

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

PARISHSCOPE
JUNE 2022



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Pastor's Ponderings

This will be a very busy month for me. First up is the ordination of Miguel Barcelos, a graduate from our Ft. Wayne Seminary, at First Lutheran in Boston. This will take place on Saturday, June 4. The next day Lesley Chen, a graduate from our St. Louis Seminary, will be ordained at Wollaston Lutheran in Quincy, MA (a suburb of Boston). I am having Pastor Butler, the 2nd VP of the District, do this ordination. Then comes the District convention, which meets June 9-11 in Springfield, MA. As the current District President, I will be running the convention, so those will be a busy three days. Finally, there is the installation on June 12 of an Intentional Interim Minister at Christ Lutheran in Amston, CT (Pastor Schuett, the 1st VP of the District, will do this), and then the ordination and installation of Anthony Mandile, a graduate from our Ft. Wayne Seminary, as Pastor of St. Paul's in New Hartford, CT. This will be on Saturday, June 25.

As you can see, summer is the time for ordinations and installations for the graduates of our seminaries. It's not only an exciting time; it's a good time to reflect upon the Office of the Ministry.

From the beginning of the Lutheran Church, the Office of the Ministry has been considered of vital importance for God's people. The Augsburg Confession – which was read to Charles V, the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, on June 25, 1530 – laid out the faith and practice of the Lutheran reformers. It says in Art. XIV, on Order in the Church: "Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call." As a further explanation of the reason for this, they stated in the Apology to the Augsburg Confession (1531): "We know that the Church is among those who teach God's Word rightly and administer the Sacraments rightly." Notice the exclusive language: "no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments..."; "who teach God's Word rightly and administer the Sacraments rightly." Why such exclusive language?

Well, consider what Jesus said to His apostles as he sent them out before him to preach and teach: "*Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me.*" (Matt. 10:40) To receive a faithful Pastor's ministry – to listen to and believe his preaching and teaching, and receive the Sacraments as he distributes them – is to receive Jesus, and also God the Father and the Holy Spirit. What an incredible blessing! But also, what an incredible obligation. Pastors are to represent Jesus rightly. To do this they must rightly understand and rightly preach and teach His Word. To enable them to do this, the Lutheran Church from the beginning required of its pastors that they be carefully

instructed and evaluated in approved seminaries of our Church. Then, so that people might rightly receive them and trust them as Christ's representatives, congregations were given the right to call their own pastors. All of this is what lies behind the words, "a rightly ordered call," in the Augsburg Confession. Even more than we need rightly prepared doctors and pharmacists treating us and dispensing medicine, we need rightly prepared pastors bringing the Gospel of Jesus, the medicine of immortality, to us! And, how blessed we are when they do so!

That pastors represent Jesus is a Biblical teaching and a great obligation. It is also a great temptation. Pastors can be tempted to think more highly of themselves than they should and lord it over the people. The people they serve can put their focus on the pastor, and not upon the Lord he represents.

And so, the apostle Paul gives an important corrective in 1 Cor. 3 & 4. The Corinthian people had become divided over Paul and Apollos, who had served them by proclaiming Christ to them. Moved by jealousy, some were saying, "I follow Paul," and others "I follow Apollos." Paul responded with a letter in which he wrote: "*What is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are... God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*" (1 Cor. 3:5-9) You – the congregation, the Church – are God's. So is the pastor who serves you as God's servant. God stands for and with and behind both congregation and pastor! And both are blessed when they see this, and so look to God in Christ and rejoice in Him.

Pray for the new pastors who are coming into our District this month, and their congregations. (Pastor Chen, by the way, will be serving as Associate Pastor at Grace in Nashua, NH, where I will install him on July 17. His ordination is at his home congregation.) Pray also for our District, as our congregations' pastors and lay delegates meet. May our gracious Lord pour out His blessing in Christ upon our District, and upon each of our congregations in New England – to the glory of His name and the eternal blessing of His people!

In Christ Jesus, our Lord,
Pastor

BIBLE STUDIES

Pastor will discuss with the Bible class whether there will be a Bible study on Sunday mornings during the summer. This will be announced and an email sent out.

The Thursday evening bible study that focuses on the Scripture readings will continue every Thursday at 6:30 pm.

SUMMER COFFEES

On June 19 we will be resuming our coffees on the porch after church. A sign-up sheet is available both in the back of the church and by the upper parking lot entrance. Sign up for a Sunday, and stay after church to socialize!

MISSION OF THE MONTH **BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION**

Bridgeport Rescue Mission demonstrates the love of God to hungry, homeless and addicted people throughout coastal Fairfield County, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Through God's grace and the generosity of our donors, we provide nourishing meals, safe and clean shelter, addiction recovery programs, as well as clothing, groceries, and job-skills training, to those grappling with real-life challenges. We provide a place of hope and dignity, fighting poverty from the inside out.

We are funded by compassionate individuals, churches, businesses, foundations and civic organizations. Your selfless gifts allow us to be a place where the message of God's love and grace is at the heart of each meal set before a hungry child....each bed we prepare for a weary man or woman....and each act of guidance we offer to those struggling with addiction and longing to leave their pasts behind.

We thank God for your partnership and pray for your continued support. Checks may be made out to St. Peter Lutheran Church marked for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

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DO YOUR PART

Just as we do at home when costs rise and our paychecks don't keep up, we must endeavor to be more conscientious about costs at SPLC.

- Heat will be set at 67 – bring a sweater if you are likely to be cold.
- Air Conditioning will be set at 71 – and we will open the windows on days where this is possible.
- Lights OFF! We are blessed with large windows that let in a lot of natural light – let's keep the lights off and enjoy God's free light.
- Flip the switch to off when you leave the room – if a room is empty, we don't need to keep the lights on. This includes hallways.

Together we can ensure that we are not spending extra money on electricity, gas, and water especially as costs continue to rise.

PARKING

Although only 2 spaces are officially marked as "handicap" parking, on Sundays please be considerate of the members needing to avoid stairs and long walks and reserve all upper parking lot spaces for all those who need them.

If God has blessed you with better mobility, park in the lower lot and enjoy the walk!



GET CONNECTED

Election of Officers and Board Members will take place at the June 12 Congregational Voters Assembly Meeting following the 10:00 AM Divine Service.

If you would like to join one of the boards, please call or email your Congregational President – FaySobottka42@gmail.com

We need at least one more member on three of the boards.

- Elders
- Evangelism & Christian Ed
- Stewardship & Deacons
- Property

SUMMER PICNIC

On June 12th after the Voter's meeting, stay for our summer picnic. The meat will be provided. Side dishes and desserts are potluck. Sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board and indicate the number of people in your family planning to attend. You may invite friends and family. All are welcome.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the grilling, please contact Gary Melfi.

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.

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

LET'S BE SOCIAL

Now that we have a beautiful space for social events, let's plan some! Please email suggestions for fellowship or social events you are interested in. Don't worry, you won't automatically be expected to coordinate it – although if you want to, that would be great.

Your Boards of Evangelism & Christian Ed and Stewardship & Deacons are looking for ways to bring our church family together. Make your suggestion to any board member or email your Council President – FaySobottka42@gmail.com

May 23 thru June 5 L. Beinke, G. Wash
(Pentecost June 5)

June 6 thru June 19 E. Meek, J. Meek
(Holy Trinity June 12)

June 20 thru July 3 N. Saylor, J. Soos

USHERS

June 5 B. Streb, D. Cakavell, W. Palmisano

June 12 C. Mathis, J. Soos

June 19 I. MacKenzie, S. Yuen

June 26 T. Collins, O. Brown, S. Sabol

COUNTERS

June 5 C. Douthwaite, J. Orban

June 12 S. Yuen, C. Douthwaite

June 19 I. MacKenzie, J. Orban

June 26 I. MacKenzie, E. Meek

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

June 5 C. Mathis

June 12 B. Streb

June 19 T. Collins

June 26 I. MacKenzie

CHANCEL SCHEDULE

New To St. Peter's Library Summer 2022

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

Connected to Christ: Witnessing in Everyday Life by Mark A Wood. CPH 2021. "Provides a Lutheran understanding of a Gospel motivation for sharing God's Work in daily life as well as practical advice for how to do so."

Eternal Anthems: The Story Behind Your Favorite Hymns. Various authors. CPH 2022. A compilation of the lyrics of about 50 hymns with a short history of each hymn including *A Mighty Fortress is Our God, Children of the Heavenly Father, Now Thank We All our God, We Praise You and Acknowledge You O God, Go My Children with My Blessing.*

The Holy Land: 123 Colored Facsimile Lithographs and the Journal from his visit to the Holy Land by David Roberts. Reprinted 2004. In the years 1842-1849 David Roberts memorialized his trip to the Holy Land with this collection of beautiful lithographs of sites in Jerusalem, Galilee and Lebanon, Judea and Jordan River, Samaria and Idumea and the Desert. Includes photos and commentary about the sites today.

Is Atheism Dead? By Eric Metaxas, Salem Books 2021. The author challenges the ideas of

June 1: 2 Samuel 18:1-19:10
John 20:1-31
Psalm 119:153-176
Proverbs 16:14-15

Proverbs 16:24
June 7: 1 Kings 2:1-3:3
Acts 5:1-42
Psalm 125:1-5
Proverbs 16:25

June 2: 2 Samuel 19:11-20:13
John 21:1-25
Psalm 120:1-7
Proverbs 16:16-17

June 8: 1 Kings 3:4-4:34
Acts 6:1-15
Psalm 126:1-6
Proverbs 16:26-27

June 3: 2 Samuel 20:14-22:20
Acts 1:1-26
Psalm 121:1-8
Proverbs 16:18

June 9: 1 Kings 5:1-6:38
Acts 7:1-29
Psalm 127:1-5
Proverbs 16:28-30

June 4: 2 Samuel 22:21-23:23
Acts 2:1-47
Psalm 122:1-9
Proverbs 16:19-20

June 10: 1 Kings 7:1-51
Acts 7:30-50
Psalm 128:1-6
Proverbs 16:31-33

June 5: 2 Samuel 23:24-24:25
Acts 3:1-26
Psalm 123:1-4
Proverbs 16:21-23

June 6: 1 Kings 1:1-53
Acts 4:1-37
Psalm 124:1-8

the New Atheists with evidence from the fields of archaeology, nanoscience and quantum physics that support the creation account in Genesis, and he relates stories of some of the best scientists of the last century whose scholarship eventually led them to faith.

Reading Romans with Luther by R.J. Grunewald. CPH 2017. Offers highlights from Luther's commentary and explains how these themes are relevant to our lives today.

Return of the God Hypothesis: Three Scientific Discoveries that Reveal the Mind Behind the Universe by Stephen C. Meyer, Harper Collins 2021. Meyer demonstrates how discoveries in cosmology, physics, and biology support not just the existence of an intelligent designer of some kind but the existence of a personal God.

For children:

The library has a set of Arch Books, the Bible story series for children, available for borrowing. Each booklet presents a complete Bible story for children ages 5-9. A selection is on the library table at the back the sanctuary and many more in the library downstairs.

BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE 2022

June 11: 1 Kings 8:1-66
Acts 7:51-8:13
Psalm 129:1-8
Proverbs 17:1

June 12: 1 Kings 9:1-10:29
Acts 8:14-40
Psalm 130:1-8
Proverbs 17:2-3

June 13: 1 Kings 11:1-12:19
Acts 9:1-25
Psalm 131:1-3
Proverbs 17:4-5

June 14: 1 Kings 12:20-13:34
Acts 9:26-43
Psalm 132:1-18
Proverbs 17:6

June 15: 1 Kings 14:1-15:24
Acts 10:1-23a
Psalm 133:1-3
Proverbs 17:7-8

June 16:	1 Kings 15:25-17:24 Acts 10:23b-48 Psalm 134:1-3 Proverbs 17:9-11	Acts 17:1-34 Psalm 144:1-15 Proverbs 17:27-28
June 17:	1 Kings 18:1-46 Acts 11:1-30 Psalm 135:1-21 Proverbs 17:12-13	June 27: 2 Kings 10:32-12:21 Acts 18:1-22 Psalm 145:1-21 Proverbs 18:1
June 18:	1 Kings 19:1-21 Acts 12:1-23 Psalm 136:1-26 Proverbs 17:14-15	June 28: 2 Kings 13:1-14:29 Acts 18:23-19:12 Psalm 146:1-10 Proverbs 18:2-3
June 19:	1 Kings 20:1-21:29 Acts 12:24 - 13:15 Psalm 137:1-9 Proverbs 17:16	June 29: 2 Kings 15:1-16:20 Acts 19:13-41 Psalm 147:1-20 Proverbs 18:4-5
June 20:	1 Kings 22: 1-53 Acts 13:16-41 Psalm 138:1-8 Proverbs 17:17-18	June 30: 2 Kings 17:1-18:12 Acts: 20:1-38 Psalm 148:1-14 Proverbs 18:6
June 21:	2 Kings 1:1 – 2:25 Acts 13:42-14:7 Psalm 139:1-24 Proverbs 17:19-21	
June 22:	2 Kings 3:1-4:17 Acts 14:8-28 Psalm 140:1-13 Proverbs 17:22	
June 23:	2 Kings 4:18-5:27 Acts 15:1-35 Psalm 141:1-10 Proverbs 17:23	
June 24:	2 Kings 6:1-7:20 Acts 15:36-16:15 Psalm 142:1-7 Proverbs 17:24-25	
June 25:	2 Kings 8:1-9:13 Acts 16:16-40 Psalm 143:1-12 Proverbs 17:26	
June 26:	2 Kings 9:14-10:31	

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH - JUNE 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm	3	4
5 10:00 am Worship Service 	6	7	8	9	10 New England District Convention Springfield, MA	
12 10:00 am Worship Service VOTER'S MEETING CHURCH PICNIC 	13	14 	15	16 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm	17	18
19 10:00 am Worship Service 	20	21	22	23 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm	24	25
26 10:00 am Worship Service	27	28	29	30 Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm		