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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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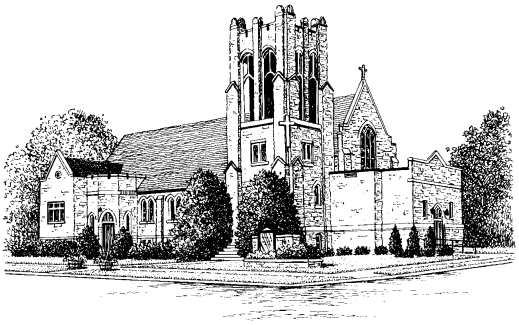
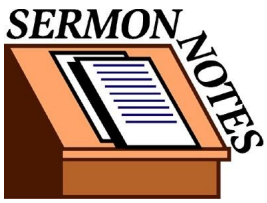


ST. PETER'S NET FEBRUARY 2025

Beloved in the Lord:

Last month I gave you a behind-the-scenes look at how Vicar Bliss, Kantor Zieroth, and I select hymns for worship. This month, I'd like to show you what I do to write a sermon.

A Monday night Divine Service makes it hard for me to start on Monday morning because I am still living with the previous week's sermon. I do find some time on Monday to pull my file folder for the upcoming Sunday and take a look at my notes. Since my ordination in 2002, I've kept files on every Sunday in the one-year lectionary cycle. Long ago I translated the Gospel reading for each Sunday from Greek to English. I've also taken notes from various resources that help kickstart the thought process from Bible text to sermon.



The very beginning, however, is with prayer. Lutheran Service Book 908, "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear" is one I sometimes pray to begin writing a sermon. Then comes the hard work: living with the Bible text all week long. How does a pastor "live with" a Bible text? This pastor spends a lot of time staring out his study window, thinking about what this text says to me. One way that helps me think through the text is to ask a couple of questions: 1. What is Jesus saying or doing for me in this text? 2. What gets in the way of Jesus saying or doing something for me in this text? I think about the Bible text while I drive. I think about the Bible text in the parsonage before bedtime. The Bible text lives rent-free with me all week.

Among the many notes I take from various resources, I look at what Martin Luther had to say about the Bible text. There's usually something he says about a text that I haven't thought about. I read other Lutheran theologians and what they say about a particular Bible text. I even look at the ancient Church Fathers now and then for some inspiration.

Thursday morning is sermon writing time. I've chewed over the text like a cow chews her cud. I've rubbed the text like an herb in order to extract its essence and apply it not only to my life, but yours as well. I'm not bashful to say that sometimes I look at a sermon I have

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

previously preached on a text and grab an idea or two from there. Sometimes I take an idea from a Martin Luther sermon and expand on it in my own words. Most often, though, I start moving my fingers across the computer keyboard and out comes a sermon. Then comes the editing process: move a sentence here, delete a paragraph there, and add a few sentences here.

A deep sigh of relief often follows hitting the save button and the print button on my computer. Another week's worth of sermon work is concluded...but not really. Once the words leave my mouth, the Holy Spirit is working to apply the words of condemnation and consolation to your life. Then the process starts all over again for next Sunday, beginning with "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear".

Is it difficult? Some weeks it is. Other weeks are quite easy to write a sermon. I got used to the process after a couple of years writing a sermon week after week. Some pastors are less comfortable with the process than others. I have long since stopped worrying about it and let the Holy Spirit use the preached Word as He sees fit. I'm grateful to be the one whom the Lord uses among you to proclaim His righteousness in spite of my many weaknesses.

Your partner in the Gospel,
Pastor Juhl

Music Ministry



For our hymn study this month, let's turn to a very prominent hymn utilized on the Transfiguration of Our Lord. "Oh Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair", can be found at LSB 413. Transfiguration this year is February 9/10.

All four Gospels reveal how important Moses and Elijah were to Jesus. Altogether the Gospel writers mention Moses thirty-seven times and Elijah twenty-seven times. You might recall that in the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, Abraham tells the Rich Man, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead." (Luke 16:31) These words were of eternal importance back then, and therefore are still true even today.

One day towards the end of his ministry, Jesus went up to the top of a mountain to have a conversation with Moses and Elijah. It would certainly have been interesting to listen in. This story is told by the writers of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) who tell us that Jesus "was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light." (Matthew 17:2). Peter, James, and John witnessed this amazing event. The story is recounted in the great and ancient hymn "Oh Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair."

Originally the Latin hymn "O nata lux," it was translated into English by the Rev. John Neale (1818-66) as the Oxford Movement of the mid-1800s advocated the value of older expressions of the faith. The translation was first published in 1851 in Hymnal Noted 1 with the original plainsong melody. Only a decade later the text was published in a significantly revised form in Hymns, Ancient and Modern 2 where it was paired with the tune FESTAL

It interesting to compare Neale's original version with the *revised LSB version* that has come down to us.
*A type of those bright rays on high For which the Church hopes longingly, Christ on the holy mountain shows Where brighter than the Sun He glows:
*Tale for all ages to declare: For with the three disciples there, Where Moses and Elias meet, The Lord holds converse, high and sweet.
*The chosen witnesses stand nigh, Of Grace, the Law, and Prophecy: And from the cloud the Holy One Bears record to the Only Son.
*With face more bright than noontide ray, Christ deigns to manifest today What Glory shall be theirs above, Who joy in God with perfect love.
*And faithful hearts are raised on high By this great vision's mystery; For which, in yearly course, we raise The voice of pray'r and hymn of praise.
*Thou, Father, Thou, Eternal Son, Thou, Holy Spirit, Three in One, To this same Glory bring us nigh, That we may see Thee eye to eye. Amen.

**O wondrous type! O vision fair Of glory that the Church may share Which Christ upon the mountain shows, Where bright than the sun he glows!*
**With Moses and Elijah nigh The incarnate Lord holds converse high; And from the cloud the Holy One Bears record to the only Son.*
**With shining face and bright array Christ deigns to manifest today What glory shall be theirs above, Who joy in God with perfect love.*
**And faithful hearts are raised on high By this great vision's mystery, For which in joyful strains we raise The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.*
**O Father, with the eternal Son And Holy Spirit ever one, We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace To see Thy glory face to face.*

Continued on page 5

FROM THE Vicar

A Light to the Nations:
Understanding the Epiphany Season

With where it sits between Christmas and Easter, the Epiphany season is easy to forget about. If you were to ask the average churchgoer, they might not even know what you were talking about if asked about the Epiphany season. So what exactly is it? Why does the church celebrate it? Epiphany, above all else, is about Christ revealing Himself to the world. Christ shows us during the Epiphany season that He is "...a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel," (Luke 2:32).

Epiphany is a season full of rejoicing, emphasizing events where Christ manifested His glory such as during the visit of the wise men, during His baptism, or during the wedding at Cana. Yet Christ doesn't just act as some divine showman or wonderworker, He ultimately shows His true glory in the fact that He comes as the Savior of sinners, which means that all these events are pointing forward to the cross. After Epiphany, we enter into the season of Lent and begin Christ's downward journey into Jerusalem to be crucified so that His word may be fulfil "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself," (John 12:32). Christ's true epiphany, the true light revealed to the nations, is that which is hidden under the suffering a shame of the cross, because it is there that Christ's redemption is poured out for all people of all nations.



So this Epiphany, we rejoice. We rejoice because Christ has manifested His glory. We rejoice because the Savior of the nations has come. We rejoice because the kingdom of God has come near. Yet Christ and all His signs of glory point forward, not only to the cross but to the resurrection. There is a coming day when Christ will do His greatest work of glory. There is a coming day when He will come with His kingdom in power, and what a great day of rejoicing that will be. During this Epiphany season we rejoice and look forward to a greater day of rejoicing where Christ will come in glory, death will be done away with, and all things will be made new.

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Bliss

Altar Guild

FEBRUARY

608-635-4825
Melissa Serwe

HONESTY

We see it all over the country.
People are not quitting church, they are attending less frequently.
The problem does not have to do with "a lack of time" or "a busy schedule."
Time has been the same since creation: 24 hours each day.
We all have the exact same amount of time.
And no one attends church because they don't have anything else to do.
We all have other stuff we could do.
What we do with our time is a matter of priorities.
Plain and simple.
If we don't attend church, it is because other things have become more important to us.

We just need to get honest. Faith is too important not to be honest...

CHOIR, MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Practices are Wednesdays

Handbells: 6:30 pm

Vocal Choir: 7:30 pm

Help us make a joyful noise with your musical gifts**!**



Christian WOMEN'S Council

NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2025
WHERE: St. Peter's
WHEN: 9:30 AM
AGENDA: Annual Tithes
Spring Plant Sale
LWR Care Kits in Lent

Reminder: as winter weekends are filled with activities and travels, we have a Divine Service Monday evenings at 6:30pm.

a lovely aroma

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.



What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)

What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.





heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.

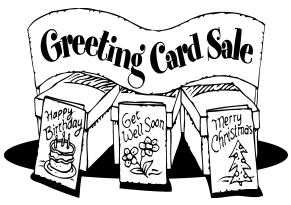


What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



The table in the narthex has a good selection of cards available. Stop by and check it out! There is a wide range of cards to fit every occasion. All proceeds go to the *Christian Women's Council* to help support all their good works. There are also a small number of craft items available for sale. You may leave your cash or check in the basket on the table.

St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool
Cathy Wendt, *Director*

The new year is in full swing! The kids are a little sad we have not had much snow to play in, but I'm sure it will come! The cold weather has kept us inside for recess, but the fun doesn't stop as we enjoy science projects with ice, different homemade 'snows', indoor snowball fights, winter art projects and just plain fun with friends! This week we start our habitat exploration units with Arctic adventures, next month we will explore the Mountains. We will find out what animals live in each area, what the weather is like and do some experiments, like how do whales keep warm in ice cold water??

We will celebrate kindness the month of February by making and sending valentines to friends in the congregation and at school. On Valentine's day we celebrate love and kindness with a class party. Volunteers are always appreciated, contact Cathy if interested. We pray that all our students and their families experience God's Love each and every day!

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! St. Peter's Staff





DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February 2/3 The Purification of Mary and The Presentation Of Our Lord 1 Samuel 1:21-28 Psalm 48:1–3, 8; antiphon: v. 9 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-32	Order: DSI, p. 151 Hymns: TLH 138 - 519 - 901, 624, 834 - 937 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: All Sunday School (8am)
February 9/10 The Transfiguration of Our Lord Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 84:1-2a, 4, 10-11; Psalm 77:18b 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Order: DSI, p. 151 Hymns: 412 - 414 - 415, 810, 413 - 417 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Handbells
February 16/17 Septuagesima Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 18:1–2a, 27, 32, 49; antiphon: vv. 5–6a 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 Matthew 20:1-16	Order: DS Arlington Setting Hymns: 665 - 555 - 761, 664, 643 - 698 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Upper Grades Sunday School (8am)
February 23/24 Sexagesima Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 44:1–2, 7–8; antiphon: vv. 23, 25a, 26a 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9 Luke 8:4-15	Order: DS Arlington Setting Hymns: 728 - 824 - 700, 427, 585 - 921 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Adult Choir

Continued from page 2

Shortly after this event, Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51) Considering what transpired in Jerusalem, the martial tune that we now use, DEO GRACIAS, fits this text quite well. After His death and resurrection, Jesus explained it all to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:27).

The Apostle Peter gives direct witness to the Transfiguration in one of his letters: *For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* (2 Peter 1:16-21)

May the witness of Moses and the Prophets, of the Apostle Peter, and of Jesus Christ Himself keep us strong in the faith until He returns. In that regard, the Bible passage quoted in Hymnal Noted at the first appearance of this hymn reminds us: *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.* (Philippians 3:20-21)

In His service,
Cantor Geremy Zieroth



BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday mornings between services a Bible Study is held in the sanctuary. Stay after the early service or come early for the late service to join in.

Saturday morning Men's Bible Study is held in the classroom across from the office at 8:00am.

Ladies Bible Study is held on Tuesday's at 1:00 p.m. here at St. Peter's.

Join in this time of fellowship and discussion of God's Word.



COUNCIL MINUTES January 14, 2024

The January 14, 2025 meeting of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order by President Cameron Gramse at 6:31pm. This meeting was held in the conference room. In attendance were: Cameron Gramse, Meg Hanson, Phil Kruger, Mike Manke, Bill Manthey, Calvin Moll, Joey Pascavis, Mike Pertzborn, Charlotte Reddeman, Alex Rehlinger, Benjamin Robinson, Stephen Saager, Dan Schmidt, Lynnette Taylor, Paul Yamriska, Geremy Zieroth, Cathy Wendt, Vicar Kyle Bliss, and Pastor David Juhl.

Vicar Bliss presented the opening devotion from Exodus chapter 33. God reaffirms he will be gracious to those who need graciousness.

The Agenda was presented. Mike Pertzborn made a motion to accept as presented. Meg Hanson second, motion carried.

Secretary's minutes were read. Dan Schmidt moved to approve the minutes, Calvin Moll second, motion carried.

The Financial Secretary's report was given by Joey Pascavis. The year of 2024 ended with the general fund at 96.4% of projected expenses which was up from where 2023 ended. Mission giving was similar to 2023. Special Purpose funds are still being supported by generous donations to the Seminary fund, the windows and Vicar fund. Paul Yamriska moved approval of the report, Dan Schmidt second, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Meg Hanson. The checkbook balance as of today is $17,513.25, thanks to an end of the year gift that was deposited solely into the general fund. The half of excess giving to the mission fund will be sent to the District this year as we are in a better position than at this same time the previous year. Dan Schmidt moved to approve the Treasurer report, Stephen Saager second, motion carried.

The Board of Elder's report was given by Alex Rehlinger. Services continue to go well. Calvary Lutheran Chapel luncheon dates for the spring are being set. Christian Women's Council will hold their annual tithing meeting in February as well as sending Valentine cards to the college students in our congregation. There were no updates from Military Care, Oakwood Community or the Endowment Committee. Cantor's report: We had Christmas with all of its extra services and programs. Christmas Day was fun although we had no way of knowing what hymns we were singing until they were pulled from the basket. There is a full season ahead and with Easter being later this year there is more time for performing in between now and then.

The Board of Trustee's Report was presented by Greg Frank and Steve Paskey. It has been discovered that the flue in the chimney at the parsonage needs work, so that will happen sometime soon. The boilers are having issues again but Prime Mechanical has been in and is in the process of finding solutions. The Trustees are looking to see if any other companies would want to bid on the repairs. There is a need to do some masonry work on various parts of the building but it has been recommended that the bell tower be first on the list for completion of this work.



The Board of Christian Education report was given by Charlotte Reddeman. She turned it over to Director Cathy Wendt for the Child Care Report. Enrollment is 32 currently and the waitlist for 2025/26 continues to grow. The children's Christmas program was livestreamed and had a full church of spectators. Upcoming center event is the "Kids Night Out" FUN-draiser happening on January 31st. The state license has been renewed and is now good for two years. One new requirement was a radon test. The levels in our center came back way low. Charlotte then continued: Sunday School programs were all received well and the children did an excellent job. All classes (Sunday School, Bible classes) are all back in session. VBS has been scheduled for July 28-31, 2025

The Pastor's Report was given by Rev. David Juhl. Attendance during 2024 averaged 114 per weekend. He is seeing 8 homebound members. Madison North and South Circuit matters: Good Shepherd by the Lake, Stoughton, Living Christ, Madison and St. Paul's, Madison are vacant. Looking ahead, Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 5th with Divine Service and Imposition of Ashes at 6:30 PM. This year's theme is "God's Gift of Forgiveness", focusing on the Seven Penitential Psalms and Individual Confession and Absolution. God willing, we will have five confirmands ready to be confirmed on Sunday, May 4th. I will soon be contacting fifth grade parents about their child's willingness to receive First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17th

Vicar reported that he is back from his time spent at home. He is teaching the 5th and 8th graders for the time being. He also reported that he is preaching more often.

There were no membership changes.

Old business: Reminder that reports for the annual meeting are due by Thursday, January 23rd. The budget committee handed out a proposed budget with an increase in projected expenses at 3.4%. Alex Rehlinger made a motion to send the proposed amounts to the Voters' for ratification, Calvin Moll second, motion carried. The nominating committee has the following names for the ballot at the voters' meeting: Cameron Gramse*, *President*; Lisa Hagenow, *Assistant Financial Secretary*; Bill Manthey, Phil Kruger*, Paul Yamriska*, *Elder*; Melissa Serwe*, Board of Christian Education*; Shelly Miller*, *Endowment Fund*. (*second term)
New business: Meg Hanson made a motion to send the nomination of Rev. David Juhl to the District office for Circuit Visitor, Calvin Moll second, motion carried. A lay delegate for the Circuit forum was also chosen from our congregation: Michael Pertzborn volunteered and will be accompanying Pastor Juhl to the forum.

Dan Schmidt moved to adjourn, Alex Rehlinger second, motion carried at 7:22 pm.

The meeting was closed with the doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynnette Taylor, *Council Secretary*

FINANCIAL REPORT
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:

Balance on Dec 31, 2024	$21,236.38
Receipts for Jan (est.)	$24,319.62
Expenses for Jan (est.)	$(23,775.49)
Shortage/Overage	$21,780.51

PUZZLE

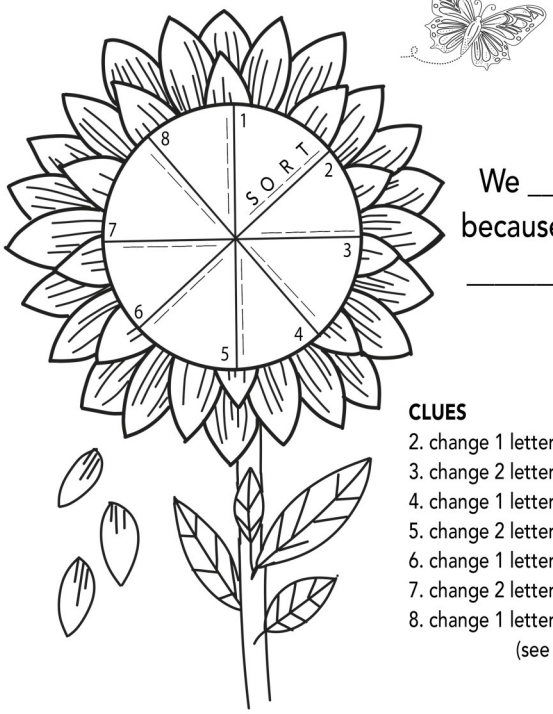
THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

_____

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.

_____



We _____
because [God] first
_____d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this (see 1 John 4:16).

Answers: fort, fold, gold, gown, down, dove, love; We love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV

You have the option of giving online at StPetersArlington.org, with designated or automatic giving. Thanks for your generosity and support.



ELDERS

Feb 2	8:00 a.m.	Dale Johnson
	10:30 a.m.	Bill Manthey
Feb 3	6:30 p.m.	Mike Pertzborn
Feb 9	8:00 a.m.	Phil Kruger
	10:30 a.m.	Benjamin Robinson
Feb 10	6:30 p.m.	Paul Yamriska
Feb 16	8:00 a.m.	Mike Manke
	10:30 a.m.	Bill Manthey
Feb 17	6:30 p.m.	Paul Yamriska
Feb 23	8:00 a.m.	Mike Manke
	10:30 a.m.	Phil Kruger
Feb 24	6:30 p.m.	Mike Pertzborn



FEBRUARY USHERS

February 2 & 9

EARLY	*LATE*
No Chairman	*Tyson Miller, Chair*
Phil Kruger	Mitch & Ahren Schoeckert
George Schoeneberg	Mike Hendrickson
Austin Kruger	Stephen Saager
Jeff, Brandon, Jacob Rowe	James Saager
	Matthew Saager

February 16 & 23

No Chairman	*No Chairman*
Randy Schuster	Al Stoltenburg
Rich Rittmeyer	Brad Larson
Mark Hirssig	Bob Hagenow
Justin & Caleb Reddeman	
Jacob Reddeman	



"Really? No additives, preservatives, or artificial flavoring?"

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class
Purification of Mary 2 **Presentation of Our Lord** 8:00 AM Divine Service 8:00 AM All SS Grades Sing 9:15 AM SS/ Bible Study 10:30 AM Divine Service	**3** 6:30PM Divine Service	**4** 1:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study	**5** 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	**6**	**7**	**8** 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class
Transfiguration 9 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:30 AM ***CWC Meeting*** 9:30 AM SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM Divine Service	**10** 6:30PM Divine Service	**11** 1:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study 6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Bd of Elders	**12** 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	**13** 	**Valentine's 14 Day**	**15** 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class
Septuagesima 16 8:00 AM Divine Service 8:00 AM Upper Gr Sing 9:15 AM SS/ Bible Study 10:30 AM Divine Service	**17** 6:30PM Divine Service	**18** 1:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study	**19** 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	**20**	**21**	**22** 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class
Sexagesima 23 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:30 AM SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM Divine Service	**24** 6:30PM Divine Service	**25** 1:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study	**26** 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	**27**	**28**	

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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

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