



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  
cell: 952.322.0064  
pastordavidweeks@northfieldstp.org

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

Patricia McKee  
Christian Life Coordinator  
ext. 204  
patricia@northfieldstp.org

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

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

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Dear Saints of St. Peter's:

"You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."  
Deuteronomy 10:19

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

Strangers, foreigners, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are common themes.....in the Bible. Yes, they are also common themes in our daily newsfeed as well.

On Sunday, August 17, Kathy Chatelaine, from the SE MN Synod office gave a presentation on AMMPARO, which is "a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany migrant families today and in the future. The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA's strategy to Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities." ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))

Immigration is a political issue. All nations have, and should have, policies and laws regarding immigration and citizenship. Immigration, refugees, and asylum seekers is not an issue unique to the United States.

Immigration is also a theological and humanitarian issue. We confess that all people are created in the image and likeness of God. Each of us is a beloved child of God. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, including our enemies and strangers.

At her presentation on AMMPARO, Kathy mentioned the book, The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong. I have ordered 10 copies so that we can discuss immigration from a faith perspective. Kathy has also developed a Facilitator discussion guide which we will use. The books will be available in the office.

We will discuss the book on 4 Sundays-September 28, October 19, November 2 & 9.

This is not an easy conversation. Immigration is complicated, confusing, and contradictory. We won't all agree and our goal will not be to get everyone to agree on everything. Listening to and seeking to understand those who think differently than us is a better goal. Our desire and hope will be to approach our conversation trusting that God is present and with us.

Peace,  
Pastor David Weeks



# Music Moments

## MAKING MUSIC... WHO'S IN?!

I came across an article in the archives of The Atlantic, from 12/1/24, "**It's Never Too Late to Learn an Instrument: You don't have to be talented for jamming to be worthwhile**" by [Caroline Mimbs Nyce](#).

Here are a few of her musings and findings.

By NOT playing an instrument (this includes your voice and singing), you might be giving up certain health benefits!

***This is what making music could do for you:***

1. Build larger brain networks and create new pathways.
2. Better attention skills.
3. Stress relief, reduce burnout, and help with anxiety and depression.
4. Produce potential cognitive benefits, possibly decreasing dementia risk.

***Benefits also come when playing music in a GROUP (think choir, bells, bands):***

1. "Allows adults to feel more trusting and connected to one another, and to the world in general."
2. Expand your skills - Anyone can learn at any age.
3. Plus: "Making music is just a whole lot of fun".

***I encourage you to read the full article.***



**Practicing for August 2025 worship**



**St. Peter's "Pop up" Bell Choir, August 2025**



**Mary Kay and Megan checking out new handbell music for the church year!**



**And so – my message to any - and all of you: please come and see what we are doing for fun, for cognitive stimulation, for forming connections, and for praising our Lord!**

**Jubilee Bells (5:30 pm) and Worship Choir (7 pm) begin on Wednesday, September 10**

***Hope to see you there!***





ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN

# RALLY DAY SUNDAY, SEPT. 14

10 A.M. - NOON

**Come Celebrate!**



Face Painting  
Train Rides



All-ages Bingo with Prizes!

Egg Toss

Bounce House

Lemonade & Cookies Stand



**bingo!**



## Confirmation & St. Peter's Youth (SPY) Begin Wednesday, Sept 17

Confirmation and SPY families will soon hear from Pastor David and Addie, respectively, about middle and high school classes, meetings, and activities through December.

**Adult Ed Information  
Coming Soon!**

## Sunday School Begins September 21

If you've not already done so, please register your K-5<sup>th</sup> grade child for Sunday School. You may use the QR code to the left.



Classes meet following worship, 10:10 to 11:00 a.m.

Our new children's music director, Margaret Black, is looking forward to being part of our Sunday School program.



# 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
September 7	9:00 a.m.	Phil + JoAnne Olson	Steve Hill	Ginny Paulson Beth Vivant Michon Weeks	Marilyn Finneseth Ramona Pumper	Bill Bleckwehl
September 14	9:00 a.m.	Brian + Mary Peterson	Mike Eaves	-	Dennis + Janet Hahn	Becca Peterson
September 21	9:00 a.m.	Sheryl Kleppe Thelma Winter	Julie Klock	Avonne Kaplan Evonne Clay Patrick Bougie	Richard DeBeau Doris Welke	Naomi Ziegler
September 28	9:00 a.m.	Doris + Eldon Hill	Julia Daly	-	Dale + Linda Ness	Megan Culhane
October 5	9:00 a.m.	Mike + Beth Eaves	Sheryl Kleppe	Laura Gilligan Carmen Sevcik Phil Olson	David + Polly Hendee	Bill Bleckwehl
October 12	9:00 a.m.	Richard DeBeau Patrick Bougie	Jolene Manzey	-	Ruth McCarty Marilyn Finneseth	Megan Culhane
October 19	9:00 a.m.	Joan Paulson Mickey Brodin	Mary Bleckwehl	Evonne Clay Julie Klock Ramona Pumper	Lyle + Nancy Gunderson	Becca Peterson
October 26	9:00 a.m.	Dale + Linda Ness	Patrick Bougie	-	Don + Roberta Bonrud	Naomi Ziegler

# September Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1pm Staff Meeting  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Jo Odell	3 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Andria Sommers	4 7am Table Talk  8:30am BG's + MG's  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Inez Nelson Lisa Nystuen	5 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast  9am LUV Quilters	6  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Jon Lovoll Landon Mills Stephanie Riley Skip Wagner
7 9am Worship with Holy Communion  10am Coffee + Fellowship  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Wren Peterson	8 6:30pm 4-H Big Giants  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Beth Berry Eleanor Croone	9 9:30am Hannah Circle  1pm Staff Meeting  1pm Rachel Circle  7pm Church Council Meeting	10 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship 9:15am 4F Excursion 5:30pm Handbell Practice 7pm Worship Choir Practice  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Collin Estrem Charles Fratzke	11 7am Table Talk  7pm Faith on Tap	12 9am LUV Quilters	13
14 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship  <b>RALLY DAY</b> 10am-Noon 3pm Sons of Norway  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Julia Daly Don Hill Mary Ann Larsen Jude Quinell	15 9:30am Eve Circle	16 1pm Staff Meeting  Bells of Solidarity Time (TBD)  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Deb Anderson Jane Valek	17 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship  Wednesday Evening Schedule  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Evonne Clay	18 7am Table Talk  11:30am SOLOS (Brick Oven)	19 9am-2pm Red Cross Blood Drive  8:30am Women's Fellowship Study	20  Buy Northing Bazaar 10am-2pm  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Margit Lovoll
21 9am Worship with Holy Communion  10am Sunday School  10am Parent Sunday School Orientation	22  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Ashley Quinell Mark Shaw Rachel Wille	23 1pm Staff Meeting	24 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship  Wednesday Evening Schedule	25 7am Table Talk  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Joan Paulson Roy Ruzicka	26 9am LUV Quilters  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Phil Olson Christa Prescott Jenna Strand Doris Welke	27  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Kathryn Hart
28 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10am Sunday School  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Chelsie Connolly Tracy Humann Roberta Morse	29  <b>Happy Birthday</b> Avonne Kaplan	30 1pm Staff Meeting   <b>Happy Birthday</b> Callie Strand				



## Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:30pm Handbell Practice  
 6:30pm Worship  
 6:30pm Confirmation  
 6:30pm SPY (9.17)  
 7:00pm Worship Choir Practice



# Happenings at St. Peter's



## Christikon 2025

**“The mountains were gorgeous, I met new friends and even someone from Albania. 'Twas fun!”  
~ Anika Wierson**



**Arnie + Celena preparing school kit bags.**



**MG's organizer Phil Olson spray-painting a handicapped driver logo on the church parking lot. The MG's started repainting the faded parking lot lines and logos August 7. The project took more than one day.**



**Kathy Chatelaine from SEMN Synod spoke during the fellowship hour on August 17 about the ELCA's AMMPARO program.**



# 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.

**Gifted Equities:** Financial Administrator Terrence Hassanally proposed we invest \$55,000 of the \$95,000 gift to St. Peter's from Eleanor "Ellie" Salisbury. Hassanally, who is a licensed financial adviser, proposed that we invest the funds in 80 percent stock and 20 percent bond growth funds. Later in the meeting, the Council unanimously approved a motion by Eaves, seconded by Paulson, to accept Hassanally's proposal.

**Devotions:** Hendee read a devotion from the Kamehameha Schools in Hawaii to keep alert for the call of God, and to know that God always walks at our sides when he challenges us.

**Pastor:** Four youth from the congregation were part of a contingent of 29 youth and six adult chaperones (including Weeks) who hiked and camped at the ELCA's Christikon Camp near Billings, Montana July 19-27. The Rally Day start of the Sunday School year is Sept. 14. Patricia McKee, Christian life coordinator, and the Faith Formation team are recruiting volunteers. Pastor and McKee have talked about her teaching one Wednesday a month during the 2025-26 Confirmation class. Pastor said his primary goal in the classes is not confirming the congregation's youth, but to invite and encourage them to live as disciples of Jesus, which includes worship, prayer, service and Bible reading.

**Council President:** Kleppe outlined plans for the "How to Make Worship Happen" training Aug. 24 to encourage congregation members of all ages to learn how to usher, read worship lessons, serve communion, light altar candles, host coffee hour and other activities. The office wing's air conditioner broke down in July. A temporary repair was made. The Council re-affirmed its desire that the Sunday offering be counted weekly to ensure timely clearing of checks at banks. A few more volunteer counters will be recruited. Repairs and maintenance at Sarah's House continues to be a challenge to address. The idea of a master plan for addressing church renovations, repairs and maintenance is under discussion.

**Treasurer:** Link presented June and July financial reports. Year-to-date giving at the end of July was more than \$12,000 under budget, which is a typical seasonal pattern. Expenditures for the same period were more than \$25,000 under budget. The Change 4 Change program (loose coins and bills not linked to a member's offering envelope number) went to Northfield Habitat for Humanity in June and July. The June total was \$153. Change 4 Change offerings from August and September will go to ELCA Disaster Relief in the aftermath of Texas flooding.

## Committee Reports

**Faith Formation:** Continues to meet with Patricia McKee, Christian life coordinator, to plan for the new Sunday School year.

## New Business

Tharin Leopold will speak during Fellowship House on estate planning on Oct. 26. He is a gifts officer and endowment specialist for the ELCA Foundation. After discussion, the Council approved a motion by Hanson (second by Eaves) to look into donating the church van to Good Earth Village, the synod's summer camp and retreat center near Spring Valley in southeast Minnesota. The facility has been using the van during recent summers. The vehicle is a 12-passenger 1997 Ford Econoline with 114,800 miles. The Council adopted a new "Good Samaritan" protocol for how to handle requests for financial assistance from people who show up at church. Council members are to read the foreword and first two chapters of "Holy Disruption: A Manifesto for the Future of Faith Communities" for the next meeting's devotions period.



## 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

skkleppe@gmail.com

### Nick Paulson | VP

nlpaulso@gmail.com

### Sonja Link | Treasurer

sonjaclink@gmail.com

### David Hendee | Secretary

davidhendee1952@gmail.com

### Roberta Bonrud

roberta.bonrud@gmail.com

### Dustin Hanson

dustinhanson1984@gmail.com

### Beth Eaves

eavesmb@gmail.com

### Brian Kopack

brian\_kopack@gmail.com

# Bells of Solidarity

## *A Wordless Prayer for Humanity in Gaza*

Inspired by the simultaneous ringing of bells by more than 300 Norwegian churches at 3 pm August 7th this month, a group of Northfield citizens invited local churches to join in a project titled: Bells of Solidarity, a Wordless Prayer for Gaza. Church bells of Northfield, (including ours) will be simultaneously ringing for a period of time on Tuesday afternoon, **September 16<sup>th</sup>**, as an act of solidarity with the people of Gaza and a wordless prayer for humanity. Through a sound and visual experience, which touches our hearts, we believe a collective reckoning will be inspired. The bells of churches, in unity ringing, declare the humanitarian crisis. Stay tuned for more information – but plan to go outside that day to listen! Time is TBD and will be posted in the St. Peter's weekly emails.