



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,
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Director of Music + Worship,
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Dear Friends in Christ:

*Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.*

We are fast approaching Holy Week—Palm/Passion Sunday—Maundy Thursday—Good Friday—Easter. Emotionally, and spiritually, it is a roller coaster ride.

The words above come from the hymn, “Ah, Holy Jesus.” We (almost) always sing it on Maundy Thursday. The tune has a mournful feel, and the words powerfully remind us that it is for me and because of my sin that Jesus suffered and died. I love, and need to sing this hymn as it functions as confession/absolution.

Many of us grew up with Palm Sunday, not Palm/Passion Sunday. On Palm Sunday, we didn’t transition to the suffering of Jesus on the cross.

The Christian faith is more than an intellectual exercise, i.e., I believe God exists and Jesus died on the cross for my sins.

The Christian faith is practiced. We worship. We pray. We read/hear God’s Word. We serve others within and outside of the church community.

I invite and encourage you, especially those who have children at home, to worship Palm/Passion Sunday, Easter Sunday, plus Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday.

If/When we move directly from Palm Sunday to Easter, we gloss over why Easter is such Good News. We miss hearing that Jesus suffered and died for us/me. We also skip over our own pain, disappointment and loss.

We personally, and the world at large, always needs to hear the Good News that in Jesus, God is redeeming and healing the world.

I hope to see you in worship where we celebrate and experience God’s sacrificial love which ushers in a kingdom where there are no tears.

Peace,
Pastor David Weeks

Lent & Holy Week at St. Peter's

Midweek Lenten Soup Dinner | April 2 + 9 | 5:30pm

Midweek Lenten Worship | April 2 + 9 | 6:30pm

Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion | Sunday, April 13 | 9:00am

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 | 9:00am



Join us for Lenten Soup Dinner!



Ardis sharing her famous
home made scrub
brushes!



Happenings at St. Peter's

Did You Know...?



Michon Weeks changes the paraments on the altar, baptismal font, and pulpit according to the church year colors, as well as refilling the oil in the altar candles. She, along with Pastor David, also change the banner on the stone wall behind the altar



Evonne Clay sets up & cleans up communion in the Fall, Winter, and Spring months. She is looking for someone to take over communion duties for the summer months. If you're interested in volunteering, please call the church office—Evonne will show you the ropes!

Thank you from....

LUV QUILTERS

The LUV Quilters wish to thank all of you who generously donated money in the loose offering during January and February. A total of \$697 was received which will buy batting for over 80 quilts!

Fun Fact: The quilters have been meeting for 55 years! In 2006, there were 14 members, making 238 quilts while meeting only two Fridays a month and not during the summer months.



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
April 6	9:00 a.m	Richard DeBeau Doris Welke	Pete Pedersen	Phil Olson Evonne Clay Beth Vivant	Ramona Pumper Mary Boyum	Megan Culhane
April 13	9:00 a.m	A sign-up sheet is available at the welcome desk for volunteers for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.				Bill Bleckwehl
April 20	9:00 a.m					Dennis Kenison
April 27	9:00 a.m	Doris + Eldon Hill	Kirsten Croone	-	Mary Peterson Evonne Clay	Megan Culhane
May 4	9:00 a.m	Dennis + Janet Hahn	Steve Hill	Sheryl Kleppe Jolene Manzey Julie Klock	Dennis + Janet Hahn	Bill Bleckwehl
May 11	9:00 a.m	Phil + JoAnne Olson	Marilyn Finneseth	-	Don + Roberta Bonrud	Rebecca Peterson
May 18	9:00 a.m	Pat + Dennis Kension	Patrick Bougie	Ramona Pumper Avonne Kaplan Michon Weeks	Kirsten Croone Eleanore Croone	Megan Culhane
May 25	9:00 a.m	Mike + Beth Eaves	Laura Gilligan	-	Richard DeBeau Doris Welke	Naomi Ziegler

St. Peter's is currently collecting Time & Talent commitments for 2025-2026, which includes the month of May. If you've been scheduled as a May volunteer but are unable to serve, please contact the church office. We'll be happy to help find a replacement.

April Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Steve Harner	2 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Faith Bergemann Jamie Blood Patrick Bougie Peter Scheffert	3 7am Table Talk 8:30am MG's + BG's Happy Birthday Claire Erickson Erin Tollefson	4 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast 9am LUV Quilters	
6 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School	7	8 9:30am Hannah Circle 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Rachel Circle 7pm Church Council Happy Birthday Amy Behrens Lyle Gunderson Michael Peterson Lael Weselmann	9 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Scheduling	10 7am Table Talk 7pm Faith on Tap	11 9am LUV Quilters	12
13 9am Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School 3pm Sons of Norway	14 6:30pm 4-H Big Giants Happy Birthday Dennis Hahn James Johnson Troy Nystuen	15 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Ethan Mills	16 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Linda Dorn	17 7am Table Talk 11:30am SOLOS (The Hideaway Vault) 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion	18 8:30am Women's Fellowship Study 9am LUV Quilters 6:30pm Good Friday Worship Happy Birthday Kay Peterson	19 Happy Birthday Kristin Dennison Lois Goetz Nicole Teske
20 9am Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Happy Birthday Matt Crase Logan Miller	21 9:30am Eve Circle Happy Birthday Brad Wille	22 10am Staff Meeting	23 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Emerson Terpstra	24 7am Table Talk Happy Birthday Lori Schmidt	25 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Mickey Brodin	26 Happy Birthday Beth Vivant
27 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Sunday School Happy Birthday Timothy Little Amanda Peterson Bonnie Van Erp	28 8am-5pm SEMN Deans Retreat Happy Birthday Jonathan Gilligan Eric Randall	29 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Eli Kopack Curtis Valek	30 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Schedule Happy Birthday Adeline Sevcik Henry Sevcik			



Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:00pm Hand Bells Practice
 5:30pm Lenten Soup Dinner (ending on the 9th)
 6:30pm Worship
 6:30pm Confirmation
 6:30pm SPY (1st + 3rd Wednesday)
 7:00pm Worship Choir Practice

Music Notes

Someone asked me during coffee hour on Sunday if this is a busy time of year, and I actually was able to respond with something like, “Actually now that Lent has started, it’s a quieter time” (until worship planning leading up to Holy Week begins!). This is a time where I can be more attentive to the season of Lent.

A fellow church musician, and dear friend, sent me a Lenten devotional book last month (Life Renewed, Devotions for Lent, ©2025 by Augsburg Fortress) which Patrick and I have been reading daily. All the entries include a “to ponder” quote from various authors. I find myself anticipating who it will quote each day, and from which book might I want to read further.

So what is Lent? AI tells me that:

Lent is a time of spiritual preparation and reflection, encouraging Christians to deepen their faith and focus on Christ’s teachings and sacrifice.

In this season of Lent, our theme at St. Peter’s has been “Unbroken: A Living Faith”. I ponder the generations of faithful family members, through many centuries: perhaps involved with developing countries/civilizations, war, arts/culture, famine, invention, poverty, growth. These family members also must have experienced this time of Lent – a time of reflection – focusing on the sacrifices Jesus made, to keep alive the promise of the resurrected Christ. Handed down through history, it is a comfort knowing this faith has lasted and has not been broken.

I’ve quoted this hymn before, but it truly speaks to me about this lasting faith that we can count on, as past generations have.

How Firm a Foundation:

*1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?*

*2 “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”*

*3 “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”*

*4 “Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove my sovereignty, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.”*



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.

New Business: Congregation member Richard DeBeau about a migrant ministry program of Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota. He is a lay representative of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. DeBeau described the initiative called AMMPARO, an acronym derived from the Spanish word to protecting a living creature from suffering or damage. DeBeau suggested the congregation make itself a "welcoming congregation" and actively do what it can to help migrants transition to life in the United States. DeBeau provided detailed background information provided by the Lutheran Advocacy on how congregations can get involved. The Council took no immediate action.

Devotion: Kleppe asked Council members about steep learning curves they've faced. She read Gerhard Frost's poem "The Demon Self Doubt" from his book "Seasons of a Lifetime." She followed with readings about trusting in God from Philippians, Thessalonians, and Isaiah." So, when scared, remember that God is with us. Fear not. Trust," she said.

Reports

Pastor: A small group discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together" ends March 16. Ash Wednesday services were postponed to the next day because the parking lot was buried in deep, wet snow. Congregation members will be reminded to "opt in" to receiving email blasts from the church office about schedule changes. The Lenten services theme is "Unbroken: A Living Faith." The Council's annual retreat will be May 3 at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center near Farmington. Planning for two St. Olaf College interns for the 2025-26 church year is underway. A new-member class may be scheduled this spring.

Council President: Kleppe reviewed the process and schedule of Council members to pick up offering after services. She initiated discussion of a church cleanup day this spring.

Treasurer: Offerings in February lagged the budget by \$3,100, which is typical for the season. Offerings are \$8,900 behind budget for the calendar year. Loose bills and coins collected in the Change 4 Change program in March will be given to Northfield's Community Action Center because of a matching-funds initiative there during the month.

Personnel: The Council approved a motion by Paulson, second by Eaves, to offer Patricia McKee the part-time position of Christian Life Coordinator for 25 hours per week for an initial period of six months. The motion was unanimously approved.

Faith Formation: Paulson said participation continues to lag in students and parents signing up for the GroupMe app for news of church activities. A youth bake sale raised \$941. Participation in J-Term activities by congregation's confirmation students was discussed. Plans for a May 18 baccalaureate service for high school seniors is underway. Families have been asked for photos and information about future plans.

Adjournment: Motion by Kopack and second by Hanson to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried, followed by the Lord's Prayer.



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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