

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

PARISHSCOPE

NOVEMBER 2021



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Pastor's Ponderings

This month we continue to hear from Josiah Saladyga, whose confirmation essay was on Holy Baptism – a very fitting focus for this month, for in November in our worship we focus upon God's eternal kingdom in Christ. Josiah wrote:

“Holy Baptism is one of the most important Sacraments in our church and other Christian churches. But what is Holy Baptism? What is a Sacrament? Finally, where did Holy Baptism come from?

A Sacrament is special. People talk about a sacrament as a tradition - it is way more than that. A tradition is something that we make up over time. There are many traditions that we have in our church. Like decorating the tree on the altar for Christmas with everybody every year. It's our church's tradition. But Baptism is a Sacrament. It is something that specifically Jesus himself did in front of many people and told us directly that is something so important that we should do it too.

Did you know that Baptism already existed before Jesus? The Jewish people used Holy Baptism as a sign of repentance and purification before the coming of the Messiah. John the Baptist was in the wilderness for multiple years baptizing people in the river asking them to forgive their sins. When Jesus went to get baptized in the river, things changed. John the Baptist knew who Jesus was and told Jesus that he should be baptizing him not John baptizing Him. But John the Baptist still baptized Jesus in the river. As soon as Jesus was baptized, the skies opened, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, and God said, “This is my Son with whom I am well pleased”.

Normally, we are baptized when we are babies. But in Baptism, we are baptized with water. More importantly, we are baptized with the words of God. Just water doesn't baptize us. We need the promises from God. That Jesus will come for us and wash away all of our sins and give us eternal life. Although since we were a baby we don't know what's going on, God creates faith in us through Him. The beginning of our faith and beliefs is in Jesus Christ. Should we baptize babies though? Yes is the answer. While we are too small to actively participate, Baptism is the very beginning of our faith in Jesus Christ

and should be done. We will never remember that we were baptized, right? “Do I remember when my mom brought me to this church to be baptized?” Of course not. I was way too little for that. But when pastor says “Remember your baptism,” he actually doesn't mean to really remember it. What he actually means is to think about it, what its meaning is, and the blessing that we all have in it. It's not important to remember the day of your baptism, but to remember the gift that we have in life with Jesus Christ.

Baptism is typically the beginning. God expects a lot more from us after being baptized. He expects us to continue learning about our faith, to pray, to help others, and to live Godly lives. When we get old enough after being baptized, we start Sunday school before Church starts, where we learn about Jesus, what he did for us, and how our lives are so different because of it. We start with short stories and pictures and crafts that teach us all about Jesus' birth, his life, his miracles, and most importantly, his death on the cross.

In the last few years, we got older and eventually got old enough to do confirmation classes with Pastor. We learned even more. For example, we learned the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed. In confirmation we learned more about them and what each part means. We went through the whole catechism learning. God expects all of this from us... to keep on learning. Just like anything else in life, learning and practicing is what makes us better and us way better understanding. Kind of like baseball. For me to be good at baseball, I need to practice- I need to spend time doing it. I need to practice swinging, running to get faster, to understand all the plays - and where to throw the ball.

God wants and expects us to do the same. To practice and learn more and more about our faith. To read the bible. To learn all the things that Jesus said and did and why. What he said is important. We need to keep our faith at the very top of our lives at all times. We have an incredible gift in Jesus Christ, and we need to make sure we always remember that.”

Yes, Josiah ... and joyously live this faith!

Pastor

A REQUEST

Not to be a pain, but: my wife is one who has over the years become very sensitive to perfumes, after shave, etc. Often she ends up leaving a Service because she begins coughing after smelling someone's perfume or after shave. Could you please consider not wearing any to church on Sunday? My wife and I both thank you.
Pastor

THANKSGIVING will be celebrated in church on Sunday, November 28, with a festive Service of thanksgiving and praise.

MISSION OF THE MONTH **NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT** **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

This month we get an early jump on Christmas, as we are working with the Norwalk Police Department to help needy children in Norwalk. Every year Police officers from the Community Policing Division (members of which are assigned to specific housing developments in Norwalk and so get to know the people) invite needy families to a Christmas party. During the party presents are distributed to children between the ages of 2 years to 12 years. This year the party will be on Dec. 11. You can help by bringing a gift (unwrapped) to the church by the end of November. Pastor will arrange for officers to come and pick them up at the end of the month. Also, any money that is contributed for the Mission of the Month will be totaled and a check will be given to the NPD for the purchase of gift cards and gifts. Please have all gifts and contributions in by the last Sunday of the month, November 28. Thanks for your support!

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Our annual Fall Yard Clean-up Day has been scheduled. Your help is needed on **Saturday, November 20th** starting at 9:00 AM. Please come and join us in making our church grounds look inviting - especially for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Many hands make light work. Rain date will be November 27th.

SET CLOCKS BACK

On Saturday night, **November 6th**, Daylight Savings Time comes to an end. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour.

* RENOVATION *

Demolition is mostly complete, and reconstruction will begin soon. Some unanticipated plumbing and structural issues were encountered during demolition which will result in two changes:

- Floor plan is slightly altered
- Additional fee for extra work

Notice that the bathrooms are a bit longer – the doors are repositioned slightly; this is to accommodate a structural support. Also notice the fixtures are all on the back wall.

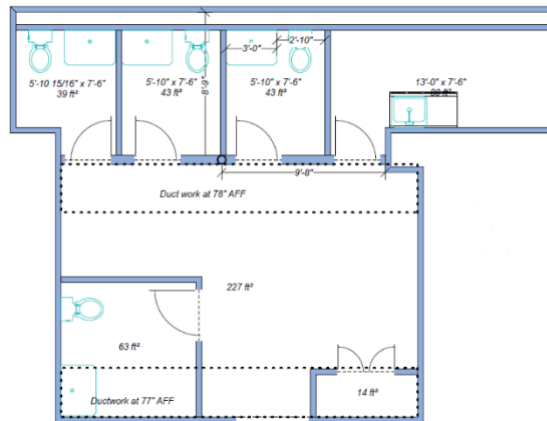
The floors of each bathroom will be a medium grey tile, and the walls will have white subway tile halfway up the wall.

The area in front of the bathrooms as well as the entire downstairs will be a vinyl flooring of a shade called Driftwood. We will request your approval at the next Voters' meeting for the cost to replace the entire downstairs flooring – remove the stained carpet and replace with Driftwood vinyl flooring. The new flooring will be easy to maintain with a wet mop and much more difficult to stain or damage. Please plan to attend the next Voters' meeting and express your support in the vote!

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!



CHANCEL SCHEDULE

Nov. 1 - 14 N. Sayler, J. Soos
Nov. 15 - 28 K. Collins, T. Collins
Nov. 29 – Dec. 12 L. Beinke, G. Wash

COUNTERS SCHEDULE

Nov. 7 S. Yuen, J. Orban
Nov. 14 S. Yuen, C. Douthwaite
Nov. 21 I. MacKenzie, J. Orban
Nov. 28 C. Douthwaite, E. Meek

USHERS SCHEDULE

Nov. 7 S. Yuen, I. MacKenzie, J. Soos
Nov. 14 D. Cakavell, C. Mathis, J. Orban
Nov. 21 O. Brown, S. Sabol, S. Yuen
Nov. 28 I. MacKenzie, J. Soos, D. Cakavell

VOTER'S MEETING

Our congregational meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 5**, immediately following the Divine Service.



BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 1: Ezekiel 1:1—3:15 Hebrews 3:1-19 Psalm 104:1-23 Proverbs 26:24-26	Nov. 11: Ezekiel 23:1-49 Hebrews 10:18-39 Psalm 109:1-31 Proverbs 27:13	Nov. 21: Ezekiel 42:1-43:27 James 5:1-20 Psalm 119:1-16 Proverbs 28:6-7
Nov. 2: Ezekiel 3:16—6:14 Hebrews 4:1-16 Psalm 104:24-35 Proverbs 26:27	Nov. 12: Ezekiel 24:1-26:21 Hebrews 11:1-16 Psalm 110:1-7 Proverbs 27:14	Nov. 22: Ezekiel 44:1-45:12 1 Peter 1:1-12 Psalm 119:17-32 Proverbs 28:8-10
Nov. 3: Ezekiel 7:1—9:11 Hebrews 5:1-14 Psalm 105:1-15 Proverbs 26:28	Nov. 13: Ezekiel 27:1-28:26 Hebrews 11:17-31 Psalm 111:1-10 Proverbs 27:15-16	Nov. 23: Ezekiel 45:13-46:24 1 Peter 1:13-2:10 Psalm 119:33-48 Proverbs 28:11
Nov. 4: Ezekiel 10:1—11:25 Hebrews 6:1-20 Psalm 105:16-36 Proverbs 27:1-2	Nov. 14: Ezekiel 29:1-30:26 Hebrews 11:32-12:13 Psalm 112:1-10 Proverbs 27:17	Nov. 24: Ezekiel 47:1-48:35 1 Peter 2:11-3:7 Psalm 119:49-64 Proverbs 28:12-13
Nov. 5: Ezekiel 12:1—14:11 Hebrews 7:1-17 Psalm 105:37-45 Proverbs 27:3	Nov. 15: Ezekiel 31:1-32:32 Hebrews 12:14-29 Psalm 113:1-114:8 Proverbs 27:18-20	Nov. 25: Daniel 1:1-2:23 1 Peter 3:8-4:6 Psalm 119:65-80 Proverbs 28:14
Nov. 6: Ezekiel 14:12—16:42 Hebrews 7:18-28 Psalm 106:1-12 Proverbs 27:4-6	Nov. 16: Ezekiel 33:1-34:31 Hebrews 13:1-25 Psalm 115:1-18 Proverbs 27:21-22	Nov. 26: Daniel 2:24-3:30 1 Peter 4:7-5:14 Psalm 119:81-96 Proverbs 28:15-16
Nov. 7: Ezekiel 16:43—17:24 Hebrews 8:1-13 Psalm 106:13-31 Proverbs 27:7-9	Nov. 17: Ezekiel 35:1-36:38 James 1:1-18 Psalm 116:1-19 Proverbs 27:23-27	Nov. 27: Daniel 4:1-37 2 Peter 1:1-21 Psalm 119:97-112 Proverbs 28:17-18
Nov. 8: Ezekiel 18:1—19:14 Hebrews 9:1-10 Psalm 106:32-48 Proverbs 27:10	Nov. 18: Ezekiel 37:1-38:23 James 1:19-2:17 Psalm 117:1-2 Proverbs 28:1	Nov. 28: Daniel 5:1-31 2 Peter 2:1-22 Psalm 119:113-128 Proverbs 28:19-20
Nov. 9: Ezekiel 20:1-49 Hebrews 9:11-28 Psalm 107:1-43 Proverbs 27:11	Nov. 19: Ezekiel 39:1-40:27 James 2:18-3:18 Psalm 118:1-18 Proverbs 28:2	Nov. 29: Daniel 6:1-28 2 Peter 3:1-18 Psalm 119:129-152 Proverbs 28:21-22
Nov. 10: Ezekiel 21:1—22:31 Hebrews 10:1-17 Psalm 108:1-13 Proverbs 27:12	Nov. 20: Ezekiel 40:28-41:26 James 4:1-17 Psalm 118:19-29 Proverbs 28:3-5	Nov. 30: Daniel 7:1-28 1 John 1:1-10 Psalm 119:153-176 Proverbs 28:23-24

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	5 4:00 pm Confirmation	6
7 ALL SAINTS' DAY 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	8	9	10	11 10:00 am Bible Study  7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	12 4:00 pm Confirmation	13
14 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	15 Pastor at C.O.P. Meeting, St. Louis	16 Pastor at C.O.P. Meeting, St. Louis	17 Pastor at C.O.P. Meeting, St. Louis	18 Pastor at C.O.P. Meeting, St. Louis	19 4:00 pm Confirmation	20 9:00 a.m. Fall Clean-Up Day 
21 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	29	30				

