

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

***PARISHSCOPE
MAY 2021***



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Pastor's Ponderings

In our Sunday morning Bible class we have been studying the Psalms of the Bible. What a blessing they are! In them is found much comfort and peace. But, they also proclaim at times strong and very unsettling words; and this is especially so when they speak of our sins.

Consider these words from Psalm 7: *"God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day."* (verse 11) These words should make us all pause. More than that, they should make us very uncomfortable! This is especially so when you realize that God isn't looking beyond you at others; nor is He unaware of your sins. *"The Lord judges the peoples"* the Psalm tells us (verse 8), and, *"You test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!"* (verse 9). He sees and knows us, and our sins, completely!

What can we do? It is interesting to compare Bible translations, for they show that even translators try to worm their way out of being under God's righteous judgment. The King James version translates Ps. 7:11 this way: *"God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day."* It adds the words, "with the wicked," which are not in the Hebrew text, and by so doing enables the person who feels good about himself and his actions to distance himself from God's judgment. "Oh, it's those wicked people who will be judged!" The Good News Bible, a modern paraphrase, puts it this way: *"God is a righteous judge and always condemns the wicked."* It also adds words that aren't in the Hebrew, and so slants the meaning of the verse. A person reading this could think: "I'm ok, as I'm not wicked!" Then, there's the Reader's Digest Bible. The Reader's Digest editors, who are known for condensing books to make them more accessible to people and easier to read, handled the issue by leaving Psalm 7 completely out of their condensed version of the Bible. So much for having to wrestle with the Bible's difficult and uncomfortable teachings!

So, what should you do with the words of Psalm 7:11, *"God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day"*? Begin by taking them seriously. God doesn't overlook any sins, not even the sins of those who believe in Him. If He did that, He would not be an impartial and righteous Judge but a partial Judge. And so, Psalm 7:11 tells us that God sees and knows our sins. Not only that, it warns us that He is angered by them. In fact, He *"feels indignation every day."* How terrible! So, don't try to dodge the truth by thinking that God is not speaking to you, or thinking that you don't have sins which He will judge. We all do! And, we always will.

But then, you must keep on reading. The Psalm goes on to say, *"If a man does not repent, God will whet His sword; He has bent and readied His bow."* There is a way out: repentance. If you do not repent you will be punished by God. But, if you repent – confess your sinfulness (even if you do not know of any particular wrongs you have done) and look to Jesus alone for forgiveness – then God will not punish you. In fact, not only will your sins be set aside; God will not count them against you or even remember them! Psalm 32:1-2, which was written by David, the author of Psalm 7, promises: *"Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity."*

Does this mean there will be no consequences for you? Not necessarily. As a good Father, God does discipline us, His children. You may suffer problems and hardships because of your sins. When you do, remember this encouragement of God: *"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."* (Prov.3:11-12)

Also remember and rejoice in this: God has given us a place of repentance, a place where His forgiveness can be found and received: His house. *"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in their midst,"* our Lord Jesus promises (Matt. 18:20). Jesus bore our sins and endured their ultimate punishment in our place. *"Father, forgive them,"* He prayed as He was being nailed to the cross, thereby proclaiming His death to be our forgiveness. He now comes among us in church to give us the peace of His forgiveness. He speaks it to us in the absolution after we confess our sins; He proclaims it in the words of Holy Scripture that are read; and, He blesses our bodies, and not just our minds and hearts, with His body and blood in Holy Communion, the meal of forgiveness. And so, our gracious Lord lavishes His forgiveness upon us, and *"remembers our sins no more"* (Jer. 31:34).

Thanks be to God, who in Jesus is a righteous Savior who forgives our sins day after day!

In Christ Jesus, our Lord,

Pastor



BIBLE STUDIES

On Sunday mornings we are studying the book of Psalms. The study begins at 8:45 and meets both in the church and on zoom. Pastor sends out the zoom link every week, and the same link is used for the live-streaming of the Divine Service afterward. If you are not receiving this, it is because Pastor does not have your email address! Send it to him at stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com.

On Thursday's at 7:30 PM there is an online Bible study that focuses on the Scripture readings in church for the coming Sunday. Again, Pastor sends out the zoom link for this every week. This study is not only very helpful in preparing you for worship; it is also helpful for Pastor as he prepares his sermon every week.

Just think: if it wasn't for Christ's followers sharing the news of His life, death, and resurrection... and for His apostles and evangelists later writing down the news of all He had said and done, and it's meaning for us... we would never know! Come and join in the study of God's wonderful Word. It was written for you!

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, sending 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 @p2helps.org](http://p2helps.org).

A NOTICE TO THE CONGREGATION:

NED District President Yeadon recently suffered a serious medical issue requiring an extended hospitalization. His recovery will take some time. Pastor Beinke, as the 1st Vice-President of the District, is now the acting District President in his place. How long he will be so is uncertain at this time. His responsibilities may require him to be away from the church from time to time. Please be understanding of this, and above all, keep President Yeadon, Pastor Beinke, and the District in your prayers regularly.

CHANCEL SCHEDULE

<u>April 19 thru May 2</u>	L. Beinke, G. Wash
<u>May 3 - 16</u>	Ena and John Meek
<u>May 17 - 30</u> (Pentecost May 23, Trinity Sunday May 30)	N. Sayler, J. Soos
<u>May 31 thru June 13</u>	Kathy and Tom Collins

USHERS

<u>May 2</u>	S. Yuen
<u>May 9</u>	I. MacKenzie
<u>May 16</u>	O. Brown
<u>May 23</u>	J. Orban
<u>May 30</u>	D. Cakavell

If you have any questions concerning the picnic or would like to volunteer to help with set-up or clean-up, contact Fay Sobottka at faysobottka42@gmail.com or Lillian Krause at lilkra2010@hotmail.com.

Please mark your calendars. We hope to see you there!

COUNTERS

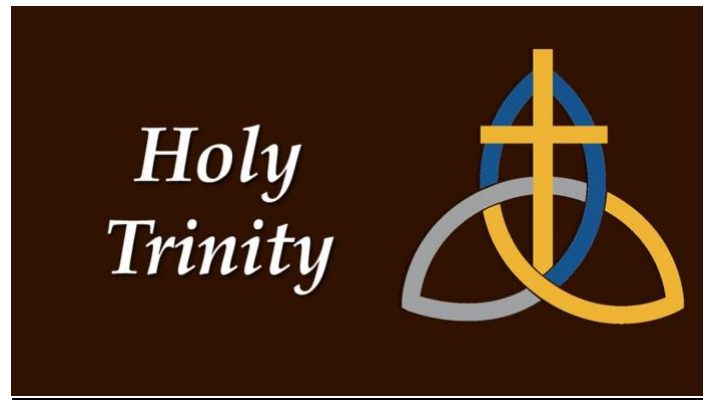
- May 2** C. Douthwaite, J. Orban
- May 9** S. Yuen, C. Douthwaite
- May 16** S. Yuen, J. Orban
- May 23** I. MacKenzie, E. Meek
- May 30** I. MacKenzie, E. Meek

SUMMER PICNIC

It's time to get together for fun and fellowship. Join us here on the church grounds on Sunday, June 27, at 11:30 am.

Invite friends and family. Games will be socially distant. Food will be catered for safety. The catered menu is as follows:

- Fried Chicken*
- Baby Back Ribs*
- Potato and Pasta Salads*
- Green Salad*
- Desserts*
- Beer, Wine, Soda, Water*



BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY 2021

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| May 1: Judges 13:1-14:20
John 1:29-51
Psalm 102:1-28
Proverbs 14:15-16 | Psalm 104:1-23
Proverbs 14:20-21 | May 6: Ruth 2:1-4:22
John 4:43-54
Psalm 105:16-36
Proverbs 14:26-27 |
| May 2: Judges 15:1-16:31
John 2:1-25
Psalm 103:1-22
Proverbs 14:17-19 | May 4: Judges 19:1-20:48
John 3:22-4:3
Psalm 104:24-35
Proverbs 14:22-24 | May 7: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21
John 5:1-23
Psalm 105:37-45
Proverbs 14:28-29 |
| May 3: Judges 17:1-18:31
John 3:1-21 | May 5: Judges 21:1-Ruth 1:22
John 4:4-42
Psalm 105:1-15
Proverbs 14:25 | May 8: 1 Samuel 2:22-4:22 |

John 5:24-47 Psalm 106:1-12 Proverbs 14:30-31	Psalm 116:1-19 Proverbs 15:20-21	Proverbs 16:10-11
May 9: 1 Samuel 5:1-7:17 John 6:1-21 Psalm 106:13-31 Proverbs 14:32-33	May 20: 1 Samuel 26:1-28:25 John 11:1-53 Psalm 117:1-2 Proverbs 15:22-23	May 31: 2 Samuel 17:1-29 John 19:23-42 Psalm 119:129-152 Proverbs 16:12-13
May 10: 1 Samuel 8:1-9:27 John 6:22-42 Psalm 106:32-48 Proverbs 14:34-35	May 21: 1 Samuel 29:1-31:13 John 11:54-12:19 Psalm 118:1-18 Proverbs 15:24-26	
May 11: 1 Samuel 10:1-11:15 John 6:43-71 Psalm 107:1-43 Proverbs 15:1-3	May 22: 2 Samuel 1:1-2:11 John 12:20-50 Psalm 118:19-29 Proverbs 15:27-28	
May 12: 1 Samuel 12:1-13:22 John 7:1-29 Psalm 108:1-13 Proverbs 15:4	May 23: 2 Samuel 2:12-3:39 John 13:1-30 Psalm 119:1-16 Proverbs 15:29-30	
May 13: 1 Samuel 13:23-14:52 John 7:30-53 Psalm 109:1-31 Proverbs 15:5-7	May 24: 2 Samuel 4:1-6:23 John 13:31-14:14 Psalm 119:17-32 Proverbs 15:31-32	
May 14: 1 Samuel 15:1-16:23 John 8:1-20 Psalm 110:1-7 Proverbs 15:8-10	May 25: 2 Samuel 7:1-8:18 John 14:15-31 Psalm 119:33-48 Proverbs 15:33	
May 15: 1 Samuel 17:1-18:4 John 8:21-30 Psalm 111:1-10 Proverbs 15:11	May 26: 2 Samuel 9:1-11:27 John 15:1-27 Psalm 119:49-64 Proverbs 16:1-3	
May 16: 1 Samuel 18:5-19:24 John 8:31-59 Psalm 112:1-10 Proverbs 15:12-14	May 27: 2 Samuel 12:1-31 John 16:1-33 Psalm 119:65-80 Proverbs 16:4-5	
May 17: 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15 John 9:1-41 Psalm 113:1-114:8 Proverbs 15:15-17	May 28: 2 Samuel 13:1-39 John 17:1-26 Psalm 119:81-96 Proverbs 16:6-7	
May 18: 1 Samuel 22:1-23:29 John 10:1-21 Psalm 115:1-18 Proverbs 15:18-19	May 29: 2 Samuel 14:1-15:22 John 18:1-24 Psalm 119:97-112 Proverbs 16:8-9	
May 19: 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44 John 10:22-42	May 30: 2 Samuel 15:23-16:23 John 18:25-19:22 Psalm 119:113-128	

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH - MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am Worship Service</p> <p>8:45 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p>	3	4	5	6	7	8
				<p>Zoom Bible Study 7:30 pm</p>		
<p>9</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am Worship Service</p> <p>8:45 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p>	10	11	12	13	14	15
			<p>11:00 am NPD Memorial Ceremony at Police Headquarters</p>	<p>Zoom Bible Study 7:30 pm</p>		
<p>16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am Worship Service</p> <p>8:45 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p>	17	18	19	20	21	22
				<p>Zoom Bible Study 7:30 pm</p>		
<p>23</p> <p>The Day of Pentecost</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am Worship Service</p> <p>8:45 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p>	24	25	26	27	28	29
				<p>Zoom Bible Study 7:30 pm</p>		
<p>30</p> <p>Holy Trinity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am Worship Service</p> <p>8:45 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</p>	31					
						

