



# St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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March 2025

## Act Naturally

*"When you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites." (Matthew 6:5)*

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The Gospel text that is assigned to Ash Wednesday is a passage from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6, in which Jesus warns us not to act like "hypocrites" when it comes to fasting, giving alms, and praying. He tells us that we shouldn't do these things in plain view for everybody to see – as a desire on our part to reap public praise.

The word "hypocrite" is often used to describe a person who exhibits a wrongful attitude with regards to worship and religious practices. Such a person does not only want to fool others; he also fools himself. It is interesting, though, to take a look at the original meaning of the word "hypocrite." It comes from the Greek language and was a term that was used in the world of ancient theatre. It refers to an "actor, a "stage player."

In a more literal translation the Greek word "hypocrites" refers to a person who is "an interpreter from underneath." And this is what an actor in ancient theatre did: He – in those days only male actors were allowed – spoke from underneath a mask. It was also very common that the same actor played several roles, had to impersonate different characters. To indicate that the actor was a different person, he simply switched masks. In this context, it makes sense that a hypocrite comes across as one who wants to deceive others. He is not sincere in his actions. He is only playing a role, much like an actor.

The song "Act Naturally" by Buck Owens (1929-2006) comes to my mind. It is a song about an actor who wants to become a big movie star, "and all [he's] gotta do is "act naturally." He dreams of fame, hoping that he "might win an Oscar," one of the most prestigious movie awards that one can receive.

What Jesus is saying about hypocrites sounds, in modern terms, like, "Don't hide behind a mask. You don't have to pretend to be somebody who you are not. Don't be such a show off. You don't need to act like a movie star. As a child of God, you can be your true self. Act naturally! There may be some tempting awards (like the Oscar) in this life, but God wants to give you another precious prize: the crown of victory."

It should be self-evident: If we pray, give alms or fast so that we gain the recognition and praise of our fellow humans then we are doing these things for the wrong reason. God knows what we are doing. He also knows our intentions. It sounds to me that Jesus tells us: Be who you are. Act naturally – and acts of charity and piety will follow suit. Quite naturally!

May Lent help us to see more clearly who we are before God.

Yours in Christ,

Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

**Our Annual General Meeting** has been scheduled for Sunday March 9, 2025.

There will be a combined service at 10:30am followed by a soup luncheon. We are requesting that those who wish to **volunteer to bring a soup or dessert** please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

*Submitted by Michael Zacharias and Gudrun Neeth*

## Verhaltet euch natürlich

„Wenn ihr betet, sollt ihr nicht sein wie die Heuchler.“ (Matthäus 6,5)

Die Fastenzeit beginnt am Aschermittwoch. Der dem Aschermittwoch zugeordnete Evangeliumstext ist eine Passage aus der Bergpredigt in Matthäus 6, in der Jesus uns davor warnt, uns beim Fasten, Almosengeben und Beten nicht wie „Heuchler“ zu verhalten. Er sagt uns, dass wir diese Dinge nicht vor aller Augen tun sollten – aus dem Wunsch heraus, damit öffentliches Lob ernten zu wollen.

Das Wort „Heuchler“ wird oft verwendet, um eine Person zu beschreiben, die eine falsche Einstellung in Bezug auf Gottesdienst und religiöse Praktiken zeigt. Eine solche Person möchte nicht nur andere täuschen, sondern täuscht letzten Endes auch sich selbst. Es ist jedoch interessant, einen Blick auf die ursprüngliche Bedeutung des Wortes „Heuchler“ zu werfen. Es leitete sich vom griechischen Wort „Hypokrites“ ab und war ein Begriff, der in der Welt des antiken Theaters verwendet wurde. Es bezeichnet eine Person, die als „Schauspieler“ auf der Bühne stand.

Das Wort „Hypokrites“ kann wörtlich als Person, „die von unten her darstellt“ übersetzt werden. Denn dies ist, was ein Schauspieler im antiken Theater tat: Er – damals waren nur männliche Schauspieler erlaubt – sprach seine Rolle hinter (unter) einer Maske. Es kam dabei für gewöhnlich vor, dass ein und derselbe Schauspieler mehrere Rollen spielte, also verschiedene Charaktere verkörpern musste. Um zu zeigen, dass der Schauspieler eine andere Person war, wechselte er einfach die Maske. In diesem Zusammenhang leuchtet es dann auch ein, dass man bei einem Heuchler davon ausgeht, dass er einem etwas vorgaukelt. Man nimmt ihm nicht ab, was er tut, weil er ja – gleich einem Schauspieler – nur eine Rolle spielt.

Das Lied „Act Naturally“ von Buck Owens (1929-2006) kommt mir in den Sinn. Es ist ein Lied über einen Schauspieler, der ein großer Filmstar werden will, „und alles, was [er] tun muss, ist, sich ganz natürlich zu verhalten (act naturally).“ Er träumt vom Ruhm und hofft, dass er „vielleicht einen Oscar gewinnt“, einen der prestigeträchtigsten Filmpreise, die man erhalten kann.

Was Jesus hier Heuchler sagt, klingt für uns heute so: „Versteckt euch nicht hinter einer Maske. Ihr müsst nicht so tun, als wäret ihr jemand, der ihr nicht seid. Gebt nicht so an. Ihr müsst euch nicht wie ein Filmstar aufführen. Als Kinder Gottes könnt ihr euer wahres Ich zeigen. Verhaltet euch ganz natürlich! Sicherlich mag es in diesem Leben einige verlockende Auszeichnungen (wie den Oscar) geben, aber Gott möchte euch einen anderen kostbaren Preis verleihen: die Siegeskrone.“

Es sollte uns damit einleuchten: Wenn wir beten, Almosen geben oder fasten, um damit die Anerkennung und das Lob unserer Mitmenschen zu gewinnen, dann tun wir diese Dinge aus dem falschen Grund. Gott weiß, was wir tun. Er kennt auch unsere Absichten. Für mich klingt es so, als würde Jesus uns sagen: Seid, wer ihr seid. Verhaltet euch natürlich – und Taten der Nächstenliebe und Frömmigkeit werden dann folgen. Wie von selbst!

Möge uns die Fastenzeit dabei helfen, dass wir klarer erkennen, wer wir vor Gott sind.

In Christo, euer

Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

**St. Peter's Singers.** We will resume choir practices on Sunday, March 2, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. in the church basement. The plan is to practice each Sunday leading up to Holy Week. We welcome singers of all ages to join us. No music reading experience is necessary. Please call *Linda Lurvey* for more information: 204-663-1287

*"The one who sings prays twice"* St. Augustine

### Ash Wednesday and Lenten services.

**Ash Wednesday:** March 5 at 6pm

**Lenten Services:** Thursdays: March 20 and April 10 at 2pm\* with coffee fellowship afterwards.

\*note these are daytime services

## Scripture Lessons for March 2025. Lesungen für März 2025

### *Transfiguration (Verklärung): March 2*

Deuteronomy 31:1-12  
Psalm 99  
Hebrews 3:1-6  
Luke 9:28-36

### *Ash Wednesday (Aschermittwoch): March 5*

Joel 2:12-19  
Psalm 51  
2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### *Lent 1 (Invokavit): March 9*

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-13  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

### *Lent 2 (Reminiszenz): March 16*

Jeremiah 26:8-15  
Psalm 4  
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

### *Lent 3 (Okuli): March 23*

Ezekiel 33:7-20  
Psalm 85  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

### *Lent 4 (Laetare): March 30*

Isaiah 12:1-6  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

### Looking ahead:

Holy Week begins on **Palm-Sunday** (Palmsonntag), April 13.  
**Maundy Thursday** (Gründonnerstag) is on April 17; **Good Friday** (Karfreitag) on April 18.  
The celebration of Jesus' Resurrection (**Easter** / Ostern) will be observed on April 20.

### Special March Birthdays

Gerda Sickert, 92 on March 2  
Hiltrud Boese, 75 on March 14  
Erika von Kampen, 94 on March 21  
Ingrid Heim-Heyer, 72 on March 29

Irmgard Redmann, 90 on March 5  
Elli Kitzmann, 77 on March 19  
Frieda Kreis, 89 on March 25

**We wish you a Happy Birthday and the Lord's blessings for the coming year!**

### Special Wedding Anniversaries

Lilli and Rudi Mathwig, 64 years on March 11  
**Congratulations! Wishing you the Lord's continued blessings!**

### Volunteer opportunities

*Submitted by Linda Lurvey*

- We still need volunteers to assist in looking after the area around the altar for our worship services. It involves preparing and cleaning up the elements for Holy Communion and seasonally changing the paraments (fabric hangings on the altar, pulpit and lectern) according to the church year. Our hope is that we have **several teams** of two people involved. Training will be provided. Please speak to Pastor Bjoern if you are interested in serving. Thank you.
- Saturday snowfalls have made for snowy entranceways at St. Peter's on Sunday mornings. If you are willing and able to do some shoveling/sweeping at our main church entrance and sidewalk, please consider coming early (either before the German service or English service). We want to offer safety and hospitality to our worshippers. Thank you.

## Cluster Groups

If you are interested in participating and haven't yet signed up for a cluster group, you can still sign up. Please supply the requested information EITHER

1. by email to [oellermann@gmail.com](mailto:oellermann@gmail.com) with "Cluster Group" in the Subject line OR
2. by calling Ortrud Oellermann at 204-487 2175 with the requested information (leave a message if necessary).

- Your name(s), your address, your phone number, and e-mail if available.
- If there is a member you'd like to be in a cluster group with, please give us their name.

**The South Central Cluster Group** will meet on March 7 and 21, 2025 at 7pm-9pm at Martin and Ortrud's home, 255 Waverley Street

## Counselling Support

*Submitted by Carla Betker*

St. Peter's Lutheran Church is pleased to offer counselling services, free of charge, to members of the congregation and surrounding community. This will be offered on a first come, first serve basis, on Monday evenings. Counselling is provided by Carla Betker, a certified School Psychologist with a private counselling practice. If interested, please contact Carla directly at [elparkcounselling@gmail.com](mailto:elparkcounselling@gmail.com)

The **Outreach Committee** is happy to organize information workshops on topics of interest to members of the congregation. If anyone has any particular requests, please contact Carla Betker at [elparkcounselling@gmail.com](mailto:elparkcounselling@gmail.com)



The next **St. Peter's Eaters** breakfast will be held in the church basement on Saturday, March at 29 at 8AM. It's a men's breakfast group to which all men are invited for food and fellowship. If you plan on coming, please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church or contact the church office by phone (204.775.6477) or email [stpetersoffice@mymts.net](mailto:stpetersoffice@mymts.net).

## Confirmation Anniversary Celebrations

Starting this year, St. Peter's will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, ... confirmation anniversaries every September in conjunction with the anniversary of St. Peters. **If you or someone you know was confirmed in 2000, 1975, 1965, 1955, 1945, and is a current or former member of St. Peters, please e-mail the name and contact details of such an individual(s) to Ortrud Oellermann at [oellermann@gmail.com](mailto:oellermann@gmail.com) or call Ortrud at 204-487 2175 with these details so that we can invite them to this celebration.**

## YOUNG ADULT NEWS, JAN 2024, ISSUE #7 BY EMILY ADAMS

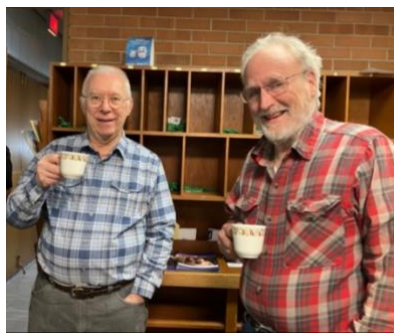
### New Year, New News!

A Winter Devotional was held Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Where was this devotional held? Not at St. Peter's?! The shock, surprise, bewilderment of everyone who RSVP'd their attendance rang throughout the city due to the sudden location change because Emily Adams had to be away for a family emergency! But it was thanks to the quick thinking of Emilie Wappler from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, who stepped in and saved the event from being cancelled! Thus, our winter devotional was held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Unfortunately, due to circumstance, some of the young adults who planned on attending were not notified in time and missed this event. But for those who were able to make it, it can be said that this event was, "okay" (said by a young adult with the small shrug of their shoulders and a confirming head nod of the "okay-ness").

Consequently, the Coffee and a Chocolate for You event was rescheduled to Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> due to similar reasons as above. At least this time, no one went to the wrong location on account of the short rescheduling notice. As for the highlight of this event, it was the mingling! We all mingled, tingled, and jingled up a storm as we munched away on goodies, sipped some hot coffee, and basked in each other's joyful presence.



Our St. Peter's Friends and Family



Tom and Jerry.  
Our favourite cat and mouse?

*Pictures taken  
by Emily  
Adams  
at Coffee and  
a Chocolate  
Sunday,  
January 26,  
2025.*



**NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!**

Exciting news to share about our young adult Max Schreckenbach!

This fine, fantastic, faithful guy has started up the French Alpha Group at St. Peter's! Great job, Max!

### Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Coffee and a Cranberry Bliss Bar for You!** Stay a while or come early, on March 16<sup>th</sup> between 10:15AM - 10:45AM for coffee and a cranberry bliss bar in the Narthex.

**March Volunteering!** Everyone is welcome to volunteer at Siloam Mission in the Kitchen! (Located on 300 Princess Street.) The three available sign-up dates and times are: Saturday, March 8: 5:15PM - 7:15PM, Sunday, March 9: 5:15PM - 7:15PM. If you are interested, please contact Emily Adams ASAP at [yaevents@stpeterslutheran.ca](mailto:yaevents@stpeterslutheran.ca) or 431.557.4154. Thank you!

**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH grades 6 through 12**

**LYTE: Lutheran Youth Together Event**

**May 16th - 19th 2025, at LCBI Highschool Outlook, SK**

Presented by the Canadian Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church

*Good Soil*

**“He who has ears, let him hear.” Matthew 13:9**

This is a chance to meet and team up with youth from other Lutheran churches. It is an opportunity for participants to connect Word and Sacrament to the daily life of a Christian. It is a time to learn together and gain friendships with other Christian youth. For further details contact Pastor Peters at: [tpeters@thenalc.org](mailto:tpeters@thenalc.org) or (204)292-6229.

**Registration:** When you register, you register as a congregation. **All waiver forms and registration forms must be completed and submitted with your registration fees \$150 (\$50 subsidy for NALC church members) to your church youth leader (Emily Adams for St. Peter’s) prior to the registration deadline. Cheques are to be made out to the NALC-Canada Section. All fees and forms should then be submitted to Pastor Teresa Peters, (Director of Youth and Family Ministry; 42 Envoy Cres. Winnipeg, MB R2V 3K6) by April 10, 2025.**

**Important:** Everyone 18 years of age or older must have a background check completed and sent in with the registration package.

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**Baby Layette Project for “Healthy Start”**

At the January **Women’s Circle** meeting we decided to collect baby layette items for “Healthy Start for Mom and Me”.

There are nine Healthy Start group locations in Winnipeg. *Our church* is a Healthy Start location every Tuesday year round. Parents and their support person learn how to prepare nutritious low cost meals, take part in Prenatal and Postnatal Parenting Classes and learn how and where to access other area resources for ongoing support.



Healthy Start’s budget does not allow them to help families with layettes, but through the generosity of churches and other non-profits, they have been pleased to offer some or all layette items for the Newborn and family in the program. At a minimum each Layette would cost \$55-60.

Here is a list of the **new** baby layette items needed:

- 0-3 months **cotton Sleepers**
- 0-3 months **cotton Onesies**
- Newborn knit or cotton fabric hat (*knitting pattern available at church*)
- Cotton flannelette receiving Blankets approx. 35” – 40”
- Baby cloth Washcloths (not disposables)
- Packages of newborn NB diapers

Please see the Healthy Start display and donation box in the narthex. All members and friends are invited to take part. If you are willing to donate one or more items for a layette, it would be greatly appreciated. We plan to deliver all the collected items to Healthy Start at the end of April. Thank you for your help with this local mission project.

For more info: <https://www.hsmm.ca>

*Submitted by Linda Lurvey*



*Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

congregation uses.

After a review by one member of the Canadian visitors last June, a more current accounting systems was recommended. Kuwala has now implemented a cutting-edge Management Administrative program like QuickBooks, which our

The relationship between Kuwala and the surrounding communities is growing; the local population actively supports Kuwala by providing labour for various tasks, including agricultural piecemeal at the farm, security services for the campus, culinary preparations, and construction efforts.

Kuwala is enhancing agricultural output and achieving food self-sufficiency. It has a new water tower at the farm to develop water irrigation and retention and management systems to mitigate the effects of increasing drought periods.



**The greenhouse is ready**



**Pipes are in place with a new water tower**



**Composted material**

**Madison House.** As reported earlier, Pastor Tom Lurvey would like to start a chess club at this Siloam Mission residence. We have purchased three chess sets, and the Manitoba Chess Association has donated three sets.

*Submitted by Jerry Roehr.*



**Paul Frederickson.** Paul is the seminary student we have agreed to support for three years. Paul, his wife Taryn and their son Edmund are currently living in Valhalla Centre, Alberta, where he serves his internship. The congregation was started in 1912, and the building was finished in 1926. Their son has been diagnosed with infant GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease), which means he needs some extra care and medication to eat and grow properly; he is doing well otherwise.

*Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

**Free Press, John Longhurst.** John reports that the article “What to do with the 10 Commandments monument that was formerly in Assiniboine Park” sparked many letters to the editor. He also thanked everyone for their ongoing support of the “Religion in the News” project! He published twelve stories in December, and Jen Zoratti did two.

*Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

**Mission Budget.** After reviewing the year-end accounts for Malawi (Kuwala) Support, we found that accumulated donations totaled \$3,120.98. That amount was submitted to Kuwala. From Mission donations received and budgeted for 2025, \$1,000.00 was remitted to the NALC Canadian District and \$500/00 to the Free Press.

*Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

## March 2025 Calendar

\*HS=Healthy Start, \*\*Tai Chi=TC

| Sun   | Mon                    | Tue       | Wed                                      | Thur   | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
|   |                        |           |  |  |  | 1<br>TC**10am  |
| 2 <b>Transfiguration</b><br>German Service at 9:15am<br><br>English Service at 11:00am  | 3                      | 4<br>HS*  | 5 Ash<br>Wednesday<br>6pm<br><br>TC**7pm | 6 Pastor's<br>Bible<br>study on<br>the creeds<br>7pm       | 7<br>South Central Cluster<br>Group 7pm – 9pm<br><br>French Alpha 7pm  | 8<br>TC**10am<br><br>Siloam<br>Volunteering<br>5:15-7:15pm |
| 9 <b>Lent 1</b><br><b>Combined service w/<br/>Communion</b><br>at 10:30am followed by<br><b>Lunch and AGM</b><br>Siloam Volunteering<br>5:15pm-7:15pm | 10                     | 11<br>HS* | 12<br>TC**7pm                            | 13   | 14<br>French Alpha 7pm   | 15<br>TC**10am   |
| 16 <b>Lent 2</b><br>German Service 9:15am<br><b>Coffee &amp; Cranberry<br/>Bar 10:15am-10:45am</b><br>English Service at<br>11:00am                   | 17 Council<br>Mtg. 7pm | 18<br>HS* | 19<br>TC**7pm                            | 20 Lenten<br>Service<br>2pm w/<br>Fellowship<br>afterwards | 21<br>South Central Cluster<br>Group 7pm – 9pm<br><br>French Alpha 7pm | 22<br>TC**10am   |
| 23 <b>Lent 3</b><br><b>w/ Communion</b><br>German Service at<br>9:15am<br><br>English Service at<br>11:00am   | 24                     | 25<br>HS* | 26<br>TC**7pm                            | 27   | 28<br>French Alpha 7pm   | 29<br>Men's<br>Breakfast<br>8am<br><br>TC**10am            |
| 30 <b>Lent 4</b><br>German Service at<br>9:15am<br><br>English Service at<br>11:00am  | 31                     |           |  |  |  |  |

**Any submissions for the April 2025 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thur, March 27, 2025. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at [stpetersnews@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersnews@gmail.com)**