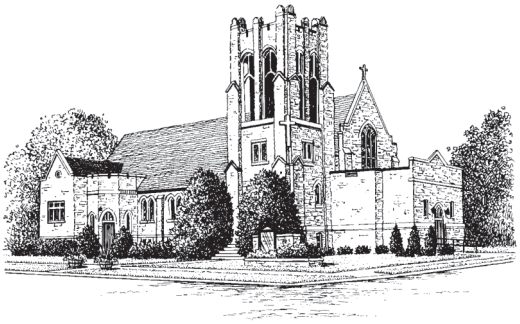
Saint Peter's Lutheran Church
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ST. PETER'S NET AUGUST 2012

"Say It Ain't So, Joe!"

In response to the recently handed down sanctions by the NCAA against the Penn State football program, Big Ten Commissioner, Jim Delaney, said: "Hopefully, we can all learn something from this...that the cult of success in sport doesn't again overwhelm an institution's need to make sure that intercollegiate athletics is subordinate to the mandate and the mission of higher education at each one of our campuses."



These sanctions and a desire to return the sport to a better balance are reminiscent of the infamous "Black Sox Scandal" of 1919-1920, including the fall of another Joe, 'Shoeless' Joe Jackson. In response to the heavy sanctions he imposed on the implicated players of the Chicago team, then newly-designated baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis had said, "The only thing in anybody's mind now is to make baseball what the millions of fans throughout the United States want it to be."

The rather swift and heavy punishment both in 2012 and in 1920, stands in marked contrast to the way things have been handled with the Church's scandals. It would seem that athletic commissioners and church bureaucrats (whether their title be bishop, president, superintendent) take differing views toward significant wrong-doing among their players. Looking at the recent clergy abuse scandal, which is far from confined to the Roman Catholic Church—their priests and hierarchy may have grabbed the headlines, but there have also been Lutheran pastors and Protestant clergy whose "grabbing" has been covered-up and then brought to light—but in thinking about the recent scandals in the Church, might we Christians and the Church as a whole have benefited from a Judge Landis or a Mark Emmert sort of Bishop? I, for one, think so!

At the heart of the clergy abuse scandal has been a confusion of Law and Gospel. The confused way of thinking reasons, "If the guilty pastor or priest is penitent, really contrite and sorry for his actions, shouldn't he be forgiven and then nothing more said about it?" Isn't this the Christian way, forgive and forget? Isn't the Church supposed to be about "second chances"? If the sinner is punished, doesn't that make forgiveness a shame? If forgiveness doesn't mean a clean slate, isn't it meaningless? And if some sins are unforgiveable because they must be punished, what does that say about Jesus' death on the cross? Traveling down that road, Law and Gospel get very confused very quickly.

Martin Luther once wrote, "Be careful to distinguish the righteousness of the Gospel from the righteousness of the Law…. When your conscience is terrified by its sin, let the

Continued next page

Law be gone and let the Gospel come. On the other hand, when your conscience is not engaged, when you must discharge the ordinary functions of your office—say, as a minister of the Word, a magistrate, a husband, a teacher, a student, etc—that is not the season to hear the Gospel but the Law." [*Lectures on Galatians* 2:13-14]

In other words, when the matter at hand is your standing before God, the only thing that counts is the Gospel, the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith for Christ's sake. Which means, yes, a penitent pastor or priest—or coach or school administrator, for that matter—involved in child abuse can be forgiven their crime. In Christ, God will not count their sin against them.



Law *(left)* and Gospel *(right)* by Lucas Cranach, 1520s

However, this does not cancel the demands of the Law in the world upon that person as a pastor, priest, coach, or administrator. If you do the crime, you will do the time. Depending on the severity in relation to the misdeed (and child abuse by persons in authority is a most heinous misdeed), sanctions and punishments are very much in order under the Law...even while the Gospel declares that Christ has died for the guilty, that God has pardoned the sin of the penitent. The conscience/soul of the guilty party is free in Christ, even while he must bear in his body the demands of the Law for his sin.

Now indeed, the Law can be influenced by the Gospel, mercy can be shown in extenuating circumstances. But the Law is the Law. The Gospel cannot be used to replace it. At the same time, the Gospel is the Gospel. The Law has no authority to qualify or quantify God's forgiveness in Christ. The Law cannot place conditions on grace. When it comes to Law and Gospel, each must be full in itself or it is nothing at all.

So throughout all our days we live with both Law and Gospel; not an either/or, or some combination of the two. It's always both/and, but each in its own way. After all, we remain sinner/saints all our days. So the Law is there to show us our sin, and in the public domain, to punish it, that our own sin might be kept in check and do no harm to our neighbor. Yet the Gospel is always present to show us our Savior and to forgive us, so that even under the punishment of our sin by the Law, our conscience may yet stand free before God in Christ.

Truly, then, did one of our Missouri Synod founders—C.F.W. Walther, who literally wrote the book on the subject—teach, "Rightly distinguishing the Law and the Gospel is the most difficult and highest art of Christians in general and of theologians in particular." [Thesis III, *Law and Gospel*] Difficult, yes, but that is our calling, and school is always in session!

Pastor Hendrickson



Here's a sermon (condensed a bit to fit in my article) from Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller of *Hope Lutheran Church (LC-MS)*, Aurora, Colorado, preached on the day of the recent theater shooting in that city.

Dear Saints,

The devil comes to kill and steal and destroy. He delights in every drop of blood, in every tear, in every heart broken, family torn in two, every last breath. The devil loves death, violence, and darkness; he loves this tragedy that unfolded in our neighborhood this week.

But he is never content. He kills and destroys, and he wants more. The devil is not sitting back tonight, shaking the dust off his hands, content with the pain already inflicted, he wants more. He wants you wrapped up in the chains of the fear of death. He wants your mind and heart to be draped with despair.

As the dust settles around in Aurora, the devil comes to tempt you to anger, fear, despair, and perhaps worst of all, to tempt you with the idea that because you are suffering God has deserted you and God is far away.

"Where is God in all this? He must hate you, or worse, He must not care." That, dear friends, is the devil's tempting voice, and we've heard enough of that voice.

We are gathered this evening to hear the voice of Jesus, who is no stranger to suffering. You do not have a distant god, looking the other way. No, you have Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the one who doesn't just watch over the sheep. He lays down His life for the sheep. He takes His life and righteousness to the cross for you. You have a God who bleeds for and suffers with you, who hears of the death of His friends and weeps, weeps over death, and fights against death for you. Jesus stands under the devil's torment, God's wrath, the condemnation of the law, stands with you, stands in your place, and suffers for you.



And if Jesus suffers for you, then He will certainly suffer with you. When you suffer it does not mean that God is far away. He finds you in suffering; He saves you by suffering. When your friends and neighbors are suffering it does not mean that God has forsaken or abandoned them. He can't. He loves them too much.

Jesus cries out from the cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" so that you never would. He prays Psalm 22 so that you can pray Psalm 23, "Yea, though I walk through he valley of the shadow of death, Thou art with me." In the shadow of death, the shadow of violence, the veil of tears, He is with us. He cannot leave you or forsake you, He has bound Himself to you, written His name on you with His blood, claimed you as His own, promised you life, His life, eternal life.

Jesus is not far away. The One who died for you now lives for you, prays for you, helps you in time of trouble. He sends His Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to comfort you with His presence and His promises, His forgiveness.

And it is His forgiveness, at last, that sets us free, even from the fear of violence, even from the fear of death. For in life and in death you are the Lord's, your life is His, and because for you to live is Christ, for you to die is gain. Amen.

In Christ, *Deacon Schroeder*

BIBLE Treasure Hunt

Let the search — and the fun — begin! Try one or both of the variations below, adjusting for age-appropriateness as needed.

What you need:

- Bibles
- Self-stick notes or pieces of paper
- Pencil
- Treats
- Boxes (treasure chests)

What you do:

Locations Treasure Hunt

1. Find Bible verses that mention a place inside or outside your house. The location for Matthew 7:8, for example, is a door.
2. Write each verse on a self-stick note and hide all but the first clue. Give the first clue to the player(s).
3. Leave the treats at the final clue destination.

Object Treasure Hunt

1. Find Bible verses that mention objects that can be found nearby. The object for Matthew 16:19, for example, is a key.
2. Give each player an empty box, a Bible and a list of verses as clues.
3. Have players return their collected items for a final prize.

REFRESHING ★ SUMMER ★ ACTIVITY

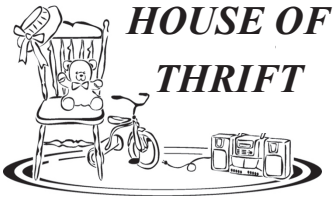
Try this activity with your Sunday school. It's a fun way to give people more than just a cold drink. It helps them learn about the Bible and your church.

What you need:

- Bottled water
- Tubs or ice chest filled with ice
- Printed labels or cut pieces of paper the same size as the existing water-bottle label
- Permanent markers (if you're not using preprinted labels)
- Clear contact paper
- Scissors
- Clear packing tape
- Poster board
- Adult supervision

What to do:

1. On labels or pieces of paper, write a verse about the living water Jesus gives us (for example, John 4:13-14; John 6:35; Revelation 22:17). Also include your church's name and contact information, as well as an invitation to worship or to an activity.
2. Either laminate the new labels or cover them in clear contact paper (to keep them from getting soggy).
3. Tape the labels to the back of the bottles.
4. Make a "FREE Water!" poster.
5. Find a park, local festival or corner where people pass by needing a cold drink. Be sure to have adult supervision.



HOUSE OF THRIFT

The annual recognition banquet for volunteers who worked 40 hours or more in 2011 will be on Thursday, August 16th.

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 (August 3rd) and the third Wednesday (August 15th) 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!

St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool

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

I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand and say to you, "Don't be afraid; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13

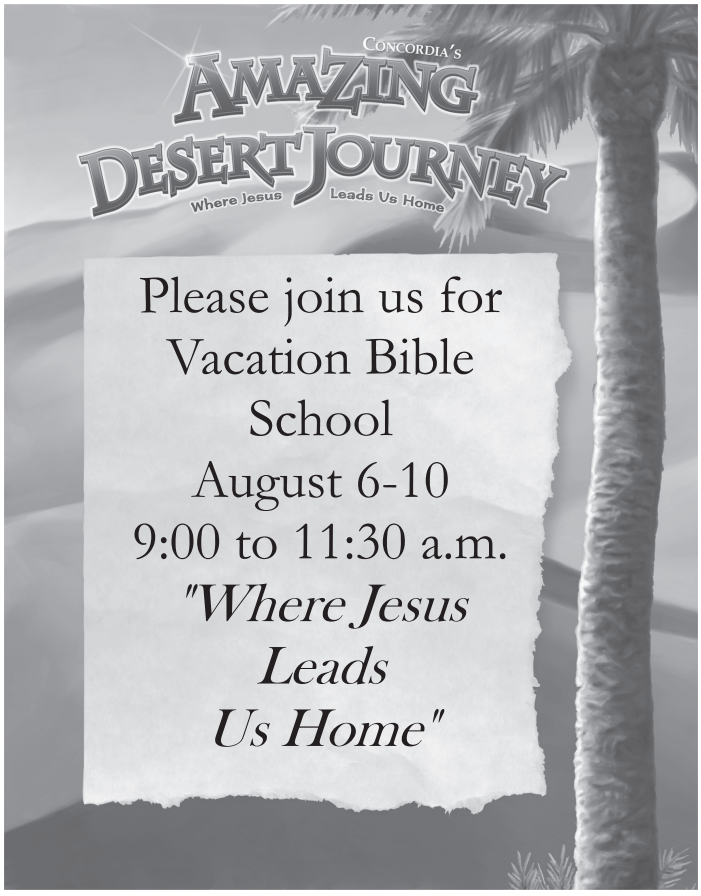
If you've ever watched a group of 4- or 5-year-olds playing soccer or tee-ball, you've probably seen a player or two stray away to pick flowers, do somersaults, or climb the fence. Such behavior is typical for children this age, who usually are not yet ready for organized sports.

Somewhere between the ages of 6 and 7, most children develop the mental capacity to understand rules and focus on the game for more than a few minutes. They become more capable of working together as a team and gain the maturity necessary to deal with defeat.

Pediatricians also have concerns about sports injuries to children. Ask your child's doctor about the risks of a specific sport and whether your child is physically ready to play.

Give some thought to your child's emotional development as well. Children vary widely in personality and emotional maturity, and you know your child better than anyone. Involvement in organized sports before the child is developmentally ready can hurt his or her self-esteem and self-confidence. Waiting a few years allows the time to develop the physical, mental, and emotional capacities necessary to play team sports.

Something even more powerful in helping your child's self-esteem and self-confidence is to include God in everything your child does, including wanting to be a sports star. Instill in your child the power of prayer, no matter how young. A quick prayer before and after a game will eventually teach them that God helps those who seek His help. Not just on the soccer field, but on any of life's playing fields.



DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

August 2/5 10th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 145:10-21 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:22-35	Sermon: *Clean and Unclean* Text: II Kings 5:1-27 Order: (Thu) *Holy Communion* (Sun) *DSIII,* p. 184 Hymns: 648 - 597 - 636, 642 - 918 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) Kristin Olson
August 9/12 11th Sunday after Pentecost Deuteronomy 8:1-10 Psalm 34:1-8 Ephesians 4:17-5:2 John 6:35-51	Sermon: *Seeing, Yet Blind* Text: II Kings 6:1-23 Order: (Thu) *Contemporary Service* (Sun) *Matins*, p. 219 Hymns: 684 - 534 - 737 - 651 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) TBA
August 16/19 12th Sunday after Pentecost Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18 Psalm 34:12-22 Ephesians 5:6-21 John 6:51-69	Sermon: *Not with a Bang, But with a Whimper* Text: II Kings 13:14-21 Order: (Thu) *Holy Communion* (Sun) *DSIV,* p. 203 Hymns: 789 - 678 - 696, 625 - 526 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) TBA
August 23/26 13th Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 29:11-19 Psalm 14 Ephesians 5:22-33 Mark 7:1-13	Sermon: *Missing the Forest for the Trees* Text: Mark 7:1-13 Order: (Thu) *Contemporary Service* (Sun) *DSIII w/o HC,* p. 184 Hymns: 616 - 854 - 540 - 794 Organist: David Hoffelt Choir: (Sun) Greg & Molly Frank



Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

I address you in this way as you remember Pastor Hendrickson's sermon in early June spoke of us as brothers and sisters. We have an opportunity to strengthen our family bonds in St. Peters by simply devoting some time in thought and prayer for the Spiritual Gifts Survey in September.

As one grows and changes in life so do their priorities change. Sometimes drawing closer to the church and sometimes withdrawing from it. It's not easy to give up personal time or time devoted to recreational or fun activities. But, there are reasons to consider changing your life's priorities. For instance as your children begin school and get involved in groups like scouting, little league or soccer many parents just drop the kids off at that event and do not get too involved. Some parents would rather keep appointment at the local Pub or not give up their bowling league than attend PTA or be a leader or coach involved in their kids' activities. The same can be said for church some people avoid taking on anything beyond attending the church service. With this in mind the best role model for your children is you.

You are the best and strongest example your children will learn from. Your commitment in church functions or activities will enhance their spiritual growth. There are times in our life to reassess what we are devoting to our church to ensure it continues to be a healthy and vibrant place of worship for our children. Involvement in activities at St. Peters Church offers you an opportunity for spiritual growth and reward. Ultimately we are all responsible for the future of our church.

The Survey in September will be relatively simple. It is not to ask for a hard and firm commitment. The **first purpose** of the survey is to give our church leadership some idea of the spiritual talents and resources we have at St. Peters. The **second purpose** is to use the survey as a networking tool to put members in contact with other members who may need assistance. In the same spirit we see in successful families when a family member has a problem, everyone in the family joins in to solve it. As brothers and sisters we can work together to solve many issues facing our church and family members.

Yours in Christ,
Greg Latzig, *Bd of Elders*

COUNCIL NOTES – July 10, 2012

The July 11, 2012 St. Peter's Church Council was called to order by President William Steffenhagen at 6:30 P.M. The Opening devotion was given by Deacon Schroeder from The Book of 1 Kings Chapter 8 and Solomon's Dedication of the temple. Deacon Schroeder closed his devotion with the prayer for times of unseasonable weather.

The **agenda** was presented. Greg Frank moved to accept the agenda, Keith Podoll seconded, motion carried. The **Secretary's minutes** were read. Mary Witt made a motion to accept the minutes, Tom Crum seconded and the motion carried. The **Financial Secretary's Report** was given by Mary Witt. Total collections for the General fund were $12912.00 and the Special fund contributions were $3244.00 for a total of $16,156.00. Verna Mueller made a motion to accept the report, Stephen Saager seconded, motion carried.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Jennifer See. As of July 1st the financial status is better than the last 2 years. A bill just received from Art's Electric for servicing of the air conditioners is not yet paid. There were not any questions about the treasurer's report. Keith Podoll made a motion to accept the report, Mark Manke seconded and the motion carried.



The **Board of Elders report** was presented by Greg Frank. A question regarding the investing of the endowment fund was asked and Pastor said that the investing is usually conservative which doesn't always bring the biggest returns but is less risky. Mary Witt informed us that a military care package is being mailed out this week. Greg Latzig reported that the Spiritual Gifts Survey is still a work in progress. Bill Steffenhagen is working with Kris Manke on the planning of the Fall Community picnic. It is presently being planned for the 19th of September. This will be the second week of Mid-Week so that the students and their parents can attend which will make for some good fellowship. Sandra Sandstrom made a motion to accept the Elders Report, Brad Zimmerman seconded, motion carried.

The **Board of Trustees report** was presented by Keith Podoll. Keith reported that when Art's electric came to check out the air-conditioning systems the one in the main part of the church has a bad compressor. To replace the compressor it would cost approximately $1900.00, to replace that air conditioner it would cost approximately $2300.00. Greg Frank made a motion to replace the air conditioner, Sandra Sandstrom seconded and the motion carried. Keith Podoll attended the installation service on July 8th of our past vicar, now Rev. Travis Sherman in Gordon, Nebraska. Keith said Grace Lutheran is a nice little church with a morning daycare/preschool. Sandra Sandstrom made a motion to accept the Trustees Report, Jennifer See seconded and the motion carried.

The **Board of Christian Education report** was presented by Brad Zimmerman. Currently there are 22 full time and 10 part time children enrolled in the daycare. The children and staff have been busy with many summer activities. There have been trips to Mackenzie Environmental Center, Lodi Pool, Poynette Library and the local parks. They have been entertained with music by Steven James and Rich Baumann. The center is also looking into participating in the Arlington Firemen's Parade on August 5th. Monday July 16th the 4K-Program will sign the upcoming school year contract with the Poynette School District. Deacon Schroeder is teaching German to 2 of the youth who participate in Lutheranism 101. Next years Youth Rally will be held in San Antonio, Texas. Mark Manke made a motion to accept the Board of Education report, Greg Latzig seconded and the motion carried.

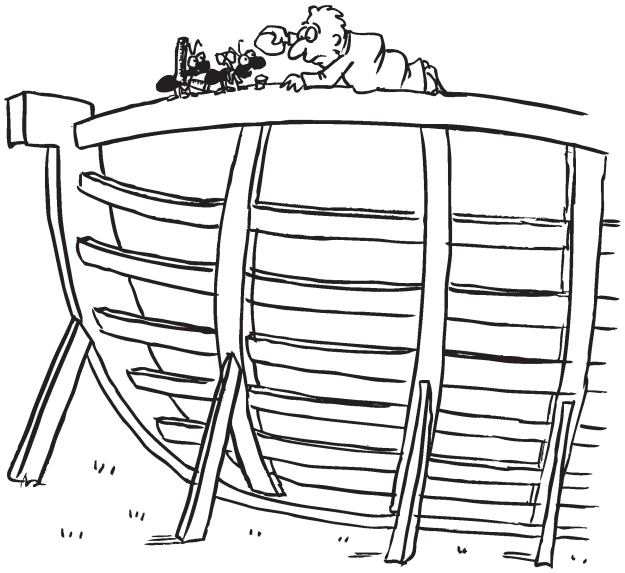


The **Pastor's Report**- Pastor has had a busy month with getting Matthew ready to attend UW Milwaukee and Michael getting ready for his schooling. Most of the music for the summer church services has been scheduled with the exception of a couple of Sundays. The summer sermon season is going well. Pastor will be teaching a World Religion class at Concordia once again. Currently David Hoffelt is one of two being considered for the pastoral call he received and will have an interview. The new Pastor will start the beginning of October. Shannon Rohrbeck made a motion to accept the Pastor's report, Steve Hustad seconded and the motion carried.

No membership changes or any old business. **New Business**-The Quarterly meeting will be held Sunday July 22nd, at 9:15 between church services. Lynnette Taylor needs to have all reports by Thursday July 19th for the quarterly meeting. In other new business before adjourning the meeting the council proceeded upstairs into the church to look at tile samples. A donor has presented a gift to the church to tile the chancel area and the middle aisle area where there is red carpet. German Churches have been researched so that the tile is in keeping with the authentic look and décor of the church. After some discussion the council returned downstairs and Greg Frank made a motion to recommend to the congregation to accept the gift of the tiles and to proceed in a timely fashion with the installation. Brad Zimmerman seconded and the motion carried.

The Lord's Prayer was recited and at 7:45p.m. President William Steffenhagen adjourned the meeting.

~~Elizabeth Hutchinson, *Secretary*



"We can help. We're carpenter ants."



FINANCIAL REPORT
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:



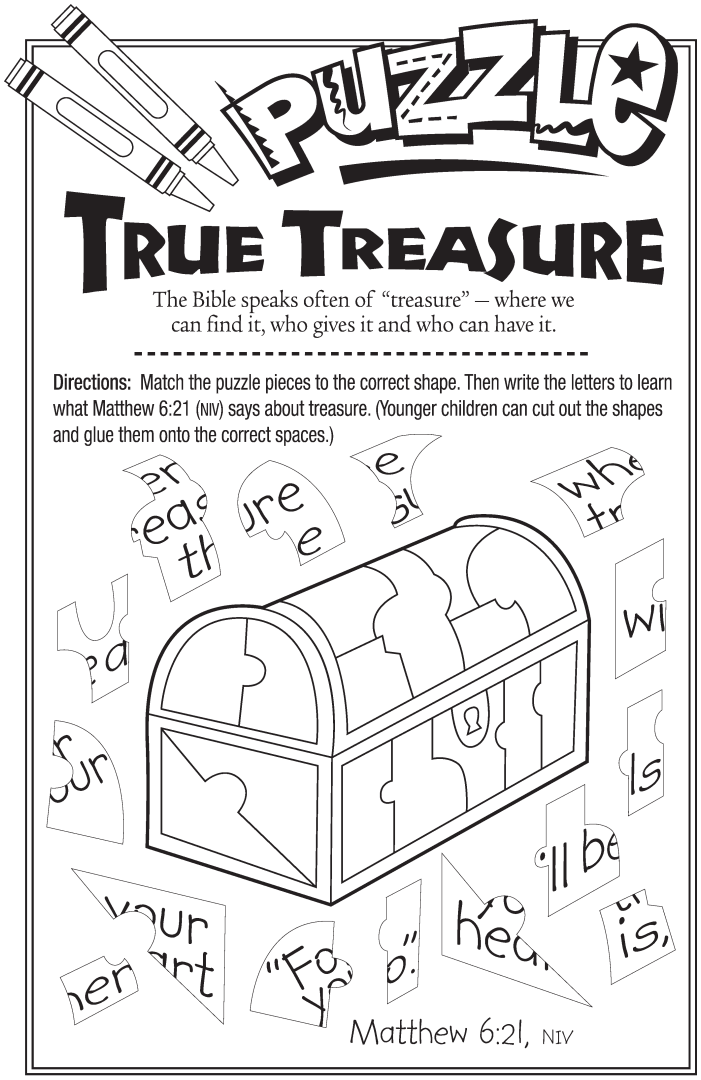
Balance on June 30, 2012	$8,614.22
Receipts for July (est)	$13,101.40
Expenses for July (est)	($13,465.93)
Shortage/Overage	$8,249.69

LOAN BALANCES:

Organ - $48,924.19. The interest for this loan is costing us approximately $258 per month.

Wilson House - $46,958.16. The interest for this loan is costing us approximately $251 per month

Repair Projects - $13,576. 50.



Answer: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21, NIV)



AUGUST

635-4825

Cynthia Thurston
Connie Hendrickson



Elders

Aug 2	6:30 p.m.	Greg Latzig
Aug 5	8:00 a.m.	Tom Daugherty & Marvin Manke
	10:30 a.m.	Tom Crum & Stephen Saager
Aug 9	6:30 p.m.	Greg Latzig
Aug 12	8:00 a.m.	Steve Hustad
	10:30 a.m.	Tom Crum
Aug 16	6:30 p.m.	Mark Manke
Aug 19	8:00 a.m.	Steve Hustad & Tom Daugherty
	10:30 a.m.	Greg Frank & Glenn Puntney
Aug 23	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Saager
Aug 26	8:00 a.m.	Marvin Manke
	10:30 a.m.	Greg Frank
Aug 30	6:30 p.m.	Glenn Puntney



AUGUST USHERS

August 5 & 12

Early	*Late*
Mark Witt ,Chr.	*Tyson Miller, Chr.*
(635-4673)	*(635-8504)*
Wade Senft	Mark Schoeckert
George Schoeneberg	Mitch Schoeckert
Mitchell Amundson	Michael Hendrickson
John Frank	Matthew Hendrickson
Jeff Rowe	Shannon Rohrbeck
Trevor Giese	Stephen Saager
Trent Olson	James & Matthew Saager

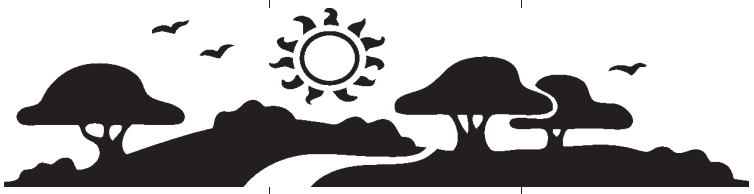
August 19 & 26

Philip Hanson, Chr	*Robert Caldwell, Chr.*
(635-2244)	*(635-4225)*
Randy Schuster	Jerran Hanson
David Caldwell	James Dobratz
Mark Hirssig	Bob Hagenow
Robert & Tony Rittmeyer	Jim Mueller
Buck & Ty Woodward	Al Stoltenberg
Justin & Jacob Reddeman	



8/5 Paul Woodward
8/10 Alice Hanson
8/11 Bruce Lambert
8/15 Mary Ann Frank
8/16 Cynthia Caldwell
8/16 Verna Mueller
8/17 Marvin Manke
8/17 Genevieve Moll
8/19 Richard Erstad
8/25 James Barnharst
8/26 Donald Thurston
8/29 Keith Podoll
8/30 Gary Johnson
8/31 Charles Hilgendorf

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			**1**	**2** 6:30 PM HC Service	**3** 10:00 AM *Thrift Store*	**4** 11:30 AM Private Confession
Pentecost 10 **5** 8:00 AM HC Service 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM HC Service	**6**	**7** 1:00 PM Bible Class	**8**	**9** 6:30 PM Contemporary Service	**10**	**11**
Pentecost 11 **12** 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM BP Screening 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service	**13**	**14** 1:00 PM Bible Class 6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Elders	**St. Mary, Mother of our Lord** **15** 10:00 AM *Thrift Store*	**16** 6:30 PM HC Service	**17**	**18** 11:30 AM Private Confession
Pentecost 12 **19** 8:00 AM HC Service 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM HC Service	**20**	**21** 1:00 PM Bible Class	**22** 	**23** 6:30 PM Contemporary Service	**St. Bartholomew, Apostle** **24**	**25**
Pentecost 13 **26** 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service	**27**	**28** 1:00 PM Bible Class	**Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist** **29**	**30** 6:30 PM Contemporary Service	**31**	

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2012 Monday - Friday 9:00 - 11:30 AM

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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

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

