



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Intentional Interim Pastor: Rev. Gary Braeuer

July/August 2026

Greetings to my friends at St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Winnipeg,

Why do we do what we do?

It's a question that can feel either like a sharp accusation or a door to a deeper truth. Remember my illustration about a kettle on the stove. If you ask why, it's hot, one person might explain the thermodynamics of heating elements and electron flow. That's the mechanical answer. It's true, but it's hollow. The purposeful answer is much better ... the kettle is hot because I thought you might like a cup of tea.

Sometimes, our church life can feel like we are stuck in the mechanics. We talk about budgets, building maintenance, and the comfortable habit of Sunday morning. During the call process, the next season in the congregation's transition, you will be invited to step forward and to drink the cup that God has prepared for St Peter's faithful congregation in a sin weary world. Soon a Call Committee will form, and information will begin to flow among the fellowship of St Peter's. I urge you to participate. Your part may be direct as a member of the committee, or perhaps as a host to receive and accommodate a visiting candidate. Your part may be indirect providing prayer support for the congregation or words of encouragement for your friends and family feeling discouraged by yet another change. In either case, I am praying that you will shift your focus from *doing* church to *being* the Body of Christ.

We often think the church is for good people. But as Gerhard Forde famously argued, we don't need a life coach; we need a Redeemer. The church exists because we are spiritually sick, and this is the only place where the Old Adam ... the part of us that tries to justify ourselves as righteous in the sight of God ... comes to die so a new person, a follower of Jesus Christ may rise. Here the Word of God is spoken to justified sinners. You are not members of a club. You are creatures of the Word. You gather to hear the story that destroys self-righteousness and nourishes faith and transforms people into followers of Jesus Christ. St Peter's is a sanctuary where you are continually undone and remade by the grace of our Redeemer. Here, your striving ends, and your transformation as a new creation in Christ begins. I urge you to see St. Peter's as a place where God's intended future has already broken into the present, and where He will continue to do marvelous things in your lives.

Let us pray, ... Lord God, we confess that we often treat your house like a museum for the healthy to admire, rather than a hospital where the broken are healed. Strip away our pride and self-righteousness. Grant us the humility to admit our need, and the joy to receive your love, mercy, and grace. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace and blessings be with you all,

Interim Pastor Gary

IMPORTANT Council Update:

Pastor Gary's current term as our Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP) at St. Peter's officially ended on June 30. In the previous newsletter it was announced that Pastor Gary would be serving St. Peter's on a part time basis for an additional 3 months. However, after some deliberations at the June council meeting (which took into account a recommendation from the NALC and the fact that the summer attendance at St. Peter's is considerably less than during the remainder of the year), it was decided, by mutual agreement between the council and Pastor Gary, to have him serve us only until July 12. He will be leading the services on both July 5 and 12 and his last Sunday with us will be on July 12. There will be a farewell luncheon (in the basement) for Pastor Gary after the service to which everyone is invited. We THANK PASTOR GARY for leading St. Peter's over the past 6 months and we wish Him the Lord's blessings for the next chapter.

Services for the rest of the Summer will be lead or coordinated by Pastor Tom. The plan is to get a call committee in place by July 13 and that the call committee will meet with some members of council on July 13 to get the call process started.

The St Peter's Eaters and the **Women's circle** will not be meeting over the Summer. Please stay tuned for the dates when these two groups will resume their activities again in the Fall.

Our **Annual Church Picnic** which took place on **June 14** at Hyland Provincial Park off Henderson Hwy, was a great success! We thank the Lord for blessings this day. The weather was beautiful and the facilities at the Hyland Park location were great. Our friends from the Lutheran Brethren at Richer joined us for the picnic and a group of their members sang a beautiful German Hymn. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the day a success (our musicians, those who helped with the set-up, those who barbecued for this big group of 72, those who brought salads or desserts to share, those who helped with the clean-up, those who welcomed any visitors etc.) A special thank you goes to Elli and Siegi Kitzmann who oversaw everything and purchased all the supplies for the picnic and arrived with Jerry Roehr, Steve Herbst and Rudi Hedrich by 7am at the picnic spot on June 14 to ensure that no other group would lay claim to it.



Our friends from Richer bring a musical offering

Holy Baptism

On Sunday, June 7, Cyrus Alexander Saabon Kasraie, son of Patience Saabon, was baptized.
Godparents are Melanie and Volker Flach.
God 's blessing to all!



This year's **Special Confirmation Anniversary Celebration** which will take place at St. Peter's on Sept 27.

We will be celebrating confirmation anniversaries for those who were confirmed 25, 50, 60, 70, and 80 years ago, i.e., those confirmed in the years 2001, 1976, 1966, 1956, 1946. A list of those who were confirmed in these years at St. Peters appears on the bulletin board in the Narthex and was also emailed out. However, if you are currently attending St. Peter's and were confirmed in one of these years but do not appear on this list, we would like to also honour you that day. Please send me an email or call me so I can add you to our list (see contact details below).

Contact details: email oellermann@gmail.com OR call me at 204-487 2175 (please leave a message if no one answers).

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at this event.

Special July and August Wedding Anniversaries

July

Erna & Walter Schuppe, 61 yrs Jul 5

Edith & Steve Herbst 61 Yrs July 24

August

Edith & Erwin Erhardt, 63 yrs on Aug 3

Leila & Karl Wegert 57, yrs on Aug 8

Brenda & Gregory Kudlak, 54 yrs on Aug 8

Hans & Hannelore Luedtke, 69 yrs on Aug 30

Congratulations!! We wish you the Lord's continued blessings!

Special Birthday Celebrations for June 2026

For members at least 65

July

Siegi Kitzmann, Jul 2

Vivian Kleinholz, Jul 4

Ursula Kiors, 100 on Jul 6

Guenther Knoblauch, Jul 6

Else Lehmann, Jul 7

Walter Kunkel, Jul 17

Egon Knudsen, Jul 22

Sabina Oppitz, Aug 29

August

Helmut Kitzmann, Aug 2

Charlotte Kitzmann, Aug 9

Helene Hintz, Aug 13

Angelika Kudlak, Aug 15

Lilli Mathwig, Aug 22

Wally Tomkitt Aug, 24

Adolf Krampetz, Aug 25

Ingo Heyer, Aug 25

Hannelore Luedtke, Aug 29

Tom Lurvey Aug 29

Wishing you a very Happy Birthday and the Lord's continued Blessings!



In our June newsletter, we reminded our Kuwala sponsorship donors that it is time to receive the 2025/2026 scholarship donations. We anticipate sending the promised \$21,000.00 in August for the start of the new year. As always, cheques should be made to St. Peter's, marked Kuwala. As we may lose one sponsor next year, any additional sponsors will be welcome.



After singing an enthusiastic "Oh Canada" (we have it on video), students leave St. Peter's Hall.

Please notice the new concrete sidewalk throughout the campus. What an improvement, not to drag mud into the hall, classrooms and dormitories, especially during the rainy season.



Students who have qualified and can go on to university or college will receive their own laptop to keep and use it to support their studies.



At the graduation ceremony, certificates were handed out by Henry Midzetseni, (red tie), Kuwala's engineer; Maggie (Pink Top / board member / just retired Vice Chancellor, African Bible College) and Justice Annabel Mtalimanja (white top) is a Malawian High Court Judge and the current Chairperson of the Malawi Electoral Commission, who is our guest of honour.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Transportation Ministry. We stated in the June newsletter that the \$1,500.00 Transportation Fund, started by Emily Adams, was depleted. It was further reported that all transportation would be provided by members of the congregation. Gratefully but unexpectedly, on Sunday, June 7th, we received a donation of \$1,500.00 marked “Transportation Fund”. After contacting the donor and expressing our sincere thank you for the support for the fund, the donor agreed to our suggestion as follows: To use the fund when future needs arise. Specifically, the fund will be used when wheelchair accessibility is needed because none of our members have wheelchair-equipped or special-needs vehicles.

Please call or e-mail Jerry Roehr (2024) 981-4239 or roehr@mymts.net, if you are willing to provide a ride or need a ride. Rides are usually requested once or twice a month.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Mission Budget Update. Our three-year direct seminary student support for Paul Fredrickson has ended. The Mission committee discussed whether or not our support should go directly to the seminary for the operation of the facility or to a student. It was agreed to support a Canadian student, and the \$1,000.00 seminary support (plus \$500.00 from the Education Endowment Fund) would be sent to the NALC Canada Section’s Student Bursary budget.

In other news, after verifying donations received, \$50.00 was sent to Canadian Lutheran World Relief as a second 2026 donation.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

North American Lutheran Church (NALC). When receiving the request to register three lay delegates for the online three-hour convocation on August 7th, 2026, we noticed that NALC has a membership of over 570 congregations. Our congregation was listed as the 67th congregation to join ten years ago. By the way, it is also a privilege to be part of the NALC, whose oldest congregation, Emanuel Lutheran Church in Elmer, New Jersey, celebrated its 300th birthday on Sunday, June 28, 2026. (That is older than the United States of America.)

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Something worth sharing!



Just a few weeks ago, Gudrun Neeth entered our sanctuary and this is what she saw. It caused her to pause!

What comes to mind when **you** look at this picture? If you’d like to share your thoughts please send them to the editor at stpetersnews1@gmail.com so that they can be shared with others.

The Power of Prayer

Please continue to pray for the four Afghani women - Taiba and her teenage daughters Hania and Oswa and friend Latifa who are waiting to come to Canada. They are waiting for the Canadian Visa Office in Pakistan to approve their applications to come to Winnipeg. Their situation as refugees in Pakistan is very precarious, as the Pakistan government is in the process of deporting thousands of Afghani refugees.

Here is a prayer written by Bruce Adamson one of the co-sponsors:

May they fall into the hands of government officials who will understand the urgency of their situation and help expedite approval and relocation so that all four may one day soon find themselves face to face with brothers and sisters who will walk closely with them on their journey to becoming Canadian citizens who flourish in their new surroundings and new found freedoms. AMEN.

Submitted by Linda Lurvey

Bible readings

5-Jul-2026 6th Sunday after Pentecost: Zechariah 9:9-12, Ps 145:1-14, Romans 7:14-25a, Matthew 11:25-30

12-Jul-2026 7th Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 55:10-13, Ps 65:(1-8) 9-13, Romans 8:12-17, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

19-Jul-2026 8th Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 44:6-8, Ps 119:57-64, Romans 8:18-27, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

26-Jul-2026 9th Sunday after Pentecost: Deuteronomy 7:6-9, Ps 125, Romans 8:28-39, Matthew 13:44-52

2-Aug-2026 10th Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 55:1-5, Ps 136:1-9 (23-26), Romans 9:1-5 (6-13), Matthew 14:13-21

9-Aug-2026 11th Sunday after Pentecost: Job 38:4-18, Ps 18:1-6 (7-16), Romans 10:5-17, Matthew 14:22-33

16-Aug-2026 12th Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Ps 67, Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32, Matthew 15:21-28

23-Aug-2026 13th Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 11:33-12:8, Matthew 16:13-20

30-Aug-2026 14th Sunday after Pentecost: Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26, Romans 12:9-2, Matthew 16:21-28

July 2026 Calendar: HS=Healthy Start; TC=Tai Chi

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 TC 7pm	2	3	4
5 Bible Study 10am 11am Service in English Followed by the Pastor's lunch	6	7 HS	8 TC 7pm	9	10	11
12 Bible Study 10am 11am Service in English With Communion Followed by Pastor Gary's Farewell Lunch	13	14 HS	15 TC 7pm	16	17	18
19 11am Service in English	20	21 HS	22 TC 7pm	23	24	25
26 11am Service in English With Communion	27	28 HS	29 TC	30	31	

August 2026 Calendar: HS=Healthy Start; TC=Tai Chi

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11am Service in English	3	4	5 TC 7pm	6	7	8
9 11am Service in English With Communion	10	11 HS	12 TC 7pm	13	14	15
16 11am Service in English	17 Council meeting 7pm	18 HS	19 TC 7pm	20	21	22
23 11am Service in English With Communion	24	25 HS	26 TC 7pm	27	28	29
30 11am Service in English	31					

**Any submissions for the September 2026 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon
Thur, Aug 27, 2026. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews1@gmail.com**