

## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY, 2017

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might...And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart...*

*You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise....You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes....You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)*

Moses is about to send God's people into a new life in the Promised Land God would give them. What would key their growth and success in this new life? A better way to phrase this question: Who would be the Key to a blessed life in their new homeland? The answer is straightforward...“The LORD your God.”

We seek God's blessing as we enter the promised land of a New Year. What...Who is the Key to a blessed life for us in 2017? The answer... “The LORD your God.”

Now, it gets personal. How can the LORD be the Key to blessings in my life? A simple prescription that is more than enough....read on...

It's a matter of the heart, not the organ that pumps life-giving blood throughout your body, but rather your soul, through which God pumps life into your inner self and eternal being.

“Love” the LORD your God. It doesn't say “like the LORD,” or “respect the LORD.” “Love” says, “I want You. I want to be close to You. I need You. I trust You...wholly and completely with all my heart, all my soul, and with all my might.”

In order for this to happen for me, I need God's Word to be on my heart (soul), making its imprint upon me in all my life (my thoughts, decisions, words, actions). God's Word has a power that infuses itself to others with whom I share my daily life with. God's Word has that power for your life too.

Parents, teach God's Word to your children diligently, while you have this opportunity. They grow so quickly, and sooner than we realize, they've grown. Make the most of your opportunities. (Ephesians 5:15-16). Talk about God when you sit together in your house, when you relax at the end of your day (lie down), when you rise (opening your day with prayer/praise), and when you walk (ride) together on the way to work/school. Little Words from God can have a big impact on our daily life. The Israelites would bind some of their special Words from God as phylacteries (frontlets) on their hands/foreheads as little reminders of God's presence, promise, power unto them as they went about their daily tasks. While we don't “wear” Bible verses on our outer bodies, we can have special verses written on the walls (doorposts) of our homes, where they give us daily reminders of God's presence and love. Even more importantly, we can take a little devotional verse for the day and commit it to our mind/heart as we go about our daily life. There might be a verse from Sunday's Bible readings (you heard in worship) that finds you underlining in your Bulletin...to remind you throughout the coming week.

These are just little ways in which God's Word can have a big impact on your daily life. Don't let the lesser matters of life steal away your true Treasure. Devote yourself to these things in the New Year...and God will bless you beyond anything you can imagine!

Proclaiming His Peace,  
Pastor Asmus

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**ADULT CHOIR WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 6:30-8:00 P.M.**

## Treasures in God's Word

**BASICS OF FAITH** - Mondays - 7:00 a.m. @ The Machine Shed; Tuesdays - 10:00 a.m. - at church;  
Week of:

January 2-3 - NO CLASS

January 9-10 - Lesson 14 - "Our Creator-God"

January 16-17 - Lesson 15 - "Cheering on the Church"

January 23-24 - Lesson 16 - "Freedom to Obey"

January 30-31 - Lesson 17 - "Being Right with God"

February 6-7 - Lesson 18 - "Becoming More Like Jesus"

**REVELATION** - Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class - 10:30-11:00 a.m. As we have begun on September 19, we are moving forward into this final Book of the Bible. For those who can't attend every Sunday, all materials are made available for you to keep up with us as a self-study, and to join us as you are able.

January 1 - No Class after worship.

January 8 - Revelation 9 - The Second Scene continues - Blowing the 5th & 6th Trumpets.

January 15 - Revelation 10 - An Interlude...and the bitter-sweet nature of the "Little Scroll"

January 22 - Revelation 11 - Part 1 - Temple measurements; Two witnesses - their ministry and martyrdom.

January 29 - Revelation 11 - Part 2 - Blowing the 7th trumpet - the Third Woe.

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**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.

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

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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!** NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>.

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### 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.

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**ELDERS' MEETING** - Check the Bulletins for the January meeting date.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** - Check the Bulletins for the January meeting date.

**...for your health**

from "Better Health" (Concordia Plan Services quarterly)

Approximately 80% of your brain tissue is water. If you are dehydrated, both your body and your mind will be stressed.

Studies show that if you plan early-morning workouts, you are more likely to follow through. Plan them later in the day, and you're more likely to become distracted, or tempted to do something else with that time.

Did you know?

- Proper sleep helps with weight control for several commonsense reasons:

- 1) If you're overly tired, you're less likely to have the energy to go on a walk or take the time to cook a healthy dinner.
  - 2) The longer you are awake at night, the more likely you are to snack and consume unnecessary calories.
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**SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND**

We will work a shift at Second Harvest Heartland on January 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Please sign up on the sheet on the kiosk. If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Cheryl Schmidt.

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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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup>."

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**INSTALLATION OF ALL 2017 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS** will be at the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 8th.

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**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP** meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. They will meet January 10th and 24th. Join us if you like to knit or crochet or would like to learn. If you have questions, call Gayle Schneider or Linda Craig.

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**EVERYONE HAS AT LEAST ONE OCCASION TO CELEBRATE EVERY YEAR!** Please take this opportunity to **put flowers on our altar**. It is easy to do...Pick up some flowers and place them in one of our vases...Or take a vase home and have a florist arrange one. **(Sign-up sheets are in the book on the kiosk for the dates you would like to reserve.**

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**PLEASE NOTE: I AM GOING TO CLEAN THE FREEZER THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY.** After January 1, any unmarked items that appear old will be discarded. PLEASE MARK ITEMS IF YOU WISH TO KEEP THEM. Any questions, call Betsy Hundertmark. Thank you.

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**VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 13, 2016 ARE AVAILABLE ON THE COUNTER IN THE NARTHEX.** *(If you would like one mailed to you, please call the church office.)*

## MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

### Szeged Lutheran Church — Hungary

**OUR MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY IS OUR SISTER CHURCH,  
SZEGED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HUNGARY.**

#### Following is a letter we received from them recently.

Dear Pastor Asmus,  
Dear Members of Flock at St. Peter Lutheran,

Another year has gone and we are thankful to God for all His blessings in 2016 - for being witnesses of Christ and parts of Christ's church both in Afton and in Szeged and for being connected via prayers. We are also profoundly thankful to you for your generous donations over the decades. God bless your hearts!

Outreach has been in focus recently among those in need (from homeless to poverty stricken, etc.). Out of 9.5 million Hungarians, we have 4 million who live below poverty limit! Our church could not afford to pay our second pastor any more so she went to serve at another congregation. Our only pastor is now challenged by doing services, Bible studies, Sunday School, school classes, university lectures, family and hospital visits; he is also enrolled in a Ph.D. course, etc., etc. We would like to ask for your prayer support so he would have strength to cope with challenges and serve the Lord diligently in all fields equally.

May your Christmas be filled with His love, hope, peace and joy and the New Year with His abundant blessings!

Yours in Christ, also on behalf of Pastor Cserhati and Szeged Lutheran Church, Hungary (your partner church),

Dr. Peter Szerdahelyi

**(Mission envelopes are available in your offering envelopes, in the pews, and on the Mission Board.)**

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#### A "Life-thought"

##### **From "Life Date" a quarterly journal from Lutherans For Life**

"The Word became flesh" (John 1:14). His earthly life began the same as ours...as a tiny speck...an embryo too small for the human eye to see. God, in Christ, made Himself to be, in every way, like us and with us, bearing even our weaknesses through death so that we might realize His eternal glories beyond all human imagination. No state of human development and no stage of human decline is not exalted by the ongoing presence of Jesus Christ, our LORD and Savior!

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#### ...and a smile to lift your day

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

Jessica asked her Sunday School teacher, "Were the epistles the wives of the apostles?"

Josh was trying to teach his puppy to walk alongside him by reading the Bible to him. When asked why, he said, "I'm using the healing power of prayer."

A Roadside Bulletin Board: "Where will you spend eternity? Smoking...or Nonsmoking?"

A pastor was trying to discourage picture-taking during the wedding service. So, he told the congregation, "Even if your spirit is willing, let your flash be weak."

Bulletin bloopers: "The lecture on the religious history of circumcision has been cut from tonight's program."

**FOUNDATIONS RESUMES** on Wednesday, January 4th, with Weekday/Confirmation Classes 5:30-6:25 p.m.;  
Devotional Service with Communion 6:30-7:00 p.m.

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**ANGEL TREE...It starts with a gift...It leads to lives transformed by Christ!** Founded in 1982 by an ex-prisoner who witnessed firsthand the strained relationship between prisoners and their children, Angel Tree has grown to become the largest national outreach specifically for the children of prisoners. **A special thank you to those who bought gifts for our Angel Tree this year to be given to these inmates' children.**

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**Attention St. Peter Youth & Parents!**

The cold and snow are finally upon us and we are planning some great winter activities for our kids in the coming months! On **January 29 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.** the Wellners have once again graciously offered to host us for an evening of **BOOT HOCKEY**, hot cocoa, and general good times! **THIS IS FOR 5TH-12TH GRADERS & THEIR FAMILIES. BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE!** Hope to see you there!

**On January 22nd** bring your sleds, boots, snow pants, hats, gloves and mittens to church, because after church will be going (wait for it).....**SLEDDING!!** Kids of all ages are invited to join us (even the grown up ones). Everyone will need to provide their own transportation or carpooling can also be arranged on an individual basis. There won't be too much driving to do, as we will be staying pretty close to the church.

**Coming up in February** we are planning a **SKI DAY AT AFTON ALPS** and we will be going down to **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** for a packing session. More information will be available about these events shortly.

Blessings and Merry Christmas!!

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**Children's Christmas Service**

"Thank You" to all the Sunday School children, teachers, parents and others who made our Children's Christmas Service a great celebration of our Savior's Birth!!!

**Our weekly worship services: (Bring your Bible!)**

+ *A New Year... A New Beginning...A New Life...*

*The difference CHRIST makes in a believer's life.*

Saturday - December 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

6:30 p.m. - Traditional New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion

Sermon: "Purified For Love" (1 Peter 1:13-25)

Sunday – January 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

**9:00 a.m.** – A New Year's Day Traditional Service with the Lord's Supper

Theme: Certainty and Confidence

Sermon: "A Fearless New Year" (Deuteronomy 31:1-6)

Bible Class: No Bible Class today.

Wednesday – January 4

5:30 p.m. - Foundations! 5-6 Bible Class; 7-8 Catechism

**6:30 p.m.** - Devotional Worship with Sacrament of the Altar

Sermon: (See January 8)

Sunday – January 8 - Baptism of our Lord

**9:00 a.m.** – **Praise Worship with Holy Eucharist**

Theme: Jesus' Baptism and Our Baptism.

Sermon: "Reeds, Wicks, and the Will of the LORD" (Isaiah 42:1-7)

Bible Class: Revelation 9 - The Second Scene of End Times continues.

Wednesday - January 11

5:30 p.m. - Foundations: 5-6 Bible Class; 7-8 Catechism

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

Sermon: (See Sunday, January 15)

Sunday - January 15 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

**9:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion**

Theme: Sanctification: Becoming what God has made us to be.

Sermon: "A Work in Progress" (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

Bible Study: Revelation 10 - An interlude, then a Little Scroll

Wednesday - January 18

5:30 p.m. - Foundations! 5-6 Bible Class; 7-8 Catechism

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with The Lord's Table

Sermon: (See Sunday, January 22)

Sunday - January 22 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**9:00 a.m. - Praise Worship with The Sacrament of the Altar**

Theme: Being a Disciple of Jesus.

Sermon: "Let's Go Fishing!" (Matthew 4:12-23)

Bible Class: Revelation 11 (Part 1)

Wednesday - January 25

5:30 - Foundations! 5-6 Bible Class; 7-8 Catechism

6:30 - Devotional Worship with The Lord's Supper

Sermon: (See Sunday, January 29)

Sunday - January 29 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

**9:00 a.m. - Special Worship of Praise with The Lord's Supper**

Theme: The Kingdom of God; our calling; walking humbly with your God.

Sermon: No sermon today.

Bible Class: Revelation 12 (Part 1)

## JANUARY, 2017

### ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY

January 1 - 9:00 a.m. Ashley Walton  
8 - 9:00 a.m. Charlie Veith  
15 - 9:00 a.m. Emma Schatt  
22 - 9:00 a.m. Malachi Oberdeck  
29 - 9:00 a.m. Gabriella Richert

### USHERS FOR JANUARY

Grant Fritsche, Elder  
Laura H. Fritsche  
Steve Oehlke  
Pete Lind  
Ken Veith

### GREETERS FOR JANUARY

January 1 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
8 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
15 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
22 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
29 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

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

### COFFEE HOSTS FOR JANUARY

January 1 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
8 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
15 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
22 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
29 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

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

### READERS DURING WORSHIP SERVICES IN JANUARY

January 1 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
8 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
15 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
22 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)  
29 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

### ALTAR GUILD FOR JANUARY

Peggy Oehlke  
Lori Swanson

### **USED PIANO FREE!**

Call Jim Jordan or  
the church office.

### **A Table Prayer for Your Home**

*May all who gather round our table  
find welcome glowing here,  
Warmth and friendship, food and drink  
for all in Thee to share.  
Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.  
May all these gifts to us be blest.  
Oh give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good,  
and His mercy endures forever. Amen.*

**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 Marion Glasbrenner.

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