

**SAINT PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)
880 NEAL AVE. SO., AFTON, MN 55001**

**Rev. Dennis Drews, Vacancy Pastor
Church Office: (651) 436-3357**

**Rev. Dennis Drews' Cell Phone: (952) 886-0882
DCE Tony Engen Cell Phone: (651) 283-3478**

**9:00 A.M. Sundays: Alternating with Traditional &
Contemporary Services (Communion - all Services)
10:15-11:00 A.M. Sunday School; 10:30-11:00 A.M. Adult Bible Class
6:30 P.M. Wednesdays: Devotional Service with Communion**

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April 22, 2018 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Vol. 58, No. 21

TODAY: 10:00 Reception for College Graduates
 10:15-11:00 Sunday School
 10:30 Spring Congregational Voters' Meeting
MONDAY: 9:00-12:00 Quilters
TUESDAY: 7:00-8:00 Adult Bible Class @ Machine Shed, Lake Elmo
 10:00-11:00 Adult Bible Class
WEDNESDAY: 6:30-7:00 Devotional Service with Communion
 7:00-8:00 Weekday/Confirmation Classes
THURSDAY: 12:00 Spring Neighborhood Social
SATURDAY: 11:30 Spring Luncheon @ St. John Lutheran, Woodbury
NEXT SUNDAY: 9:00 Special Service with Communion
 10:15-11:00 Sunday School
 10:30 Special Congregational Voters' Meeting

ACOLYTE: Gabriella Richert **READER:** Joan Riemer

BIRTHDAYS: TODAY: Laura H. Fritsche, Anne Peterson MON: Mallory Payne
TUES: Lily Nelson FRI: Cheryl Schmidt, Joshua Vargas SAT: Amy Schatt

BAPTISMAL DATES: MON: Vernon Shackleton, Alicia Walton TUES: Callie Koller, Viola LeMay THURS: Brigett Cronk, Lindsey Fewer, Ann Schmidt FRI: Abigail Cronk SAT: Jude Oberdeck

HEARING ASSISTANCE RADIOS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. See an usher. Turn to 97.8 or 98.0 for the best reception.

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

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

April 22, 2018 – 9:00 A.M.

AS WE GATHER – This Sunday in the Church Year is often called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The appointed Psalm for the day is Psalm 23, which is among the most well-known psalms. The Gospel from John 10 records Jesus revealing Himself as the Good Shepherd. While fewer and fewer people are familiar with what it is like to take care of sheep, this metaphor of God’s protection and provision has become a great source of comfort and hope. God grant that you find such blessed comfort as you dwell securely here in the house of the Lord.

WELCOME (*Worshippers greet one another.*) (*Stand.*)

OPENING SONG: “Good Good Father” (*See screen.*)

THE INVOCATION (*See screen.*)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES (*See screen.*)

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: He is our Good Shepherd.

People: He leads us to green pastures and still waters.

Pastor: He is our Good Shepherd.

People: We listen to His voice.

Pastor: He is our Good Shepherd.

People: He lays down His life for the sheep.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*See screen.*)

Pastor: In this Easter season, celebration is always near our lips. We are glad to shout Alleluias in worship, but when we leave we do not always recognize our neighbors in need. We may close our hearts to them. We may reject them. We may fail to follow the example of our Good Shepherd. As we draw near to the Lord, let us consider our sins and ask God for His forgiveness. Heavenly Father,

People: we have sinned against You and against our neighbors in our thoughts, words, and actions. You know our sins, and they are ever before You. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us as a shepherd leads his sheep.

(Continued)

Pastor: God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Good Shepherd. He has laid down His life for our forgiveness and has taken His life back up again in His glorious resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. The Lord restores us and leads us in paths of righteousness. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(See screen.)*

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, You sent Your Son to be our Good Shepherd. Protect us from the dangers of this world and lead us to what is good, right, and beneficial, so that we would not be a stumbling block to our neighbors, but reflect the merciful care You have shown us in Your risen Son; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated.)

FIRST READING: Acts 4:1-12 (ESV)

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24 (ESV)

(Stand.)

HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11-18 (ESV)

(Be seated.)

SERMON SONG: “You Never Let Go” *(See screen.)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Text: John 10:11-18

NICENE CREED *(Stand.)*

THE OFFERING *(Be seated.)*

(Note to our visitors: You are our guests this morning! Please do not feel the need to make a contribution to our Offering. We would ask all visitors and members to sign the Register Pad as the Offering is being collected. Also, Prayer Cards are available in the pew racks for special intercessions during the time of congregational prayer.)

“Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord” – Christy Peterson

FOR ALL WHO DESIRE TO RECEIVE THE LORD'S SUPPER

*We believe that Christ's Body and Blood is present in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. In this sacred meal Jesus gives Himself in love to His Church to build us up in faith, hope and love. Since Christ is truly present, the Sacrament is not to be received in a careless or indifferent manner. St. Paul writes: "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **Examine yourselves**, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup." (1 Corinthians 11.27-28)*

We believe that such self-examination necessarily includes the following points: 1) Do I believe that the only true God is the Triune God, Three Divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, within One Divine Being? 2) Do I humbly acknowledge before God that I am indeed a sinner in need of His grace? 3) Do I believe that Jesus Christ the Son of God is my personal Lord and Savior? 4) Do I believe that in this Sacrament Christ is truly present for me for the forgiveness of my sins? 5) Do I have a sincere desire, with God's help, to live a life that is pleasing to Him?

For those who can answer these questions in the affirmative, we welcome you to join us at the Lord's Table. For those who have a different religious understanding, or are unclear as to the points listed above, we ask that you talk to the pastor before receiving the Sacrament.

(Stand.)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (See screen.)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord, You are our Shepherd and You provide us with all we need to support this body and life. We lack for nothing. Help us to appreciate all the good gifts You have given us of clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, when we are lost and weary, You restore our souls. Make us to lie down in the green pastures of Your Word and Sacraments, basking in the abundance we find in those good gifts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, in this fallen world we often walk through the valley of the shadow of death. War, terror, disease, and chaos threaten to steal our peace of mind. Remind us daily that we need not fear any evil since You are with us, since Your rod and staff comfort us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

(Continued)

Pastor: Lord, send healing to all who are sick, injured, and recovering. Restore their health with the overflowing abundance that comes only from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, death remains a curse until You come again, and many grieve and mourn the death of loved ones. Comfort them with the knowledge that those who trust in You will dwell in Your house forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, Your goodness and mercy follow us all our days. We thank You for the blessings You have poured out upon us. We rejoice with those who rejoice. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*See screen.*)

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *(See screen.)*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:26)*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *(Revelation 22:20)*

(Be seated.)

THE DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Here Is Bread" *(See screen.)*

BOB 88

"Amazing Love" *(See screen.)*

BOB 11

"Behold the Lamb" *(See screen.)*

BOB 22

(Stand.)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING *(See screen.)*

Assistant: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith, that we may always follow You and never stray from Your one flock; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION *(See screen.)*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG: "Jesus Messiah" *(See screen.)*

(Be seated.)

(Dismissal of Children for Sunday School)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PRAYER PAGE – OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

April 22, 2018 (*Added this week)

Patrick Love, grandson of Kathy Bauer, for strength & spiritual guidance

Maron Ackerman, mother of Brenda Richert and grandmother of Alicia, Aaron & Tyler, recovery from back surgery

Janice Goebel, sister of Phyllis Richert, recovery from foot surgery

Angie Graves, family friend of Jay & Autumn Zahn, recovering from open heart surgery (She needs a heart transplant to survive long term and is on the waiting list. Pray for complete recovery and long life.)

Derek Nelson, recovering at home after being struck by a car

Madeline Nelson, prayers for emotional and spiritual strength for her

Loren Richert, recovering from a stroke

Jamie Grenier, husband of Cyndi Grenier, health & healing after heart procedure

Deb Zwickley, friend of Gayle Schneider, for relief of pain & healing after surgery

Kathy Hatanpaa, cousin of Lois Fritsche, A.L.S.

Cole Wegner, son of Jenny Veith's cousin, Cystic Fibrosis

Jeff Riemenschneider, brother of Autumn Zahn, Parkinson's

Kellen Giddings, friend of Maverick Schiltgen, recovery from a brain tumor

Grace Hedtke, Melissa Oberdeck's Godchild, bone tumor

Breck Fewer, son of Joe & Lindsey Fewer, recovering from heart surgery

LaDonna Freitag, daughter of Faye Freitag-Schiell, for health & healing

Laurel Bonine, for health and healing

Holly Bonine, for health and healing

Melissa Oberdeck, for health & healing

Jessica Polinske, for health and healing

Beth Larson, daughter-in-law of Ron & Joanne Larson, health & healing (brain tumor)

Alicia Cleveland, daughter of Betty Richert, Muscular Dystrophy & Leukemia

Leona Volkert, sister of Viola Miller and sister-in-law of Mary Lou Volkert, cancer

Sandy Bushinger, daughter of Hubert Schiell, cancer

Barbie Erickson, friend of the Swanson family, cancer

Loretta Freitag, sister of Faye Freitag-Schiell, cancer

Karen Carter, niece of Cheryl Richert, kidney cancer

John Schmidt, treatment for cancer

Greg Rubenstein, husband of Marlys Albrecht, good health & healing (cancer free)

Carl Benning (requested by Alicia Benning), cancer

Nancy Wesley, friend of Gayle Schneider, treatment for recurrence of cancer

Mike Morley, friend of Bruce Albrecht, good health after cancer treatment

Anita Bruch, lymphoma cancer

Darlene O'Malley, grandmother of Angie Engen, Cancer

Richard Miller, Viola Miller's grandson, treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Maureen Busacker, sister-in-law of Dale & Janel Busacker, cancer

Teresa Kopps, spiritual blessings and successful treatment of Stage 4 cancer

Tim Sachi, friend of Steve & Sharon Wellner, cancer

Don Goodwin, son-in-law of Stan Simkins, cancer

Jerry Mueller, son of Evie Mueller, health & healing (cancer free at this time)

Jason Bauer, nephew of Kathy Bauer, cancer

Sue Dickey, friend of Kathy Bauer, cancer

Marilyn Stalhiem, aunt of Linda Veith, cancer

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 by Wednesday afternoon. Prayer requests will be kept on our list for two months unless otherwise directed. To request a prayer for our "Prayer Chain" that you would like us to send out via E-mail, call the church office. If anyone would like to be added to this list, call the church office with your E-mail.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR THIS MORNING are placed to the glory of God in memory of Al Craig by Linda Craig.

BULLETINS THIS MORNING are also sponsored by Linda in memory of Al.

TODAY there will be a short presentation immediately after the worship service from Vince Setten of **GIDEON'S INTERNATIONAL**. They distribute free Bibles all over the world. See the insert included with today's Bulletin. A door offering will be taken following the presentation.

THE SPRING CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING will be held TODAY at 10:30 a.m. (No Bible Class today.)

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING ON SUNDAY, APRIL 29TH, following the worship service. At this meeting, we will be discussing and voting on the candidates which the Call Committee has presented to the congregation. (No Bible Class that day.)

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE: COFFEE HOST: Lori Swanson; USHERS: Rick Bauer, Elder; Travis Swanson; Don Kosen; Donna Kosen; Dawn Plunkett; ACOLYTE: Izaak Schmidt; READER: (Open); GREETER: Donna Kosen.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR will practice TODAY immediately after Sunday School (11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.). They will sing next Sunday, April 29th, at the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

RECEPTION FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES! TODAY we are honoring the young people of St. Peter graduating from college with a special Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the worship service. Christy Peterson, Tess Stage and Alicia Benning will graduate from Concordia University St. Paul. Please plan to spend a few minutes with the girls! There is also a basket for cards or notes.

SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL: This Thursday, April 26, at Noon! Bring a friend for lunch and music! We hope to see a lot of friends and neighbors and YOU! Please RSVP to (651) 436-3357 or stpeter@stpeterafton.org. If you need a ride, let us know. Questions? Call Linda Craig (651) 436-5832.

CONFIRMATION RECEPTION -There will be a Confirmation Reception following the 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service with Confirmation and Communion on Sunday, May 6th, sponsored by S.P.L.C.W. Confirmands this year are Ryan Bernath, Lucas Oberdeck, Charlie Veith and Ashley Walton.

ST. PETER WILL HOST THE RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE on Monday, April 30th, from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Please say "Yes!" when you are called to help with making this day run smoothly. If you would like to make an appointment to donate blood or have any questions, call Peggy Oehlke
Walk-ins are welcome!

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA IS THE MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR MARCH & APRIL. See the mission board in the narthex for more information. Pray for wisdom, protection, integrity, perseverance, and strength for Christian ministries and North Korean counterparts involved in humanitarian work in the North. If you would like to support this Mission-of-the-Month, there are special Mission envelopes in your offering envelope box, in the pews, or on the Mission Board.

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND - We will work a shift on May 11th at 1:30-3:30 p.m. Please sign up on the sheet on the kiosk. If you have any questions, call Cheryl Schmidt

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.

THE YOUTH GROUP IS COLLECTING "ALUMINUM CANS" FOR A FUNDRAISER. Leave them by the garage door and let Tony Engen know they are there. Please just bring aluminum cans. Thank you.