

NEWSLETTER
JULY, 2017

1 Peter 2:13-14) "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good."

During the War of 1812, while on the deck of a truce ship, Francis Key paced nervously as a fierce battle raged nearby during the British attack on the harbor of Baltimore. As District Attorney of Georgetown and a spiritual lay leader of his parish, Key had been sent by President James Madison to negotiate with the British for a physician who had been taken prisoner.

All night Key and his party were stalled as the British continued to bombard the harbor. When the firing finally ceased just before dawn, Key was fearful of the outcome; but as he looked across the water, he saw the American flag still triumphantly flying.

With joyful relief, Key wrote his poem hastily on the back of an envelope and put finishing touches on it later that evening. One month later, the song was published, accompanied by an old hunting tune (by John Stafford Smith of England). Although it was enthusiastically received by the public, the song was not officially adopted by Congress as our national anthem until March 3, 1931 (in the midst of the Great Depression).

I've written its two verses below. May all our public officials, serving in national, state, and local levels, be blessed by Almighty God, that their service be rendered for the moral and spiritual betterment of our society and country.

*O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*O thus be it ever, when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just;
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust!"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

Peace in the God whom we trust...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Pastor Asmus

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!! NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR AUGUST ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN **THURSDAY, JULY 13TH.**

CALL COMMITTEE MEETING will be held on Wednesday, July 12th, at 7:00 p.m.

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 Class for you!

As we enter the summer months, pastor will offer some time for us on Sundays to discuss the Scripture lessons of the day with corresponding issues of today. (No Adult Bible Classes July 2 or 16.)

The Monday and Tuesday Bible classes have completed the "Basics of Faith" series, and will wait to resume again in the fall of 2017.

4TH OF JULY FOOD BOOTH @ AFTON CITY PARK! On TUESDAY, July 4th, 2017 we will have a booth in the Afton City Park. The booth will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. July 4th profit will be used for our new kitchen. Plan to stop in!

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.)**

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 July 11th & 25th. 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

before meal -

Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest, and may these gifts to us be blest.

after meal -

Lord Jesus, You have been our Guest,

We thank You for this food so blest.

O, may Your grace to us be given,

one day to be Your guests in heaven. Amen.

A “Life-thought”

From “Life Date” a quarterly journal from Lutherans For Life

God is pro-life. Our Father-God created us for life. Our Savior-God has redeemed us for eternal life. Our indwelling Spirit-God has sanctified us for life. So, we celebrate, protect, and cherish life in His Name.

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

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

We will work a shift at Second Harvest Heartland on Friday, July 14th, 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.

ELDERS’ MEETING FOR JULY will be held on **Sunday, July 16th, at 10:30 a.m.**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FOR JULY will be held on **Monday, July 17th, at 6:30 p.m.**

GET READY FOR WHAM WEEK 2017!!! - WHAM week will take place from Monday August 7th through Friday the 11th. This year we will be serving at Feed My Starving Children, Emma Norton Services, and Good in the Hood, an organization that serves homeless people in the Twin Cities. On Friday we will have a special event. All those going into 5th grade through 12th grade students are welcome!! See Tony Engen if you have any questions.

“A MIGHTY FORTRESS” VBS June 19-23 was a huge success! We had 47 children participate! It was a fun-filled week of learning how Jesus works in and through us! **A BIG “THANK YOU”** to all the volunteers who helped in any way with time, talent, donations, etc. We couldn’t have done it without you!

ROCHESTER MISSION TRIP UPDATE – Our summer mission trip for 7th—12th graders was an absolutely amazing experience! We were able to do so many cool things as we were out serving the people in the Rochester area. Some of us were painting, some were cleaning houses, some were doing yard work, and others were working with developmentally disabled people, but all of us experienced God’s work and presence all around us! When asked what their biggest takeaway of the trip was, one of our kid’s responses was: “It really opened my eyes to the way that God is working all around me all the time, and how I can be a part of what He is doing!” That is such an awesome takeaway! We are looking forward to going again next year! Thank you so much to all of you for your continued support of the youth group which enables us to keep giving our kids awesome experiences like this!

Our weekly worship services: (Bring your Bible!)

+ *Planting with Jesus*

The Lamb of God, Savior of the world, Lord of life.

The difference CHRIST makes in a believer's life.

Wednesday - June 28

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper

Sunday – July 2 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. – Special "Freedom" Worship with Holy Communion

Sermon: "True Freedom" (John 8:31-36)

Bible Class: No Bible Class today.

Wednesday – July 5

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper.

Sunday – July 9 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sermon: "Coming to Jesus for Rest" (Matthew 11:25-30)

Bible Class: Topical: Lessons of the Day & Issues of today.

Wednesday - July 12

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper

Sunday - July 16 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship with the Sacrament of the Altar

Sermon: "Sowing and Growing" (Matthew 13:1-23)

Bible Study: No Bible Class today.

Wednesday - July 19

6:30 p.m.- Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper

Sunday - July 23 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sermon: "Pulling Weeds in God's Garden?" (Matthew 13:24-30)

Bible Class: Topical: Lessons of the Day & Issues of today.

Wednesday - July 26

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper

Sunday - July 30 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. - Special Hymn Service with the Lord's Supper

Sermon: No sermon today - focus on Lessons of the Day with Hymns.

Bible Class: Topical: Lessons of the Day & Issues of today.

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES OFFERED AT ST. PETER!

When: Wednesdays

Time: 6:30 – 7:00 P.M.

Format: A simple format of Scripture, song, message, prayer, Lord's Supper; offered in a devotion setting so as to meet the spiritual needs of all who can't attend Sunday worship, include families with children. No altar guild, no ushers... just a simple worship whereby Jesus offers you the "green pastures" and "quiet waters" of His mercy and grace.

JOIN THE PARADE! We will have a tractor and wagon in the Afton 4th of July Parade representing our church. We need people to ride the wagon (and throw candy) and some walking along side passing out bottles of water. Questions, call Linda Craig or Laura Nelson. The parade starts at 12:00 Noon. **(Be at the St. Peter float behind the Afton Market Square by 11:30 a.m.)**

T-SHIRT/POLO SUNDAYS - Let's make use of your "St. Peter Lutheran" T-shirt or Polo and wear them on July 2 and July 30 to our worship services!

COUNTRY STORE AT HAM DINNER - LOOKING AHEAD!! Please continue to work on your projects that can be sold at the "Country Store" at the Ham Dinner on September 10th! Thank you!

MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR JULY/AUGUST
UNION GOSPEL MISSION

THE UNION GOSPEL MISSION, founded in 1902, offers help for the homeless, poor and addicted in the Twin Cities through meals, shelter, recovery, education and job training programs. Their goal is to encourage each person to value themselves as God values them, to see the gifts they have to offer the world, and to help them seek out a bright future as a fully contributing member of our community. **THEIR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES!**

Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities ministers to men, women and children who are experiencing homelessness, battling addiction and stuck in poverty. With the help of generous donors and volunteers, they meet the basic needs for food and shelter of the people who come to them for help, but they also do much more than that! The Gospel is the foundation of all that they do, because they believe the ultimate life change is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. After more than 114 years of service, their recovery, education and job training programs are fine-tuned and effective.

Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities provides more than 400,000 meals each year to hungry and homeless neighbors, poor families and seniors on limited incomes. A good, hot meal is often the first step to real and lasting change for a person.

Homelessness can happen to anyone. A job loss, a long-term disability, divorce, abuse – the reasons for homelessness are as different as the people who come through their doors. At Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities they offer more than a safe night of sleep. They provide time to heal and the tools to rebuild a life. Their Christ-centered programs care for the whole person. Like the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke, they meet immediate needs and care for people until they can get back on their feet. Their shelter programs not only provide safe housing and care for men, women and mothers with children struggling with homelessness, but a full program designed to build life skills and stability.

Alcohol and drug addiction are often at the core of chronic poverty and homelessness. Their 12-step resident recovery program helps men break the grip of addiction. On May 13th, St. Peter Lutheran Church welcomed men to spend a day at our church from the Christ Recovery Center, through “Little Church of Hope”. This is a program started by Brian Smiley in 1990 to give love and hope to the homeless that evolved to the men of Union Gospel Mission’s Christ Recovery Center.

UGM has the most effective and comprehensive job coaching support network for the “difficult-to-employ” in the Twin Cities. They offer education and career opportunities for all, from earning a GED through finding a rewarding career.

Union Gospel Mission also has a long history of engaging at-risk children and teenagers in positive activities that give them a shot at success in spite of their circumstances. In fact, a path to a loving God is clearly laid out in every youth program the Mission offers—from their Child Development Center to their teen outreach programs.

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING UNION GOSPEL MISSION DURING JULY & AUGUST.
(Mission envelopes are available in your offering envelopes, in the pews, and on the Mission Board.)

JULY, 2017

ACOLYTES FOR JULY

July 2 - 9:00 a.m. Ashley Walton
9 - 9:00 a.m. Lucas Oberdeck
16 - 9:00 a.m. Charlie Veith
23 - 9:00 a.m. Emma Schatt
30 - 9:00 a.m. Malachi Oberdeck

GREETERS FOR JULY

July 2 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
9 - 9:00 a.m. Lorraine Hansen
16 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
23 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
30 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

COFFEE HOSTS IN JULY

July 2 - Barb Fritsche (Laura Fritsche's
Birthday
9 - (Open)
16 - (Open)
23 - (Open)
30 - (Open)

READERS DURING

WORSHIP SERVICES IN JULY

July 2 - 9:00 a.m. Peggy Oehlke
9 - 9:00 a.m. Carol Nelson
16 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
23 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
30 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

USHERS FOR JULY

Grant Fritsche, Elder
Laura Fritsche
Gary Anderson
Loiry Anderson
Jim Jordan

Is Your Computer Running Slow or Acting Funny?
Getting those annoying pop ups?

You Have Viruses that you are sharing with your friends and family...
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