The mission of TORCH is to improve the graduation and post-secondary participation rates of Northfield's students of color, low-income students, and youth who would be first-generation college attendees. Although TORCH only expected to serve about 100 youth at the time when it first started in 2005, the program now serves over 450 current students and 100 alumni.

In the fall, winter and spring, our group coordinates sending care packages filled with cash, small gifts and food items. If you are looking for an easy way to make a difference in a young person's life, consider joining our group. This volunteer project is easy, rewarding and impactful. You simply drop off donated items at a determined location by a specific date. It's that easy!

Please contact Mona Weselmann at mona.weselmann@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list. You will receive notifications and instructions on ways you can help.

Support and cheer from the sidelines! Help us brighten a student's day!

On behalf of the TORCH committee,
Mona Weselmann

You Asked - *'If I want to donate money to St. Peter's in memory of someone, how should I do that?'*

- Make the check payable to St. Peter's Lutheran Church
- Write in the amount you wish to donate
- In the memo line, write "In Memory of (the person's name)" and either Undesignated or Mission Endowment
- If you write "Undesignated" St. Peter's will use the funds toward the most current need (i.e., Upstairs Bathrooms, Narthex Renovation, etc.)
- If you write "Mission Endowment" the money goes into our endowment fund for the church. This money is not considered part of the current budget but is a separate account. It is used at the discretion of the Mission Endowment Committee for advancing the mission of the church.
- If you don't write in either Undesignated or Mission Endowment, the money is put into undesignated funds.

On April 28, 2024, Tharan Leopold and Terrence Hassanally will be making a presentation during coffee hour on St. Peter's Gift Policy and the process of gifting the church in your will or the process of giving gifts of money or stock during your lifetime.

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 led a brief discussion on a LeaderWise blog titled "When People Are Commodities." Blogger Cindy Halvorson wondered "what would it look like to shift our attention from concern about the lifespan of our institutions to caring enough about others to meet them where they are?" Pastor said that while it's worthy to be concerned for the life of an institution, if it disappears, a lot more than just the institution vanishes. "We all have concern for the life of the institution. It's a challenge," he said, "(but) It's important to take an interest in people for who they are and the gifts they bring."

Pastor's Report: Preparing two sermons a week during Lent and preparing confirmation lessons dominates his time. Pastor and Kleppe met with middle and high school students and their parents for a conversation about their hopes for a youth director. Sunday School is functioning, but not sustainable, with parents taking charge in the interim. Barb Streed, Assistant to the Bishop, will facilitate our retreat. The middle/high school summer trip will be a July 7-12 canoe outing at Camp Amnicon in Wisconsin with youth from St. John's Lutheran and First United Church of Christ. Architect Patrick Bougie has provided Schmidt Homes with detailed drawings for remodeling the second-floor restrooms. The goal is to replicate the modernization of the first-floor restrooms off the narthex completed in 2019.

Council President: Council President: Kleppe has been talking with and listening to dozens of people about their hopes for the congregation since her election in February.

Treasurer: Giving through February was about \$13,500 under budget, but expenses were less than budgeted, yielding a \$331 surplus for the first two months of the year.

Synod Offices Update: An open house is pending.

Old Business: Motion by Bleckwehl and second by Olson for volunteers from the congregation to work with a small group from Bethel Lutheran on landscaping at Sarah's House, the former St. Peter's parsonage. The work is expected to be done in April.

Volunteers will be sought to assist Olson in crafting baptism boxes given to the parents of baptized children. The boxes contain a blanket provided by the congregation. Olson said each one requires about three hours of work. He builds about six a year.

A new subcommittee was created to bring ideas to the council in May for branding and a consistent church logo and signage for exterior doors, exterior and interior signs, website, newsletter, printed materials, and other uses. Members are Bleckwehl, Hendee, Kopack, Olson, and Weeks.



ELCA

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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Kirsten Thompson
kirsten.thompson@ecolab.com

Sick? Hospitalized?
Please contact the church office if you would like a visit from Pastor Weeks. (507) 645.8252 or visit
www.northfieldstp.org/prayers-and-announcements

New Member Class

Are you looking for a new church home? Curious and interested in learning more about St. Peter's Lutheran? Pastor David will be facilitating a class in the Fireside Room on Sundays, April 21, May 5, 12. New Members will be received on May 19--Pentecost Sunday. For more information, contact Pastor David.

-Pastor David Weeks

It's A Party for Pastor!

Please join in celebrating Pastor Dave's decade of ministry at St. Peter's Lutheran. The Church Council and others are hosting a coffee during the 10 o'clock Fellowship Hour on Sunday, April 14. There will be a few of Pastor's favorite treats to enjoy.

Pastor arrived here in December 2013. He served four previous Minnesota churches before accepting the call from St. Peter's. The other churches were Trinity in Watertown, St. Stephen in Marshall and Big Bend/West Bank in Milan. David was born in Tyler, Minnesota and grew up in George, Iowa.

Pastor David was baptized at Aetna Lutheran in Ruthton, Minnesota. The eldest of six children, he attended Waldorf College in Forrest City, Iowa, for two years and graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in philosophy. He received a master's of divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

He and Michon – an associate professor of practice in art and art history at St. Olaf College – are parents of three adult sons, all of whom are married and live in the Twin Cities metro area. They are Isaac (Jill), Peter (Elizabeth) and Christian (Mollie). They have two grandchildren, with two more on the way – and may have three grandchildren by mid-April.

Pastor and Michon enjoy outdoor activities such as biking, golfing, running, canoeing and camping. They also like to visit art museums and attend concerts in Northfield and the Twin Cities.