



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
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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What's Inside

Pg. 2 + 3 | Happenings at St. Peter's

Pg. 4 | Worship Volunteers

Pg. 5 | Feb Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Pg. 6 | Music Notes

Pg. 7 | Council Highlights



Dear Saints of St. Peter's

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

We hear these words on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year) as a cross is drawn on our forehead with ashes from burned palm branches. We typically associate these words as a reminder of our own mortality. We will all die, and when we do, we will return to the dust from which we came.

...then the Lord GOD formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

These words which tell us of our origin, and remind us of our destiny, also inform us of our identity. We are but one part of God's good creation. As Christians, we believe that a God of love created us and all that exists.

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.....And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:11-12

We have all marveled at a beautiful sunset. We have been filled with awe and wonder gazing upon the mountains. We have found peace and tranquility sitting by a gently flowing stream. Our experience confirms the truth of what the Bible says—God's creation is good.

I believe that one of the sins of Christian doctrine through the centuries has been it's anthropocentric focus. Too often, Jesus is presented as being exclusively interested in human beings going to heaven after we die. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world...." Think cosmos. John doesn't say, "For God so loved humans and humans alone...."

Tending to God's good creation is a spiritual issue. Our Biblical narrative tells us that God placed us in the garden to tend and care for all of creation.

During J-term Confirmation, I took a group of students across the street into the woods to experience, notice, and appreciate the goodness and wonder of God's good creation. Unfortunately, the climate is changing due to our overuse and exploitation of the creation. My prayer and hope is that we will witness to a loving God when we are faithful stewards of God's good creation

Peace,

Pastor David Weeks

Happenings at St. Peter's

Epiphany Sunday



Sunday School learns about Jesus' baptism



4F February Gathering

We have an opportunity to participate in the Feed My Starving Children South Metro Mobile Pack at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake on Thursday, Feb. 4. We will meet at 8:35 a.m. at St. Peter's and carpool to Prior Lake for our volunteer slot from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. We will have lunch afterward at the Crooked Pint in Savage, just 4 miles east of the church. A sign-up sheet on the desk in the narthex.

IMPORTANT: Only wedding bands/rings are allowed to be worn; all other jewelry must be left at home.

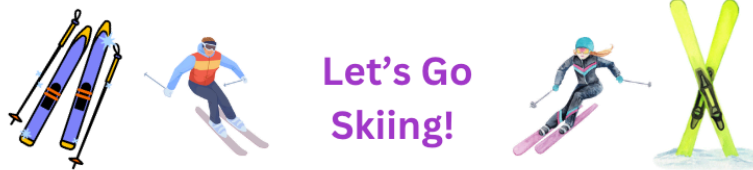


Happenings at St. Peter's

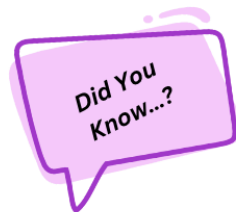
Life Together

Dietrich Bonhoeffer taught that the Christian life and faith can never be lived in the abstract. Jesus continues to be present in the world through the life of believers as they live in community. Bonhoeffer began a seminary at Finkenwalde after the official church compromised the Gospel by embracing the Nazi movement. At Finkenwalde, each day was comprised of five elements: Community, The Day Together, The Day Alone, Service, Confession and the Lord's Supper. Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together" spells out his vision of Christian discipleship in community.

Pastor David is leading a discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together", on Sundays February 2 through March 2. We will meet in the Fireside Room, 10:10-11:00. Mirroring the five elements of each day, the book contains five chapters which we will discuss. Copies of the book are available in the office.



For many years, we had a xc ski trip to Maplelag (near Detroit Lakes). Unfortunately, their main building burned a couple years ago. We are currently short of natural snow in Minnesota, so let's go to Hyland Park Reserve in Bloomington, MN, where they make snow. **On Saturday, February 8th**, we'll meet at Hyland at 10:30am, ski or hike for 1-1.5 hours. For those interested, we'll go out to eat together at a yet to be determined restaurant. For those who don't have skis and are interested in learning, Hyland does rent skis. Ask Pastor David for more information.



The LUV Quilters (which consists of 10 women, gather every Friday morning to tie quilts for St. Peter's High School Seniors, Lutheran World Relief, and Community Action Center for 'Operation Give Joy.' Last year the quilters donated 120 quilts for distribution.

David Hendee takes all of our beautiful photos that are used for the monthly newsletter, Christmas/Easter ads, and the St. Peter's website.

Sunday coffee money is collected once a month. This was started in April 2024 with the approval of our church council. This money is used to purchase food for the food pantry on the east side of the church. The money collected from April to December 2024 amounted to \$310.67. This ministry serves people in need in our church neighborhood.

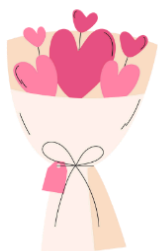
This Month + Next Worship Leaders

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
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
March 2	9:00 a.m	Borris + Joyce Mokoff	Mary Bleckwehl	Carmen Sevcik Laura Gilligan Ginny Paulson	Joan Paulson Ramona Pumper	Bill Bleckwehl
March 9	9:00 a.m	Sheryl Kleppe Jolene Manzey	Steve Hill	-	Eleanore Croone Kirsten Croone	Naomi Ziegler
March 16	9:00 a.m	David + Polly Hendee	Mike Eaves	Evonne Clay Julie Klock Beth Eaves	Don + Roberta Bonrud	Megan Culhane
March 23	9:00 a.m	Brian + Mary Peterson	Patrick Bougie	-	Lyle + Nancy Gunderson	Rebecca Peterson
March 30	9:00 a.m	Dennis + Janet Hahn	Pete Pedersen	-	Dennis + Beth Berry	Bill Bleckwehl

February Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School Happy Birthday Judy Closson	3 Happy Birthday Sheri Jo Boyum Owen Prescott	4 10am Staff Meeting 12pm Executive Committee	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Laura Simonson Thelma Winter	6 7am Table Talk 8am MG's + BG's	7 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast 9am LUV Quilters	8 SEMN Council Leader Workshop Happy Birthday Bonnie Stowe
9 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School 3pm Sons of Norway Happy Birthday Michael Humann	10 6:30pm 4-H Big Giants Happy Birthday Mark Albers Dave Gisvold Larry Odegard Michael Phelps	11 9:30am Hannah Circle 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Rachel Circle 7pm Church Council	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Janet Gilbertson	13 7am Table Talk 7pm Faith on Tap Happy Birthday Gary Peterson	14 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Janice Odegard	15 Happy Birthday Elaine Gravelle
16 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School Happy Birthday Hazel Peterson Nolan Sabyan Ryan Sabyan Greg Weiler	17 9:30am Eve Circle Happy Birthday Jacob Larsen	18 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Maxwell Hallcock	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Linda Ness	20 7am Table Talk 11:30am SOLOS Happy Birthday Linda Rowan	21 8:30am Women's Fellowship Study 9am LUV Quilters	22 Happy Birthday Gwen Green
23 9am Worship 10:10am Sunday School	24	25 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Gary VanErp	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule	27 7am Table Talk Happy Birthday David Weeks	28 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Julie Klock	



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

Music Notes

Guest article submitted by Claire Hill & Sonja Link

Hello to Our Dear St. Peter's Friends:

While Mary Kay is enjoying her vacation with family in a warmer climate, we thought we'd share some thoughts on the music at St. Peter's. We appreciate that Mary Kay puts hours of time into planning the music for services—with solos, the bell choir, the gospel band choir, and the regular choir—choosing both new and old songs and hymns. She organized songs for the wonderful Lessons and Carols program, with children and adults singing and the bell choir performing.

We hope you were all able to attend our Advent and Christmas services. The quilt decorating our church and Christmas trees spoke of the love God has for all of us. The songs and scriptures reminded us of so many wonders:

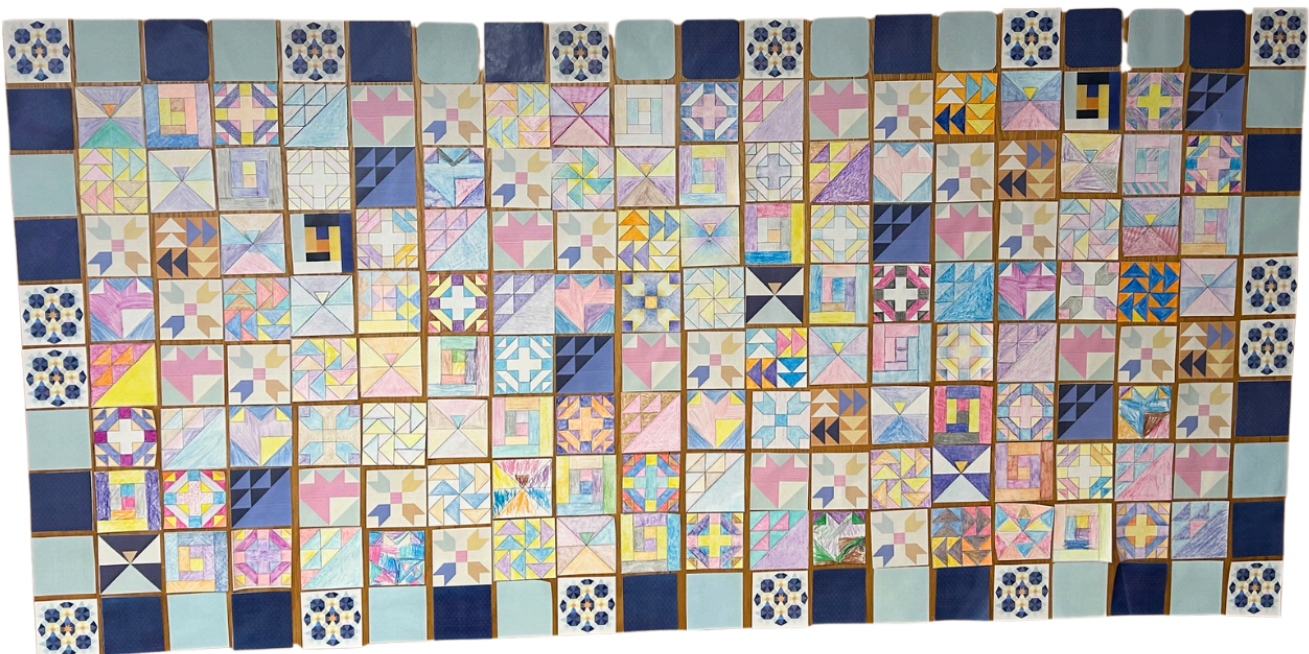
- We Can't Go Alone! Together we can hold each other up and make something greater.
- Do the Good that is yours to do!
- I remember stars, candles, a baby in a manger, gifts, Magi, angels, children, a loving Father, a caring friend, hope and love.
- Welcome O God! Welcome the Star! Welcome O Dawn! Welcome O Light! Welcome O Word! Welcome O God!

The quilt pictured below is one made with many hands coloring the inserts in the bulletin with crayons in each of the pews during Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. This was just one of Mary Kay's creative activities for the congregation.

Think for a minute of a warm blanket wrapped all around all of us here, providing warmth and comfort. We are the kaleidoscope of shapes and colors making up the squares of that quilt. Together we warm, support, protect and love each other. That quilt is the church. And WE ARE THE CHURCH!

Bless you all. I thank God for you every day.

Claire Welinski Hill + Sonja Link



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.

Call to Order: Kleppe called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Devotion: Pastor read "At the End of the Day, A Mirror of Questions," a poem from "To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings," by John O'Donohue.

Pastor: The combined Sunday School Christmas program and Lessons & Carols service went well. Pastor said Music and Worship Director Mary Kay Bougie deserves thanks from the congregation for her hard work. Attendance on Wednesdays at the Holden Evening Prayer services during Advent was very low. He said the staff needs to rethink what it offers for midweek Advent services next year. Christmas Eve worship services were well attended. The Nominating Committee continued to meet to fill two at-large vacancies on the Church Council. Confirmation is doing January classes, such as baking, movement, knitting, yoga and art. The congregation's middle and high school youth have the opportunity to hike and backpack at Christikon, an ELCA camp in Montana, with Pastor June 19-27.

Treasurer: Income exceeded expenditures by more than \$18,000 in 2024. Olson said the black ink is a "false positive" because the congregation still had a Christian Life Coordinator vacancy during the year. The part-time staff position is in the 2025 budget. The congregation's outstanding bank loan is expected to be paid off in June.

Faith Formation Committee: The Christmas program was a big success, thanks to Mary Kay Bougie. Sign-up and participation in a GroupMe accounts by students and parents has stalled. SPY students plan to make tie blankets and donate them. A Thrivent grant will help fund the project.

Personnel Committee: Pastor has had an initial conversation with an applicant for the Christian Life Coordinator vacancy.

Purchase of PZT camera for online streaming: Olson moved and Eaves seconded a motion for the congregation to purchase a new PZT (pan-zoom-tilt) camera and joystick with up undesignated memorial funds. Motion approved.

Council President: Kleppe reflected on her first year as president, saying it was a year of personal growth with a steep learning curve, but the Council made it easier for her. She asked Bleckwehl, Olson and Thompson for their reflections on their terms' successes and challenges, and advice they would give new Council members.

Adjournment: Motion by Eaves and second by Bleckwehl to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, in the Fireside Room. (Executive Board meeting date is to be determined.)



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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Brian Kopack
brian_kopack@gmail.com

Looking Ahead

- Ash Wednesday worship will take place on Wednesday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Peter's will hold Wednesday Lenten dinners starting at 5:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be available for groups or individuals interested in providing and hosting a soup dinner.