

NEWSLETTER
MARCH, 2017

“And to the angel of the church in St. Peter, Afton write...”

Has it ever crossed your mind that our congregation might have its own angel? That idea is not as far-fetched as you may think. Just read the first three chapters of Revelation! What does the Bible say about angels?

1) **Angels are many.**

Daniel 7:10 "Thousands upon thousands attended Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him."

2) **Angels are powerful.**

Psalm 103:20-21 "Praise the LORD, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His Word. Praise the Lord, all His heavenly hosts, you His servants who do His will."

3) **Angels are "messengers," protectors too!**

Psalm 91:11-12 "He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways..."

In the Book of Revelation, our Lord Jesus Christ has something to say to the seven churches of Revelation. These churches are more than historical places and people of the evangelist John's day, but also are representative of Christian churches today, and each of these churches has a special angel!

Today, many people don't think much about angels, and/or don't even believe in their presence or power. The Bible, however, contradicts this false belief. In fact, do you not know that angels are watching over you 24/7 in all your life? Martin Luther even affirms angels in both his morning and evening prayers, "**...Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**"

This year, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1. Each Wednesday service will focus on a specific letter to one of the seven churches of Revelation. Many people see Lent as a time when Christians prepare for Easter. I'd like you to see this year's Lenten worship in a bigger picture...as preparation for eternal life as we live in these "end times."

These personal letters in Revelation are written for us, just as they were written for these churches of the first century A.D. What does Jesus have to say about sin? He has a lot to say! He calls us to listen carefully with these words: "**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**" As we listen, may God's holy Word take root within each of us as we read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest His Word, not just so we may rejoice with Easter's victory, but look forward with joyful hope to God's promise of our ultimate and eternal Easter in heaven with our everlasting Lord, Savior, King, and Friend...Jesus!

In His service,

Pastor Asmus

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

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

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, March 14th, at 6:30 p.m.

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND - We will be working a shift at Second Harvest Heartland on Friday, March 10th, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sign-up sheet is on the kiosk. If you have any questions, call Cheryl Schmidt.

JOIN US AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN SEASON ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST, AT 7:00 P.M. FOR A TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION.

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:

March 6-7 - Lesson 22 - "Christian Friendship"

March 13-14 - Lesson 23 - "Spiritual Gifts"

March 20-21 - Lesson 24 - "Good Stewards"

March 27-28 - Lesson 25 - "Accountable to God"

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 March, we will be looking at the following chapters:

Chapter 14 - The LAMB on Mt. Zion; the Three Angels; The Harvest of the Earth.

Chapter 15 - Seven Angels usher in Seven Final Plagues from God upon the earth.

Chapter 16 - Now the Seven Plagues are Poured out on the Earth.

Valley Outreach

1911 Curve Crest Blvd. West

Stillwater, MN 55082

THE CLOSET TAKES ALL YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHING:

Worn out stained or torn – we won't use it but we recycle it. We get 2 cents per pound for recycling. 100% goes back into the clothing program to buy items such as new socks and undies. We need kids' clothes, work wear, and seasonal clothing to meet our client needs. Clothing is free for clients. **Please leave items in the designated area by the coat rack marked "The Closet".**

THE CLOSET SALE: *Fill Your Closet!*

EXCLUSIVE PRESALE: Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For a \$10.00 cover charge, enjoy wine and chocolate while finding some chic new-to-you ensembles.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (FREE):

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Stop in to find your new fashion (and some great deals!)

Most items for sale from \$1.00 to \$10.00.

\$5.00 FILL A BAG: also on the 20th for one hour from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fill a bag with whatever gems you can find, ALL FOR \$5.00.

No matter when you shop, 100% OF PROCEEDS go back into the Clothing Closet to buy items such as new SOCKS AND UNDIES!

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Do Not Be Afraid!

“A young man dressed in a white robe. . . said, ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter...’” (Mark 16:5-7).

“Trembling and bewildered the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid” (Mark 16:8).

Who wouldn't tremble and be afraid! You go to anoint a body to prepare it for a proper burial, but the body is missing. Then some ethereal creature tells you the body isn't there because it is no longer dead but alive. Who could take it in? “Don't be alarmed” the man in white said. Yeah, right!

Yet, looking back, perhaps the women remembered the thousands He had fed with only two fish and five loaves of bread (Matthew 14:15-21). Maybe they thought again about the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44). After all, He was the one who had stilled the raging sea (Mark 4:35-41).

Somewhere, sometime, that trembling and bewilderment turned to joy and faith, for they did go tell His disciples and Peter (Matthew 28:8). And Jesus met them and greeted them, and they worshipped Him. “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid Go and tell My brothers...’” (Matthew 28:9-10).

Jesus' last command is the same as this one: Don't be afraid. Go and tell. We can understand the fear of the women at the empty tomb. What are we afraid of? Trouble? Or hardship? Persecution? Or famine? Nakedness? Or danger? Or sword? There is no fear in these things! “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us” (Romans 8:35, 37). We have the benefit of history. The women at the tomb couldn't fathom the outcome, but we have God's Word that assures us of our victory in Christ. We have His promise, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). So don't be afraid! Go and tell!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

LENTEN SUPPERS

(before Midweek Lenten Services) (Not soup this year)

Lenten Suppers will be served in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5 from 5:00 p.m.—6:15 p.m. (before the 6:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship Services). Callers are asked to have 5 workers and 5 pans of bars. A donation of \$5.00 per person is the suggested price to meet the expenses. Any excess money will be used towards the Kitchen Fund. Any questions, call Sharon Wellner, Lenten Supper Coordinator.

Here is Lenten Supper schedule:

March 8 - Group 2 serving

Callers: Joann Decker & Rita Lynam

March 15 - Group 3 serving

Callers: Donna Kosen & Gayle Schneider

March 22 – Group 4 serving

Callers: Yvonne Boles & Julie Erickson

March 29 – Group 1 serving

Callers: Barb Fritsche & Joan Jordan

April 5 – Combined Groups serving

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.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. They will meet March 7th and 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.

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**. **PLEASE NOTE THAT 2016 CHOICE DOLLARS EXPIRE ON MARCH 31ST**. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice®."

A Table Prayer

*For every cup and plateful,
God, make us truly grateful.
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.*

A "Life-thought"

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

Our God, Jesus Christ, displays His miraculous compassion amid ailments and disabilities (John 9:2-3). Though we occupy evil days (Ephesians 5:16), we must not give up on anybody. God doesn't (Isaiah 42:16). May God equip each of us/all of us to walk as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8).

EASTER GARDEN Spring is on its way, so it is time to think about our Easter garden display for the sanctuary. Flowers can be given in honor or in memory of someone. Envelopes for a freewill donation are provided on the counter in the narthex for this purpose. Please fill one out and return to the church office or offering plate by **Sunday, April 2, 2017**. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church. It is the intent to use some of this money to provide flowers to our shut-ins before Easter. The display at church will be up through the April 30th service. Flowers can be taken home after the service that day. Any questions can be directed to Judy Hansen.

Please mark your calendar for **EASTER DECORATING** of our sanctuary for the resurrection of our Lord on **Saturday, April 15** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Many hands and fellowship of others will make the task enjoyable. Hope to see you then. Any questions, contact Judy Hansen.

****PLEASE NOTE:** Church Council Minutes for January 23, 2017, are available on the counter in the narthex at church. (If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the church office.)

****Also available on the counter in the narthex are S.P.L.C.W. (St. Peter Lutheran Church Women) Work Group Lists.**

NO FOUNDATIONS DURING THE LENTEN & EASTER SEASON. It will resume on Wednesday, April 19th, after Easter.

Attention St. Peter Youth & Parents! JOIN US FOR THE ALL CHURCH SKI DAY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH. WE WILL MEET AT AFTON ALPS AT 2:00 P.M. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, SIGN UP ON THE SHEET ON THE KIOSK OR CALL DCE TONY ENGEN.

Are We Being Too Sensitive?

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

- 1- Do your feelings get hurt more than once a day?
- 2- Do you want to "get even" with people who hurt your feelings?
- 3- Do you hold onto grudges longer than a day?
- 4- Do you readily accept the apologies of those who have offended you?
- 5- Do you pout?
- 6- Do you withdraw from your "offender" or give him/her the "silent treatment?"
- 7- Do you sometimes forget why you got mad in the first place?
- 8- Do you let the way others treat you affect the way you treat them?
- 9- Do you withhold forgiveness until the one who hurt you apologizes?
- 10- Do little hurts bother you?
- 11- Do you become defensive regarding constructive criticism?
- 12- Are people not comfortable being around/with you?
- 13- Do you prefer to think of yourself as a sensitive person?

NOW, SOME HELPFUL WORDS FROM GOD'S WORD - ROMANS 12:14-21!

- 14- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
- 15- Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- 16- Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.
- 17- Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
- 18- If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceable with all.
- 19- Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay; says the Lord.' (Heb. 10:30; Dt. 32:35; Lv. 19:18; Ps. 94:1; 1 Cor. 6:7; 1 Thess. 4:6)
- 20- To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.
- 21- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 - March 1 - ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Worship with the Lord's Supper

Sermon: "Love Lost...Death Found" (Ephesus—Rev. 2:1-7)

Sunday – March 5 - First Sunday in Lent

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

Theme: All because of one...One for all.

Sermon: "One Can Make a Difference." (Romans 5:12-19)

Bible Class: Revelation 14:14-20 - The harvest of the Earth.

Wednesday – March 8

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. - Lenten Supper & Fellowship

6:30 p.m. - A Lenten Vesper Service in Revelation

Sermon: "Fear and Death: Courage unto Life" (Smyrna –Rev. 2:8-11)

Sunday – March 12 - Second Sunday in Lent

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

Theme: Justification by Faith alone.

Sermon: "Promise, Struggle, Obedience, Joy" (Genesis 12:1-9)

Bible Class: Revelation 15 - Seven angels; Seven plagues from God.

Wednesday - March 15

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. - Lenten Supper & Fellowship

6:30 p.m. - A Lenten Vesper Service in Revelation

Sermon: "Idolatry: the Deadliest of All" (Pergamum—Rev. 2:12-17)

Sunday - March 19 - Third Sunday in Lent

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

Theme: Coming to the Living Water

Sermon: "Living Water" (John 4:5-42)

Bible Class: Revelation 16:1-9 - The bowls of God's wrath are poured out.

Wednesday - March 22

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. - Lenten Supper & Fellowship

6:30 p.m. - A Lenten Vesper Service in Revelation

Sermon: "Immorality: Highway to Hell" (Thyatira—Rev. 2:18-29)

Sunday - March 26 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Theme: Walking/Living in Grace.

Sermon: "Walking With the Spirit" (Ephesians 5)

Bible Class: Revelation 16: 10-21 - The bowls of God's wrath ...continued.

Wednesday - March 29

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. - Lenten Supper & Fellowship

6:30 p.m. - A Lenten Vesper Service in Revelation

Sermon: "Lethargy: a Slow Death" (Sardis—Rev. 3:1-6)

MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR MARCH/APRIL

Trinity First Lutheran School *(A part of Trinity First Lutheran Church)* **Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Trinity First Lutheran School is an important part of the ministry of Trinity First Lutheran Church. We are about assisting families as they raise their children to achieve all the great things God has in store for them! We serve families with children through the 8th grade. We also work to provide education and support to the parents and guardians of our students.

Trinity First Lutheran School began in 1859 when the congregation, established in 1856, asked the pastor to teach school. Such a quiet, simple beginning ignited a passion for education that has continued for over 150 years! Although the school did close for about 6 years during the depression, the desire to provide a Christian education did not diminish. The first school building (only 600 square feet) was built in 1870 by the church at 9th Avenue South & 4th Street. It cost the congregation a mighty \$360! The school has been in three locations, moving from its first location to 9th Street & 21st Avenue South, then to its current location at 13th Avenue & 19th Street. The first school building on this site was built in 1913 at a cost of \$15,705! **It was considered a modern school with 3 large classrooms, an auditorium, a gymnasium and ... a bowling alley and billiard room for the adults!** The current school building was constructed next to this building and was dedicated on September 24, 1972.

Over the decades there have been many changes at Trinity First Lutheran School. The students were all white until the 1960's. Now most of them live in Minneapolis and are quite diverse in race, ethnicity, and background.

Funded by the congregation and its families through most of its existence, the school now is funded almost entirely by outside donations. The purpose of the school in its beginning was to teach the children how to read so they could read the Bible. Now, the focus has changed to reaching all children, offering them a solid Christ-based education that is designed to equip them for life here on earth and our life beyond.

(Adapted from "The History of Trinity First School" written by Katherine & Bruce Doepke)

OTHER FACTS ABOUT TRINITY FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL:

- We provide a full time special education program that is fully integrated within our school.
- We offer a leveled Kindergarten program that allows for early enrollment.
- **96% of our income comes from donations. Tuition is charged based on family size, income and situation; no family is turned away based on ability to pay.**

The cost of education for each student – year round programming and includes special education – is approximately \$8,000.00. Our congregation has long since been unable to support the school and the families God brings to our door are far from being able to afford a private Christ-centered education. That's why we rely on God for every blessing and He has blessed us beyond our imagination! He provides for us through individuals, groups and congregations so that every true need is met. We thank God for everyone He leads to support His school and His children! Any donations given are deeply appreciated and can make a HUGE IMPACT! However, our biggest request is for prayer; prayer for provisions, for God's direction, for safety, for each child, family and teacher.

Please consider supporting Trinity First Lutheran School in March and April. (Mission envelopes are available in your offering envelopes, in the pews, and on the Mission Board.)

MARCH, 2017

ALTAR GUILD FOR MARCH

Judy Tank
Elaine Frahm

ACOLYTES FOR MARCH

March 1 - 7:00 p.m. Ashley Walton
(Ash Wednesday)

5 - 9:00 a.m. Charlie Veith

8 - 6:30 p.m. Emma Schatt

(Lenten Midweek)

12 - 9:00 a.m. Malachi

Oberdeck

15 - 6:30 p.m. Gabriella Richert

(Lenten Midweek)

19 - 9:00 a.m. Izaak Schmidt

22 - 6:30 p.m. Ryan Bernath

(Lenten Midweek)

26 - 9:00 a.m. Callie Koller

29 - 6:30 p.m. Lucas Oberdeck

(Lenten Midweek)

GREETERS FOR MARCH

March 1 - 7:00 p.m. (Open)

(Ash Wednesday)

5 - 9:00 a.m. Lorraine Hansen

8 - 6:30 p.m. (Open)

(Lenten Midweek)

12 - 9:00 a.m. Rick & Laura Bauer

15 - 6:30 p.m. (Open)

(Lenten Midweek)

19 - 9:00 a.m. Donna Kosen

22 - 6:30 p.m. (Open)

(Lenten Midweek)

26 - 9:00 a.m. Helen Thielholdt

29 - 6:30 p.m. (Open)

(Lenten Midweek)

COFFEE HOSTS IN MARCH

March 5 - Gary & Lori Swanson

12 - Dan & Delmi Richert

19 - Janel Busacker

26 - Don & Donna Kosen

READERS DURING

WORSHIP SERVICES IN MARCH

March 1 - 7:00 p.m. Joan Riemer

(Ash Wednesday)

5 - 9:00 a.m. Mark Suckow

8 - 6:30 p.m. (Open)

(Lenten Midweek)

12 - 9:00 a.m. Laura Bauer

15 - 6:30 p.m. (Open)

(Lenten Midweek)

19 - 9:00 a.m. Shelly Love

22 - 6:30 p.m. (Open)

(Lenten Midweek)

26 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

29 - 6:30 p.m. (Open)

(Lenten Midweek)

USHERS FOR MARCH

Gary Swanson, Elder

George Riemer

Jim Jordan

Paul Fritsche

Kim Fritsche

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.

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OUR STRENGTH IS YOUR STRENGTH

We'll put more than 100 years of financial experience and stability on the side of your goals.

- Rated A++ (Superior)—the highest of 16 ratings—by independent insurance analyst A.M. Best.¹
- \$182.5 billion of life insurance in force.²
- \$105.4 billion in assets under management.²

¹As of April 2014. Ratings reflect Thrivent Financial's overall financial strength and claims-paying ability, but do not apply to the investment performance of investment products.

²As of Dec. 31, 2014.



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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

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