

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT****March 5, 2017****Vol. 57, No. 15**

- TODAY:** 10:15-11:00 Sunday School  
10:30-11:00 Adult Bible Class  
11:00 Elders' Meeting  
2:00 All Family Ski Trip to Afton Alps
- MONDAY:** 7:00-8:00 Breakfast Bible Conversations @ Machine Shed  
9:00-12:00 Quilters
- TUESDAY:** 10:00-11:00 Bible Class  
6:30-8:00 Adult Choir  
7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry
- WEDNESDAY:** 5:00-6:15 Lenten Supper  
6:30-7:00 Lenten Midweek Service
- THURSDAY:** 6:30 Praise Team Practice
- FRIDAY:** 1:30-3:30 Work @ Second Harvest Heartland
- NEXT SUNDAY:** 9:00 Contemporary Service & Communion  
10:15-11:00 Sunday School  
10:30-11:00 Adult Bible Class

---

If you would like to include the needs of a sick relative or friend in our weekly Prayer Page, call the church office at (651) 436-3357, or submit the request via E-mail: [stpeter@stpeterafton.org](mailto:stpeter@stpeterafton.org) by Wednesday afternoon. Prayer requests will be kept on our list for two months unless otherwise requested.

**CUSHIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.** You may leave them in the pews after the worship service.

**BIBLE STUDY: "REVELATION"** following the service today: Revelation 15 – Eight verses...Seven angels prepare to dispense seven bowls of wrath upon the earth. Let's be prepared.

**BASICS OF FAITH" BIBLE STUDY** this Monday and Tuesday: Lesson 22, "Christian Friendship."

**SERMON & TEXT FOR THIS WEDNESDAY'S LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE, 6:30 P.M.:** "Fear and Death: Courage unto Life" (Revelation 2:8-11)

**SERMON & TEXT FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE 9:00 A.M.:** "A Promise with Struggle, Obedience with Joy" (Genesis 12:1-9)

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS WEDNESDAY'S MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE, 6:30 P.M.:** USHERS: Gary Swanson, Elder; George Riemer; Jim Jordan; Paul Fritsche; Kim Fritsche; ACOLYTE: Emma Schatt; READER: Rick Bauer; GREETERS: (Open).

**HEARING ASSISTANCE RADIOS are available in the narthex.** Please see an usher. Turn to 97.8 or 98.0 for the best reception.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE, 9:00 A.M.:** COFFEE HOSTS: Dan & Delmi Richert; USHERS: Gary Swanson, Elder; George Riemer; Jim Jordan; Paul Fritsche; Kim Fritsche; ACOLYTE: Malachi Oberdeck; READER: Laura Bauer; GREETERS: Rick & Laura Bauer.

**ALL CHURCH SKI TRIP TO AFTON ALPS**: All members of St. Peter and their friends are invited to join us **TODAY** at Afton Alps for a great day of skiing and fellowship! We will meet at Afton Alps at 2:00 p.m. 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! You can still join us! Talk to DCE Tony Engen.

**OUR MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR MARCH & APRIL** is Trinity First Lutheran School, Minneapolis, MN. See the Mission Board in the narthex for more information. Mission envelopes are in your offering envelope boxes, in the pews, and on the Mission Board.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> service. Flowers can be taken home after the service that day. Any questions can be directed to Judy Hansen.

**Much thanks to everyone who volunteered at Feed My Starving Children** on Monday! We were able to pack 21,600 meals which will feed 59 children in Haiti for an entire year! That is so awesome!

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE ZONE BANQUET** on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Johnson Parkway in St. Paul. Speaker is Keith Peterson (International Lutheran Hour Ministries). Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (Arrive at 5:30 p.m.) Cost \$10.00 per person. For reservations, contact Audrey at 651-738-1767 or [audrey.gilman@thrivent.com](mailto:audrey.gilman@thrivent.com)

## **Stewardship Minute: OUR BEST INTENTIONS**

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do,” (Romans 7:15), so spoke the Apostle Paul. Somehow he could not translate his best intentions into the actions he wished to do. This is the dilemma that has afflicted Christians who sincerely want to do God’s will. Peter experienced it too. “Lord I am ready to go with You to prison and to death” (Luke 22:33), he declared, and he meant it. His best intentions were to stick with his Lord, no matter what.

Thomas, too, expressed his intentions. When Jesus said He was going back to Judea where the Jews had tried to stone Him, the disciples tried to dissuade him. Realizing that nothing could stop Jesus from going to his friend Lazarus, Thomas said to the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him” (John 11:16). He meant it too.

Yet, Peter denied knowing his Lord, and all the disciples fled in fear the night of His betrayal (Mark 14:50). What they wanted to do, they failed to do. What they wanted not to do, that is what they did. We understand the dilemma well. Like Peter, we weep when faced with our failures. But we do not despair, for we have learned that, while on our own we fail, with God we can do great things.

Christ went to His death on Calvary in order to buy us back from sin, death, and the devil. We are no longer captive to sin and immobilized by it. “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us” (Romans 8:3 7). Jesus lived the perfect life for us; He shed His blood in payment for our sins; He suffered in our places; and He gives us grace that forgives our failures and gives us more opportunities to bear the fruit He called us and chose us to bear. Truly, with God we can do great things.

## Stewardship Corner

Many situations in life require mediators. Two parties at odds with each other can be brought together by one who is skilled in helping each one see things from the other's point of view. Christ was just such a mediator. Sin had separated us from God. A great chasm lay between us. The just and holy God could not tolerate sin and we helpless humans could not keep from it. Thanks be to God for giving His Son to bring about reconciliation between us and our Heavenly Father!

**Either we follow God's ways  
or our own. There is no  
middle ground.**

"No one can serve two masters.  
You cannot serve both God and  
Money" (Matthew 6:24).

