

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY, 2017

Dear Ones in Jesus,

February 14th is an important date to remember each year. Valentine's Day! It's a day of romance, expressing love in cards, candy, jewelry, flowers, etc. Did you know that Valentine's Day originated as a pagan holiday? But, since love is the theme of this day, and that many will say, "**I LOVE YOU,**" let's just see what God says about love.

The vocabulary of "love" is varied. There is sexual love (Greek word: eros), friendship love (Greek word: philos), but the Bible speaks of another love, which is "agape." Agape is more than just words, flowers, infatuation. It can't be confined to one day of the year. It's so much more! Agape describes the covenant love God has for the world, so deep that He would go to drastic measures to save us. Agape describes our Christian response to God for this love, that we may live in His love and for His glory. Agape also describes how God's love affects our love for one another...among and within God's family too. So, what is love?

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

If "agape" is not woven into the fabric of our daily living, then our words become empty and meaningless.
(1 Corinthians 13:1) "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."

If "agape" is absent in our daily life, can't be seen by others in our lifestyle or interactions with others, we've accomplished nothing.

(1 Corinthians 13:2-3) "If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

If "agape" is not the underlying motive for what we strive to accomplish in life...serving God, helping others, and caring for one another...our deeds ring empty and hollow too.

(1 Corinthians 13:3) "If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

Love is more than simple emotion, much more than a "Hallmark" expression, or something we do for someone every year on February 14th. As Christians, saved and redeemed in God's agape love, we are called and privileged to live in God's love, celebrate God's love, share God's love, and proclaim His love in a world where in these end times, "the love of most will grow cold." (Matthew 24:12) How? Hear what Jesus says...

(John 13:34-35) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

God bless each and all of you with His "agape" love,
Pastor Asmus

INSTALLATION AND RECEPTION FOR TONY ENGEN AS DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Glory be to God! Tony Engen, who has served our congregation as Interim Director of Christian Education the past six months, has accepted the Call to join our staff as part-time D.C.E. **His installation will take place during our 9:00 a.m. worship service on February 12, 2017.** We ask that all join in a **Celebratory Brunch** being provided immediately following the Education Hour. We rejoice that Tony is following the Call of God, showing a dedication and commitment to be in teamwork with the congregation of St. Peter in service to Christ.

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:

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

February 13-14 - Lesson 19 - "Holy and Clean"

February 20-21 - Lesson 20 - "Getting to Know a New Friend"

February 27-28 - Lesson 21 - "Justification - the Ticket into Heaven"

REVELATION - Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class - 10:30-11:00 a.m. 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. During February, we will be looking at Chapters 12 & 13.

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.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR MARCH ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH.

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.

ELDERS' MEETING will be on Sunday, February 5th, at 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING will be on Monday, February 20th, at 6:30 p.m.

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

We will work a shift at Second Harvest Heartland on Friday, February 10th, 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.

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®."

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. They will meet February 7th & 21st. Join us if you like to knit or crochet or would like to learn. If you have questions, call Gayle Schneider or Linda Craig.

The Outreach Committee filled 32 gift bags with cold-weather necessities of hats, gloves and scarves and gave them to men in the Christ Recovery Center of the Union Gospel Mission. St. Peter hosted the 'Little Church of Hope' for these men in October, and extra donated funds from this day were used to bless them with these Christmas bags.

A Letter from our District President

Dear Pastor & Congregation President,

In this 500th Reformation Anniversary year, I invite your congregation to participate in Koinonia 2.0. The initial round of Koinonia involved pastors in conversations on what unites and divides us in our doctrine and practice. This second round has pastors, commissioned workers, and lay people gathering to develop a statement of agreement on significant articles of doctrine and practice.

When: Saturday February 18

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: South Shore Trinity, White Bear Lake

Congregations represented include those from NE Suburban, St. Paul Metro, St. Croix River, NW Suburban. Each congregation may send 3 representatives for this event. Our topic of discussion: "The Apostles' Creed"

Let your pastor know if you'd like to represent your congregation by January 29.

In His service,

Dean Nadasdy

President, MN South District - LCMS

A "Life-thought"

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

Jesus brought love to fullness for us by giving Himself freely to us as Lord and Savior. Including vulnerable ones around us in this abundant life imparts shades and tastes of heaven (Matthew 5:13-14) that will ultimately overcome Satan's influences of aggression and apathy.

125.....This is the number of quilts completed by the Quilters and brought to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul in 2016!

Upon request, Lutheran World Relief tracked a box of our quilts by mail. We received notice the quilts were sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country located in central Africa.

The Quilters may put the quilts together, but you all play a part with the fabric, sheets, blankets, yarn, etc. that you donate. **THANK YOU!**

We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. New Quilters are always welcome! It is easier than you think. Come see what we do and join us for coffee at 10:15 a.m. If you have questions, talk to Barb Fritsche, Lorraine Hansen or Donna Kosen.

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.)**

10 THINGS FRIENDS COMMUNICATE

from "Lists to Live By...for everything that really matters"

1. **COMFORT:** easing one another's grief or pain.
 2. **ATTENTION:** being thoughtful, caring.
 3. **ACCEPTANCE:** receiving in spite of faults.
 4. **APPRECIATION:** showing/expressing sincere gratitude with praise.
 5. **SUPPORT:** helping to carry another's burden.
 6. **ENCOURAGEMENT:** being a "heart-lifter" who urges/inspires toward a goal.
 7. **AFFECTION:** demonstrating sincere care through touch and/or words.
 8. **RESPECT:** valuing and protection one another's reputation/self-esteem.
 9. **SECURITY:** protecting one from harm, fear, or loss.
 10. **APPROVAL:** affirming one another in God's love.
-

FOUNDATIONS is held on Wednesdays, with Weekday/Confirmation Classes 5:30-6:25 p.m.; Devotional Service with Communion 6:30-7:00 p.m. (February 8th, 6:00 p.m.: 8th Grade Oral Exam: Lord's Prayer/Confession/Office of the Keys)

Attention St. Peter Youth & Parents! ALL CHURCH SKI DAY AT AFTON ALPS!! All members of St. Peter and their friends are invited to join us on Sunday, March 5th, at Afton Alps for a great day of skiing and fellowship! We will be meeting at Afton at 1:00 pm. Afton Alps is giving us a great discounted rate on both lift tickets (\$32.00) and ski/snowboard rental (\$21.00). Lift tickets are normally \$58.00 and rentals are \$28.00, so we are getting a great deal! Please sign up on the kiosk in the narthex by Sunday, February 26th, so that we can reserve your spot. If you have any questions, talk to DCE Tony Engen.

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.

A message from Szeged Lutheran Church, Hungary:

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.

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

Dr. Peter Szerdahelyi

Please consider supporting Szeged Lutheran Church in Hungary in February. (Mission envelopes are available in your offering envelopes, in the pews, and on the Mission Board.)

Our weekly worship services: (Bring your Bible!)

+ *Epiphany... shining the love of God
in our worship...in our ministry...and in our life.*

The difference CHRIST makes in a believer's life.

Wednesday - February 1

5:30 pm - Foundations... 5th & 6th Grade Bible Class; 7-8 - Catechism

6:30 pm - Devotional worship/Lord's Supper

Sermon: (See Sunday, February 5)

Sunday – February 5 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00 am – Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

Theme: Shining God's light.

Sermon: "Blessed with Purpose" (Matthew 5:13-16)

Bible Class: Revelation 12 (Part 1) - Ultimate battle between good/evil; God/Satan.

Wednesday – February 8

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

6:00 pm - 8th Grade Oral Exam - Lord's Prayer / Confession/ Office of the Keys

6:30 pm - Devotional Worship with Sacrament of the Altar

Sermon: (See Sunday, February 12)

Sunday – February 12 - Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00 am – Praise Worship with Holy Eucharist, & Installation of our DCE Tony Engen

Theme: The choices we make; blessings/consequences.

Sermon: "Choices" (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

Bible Class: Revelation 12 (Part 2) - Jesus' Victory / our Victory.

Wednesday - February 15

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

6:30 pm - Devotional Worship with the Holy Eucharist

Sermon: (See Sunday, February 19)

Sunday - February 19 - Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

9 am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

Theme: Question you may ask: "Why am I here?"

Sermon: "Purposeful Living" (1 Corinthians 3:10-23)

Bible Study: Revelation 13 (Part 1) - A beast rising out of the sea.

Wednesday - February 22

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

6:30 pm - Devotional Worship with The Lord's Table

Sermon: (See Sunday, February 26)

Sunday - February 26 - The Transfiguration of our Lord

9:00 am - Praise Worship with The Sacrament of the Altar

Theme: The power of Transfiguration

Sermon: "No Prophecy..." (2 Peter 1:16-21)

Bible Class: Revelation 13 (Part 2) - The beast from within the earth.



Valentine's Day Dinner

Please join us for dinner at St. Peter Lutheran Church.
Saturday, February 18th, at 6:00 pm - \$15.00 per person

This is a fundraiser for the youth of St. Peter.

Come and spend a wonderful evening with your favorite valentine!

Names: _____

Choice of Entrée:

Meat Lasagna _____ Vegetarian Lasagna _____

Please indicate who you would like to be seated with:

Please return this form to the church office
no later than Sunday, February 12th.

FEBRUARY, 2017

ACOLYTES FOR FEBRUARY

February 5 - 9:00 a.m. Izaak Schmidt
12 - 9:00 a.m. Ryan Bernath
19 - 9:00 a.m. Callie Koller
26 - 9:00 a.m. Lucas Oberdeck

USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

Doug Stoltzmann,
Elder
Jerry Hundertmark
John Schmidt
Steve Wellner
Marv Durow

GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 5 - 9:00 a.m. Eldo & Helen Thielfoldt
12 - 9:00 a.m. Lorraine Hansen
19 - 9:00 a.m. Eunice Kanning
26 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

ALTAR GUILD FOR FEBRUARY

Donna Kosen
Dawn Plunkett

COFFEE HOSTS FOR FEBRUARY

February 5 - 9:00 a.m. Gary & Loiry Anderson
(Pastor's birthday)
12 - 9:00 a.m. Don & Donna Kosen
19 - 9:00 a.m. Jerry & Judy Tank
26 - 9:00 a.m. Linda Craig

READERS DURING WORSHIP SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

February 5 - 9:00 a.m. Jerry Tank
12 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
19 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
26 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

A Table Prayer for Your Home

*Fill our house, Oh Lord, with blessings from above,
But most of all, we humbly ask, fill us with Your love...*

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.*

USED PIANO FREE!

Call Jim Jordan or
the church office.

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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