



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

65 Walnut Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1N9
Tel: 204-775-6477
Email: stpetersoffice@mymts.net
Website: www.stpeterslutheran.ca.
Interim Pastor: Rev. Tom Lurvey

October 2026

The Breath of God

When God created humankind, we're told in Genesis 2:7, "The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and *breathed* into his nostrils the *breath of life*; and the man became a living being."

In the Hebrew language of the Old Testament, the word for breath is *ruah*, the same word for *spirit*. Similarly in Greek, the language of the New Testament, the word *pneuma* is used for both breath and spirit.

To say that humans are *spiritual* is to say that we are *God-breathed beings*. How can we nurture that spiritual aspect of our being? By spending intentional time in the presence of God, so God's Holy Spirit can continue to breathe into us that breath of life. We certainly do that at worship in church as we open ourselves to God's presence in Word and Sacrament. We can also do that in our everyday lives: spend intentional time breathing in God's presence. We can do that through daily devotional time in Bible reading, reflection, and prayer.

Jesus did that on a regular basis. We read throughout the Gospels that Jesus would seek out a place of solitude to pray and breathe in the presence of the Holy Spirit. He especially did that in hectic times and in times of crisis. In those times I believe he needed to be reassured of God presence and help and strength.

Athletes and musicians learn that before they perform it is very helpful for them to be intentional about their breathing, to take some deep breaths. That helps to calm them and focus and perform in the best way they can. Massage therapists encourage their clients to relax and focus on their breathing.

How good it is for Christian people to pause daily, figuratively and even literally, intentionally to breathe in God's presence. There's an old hymn that prays:

*Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew. Amen.*

Submitted by the Interim Pastor Tom Lurvey



The next **St. Peter's Eaters** breakfast will be on Sat, Oct 31, 2026 at 8AM in the church basement. 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.

The next **Women's circle** will meet on October 18 after the worship service.
All women visiting or worshipping at St. Peter's are invited to attend this fellowship & luncheon event.

Special Birthday Celebrations for Oct 2026

For members at least 65

Jake Wiens, Oct 5

Gisela Kunkel, Oct 28

Margot Hillius, Oct 7

Grant Linney, Oct 29

Phillip Kitsch, Oct 19

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

Special October Wedding Anniversaries

At least 50 years

Patricia and Helmut Augst, Oct 19

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

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

4-Oct-2026 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

11-Oct-2026 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14

12-Oct-2026 Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Psalm 67; Philippians 4:6-20; Luke 17:11-19

18-Oct-2026 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-91; Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

25-Oct-2026 Reformation Sunday

Revelation 14:6-7; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Financial Update (Not audited)

Submitted by Ralf Oppitz – Treasurer



2 Corinthians 9:6(NIV): “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

As of August 31, 2026:

- Congregational Income [40100] is \$9,700 more than last year.
- Congregational Expenses are \$15,600 less than last year.

St. Peter's Singers News

submitted by Linda Lurvey

Our choir will resume practicing on Sunday, November 1st.

We'll meet 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Please consider joining our joyful group of singers!

No music reading experience needed.

Singers of all ages are welcome!



A Musician's Prayer

Glorious God,
source of joy and righteousness,
enable us as redeemed and forgiven children
evermore to rejoice in singing your praises.
Grant that what we sing with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts
we may practice in our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

source: A Lutheran Prayer Book

FYI: Pastor Tom and Linda Lurvey will be away October 5 - October 15

If you have an emergency, please call the office at **204-775-6477**



You are invited to a **FREE Steve Bell Concert** with **Mike Janzen** (Piano)
that also features **Gilles Fournier** (Bass),
at 7:30pm on Nov 13 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 65 Walnut Street.
Friends and Family are welcome. Doors open at 6:30pm

A free-will offering will be collected at the end of the concert.





Submitted by Jerry Roehr

The Malawi news agency reported that the country will receive less rain than usual for the upcoming planting season. Long dry spells are likely to stretch into March next year.

Kuwala's farm is becoming more and more important to the future of food security.



Among other crops, the farm manager reported that they have 1,900 kg of corn - enough for the entire year and to feed the chickens. Also, as the corn is stored in kernel form, and once milled, the skin of the kernels goes into the biodigester and the gas produced in the process is used as cooking gas for the kitchen. The output from the digester goes back into the compost.



As the picture shows, growing bananas is almost unheard of as a school activity. While students focus primarily on academic learning, they are also required to learn farm and garden practices.

Malawi is a farming country, and just about everyone has a garden. Learning to manage, improve and experiment with different crops will greatly help to improve the schools and, in turn, every student's food independence.



Two new buildings are almost ready for occupancy: a classroom and a dormitory. Electricity continues to be a problem as the Malawi electrical grid is unpredictable and diesel fuel for the generator is very hard to get and expensive. Solar power continues to be the solution.

Search for a new Pastor. *Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

The Call Committee has completed the Congregational Search Profile and the Church Council has approved this document. A five-minute call video, giving a glimpse into our congregational life, was also put together by our council president Michael Zacharias and was shown to our congregation at the service on September 20, 2026. Our Congregational Search Profile has now been submitted to the NALC Call Process Coordinator, Pastor Shelly Schultz and the District Dean, Pastor Mac de Waal and a link to the call video will be made available to anyone interested in our profile.

The Profile and video are available upon request to all St. Peter's members. For a copy, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jerry Roehr at roehr@mymts.net (204) 981-4239, or with Gudrun Neeth at the church office, stpetersoffice@mymts.net (204) 775-6477.

We received the following note from **Pastor Paul Frederickson**.

Hello Saint Peter's,

I hope and pray that you are all well.

I want to thank you all again for the support you gave me and my family these last few years. The prayers sustained us, and the finances helped us get through the expenses that come with seminary education. You helped take away many of the burdens, and for that we all thank you.



I have now been an ordained pastor for four weeks. Already, we have had five baptisms; two of those were my twins, Morgana and Martin. We also have several members of our community interested in membership. This is possible, in no small part, because of you. Thank you. In many ways, I don't know how to properly say thank you; you took on a young seminarian whom you didn't really know and supported me through years of struggle. When I think of you, all this passage comes to mind: Saint Paul writes in Philippians 1: "3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Thank you for your ministry and your support, and may God be with you now and forever.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paul & Taryn Frederickson

Hear Ye! Hear Ye —Service opportunities*

- Communion prep and clean up help needed
- Sunday Morning Coffee Hour hosts
- Before service setting up power point computer for screen and/or sound board
(Please speak to Pastor Tom)

Special Confirmation Anniversary Celebration

The second Special Confirmation Anniversary Celebration was held at St. Peter's on Sept. 27, 2026. It was a lovely gathering with 87 in attendance. These celebrations were introduced as a way of connecting current and former members of St. Peter's and to remind us all that the Gospel of Christ is at the core of our Christian faith: Our sins have been paid for, not in part, but in whole by the suffering and death of Jesus, and the hope we have through His resurrection promise: "...because I live you too shall live" John 14:19.

In a given year we celebrate the confirmation anniversaries of current and former members of St. Peter's who were confirmed 25, 50, 60, 70 or 80 years ago. This year's celebrants were Steve Herbst (60), Helmut Kitzmann (60), Reni Reichert-Koesters (60), Edith Erhardt (70), Vivian Kleinholz, (70), Frank Schwing (70) and Erika von Kampen (80). We were delighted that many family and friends of those who were being honoured joined us at this celebration. After our celebrants were introduced and presented with a certificate, Pastor Tom Lurvey led the entire congregation in affirming their Confirmation/Baptismal vows.



Vivian Kleinholz, Frank Schwing, Erika von Kampen, Helmut Kitzmann, Reni Anni Reichert-Koesters, Edith Erhardt and Steve Herbst

The following introductions are based on interviews that either the editor or family members held with the celebrant.

1) Steve Herbst was confirmed at St. Peter's by Pastor Pogemiller in 1966, i.e. 60 years ago. He does not recall being part of any formal confirmation ceremony. He had been attending St. Peters for a while because several of his friends were German and attending St. Peters. He also got married to Edith (who was Lutheran) in 1965. This was in the year prior to him finishing his confirmation classes with Pastor Pogemiller. He approached Pastor Pogemiller about becoming a Lutheran. When the pastor asked him why he wanted to become Lutheran, Steve said that he prefers the Lutheran services since they have fewer rituals than The Catholic Church where he had officially been a member. It was then that the pastor gave him a booklet titled "What Lutherans Believe" that he worked through with Steve in private classes. What stuck with him is that he learned a table prayer from Pastor Pogemiller which he prays to this day.

Steve had come to Canada from Hungary, by plane, on September 29, 1957. He worked in the construction business in Winnipeg his entire working life. It was in this business that he met several Germans who attended St. Peters. He was born in Acs (Asch) in Hungary and that is where he was confirmed into the Catholic faith - he believes this happened in 1951. I asked him if there was anything he remembered about his first confirmation and he recalled that it was a nice sunny day and that his dad was there. He also remembers that most confirmands got some kind of special gift from their parents. Some got a watch. But he didn't get any keepsake. Instead, he was taken out for an ice cream.

He recalls that his mother's family was Lutheran and that he was already exposed to the Lutheran faith when he was growing up. His maternal grandmother often took him along to Lutheran services when he was growing up. Steve remembers that after the second world war Hungary became a satellite state of the Soviet Union and a member of the Warsaw pact. As a result, Moscow exercised a considerable amount of control over Hungary. Consequently, very few people attended church regularly. Since joining St. Peter's Steve has faithfully attended and served St. Peter's.

2) Helmut Kitzmann - confirmed at St. Peter' in 1966 (60 years ago). He recalls having to memorize, in German, large amounts of material from the catechism, the Bible and the hymnary. Pastor Pogemiller taught them in their first year of confirmation classes and Mrs. Becker was their teacher in the second year since they didn't have a Pastor that year and the retired Pastor Heimann then confirmed them.

3) Reni Anni Reichert-Koesters - confirmed at St. Peter's in 1966 (60 years ago) by Pastor Heimann. She recalls that her confirmation classes were in German and that they had to memorize the catechism, hymns and Bible passages in German. She said that the Pastor told them that he'd randomly ask them questions on this material, but she has no recollection that he actually did this. There were 38 confirmands in her year. She remembers Jutta Westphal and Karin Klein from her confirmation class.

4) Edith Erhardt – confirmed 70 years ago. Edith was born and baptized in 1941 in Kirchberg near Litzmannstadt now located in Poland. When she was 2 years old her father, who served in the German Army, was admitted to the hospital. The family took him a blanket since he had been complaining of being cold and that was the last time they saw him. They never learned what happened to him - he simply disappeared. Later, her mother's brother who had come to Canada, sponsored their family (Edith, her mother and two brothers) to come to Canada. Edith was 7 years old when they immigrated to Canada. They settled in Inglis Manitoba where her uncle farmed. Edith recalls that she attended confirmation classes for 5 years. They had to memorize the entire catechism, several hymns, Psalms and Bible passages. There were 8 confirmands in her class. Pastor Oswald taught the classes and later confirmed them. The week before the confirmation, they had their oral exam, called a "Prüfung" in German, to test how well they knew the material they had learned. It was custom for the girls to wear black dresses for the occasion. Her "Prüfung" and confirmation dresses were made by a seamstress – which was common practice at the time. The elders of the church then decided, after their "Prüfung", whether they were ready to be confirmed. The confirmation for their group took place at Bethany Lutheran Church in Inglis on July 29th 1956. Edith recalls that the girls all wore white dresses for the occasion. Her confirmation memory verse is from John 2:15: *Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him.*

5) Vivian Kleinholz (nee Slade) – confirmed 70 yrs ago.

Vivian was confirmed on Oct 7, 1956 at the All Saints Anglican Church in Gladstone, Manitoba where she later also got married. She was confirmed by the Bishop of the Anglican Church of the Diocese of Brandon. She recalls wearing a white dress for the occasion. Her confirmation prayer from the Common Prayer Book reads as follows: *Defend O Lord thy children with thy heavenly grace that I may continue thine forever and daily increase in the Holy Spirit more and more until I come to the everlasting Kingdom.*

6) Frank Schwing – confirmed at St. Peter's 70 yrs ago.

We feel especially blessed that Frank Schwing is able to be with us today. Just a few months ago he was in the hospital. When Christel Parkhill (the daughter of Frank Schwing) was asked if she and her sister Carrie Myer may be able to interview their father, they were happy to do this. This is what their father Frank Schwing said:

“Ninety-five years ago, I was born in a small German speaking town in Hungary. My parents and other family members raised me in the Catholic teachings and faith. Through the years, the decision was made to send me to Canada to work with the hope in bringing my immediate family to Winnipeg. I was successful in doing just that, and I was very lucky to have met my beautiful wife, Frieda. At the time, Frieda was a German speaking Lutheran who was a member of St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church.

There was never any question or regrets to convert to the Lutheran faith for me because I wanted to marry and spend the rest of my life with Frieda and any future children that may come along. I believed in one God and in all His Goodness while a catholic, and I still believe in One God as a Lutheran.

Pastor Schwabe performed the Confirmation ceremony almost 70 years ago and he married Frieda and me on September 29, 1956. I do not remember much about the actual confirmation ceremony, but I do remember our wedding.

I am so happy I made the decision to become a Lutheran, since I shared my faith with Frieda and our two daughters. Christel and Carrie were baptized, confirmed and married in St. Peter’s Church. My five grandchildren also follow our path being baptized and confirmed in “our church” on Walnut Street. I am overwhelmed with happiness when I receive the sacraments with my wife, my children, and my grandchildren by my side.

So blessed by God. Thank you.”

7) Erika von Kampen (nee Noack)-confirmed 80 Years ago. *Erika von Kampen and her daughter Ricki Valcourt sent me the following piece in which they highlighted Erika’s memories of her confirmation and the classes that led up to this day.*

At age 14 Erika received her second year of confirmation instruction in the small town of Zeitz, Germany. It had taken eight days in February of that year, 1945, for Erika, her mother, and four younger siblings to flee the advancing Russians in a horse-drawn wagon. They finally found safety and shelter at the farm of relatives near Zeitz.

Erika had already received one year of confirmation instruction in her hometown of Forst, alongside her cousins and friends. They were all looking forward to being confirmed together in the beautiful Protestant church in town. But it was not to be.

Erika was confirmed with about ten other children on March 25th of 1946 - 80 years ago - in the Protestant church in Zeitz. She wore an old black dress of her grandmother’s, made over for the occasion with a white collar, and shoes borrowed from her mother, which were very uncomfortable and did not fit. Those shoes were likely to blame when Erika accidentally stepped on the back of the pastor’s black cassock as the procession headed into the church! Nobody fell, but she was very embarrassed. Erika was so nervous about receiving her first communion that day that she was shaking and shivering.

A Bible verse was assigned to Erika, without any explanation from the pastor. *Revelations 3, verse 2: Keep safe what you have, so that no one will rob you of your victory prize.* It wasn’t until much later in life that Erika understood the true message and meaning of this verse, and that it did not refer to worldly goods and “prizes.”

Although her confirmation took place under less than ideal conditions and far away from home, friends and extended family, it was still a meaningful step in Erika's faith journey, and a stepping stone to future active participation and membership in the Lutheran Church.

Acknowledgements: A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event possible. Thank you, Pastor Tom, for leading the service and for your fitting message and Linda Lurvey for assisting with the hymn selections and directing the choir. Thank you to everyone who helped with the set-up - Elli and Siegi Kitzmann and Martin Bunge - and Elli thank you for organizing the beautiful flowers for the occasion. Thank you, Barb Schott, for ordering and delivering the lunch platters. A sincere thank you goes to Gudrun who helped to access the archives and with printing the certificates and Michael Zacharias for assisting with the presentations. A big thank you to everyone (too many to name) who helped with the clean-up after the event.

Reformation

October 31 marks the 509th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 theses to the Castle church door in Wittenberg and is known as Reformation Day. Luther and other reformers debates culminated in five main teachings that shape our faith.

- Scripture alone
- Christ alone
- Faith alone
- Grace alone
- Glory to God alone

We are reminded that our justification before God can never be based on anything other than what God has done for us in Christ and given to us in His Word.

**Oct 2026 Calendar: HS=Healthy Start; TC=Tai Chi; IA=Immanuel Anglican Church gathering
PMD=Prarie Mission District**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 TC 9:30am-12noon IA 3:30pm-6:30pm
4 11am Service in English With Communion	5	6 HS 12noon - 4:00pm TC 6:30pm - 8:00pm	7 TC 6:30pm-9:00pm	8	9	10 TC 9:30am-12noon
11 11am Service in English	12	13 HS 12noon – 4 pm TC 6:30pm - 8:00pm	14 TC 6:30-9:00pm	15	16	17 TC 9:30am-12noon
18 11am Service in English Women's Circle	19 Church Council Mtg 7pm	20 HS 12noon – 4pm TC 6:30pm -8:00pm	21 TC 6:30pm - 9:00pm	22	23	24 TC 9:30am-12:00noon PMD Mtg Dauphin 10:30am-3pm
25 11am Reformation/Stewardship Service with Communion in English and luncheon to follow. Dean Mac DeWaal preaching	26	27 HS 12noon - 4pm TC 6:30pm -8:00pm	28 TC 6:30pm-7:30pm	29	30	31 Men's Breakfast 8am TC 10am-12:30pm

Any submissions for the Nov 2026 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thur, Oct 22, 2026. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews1@gmail.com