

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Parish

Visitor

418 East Sumner Street Northfield, MN 55057

507.645.8252

www.northfieldstp.org

Church office hours: Tuesday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Worship

Sundays 9:00 a.m. join on-line or register for in-person

Education

Sundays 10:00 a.m. (on-line)

Staff

David Weeks, Pastor, ext. 203 cell: 952.322.0064 pastordavidweeks@northfieldstp.org

Julie Klock Children and Family Faith Formation, ext. 204 julieklock@northfieldstp.org

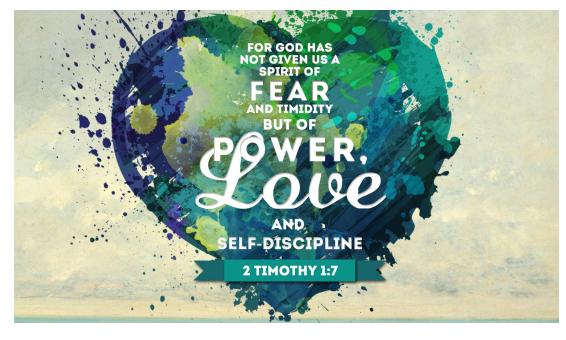
Mary Kay Bougie Coordinator of Music, ext. 208 marykaybougie@northfieldstp.org

Dennis McClintock Financial Administrator, ext. 205 dennismcclintock@northfieldstp.org

Terra Wierson
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From Pastor David:

Dear Friends in Christ:

The Gospel of Mark begins with an incomplete sentence: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

For the past few weeks, I have almost daily heard the good news of yet another person I know who has received a COVID vaccination. After enduring a lengthy polar vortex with temperature reaching -29, the current 10-day forecast is good news. With more hours of sunlight, I appreciate riding my bicycle to and from St. Peter's in the light, and eating dinner with the sun still above the horizon is welcome. Soon I will be watching for the welcome sight of robins in the yard.

The entire month of March is the church season of Lent. The etymology of the word lent means "spring season." The Dutch (lente) and German (lenzo) languages have similar words connecting lent to spring.

Lent is known for fasting, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines with the desire for new life. Lenten disciplines keep an eye on the resurrection.

It has been a long and trying year for all of us. I hope and pray that in the midst of all the bad news, we find glimmers of hope. I hope that in a year which will be remembered for all we cannot do, we also made a few discoveries.

We will celebrate my granddaughter's first birthday this month. It is impressive to consider just how much a newborn discovers and learns in one year. It has been fun to watch her transition from almost crawling to crawling. While standing up was difficult a month ago, she can now do it quite easily.

Though it would be impossible for adults to discover and learn at the rate of a newborn, I am intrigued by the thought of learning from infants. What if we approached life more inquisitively? What if each day was an opportunity to make a discovery and/or learn something new? What if we adopted the resilience and persistence of a child and didn't give up so easily after a failure, but kept at it until we succeeded?

The good news of Jesus' love and grace has sustained us this past year, and that same good news inspires us as we discover new gifts and new opportunities for Christian witness and service

Peace, David

FAITH FORMATION & ADULT ED

by Julie Klock, Faith Formation Director

Family Worship

Family worship continues on-line with a Lenten theme of **Give/Pray/Fast**. We will be using six stories to highlight these themes during Lent. Everyone is welcome to watch and listen to this simple service/class. Sunday School is traditionally organized in a chronological manner; exploring the Bible with different themes makes familiar stories new, and gives room for less narrative parts of the Bible to be included. Check us out on **Facebook - 10AM Sundays**, or anytime, really!

Confirmation

Confirmation students are attending Lenten worship and gathering for discussion after the service. It is always useful to discuss worship immediately following because the exchange of ideas enriches the experience for everyone. If you have a group of friends who attend St. Peter's, why not gather on Zoom or in a conference call right after church on Sundays or Wednesdays? It's not the same as Coffee Hours, or Soup Supper, but it is a fixed time and reason to connect and catch up - and you will find that, like the kids, your appreciation for the service that just ended will increase as you share your insights. Talking and listening to each other about faith may feel a little awkward at first, but the insights are worth it.

Season of Lent

Lent continues throughout March. Did you give something up? Take something on? Offer your Covidexhaustion to the Lord? Our **Wednesday worship services are built around various community themes.** As I write this, the Covid news is hopeful. More and more people are vaccinated and cases appear to be dropping. Maybe we can make 'hanging in there' with the handwashing, maskwearing, and physical distancing for one more month our Lenten sacrifice!

4							
	In Community with						
	March 3	all the Saints	Mark 9:2-8				
	March 10	our Neighbor	Mark 2:1-12				
	March 17	Those on the Margins	Mark 5:1-20				
	March 24	Christ	Mark 10:32-45				

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday are April 1 & 2. Evenings at 6:30 on-line and in-person

BeFrienders

BeFrienders are looking forward to adding a few new listeners to our group. We are hopeful that we will be able to **train new members this summer or early fall.** Have you found yourself listening a lot during the pandemic? Do you enjoy hearing people's stories, being present and walking alongside them? Then **you might be a BeFriender at heart.** Speak with Julie, or any of the BeFrienders to let them know of your interest, or to learn more about the program.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will look very different this year. We have so many uncertainties that we have decided to try something completely new: **VBS for the whole family will be held on three Wednesday evenings in August.** We will be gathering at Bethel with friends from St. Peter's, St. John's, Emmaus and Bethel on August 4th, 11th, and 18th. There are lots of details still to come, but watch for reservation information soon!



Books Books Books

Wednesday afternoons there are **FREE BOOKS** for kids in our atrium! Stop by after school and grab a bag. Each bag is intended to help build a family library so there are books for **multiple reading levels** in each bag. This is a project from Northfield Promise designed to keep kids reading even over breaks. If you are a reader and would like to get involved in the Northfield Promise projects, please let Julie know.

~ Julie

MUSIC NOTES by Mary Kay Bougie, Coordinator of Music



"What are you giving up for Lent?" Prior to Lent each year, it was a regular topic discussed with my children around the house. My children were raised in the Catholic church. Being raised a Lutheran, I can't personally say I remember "giving up things" during Lent. I remember while growing up, being much more aware of focusing on certain organizations needing help. I remember having little folded boxes with a money slot in which I put a portion of my allowance, collecting money in that box all through Lent, and celebrating giving it as my offering during Holy Week.

The other day I was talking to my mom. Mom asked if I wanted to know what she was doing for Lent. I was curious, so I encouraged her to tell me. She said she wanted to focus on the most well-known Lenten hymns in our hymnal. She was going to take one hymn each week of Lent and concentrate on the text. For the first week, she chose, "Go to Dark Gethsemane" (she says the best Lenten hymns are not actually in the Lenten section. They are in the Holy Week section! The wisdom of a lifelong church musician!)

She says she knows the first stanza by memory, so she goes over and over this stanza as she walks through the hallways at NRC and as she does her daily activities. She thinks about the meaning of each phrase. "Go to dark Gethsemane." My mom asks, "Do you remember being there, Mary Kay?" Yes, of course I do. My mom brought each of her children to the Holy Land. I got to go the fall of my senior year of high school. We travelled to the places Jesus had travelled – including the sights of the events of Holy Week. It was powerful and moving, and I remember it vividly. Today's Gethsemane has a church built over "the rock" where Jesus may have sat and prayed. There are also trees standing in the garden which date back to the time of Jesus.

The context of this hymn is found in both Matthew and Mark. For reference, here is Mark, from the contemporary translation, *The Message: Mark 14:32-42: They came to an area called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James, and John with him. He sank into a pit of suffocating darkness. He told them, "I feel bad enough right now to die. Stay here and keep vigil with me."*

Going a little ahead, he fell to the ground and prayed for a way out: "Papa, Father, you can—can't you?—get me out of this. Take this cup away from me. But please, not what I want—what do you want?"

He came back and found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, you went to sleep on me? Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert, be in prayer, so you don't enter the danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naive. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

He then went back and prayed the same prayer. Returning, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open, and they didn't have a plausible excuse.

He came back a third time and said, "Are you going to sleep all night? No—you've slept long enough. Time's up. The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let's get going.

Back to the hymn: "all who feel the tempter's pow'r; your Redeemer's conflict see." It could have happened that Jesus decided not to go through with the agony that would be upon him. He prayed about it. He was human, too, you see – he didn't want to die. But tempted though he was, he made the ultimate decision to go through with it because of us.

"Watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away". He asked his friends – his disciples – to stay with him while he prayed, and be with him as he stressed in anguish over what was about to happen.

The last phrase of stanza one of the hymn: "learn from Jesus Christ to pray." Prayer is powerful. God commands us to pray! I am planning and hoping I will spend this Lenten journey giving more time to prayer.

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r; your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

James Montgomery, 1771-1854; Public domain.

I am looking forward to hearing about mom's hymn choice for next week!

Blessings, Mary Kay

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS



Easter flower orders will be handled similar to Christmas. Watch for more on pricing and flower options in the next week. The flowers will be placed around the altar for Easter, honoring and/or remembering loved ones. Orders will need to be in NO LATER than Palm Sunday, March 28. Your pot of flowers may go home with you or be picked up any time after the Easter Sunday service.

Stay informed. Subscribe to receive weekly emails from St. Peter's at www.northfieldstp.org/email.

BLOOD DONATIONS ARE HIGHLY IN NEED

Many Red Cross blood drives have been canceled in the Texas area due to utility grid shutdowns which has led to fewer blood donations. Blood is always in need around the country and the Red Cross supplies need to be replenished.

There will be a blood drive **at St. Peter's on Friday, March 5**, 9am - 3pm. Many other drives are available in the Northfield area if this one doesn't work for you. If you can donate, please schedule an appointment to give! Schedule on the Red Cross **website**, download the app, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



February & March Worship Leaders

Thank you, worship leaders! If you are unable or uncomfortable to assist on the date assigned, please change with someone else on the list (or let us know in the office to temporarily remove you from the list) and contact the church office so that the bulletin can be updated. 507-645-8252

Date	Time	Ushers (in-person only)	Reader
March 7	9:00 a.m.	Connie Albers Mark Albers	Mary Bleckwehl
March 14	9:00 a.m.	Sheryl Kleppe Jolene Manzey	Sandy Bremer
March 21	9:00 a.m.	Carmen Sevcik Laura Gilligan	Richard DeBeau
March 28	9:00 a.m.	Evonne Clay Ramona Pumper	Connie Albers
April 4	9:00 a.m.	Volunteers are needed for	worship on Easter
April 11	9:00 a.m.	Brian Peterson Mary Peterson	Marilyn Finneseth
April 18	9:00 a.m.	Dan Hagen Sheri Hagen	Carmen Sevcik
April 25	9:00 a.m.	Lorraine Lemke Reinhold Lemke	Neale Thompson

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF LUV QUILTERS

In 2020, 616,210 people in 23 countries received \$11.1 million worth of quilts, kits, and masks from LWR.

The 70 quilts from LUV Quilters were part of 264,585 quilts distributed. The 30 baby care kits from Hannah Circle were part of 52,860 kits. The 96 school kits from the congregation were part of 174,055 kits. Also given out by LWR were 71,900 personal care kits and 12,300 fabric kits.

Some of the countries served were Honduras, Lebanon, Ukraine, Tanzania, Iraq and India.

LWR has to pay for the shipping of these quilts and kits. The cost for one quilt is \$2.25, a baby care kit is \$1.30, and a school kit is \$1.40.

Gifts to the Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund of \$500 or more may be commemorated with an engraved brick on the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza at LWR headquarters in Baltimore.

A number of years ago St. Peter's had two bricks engraved. Can we go for a third one? If you wish to help, write a check to St. Peter's with "LWR Shipping Fund" on the memo line.

For more on Lutheran World Relief, go to www.lwr.org.



March Events & Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
If your birthday was not listed, please contact the Church Office and we will add your birthday to our database. Thanks!	Happy Birthday Laurel Martinson Lexie Estrem	2 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Olivia Prescott Sheila Roehrick	3 10:30 am Virtual Bible Study, Lectio Divina 6:30pm Worship 7pm Confirmation	Happy Birthday Dan Behrens Connor Triplett	9am-3pm Red Cross Blood Drive Happy Birthday Paul Hallcock	6 Blood Drive Happy Birthday Rowan Boisvert Ashlynn Sabyan
9:00 am Worship w/ communion 10:00 am Family Worship on FB Happy Birthday Scott Bergemann Bennett Buske Lynn Fossum David Hendee Will Valek	Happy Birthday Madison Carr Andrea Stowe Jessica Sevcik	9 10am Staff Meeting 7pm Council Meeting Happy Birthday Susie Fischer Duane Meliza Courtney Sevcik	1 O 10:30 am Virtual Bible Study, Lectio Divina 6:30pm Worship 7pm Confirmation Happy Birthday James Herreid	Happy Birthday Shelly Jandro	Happy Birthday William Quinnell	Happy Birthday Amy Gunderson Wayne Hallcock
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Family Worship on FB	Happy Birthday Sandra Bremer Barb Meyer Emily Verlinich	1 6 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Eleanora Schmitz	St. Patrick's Day 10:30 am Virtual Bible Study, Lectio Divina 6:30pm Worship 7pm Confirmation Happy Birthday Lynn Hutton Pat Picha Jenna Stowe	18 Happy Birthday Tyler Peterson	Happy Birthday Nancy Gunderson Caitlin Truax Kathy Westlund	20 First Day of Spring Happy Birthday Linda Rowan
9:00 am Worship w/communion 10:00 am Family Worship on FB Happy Birthday Jim Johnson Axel Randall Devon Seeley Robbie Swenson	22 Happy Birthday John Hallcock Shirley Shaft	23 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Eric Behrens Stewart Shaft	24 10:30 am Virtual Bible Study, Lectio Divina 6:30pm Worship Happy Birthday Dennis Berry Carol Ceder-Behrens Daryl Knudsen	25 Happy Birthday Aaron Bridley Dolly Roush	26	27 Happy Birthday Carmen Sevcik
28 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Family Worship on FB Happy Birthday Doc Dewar Gregory Johnson	29 Happy Birthday Jackson Caton Maggie Kuntz	30 10am Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Emily Lieske	3 10:30 am Virtual Bible Study, Lectio Divina Happy Birthday Jon Finger Celena Witt			

GOD SPEED, DENNIS!

We were sorry to have received Dennis McClintock's resignation letter as our Financial Administrator. He has served faithfully for the past nearly four years and we will miss him. We send him off with blessings of adventure as he will now have more time for camping and photography.



WELCOME

Welcome, Terrance Hassanaly, our new Financial Administrator. Terrence has spent the last decade working in financial services as a financial planner; prior to that he worked in higher education at Carleton College. He is married

to Regina and together they have four boys aged 2 - 11. Apart from spending time with the family, he enjoys the outdoors, reading biographies and watching Manchester United. Terrence is excited to join the team at St. Peter's and is looking forward to working with Pastor David and the staff.



SKIING AT HYLAND LAST MONTH



JUST FOR FUN... WHO WAS ST. PATRICK?



St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all of his prevalence in culture—namely the holiday held on the day of his death that bears his name—his life remains somewhat of a mystery

Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

St. Patrick Wasn't Irish

St. Patrick was born in Britain—not Ireland—to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D.

Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family.

At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.)

During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of

converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.)

St. Patrick's Visions and Miracles

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice—which he believed to be God's—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland.

To do so, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation—an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than 15 years.

After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. (Interestingly, this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.)

St. Patrick Was Never Canonized as a Saint

He may be known as the patron saint of Ireland, but Patrick was never actually canonized by the Catholic Church. This is simply due to the era he lived in. During the first millennium, there was no formal canonization process in the Catholic Church. After becoming a priest and helping to spread Christianity throughout Ireland, Patrick was likely proclaimed a saint by popular acclaim.

Credit: www.history.com, unedited

https://www.history.com/ topics/st-patricks-day/whowas-saint-patrick



Council Highlights

February 9, 2020 • 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bleckwehl, Bougie, Hill, Kleppe, Julie Klock, Lee, Manzey, Picha, Pastor Weeks, Ziegler

Call to Order: President Steve Hill called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of the Agenda: Sheryl moved approval of agenda and Bette seconded. The agenda was approved by all. **Devotions:** Led by Pastor David who read a devotion from Mary Kay DeShane which was about the difference between loneliness and solitude. Solitude is peaceful aloneness. It is an antidote to loneliness. Jesus after he had preached and was with the people; always went apart and spent some time in solitude and prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Naomi moved approval of minutes of January 12 council

meeting. Mary seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff Reports:

Pastor David Weeks provided a report. Highlights include:

Ministry/Activities of previous month:

- Preach and lead worship.
- He went over the responsibilities of council members as Mary Bleckwehl and Jolene Manzey were new members of the council.
- Primary responsibility of the council is visioning. There is not a direct link to ministry teams. There will be a council person assigned to attend each ministry team.
- He wants to have a retreat for the council but not until we can have it in person even outside.
- He was pleased with the annual meeting via zoom.
- February 17, Ash Wednesday, will be an in-person worship with 30 members present. Worship will be similar to the October worship-wearing masks, social distance, no congregational singing. Ashes will probably be applied individually by each person on themselves.

Looking Ahead:

- The council will be discussing an article that Pastor Dave will send to each council member ahead of the March 9 Council meeting.
- Dennis McClintock, the financial administrator, has submitted his resignation effective March 31, 20201. We will be listing that opening and interviewing candidates in the near future.
- Julie Klock provided a report. Some of the highlights include:
 - **Family Worship.** new attenders in recent weeks. New opening segments to keep it fresh.
 - **Communication.** Calls to seniors continue. Everyone reports both hopeful attitudes and restlessness on the part of the seniors.
 - **BeFrienders.** Befrienders note they are doing more listening with caregivers than people facing serious situations.
 - Youth. J-term confirmation in conjunction with St. John's, Bethel and First UCC was well received. Speakers were excellent. Attendance was down. Makeup lessons are being conducted.
 - **Prayer Chain.** It will be reorganized as Arly Boyum was anchor to one section.
 - Good Earth Village. There will not be a team

- at St. Peter's for camp this summer due to Covid uncertainties. Opportunities for several family camps and day-long camps will be offered instead.
- Vacation Bible School. Julie, St. John's, Bethel and Emmaus continue to meet. Family VBS, outdoors in the evenings will be best this year. Three Wednesday programs at Bethel August 4,11,18, are currently being planned with times and themes to be announced.
- **Faith Formation Team.** She will be conducting a meeting to work out logistics for her sabbatical this summer and program for fall.

Ministry Teams: Outreach – Sheryl reported there are masks (not to be returned) and T-shirts with St. Peter's logo available at the church for members to wear in the community whenever a service it being done. The shirts and masks can be kept with a donation. The shirts should laundered if returned. See the staff for location of the shirts and masks. Capital Projects Committee – Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Picha reported that income for January 2021 was \$22,300 which is approximately \$9,000 below the budget expectation. Expenses were \$30,000 which was below the budget expectation by \$2,300. An insurance adjustment has been reached for the church, parsonage and garage. Negotiations are on-going concerning repair of the flat portion of the roof on the church.

Parsonage Update: Sheryl reported there is one person residing at Sarah's house and more are expected soon. There is a virtual fund-raising gala Saturday night, February 13 th, that is free. It includes a silent auction and virtual program.

Use of Church Protocol: Naomi would like someone else to head this committee. Sheryl will be checking into the possibility of room rental with Blue Water Property as suggested by Donavon Prescott.

Closing: Sheryl moved to adjourn the meeting. Bette seconded. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:15.

Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, March 9 at 7pm via zoom. Minutes by Jolene Manzey, Secretary.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

St. Peter's Mission Statement:
Believe, Belong, Become.
To express God's love and
grace in building a community
where people believe in God,
belong to Christ,
and become disciples who
serve in day to day living.



Steve Hill, President stevendhill 12@hotmail.com

Patrick Bougie, VP bougiepatrick@yahoo.com

Tom Picha, Treasurer picha6@charter.net

Jolene Manzey, Secretary jkmanzey@gmail.com

Mary Bleckwehl marybleckwehl@hotmail.com

> Sheryl Kleppe skkleppe@gmail.com

Bette Lee frbelee@gmail.com

Naomi Ziegler zieg0110@umn.edu

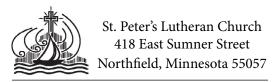


Sick? Hospitalized?

Please contact the Church Office if you would like a visit from Pastor Weeks.

(507) 645-8252

Or visit www.northfieldstp.org/ prayers-and-announcements



Please contact the Church Office if you've moved or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.

(507) 645-8252

A ministry request form is now on our website at www.northfieldstp.org, under the ministry tab.



Find us
On-Line

www.northfieldstp.org

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www.northfieldstp.org/register

Worship on-line anytime, anywhere:

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