



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

Cariann Strauch
Director of Children's Ministries
ext. 204
cariannstrauch@northfieldstp.org

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

Terrence Hassanally
Financial Administrator, ext. 205
terrencehassanally@northfieldstp.org

Allie Machacek
Communications Coordinator + Admin Asst.
ext. 201
allie@northfieldstp.org

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Dear Friends in Christ:

Epiphany is the ecclesiastical season which follows Christmas. January 6 is the Day of Epiphany, and it marks the arrival of the 3 kings or wisemen. Our creches and our songs all say 3 wisemen because they brought 3 gifts. The season of Epiphany runs until Ash Wednesday, which is February 14, this year.

I am especially excited for Epiphany this year. I will be in Florence, Italy, on January 6. Florence traditionally has a long, grand Epiphany parade with magnificent costumes. The celebration dates back to 1417, but was halted in 1494 when the Medici family was expelled from Florence. A live nativity scene is set up in the Piazza Duomo.

I will be in Italy, with Michon co-leading a St. Olaf J-term course. It is similar to last year's course, but edited. This year, we will spend two weeks in Florence, one week in Rome, and the final week in Sicily. Michon and I are leaving a couple days early so that we can go to Assisi, where the mystic and friar St. Francis lived. The current pope is Pope Francis, and he has modeled his ministry and life on Francis's dedication to the poor and his life of simplicity. St. Peter's, as well as many other congregations, has an annual blessing of the animals/pets on or near October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

You may also know his prayer:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."

We will be in Rome on Sunday, January 21. We are hopeful that we can go to the outdoor square at St. Peter's Basilica. After mass, the Pope traditionally greets the crowds from a balcony.

In Sicily we will see the convergence of many ancient cultures—the Romans, Greeks, and the Normans.

I am grateful for this opportunity to learn more Christian history, and see many important and historic churches, paintings, and sculptures.

I trust that our travels and tours will offer many epiphanies—new insights, new ways of seeing God's love in Jesus, and new discoveries of the Church's history.

Peace,

Pastor David Weeks

Music Notes

By Mary Kay Bougie, Director of Music

A few years ago in the Parish Visitor, I wrote about my family's tradition of celebrating Epiphany with a "King's Cake", which included 3 hidden almonds in the batter. Whoever found each of the almonds were the "3 kings" for the day.

I have been curious about other traditions of Epiphany which happen throughout the world. I was able to find lots of information with just a little snooping on the internet! Let me share with you some of the traditions!



You've probably heard about "Twelfth Night". This is a festival for Epiphany Eve or the day of Epiphany – depending on which tradition you start counting the 12 days of Christmas. In the UK, a punch called wassail is served on this night, as well as the Twelfth-cake (or "King's Cake"). In France, the King's Cake is eaten all month long! Some traditions say all decorations must come down by the end of Twelfth Night. In former French colonies, this marks the start of the Carnival season.

Originating in the Medieval Europe, people practice "Chalking the Door". This tradition blesses your home. Christians write on their doors a pattern of numbers and symbols, such as:

20 † C † M † B † 24



The numbers reference the calendar year. The letters C, M, B refer to the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) or can also be from the Latin blessing, "Christus mansionem benedicat" ("May Christ bless this house").



In some parts of the world, particularly Spanish-speaking countries, children receive their gifts on the Feast of the Epiphany, marking the end of the Christmas season. In France, men dress up as kings and pass out candy in the streets. Epiphany is a national holiday in many countries.

Traditionally, Epiphany gets its own liturgical season, linking the Nativity with the Passion (Ash Wednesday). The readings during this season focus not only on the biblical Magi and star story, but also the baptism of Jesus and Jesus' miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding in Cana. These are considered manifestations of God in Jesus' life: light, water, and wine.



TAKE HEART: Our former St. Olaf intern, Maddi Froiland along with her mother, Rev. Dr. Lisa Bates-Froiland, are working on a project with Jesuit priest Garrett Gundlach of Racine, WI to distribute 8,000 olive wood hearts that were used in a worship service on Dec 28, 2023, at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to commemorate the Slaughter of the Innocents (long-standing date on the Christian Church calendar). Maddi lives in Jerusalem, and visited the Bethlehem woodworking factory in December, and saw first-hand the beautiful work they do. St. Peter's has ordered 100 of these hearts, available for you to purchase at \$3 each. We will use them in our Ash Wednesday service (which falls on Valentine's Day) and then distribute them to those who have purchased them. Please consider purchasing a heart to support the work of Palestinians in the Holy Land. More information to come soon.

Children's Ministries

By Cariann "Miss Ann" Strauch, Director of Children's Ministries



"Be on Guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come."
Mark 13:33



Parents:

Join us for Fellowship + Faith each week in the Parent's Room during Sunday School!

We are getting ready for the coming of Jesus!

During Advent, we celebrated the birth of Jesus – the first time He came. AND...We are getting ready for Jesus to come again. Jesus is going to come again but we don't know when, so we must be on guard, awake and ready!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Our Sunday School children, along with the Youth Band, performed in our annual Christmas Program in December. This year was a sing-along with the congregation. Everyone took part in sharing the story of the birth of our Savior!



Looking Ahead:

Sunday, January 14th: Special Sunday School service project at church during Sunday School (MLK Jr.)

Sunday, January 21st: No Sunday School

Sunday, February 18th: No Sunday School (President's Day)

Reminder of Cancellation Policy:

St. Peter's follows Northfield Public Schools cancellation policy for inclement weather. Notification for Sunday School cancellation will be sent to families via email and posted on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/northfieldstp>).

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 |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Jan 7 | 9:00 a.m. | David + Polly Hendee | Steve Hill | Beth Berry Julia Daly Laura Gilligan | Ginny Paulson Mary Boyum | Bill Bleckwehl |
| Jan 14 | 9:00 a.m. | David + Polly Hendee | Pete Pedersen | - | Evonne Clay Marilyn Finneseth | Megan Culhane |
| Jan 21 | 9:00 a.m. | Mickey Brodin Joan Paulson | Jolene Manzey | Brian Peterson Beth Vivant Sheryl Kleppe | Don + Roberta Bonrud | Nick Paulson |
| Jan 28 | 9:00 a.m. | Mary Bleckwehl Connie Albers | Avonne Kaplan | - | Nick + Emily Paulson | Megan Culhane |
| Feb 4 | 9:00 a.m. | Dennis + Janet Hahn | Jolene Manzey | Carmen Sevcik Evonne Clay Michon Weeks | Kristin Croone Ginny Paulson | Bill Bleckwehl |
| Feb 11 | 9:00 a.m. | Borris + Joyce Mokoff | Sheryl Kleppe | - | Nick + Emily Paulson | Megan Culhane |
| Feb 18 | 9:00 a.m. | Laura Gilligan Roberta Bonrud | Pete Pedersen | Beth Berry Mary Peterson Brian Peterson | Roberta Bonrud Marilyn Finneseth | Nick Paulson |
| Feb 25 | 9:00 a.m. | Joann Paulson Janet Gilbertson | Beth Vivant | - | Phil + Joanne Olson | Nick Paulson |

January Calendar of Events + Birthdays

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| | 1 Happy Birthday Joan Olson Reid Soltis | 2 Happy Birthday Candace Hallcock | 3 7am Table Talk 8am BG's 8am MG's | 4 Happy Birthday Kathleen Plante | 5 8am Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Dawn's Corner Bar) 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Richard Kuntz | 6 Happy Birthday Nevaeh Hanson Donavin Prescott Reyna Rivera |
| 7 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School | 8 9:30am Eve Circle (Hideaway Vault) | 9 9:30am Hannah Circle 10am Staff Meeting 1:30 Rachel Circle 7pm Church Council | 10 Wednesday Evening Schedule J-term Confirmation Happy Birthday Brad Anderson Deb Laven | 11 7am Table Talk 8am BG's + MG's 2pm New Spirit Circle 7pm Faith On Tap (Contended Cow) Happy Birthday Melissa Little | 12 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Eldon Hill | 13 Happy Birthday Heather Payne Madison Simonson |
| 14 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Special Sunday School Service Project | 15 | 16 10am Staff Meeting | 17 Wednesday Evening Schedule J-term Confirmation Happy Birthday Chad Olson Barb Reindal | 18 11:30am SOLOS (George's Vineyard) Happy Birthday Harvey Blood Reinhold Lemke Shawanna Meliza | 19 8am Women's Fellowship Study 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Doris Hill Ashley Terpstra | 20 |
| 21 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship No Sunday School | 22 | 23 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Ava Quinnell Jacob Sevcik | 24 Wednesday Evening Schedule J-term Confirmation | 25 7am Table Talk Happy Birthday Phyllis Finger Rich Laven | 26 9am LUV Quilters | 27 Happy Birthday Donna Ozmun |
| 28 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship Celebrating January Birthdays! Happy Birthday Randy Blood Jill Hughes | 29 | 30 10am Staff Meeting | 31 Wednesday Evening Schedule No Worship Tonight No J-term Confirmation Happy Birthday Tyler Bleckwehl Mary Fransen Myrtle Ringlien Jutta Thompson | 7am Table Talk | 9am LUV Quilters | |



Wednesday Evenings At St. Peter's

6:00pm | Hand Bells Practice

6:30pm | J-term Confirmation

6:30pm | SPY

7:00pm | Worship Choir Practice

*Wednesday evening worship will resume in February.

Lessons + Carols




Lessons
&
Carols




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: Lead by Pastor Weeks read a message sent out by Bishop Hassanally based on Genesis 3 and "The Burning Bush" In this season of Advent, be invited to acknowledge God, turn toward God not away and see the places that God is present everyday.

Staff Reports: Steve Hill, Mark Shaw, David Hendee & Phil Olson have been busy moving, rearranging & purging items to make way for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod office. All exterior doors have been re-keyed; New keys shall be given out and tracked by Allie. Presently, 67 estimates of giving have been received. Pastor will be traveling Jan 1st through Jan 28th, using a combination of vacation & continuing education time accompanying Michon as the Program Assistant for Italian Art in Context, a St. Olaf J-term course, traveling in Florence, Rome, and Polemerno (Sicily).

Treasurer's Report : Income for November was \$30,302 - Slightly under the projected income by \$788. Expenses for the month of November were \$30,222; below the budgeted expenses by \$2,270. Olson reminded council that the approved budget for 2023 was operating with a deficit budget of \$18,000 - but shines a light that with 2023 coming to a close St Peter's may break even! The operating budget for 2024 will be presented to council at the January meeting and then presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in February.

Maintenance Report : Preparation for the SE MN Synod move is fully underway! Carpeting is being replaced in the areas that the Synod will be using. The synod plans to paint the rooms at their expense. It was discovered that the electrical panel is in need of replacement.- This work is being done by Guth electric. Other maintenance issues included the parking lot lights, updating the lighting in the atrium outside the fellowship hall and creating a plan for better directional signage for both visitors and members.

ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th - FOLLOWING WORSHIP



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

Mark Shaw, President

markpattysaw@gmail.com

Ashley Terpstra, VP

aa_evans@yahoo.com

Phil Olson, Treasurer

philjoanneolson@msn.com

Megan Culhane, Secretary

meganculhane87@gmail.com

Mary Bleckwehl

marybleckwehl@hotmail.com

David Hendee

davidhendee1952@gmail.com

Nick Paulson

nlpaulso@gmail.com

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