



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

**Pastor David Weeks,**  
ext. 203  
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pastordavidweeks@northfieldstp.org

**Mary Kay Bougie**  
Director of Music + Worship,  
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**Terrence Hassanally**  
Financial Administrator  
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**Allie Machacek**  
Communications Coordinator + Admin  
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Dear Friends in Christ:

I find it curious that the season of Lent is dear to many of us—including me. Lent begins with the sobering words, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. Lent is known as a somber time—no Hallelujahs! in Lent.

In Lent we sing, “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

Lent is a time to reset our lives—particularly our relationship with God. Lent is honest and not pretentious. We acknowledge our finitude and mortality.

Our theme for our Lenten worship services is *Unbroken: A Living Faith*. This theme will be used both on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship services. For example, March 9/12 is “God speaks to us through Scripture and Spirit.” However, the liturgy and the Biblical readings are different, and so will the message/sermon. The point is, though the Wednesday worship service has the same theme as the preceding Sunday, the Wednesday worship service is not a repeat of the previous Sunday.

Our theme comes from a collaboration between St. Andrew’s Lutheran (Eden Prairie) and The Lutheran Center (St. Olaf College). The seven themes come from “A Living Catechism”, created by the Lutheran Center. This was not created to replace, but to supplement Martin Luther’s Small Catechism.

In a world in which many people claim to be Christian, what does this mean? What do Christians believe? God’s beloved people are always discerning how we live as followers of Jesus in every unique time and place.

The word Lent is derived from an old Anglo Saxon word for spring. In the northern hemisphere, spring is when trees bud and leaf. Spring is when the robins return.

Though Lent begins with a startling reminder that we will die, we resonate with Lent because we desire a living faith. We want a faith that guides us. We desire a faith that makes a difference in how we live. We want a faith that informs how we treat one another.

See you in worship,  
Pastor David Weeks

# Meet the Council



**Roberta Bonrud**

Joined St. Peter's in 2022 after moving to Northfield from Burnsville in 2021. Volunteers for ushering, reading the lessons during worship, and serving during coffee hour. Also helped with the former Breakfast Club program. "I enjoy the spirited conversations we have in Eve Circle."

**Born:** St. Croix, Wisconsin

**Hometown:** Centuria, Wisconsin, population 550.

**High School:** Unity High School in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.

**College:** Bachelor of science degree in family social science at University of Minnesota-St. Paul, and an associate in applied science degree in respiratory care at St. Paul College.

**Career:** Respiratory therapist for 25 years at United Hospital in St. Paul until retirement in 2023.

**Family:** "My husband, Don, and I have two daughters, each with an 8-year-boy, and also three bonus grandchildren."

**Odds & Ends:** "We travel short and long distances with our travel trailer, sometimes with our kids. I enjoy reading, baking, cross-stitching, hiking, vegetable and flower gardening, and bird watching."



**Dustin Hanson**

Joined St. Peter's in 2009. Grew up attending a Catholic Church in Farmington.

**Born:** Farmington, Minnesota

**Hometowns:** Farmington and Rosemount

**High School:** Rosemount High School

**Career:** "I currently work at Benjamin Bus (a Northfield-based school bus company). I've been there for five years. Before that I was at McDonalds in Farmington and Rosemount – and Pizza Man – for 14 years."

**Family:** He and wife, Kim, have children Maddison, Noah, Hayden and Nevaeh. Dustin has three brothers, Jon, Derek and Devin; seven nieces and one nephew.

**Odds & Ends:** "We moved to Northfield when my daughter was five months old. I grew up on a family farm on the edge of Rosemount and Farmington. We like to watch the Vikings on Sunday. We enjoy camping."

# Meet the Council



**Sonja Link**

Member of St. Peter's since about 2021. "As a preacher's kid, I've been a Lutheran all of my life. At my previous congregation in Georgia, I volunteered to help count offering, helped with the annual audit, read lessons, sang in the choir and played in the bell choir. I still crochet baby hats and sandals for babies in the neonatal intensive care unit. I also tutored & helped a Syrian refugee family that my church helped sponsor."

**Born:** Canby, Minnesota

**Hometown:** Boone, North Carolina, where I lived from 2nd to 11th grade.

**High School:** Oak Park & River Forest High School in Oak Park, Illinois.

**College:** Bachelor's degree in art and German at Luther College; studied art therapy at the University of Illinois Chicago; studied accounting and business at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

**Career:** "I've worked in the accounting field for most of my working career – bookkeeping, payroll, taxes and auditing. I'm currently doing year-end accounting for businesses, and tax returns for businesses and individuals. Yes, it's tax season!"

**Family:** "Tim and I have two kids, Chris and Jessica. Chris lives in St. Paul and Jessica lives in Germany. I have two sisters, one in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and one in Des Moines, Iowa, and a brother in the Boston area."

**Odds & Ends:** "We moved to Northfield during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tim worked for Delta in the Atlanta area doing IT programming, and then worked as a subcontractor for Delta after we moved to Minnesota. His contract ended Dec. 31, 2024. When the opportunity came to move closer to family, we took the leap. We bought the Northfield house in August 2020. Tim was back and forth fixing up our Georgia house to sell. We moved up in April 2021.

I like to do artwork, make puzzles and crafts, tutor, help those in need, swim, bike ride, garden, and travel – often to see daughter Jessica in Japan, Korea, Norway, Greece, France, Malta, Italy, and Germany."

# 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 Servers	Coffee/ Kitchen	Live Stream
March 2	9:00 a.m	Borris + Joyce Mokoff	Mary Bleckwehl	Carmen Sevcik Laura Gilligan Ginny Paulson	Eleanore Croone Kirsten Croone	Bill Bleckwehl
March 9	9:00 a.m	Sheryl Kleppe Jolene Manzey	Steve Hill	-	Joan Paulson Ramona Pumper	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
April 6	9:00 a.m	Richard DeBeau Doris Welke	Julie Klock	Phil Olson Ginny Paulson Beth Vivant	Ramona Pumper Mary Boyum	Megan Culhane
April 13	<p><b>A sign-up sheet will be available at the welcome desk for those interested in volunteering for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.</b></p>					Bill Bleckwehl
April 20						Dennis Kenison
April 27	9:00 a.m	Doris + Eldon Hill	Kirsten Croone	-	Mary Peterson Evonne Clay	Megan Culhane

# March Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Lexie Estrem
2 9am Worship with Holy Communion  10am Coffee + Fellowship  10:10am Sunday School	3  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Olivia Prescott	4	5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship  10am Staff Meeting  Wednesday Evening Scheduling  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Paul Hallcock Robert Hart	6  7am Table Talk  8:30am MG's + BG's  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Rowan Boisvert Aslynn Sabyan	7 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast  9am LUV Quilters  10:30am Gospel Band Practice  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Bennett Buske David Hendee Will Valek	8  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Andrea Gates-Stowe Jessica Sevcik
9 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School  3pm Sons of Norway  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Susie Fischer Duane Meliza	10 10am P.E.O. Meeting  6:30pm 4-H Big Giants  <b>Happy Birthday</b> James Herreid	11 9:30am Hannah Circle  10am Staff Meeting  1pm Rachel Circle  7pm Church Council	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship  Wednesday Evening Scheduling  <b>Happy Birthday</b> William Quinell	13 7am Table Talk  7pm Faith on Tap  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Amy Gunderson	14  9am LUV Quilters	15  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Emily Verlinich
16 9am Worship with Holy Communion  10am Coffee + Fellowship  10:10am Sunday School	17 9:30am Eve Circle  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Lynn Hutton Jenna Stowe	18 10am Staff Meeting  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Tyler Peterson	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship  Wednesday Evening Scheduling  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Nancy Gunderson Caitlin Truax Kathie Westlund	20 7am Table Talk  11:30am SOLOS (Brick Oven)	21 8:30am Women's Fellowship Study 9am LUV Quilters  10:30am Gospel Band Practice  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Jim Johnson Axel Randall Devon Seeley Robbie Swenson	22  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Shirley Shaft
23 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Stewart Shaft	24  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Dennis Berry Daryl Knudsen	25 10am Staff Meeting  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Aaron Bridley Dolly Roush	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship  Wednesday Evening Scheduling	27 7am Table Talk  9am LUV Quilters  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Carmen Sevcik	28 9am-2pm Red Cross Blood Drive  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Doc Dewar Gregory Johnson	29  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Maggie Kuntz
30 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship	31  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Jon Finger Celena Witt	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p><b>Wednesday Evening Schedule</b></p> <p>5:00pm Hand Bells Practice</p> <p>5:30pm Lenten Soup Dinner (starting on the 12th)</p> <p>6:30pm Worship</p> <p>6:30pm Confirmation</p> <p>6:30pm SPY (1st + 3rd Wednesday)</p> <p>7:00pm Worship Choir Practice</p> </div> </div>				

# Music Notes

## March 5 ~ Ash Wednesday

Is it wrong to say I have a “favorite” hymn for Ash Wednesday? Until we acquired the All Creation Sings hymnal, I hadn’t considered singing this “Christian Contemporary” song on Ash Wednesday, although the lyrics make it an obvious choice. Because it is included in our purple hymnal, I can readily justify its yearly use on Ash Wednesday!

Let’s learn a little about the hymn, *Beautiful Things*:

First, here’s the text (3 verses and a chorus):



1. *All this pain. I wonder if I’ll ever find my way.  
I wonder if my life could really change at all.*

2. *All this earth. Could all that is lost ever be found.  
Could a garden come up from this ground at all.*

3. *All around. Hope is springing up from this old ground.  
Out of chaos life is being found in You.*

*Chorus: You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of the dust.  
You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of us.*

Written by Michael and Lisa Gungor (he is a Lutheran pastor’s kid!), during a difficult time. From an article by Terry DeBoer<sup>1</sup>, Michael says “with looking at all the war and poverty in the world... for Lisa, it was turning into doubt and asking, ‘God, where are you?’” Also from the same article, “Lisa wrote a chorus that affirmed God can make beautiful things out of brokenness. As the song came together, they realized anew the goodness of the source of their faith.”

In giving their review<sup>2</sup>, another writer states, “Would it be ridiculously unimaginative of me to call this a beautiful song? Well, it is. But what’s striking about this one is its ability to create something uniquely lovely out of very simple ingredients. The chorus is literally one chord over and over. Where’s the beautiful part, guys? The trick is that it seeps in slowly, like young vines wrapping around old, dead twigs and bringing new life to a dead garden.”

Michael Gungor, in another interview<sup>3</sup>, talks about the evangelical “individualistic” practice where it tends to be more about “me and how I go to Heaven”. Having the story opened up, realizing this is GOD’s story, he’s the creator of all things and we’re invited into this process of recreating that started with the empty tomb - that has been very inspiring.” This article adds, “Having a Lutheran pastor for a dad has no doubt shaped both Michael’s love of theology and his view of songwriting.” I’m very careful to maintain orthodoxy in my lyrics because whenever we do concerts in churches I’m conscious we’re getting people to sing these words and [singing] really affects what we think. That teaches theology.”

I hope you will take 5 minutes to listen to this hymn (check out Gungor – Beautiful Things – YouTube) and I especially hope you enjoy singing Beautiful Things with fellow believers on Ash Wednesday at St. Peter’s, 6:30 pm!

1 article by Terry DeBoer with mlive.com, 2011

2 review by murlough23.wordpress.com, 2010

3 interview with Lindsay Shaw on crossrhythms.co.uk, 2012

# 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 an essay from LeaderWise titled "Field of Dreams: If You Build It They Will Come." Based on this film, churches often believe an "attractional" model of ministry is the solution to drawing people back into the pews and a return to the glory days of church attendance. However, the message actually is "If you build it, he will come." The difference is for congregations to look after their hurting neighbors and to go far in easing their pain. God is calling the church to a missional, rather than an attractional model of ministry.

**Pastor:** Welcome to new members Bonrud, Hanson and Link. He taught two J-term Confirmation classes in January. He is teaching a Sunday class on early 20th-century German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together." Members of the Personnel Committee and others interviewed a candidate for the congregation's Christian Life Coordinator. The 4F activity group for adults is proving popular. Their volunteer outing to pack food pouches for Feed My Starving Children attracted 18 participants. Ash Wednesday is March 5. The Lenten theme is "Unbroken: A Living Faith." Signup for Lenten soup suppers is underway. Youth signup for the July trip to Christikon in Montana is underway.

**Council President:** Kleppe reviewed the congregation's bylaws. She plans to have the Council discuss its five- to 10-year vision for the congregation in 2025. The annual, day-long Council retreat is tentatively scheduled for May 3. Signup sheets for leading devotions, providing food and hosting the March 12 Lenten supper, and picking up the offering after service were distributed. The synod is offering a workshop for Council leaders in Owatonna on March 8.

**Treasurer:** Link provided an overview of the congregation's finances one month into the year. Contributions lag behind the budgeted goal, a typical scenario for January. Undesignated loose offering in January and February is directed to the congregation's LUV Quilters. The Council agreed that loose funds collected in March and April will be directed through the ELCA for the Los Angeles wildfire disaster.

**Personnel Committee:** The Council heard reports of an initial interview with an applicant for the Christian Life Coordinator vacancy.

**New Business** The pan-zoom-tilt camera has been ordered, funded by undesignated memorial gifts.

## ~ Lenten Schedule ~

**March 5** | Ash Wednesday

**March 9/12** | God speaks to us through Scripture and Spirit

**March 16/19** | God becomes human for us in Jesus Christ

**March 23/26** | God feels our pain and suffering

**March 30/April 2** | God compels us toward mercy

**April 6/9** | God delights in our goodness and judges sin

**April 13** | God loves us eternally (Palm/Passion Sunday)

**April 17** | God meets us in bread, wine, and water (Maundy Thursday)

**April 18** | Good Friday



## 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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**Sonja Link | Treasurer**  
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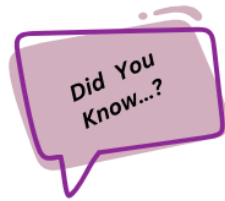
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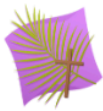
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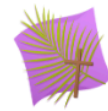
**Brian Kopack**  
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- Spring Creek Elementary recently hosted their annual Kindness Retreat at St. Peter's for 100 ten-year-olds.
- 4F recently volunteered at Feed My Starving Children, where the group packed 102 boxes—totaling 22,032 meals—providing a year's worth of food for 60 children.



## Lent & Holy Week at St. Peter's



**Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion** | March 5 | 5:30pm

**Midweek Lenten Soup Dinner** | March 12, 19, & 26 ~ April 2 + 9 | 5:30pm

**Midweek Lenten Worship** | March 12, 19, & 26 ~ April 2 + 9 | 6:30pm

**Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion** | Sunday, April 13 | 9am

**Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion** | Thursday, April 17 | 6:30pm

**Good Friday Worship** | Friday, April 18 | 6:30pm

**Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion** | Sunday, April 20 | 9am