

NEWSLETTER
MAY, 2017

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

In my last letter, I wrote about Easter being the "Crown of Lent." We celebrate that "Crown" every time we worship, every time we share our faith and hope... and especially as we share the love of God with others in our daily life...in humbleness...washing one another's feet.

Washing feet? **Sometimes I wonder, is it more humbling to wash another person's feet or to have someone else wash yours?** This very scene presents starkly differing pictures of humility.

Let's go to John 13:1-20. Jesus and His disciples gathered for the Last Supper. Jesus, showing His humility, began washing his disciples' feet. But Simon Peter resisted, saying, "You will never ever wash my feet!" Then Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to Me." Washing their feet was more than mere ritual. Here we see a picture of every person's need of Christ's cleansing power...a cleansing that can never be realized unless we humbly repent, acknowledging our need of His amazing grace.

Every time we worship, confession of sin is included. Why? Because not only do we need God's grace, we need to acknowledge our need of His grace. The Bible says, "All have sinned (Is. 64:6; Rom. 3:23)," and I am no exception, neither are you. **In Holy Communion, Jesus does more than "wash our feet". He washes our souls**, cleansing and renewing us again and again. I know it's so humbling to think that our almighty God would bend so low as to wash us like this, but that's what's so amazing about Easter and God's grace. Nobody is too good to receive God's grace, nor is anyone so hopeless to be beneath God's grace either. The truth is, "He died for all (2 Cor. 5:15), so that in His resurrection we may have life...and live it abundantly (John 10:10).

And then, Jesus reminds us here in this washing text, "I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, 'a servant is not greater than his Master.'" (John 13:15-16). We are here commissioned and called to help wash one another's feet in life. This means **bending down to do something for someone else...** that you may think is beneath you, or too disgusting for you to even consider... (You fill in the blanks here.) **Or, it might mean, that you humble yourself to allow a brother/sister to do something for you...all for the love of Christ in them.**

The bottom line is that at the end of the day... nobody is either above God's grace, nor beneath God's grace. **We all need God's grace...** His regular cleansing...washing of our feet, life, body, soul. How precious it is to come into this grace every time we gather!

Psalm 122:1 "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'"

Foot washing for Jesus,

Pastor Asmus

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!! NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR JUNE ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN **MONDAY, MAY 15TH.**

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**

Treasures in God's Word
Bible Classes for you!

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

Week of:

May 1-2 - Lesson 28 - "Finding Comfort in the Dark"

May 8-9 - Lesson 29 - "Celebrating, Proclaiming, Sharing, Spreading"

May 15-16 - NO CLASS

(Pastor attending Minnesota State LCMS Pastoral Conference)

May 22-23 - Lesson 30 - "A Leader who Serves"

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 May, we will be looking at the following chapters:

Chapter 20 - 1000 years...Satan destroyed...Judgment of the dead.

Chapter 21 - A New Heaven and New 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, MAY 17, 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, MAY 18, 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 18th 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!

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 FOR MAY: Check the Bulletins for date.

NO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FOR MAY.

ST. PETER WILL BE HOSTING THE RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE on May 1st, from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Questions, call Peggy Oehlke. Walk-ins are welcome!

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. They will meet May 2, 16 and 30. 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**. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice[®]."

A Table Prayer

*Oh Lord, give us grateful hearts.
Help us remember the needs of others.
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

Destroying human life or belittling human dignity is the devil's work (1 Peter 5:8). These methods end tragically for all involved (Acts 1:16-19). Christ's comfort invites sufferers instead to entrust our anxieties – and those who cause them - to our faithful Creator (1 Peter 5:7).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we place our souls in Your hands that YOU may place Your hands on our souls...forever! Amen.

"LUTHERAN WITNESS" SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. If you would like the "Lutheran Witness" sent to your home, cost is \$19.70/year. Use the envelope included in your offering envelopes and give to Karen Stoltzmann or turn in to the church office by May 15th. Make checks payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church, marked "Lutheran Witness". There is a copy of the "Lutheran Witness" in the church library if you would like to read it and do not want to order a subscription.

A CONFIRMATION RECEPTION will be held on Sunday, May 7th, 10:00 a.m. for Emma Schatt, who will be confirmed at the 9:00 a.m. service that day. Her parents are Steve & Amy Schatt.

Our weekly worship services: (Bring your Bible!)

*The Lamb of God, Savior of the world, Lord of life.
The difference CHRIST makes in a believer's life.*

Wednesday - May 3

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper
Sermon: See Sunday, May 7.

Sunday – May 7 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. – **Traditional Worship with Holy Communion & Confirmation**
Theme: Our Lord - our Shepherd.
Sermon: "Abundance" (John 10:10)
Bible Class: Revelation 20:1-6 - A 1000 years... and the first resurrection.

Wednesday – May 10

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper.
Sermon: See Sunday, May 14.

Sunday – May 14 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. – **Praise Worship with Holy Eucharist**
Theme: Who we are because of Jesus Christ.
Sermon: "Living Stones in God's Temple" (1 Peter 2:2-10)
Bible Class: Revelation 20:7-15 - Satan destroyed; the final judgment.

Wednesday - May 17

6:30 p.m. - Devotional worship with the Lord's Supper
Sermon: See Sunday, May 21.

Sunday - May 21 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. - **Traditional Worship with the Sacrament of the Altar**
Theme: Hope from God overcomes suffering
Sermon: "Suffering for Righteousness Sake" (1 Peter 3:13-22)
Bible Study: Revelation 21:1-8 - A New Heaven and a New Earth

Wednesday - May 24

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper
Sermon: See Sunday, May 28.

Sunday - May 28

9:00 a.m. - **Praise Worship with The Sacrament of the Altar**
Theme: "Remembering"
Sermon: A Service of Remembrance - remembering our loved ones in the reality of our Lord's Resurrection and the hope of eternal life.
Bible Class: No Bible Class today.

Wednesday - May 31

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper
Sermon: "Living Water for Your Soul" (John 7:37-39)

IF YOU WILL BE A HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATE, please call the church office and let us know. S.P.L.C.W. will be sponsoring a “Graduate Reception” during Coffee Hour following the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 11th, for all high school and college graduates (college graduates since July, 2016 to present; high school graduates this year).

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MEQUON “ALLELUIA RINGERS” HANDBELL CONCERT AT OUR CHURCH MAY 19TH!

THE HANDBELL CHOIR, THE “ALLELUIA RINGERS” FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MEQUON, WILL BE PRESENTING A CONCERT AT OUR CHURCH ON **FRIDAY, MAY 19TH, AT 7:00 P.M.**

THERE WILL BE A **“POTLUCK SUPPER” AT 5:30 P.M.** BEFORE THE CONCERT.

A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN AFTER THE CONCERT. MAKE CHECKS OUT TO ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH, MARKED “UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN HANDBELL CONCERT”.

PLEASE NOTE: OVERNIGHT HOUSING WILL BE NEEDED FOR 13-14 STUDENTS (A MINIMUM OF 2 STUDENTS PER LOCATION). QUESTIONS, CALL LINDA CRAIG OR LAURA NELSON.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION POTLUCK LUNCHEON - On Sunday May 21st, we will be holding a celebration **“POTLUCK LUNCHEON”** after **Sunday School** to honor and thank our teachers for all of their hard work teaching and shepherding our youth this year! The Board of Education will be supplying hot dogs, brats, buns, and beverages. Attending families are asked to bring a dish to share.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN - All congregations in the Minnesota North and South Districts are invited to collect new socks and undies which will be taken to Texas border missions. Children's socks are especially needed. Monetary donations for shipping costs can be made. **Donations of money, socks and undies will be gathered at the MN State Pastoral Conference May 15-17. (There will be a box at church if you would like to donate some of these items.)** (Make checks out to St. Peter Lutheran Church, marked “Orphan Grain Train”).

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

We will work a shift at Second Harvest Heartland on Friday, May 12th, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sign up on the sheet on the kiosk. If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Cheryl Schmidt.

THE YOUTH GROUP IS COLLECTING “ALUMINUM CANS” for a Fundraiser. Please leave them by the garage door. Please just bring aluminum cans. Thank you.

VBS 2017: JUNE 19th-23rd - The dates are set! Get ready for VBS starting June 19th to June 23rd from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration is posted online. **The web site is VBSMATE.COM/STPETERAFTON.** Our theme this year is “Mighty Fortress”! We will be discovering how our mighty God is our fortress and strength at all times!

VBS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! VBS is right around the corner and we need lots of volunteers to make this another great experience for the youth of our church and surrounding community! VBS will take place this year from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. June 19th through the 23rd. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving in any capacity please talk to DCE Tony Engen.

7TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE MISSION TRIP - Sunday, June 11th, through Wednesday, June 14th, all 7th through 12th grade youth are invited to join us for the Rochester Servant Event! For four days we will be serving, worshipping, and having a spectacularly, awesome time alongside tons of other churches and kids from the LCMS Minnesota South District in Rochester, MN. **THIS TRIP IS TOTALLY FREE FOR ALL ST. PETER YOUTH; THIS INCLUDES ROOM AND BOARD!!!** We do need 2 or 3 adult volunteers who would be willing to drive a car full of kids and stay in Rochester for the duration of the event to be chaperones. Room and board will also be covered for chaperones along with mileage reimbursement. Students and chaperones will need to sign up on the sheet in the narthex and also fill out registration forms and medical release/detail form. Forms can be obtained at rochesterservantevent.wordpress.com/registration. For more information, go to rochesterservantevent.wordpress.com or speak with Tony Engen.

WHAM WEEK – 2017 - WHAM week will take place from Monday August 7th through Friday the 11th this year. More information will be provided soon about the awesome opportunities our youth will have to serve God and our neighbors! All 5th through 12th grade students are invited to join us. See Tony if you have any questions.

MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR MAY/JUNE **CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA**

For several years St. Peter Lutheran has supported the work of Christian Friends of Korea- meaning North Korea. This group of dedicated Christians sends teams of skilled volunteers into North Korea several times each year with specific set goals in mind. The visits are either Confirming Trips or Technical Trips. Confirming Trips are for the purpose of making sure the shipments of goods have actually arrived and are accounted for, but also allow quality time spent with doctors, nurses, and patients and getting to understand the real needs of people in the area.

Technical Trips send teams of workers with specific projects to complete – things like installing water systems, building solar green houses, renovating hospital operating rooms, training health care workers, and more. Working mostly in rural areas, the work of CFK includes general aid to the people of NK; clean water projects; renovations and technical assistance; training doctors; agricultural support; Hepatitis projects; solar lighting for Care Centers; tractors, cargo tricycles, and motorcycles – and much more.

Having lived in South Korea in 1961 in circumstances that were grim in the beginning (water only certain days, not much electricity at all, foodstuffs not always available, operating rooms with holes in the ceiling, swallowing de-worming meds regularly, etc.) I can appreciate the plight of these people in the north who have very little of anything. I encourage you to contribute to the work of CFK!

KAMSAHAMNIDA! Joan Riemer

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA IN MAY AND JUNE.
(Mission envelopes are available in your offering envelopes, in the pews, and on the Mission Board.)

UNION GOSPEL MISSION “LITTLE CHURCH OF HOPE” - We will again be hosting the Little Church of Hope on May 13th. About 30 men will hear speakers and music, encouraging growth and faith. **Look for opportunities to help with food or service or contact Linda Craig or Laura Nelson.**

Dear Pastor Asmus,

Dear Fellow Followers of our Resurrected Lord in Afton,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us while we were still sinners. St. Paul's verse from Romans 5, 8 can be read over the sanctuary of our Szeged Lutheran Church - so we are always reminded of His grace and love. And now we are reminded - again and again - by your brotherly/sisterly love and kind support. We are overwhelmed by your kindness and love, that you sent generous donations to support our ministry here in Szeged, Hungary when we face several challenges both in the congregation (funding) and social needs around us in the city, country and worldwide. Outreach ministry is becoming one of our most important fields of service and hope and pray that our pastor and volunteers will be able to help further grow the Kingdom of God here in our city and congregation.

May God richly bless you and your loved Ones as well as every single donation from you all. May your Holy Week celebration and Easter Season be richly blessed and may our Lord bless your heart, in His name with sincere thanks also on behalf of Pastor Sandor Cserhati and the Church Board and members of Szeged Lutheran,

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Peter Szerdahelyi

MAY, 2017

**ALTAR GUILD
FOR MAY**

Alicia Walton
Barb Ellifson

ACOLYTES FOR MAY

May 7, 9:00 a.m. Ashley Walton
14, 9:00 a.m. Charlie Veith
21, 9:00 a.m. Emma Schatt
28, 9:00 a.m. Malachi Oberdeck

GREETERS FOR MAY

May 7 - 9:00 a.m. - Eldo & Helen Thielfoldt
14 - 9:00 a.m. - (Open)
21 - 9:00 a.m. - Eldo & Helen Thielfoldt
28 - 9:00 a.m. - Lorraine Hansen

COFFEE HOSTS IN MAY

May 7 - Confirmation Reception (SPLCW)
14 - (Open)
21 - Lorraine Hansen
28 - (Open)

**READERS DURING
WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY**

May 7, 9:00 a.m. - Joan Riemer
14, 9:00 a.m. - Laura Bauer
21, 9:00 a.m. - (Open)
28, 9:00 a.m. - (Open)

USHERS FOR MAY

Derek Nelson, Elder
Eldo Thielfoldt
Don Kossen
Donna Kosen
Dawn Plunkett

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