February 2023

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Parish Visitor

418 East Sumner Street
Northfield, MN 55057

507.645.8252

www.northfieldstp.org

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

Worship

Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Wednesdays 6:15 p.m.

Education

Coffee & Social Sun. 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Sun. 10:10 a.m.
Confirmation Wed. @ 6:15 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
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Terrence Hassanally
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terrencehassanally@northfieldstp.org

Megan DeMaris
Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator, ext. 201
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From Mark Shaw
Council President:

Dear Friends in Christ,

The occasion of Pastor David being able to complete his Covid-interrupted sabbatical gives this guest writer the opportunity to provide this month's message. This would be easy I thought, after all, aren't we still celebrating the birth of Christ, an event that should give one much to write about. We prepared for Christ's birth with our Lessons and Carols worship service followed by a beautiful children's program. I didn't know we had so many talented young musicians. And then the Christmas Eve Family worship services, accompanied at home by big meals, gifts, decorations, reunions with loved ones, and don't get me going on the fudge, the krumkake and those little almond bark dipped pretzels. And then on to Epiphany and the story of the Three Wisemen.

But if you're like me, how quickly that joy and excitement about Christ's birth seems to fade. The tree is undecorated and cast to the curb for recycling, and that last stash of goodies has been discovered and eaten, leaving us to deal with one more six-inch snowfall, ice dams on the roof, and a church parking lot so slippery that we have to caution those attempting to attend Worship in person. These are the winter doldrums that can find us in both our spiritual and everyday lives. Do we feel a lack of enthusiasm and energy or are we like a sailing ship that gets stuck on windless waters?

So how is it that we get the wind back in our spiritual sails and break the malaise that plagues our everyday lives as we prepare for the season of Lent that will begin in February? I suggest we let it be through Christ's love and the love that comes from Christ's church on Earth – St. Peter's and its members! As members of Christ's congregation, we are called to pray for and support each other during not only these winter doldrums but every day. And we are called to love each other unconditionally as God loves us. I can't help but think that Christ asks us to Be His Valentine – for an eternity.

Peace,
Mark Shaw

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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

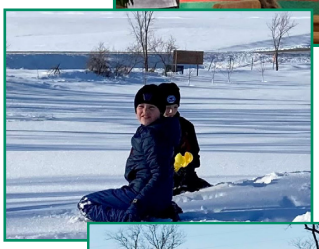
Children's Message

Guess Who?! Many of us are visual learners and remember through association, especially children. The costumes I wear each week are designed to help the children connect the gospel lessons with something they are already familiar with through the power of association. Plus, they're fun! My hope is that the costumes will make it easier for the children to understand the lesson and to help them remember it and apply it later. Many of you have asked where I get all of my costumes. This is my gift to the children and is not funded by St. Peter's.

Sunday School

Sunday School at the farm! We took Sunday School on the road to Windy Willow Farm. What better place to learn about the Lamb of God than surrounded by sheep?! Plus, we enjoyed other winter fun on the farm including sledding, snow painting and tunneling through a snow fort. Check out the snow lamb that Bryn Bridley painted for us in the picture below. She is quite the snow painter!

We need volunteers for Sunday School activities (only). Sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Desk. Thank you for your help!



Fellowship + Faith

Fellowship + Faith is a new program offered each week in the Parent's Room during Sunday School. I write a discussion guide based on the gospel lesson of the week. It's a great chance for parents to explore the gospel and prepare to talk about what the kids learned in Sunday School. Parents, grab a cup of coffee and come relax together in fellowship around your faith.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who continues to support this children's ministry! Your generous gifts of time and money continue to exceed our expectations! You are having a direct impact on each of these children's lives as they develop their faith. THANK YOU!

Faith Formation Committee

The Faith Formation Committee met for our quarterly meeting in January. The Committee has suggested that we stream the worship in the nursery (again) and in the kitchen for the hospitality teams. We will investigate the equipment necessary to view our Live Stream in both areas, request approval from the Council if needed, and work to implement as soon as possible. Committee Members include: Aaron Bridley, April Kopack, Jamie Mills, Cariann Strauch, Ashley Terpstra and Terra Wierson.

MUSIC NOTES

by Mary Kay Bougie, Director of Music

MK and her mom by the aqueducts near Caesarea, 1982.

"Our mothers are with us always, with patience and in every situation. Much is owed to her for who we become, our human and spiritual formation."

This message was handwritten on a sympathy card from a St. Peter's member. It speaks volumes of how I think of my mom. At 99, mom was so ready to go, yet I somehow thought that day wouldn't come so soon.

Mom was the most influential person in my life. She was 42 when I was born. I was her baby of five children. She nurtured me, guided me, allowed me to explore interests. When I was 3, because I seemed interested, mom enrolled me in Suzuki violin. A few years later, mom got to guest direct the Milwaukee Symphony, while directing a 300+ voice ecumenical choir. I'm sure it was beautiful and significant, but at 6 years old, I am thankful she asked our church custodian to bring me to the Milwaukee Zoo that day instead.

When I was in fourth grade, mom knew that I would best learn piano with a teacher other than herself. When we moved to a small town without a string program, mom saw to it that I travelled to the nearest college each week for violin lessons from a professor. When I was in high school, mom often had me chant liturgy and psalms at church - even the morning after prom, when I had returned home with about a half hour to spare before the church bells rang.

Mary Kay and her mom, pictured in early December

My senior year in high school, I had the privilege to join her on one of her tours to the Holy Land. My faith life was changed as I walked where Jesus once walked. I knew then music and ministry are where my life journey would take me.

Mom loved coming to St. Peter's to hear the music and see friends. I am so thankful she was here for St. Peter's Lessons and Carols in December. That was her final worship service. When her church was unavailable for her funeral, St. Peter's opened its doors and welcomed my family and friends to celebrate mom's life. Thank you to Pastor David for officiating, and thanks to all of you for your kind words, hugs, cards, attending mom's service, and lifting my family in prayer.

From another card, "We're changed now. Not because she left us, but because she touched us."

Blessings, Mary Kay

February & March Worship Leaders

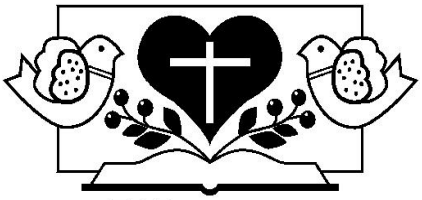
If you are unable to assist on the date assigned, please change with someone else on the list and contact the church office so that the bulletin can be updated. 507-645-8252

Date	Time	Ushers	Reader	Comm. Server	Coffee/Kitchen
February 5	9:00 a.m.	Mary Bleckwehl Carmen Sevcik	Pete Pedersen	Sheryl Kelppe Jolene Manzey Ginny Paulson	Mary Boyum Joan Paulson
February 12	9:00 a.m.	David & Polly Hendee	Janet Hahn	--	Richard DeBeau Doris Welke
February 19	9:00 a.m.	Mickey Brodin Janet Gilbertson Joan Paulson	Mary Bleckwehl	Richard DeBeau Doris Welke Michon Weeks	Dennis & Janet Hahn
February 26	9:00 a.m.	Sheryl Kleppe Jolene Manzey	Michon Weeks	--	David & Polly Hendee
March 5	9:00 a.m.	Laura Gilligan Carmen Sevcik	Sheryl Kleppe	Mary Bleckwehl Evonne Clay Phil Olson	Ramona Pumper Ginny Paulson
March 12	9:00 a.m.	Don & Roberta Bonrud	Steve Hill	--	Evonne Clay Carmen Sevcik
March 19	9:00 a.m.	Jameson Strauch Madilyn Terpstra	Patrick Bougie	Carmen Sevcik Beth Vivant Ramona Pumper	Bill & Mary Bleckwehl
March 26	9:00 a.m.	Joyce & Borris Mokoff	Beth Vivant	--	Diane Boym Marilyn Finneseth

Community Corner

Pizza Party on Wednesday, February 15th! All Sunday School, Middle and High School students and families plus anyone else that wants to come are invited to kick-off the 2023 year! Join us for worship at 6:15pm followed by a pizza party in the Fellowship Hall until 7:30pm. We'll have healthy food options too. Please RSVP to Cariann as soon as possible. Thanks!

Thank You Volunteers!



Bucket Gals (BGs)
1st Thursday - St. Peter's Kitchen
Ferbruary 2 @ 8:00 am
St. Peter's Kitchen

LUV Quilters
Fridays - St. Peter's Fellowship Hall
February 3, 10, 17, 24

Eve Circle
2nd Monday - The Vault
February 13 @ 9:30 am

Hannah Circle
2nd Tuesday - St. Peter's Fellowship Hall
February 14 @ 9:30 am

Rachel Circle
2nd Tuesday - St. Peter's
February 14 @ 1:00 pm

New Spirit Circle
2nd Friday - St. Peter's Fireside Lounge
February 27 @ 2:00 pm
Questions: Hazel Peterson, 645-9276.
New members and visitors welcome!

BeFrienders
3rd Thursday - St. Peter's
February 16 @ 9:10 am

SOLOS
3rd Thursday
at Tokyo Grill
February 16 @ 11:30 am
All solos welcome. Contact Marilyn Finneseth at 612-877-0959, or Evonne Clay at 507-663-1732, for more info.

February Events & Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
On Wednesdays 7:45 am Breakfast Club 4:30 pm Jubilee Bells rehearsal 5:30 pm Supper 6:15 pm Worship 6:15 pm Confirmation & SPY 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal **If your birthday is not listed and should be, contact the church office so we can add it to our database.**			1 Regular Wednesday Programming, plus: 9 am Staff Meeting	2 7 am Table Talk breakfast @ James Gang 8 am Bucket Gals (BGs) 8 am Maintenance Guys (MGs) **Happy Birthday** Judy Closson	3 8 am Women's Fellowship 9 am LUV Quilters **Happy Birthday** Sheri Jo Boyum Owen Prescott	4
5 9 am Worship w/ holy communion 10 am Coffee & Social 10:10 Sunday School 10:10 am Annual Meeting **Happy Birthday** Nathan Riley Laura Simonson Thelma Winter	6	7 9 am Staff Meeting	8 Regular Wednesday Programming **Happy Birthday** Bonnie Stowe	9 7 am Table Talk breakfast @ James Gang 7 pm Faith on Tap **Happy Birthday** Michael Humann	10 9 am LUV Quilters **Happy Birthday** Mark Albers Dave Gisvold Larry Odegard Michael Phelps	11 **Happy Birthday** Lorinda Johnson
12 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Social 10:10 Sunday School 10:10 am Lectio Divina **Happy Birthday** Janet Gilbertson	13 9:30 am Eve Circle **Happy Birthday** Gary Peterson Juli Standfuss	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 9 am Staff Meeting 9:30 am Hannah Circle 1 pm Rachel Circle 7 pm Church Council **Happy Birthday** Janice Odegard	15 Regular Wednesday Programming 6:45 pm PIZZA PARTY! **Happy Birthday** Mary Detle Elaine Gravelle	16 7 am Table Talk breakfast **Happy Birthday** Hazel Peterson Nolan Sabyan Ryan Sabyan Greg Weiler	17 9 am Women's Fellowship 8 am LUV Quilters **Happy Birthday** Jacob Larsen	18 **Happy Birthday** Maxwell Hallcock
19 9 am Worship w/ holy communion 10 am Coffee & Social **Happy Birthday** Linda Ness	20 PRESIDENTS DAY **Happy Birthday** Linda Rowan	21 9 am Staff Meeting	22 ASH WEDNESDAY Regular Wednesday Programming **Happy Birthday** Gwen Green	23 7 am Table Talk breakfast @ James Gang 9:10 am BeFrienders 11:30 am SOLOS	24 9 am LUV Quilters **Happy Birthday** Donna Ozmun	25 **Happy Birthday** Margaret Knapper Gary Van Erp
26 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Social 10:10 Sunday School	27 **Happy Birthday** David Weeks	28 9 am Staff Meeting **Happy Birthday** Julie Klock	*Create in me a* **clean heart,** *O God,* *and renew a* **right spirit** *within me.* *Psalm 51:10, ESV*			

MEALS ON WHEELS - SEE PAGE 6

*Check **www.northfieldstp.org** for calendar changes, or a group/event leader. **Subscribe** to receive weekly e-mails.*

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE: Friday, March 10, 9am - 3pm

Scan the QR code for joining the 2022 Annual Meeting by Zoom >>>>

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 5, following the worship service (approximately 10:00). We will review our previous year and envision our coming year. We will give thanks for God's faithfulness through our ministry, elect people to serve on Church Council, and pass our 2023 budget.

Meals on Wheels

Northfield Meals on Wheels needs volunteer drivers during one week in February: Monday, February 20 – Saturday, February 25. Volunteers can contact MOW Board Chair Shari Sneary to sign up: 952-303-1850 or snearyfam@yahoo.com

Lenten Worship Services

Please join us for services each Wednesday during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, at 6:15 pm. There will be 5 Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday, leading up to Passion/Palm Sunday on April 2.

This year's theme for our Mid-week Lenten services is Open My Life, Lord. Each week we will visit how we can be open to God's love: through our eyes, hands, ears, heart, and our whole lives. You are encouraged to use the following action prayer at home as part of your Lenten devotions.

Open my eyes, Lord. (point toward your eyes)

Open my hands, Lord. (stretch out your hands)

Open my ears, Lord. (point toward your ears)

Open my heart, Lord. (place your hands over your heart)

Open my life, Lord. (raise your arms up to God)

Lenten Soup Suppers

If your group is willing to **provide soup and bread for one of our Wednesday suppers during Lent**, please sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact Megan in the church office.

Boundary Waters

Is canoeing the Boundary Waters on your bucket list? Are you interested in experiencing the pristine beauty of God's good creation? Are you needing peace, quiet, and a break from social media?

Pastor David is planning to lead an adult trip to the Boundary Waters in July or August of 2023. If interested, please email him or drop a note in his mailbox. He will select a date and entry point early this month after returning from sabbatical.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Council Highlights

The January Highlights will be printed in the March Newsletter.

A Job Well Done!

Thank you to our visiting pastors for the month of January while Pastor David was on sabbatical!

January 1: Pastor Janet White
January 8:
Pastor Deborah Lyanga
January 15 and 22:
Pastor Mark Rydberg
January 29: Pastors Nick & Cindy Fisher-Broin

January brought snow, cold and ice. Two of our busy Wednesdays, with all our St. Peter's activities, had to be cancelled. The parking lot was quite icy for one of our Sunday worships. Let's hope February brings better weather!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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
markpattyshaw@gmail.com

Ashley Terpstra, VP
aa_evans@yahoo.com

Tom Picha, Treasurer
picha6@charter.net

Jolene Manzey, Secretary
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Mary Bleckwehl
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Megan Culhane
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David Hendee
davidhendee1952@gmail.com

Naomi Ziegler
zieg0110@umn.edu

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

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
418 East Sumner Street
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

Please contact the Church Office if your address has changed or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.

(507) 645-8252

A ministry request form can be found on our website at www.northfieldstp.org, under the ministry tab.

Like us on Facebook
St. Peter's Lutheran/Northfield

Find us On-Line
www.northfieldstp.org

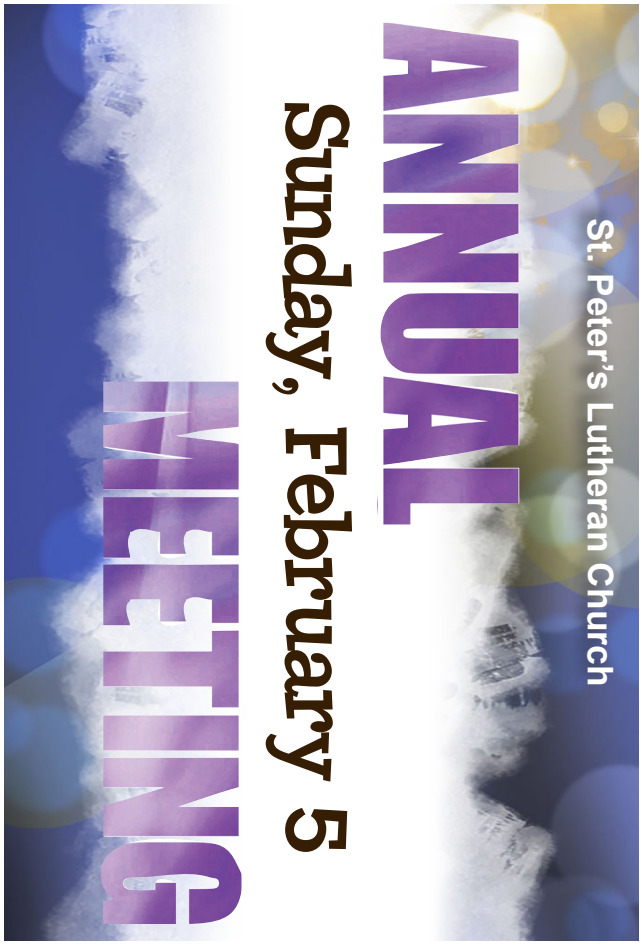
Worship in-person, 9am Sundays

Worship on-line anytime, anywhere:
facebook.com/northfieldstp
www.northfieldstp.org/virtual-worship

February 2023 Parish Visitor

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Northfield, MN 55057
Permit Number 121

- Urgent -

PLEASE SHARE for our YOUTH:

We're hiring a part-time Director of Youth Ministries to work with our middle school and high school youth. Responsibilities would include Senior High SPY, supporting Confirmation, SonShine Projects, summer trips, special events, etc. Please contact Pastor David with any questions.