

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER, 2016

To the St. Peter family,

NEWS ALERT! A new disease has been discovered which is crippling the faith of many Christians. Highly contagious.

The disease: SCOTOSIS.

The Bible says that people love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. (John 3:19). The Greek word for darkness is "SKOTOS." The blind spot that results is called a "Scotoma," which prevents us from recognizing the danger of temptations around us on all sides.

Who is most susceptible to SCOTOSIS? Children certainly are, but actually this disease can afflict anyone of any age. Here are the symptoms:

- 1) No hunger for God's grace, no thirst for His peace.
- 2) No desire to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God.
- 3) Complacent, lethargic attitude toward actively doing God's will, sharing His love.
- 4) Content with minimal worship, yet anxious and stressed about life.
- 5) Think that "belief" is a simple formula for salvation - with no need to follow (John 8:12), trust (John 14:1-2), belong, abide (John 15:5), or be faithful (Revelation 2:10).

What is the prevention / cure for SCOTOSIS?

- 1) Recognizing our need to repent / turn from the darkness.. (Psalm 122:1)
- 2) Worship and prayer life that is focused on the Word of God. (Colossians 3:16)
- 3) A heart that boldly prays, "Thy will be done."
- 4) A life that is dedicated to walking with God, serving His will, helping others in His Name, glorifying Him by being one of His lights in our world. (Matthew 5:14-16)

Come join with me. Let's walk together awhile, learn together at the feet of Jesus, celebrating, proclaiming, sharing, and spreading the Gospel...bringing a deeper sense of God's joy into the hearts of all!

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 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Check the Bulletins for the date in September.

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND - We will work on Friday, September 9th, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Please sign up on the kiosk. We are in need of more volunteers. Any questions, contact Cheryl Schmidt.

Treasures in God's Word Bible Classes for you!

BASICS OF FAITH - a Bible Study for small groups in various settings: Bible Breakfast Conversations (Monday 7:00 a.m.), Tuesday Bible Class at church (10:00-11:00 a.m.), a self-study for the home which can be discussed as a family, with neighbors/friends too. If there is interest, our DCE Tony Engen can lead a session on Wednesday evenings during FOUNDATIONS. When will this class begin? - The week of September 11. Lessons will be distributed on September 11 for you to take home.

REVELATION - Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class - 10:30-11:00 a.m. This will be a major study for the 2016-17 year. I have drawn from a number of solid sources in writing this study, which will be available to all participants in a Notebook format, in which you can take personal notes as we walk through this powerful concluding Book of the Bible together.

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.)

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED AT ST. PETER!

When: Wednesdays

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, 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.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. They will meet September 6th and 20th. Join us if you like to knit or crochet or would like to learn. If you have questions, call Gayle Schneider or Linda Craig.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED! We need 8 teachers plus 2 substitutes!! Grades Pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. We are looking for 2 teacher per class for flexibility! **Sign up on the kiosk or talk to Tony Engen!** There will be a Sunday School Teachers' Meeting on Wednesday, September 14th, at 7:00 p.m.

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.

A “Life-thought”

From “Life Date” a quarterly journal from Lutherans For Life

So much does our Father God love us that He sends us angels to assist us in our lowest moments in life. (See Luke 16:22) Can you identify some of those God has surrounded you with? Take time to thank HIM (and them). Then look for the closest "Lazarus" God has laid at your gate. Brush off the crumbs, shoo away the dogs (Luke 16:21), and set him / her a brother's place (Luke 16:27-28) at heaven's feast (Luke 16:19).
Prayer: Open my eyes, dear Lord, to the people You have placed before me and around me in life, that I may find both beauty and joy in expressing Your grace and sharing Your love and kindness. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

St. Croix River Zone LWML Fall Rally

Saturday, October 1, 2016

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
1 Shepherd Court - Circle Pines, MN

Guest Speakers ~ Carrie Butcher & Anna VanVleet
(Teachers at Trinity First Lutheran School in Minneapolis, MN)

“I AM SURE!” (Romans 8:37-39)

Registration ~ 8:30 a.m. Rally ~ 9:00 a.m. Luncheon ~ 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$10.00

Bible Study ~ Pastor Neldo Schmidt (St. John Lutheran Church, Woodbury)

Gifts from the Heart ~ Read-Along Books with CD (not cassette tape) or monetary gifts.

FOUNDATIONS begins on Wednesday, September 7th.

5:30-6:25 PM - Grades 5-8; Bible/Catechism

6:30 PM – Devotional Service with the Lord's Supper.

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 31

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

Sermon: see September 4.

Sunday - September 4 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Theme: Forgiveness and grace.

Sermon: "Charge It to Me" (Philemon 1-21)

Bible Class: Discussion: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-35.

Wednesday – September 7

5:30-6:25 p.m. - **FOUNDATIONS - 5-6 Grade Bible Class; 7-8 Grade Catechism**

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

Sermon: See September 11.

Sunday – September 11 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost.

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

Theme: Strong spiritual leadership

Sermon: "Needed: Strong Christian Leaders" (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

Bible Class: NO BIBLE CLASS - HAM DINNER

Wednesday – September 14

5:30-6:25 - FOUNDATIONS - 5-6 Grade Bible Class; 7-8 Grade Catechism

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

Sermon: See September 18.

Sunday – September 18 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - **RALLY SUNDAY!**

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

Theme: God's peace in the Christian life.

Sermon: "A Little Peace and Quiet - PLEASE!" (1 Timothy 2:1-15)

Bible Class: Introduction to the Book of Revelation.

Wednesday - September 21

5:30-6:25 p.m. - FOUNDATIONS - 5-6 Grade Bible Study; 7-8 Grade Catechism

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

Sermon: See September 25.

Sunday - September 25 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Theme: The Call of God.

Sermon: "Listen Up!" (Amos 6:1-7)

Wednesday - September 28

5:30-6:25 p.m. - FOUNDATIONS - 5-6 Grade Bible Study; 7-8 Grade Catechism

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

Sermon: See October 2. (not ready yet)

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA is dedicated to serving Christ by ministering in His name among the 24 million people of North Korea through the delivery and confirmation of humanitarian aid, as well as construction projects and training. Their aid goes to the very needy segments of the population. People ask why they do what they do, especially given all that is in the news regarding the political, security, and diplomatic tensions in and around North Korea. Their response is simply, as followers of Jesus Christ, they are compelled by grace and motivated by love to obey His command to feed the hungry and heal the sick. (Matthew 25: 31-46). Christian Friends of Korea has a unique opportunity to minister to those who are suffering in North Korea. Each time they visit, they confirm delivery of everything that they send and learn of new needs. As long as they are able to do these things, with God providing the means, they say they will continue in these efforts. Their goal is to bring hope and healing in the name of Christ to the people of one of the most suppressed nations in our world. CFK is non-denominational.

Their humanitarian aid comes in the form of food, medicine, agricultural supplies and equipment, bedding and blankets, medical equipment, and supplies, as well as other needed goods for hospitals and rest homes in North Korea.

Through their developmental aid, they are involved in the renovation of multiple health care facilities, reequipping projects, solar powered water projects, water well drilling, greenhouse building, medical staff training, and the list continues. The need in the DPRK is extensive, but as God provides, they respond.

Please consider supporting this special mission project during the months of September and October. You will find contribution envelopes on the Mission Board in the narthex, in the pews, and in your offering envelope boxes.

Firstly, I would just like to say thank you so much to all of you for being so very kind and welcoming to my family and me since we joined your church family! We are thrilled to be working alongside all of you here at St. Peter to share God's love within and around our community. We feel truly blessed to be where we are! I would also like to extend my gratitude to everyone who came out to and helped with the potluck picnic to welcome my family to the church. It was so nice to be able to sit and chat with you all and get to know you a little better!

We have quite a few big things that will be happening at church in the next few months. We just finished up WHAM week with our 5th through 9th grade students and they had an awesome time! Our students had the opportunity to serve in many different places and capacities throughout our community including at Community Emergency Service in Minneapolis, the Emma Norton Residence in St. Paul, and Feed My Starving Children. They also baked about 150 cookies and delivered them to the Washington County sheriff's office and the Woodbury police department, as a small token of our appreciation for the men and women who serve to protect us and make our community a better place.

Starting next month we will be resuming Sunday morning and Wednesday night classes. We are still in need of quite a few teachers for our Sunday morning classes and also need some people who would be willing to serve as substitute teachers, should one of our regular teachers not be able to make it to class. I invite you to pray about this and see if this is something you feel God is leading you to do. As we seek to train up our children in the faith, it is integral that we have strong role models and mentors for them to look up to. Being a Sunday school teacher is a fantastic way to be that role model in our young people's lives. Please let me know if you are interested. There is also a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Angie and I are so excited to be working with you all in ministry and are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for all of us! Please always feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions, ideas, or if you would just like to chat. My cell is 651-283-3478 and my e-mail is Tony@stpeterafton.org. Blessings to you all in Jesus name.

In Him,

Tony Engen
Director of Christian Education

Rally Day will be Sunday, September 18th, 10:15-11:00 a.m. All kids are invited and welcomed to join us for some songs, games, and meeting of teachers!! Sunday School Class will start the following Sunday, September 25th, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

PLEASE FURNISH COLLEGE ADDRESSES TO THE CHURCH OFFICE SO THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE.

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.

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.

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

(Our worship service that day is at 9:00 a.m.)

A Table Prayer for Your Home

Having the opportunity of praying with my 2 1/2 year old granddaughter as she grows, here's a prayer that opened my eyes to the beauty of a "child-like" faith:

Although she is too small to pray, and thank You in the proper way,
bless her peas and bless her meat, and everything she "tries" to eat.
Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest. Let all these gifts to us be blest. Amen.

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®." A total of \$976.00 Choice Dollars grant funds went to St Peter Lutheran Church in July. THANK YOU for making this possible.

CHANGES FOR CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

We will be printing a new Church Telephone Directory soon. If nothing has changed for you, we will print your information exactly as we have it now. If something needs to be corrected or changed, please write the changes in the space below and give this form to an usher or turn it in to the church office by September 12th. *(If you would like to check your information, see the Telephone Directory copy on the counter in the narthex.)* Thank you.

NAME(S): _____

NEW ADDRESS: _____

NEW TELEPHONE # (Include Area Code): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (If you want it added): _____

SEPTEMBER, 2016

ACOLYTES FOR SEPTEMBER

September 4 - Emma Schatt
11 - Charlie Veith
18 - Ashley Walton
25 - Izaak Schmidt

ALTAR GUILD FOR SEPTEMBER

Rita Lynum
Sue Clare

GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 4 - Lorraine Hansen
11 - Eunice Kanning
18 - Pete & Gayle Schneider
25 - (Open)

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

COFFEE HOSTS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 4 - Linda Craig
11 - HAM DINNER
18 - Jerry & Judy Tank
25 - Ryan Bernath, Joan Riemer

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

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Gary Swanson, Elder
Derek Nelson
Carol Nelson
Roger Groth
Dave Leko

READERS DURING WORSHIP SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

September 4 - (Open)
11 - (Open)
18 - (Open)
25 - (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.

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