



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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Patricia McKee
Christian Life Coordinator
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What's Inside

Pg. 2 | Holy Week at St. Peter's

Pg. 3 | Meet the Staff

Pg. 4 | Worship Volunteers

Pg. 5 | May Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Pg. 6 | Friends off College Monfant

Pg. 7 | Council Highlights



Dear Saints of St. Peter's,

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The resurrection of Jesus is the Gospel. On the cross, Jesus defeated sin and death. As Jesus died innocent, God raised him from the dead. Easter is, and is not, a once-a-year event. Of course, once a year we celebrate Easter (or the Resurrection of our Lord). We are now in the season of Easter—7 Sundays until Pentecost (June 8 this year). Every Sunday that Christians gather to worship is also considered to be a mini-Easter celebration.

The promise of the resurrection gives us hope and sustains us in the toughest of times. Those of us who have lost a spouse, parent, or child find consolation in the promise that we will meet again in the Kingdom of Heaven. As Christians, we face life with an Easter perspective. Though our news feeds relentlessly give us news of death, destruction, dishonesty, and deception, our trust is that in Jesus God is redeeming and transforming this world with love and grace.

We are very excited about welcoming Dr. Patricia McKee to our ministry team here at St. Peter's Lutheran. You can find more information about her on another page. She brings many years of experience teaching at the college level and serving several congregations in a variety of denominations. Because she did not grow up Christian, she sees how and what we do as Christians from a different perspective. She will see differently than those of us, like me, who have been lifelong Lutherans/Christians. I suspect, assume, and hope that she will wonder about, question my/our assumptions, and she will help us see and think differently.

On May 3, the Church Council will be going on our annual retreat at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center. Please remember them in your prayers.

Our Council Highlights include our need to maintain our property. A well-cared for building is welcoming.

However, our primary purpose is not the building, but people. Do we provide ample opportunities for spiritual care and growth? Are we inviting and welcoming people in the community to join us as disciples of Jesus? Are we focused primarily upon ourselves, or do we seek options to serve the world beyond our walls?

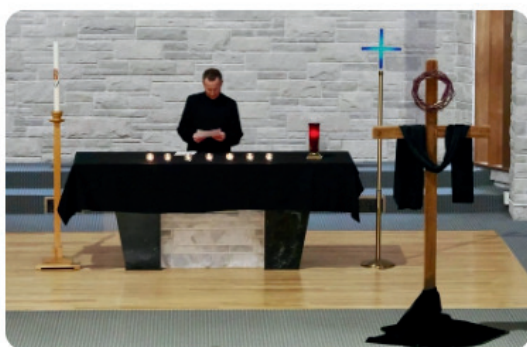
Please talk to me or any member of the Church Council if you have hopes, concerns, or dreams about ministry and mission here at St. Peter's Lutheran.

Peace,

Pastor David Weeks

Holy Week at St. Peter's

Photography by David Hendee



Meet the Staff



Dr. Patricia McKee **Christian Life Coordinator**

Formerly Director of Lifespan Religious Education at the Universalist Church of West Hartford, Connecticut, and director of Christian Formation at Manassas Presbyterian Church in Virginia.

Born: Indianapolis, Indiana

Hometown: I have lived in every region of the United States, and I feel most at home in St. Paul, Minnesota.

College: Indiana University, bachelor of arts degree in theatre and drama; Emory University, master's degree in theological studies; Graduate Theological Union, doctoral degree in art and religion.

Career: Ecumenical religious educator in congregational and university settings. Spent 20 years directing stage plays.

Family: Husband, Jim Taylor, is a screenwriter and a political consultant; spoiled dog, Rosie.

Odds & Ends:

"My first experience serving a congregation was in a UCC church. I had just completed my master's coursework at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. I returned home to Indiana to finish up my thesis. While doing so, I took on a number of roles at St. Peter's United Church of Christ—confirmation leader, worship assistant, children's church leader, and office administrator. I answered this substantial first call as one "unchurched." I was a true convert in my late 20s, called to a life of faith. I found myself in the midst of rigorous theological study, serving a church in a professional capacity, and having a "mountain top" experience — all at once. I was fortunate to have had such a nourishing "first church" experience.

"A few years later, I found myself teaching and preaching at St. Paul's UCC in Minnesota as a part-time religious educator. While living and working in the Twin Cities from 2005 to 2010, I met and married my spouse before leaving the state to begin my doctoral program in Berkeley, California.

"Since then, I have adventured away from congregational leadership into academic research and teaching and back again to the church. Most recently, I was director of Religious Education for a Presbyterian Church (USA) in Virginia, then a heritage Unitarian Universalist congregation in West Hartford, Connecticut. In two years with my Unitarian folks, I revitalized and grew our educational program far beyond expectation. (One indication of our success was a recent child dedication that included six new families and eight infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.)

"Across the spectrum of religious education, I excel in two areas: helping parents live into their role as their children's best spiritual teachers; and leading compelling adult ed programs, especially for empty nester and older adults."



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
May 4	9:00 a.m	Pat + Dennis Kension	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	Dennis + Janet Hahn	High School Seniors	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
June 1	9:00 a.m	Mark + Connie Albers	Julia Daly	Carmen Sevcik Patrick Bougie Phil Olson	Brian + Mary Peterson	Bill Bleckwehl
June 8	9:00 a.m	Thelma Winter Deb Boyum	Lorraine Rovig	-	Mary Boyum Marilyn Finneseth	Naomi Ziegler
June 15	9:00 a.m	Dale + Linda Ness	Patrick Bougie	Sheryl Kleppe Jolene Manzey Julie Klock	Phil + JoAnne Olson	Megan Culhane
June 22	9:00 a.m	Brian + Mary Peterson	Mike Eaves	-	Dennis + Janet Hahn	Rebecca Peterson
June 29	9:00 a.m	Richard DeBeau + Doris Welke	Steve Hill	-	Ramona Pumper Ruth McCarty	Dennis Kenison

May Calendar of Events + Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7am Table Talk 8:30am MG's + BG's Happy Birthday Dale Finger Violet Weed	2 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Tom Metz	3 Church Council Retreat Happy Birthday Jean Spittle
4 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am Executive Committee Meeting 10:10am New Member Class 10:10am Sunday School	5 Happy Birthday Dale Boyum	6 1pm Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Nancy Nytes	7 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Wednesday Evening Scheduling	8 7am Table Talk 7pm Faith on Tap Happy Birthday Borris Mokoff Chad Seeley Terra Wiersen	9 9am LUV Quilters	10 6pm Friends of College Monfant Gala Happy Birthday Madeleine Douah Ron Lovoll Wendell Spittle
11 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship 10:10am New Member Class 10:10am Sunday School 3pm Sons of Norway	12 6:30pm 4-H Big Giants Happy Birthday Laura Gilligan Jillian Kuntz Lorraine Lemke	13 9:30am Hannah Circle 1pm Staff Meeting 1pm Rachel Circle 7pm Church Council	14 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship 5:30pm Welcome Summer BBQ 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 7pm Worship Choir Practice Happy Birthday Bob Baker	15 7am Table Talk 11:30am SOLOS (Flaherty's)	16 8:30am Women's Fellowship Study 9am LUV Quilters Happy Birthday Peter Lovoll Nolan Thompson Harland Wegner	17 8:30am All Church Cleaning Happy Birthday Brian Paulson
18 9am Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School Sings Recognizing H.S. Receiving New Members 10:10am Baccalaureate + New Member Celebration Happy Birthday Jessica Hoffman Karen Johnson John Schmitz	19 9:30am Eve Circle	20 1pm Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Thomas Culhane	21 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship 6pm Music Group Party Happy Birthday David Boyum Dan Scharber	22 7am Table Talk Happy Birthday Steve Reindal	23 9am-3pm Red Cross Happy Birthday Terry Heilman	24 Happy Birthday Melissa Wiste Naomi Ziegler
25 9am Worship 10am Coffee + Fellowship (Celebrating May Birthdays)	26 Happy Birthday Kristin Harner	27 1pm Staff Meeting	28 6:30am Men's Bible Study + Fellowship Happy Birthday Dominic Humann Carol Irwin Seth Thompson	29 7am Table Talk	30	31 Happy Birthday Dianne Peterson

Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:30pm Hand Bells Practice
6:30pm Worship
6:30pm Confirmation
6:30pm SPY (last day, May 7)
7:00pm Worship Choir Practice



Friends of College Monfant ~ Gala at St. Peter's

Back in 2021 many of you contributed to the Bake for the Bus sale which raised over \$3000 for a second school bus for a Lutheran school in the suburbs of Dakar, Senegal. The next year, we joined with St. John's and Bethel to collect three suitcases worth of school supplies which my daughters and I hand-delivered in August of 2022. During our visit, we got on the bus, toured the facilities, and met the staff. While impressed with the ingenuity of school leaders to make classrooms out of windowless garages, we recognized that better spaces were needed. Just this month, I received a video of students moving into a brand new building thanks to donations from congregations and individuals like us.

This past Christmas, many of you contributed to a bake sale as part of our Lessons and Carols coffee hour. This time our SPY kids were given a gift catalog from Lutheran World Relief and told to pick a project. They chose to put the proceeds toward school supplies. As with the bus project, proceeds exceeded expectations threefold and we sent \$941 to LWR. This, in addition to the school bags many of us faithfully fill each September that are shipped to children in need all over the world through the same organization.

St. Peter's is again making a tangible contribution to global education by donating space for the Friends of College Monfant to host a gala fundraising dinner on **Saturday, May 10 from 6-9 pm**. FCM is a local non-profit which serves as a vehicle for individuals to support scholarships, food subsidies, and help with capital improvement projects at a Catholic girls school in northern Togo. We are connected to the school through Northfield resident and St. Peter's neighbor, Nalongue Virginie Cogan who is a 1984 alum. St. Peter's members are covering key operational positions such as managing the kitchen and volunteers. Richard Collman will be our MC, an African drumming group from Carleton will perform, and Ruth's on Stafford will cater a delicious meal.

When I was growing up in Senegal the area where my parents worked was almost 100% Muslim but there were a few government employees from the southern part of the country who were Roman Catholic. A group of about 15 would gather on Sundays in our living room to worship together. Ten years later when I returned for a summer, my former bedroom had become a nursery school classroom and worshippers gathered on the veranda. Today, in that same town, Linguere, there are both Lutheran and Catholic congregations, each with their own spaces. The Catholic school which occupied our former house got its own facility and they host ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers every year.

I feel privileged to be part of a town and congregation that values education, through our own youth programming and through enthusiastic participation in projects that benefit children in other parts of the world. I hope that many of you will register (by May 5) to attend what promises to be a unique and fun evening in our building. [RSVP is at collegemonfant.org](https://collegemonfant.org). You can reach me at 612.788.6328 if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Naomi Ziegler

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 7:05 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Devotion: Eaves read the 1921 Myra Brooks Welch poem, "The Touch of the Master's Hand," and the story from Exodus 4 of Moses attempting to avoid God's invitation of leadership. The lesson was that God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Reports

Pastor: Patricia McKee, our Christian Life Coordinator, started work April 8, attending the staff meeting. Attendance at Lenten worship services has been good. An average of about 30 people have attended soup suppers preceding the services. Attendance at confirmation classes has been stronger than usual during Lent. Palm Sunday service will feature the "Cry of the Whole Congregation" dramatic reading. A new-member class will be held the three Sundays following Easter. New members will be received May 18. The Welcome Summer activity of hamburgers, hot dogs and games will be May 14. High school seniors will be recognized May 18. The Synod Assembly is May 30-31 in Rochester. Pastor and Bryn Bridley will chaperone five middle school youth to the ELCA's Christikon summer camp in the Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness of Montana July 19-27.

Council President: Kleppe led a brief walking tour of the south wing to highlight possible maintenance issues. A list is being developed for prioritizing church-wide repairs and maintenance. Spring cleanup by congregation volunteers will be divided between April 16 and May 17. The Personnel Committee will conduct staff evaluations by early May.

Treasurer: Link presented the March financial report. Envelope/pledge offerings during the five Sundays in March were 16 percent (\$3,600) below budget projections. Year-to-date giving through March was 19 percent (\$12,500) below budget. The Change 4 Change program (loose coins and bills) raised \$501 for Northfield's Community Action Center. ELCA Disaster Relief will be the recipient of April and May Change 4 Change offerings.

New Business: The Church Council retreat will be May 3 at Mount Olivet Retreat Center. The Council will dig deeper into a congregational survey completed a year ago and will work on five- and 10-year plans. Carpool riders will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. The retreat is scheduled to end at 3 p.m.

Looking Ahead: Executive Board meets at 10 a.m., June 8. Church Council meets at 7 p.m., June 10.

A synod staffer will be invited to present a Fellowship Hour talk about the synod's role in a migrant ministry program of Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota. The initiative is known as AMMPARO, an acronym derived from the Spanish word for protecting a living creature from suffering or harm.



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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Welcome



Come one....Come all!

Our annual Welcome Summer! party is Wednesday, May 14. We will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. Serving begins at 5:30pm. We will have outdoor games and activities--bean bags, badminton, etc. With youth sports, vacations, weekends at the cabin, etc., summer is a busy time. Hope you can join us for good food, laughter, and fun!

*Following the BBQ, the Faith Formation Committee will meet at 6:30pm.
The committee invites congregation members to attend the meeting.*



- Mary Peterson and Megan Culhane changed the planters outside the church for Easter/spring.
- St. Peter's started sending TORCH care packages in 2018 and since then we have delivered around 48 gift boxes/bags to college students. Each year, our group of 15 volunteers are assigned 5-6 students and we send 3 packages a year, scheduled around finals and winter break.

"The mission of TORCH is to improve the graduation and post-secondary participation rates of Northfield's students of color, low-income and those who would be first-generation college attendees. It is a terrific program that has been recognized nationally and was the brainchild of Beth Berry."

