

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

***PARISHSCOPE***  
***JULY AND AUGUST 2020***



**St. Peter Lutheran Church**  
**208 Newtown Avenue**  
**Norwalk, CT 06851**

## Pastor's Ponderings

This month my article is not my words, but the words of Rev. Dr. Francis Pieper, the President of the Missouri Synod, which he wrote in 1901. The President of the United States, William McKinley, had been shot by an anarchist, Leon Czolgosz, on September 5 and died 9 days later. His last words were, "It is God's way; His will be done, not ours."

Dr. Pieper wrote the following article in *Der Lutheraner*, the predecessor to *The Lutheran Witness*, in response. Considering the recent protests prompted by the murder of George Floyd, I thought his words were very appropriate for us to consider.

In Christ our Lord,  
Pastor

### **The Assassination of President McKinley and Public Misfortune: What Does God Desire to Teach Us through the Public Misfortune That Has Come Upon Our Country?**

OUR PRESIDENT HAS FALLEN AT THE HANDS OF A MURDERER. The assassin belonged to the band of anarchists who here and in Europe desire to overturn standing state and civil orders by force.

What does God desire to teach us, the citizens of this country, through this shocking murder? The secular papers and also most of the church papers that we have seen emphasize one point for the most part: Anarchy must be purged from our country.

This demand is justified. The anarchists are declared public enemies of all orders, which are necessary for common civil life. The anarchists should move freely in human society as little as open thieves and murderers. But [the fact] that precisely among us, in the United States, in spite of all existing good laws, anarchists still dare to move freely is proof that we—we mean the majority of citizens—are not using the reason that men still possess in natural matters. Thus precisely Christians among the citizens have the duty to see to it that from now on, through reasonable dealings, application of existing law and, if necessary, through new legislation, anarchists are rendered as innocuous as possible.

But we Christians, if we would not put ourselves on the same level as the blind world, should not simply be satisfied with these actions and decisions. God's Word teaches us that times of misfortune should be times of repentance for the people. When God allows a time of misfortune to come upon a land, he speaks through it to the people on account of their sins. God said by the

prophet Jeremiah [6:19]: “Hear, O earth; behold, I am bringing disaster upon this people, the fruit of their devices, because they have not paid attention to My words.” So there is no doubt that God, also through the misfortune that He is now allowing to come upon us because of our sins, speaks to us and moves us to repentance.

Which sins are predominant among us? God desires above all one thing from all men, including Americans: They should hear the Gospel of Christ and believe it. This is why He allows the world to continue to exist. This is why He preserves government and the entire civil order among us and in other lands. If there were no Gospel to preach and to hear, there would be no more world and no United States. How do things stand in our country with respect to the preaching, reception, and honoring of the Gospel? The greater half of the residents of this country is evidently unchurched. They desire to know nothing of the Savior who died for them. The lodges, who harm and ridicule the Gospel by attempting to bring men to heaven through their own deeds, are in no country so generally widespread as in ours. And how are things with those who call themselves Christian? The Romans advocate their idolatry with pope, masses, the worship of saints, and human works in our land as boldly as in other countries. And with respect to the so-called Protestant sects, apostasy from the Gospel is so general that even secular papers in recent years have pointed out that from most pulpits, Christ the crucified is no longer preached, and instead, morality and politics are proclaimed. Should God, in the face of all this general despising and profaning of the Gospel, not strike us with all sorts of public misfortune? And how are things among us? We have the Gospel. We preach not politics and human morality, but Jesus Christ the crucified as the sole basis of salvation. But do we rightly honor the Gospel? Do we diligently hear it? Do we diligently read it? Do we really love it? Are our hearts fixed on heaven through the Gospel? Are we dead to the sinful ways of this world? Do we make use of our earthly possessions above all to advance the Gospel? This and similar questions will lead us to the recognition that we too are guilty of the sin of this country, namely, the despising of the Gospel. We should repent of these sins. The present misfortune of our country and other public misfortune should remind us of this. God can and will not leave the sin of despising the Gospel unpunished. Luther understood this. When the Germans despised the Gospel, he told them “that it would be no wonder if God were to allow Turks—yes finally, mere devils—to swarm over Germany.”

Where the Gospel is despised, there godlessness rules in life. If Christ does not rule in the hearts of men through the Gospel, then the flesh rules. There is no third possibility. The works of the flesh are (Galatians 5:19-21) “sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.” We cannot go into these individual sins more precisely with respect to the way they

rule in our country and how they demand God's vengeance. We will only briefly point out the sins against the Fifth Commandment.

It has been suggested that all anarchists be deported. That means that they be removed from the country and brought to a place where they can no longer harm human society. That would certainly be right and good and very desirable state law. But we must not think that we would have completely rooted out anarchism with such laws. The plant has very extensive roots. All people, but especially Christians, should recognize that the murderous spirit, which brought about this horrid murderous act, resides in every human heart and therefore must be acknowledged and fought. He who knows our heart described it this way (Mark 7:21-23): "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within." So it is with every heart, also with every American heart. And it does not merely remain a matter of thought. The murderous spirit is so evident in word and deed that it is hard to comprehend.

Only a few examples. In our country, labor and capital are for the most part enemies of each other. Workers join together. But they are not satisfied merely to unite. In many cases they use their union in order to harm their neighbors. They demand that workers who do not belong to their union should be given no work. To achieve this end, people often grab hold of stones, knives, revolvers, and dynamite. That is the murderous spirit of anarchy. On the other side, the capitalists join together. But they are not satisfied merely with such unity. In many cases they use it to ruin the businesses of and trample neighbors who are not in the "trust." That is the murderous anarchical spirit of the capitalists. Furthermore, in recent decades, the number of children, particularly among the American-born population, has taken a dive. The chief cause is that hundreds of thousands of American women consistently murder their unborn children, with and without the consent of their husbands. This murderous spirit has become so prevalent that the well-known preacher Parkhurst [Charles Henry Parkhurst, 1842-1932] has accused a portion of American women of seeking to save the children of heathen while they murder their own progeny. This year a well-known professor of medicine admonished a class of beginning doctors that they reject abortion, which is commonly practiced.

Enough of the examples taken from the life of our nation. Let's take a look at ourselves. If we also—which is certainly not the case—were entirely free of the particular manifestation of the murderous spirit that we find among the capitalists and workers, the abortionists and the secret societies, the lynchers, etc., we still stand before the Law of God judged as murderers. The Scriptures say (1 John 3:15): "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer." Indeed, the wrath that rises in our hearts against the neighbor is murder before God. The desires that we have to harm our neighbor are murderous in God's sight. Luther is quite right in his explication of the

Gospel on the Sixth Sunday after Trinity regarding the sin against the Fifth Commandment: “Now whether indeed one grade is worse than another, still all of it—the lowest as much as the highest—is sin against this (Fifth) commandment. Thus whoever merely bears loathing in his heart, anger or disfavor against another, is a murderer before God.” May this act of murder, which has thrown all of us citizens of this land into horror and travail, remind us all precisely of this. And may we recognize and confess that we all would burn in hell as murderers if the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did not cleanse us also from the sin of murder.

A completely wretched spectacle has played out right before our eyes in the murder of our president. Something that should humble and lead a people to repentance is used for self-glorification. “You have struck them down, but they felt no anguish; You have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to repent” (Jeremiah 5:3). But we throw ourselves in the dust before God and say:

Christ, Thou Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us!

Christ, Thou Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us!

Christ, Thou Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace!

Amen.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

During these summer months the Sunday Bible class at noon (topic: Confession and The Sacrament of the Altar in the Small Catechism) on Zoom will continue, as will the Wednesday class at 7:30 pm (topic: the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday). The Thursday morning class will hopefully resume in September.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

All has gone well since worship resumed on May 24. During the summer months Pastor will continue to bring Holy Communion to each person in the pew.

Also, the recording and posting of the Service on YouTube will be a weekly practice. If you are not able to attend a Sunday Service, you can find the link to the recording of it on our website, [www.stpetersnorwalk.org](http://www.stpetersnorwalk.org). Also, posted each week is the weekly Devotional Service.

### **JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH** **PERSON TO PERSON**

Each year, with the support of our volunteers and donors, Person to Person provides programs and services to thousands of people throughout Lower Fairfield County. The impact of our volunteer driven efforts helps to improve lives, one person at a time through mentoring a college student, send a child to camp, volunteer at our food pantries, clothing center, and reception areas, organizing or sponsoring a food or clothing drive.

Person to Person delivers emergency services and provides basic necessities to individuals and families in Lower Fairfield County. Their ability to assist those striving to achieve financial stability is made possible by the generosity of people like you to meet immediate need and guide people to long-term solutions. Visit their **website @p2phelps.org**.

### **AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH** **MALTA HOUSE**

Malta House is a home for homeless, single women and their children under the age of 3 located at 5 Prowitt Street in Norwalk, CT (203) 857-0088. Malta House provides three services: The Residential Program, Partnering Success for past residents, and Outreach for Women within the Norwalk community.

The vision of Malta House began in 1995 when Michael O-Rourke learned that there was "no room at the inn" for many homeless pregnant women and their newborns. These vulnerable young families often found themselves on the street or living in sub-standard conditions. Malta House was conceived not only to offer food, shelter, and spiritual guidance but also to give hope for the future.

In 2000 Malta House was incorporated as an independent 501C3 charitable organization. Today the mission of Malta House benefits from financial support and volunteer efforts from a community of caring supporters.

Malta House will be relocating to a renovated former convent building behind All Saints Catholic School on West Rocks Road by the end of 2020. This will enable them to increase their capacity by 50%. Your help is needed in providing *Hope for Life* as the Malta House family continues to grow.

### **PASTOR'S VACATION**

Pastor will be away on vacation from July 6-17. Our guest pastor will be retired Rev. Dana Hallenbeck, who served for years at Zion in Manchester, CT and also as a police

officer in West Hartford. He has been here several times before.

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 2 Dennis Russo  
July 5 Paul Westhelle  
July 8 Katie Robaczynski  
July 9 Michael A. Russo  
July 10 Ryan Evans  
July 13 Ritchie Shane  
July 14 Peter Topalian  
July 15 Joanne Topalian  
Natalie V. Sabol  
July 18 Ena Meek  
July 21 Kelly Streb  
July 24 Linda Scott  
July 25 Michael Ferrara  
July 28 Kevin Ruhnke  
July 31 James Ferrara, Jr.

### ANNIVERSARIES

July 1, 2000 Tom & Janel Cassara  
July 11, 1976 Peter & Joanne Topalian

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2 Gunilla Moy  
August 4 Tori Wash  
August 5 Janel Cassara  
August 6 George Fischer  
Duncan Payne  
August 8 Orville Gruenke  
August 9 Richard Valentine  
August 13 Lucia Lynne Eklund  
Christian Lars Eklund  
August 14 Grace Yakiwchuk,  
Ruth Acker  
August 25 Barbara O'Connor  
August 26 Nancy Longo  
August 30 Fay Sobottka  
August 31 Matthew Ruhnke

### ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 10, 2002 Otto & Bonnie Brown  
Aug. 19, 2006 Jeff & Tori Wash  
Aug. 26, 2006 Jeremy & Wendy Saladyga

### **BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY**

July 1:	2 Kings 18:13—19:37 Acts 21:1-16 Psalm 149:1-9 Proverbs 18:8	July 9:	Psalms 6:1-10 Proverbs 18:20-21 1 Chronicles 7:1—8:40 Acts 27:1-20 Psalm 7:1-17 Proverbs 18:22
July 2:	2 Kings 20:1—22:2 Acts 21:17-36 Psalm 150:1-6 Proverbs 18:9-10	July 10:	1 Chronicles 9:1—10:14 Acts 27:21-44 Psalm 8:1-9 Proverbs 18:23-24
July 3:	2 Kings 22:3—23:30 Acts 21:37-22:16 Psalm 1:1-6 Proverbs 18:11-12	July 11:	1 Chronicles 11:1—12:18 Acts 28:1-31 Psalm 9:1-12 Proverbs 19:1-3
July 4:	2 Kings 23:31—25:30 Acts 22:17-23:10 Psalm 2:1-12 Proverbs 18:13	July 12:	1 Chronicles 12:19—14:17 Romans 1:1-17 Psalm 9:13-20 Proverbs 19:4-5
July 5:	1 Chronicles 1:1—2:17 Acts 23:11-35 Psalm 3:1-8 Proverbs 18:14-15	July 13:	1 Chronicles 15:1—16:36 Romans 1:18-32 Psalm 10:1-15 Proverbs 19:6-7
July 6:	1 Chronicles 2:18—4:4 Acts 24:1-27 Psalm 4:1-8 Proverbs 18:16-18	July 14:	1 Chronicles 16:37—18:17 Romans 2:1-24 Psalm 10:16-18 Proverbs 19:8-9
July 7:	1 Chronicles 4:5—5:17 Acts 25:1-27 Psalm 5:1-12 Proverbs 18:19	July 15:	1 Chronicles 19:1—21:30 Romans 2:25-3:8 Psalm 11:1-7 Proverbs 19:10-12
July 8:	1 Chronicles 5:18—6:81 Acts 26:1-32		



July 16:	1 Chronicles 22:1—23:32 Romans 3:9-31 Psalm 12:1-8 Proverbs 19:13-14		
July 17:	1 Chronicles 24:1—26:11 Romans 4:1-12 Psalm 13:1-6 Proverbs 19:15-16	July 25:	2 Chronicles 14:1—16:14 Romans 9:1-21 Psalm 19:1-14 Proverbs 20:1
July 18:	1 Chronicles 26:12—27:34 Romans 4:13-5:5 Psalm 14:1-7 Proverbs 19:17	July 26:	2 Chronicles 17:1—18:34 Romans 9:22—10:13 Psalm 20:1-9 Proverbs 20:2-3
July 19:	1 Chronicles 28:1—29:30 Romans 5:6-21 Psalm 15:1-5 Proverbs 19:18-19	July 27:	2 Chronicles 19:1—20:37 Romans 10:14—11:12 Psalm 21:1-13 Proverbs 20:4-6
July 20:	2 Chronicles 1:1—3:17 Romans 6:1-23 Psalm 16:1-11 Proverbs 19:20-21	July 28:	2 Chronicles 21:1—23:21 Romans 11:13-36 Psalm 22:1-18 Proverbs 20:7
July 21:	2 Chronicles 4:1—6:11 Romans 7:1-13 Psalm 17:1-15 Proverbs 19:22-23	July 29:	2 Chronicles 24:1—25:28 Romans 12:1-21 Psalm 22:19-31 Proverbs 20:8-10
July 22:	2 Chronicles 6:12—8:10 Romans 7:14—8:8 Psalm 18:1-15 Proverbs 19:24-25	July 30:	2 Chronicles 26:1—28:27 Romans 13:1-14 Psalm 23:1-6 Proverbs 20:11
July 23:	2 Chronicles 8:11—10:19 Romans 8:9-21 Psalm 18:16-36 Proverbs 19:26	July 31:	2 Chronicles 29:1-36 Romans 14:1-23 Psalm 24:1-10 Proverbs 20:12
July 24:	2 Chronicles 11:1—13:22 Romans 8:22-39 Psalm 18:37-50 Proverbs 19:27-29		

## **BIBLE READINGS FOR AUGUST**

August 1:	2 Chronicles 30:1—31:21 Romans 15:1-22 Psalm 25:1-15 Proverbs 20:13-15	August 10:	Ezra 10:1-44 1 Corinthians 6:1-20 Psalm 31:9-18 Proverbs 21:3
August 2:	2 Chronicles 32:1—33:13 Romans 15:23-16:7 Psalm 25:16-22 Proverbs 20:16-18	August 11:	Nehemiah 1:1—3:14 1 Corinthians 7:1-24 Psalm 31:19-24 Proverbs 21:4
August 3:	2 Chronicles 33:14—34:33 Romans 16:8-27 Psalm 26:1-12 Proverbs 20:19	August 12:	Nehemiah 3:15—5:13 1 Corinthians 7:25-40 Psalm 32:1-11 Proverbs 21:5-7
August 4:	2 Chronicles 35:1—36:23 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 Psalm 27:1-6 Proverbs 20:20-21	August 13:	Nehemiah 5:14—7:60 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Psalm 33:1-11 Proverbs 21:8-10
August 5:	Ezra 1:1—2:70 1 Corinthians 1:18—2:5 Psalm 27:7-14 Proverbs 20:22-23	August 14:	Nehemiah 7:61—9:21 1 Corinthians 9:1-18 Psalm 33:12-22 Proverbs 21:11-12
August 6:	Ezra 3:1—4:24 1 Corinthians 2:6—3:4 Psalm 28:1-9 Proverbs 20:24-25	August 15:	Nehemiah 9:22—10:39 1 Corinthians 9:19—10:13 Psalm 34:1-10 Proverbs 21:13
August 7:	Ezra 5:1—6:22 1 Corinthians 3:5-23 Psalm 29:1-11 Proverbs 20:26-27	August 16:	Nehemiah 11:1—12:26 1 Corinthians 10:14—11:2 Psalm 34:11-22 Proverbs 21:14-16
August 8:	Ezra 7:1—8:20 1 Corinthians 4:1-21 Psalm 30:1-12 Proverbs 20:28-30	August 17:	Nehemiah 12:27—13:31 1 Corinthians 11:3-16 Psalm 35:1-16 Proverbs 21:17-18
August 9:	Ezra 8:21—9:15 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 Psalm 31:1-8 Proverbs 21:1-2	August 18:	Esther 1:1—3:15 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 Psalm 35:17-28 Proverbs 21:19-20

		2 Corinthians 2:12-17 Psalm 42:1-11 Proverbs 22:7
August 19:	Esther 4:1—7:10 1 Corinthians 12:1-26 Psalm 36:1-12 Proverbs 21:21-22	August 29: Job 31:1—33:33 2 Corinthians 3:1-18 Psalm 43:1-5 Proverbs 22:8-9
August 20:	Esther 8:1—10:3 1 Corinthians 12:27—13:13 Psalm 37:1-11 Proverbs 21:23-24	August 30: Job 34:1—36:33 2 Corinthians 4:1-12 Psalm 44:1-8 Proverbs 22:10-12
August 21:	Job 1:1—3:26 1 Corinthians 14:1-17 Psalm 37:12-29 Proverbs 21:25-26	August 31: Job 37:1—39:30 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:10 Psalm 44:9-26 Proverbs 22:13
August 22:	Job 4:1—7:21 1 Corinthians 14:18-40 Psalm 37:30-40 Proverbs 21:27	
August 23:	Job 8:1—11:20 1 Corinthians 15:1-28 Psalm 38:1-22 Proverbs 21:28-29	
August 24:	Job 12:1—15:35 1 Corinthians 15:29-58 Psalm 39:1-13 Proverbs 21:30-31	
August 25:	Job 16:1—19:29 1 Corinthians 16:1-24 Psalm 40:1-10 Proverbs 22:1	
August 26:	Job 20:1—22:30 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 Psalm 40:11-17 Proverbs 22:2-4	
August 27:	Job 23:1—27:23 2 Corinthians 1:12—2:11 Psalm 41:1-13 Proverbs 22:5-6	
August 28:	Job 28:1—30:31	



## ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day  Holiday
5  10:00 am Worship Service  12:00 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	6  →	7  Pastor	8  Away On  No Zoom Bible Study	9  Vacation	10  →	11
12  10:00 am Worship Service  No Zoom Bible Study	13  →	14  Pastor	15  Away On  No Zoom Bible Study	16  Vacation	17  →	18
19  10:00 am Worship Service  12:00 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	20	21	22  7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	23	24	25
26  10:00 am Worship Service  12:00 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	27	28	29  7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	30	31	

**ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**AUGUST 2020**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 am Worship Service 12:00 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	3	4	5 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	6	7	8
9 10:00 am Worship Service 12:00 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	10	11	12 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	13	14	15
16 10:00 am Worship Service 12:00 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	17	18	19 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	20	21	22
23 10:00 am Worship Service 12:00 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	24	25	26 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship Service 12:00 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	31					