

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST, 2016

To all in God's Family at St. Peter,

As I greet you today in the Name of Jesus, I have something to share with you that needs to be known in our congregation. I've given much prayer and consideration to the matter, discussed it and prayed about it with Wendy, and feel the Holy Spirit has led me to announce my retirement from pastoral ministry. Officially, my last Sunday will be on September 3, 2017.

I choose to announce this matter now so that together, we may make the most of our time and opportunity, not just for each other, but for our Lord, who is constantly seeking the fulfillment of His master-plan for His Church at large, St. Peter, all of you, and me.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have shared this matter with St. Peter's Elders, St. Peter's Council, and our Minnesota South District President (Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy).

There are issues and decisions that St. Peter will face during the coming year, which will impact the long-range scope and planning of our congregation. It will help you to know my plans so that you can effectively plan and grow as God's Church at St. Peter. When the time comes for you to make the transition into a vacancy period, I shall do all I can to prepare your vacancy pastor for his ministry with you, as well as prepare and assist our congregational leaders into this vacancy period too.

There are several areas of focus that I hold before you as important matters of opportunity. They are:

1) Weekly worship - I constantly strive to prepare and conduct services that are both relevant and spiritually uplifting to all our church family. This matter is so vital to our collective and individual well-being. Our Sunday morning services are well attended, but there's always room for more! We offer a variety of worship styles, including traditional formats (1st & 3rd Sundays) and contemporary settings (2nd & 4th Sundays). Regardless of the style offered, the richness of God's Word for the day remains the centerpiece of our worship. During the past several years, I have noticed how "traditional" folks have come to appreciate the "contemporary" offerings, while I also can see where the "contemporary" lovers have accepted the "traditional" formats also. I commend you for spiritual maturity that has prevented this issue from becoming divisive. This attitude has also helped foster an outgoing personality, making St. Peter an inviting congregation to our visitors.

I will continue to offer the Wednesday evening devotional service to all our members. If you haven't tried it, maybe you should. Some people come because they can't attend on Sunday, others come in addition to Sunday's service, for the special blessing this service offers.

2) This summer, I've been preparing a congregational Bible Study on the Book of Revelation. This study will be held on Sunday mornings (10:30 - 11:00 a.m.), beginning in September and running through May...or June 2017 if needed. There's a danger that Revelation can pose...that the symbolic nature of apocalyptic language and metaphors can lead to speculation and discussion that gets us nowhere. I'll share what our church teaches about this Book, including scholars present and past, and some of my personal thoughts as well. I promise that if you come to this study, you will learn and you will grow in your faith.

3) This summer, I have also prepared a special Bible Study called, "Basics of Faith." This small-group study is more "conversational" in nature. It deals with topics basic to our faith and our ability to witness, share, encourage, and uplift one another. Each week, on Sunday, a topic for discussion/study will be distributed to our worshippers, who then can use it in the following ways:

- a) Monday morning Bible Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. - at the Machine Shed.
- b) Tuesday morning Bible Class – 10:00 a.m. - at St. Peter.
- c) Possible Wednesday evening class – 7:00 p.m. - at St. Peter (if there is enough interest).
- d) For individuals and couples to take home and use in your home as a self-study, or even share with your neighbors as a home Bible study piece.

May God bless our walk of life as we walk together in faith. "Since we walk by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Pastor Asmus

OUR MISSION: CELEBRATING, PROCLAIMING, AND SPREADING THE WORD.

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER ARE FACING SURGERY OR HOSPITALIZATION, please contact
Pastor Erland Asmus:
Cell #: (651) 308-8492
Church Office: (651) 436-3357

PASTOR ASMUS WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE A CALL (OR IN HIS ABSENCE, ONE OF THE ELDERS),
BUT WE DO NEED TO BE INFORMED.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR SEPTEMBER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 12TH.

ELDERS' MEETING will be held on Sunday, August 21st, at 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS SUMMER! During the summer, our Sunday Bible time will focus on
themes from the Scripture lessons assigned for that day. These lessons are written in the Newsletter for you to
read ahead of time, that you may consider questions and points you'd like to include in our open discussion.
Each Sunday - 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Let it be a time of growth in the Lord.

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have been designated Choice Dollars: Don't miss
this opportunity to help support St. Peter Lutheran Church. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-
THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice[®]."

VALLEY OUTREACH "THE CLOSET" is still accepting donations of men's, women's and children's new
and used clothing (children's new underwear and socks). Please make sure all items are clean and in good
condition. Leave items in the designated area by the coat racks marked "The Closet." (ITEMS PLACED IN
BAGS ARE MUCH EASIER TO TRANSPORT TO THE CLOSET.)

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP will continue to meet this summer every other Tuesday at 7:00
p.m. They will meet August 9th and 23rd. Join us if you like to knit or crochet or would like to learn. If you
have questions, call Gayle Schneider or Linda Craig.

BEST HOURS TO CONTACT STAFF:

Pastor Asmus: Office hours: Monday—Wednesday 1:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M.
Saturday: 9:00 A.M.—Noon.

Please call him to arrange an appointment, as he also makes hospital
& shut-in calls, and home visits during these times.

Days off: Thursday and Friday

*(Cell #: 651-308-8492) (For pastoral care and/or counseling, call anytime,
day or night.)*

DCE Tony Engen: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Secretary: Monday-Friday 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED AT ST. PETER!

When: Wednesdays (*Not on August 10*)

Time: 6:30 – 7:00 P.M.

Format: A simple format of Scripture, song, message, prayer, Lord's Supper; offered in a devotional setting so as to meet the spiritual needs of all who can't attend Sunday worship, including families with children. No altar guild, no ushers... just a simple worship whereby Jesus offers you the "green pastures" and "quiet waters" of His mercy and grace.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Mission – our call to proclaim - It is a blessing to walk and work together in witness and mercy with the 35 districts of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and with our 34 partner church bodies around the world. The mission we engage together extends the reach of the Gospel around the world. Coming together as a synod, by sharing resources and people, we by God's grace, help to change lives now and for eternity. For a closer look at our LSMS Mission work being done today, take a walk down the hallway to Pastor's office, where you will see a bulletin board display, showing all the countries in the world where we are actively engaged in Missions, along with recent news articles describing what's happening in these areas.

A Table Prayer for Your Home

God is holy, God is great. Let Him bless this food on our plate.
Let Him bless us from above, with warmth, comfort, and great love.
Now we ask in the Name of God, to bless this food from here and abroad.
And as we eat this food from His hands, we pray for the poor in all lands. Amen.

A "Life-thought"

From "Life Date" a quarterly journal from Lutherans for Life

God's incarnate Son reveals a meaning to suffering and gives pain purpose. He does what's best, not just what's easiest. He loves us enough to make us get better and not just feel better (Hebrews 12:7-11). In the cross, He shows God with us to save (Hebrews 12:18-24). This strengthens us to choose life in difficult situations.

Prayer: Father God, in all things, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done. Amen.

...a smile to lift your day!

Something to think about the lighter side of life...

Father: At your age, son, I could name all the kings and queens of England.

Son: Yes, but there were only three or four of them back then.

What did one eye say to the other eye?

Just between us, something smells.

Teacher: John, how many seasons are there in a year?

John: Two - baseball and football.

The latest Olympics: In what event did the kangaroo, the little girl, and the frog enter?

The hop, skip and jump.

KITCHEN CLEAN-UP - YOUR HELP IS NEEDED ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 9TH, AT 6:30 P.M. to help clean our church kitchen. Please lend a hand to make the task easier - all helpers are appreciated. If you have questions, call Mary Hauch.

THE YOUTH GROUP IS COLLECTING "ALUMINUM CANS" for a fundraiser. Leave them by the garage door. Please just bring aluminum cans. Thank you.

Our weekly worship services: (Bring your Bible!)

+ *Pentecost: A season of Growing!...in grace...in faith...in love...in hope... IN CHRIST! Alleluia!*

The difference CHRIST makes in a believer's life.

Wednesday - August 3

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with Holy Eucharist

Sermon: see August 7.

Sunday - August 7 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship with the Sacrament of the Altar

Theme: Faith, Life, and the Kingdom of God

Sermon: "The Essence of Faith" (Hebrews 11:1-16)

Bible Class: Discussion: Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-16; Luke 12:22-34.

Wednesday – August 10 - NO WORSHIP TONIGHT - PASTOR ON VACATION

Sunday – August 14 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

9:00 a.m. – Praise Service with The Sacrament of the Altar

Sermon: Rev. George Riemer

Bible Class

Wednesday – August 17

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper.

Sermon: See August 21

Sunday – August 21 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship with Holy Eucharist

Theme: Entrance into the Kingdom of God

Sermon: "The Door to Heaven" (Luke 13:22-30)

Bible Class: Discussion: Isaiah 66:18-23; Hebrews 12:4-24; Luke 13:22-30

Wednesday - August 24

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with Holy Communion

Sermon: See August 28.

Sunday - August 28 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. - Praise Worship with Holy Communion

Theme: Living in Relationship...

Sermon: "Dinner with Jesus" (Luke 14:1-14)

Bible Class: Discussion: Proverbs 25:2-10; Hebrews 13:1-17; Luke 14:1-14

Wednesday - August 31

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper

Sermon: See September 4. (not ready yet)

We Have A Mission!
August 8th through the 12th; 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
5th-8th grade

It is time for our annual mission and service week!
This is an incredible opportunity to serve Jesus by showing his love
to our neighbors and community!

This is a FREE EVENT so invite friends and neighbors
to enjoy a week of service, Bible study, food,
and group building/fun activities.

We will be leaving church by 9:00 a.m. every day
and returning by 2:00 p.m. Our schedule will consist
of morning service projects followed by lunch
and an afternoon Bible study.

On Friday the 12th we will have a fun and recreation day!
If you have any questions, please contact Tony Engen at Tony@stpeterafton.org.



Hello everyone!

First, I would just like to say that Angie and I are thrilled and honored to serve Jesus and further His mission alongside all of you here at St. Peter!

Let me tell you a little bit about us. My wife Angie works in anti-money laundering and compliance at RBC Wealth Management and is the most amazing, not to mention organized, person that I know. Our daughter Kourtlyn is 8 and will be going into second grade next year. She loves gymnastics, playing practical jokes, and her American Girl doll. Our son Logan is 9 and will be going into fourth grade next year. He is an awesome soccer player and consistently beats his mom and me in games of horse. Last but not least is me. I'm admittedly a bit of a nerd. I love my space movies (Star Wars, Trek, etc.), but am also a bit of a theology nerd who spends hours reading dissertations on enthralling topics such as the theology of the cross and the meaning of the Greek word metanoia. I also enjoy fishing, grilling, binge-watching Netflix, rooting for the Vikings, and disc golf.

We are so excited to start meeting all of you and getting to know you and your families! We can't wait to see what God has planned!

Peace in Christ,

Tony Engen

DCE, St. Peter Lutheran Church

HAM DINNER

September 11, 2016

Join us on Sunday, September 11th for our 61st annual HAM DINNER. Serving is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Invite your family, friends and neighbors – everyone is welcome!

Prices are: \$13.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children ages 6 – 12, and age 5 and under are free.

Our Country Store always has a wonderful assortment of baked goods, crafts, garden vegetables, jellies, jams, and pickles for your shopping pleasure.

There are many ways YOU can help to make this event a success. Check out the sign-up sheets in the Narthex for volunteer opportunities and donations needed for the dinner; don't forget the Country Store needs your donations as well. **Cash donations are also welcome.**

There is something for EVERYONE – seek out how you can be a part of this annual tradition at St. Peter! See Karen or Doug Stoltzmann if you have any questions.

Save the date and plan to join us! Check out the car show here at St. Peter that day, too!

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR JULY/AUGUST, 2016

CAROL HALTER

LCMS MISSIONARY, WORKING IN HONG KONG AND MACAU

Carol Halter is a Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod deaconess working for the Chinese people in Hong Kong and Macau since 1981.

From 1969 to 1981, Carol served as a missionary with the Chinese Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in San Francisco, California. For three and a half years before that, she was a volunteer missionary in Hong Kong. After her deaconess internship and her 1965 graduation from Valparaiso University as a Lutheran deaconess, Carol committed her life to ministry to Chinese people. She received her master of divinity degree from Hong Kong Concordia Theological Seminary in 1984.

Carol does humanitarian, evangelistic and educational work among Chinese people of all ages. Her prayer is that all Chinese people will hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ — especially from each other. Fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese, Carol nurtures and trains Chinese people to grow in Christ and to share the Gospel by holding educational and evangelism seminars and Bible classes, and by counseling individuals. Carol asks you to pray that she would be filled with the Holy Spirit to do what God wants her to do in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Chinese people.

Please consider helping to support this LCMS mission during July and August! Mission envelopes are on the Mission Board in the narthex, in your offering envelope boxes, and in the pews.

AUGUST, 2016

ACOLYTES FOR AUGUST

August 7 - 9:00 a.m. Jude Oberdeck
14 - 9:00 a.m. Callie Koller
21 - 9:00 a.m. Matthew Walton
28 - 9:00 a.m. Rachel Bernath

COFFEE HOSTS FOR AUGUST

August 7 - George & Joan Riemer
14 - (Open)
21 - (Open)
28 - (Open)

MORE COFFEE HOSTS ARE
NEEDED! PLEASE SIGN UP IN
THE BOOK ON THE KIOSK.

ALTAR GUILD FOR AUGUST

Joann Decker
Linda Craig

USHERS FOR AUGUST

Ken Veith, Elder
Jerry Tank
Judy Tank
Dave Hauch
Mary Hauch

GREETERS FOR AUGUST

August 7 - Gary & Loiry Anderson
14 - Gary & Loiry Anderson
21 - Pete & Gayle Schneider
28 - (Open)

MORE GREETERS ARE NEEDED!!
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE BOOK
ON THE KIOSK.

READERS DURING WORSHIP SERVICES IN AUGUST

August 7 - (Open)
14 - (Open)
21 - (Open)
28 - (Open)

MORE READERS ARE NEEDED!!
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE BOOK
ON THE KIOSK.

XYZ CLUB for seniors 55 years and older meets on Tuesdays at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton. This includes cards and visiting 9:30 a.m. to Noon. For information, call Marian Glasbergenger.

Getting those annoying pop ups?

You Have Viruses that you are sharing with your friends and family...
Special \$30.00 Virus Removal and Diagnostics

Keep your personal information safe!

Transfer old files to your new computer, ask about programs.

Free pick up and delivery in the East Metro, Work Done by Certified Technicians
Visit us www.fsts-usa.com Email: shop@fsts-usa.com

Recycle your old Tech Free!

De-Clutter your home, Free Hard Drive (HDD) Certificate of Destruction!
Recycled items Fund a Christian Ministry!

VHS tapes are perishable and will deteriorate with time.

Preserve your cherished home video by converting them to DVD today.
Transfer services from VHS, miniDV, 35MM slides and pictures.
Many options to choose from. Preserve your memories for Life!

651-235-1381



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

SEE WHERE LIFE CAN TAKE YOU TODAY—AND IN RETIREMENT!

Life changes in retirement. So may your life insurance needs. Now it's also about protecting assets, enjoying tax advantages, filling financial gaps and meeting other financial needs.

Now it's time to schedule an Insurance Checkup with a Thrivent Financial representative or visit **Thrivent.com/checkup**.



Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP® and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ in the U.S.

Thrivent Financial and its representatives and employees cannot provide legal, accounting, or tax advice or services. Work with your Thrivent Financial representative and, as appropriate, your attorney and tax professional for additional information.

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Thrivent Financial representatives are licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

2015 | **WORLD'S MOST**
ETHICAL
COMPANIES®
WWW.ETHISPHERE.COM

Thrivent Financial was named one of the "World's Most Ethical Companies" by Ethisphere Institute 2012-2015.

Kevin O. Bonine, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®
Wealth Advisor

Pamela A. Bonine, LUTCF, FIC
Associate

Eric Hansen, FLMI, FIC
Associate

Crossroad Associates
7581 9th Street N., Suite 200
Oakdale, MN 55128
651-738-1767

Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota • Thrivent.com • 800-847-4836

28447A N5-15