

THE INFORMER



St. Peter Lutheran Church

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May 2019

How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call:
To Live according to Your Word
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.

“Vocation” is simply the word used to describe the life our God has given us to live. We fulfill the vocation of father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, employer, employee, citizen, and, of course, Christian. Our lives are filled with God-ordained vocations which, as we carry out those vocations, contribute to the divine order and operation of this creation.

As God’s chosen children, called into the fellowship of the saved through the waters of Baptism, we are also given the vocation of being a member of our God’s family, the church. Just as in our other vocations, our participation in the church contributes to our God’s divine order for His people.

But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear;
If worldly pressures fray the mind,
And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.

Unfortunately, our own sinful nature would have us ignore the vocations our God has given us. We ignore our God’s call as we allow our sinful selfishness to set the agenda for our lives. We pander to our fallen flesh as we decide to neglect those things our God has given us to do while we chase after the elusive lies of self-gratification. We find ourselves tied in knots and wonder why life seems so chaotic. We ignore our God’s way and become entangled in our own way.

We marvel how Your saints become
In hindrances more sure;
Whose joyful virtues put to shame
The casual way we wear Your name
And by our faults obscure
Your pow’r to cleanse and cure.

We are amazed at the faithfulness of the saints before us as we see their dedication to our God’s call and their faithfulness to serving our heavenly Father’s kingdom. Their single-minded devotion seems foreign to us because we are double-minded: we want our God’s blessings while we want to set the priorities and map out the course of our own lives. Even we as the children of God can become deceived by the lies of this world.

In what You give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to You,
The cross You hung upon-
All You endeavored done.

According to Your mercy, O Lord, turn our hearts away from the self-absorption of this age and grant us Your grace to follow Your call and faithfully live the vocations You have given us. Lord, have mercy!



The Elders' Corner



Each year, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod requests a statistical report from each of its member congregations. Some of the requested information involves church service attendance within the congregation.

Average service attendance is a good indicator of the “real” membership of the church because it reports how many people take part in the fundamental life of the congregation: participation in the Divine Service.

Our average annual service attendance for the past few years has been as follows:

2010 ~ 67	2011 ~ 78	2012 ~ 80
2013 ~ 77	2014 ~ 75	2015 ~ 81
2016 ~ 78	2017 ~ 75	2018 ~ 77

While we have been blessed with new faces throughout these years, our average service attendance has remained relatively unchanged. This indicates that our “real” membership level and our congregation’s commitment to gathering together have also remained relatively unchanged.

In order to better understand the attendance dynamics of our congregation, the Elders have studied the attendance habits of the members of the congregation. The following statistics concerning individual attendance were somewhat surprising. The following is the percentile of services attended for our membership in 2018:

<u>Percentile of Services attended</u>	<u>Percent of members attending</u>
90% or more	1%
80% to 89%	1%
70% to 79%	6%
60% to 69%	9%
50% to 59%	6%
40% to 49%	9%
30% to 39%	7%
20% to 29%	5%
10% to 19%	13%
1% to 9%	22%
0%	21%

The majority of our “members” (56%) attend less than 20% of our services. Only 23% of our members attend over 50% of our services.

These statistics have led your Board of Elders to begin the process of updating our membership rolls. Letters of inquiry have already been sent to those who have not attended any services in 2017 or 2018. Further study and action will follow.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hopefully April showers are over and we can clean the mud off our boots for the last time. Easter was a beautiful day with the warm sun! It felt good after two days of YUCK. Now we have May, a month when the lawns turn green and God wakes up nature from its winter hibernation. It's nice to see the trees starting to bud, the flowers blooming, all this means we made it thru another winter. The birds are starting to make their plans for a family, singing to us every morning. The best part of spring is seeing the snowbirds coming home with their tans and smiling faces, hugs and kisses. (my favorite part)

The day we should never forget is at the end of the month. No it's not Art Vans Greatest Memorial Sale, it's Memorial Day. We should never ever forget those who sacrificed so much for all of us.

KEVIN



The Ladies Aid will not be holding a Rummage Sale this year. If any other group would like to hold the sale there is a few items already in the garage.



Flowers on the Altar for May

May 5	Carol Hofman
May 12	Sharon Easton
May 19	Pastor & Debi Hoerr
May 26	Allyn & Susan Gerds



Coffee & Doughnut Crew for May

May 5	Jean Kettel
May 12	Ray & Marie Maison
May 19	Jim & Renee' Jones
May 26	Jean Kettel



Tables, Chairs, & Tent

If you are interested in barrowing any of these items please check the new calendar on the office door and if available please put your name on the calendar. How many tables and chairs you will be barrowing and if you want one of the tents please put that down also. If you are interested in renting the fellowship hall please see Debbie Labuhn.

Palm Sunday and Easter Morning Breakfast Snapshots



Paul R. Wills *Vice President – Marketing*

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St. Peter's Trusty Trustees

Your Trusty Trustees have been considering the projects needing to be accomplished as good weather begins to settle in around the area. While the congregation considers how best to organize itself for the future, your faithful Trustees continue to maintain our facility and take care of our physical environment!

Please contact one of your Trusty Trustees if you notice our facilities needing maintenance or improvement. The following are our Trustees:

Ken Brockmiller ~ 810-794-7802

Bill Boike ~ 586-907-9650

John Harper ~ 810-794-4109

Charlie Jones ~ 810-335-6759

Dan Stahl ~ 586-321-7113



Choir News

Our St. Peter Choir sharpened its vocal skills throughout the Lenten and Easter commemorations and is now preparing to use those skills during the Pentecost and Trinity festivals.

Our St. Peter Choir practices each Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. If you enjoy singing, don't hesitate to join us!



St. Peter Church Picnic!
Sunday, July 28th
Mark your calendars!!!

More information to follow!

A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~ May

Day	Old Testament	New Testament
1 st	1 Kings 10 & 11	Luke 21:20-38
2 nd	1 Kings 12 & 13	Luke 22:1-20
3 rd	1 Kings 14 & 15	Luke 22:21-46
4 th	1 Kings 16, 17, & 18	Luke 22:47-71
5 th	1 Kings 19 & 20	Luke 23:1-25
6 th	1 Kings 21 & 22	Luke 23: 26-56
7 th	2 Kings 1, 2, & 3	Luke 24:1-35
8 th	2 Kings 4, 5, & 6	Luke 24:36-53
9 th	2 Kings 7, 8, & 9	John 1:1-28
10 th	2 Kings 10, 11, & 12	John 1:29-51
11 th	2 Kings 13 & 14	John 2
12 th	2 Kings 15 & 16	John 3:1-18
13 th	2 Kings 17 & 18	John 3:19-38
14 th	2 Kings 19, 20, & 21	John 4:1-30
15 th	2 Kings 22 & 23	John 4:31-54
16 th	2 Kings 24 & 25	John 5:1-24
17 th	1 Chronicles 1, 2, & 3	John 5:25-47
18 th	1 Chr 4, 5, & 6	John 6:1-21
19 th	1 Chr 7, 8, & 9	John 6:22-44
20 th	1 Chr 10, 11, & 12	John 6:45-71
21 st	1 Chr 13, 14, & 15	John 7:1-27
22 nd	1 Chr 16, 17, & 18	John 7:28-53
23 rd	1 Chr 19, 20, & 21	John 8:1-27
24 th	1 Chr 22, 23, & 24	John 8:28-59
25 th	1 Chr 25, 26, & 27	John 9:1-23
26 th	1 Chr 28 & 29	John 9:24-41
27 th	2 Chronicles 1, 2, & 3	John 10:1-23
28 th	2 Chr 4, 5, & 6	John 10:24-42
29 th	2 Chr 7, 8, & 9	John 11:1-29
30 th	2 Chr 10, 11, & 12	John 11:30-57
31 st	2 Chr 13 & 14	John 12:1-26



LOOKING AHEAD

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

1st Peter 1:13-16

The Holy Spirit, through St. Peter, reminds us that, even as the children of God, we face a danger that lurks and influences us from within. When St. Peter speaks of “the passions of your former ignorance” he is identifying a source of temptation that affects each and every one of us.

But what’s the danger and from where does it come? The danger, is false knowledge, or, as we usually speak of it, the lies we accept as true. Our “former ignorance” is a store house of the deceitfulness of sin and the perceptions or rules-of-thumb about this world, others, and ourselves which influence our decision-making and color how we define what we see.

This danger comes at us through our feelings. Our “passions” or our lusts are simply another way of speaking about what we feel: what we like, what we crave, what pleases us, what titillates us. When we allow our emotions to drive our reasoning we are on the road to destruction for ourselves and for those around us.

This is why the Holy Spirit reminds us to keep alert, our minds prepared for action. That way, we allow the Word of God to conform us into the image of Jesus instead of allowing our emotions to drag us into the quicksand of subjective relativism.

We look around ourselves and see the mess the world is in because of this emotion-based relativity. But our God shines the light of His gracious truth into this world through the lives of His people. He calls the lost to Himself as He clears the lies and establishes His people in the truth. As His people, we are beacons of the truth in this world of lies!