

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

PARISHSCOPE

SEPTEMBER 2020



The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

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Pastor's Ponderings

Well, we have just over three months of in-house worship under our belts now since we resumed the Sunday Divine Service at church on May 24. I have been very pleased with how things have been going. Attendance has been gradually rising, from the low 20's at the start to the upper 30's in late August. Holy Communion has been distributed every week (with the exception of August 30, when I was away). We even had a brief wake and then funeral Service for Bob Van Orsdel, at which 38 attended. And, after all of this, I am not aware of one case of Covid-19 as a result. This shows that, with appropriate precautions being followed, we can safely gather in God's house. Thanks be to God!

September will bring some changes to what we have been doing. The first is regarding the way we distribute Communion. Beginning on 9/6, you will now come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ. There will be no kneeling at the railing. You will be ushered up the center aisle (appropriately spaced, and wearing your mask) to come one at a time to the front. I will be standing in the center (and masked, and will have washed and sanitized my hands during the singing of the Agnus Dei, the "Lamb of God," as before) and will place the body of Christ into your hand. You will then step to a table on the side (there will be one on either side) to take the blood of Christ from a cup from the tray, which you will then drop into a pitcher at the far side. Then you can return to your seat.

Why this change? For one thing, the growing number of attendees makes it easier for me to mistakenly miss someone if I am going from pew to pew (which has happened). It also takes more time to do this. And, I think it is important to begin moving more toward a resumption of normalcy. I fully realize that things will not truly be returning to normal for a while yet. But, this does not mean that we cannot safely – and, certainly, within the suggested guidelines – gather and worship, as we have for decades and Christ's people have for millennia. And, by the way, when I say that our worship is within the suggested guidelines, I am referring to the Governor's guidelines for gatherings, which are often misunderstood. For instance: we are in phase 2 of the guidelines for reopening, and you may have heard that phase 2 restricts indoor gatherings to 25 people (this is

what is often reported). But, Gov. Lamont's Exec. Order 7TT, which was issued on May 29, states: "the 49-person limit on religious, spiritual and worship gatherings is raised for indoor gatherings to 25% of capacity of the indoor space or a maximum of 100 people, whichever is smaller." Our church can seat about 230 people; 25% of this would be 58. So, we are well-within the guidelines!

Another change that I am considering is with the Sunday Bible study. I have been having a study at noon on Zoom for a while. I recently sent out an email request for people to let me know if they want to keep it this way or resume meeting at church, either downstairs at tables or upstairs, and before worship (probably beginning at 8:45). Please realize that, even if the time is changed, the Sunday class will remain on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/682781827?pwd=RUtKaWI3cDBta3VwZU00K1VJVENjZz09> is the link, or phone in at (646) 558-8656; the meeting ID is 682 781 827 and the password is 032903). Also know that, if I decide to resume an in-person Bible study at church, the appropriate coronavirus guidelines will be followed: social distancing, wearing of masks, etc. Attendees will also need to bring their own coffee, and no food will be provided.

Whew! This is a lot. Will things ever be the same? Keep in mind that our Lord does not change. In Heb. 7:21-25 we are told regarding Jesus, "*The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.' This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant... He holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*" Our Savior – in whose presence we gather in worship; whose voice we listen to in Bible study; and who dwells in the hearts of those who put their faith in Him (see John 14:23) – is never apart from us, even when we are unable to gather together as His people. And, He is always speaking before His Father on our behalf! Nothing in this life or world will ever be able to separate us from Him. Rejoice in this! And, pray for His help in finding and developing a vaccine – and, even better, a cure – for Covid-19. May it come soon!

In Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pastor

BIBLE CLASSES

Right now on Sunday we are studying the lives, and the preaching and teaching, of the apostles of Jesus. This study has been at noon on Zoom, and will be at that time on the 1st Sunday of the month, 9/6. Again, after that it may change. You will be informed.

On Thursday there is a Bible class on Zoom at 7:30 PM. The focus is on the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday. Pastor sends the readings and the Zoom link out in advance every week by email. Or, see the link in his article above (it is the same every week).

The Thursday morning Bible class is on hiatus right now and will remain so for the present time.

VOTERS

We are supposed to have a meeting this month, but the Council will be discussing this and deciding whether or not we will do so.

OUR ANNUAL CIGAR NIGHT will be on Saturday, September 19, beginning at 5:30 PM. Burgers and dogs, side dishes and dessert, and a cigar will be provided. Bring your own beverages. The cost is \$20.00. The event will be outside, in the back of the church, with appropriate social distancing, etc. Let Carl Vogt, Gary Melfi, or Pastor know if you are coming.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Lutheran Bible Translators

LBT is a group of dedicated Christians working hard together to make God's Word accessible to people around the world. Over 1 billion people worldwide do not have the full Bible in their own language.

The goal of LBT is impact, not production. They work with pre-literate or semi-literate people, and printed books are not a part of their lives.

The LBT missionaries are educated, experienced professionals. They have extensive expertise in Bible translation, linguistics, Biblical languages, minority languages and culture, scripture engagement, ethnomusicology and community engagement.

LBT has a Development team, Communications & Marketing team, and a Program Ministries &

Operations team. These staff members work toward a common goal: God's Word for every language.

This is a non-profit organization. If you would like to donate, your gift is tax deductible. Bible translation costs vary based on the project. Operating expenses also vary in different parts of the world.

Average Cost for Translation:

\$ 35 translates a verse of Scripture

\$1,000 translates an average chapter

September 2020

Birthdays

Sept. 2	Joe Wash
Sept. 7	Steve Sabol
Sept. 9	Tina Beinke, Rick Castillo
Sept. 11	Wayne Palmisano, Hannah Sala Tony Ferrara, Sr., Jill Quattrocchi
Sept. 12	Doug Raines, David Ferrara
Sept. 13	Nicole Palmisano
Sept. 14	Beverly Weed, Michael Cassara
Sept. 18	JoAnn Shapiro
Sept. 19	Philip Whipple
Sept. 25	Catie Scoville, Peggy Ruhnke
Sept. 28	Deanna Hwang
Sept. 30	Carl Vogt, Robert Streb, Luca Quattrocchi

Anniversaries

Sept. 21, 1968	Joe & Gerry Wash
Sept. 21, 1975	Bob & Colleen Streb
Sept. 25, 1977	Steve & Victoria Sabol

Usher Schedule

Sept 6:	Bob Streb
Sept 13:	Judy Soos
Sept 20:	Sheena Yuen
Sept 27:	Ian MacKenzie

Lutheran Bible Translators suggests these prayers for days 1-30 of September.

1. Pray that classes will be able to resume smoothly at the Linguistics and Bible Translation Department at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria where Kierien Ayugha and Chuck Tessaro teach.
2. Pray that the World Arts intern from SIL will have a productive time in Cameroon as she studies traditional arts in the 'Subula' language.
3. Pray that Eden Federwitz will grow in grace and have a great school year.
4. Pray for Kelsey Grulke as she serves the Lord in Botswana.
5. Pray for Karissa Esala as she works in her first job out of college with AmeriCorps VISTA at a food pantry.
6. Pray for missionary kids who are homeschooling and their parents who are guiding this process.
7. Pray for creativity and patience for Emily Wilson as she engages in new ways with people who are interested in serving the Lord through Bible translation.
8. Praise God for Barbara Beermann and her 5 years of faithful service with LBT.
9. Praise God for His great love for all of humankind and how this message is made clearer through Scripture.
10. Pray for peace and stability in the countries where LBT works.
11. Pray for Jim and Susan Kaiser as they make plans to return to Ethiopia.
12. We thank God for Melissa Schweigert and the work she does as LBT's human resource manager.
13. Pray for the students of the Linguistics and Bible Translation Department at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria who are trying to defend their theses when current restrictions make it difficult to arrange with external examiners.
14. We thank God for Chuck and Karen Tessaro and their 17 years of missionary service with Lutheran Bible Translators and pray for their ongoing ministry in Nigeria.
15. Pray for wisdom as LBT administration plans financially for 2021.
16. Pray that God would give the sending churches of LBT missionaries joy in their partnership in the Gospel and a greater understanding for how they can come alongside their missionary to support them body, mind, and spirit.
17. Praise God for the creativity and passion that David Snyder has to promote Bible translation and gain support for future work.
18. Pray for missionary kids as they build relationships with peers and share Christ's love in word and deed.
19. Pray for strong community partnerships within LBT language programs.
20. Pray for the millions of people around the world waiting to hear the good news of Christ in a language they can understand.
21. Pray that LBT's missionary kids will be rooted and grounded in Christ and know how much He loves them.
22. Pray that God would give the friends and relatives of missionaries comfort for life events that they do not get to share together in person, understanding of the call to serve overseas, and guidance for ways to connect with their missionary.
23. Pray that LBT's Board of Directors will have fruitful discussions and informed decision making as they meet together later this week.
24. Pray for plans being made for Chris Pluger to visit Mekane Yesus Seminary this fall.
25. Pray for Rev. Tilahun Menedo as he preaches at Hop Bottom Pennsylvania this weekend. Pray for safe travels and good connections.
26. Praise God for Caleb Rodewald, whose behind the scenes work consistently communicates the mission and vision of LBT to others.
27. Pray that the congregations participating in Bible Translation Sunday will have a better understanding of the effects of living "Without the Book".
28. Pray that Gideon Grulke will grow in his relationships with extended family during his time in the U.S.
29. Pray that Isaac Grulke will enjoy his time with extended family and these relationships will become stronger.
30. Pray for a greater understanding for those who support the work that LBT does so they can advocate well and pray diligently as the Spirit leads.

BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Sept. 1	<i>Job 40:1-42:17</i> <i>2 Corinthians 5:11-21</i> <i>Psalms 45:1-17</i> <i>Proverbs 22:14</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 11:16-33</i> <i>Psalms 54:1-7</i> <i>Proverbs 23:1-3</i>
Sept. 2:	<i>Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22</i> <i>2 Corinthians 6:1-13</i> <i>Psalms 46:1-11</i> <i>Proverbs 22:15</i>	Sept. 11: <i>Isaiah 8:1-9:21</i> <i>2 Corinthians 12:1-10</i> <i>Psalms 55:1-23</i> <i>Proverbs 23:4-5</i>
Sept. 3:	<i>Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12</i> <i>2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7</i> <i>Psalms 47:1-9</i> <i>Proverbs 22:16</i>	Sept. 12: <i>Isaiah 10:1-11:16</i> <i>2 Corinthians 12:11-21</i> <i>Psalms 56:1-13</i> <i>Proverbs 23:6-8</i>
Sept. 4:	<i>Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18</i> <i>2 Corinthians 7:8-16</i> <i>Psalms 48:1-14</i> <i>Proverbs 22:17-19</i>	Sept. 13: <i>Isaiah 12:1-14:32</i> <i>2 Corinthians 13:1-14</i> <i>Psalms 57:1-11</i> <i>Proverbs 23:9-11</i>
Sept. 5:	<i>Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14</i> <i>2 Corinthians 8:1-15</i> <i>Psalms 49:1-20</i> <i>Proverbs 22:20-21</i>	Sept. 14: <i>Isaiah 15:1-18:7</i> <i>Galatians 1:1-24</i> <i>Psalms 58:1-11</i> <i>Proverbs 23:12</i>
Sept. 6:	<i>Song of Songs 1:1-4:16</i> <i>2 Corinthians 8:16-24</i> <i>Psalms 50:1-23</i> <i>Proverbs 22:22-23</i>	Sept. 15: <i>Isaiah 19:1-21:17</i> <i>Galatians 2:1-16</i> <i>Psalms 59:1-17</i> <i>Proverbs 23:13-14</i>
Sept. 7:	<i>Song of Songs 5:1-8:14</i> <i>2 Corinthians 9:1-15</i> <i>Psalms 51:1-19</i> <i>Proverbs 22:24-25</i>	Sept. 16: <i>Isaiah 22:1-24:23</i> <i>Galatians 2:17-3:9</i> <i>Psalms 60:1-12</i> <i>Proverbs 23:15-16</i>
Sept. 8:	<i>Isaiah 1:1-2:22</i> <i>2 Corinthians 10:1-18</i> <i>Psalms 52:1-9</i> <i>Proverbs 22:26-27</i>	Sept. 17: <i>Isaiah 25:1-28:13</i> <i>Galatians 3:10-22</i> <i>Psalms 61:1-8</i> <i>Proverbs 23:17-18</i>
Sept. 9:	<i>Isaiah 3:1-5:30</i> <i>2 Corinthians 11:1-15</i> <i>Psalms 53:1-6</i> <i>Proverbs 22:28-29</i>	Sept. 18: <i>Isaiah 28:14-30:11</i> <i>Galatians 3:23-4:31</i> <i>Psalms 62:1-12</i> <i>Proverbs 23:19-21</i>
Sept. 10:	<i>Isaiah 6:1-7:25</i>	

Bible Readings continued:

Sept. 19: *Isaiah 30:12-33:12*
Galatians 5:1-12
Psalms 63:1-11
Proverbs 23:22

Sept. 28: *Isaiah 54:1-57:13*
Ephesians 6:1-24
Psalms 70:1-5
Proverbs 24:8

Sept. 20: *Isaiah 33:13-36:22*
Galatians 5:13-26
Psalms 64:1-10
Proverbs 23:23

Sept. 29: *Isaiah 57:14-59:21*
Philippians 1:1-26
Psalms 71:1-24
Proverbs 24:9-10

Sept. 21: *Isaiah 37:1-38:22*
Galatians 6:1-18
Psalms 65:1-13
Proverbs 23:24

Sept. 30: *Isaiah 60:1-62:5*
Philippians 1:27-2:18
Psalms 72:1-20
Proverbs 24:1

Sept. 22: *Isaiah 39:1-41:16*
Ephesians 1:1-23
Psalms 66:1-2
Proverbs 23:25-28

Sept. 23: *Isaiah 41:17-43:13*
Ephesians 2:1-22
Psalms 67:1-7
Proverbs 23:29-35

Sept. 24: *Isaiah 43:14-45:10*
Ephesians 3:1-21
Psalms 68:1-18
Proverbs 24:1-2

Sept. 25: *Isaiah 45:11-48:11*
Ephesians 4:1-16
Psalms 68:19-35
Proverbs 24:3-4

Sept 26: *Isaiah 48:12-50:11*
Ephesians 4:17-32
Psalms 69:1-18
Proverbs 24:5-6

Sept. 27: *Isaiah 51:1-53:12*
Ephesians 5:1-33
Psalms 69:19-36
Proverbs 24:7

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH - SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 7:30 p.m. Zoom Bible Study	4	5
6 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Noon: Bible Study	7 LABOR DAY	8	9	10 7:30 p.m. Zoom Bible Study	11	12
13 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:45-9:45 a.m. First Day of SundaySchool Adult Bible Study	14	15	16	17 7:30 p.m. Zoom Bible Study	18	19 5:30 p.m. ANNUAL CIGAR NIGHT
20 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	21	22	23	24 7:30 p.m. Zoom Bible Study	25	26
27 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	28	29	30			