

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



# ***PARISHSCOPE SEPTEMBER 2021***



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



## Pastor's Ponderings

A regular resource I use for my daily devotions is a book our Synod put out in 2008 entitled *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. After each day's readings from the Old and New Testaments, it includes a writing from a church leader. Some are Lutheran, some are not; some are from centuries ago, and some are much more recent.

Back in June a reading from Pius Parsch, an Austrian pastor from after World War I until his death in 1954, was included. Pastor Parsch was known for opening the treasures of the liturgy and the Bible to his people. Here is what he had to say in the June 15 *Treasury of Daily Prayer*:

The Sundays during the Pentecost cycle develop three great themes. The first is Baptism and its graces. We are baptized and grounded in the graces of Baptism. Every Sunday is a reminder of Baptism and a small Easter. The second theme is preparation for the second advent (coming) of the Lord. It is treated in detail in the final Sundays of the season. The remaining theme, the burden of the Sundays midway after Pentecost, may be summarized as the conflict between the two camps. Although we are placed in the kingdom of God, we remain surrounded by the kingdom of the world. Our souls are laboring under Adam's wretched legacy and waver continually to and fro between two allegiances.

By these three great themes the liturgy covers the whole range of Christian life. In Baptism the precious treasure of the Spirit was conferred. Through it we are God's children and may call God Father. Through it we have become temples of the Holy Spirit, heirs and brothers of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Baptism has not translated us to a paradise without toil or trouble. Rather, we are sent out into a troubled world to work and struggle. We must guard the holy land of our souls against hostile attack. We must learn to know and conquer the enemy, and such is the task that will continue until we have taken our final breaths.

The Church serves as both the heroine, who teaches us the art of warfare, and our strong fortress and shield in the conflict. Through Holy Communion, she bestows aid that repeatedly frees the soul from the entanglements of temptation. How does she do this? Courage and strength and perseverance flow from the Word of God in the Service of the Word, and they flow in even fuller measure from Holy Communion. Of ourselves we are helpless creatures, wholly unable to

withstand the attack, but in Holy Communion another battles for us. The Mightier, Christ, vanquishes the mighty. By means of Holy Communion, we are enrolled in our Captain's forces. And thus Christ's battle becomes our battle and His triumph our triumph, and His wondrous strength renders us invincible.

(*Treasury of Daily Prayer*, CPH, St. Louis, MO, 2008, pp. 433-434)

If you would like to get the *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, go to the CPH website – [www.cph.com](http://www.cph.com) – and you can order it.

On another note: many have asked how I am doing with both the responsibilities of the church and as the acting District President. Well, I have my days. This month begins a rather busy stretch, as two weekly Bible studies resume at church and I begin to travel:

- Sept. 7-11: to St. Louis for the Council of Presidents (COP, a quarterly meeting of all the District Presidents with the Synod leadership).
- Oct. 4-6: a New England District Pastors' conference in MA.
- Oct. 20-22: a gathering with East coast DP's in PA.
- Nov. 14-19: back in St. Louis with the COP.

Oh, boy, hotels and planes! At least I get a private hotel room. I may even be able to bring my golf clubs and get in a round on the travel day! So, it's not all bad.

I can say that I have a lot of support from others in our District, as well as from other District Presidents and their office administrators (Linda and I both appreciate this!). Above all, I thank God for all of you, who have been very understanding and encouraging. Thank you for your prayers... your encouragement... and your putting up with my mistakes! It is a joy and privilege to serve you, and I look forward to seeing more of you returning to worship and Bible class.

The Lord bless and direct us as we worship and serve Him!

In Christ Jesus our Lord,  
Pastor

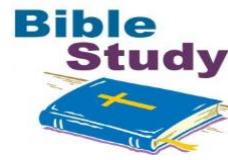


On Sunday, September 5, Nicholas, Christan, & Lucia Eklund and Josiah & Bryce Saladyga will be confirmed. They have each written an essay on a part of the Small Catechism or a teaching of Scripture in preparation for their Confirmation. Although it is a holiday weekend, we will meet in church at 8:45, the normal Bible class time, to listen as each of the kids reads their essay. Please be there to encourage them and be renewed in your own understanding of God's holy Word! The Rite of Confirmation will then take place after the sermon in the Divine Service.

#### Regarding Confirmation

Confirmation is a custom of the church and not a sacrament. It links the catechumens to their Baptism, celebrates the reception of the Lord's Word among them and, in cases where the candidates have not yet communed, welcomes them to the Lord's Table. Martin Luther strongly urged in both his Small and Large Catechisms that those who are unwilling to learn, at the very least, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer should not be admitted to the Sacrament. Baptized Christians are admitted to the Sacrament when they have been examined and absolved by their pastor in accordance with the practice outlined in the Augsburg Confession (Article XXV).

Confirmation declares of a catechumen that he/she is a Christian who has been baptized, confesses the faith, and is in communion with Christ and His Church. The reception of catechumens to the Lord's Table assumes that ongoing catechesis is the way of life for the faithful Christian. This rite emphasizes God's work in Baptism, the gift of faith, and the promises of the Lord's Supper for all who believe in Christ and the words of His testament.



Our Sunday morning (8:45) Bible class will resume on September 12. Where we will meet – in the large room downstairs, or upstairs in the sanctuary – will depend upon the renovation work.

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. NOTE: there will be no class on the 9<sup>th</sup>, as Pastor will be away.

The Thursday morning (10:00) Bible class will resume on September 16. This class meets upstairs, in the room behind the offices.



#### Voters Meeting

We will be meeting after church on September 26. Fay will be providing an update on the downstairs bathroom renovations.



**OUR ANNUAL CIGAR NIGHT** will be on Saturday, September 25, beginning at 5:30 PM. Burgers and dogs, side dishes and dessert, and a cigar will be provided (you're not required to smoke it!). Bring your own beverages. The cost is \$20.00. The event will be outside, in the back of the church. All are welcome! Let Carl Vogt, Gary Melfi, or Pastor know if you are coming.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

On September 12<sup>th</sup> our new members will be installed. Joining our congregation will be:

- Steve & Alyssa Petrie  
Leah  
Kate
- Donna Freeman

Welcome and God's blessings in the name of our Lord.

## **NEW TO ST. PETER'S LIBRARY SUMMER 2021**

The following titles are available to borrow. They are currently located on the library table at the back of the sanctuary.

Authentic Christianity: how Lutheran theology speaks to a postmodern world by Gene Edward Veith and A. Trevor Sutton c2017

Blessed be His name: revealing the sacred names of God by Kevin S. Golden c2021

Broken: 7 Christian rules that every Christian ought to break as often as possible by Jonathan Fisk c2012

Confessions: Saint Augustine translated by Edward Bouverie Pusey c1996

Connected to Christ: why membership matters by Peter Speckhard c2017

Flowing from the cross: six facets of God's forgiveness by Daniel E. Paavola c2020

Heaven on earth: the gifts of Christ in the divine service by Arthur A. Just, Jr. c2008

Living with grief: bound by sorrow, wrapped in comfort by Kristian Kincaid c2020

Luther the reformer: the story of the man and his career by James M. Kittelson c2003

A martyr's faith in a faithless world by Bryan Wolfmuller c2019

Speaking boldly: sharing God's word everyday by Edward O. Grimenstein c2020

Will the real Jesus please stand up? 12 false Christs by Rev. Dr. Matthew Richard c2017

Wonderfully made: a protestant theology of the body by John W. Kleinig c2021

Without flesh: why the church is dying even though Jesus is alive by Jonathan Fisk c2020

### **For children:**

Angel! Angel! What do you see? By Cherie Pless Dittmer c2002

God makes me his child in baptism by Janet Wittenback c2007



### **MISSION OF THE MONTH Lutheran Bible Translators**

Lutheran Bible Translators makes God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

Over 1 billion people worldwide do not have the full Bible in a language that touches them deeply. An estimated 165 million do not have a single verse of Scripture.

We work with either pre-literate or semi-literate peoples. Printed books are not a part of their life. It takes creative and intentional effort to help individuals, families, and even congregations read, hear and interact with Scripture within their daily activities

Lutheran Bible Translators is a non-profit religious organization. Their website address is lbt.org. Contact them at P.O. Box 789, 205 S. Main Street, Bldg. 5, Concordia, MO 64020. The phone number is 1-660-225-0810.

## **From the President's Desk**

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and board members. Thank you for your enthusiasm for this critical area of service. The Church Council and the Boards have decided to meet monthly to stay on top of goals and to ensure we take action and get things done.

- President – Fay Sobottka
- Treasurer – Bob Streb
- Board of Elders – Carl Mathis (chair), Rick Castillo, and Ian MacKenzie.
- Board of Deacons and Stewardship – Holly Robaczynski (chair), Karen Shane, JoAnn Shapiro, and Sheena Yuen.
- Board of Christian Ed and Evangelism – Nancy Shandrowski (chair), Lillian Krause, and Judy Soos.
- Board of Property Management – Joe Orban (chair), Tom Collins, John Meek, Barbara O'Connor, and John Shane.

Thank you to Cindy Douthwaite for continuing to serve as Financial Secretary and to the Finance Committee members Kristin Gallagher, Ron Leong, and Roger Sayler.

Our next Congregational Voters Assembly Meeting will be Sunday, September 26. Installation of new officers and board members will also be Sunday, September 26.

## **\* Extreme\*Makeover \*SPLC \***

Construction will begin as soon as the materials and fixtures are delivered and permits approved. Our request for a permit passed zoning and is now under review by another group at Norwalk City Hall. Sharon is working diligently to get the required approvals and permits for our project.

Now that STAR has completely moved out, we need to analyze our current possessions, fixtures, and furniture. Please participate in upcoming meetings

to review these things and determine what we want to sell, donate, or trash.

We also need to evaluate how we use our space – how many classrooms and meeting rooms, should we have a dedicated business office, how much storage space do we need, and how will we use the storage space we currently have. Please participate in upcoming meetings to review and strategize the most effective utilization of our space.

Look for announcements regarding meeting dates starting in September!

## BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

## **BIBLE READINGS Continued**

Sept. 19:	Isaiah 30:12-33:12 Galatians 5:1-12 Psalm 63:1-11 Proverbs 23:22	Sept. 28:	Isaiah 54:1-57:13 Ephesians 6:1-24 Psalm 70:1-5 Proverbs 24:8
Sept. 20:	Isaiah 33:13-36:22 Galatians 5:13-26 Psalm 64:1-10 Proverbs 23:23	Sept. 29:	Isaiah 57:14-59:21 Philippians 1:1-26 Psalm 71:1-24 Proverbs 24:9-10
Sept. 21:	Isaiah 37:1-38:22 Galatians 6:1-18 Psalm 65:1-13 Proverbs 23:24	Sept. 30:	Isaiah 60:1-62:5 Philippians 1:27-2:18 Psalm 72:1-20 Proverbs 24:1
Sept. 22:	Isaiah 39:1-41:16 Ephesians 1:1-23 Psalm 66:1-2 Proverbs 23:25-28		
Sept. 23:	Isaiah 41:17-43:13 Ephesians 2:1-22 Psalm 67:1-7 Proverbs 23:29-35		
Sept. 24:	Isaiah 43:14-45:10 Ephesians 3:1-21 Psalm 68:1-18 Proverbs 24:1-2		
Sept. 25:	Isaiah 45:11-48:11 Ephesians 4:1-16 Psalm 68:19-35 Proverbs 24:3-4		
Sept 26:	Isaiah 48:12-50:11 Ephesians 4:17-32 Psalm 69:1-18 Proverbs 24:5-6		
Sept. 27:	Isaiah 51:1-53:12 Ephesians 5:1-33 Psalm 69:19-36 Proverbs 24:7		

# ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	3	4
5 <b>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</b> 8:45 am Confirmands read essays 10:00 am Worship Service	6 	7 → PASTOR	8 ATTENDING	9 SYNOD MEETING  No Bible Study	10 ST. LOUIS →	11
12 8:45 am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School resumes 10:00 am Worship Service	13	14	15	16 10:00 am Bible Study resumes  7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	17	18
19 8:45 am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	20	21	22 	23 10:00 am Bible Study  7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	24	25 5:30 PM Cigar Night
26 8:45 am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service  VOTER'S MEETING	27 NED Board of Directors Meeting	28	29	30 10:00 am Bible Study  7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study		