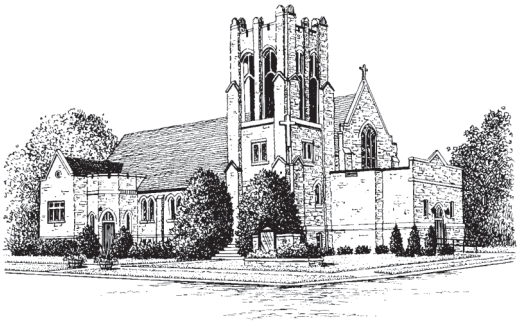
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ST. PETER'S NET JULY 2012

Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain

In case you didn't know, that's the state motto of our neighbor, Iowa. It is a particularly gutsy motto for a state better known for its undemanding landscape than for its politics, but it's a fitting title for this little article.

Last winter, our Synod President, the Rev. Matthew Harrison, testified before a U.S. House subcommittee concerning the controversial Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate about contraception. Coming from a church body which has a reputation for quietism more than activism, Harrison's statement is gutsy. "While we [The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod] are grandfathered under the very narrow provisions of the HHS policy, we are deeply concerned that our consciences may soon be martyred by a few strokes on the keyboard as this administration moves us all into a single-payer system

"While we are opposed in principle, not to all forms of birth control, but only abortion-causing drugs, we stand with our friends in the Catholic Church and all others, Christians and non-Christians, under the free exercise and conscience provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

"Religious people determine what violates their consciences, not the federal government. The conscience is a sacred thing. Our church exists because overzealous governments in northern Europe made decisions which trampled the religious convictions of our forebearers….

"We fought for a free conscience in this country, and we won't give it up without a fight. To paraphrase Martin Luther, the heart and conscience has room only for God, not for God and the federal government. The bed is too narrow, the blanket is too short. We must obey God rather than men, and we will. Please get the federal government, Mr. Chairman, out of our consciences. Thank you."



So what is this fuss about "religious liberty," and why do we Lutherans have a stake in the debates taking place in the corridors of our nation's power?

In 1523, Martin Luther wrote a booklet called *On Secular Authority—To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed*. In it, Luther stated how important a just secular government was for the welfare of all people, Christian or not. In response to some of the radical reformers who wanted only the Gospel to govern the nation, Luther noted that this would be like a shepherd putting wolves, lions, eagles and sheep all together in the same fold. In blissful naïveté such a shepherd bids these creatures of very different temperament to enjoy their food in peace without the coercion of dogs or clubs. The sheep, surmises the Reformer, might indeed follow the ways of peace...but not for long. Or to quote Woody Allen, "The lion and the lamb might lie down together, but the lamb isn't going to get much sleep." Secular authority is good to keep order in a world of sin. The health and vitality of its citizens is a legitimate concern of secular government.

Continued next page

The second part of Luther's tract deals with the proper limits of secular government. Because of several bloody, state-sanctioned persecutions of fellow Lutherans, Luther discusses "how long the arm [of secular government] may extend and how far its hand may reach, lest it should overreach itself by assaulting God in His *reych und regiment*" [reign and rule]." Luther's answer is that "secular government has laws which extend no further than the body and property and what is external on earth." The Christian citizen's duty is to obey, Luther insists, but this obedience is always qualified by Acts 5:29. "Should it transpire, as is in fact often the case, that secular authority and *Obrigkeit* [ruling power], as it is called, should try to persuade a subject to act contrary to God's commands or to prevent him from keeping them, then his obedience is at an end and his duty is abrogated. We must here echo St. Peter's statement to the Jewish rulers: 'We must obey God rather than men."' Luther gives a concrete example of how no upright soldier should render obedience to a prince who wishes to go to war in a manifestly unjust cause.



While we don't live in Luther's day, his words concerning the "two kingdoms" (God's reign by the Gospel in the Church and by the Law in the State) was established from the beginning of our nation. Thomas Jefferson in 1779 was "well aware that...Almighty God hath created the mind free, and manifested his supreme will that free it shall remain by making it altogether insusceptible of restraint; that all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments, or burdens, or by civil incapacitations, tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and are a departure from the plan of the holy author of our religion."

His fellow Virginian, James Madison (who explicitly credited Martin Luther with inspiring his views on church and state), agreed in 1785: "We hold it for a fundamental and undeniable truth, 'that Religion or the duty which we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only be reason and conviction, not by force or violence.' The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man: and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate."

"Conscientious objection" has long been protected in our nation's laws. Of late this protection of the religious conscience has been under siege and, noticeably in the field of health care, it is being eliminated. It is fitting for us Christians, then, as citizens of this land, to be informed and engaged in the issues concerning religious liberty—that neither religion nor the secular authority intrude upon each other's calling. "This is what democracy looks like." More so, this is what faith looks like!

Pastor Hendrickson



The table in the narthex has a nice selection of cards available. Stop by and check it out! There is a wide range of cards to fit every occasion and proceeds go to the *Christian Women's Council* to help support their good works. Leave your cash or check in the basket on the table.



"Amen"

It's a word Christians often use at the end of prayer. But it's also used in a few other places as well.

In our English translations of the New Testament where Jesus says "Truly, truly, I say to you" (or in the King James Version "Verily, verily, I say unto you"), the original word used in the Greek is "amen." So you could also translate it (literally) as "Amen, amen, I say to you." And you might recall from Luther's Small Catechism, the explanation of the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer which says "Amen, amen means 'yes, yes, it shall be so.'"

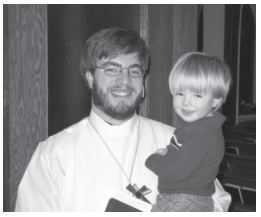
There are a few other places in the Divine Service where we use the word "Amen," and two that I specifically wanted to highlight are 1) after hearing the sermon and 2) after receiving the Lord's Supper.

A pastor in Indiana told me a few years ago when I was saying the dismissal to each table during distribution of the Lord's supper, "Don't say the Amen for them, it's their word." The idea is that when we say Amen (especially after the sermon or the Lord's Supper), we are responding to that which we have received, saying that we believe this to be true. We believe that Christ is present in the Sacrament and that we receive the blessings that Holy Scripture says it bestows; and saying Amen after the sermon is to say that we receive what God has spoken through the pastor in the pulpit, and that we have been blessed to hear the Law and Gospel preached, and so forth.

Lutherans aren't in the habit of yelling out "amen" in the middle of sermons, but a closer inspection of the Divine Service shows that there are some good places for the congregation as a whole to joyfully and confidently reply with "Amen!"

In Christ, *Deacon Schroeder*

Pastor Hendrickson,



Greetings in the name of our risen and ascended Lord, Jesus Christ! I got your message through Leah, and the details are as follows: Ordination and installation will be July 8th at 4pm at Grace Lutheran in Gordon, NE. If anyone should be interested in coming out, we'll be happy to help make arrangements.

Give my greetings to all the wonderful people at St. Peter's and my apologies for being such a stranger. I don't think that a day has gone by this last year without remembering the kindness that you all showed me. Every time I've written a sermon, some piece of advice or a line from one of your sermons has stuck with me. And I'm sure there hasn't been a week go by that I haven't had the opportunity to pass on a David Hoffelt story or joke. And when Easter rolled around this year, I really missed hearing that new organ.

I'm looking forward to the Ministry with joy and anticipation, heading to the Cornhusker state and all, but some nervousness as well. My experience in Arlington tempers that nervousness. I look back on it as a wonderful example of what a church can be: God's people striving to be faithful to His Word, even when the snow was deep enough to bury cars. And a pastor who loves and serves his people with such dedication and joy. Thanks be to God for you and your congregation.

In Christ,
Rev. Candidate Travis Sherman

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

Play this game with a group of friends to remind you to follow Jesus.

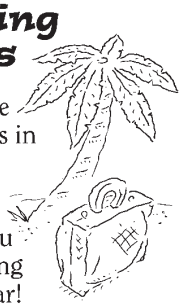
What you need:

- Large space for running
- 3 jump ropes or 9 traffic cones

What you do:

1. Using jump ropes or traffic cones, form lines at both ends of the playing area. Also make a dividing line in the middle. Designate one side as "The Way" and the other as "The Truth." The center line is "The Life."
2. Choose one person to stand in the middle of the center line. He or she is the caller, yelling, "The way!" or "The truth!" or "The life!" The rest of the players also start on the middle line.
3. When a location is called, players run as fast as possible to the designated area. The last person to arrive switches places with the caller.
4. When "The Life" is called, players run to the center line and raise both hands. No one gets out.

Traveling Games



A lot of people take vacations in the summer.

Here are two fun games you can play during trips in the car!

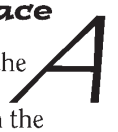
"NOW!"

1. The driver picks an object he sees a mile or so down the road.
2. Players close their eyes.
3. When a player thinks the car is about to pass the object, he or she calls out, *"Now!"*

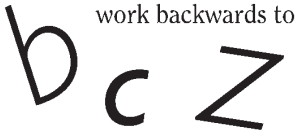
. . . . . .

Alphabet Race

Find the letters of the alphabet in order using the letters on the license plates of other cars.



To make it more challenging, start at the letter *Z* and work backwards to *A*.



Another way to play the game is to pick a word and then try to find the letters that spell your word.



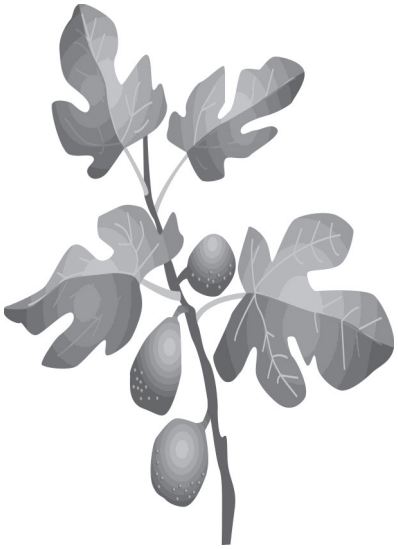
Faith

Allows

Impossible

Things to

Happen



St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool

WMELS, Pre-K and *NAEYC* Accredited
By Connie Hendrickson, *Director*

Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. Luke 12:15

There's nothing like July weather to get the family out of the house for planned vacations or outings. Both are a great opportunity to build a sense of family togetherness without the pressures of everyday life. Where the family goes and how long they stay are not important, but the best vacations are planned around the interests and the developmental levels of the children.

When planning time away, don't forget that children also thrive on routine. By preplanning your time away, you can ensure a child's familiar, yet flexible routine, including visiting a church or Sunday school elsewhere.

Blessings for fun summer adventures and a safe Fourth of July!



A visit from the Arlington EMS members during National EMS Week in May was a big hit with the children. Matt Hendrickson (left) and Rusty Rodgers (right) gave tours of the ambulance, showed how the transport bed worked, and fitted everyone with a plastic safety hat.

Concordia's

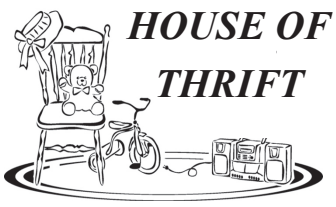
AMAZING DESERT JOURNEY

Where Jesus Leads Us Home

We invite your prayers for *Amazing Desert Journey,* our Vacation Bible School, being held on August 6-10th. Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! And ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission.

DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

June 28/July 1 5th Sunday after Pentecost Lamentations 3:22-33 Psalm 30 II Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15 Mark 5:21-43	Sermon: *The Agony of Success* Text: I Kings 19:1-21 Order: (Thu) *Contemporary Service* (Sun) *DSIII,* p. 184 Hymns: *God of Our Fathers* - 750 - 966, *America the Beautiful - Battle Hymn of the Republic* Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) TBA
July 5/8 6th Sunday after Pentecost Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123 II Corinthians 12:1-10 Mark 6:1-13	Sermon: *Lord of the Flies* Text: II Kings 1 Order: (Thu) *Holy Communion* (Sun) *Matins*, p. 219 Hymns: 907 - 839 - 752 - 805 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) TBA
July 12/15 7th Sunday after Pentecost Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29	Sermon: *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* Text: II Kings 2:12 Order: (Thu) *Contemporary Service* (Sun) *DSIV,* p. 203 Hymns: 682 - 716 - 743, *Softly & Tenderly* - 922 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) TBA
July 19/22 8th Sunday after Pentecost Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-44	Sermon: *In the Spirit of Elijah* Text: II Kings 2:15-25 Order: (Thu) *Holy Communion* (Sun) *DSIII w/o HC,* p. 183 Hymns: 906 - 661 - 644 - 921 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) TBA
July 26/29 9th Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 136:1-9 Ephesians 3:14-21 Mark 6:45-56	Sermon: *Deja vu* Text: II Kings 2:15-25 Order: (Thu) *Contemporary Service* (Sun) *Matins,* p. 219 Hymns: 814 - 715 - 702 - 660 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) TBA



Books and magazines will be 50% off during the month of July. The store will be closed on Independence Day, Wednesday, July 4th.

The store is located at 201 Cottage Grove Rd (just off Monona Dr). The hours are Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Donations are welcome during these hours. The phone number is: 223-1228.

Members of St. Peter's work on the first Friday (July 6th) and the third Wednesday (July 18th) of each month. Please call Alice Hanson if you have any questions or would like to become part of the *House of Thrift* team.

Thank you!

Spiritual Gifts are best defined as particular manifestations of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:7) that call the members of the church to action in a manner that confesses Christ and builds up the body of Christ, the Church. These gifts of the Spirit may take the form of church activities or offices.

A ***Spiritual Gift Ministry*** has been successful in many congregations. It is simply a periodic survey for every member of St. Peter's. The point of it all is to discover what gifts or talents exist in our congregation and where they may be used. Our congregation has many diverse gifts and talents which go unnoticed unless an effort is made to discover them.

We have had many good people involved in our youth education, church committees, and leadership. However, in recent years we have had difficulty filling some of the positions in our Church Council. This indicates that our church's body may not be as healthy as it could be.

As the last survey was taken many years ago, so it is time to update and renew our list of gifts and talents for the common good of our church. The survey is planned to begin in September but will be ongoing as new members are received.

COUNCIL NOTES – June 12, 2012

The June 12, 2012 St. Peter's Church Council was called to order by President William Steffenhagen at 6:30 P.M. Members present were Tom Crum, Tom Daugherty, Greg Frank, Steve Hustad, Gregory Latzig, Marvin Manke, Verna Mueller, Keith Podoll, Glenn Puntney, Shannon Rohrbeck, Stephen Saager, Jennifer See, William Steffenhagen, Lynnette Taylor, Mary Witt, Elizabeth Hutchinson and Pastor Hendrickson. Michael Post was excused, Mark Manke, Sandra Sandstrom and Brad Zimmerman were absent.

The opening devotion was given by Pastor Hendrickson from 1 Peter Chapter 2 in keeping with the theme from the District Convention he just attended. The Life and fellowship of the church is built by all different types of individuals with Christ as our cornerstone.

The **agenda** was presented. Glenn Puntney moved to accept the agenda, Greg Frank seconded and the motion carried.



The **Secretary's minutes** were read and approved. Tom Crum made a motion to accept, Marv Manke seconded and the motion carried.

The **Financial Secretary's Report** was given by Mary Witt. May offerings were slightly down . Jennifer See moved to accept the report, Tom Crum seconded and the motion carried.

The **Treasurer's report** was given by Jennifer See. Keith Podoll moved to accept the report, Verna Mueller seconded and the motion carried.

The **Board of Elders report** was presented. All is going smoothly with the boards activities. The usher lists are updated, the Endowment fund scholarships have been presented and the summer schedules are in place. For Military Care a package is being sent out by Mary Witt to the nephew of Paul and Polly Woodward. He is in Afghanistan.

Greg Latzig updated us on the Spiritual Gifts Survey. He presented a form that could be handed out during Church Services that would have lists of services people could provide to others and the church. This would make it easier for members to fill out and for the committee to evaluate.

Marv Manke made a motion to accept the Elders Report, Mary Witt seconded and the motion carried.

The **Board of Trustees Report** - Keith Podoll has been working on some odd jobs that need to be completed.

Steve Hustad brought to the Council's attention that some cement work should be done on the steps and the heavy doors need paint. Steve Hustad moved to accept the report, Greg Latzig seconded and the motion carried.

Board of Christian Education Report was presented. The Child care center currently has 18 full time and 11 part time students which are more than last year. The Pre-K partnership has completed their third year. There was a picnic in Arlington Firemen Park as a year end activity.

The Child Care Center will have some special events this month with Steven James providing some music and Poynette Children's Librarian reading to the children. The outdoor daycare equipment has been power washed and stained using bake sale proceeds.



Bible Classes are on going with the Tuesday Women's class studying the Book of Isaiah and Sunday morning between services the Bible Class is studying Prayer.

Lynnette Taylor shared a thank you note from Thrivent for the donation of $601.00 for the Habitat for Humanity House.

Jennifer See moved to accept the Board of Education report, Glenn Puntney seconded and the motion carried.

The **Pastor's Report**-Pastor reported that the District Convention which concluded at noon on June 12, 2012 was very interesting. Pastor has been getting soloists lined up for the Summer Services and kind of planning for the fall schedule.

Pastor Hendrickson has been feeling quite good and his cardiologist is happy with the way medication and life style changes are working. In August some tests will be run again.

Tom Crum moved to accept the report, Stephen Saager seconded and the motion carried.

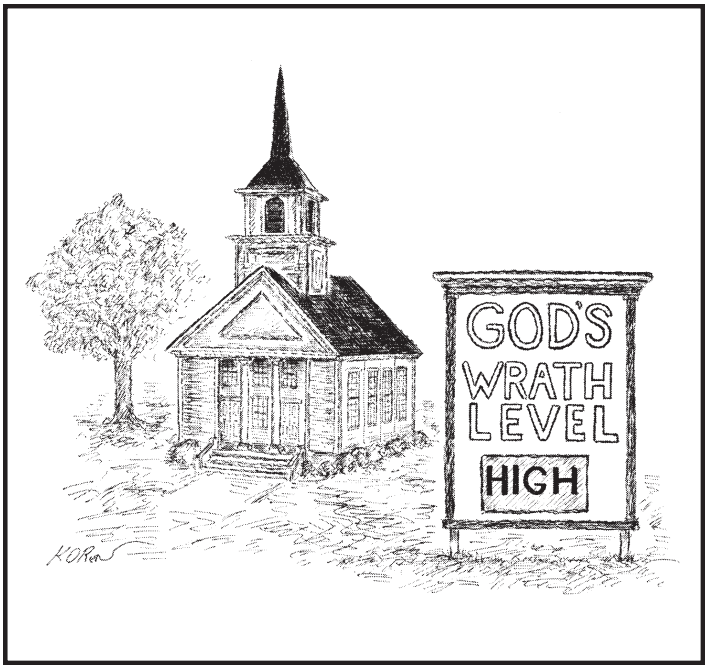
Membership Changes-There were none to report.

Old Business-None to report.

New Business-The Quarterly Voters' Meeting was scheduled for Sunday July 22, 2012 between the Church services. Greg Frank made a motion to approve the date of the meeting, Shannon Rohrbeck seconded and the motion carried.

The Lord's Prayer was recited and at 7:05p.m. President William Steffenhagen adjourned the meeting.

~~Elizabeth Hutchinson, *Secretary*





FINANCIAL REPORT
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:



Balance on May 31, 2012 ..... $8,997.70
Receipts for June (est) $10,410.00
Expenses for June (est) ..... ($13,183.88)
Shortage/Overage $6,223.72

LOAN BALANCES:
Organ - $49,433.09. The interest for this loan is costing us approximately $281 per month.
Wilson House - $47,196.00. The interest for this loan is costing us approximately $251 per month
Repair Projects - $14,751. 50.



KNOW THE WAY

Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (John 14:5, NIV).

Directions: To read Jesus' reply, shade in the letters that contain an asterisk (*) and write them in order on the blanks below.

unswereiamhwa
yantlrutchlfivfe
noonaecsoxmes
faztherroucdgh
pumrxestjvgohn

Jes__ ans_____d, "__ __ the ____
__d the _____ and the _____.
__ ____ _____ to the
_____ except th_____ __."

_____ 14:6, NIV

Answer: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6, NIV





Elders

July 1	8:00 a.m.	Tom Daugherty & Marvin Manke
	10:30 a.m.	Tom Crum & Glenn Puntney
July 5	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Saager
July 8	8:00 a.m.	Glenn Puntney
	10:30 a.m.	Tom Crum
July 12	6:30 p.m.	Greg Latzig
July 15	8:00 a.m.	Glenn Puntney & Tom Daugherty
	10:30 a.m.	Tom Crum & Steve Hustad
July 19	6:30 p.m.	Greg Latzig
July 22	8:00 a.m.	Marvin Manke
	10:30 a.m.	Greg Frank
July 26	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Saager
July 29	8:00 a.m.	Steve Hustad
	10:30 a.m.	Greg Frank



July 1, 8 & 15

Early
Jeff Anderson ,Chr. (434-9764)
Dave Sandstrom
Austin Anderson
Craig Wendt
Glenn Puntney
Riley & Cody Puntney
Todd Taylor
Logan Sandstrom

Late
Robert Kronberg, Chr. (920-992-5272)
Nathan Campbell
David Steinke
Vint Quamme
Tom Crum

July 22 & 29

John Caldwell, Chr. (635-4762)
John Burkhardt
Don Thurston
Mark & Fred Manke
Tom & Mike Manke
Herb Schultz
Kraig See

Herb Miller, Chr. (635-4557)
Paul Yamriska
Dennis Hahn
Charles Hilgendorf
Joseph Pingel
Andrew Klahn



JULY
635-4825
Adele Walker
Connie Hendrickson

CALENDAR FOR JULY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Pentecost 5 **1** 8:00 AM HC Service 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM HC Service	**The Visitation** **2**	**3** 1:00 PM Bible Class	**Independence Day** **4** ***Church Office & Day Care Closed***	**5** 6:30 PM HC Service	**6** 10:00 AM *Thrift Store*	**7** NOON Humboldt-McCann Wedding
Pentecost 6 **8** 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM BP Screening 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service	**9**	**10** 1:00 PM Bible Class 6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Elders	**11**	**12** 6:30 PM Contemporary Service	**13**	**14** 11:30 AM Private Confession
Pentecost 7 **15** 8:00 AM HC Service 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM HC Service	**16**	**17** 1:00 PM Bible Class	**18** 10:00 AM *Thrift Store*	**19** 6:30 PM HC Service	**20**	**21**
Pentecost 8 **22** **St. Mary Magdalene** 8:00 AM Divine Service **9:15 AM Voters' Mtg** 10:30 AM Divine Service	**23** 	**24** 1:00 PM Bible Class	**St. James the Elder, Apostle** **25**	**26** 6:30 PM Contemporary Service	**27**	**28**
Pentecost 9 **29** 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service	**30**	**31** 1:00 PM Bible Class				



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Phone: 608-635-4825 **Fax: 608-635-2753**

E-mail: stpeterluth@gmail.com **www.stpetersarlington.org**