

St. Peter Lutheran Church
208 Newtown Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06851

PARISHSCOPE

MARCH 2020



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PASTOR'S

Our Lent began this year with a very positive response on Ash Wednesday. 45 or so people came to the noon Service and 15 to the evening Service. This is far more than have attended for many years – thanks be to God!

This year I marked with ashes more foreheads than I ever have before. This is partly because I began the day at the police station. I attended the 7:00 & 8:00 lineups, and then also the 3:00 & 4:00 lineups, to offer the imposition of ashes to officers and department employees. A number of them gratefully received them. I also had the opportunity to explain the meaning of the ashes, and repentance, to several officers (including the Sgt. who told the officers at the front desk, “*Rev’s down the hall with dirt on his head!*”) Ah, cops...

I was tempted this year to impose the ashes with the letters CV, as it seems that the corona virus is going to be the death of us all; at least, that’s how it sounds on the news. “*Hey, get serious, Pastor!*” Well, I will...if it comes to our area. Actually, even if it does, I’ll probably take the precautions that I already take:

- 1) Washing my hands after visiting a patient at the hospital, or a sick parishioner in a nursing home.
- 2) If instructed to do so, putting on a gown, mask, and gloves before entering a hospital room.
- 3) Washing my hands at church before the Service; or, if I cough or sneeze during the Service, stepping out to do so before giving Holy Communion.
- 4) Carrying rubber gloves with me when on a ride-along with a police officer, so they’re handy if I need them.
- 5) Saying my prayers morning and evening, and entrusting my life to the Lord of all creation.

Actually, this last “precaution” should have been listed first. “*I lift up my eyes to the hills,*” says Ps. 121. “*From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*”

PONDERINGS

The promise of Ps. 121 – indeed, of all of Holy Scripture – is not lessened by a virus, or by anything upon this earth. Now, I do not mean to belittle the concerns anyone may have because of the corona virus. I know that it is of concern especially for those who struggle with asthma and other breathing issues. But, we must not let anything take our eyes off of the promises of God, which are certain for us in Jesus, who by His life, death, resurrection and ascension overcame any and every threat to our lives. Yes, we are mortal. Because we are sinners we will all die; and so, as I marked us on Ash Wednesday it was with the words, “*Remember that dust you are, and to dust you shall return.*” The ashes were in the shape of a cross – the cross that was first traced upon our foreheads at our Baptism!

What then shall we say to these things?” asks St. Paul. “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31-39)

In the crucified and risen Savior,

Pastor

Dear Pastor Beinke & Friends at St. Peter:

Thank you for your continued support of our LCMS mission work in the Dominican Republic and Latin America! We are so very grateful for your commitment to helping us share the Gospel with people who need to hear of God’s love for them and the salvation that can be theirs through faith in Jesus Christ.

This week we had an opportunity to give a Bible to a new worker in the local hardware store in Palmar Arriba. This is a small family store close to the Seminary and Mercy Center. The son of the store owner is the young man who served as the model for the painting of “Jesus and the Children” that now hangs in the Mercy Center. He has been to church a couple of times, but still has many questions. We are always pleasantly amazed to see

where God's Word might take root, even in places like a hardware store.

We are grateful for your prayers for us and our work, in particular for the strengthening of faith of the new Christians here; for the maturing of our new Lutheran mission congregations; for those who want to know the Gospel but are still hesitant – that through the prompting of the Holy Spirit they may come to trust in Jesus; and also for us and all missionaries, that we might continue in good health, so that we can serve without hindrance. In the same way, we also pray for your pastor and Saint Peter Lutheran Church, that God will use you in furthering his kingdom in the Norwalk area.

May the Lord grant you a blessed New Year! There is so much for which we can give thanks! Our physical life – our faith – the certainty of eternal life in heaven with our Lord, the joy that accompanies the opportunity to share this good news with other people.

Thank you, again.

In Christ,

Deaconess Cheryl and Pastor Jonathan

LENT CONTINUES

Every Wednesday this month, we will meet downstairs at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner and at 7:30 p.m. for a Bible study and prayer Service.

STAR MEETING

We will meet on Thursday, April 1st at 3:30 p.m. for our next meeting with the folks from STAR.

MISSION OF THE MONTH - HOMES WITH HOPE

Homes with Hope is a local grassroots response to the tragedy of homelessness. With a caring professional staff and the help of more than 400 volunteers, Homes with Hope assists people who have lost their ability to lead normal lives.

Formerly known as the Interfaith Housing Association of Westport and Weston, Homes with Hope's mission is to support the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in the communities we serve by providing food, safe emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and the supportive services needed to achieve a more independent and self-sufficient life.

March

Birthdays

**Clint Yakiwchuk
David Whipple
Jennifer Steiner
Joseph Orban, Jr.
Nicholas Eklund
Josiah Saladyga
Kaitlin Arcario
James Ferrara, Sr.
Joseph Melfi
F. Dieter Cakavell
Jeffrey Wash
Michael Graupner
Paul Arcario
Ron Leong
Kenneth Nelsen
Nancy Sayler
Michael Joseph Wash**

Anniversaries

**Brian & Alicia Van Orsdel
Alan & Gunilla Moy**

Psalm 53:1-6
Proverbs 11:4

BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH 2020

March 1:	Leviticus 24:1 - 25:46 Mark 10:13-31 Psalm 44:9-26 Proverbs 10:20-21	March 11:	Numbers 15:17 - 15:41 Mark 15:1-47 Psalm 54:1-7 Proverbs 11:5-6
March 2:	Leviticus 25:47 - 27:13 Mark 10:32-52 Psalm 45:1-17 Proverbs 10:22	March 12:	Numbers 16:1 - 18:32 Mark 16:1-20 Psalm 55:1-23 Proverbs 11:7
March 3:	Leviticus 27:14 - Numbers 1:54 Mark 11:1-26 Psalm 46:1-11 Proverbs 10:23	March 13:	Numbers 19:1 - 20:29 Luke 1:1-25 Psalm 56:1-13 Proverbs 11:8
March 4:	Numbers 2:1 - 3:51 Mark 11:27 - 12:17 Psalm 47:1-9 Proverbs 10:24-25	March 14:	Numbers 21:1 - 22:20 Luke 1:26-56 Psalm 57:1-11 Proverbs 11:9-11
March 5:	Numbers 4:1 - 5:31 Mark 12:18-37 Psalm 48:1-14 Proverbs 10:26	March 15:	Numbers 22:21 - 23:30 Luke 1:57-80 Psalm 58:1-11 Proverbs 11:12-13
March 6:	Numbers 6:1 - 7:89 Mark 12:38 - 13:13 Psalm 49:1-20 Proverbs 10:27-28	March 16:	Numbers 24:1 - 25:18 Luke 2:1-35 Psalm 59:1-17 Proverbs 11:14
March 7:	Numbers 8:1 - 9:23 Mark 13:14-37 Psalm 50:1-23 Proverbs 10:29-30	March 17:	Numbers 26:1-51 Luke 2:36-52 Psalm 60:1-12 Proverbs 11:15
March 8:	Numbers 10:1 - 11:23 Mark 14:1-21 Psalm 51:1-19 Proverbs 10:31-32	March 18:	Numbers 26:52 - 28:15 Luke 3:1-22 Psalm 61:1-8 Proverbs 11:16-17
March 9:	Numbers 11:24 - 13:33 Mark 14:22-52 Psalm 52:1-9 Proverbs 11:1-3	March 19:	Numbers 28:16 - 29:40 Luke 3:23-38 Psalm 62:1-12 Proverbs 11:18-19
March 10:	Numbers 14:1 - 15:16 Mark 14:53-72	March 20:	Numbers 30:1 - 31:54 Luke 4:1-30 Psalm 63:1-11

March 21: Numbers 32:1 - 33:39
 Luke 4:31 - 5:11
 Psalm 64:1-10
 Proverbs 11:22

March 31 Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20
 Luke 9:7-27
 Psalm 72:1-20
 Proverbs 12:5-7

March 22: Numbers 33:40 - 35:34
 Luke 5:12-28
 Psalm 65:1-13
 Proverbs 11:23

March 23: Numbers 36:1 - Deut. 1:46
 Luke 5:29 - 6:11
 Psalm 66:1-20
 Proverbs 11:24-26

March 24: Deuteronomy 2:1 - 3:29
 Luke 6:12-38
 Psalm 67:1-7
 Proverbs 11:27

March 25: Deuteronomy 4:1-49
 Luke 6:39 - 7:10
 Psalm 68:1-18
 Proverbs 11:28

March 26: Deuteronomy 5:1 - 6:25
 Luke 7:11-35
 Psalm 68:19-35
 Proverbs 11:29-31

March 27: Deuteronomy 7:1 - 8:20
 Luke 7:36 - 8:3
 Psalm 69:1-18
 Proverbs 12:1

March 28: Deuteronomy 9:1 - 10:22
 Luke 8:4-21
 Psalm 69:19-36
 Proverbs 12:2-3

March 29: Deuteronomy 11:1 - 12:32
 Luke 8:22-39
 Psalm 70:1-5
 Proverbs 12:4

March 30: Deuteronomy 13:1 - 15:23
 Luke 8:40 - 9:6
 Psalm 71:1-24

SERVICE SCHEDULES

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

MAR. 1 T. Collins, I. MacKenzie

MAR. 8 R. Castillo, D. Whipple

MAR. 15 J. Shapiro, C. Mathis

MAR. 22 B. Streb, J. Orban

MAR. 29 T. Collins, I. MacKenzie

CHANCEL SCHEDULE

Mar. 1 – 8 K. & T. Collins

Mar. 9-22 L. Beinke, G. Wash

Mar. 23-Apr. 1 D. Fasoli, D. Capocci

March 2020

USHERS

MAR. 1 B. Streb, D. Cakavell,
W. Palmisano

MAR. 8 C. Mathis, T. Collins
D. Russo

MAR. 15 S. Sabol, J. Orban,
R. Castillo

MAR. 22 I. MacKenzie, S. Yuen
J. Soos

MAR. 29 B. Streb, D. Cakavell,
W. Palmisano

COUNTERS

MAR. 1 R. Sayler, J. Orban

MAR. 8 J. Wash, S. Yuen

MAR. 15 D. Raines, J. Shapiro

MAR. 22 E. Meek, I. MacKenzie

MAR. 29 R. Leong, S. Yuen

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH - MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 6:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner 7:30 p.m. Worship Service	5 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	6	7 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBIT 1:00 p.m. Lecture
8 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10 PRISON 1:30 p.m. BCW	11 6:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner 7:30 p.m. Worship Service	12 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	13	14
15 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	16	17	18 6:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner 7:30 p.m. Worship Service	19 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	20	21 5:00 p.m. POTLUCK 6:00 p.m. Movie at church “PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST”
22 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	23	24 1:30 p.m. BCW	25 6:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner 7:30 p.m. Worship Service	26 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	27	28
29 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	30	31				