



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Interim Pastor: Rev. Tom Lurvey

Sept 2026

From the Interim Pastor

After confirming details with our Church Council, I have officially resumed duties as Interim Pastor of St. Peter's.

Here is a summary of what I have been doing over the summer and will continue doing:

1. I have been preaching twice per month.
2. I have been planning worship and recruiting St. Peter's members to help lead worship: readers and communion assistants, and preparing the PowerPoint presentations. I am inviting one of our members to deliver sermons, one Sunday per month, when I am not preaching. I help the lay preachers find suitable sermons. In some instances, if a person is willing, they write a sermon themselves.
3. I plan to invite other pastors in the area, once per month, to preach at St. Peter's. Pastor Teresa Peters has already preached, once in July and once in August.
4. I have been visiting members, especially those in great need or crisis. In July and August I made nine such pastoral visits.
5. I participated in the online Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church as a pastoral delegate.
6. I am attending monthly Council meetings and other meetings as needed or invited as Interim Pastor.

I appreciate very much the lay leadership and other lay involvement in the life and ministry of St. Peter's. A recent Sunday's Bible reading spoke of how God gives gifts to all the members of Jesus' body, the Church, to enable the Church to carry out the ministry and mission to which the Church is called. So many at St. Peter's have responded to this calling. Thank you. And God bless St. Peter's. *Submitted by Interim Pastor Tom Lurvey*

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

We will be honouring those who were confirmed 25, 50, 60, 70 and 80 years ago, i.e., those confirmed in 2001, 1976, 1966, 1956, and 1946. We did our best to contact those who were confirmed at St. Peters in one of these years and invited current members of St. Peter's who were also confirmed in one of these years, but not at St. Peter's, to let us know if they would like to participate and be honoured at this event. If you know of anyone at St. Peter's that was confirmed in one of these years and would like to be invited, please let me know as soon as possible at oellermann@gmail.com.

After the sermon we will ask all celebrants to come to the front of the sanctuary. We will hear a brief explanation about the purpose of confirmation and then each honoree will be introduced and presented with a certificate. Following this part of the service, Holy Communion will be celebrated and the honorees will be the first ones to receive communion.

Everyone is invited to a celebratory luncheon in the basement after the conclusion of the service.

Special September Wedding Anniversaries

At least 50 years

Elli and Siegi Kitzmann, Sept 13
Frieda and Frank Schwing, Sept 29

Gisela and Egon Knudsen Sept 30.

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

Special Birthday Celebrations for Sept 2026

For members at least 65

Erna Schuppe, Sept 13
Jerry Roehr, Sept 23

Marlene Hurta, Sept 26

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



Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Each of our St. Peter's members and friends, and indeed our whole congregation, should be proud to be part of this school in Malawi. Recent pictures show chickens and goats, home-grown vegetables and fruit, including bananas, which ensure that 40% of the school's food supply will not have to be purchased.

THE MALAWI NATIONAL EXAMINATION BOARD THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS : 2026 ** PASS / FAIL LIST FOR CENTRE **			
CENTRE NAME : KUWALA CHRISTIAN GIRLS			
SUMMARY			

	Total Entries	Pass	Pass Rate
VAL	64	64	100%
NAL	0	0	
	0	0	
	64	64	100%

But today we are proud to report that we have remitted the \$21,000.00 2026/2027 scholarships provided by fourteen of our members and friends.

This official Malawi certificate from the Malawi National Examination Board shows that all sixty-four of the students have passed their high school exams.

We also reported earlier that 63% of the graduating students received marks high enough to qualify for college or university admission.



Here is another success story. The left picture shows, Desire, the daughter of Kuwala's first teacher and her husband being looked after by a former student and now certified nurse.

The right photo shows four more nurses that are former Kuwala students.

Mission Budget Update. We continue to be grateful for your support of our Mission Budget. To date, we have contributed to the operational expenses of the North American Lutheran Church, the NALC Canada Section (Mission District), Kuwala Christian Girls School and six other mission-related organizations. To meet all our commitments \$6,335.00 are still needed.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Search for a new Pastor. In the search for a new pastor, the church council appointed a **Call Committee** on July 13, 2026, and the committee has since then met every Wednesday. At the last meeting it was agreed to meet as often as necessary and to have the Congregational Search Profile completed for presentation to the church council at their next council meeting September 21, 2026. Before that meeting, it is also hoped that the report can be reviewed by the Mission District Dean, Pastor Mac de Waal.

One of the many questions to be answered in the eighteen-page Congregational Profile is:

Does your congregation have a clear, shared written mission or vision statement?

The answer to the multiple-choice question the Call Committee had to give was: *Yes – it exists, but few know about it.* Our mission statement, adopted in 2003, reads:

It is the Mission of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church to build, support and serve a changing community through God's Grace.

The answer to the above question will indeed challenge our congregation's future now and in the years to come. The answer to this question is probably in all the answers we will need to provide to a new pastor, considering a call to our congregation.

To answer this question truthfully, the Committee was forced to review our ninety-year history, our renewal process, which started under Pastor Gary Braeuer, our current circumstances, our willingness to effect change, and our available resources, human and financial.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

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

6-Sep-2026 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20

13-Sep-2026 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

20-Sep-2026 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost.

Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 27:1-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Matthew 20:1-16

27-Sep-2026 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1- 4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-10; Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18; Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)

North American Lutheran Church

On-Line Convocation August 7, 2026

Submitted by Linda Lurvey

On Friday evening, August 7, delegates from across the NALC gathered online for the 2026 Online Convocation. Jerry Roehr, Pastor Tom and I were the St. Peter's delegates. Two hundred six clergy delegates and 210 lay delegates registered.

The gathering marked the end of an era. It was the final scheduled online convocation. Consistent with the decision of the 2020 Convocation to meet in person every other year, this year's business brought the election cycles and budgeting processes into alignment. The NALC will now have a two-year budget and only hold elections biennially at the in-person mission convocations. This Convocation elected three members to the North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents and passed the 2027 budget. Jerry Roehr continues to serve on the NALC Executive Council. (Note: Kuwala Christian Girls School is a Mission Partner of the NALC).

Bishop Selbo shared a wonderful devotion on **Mark 1:14-20**. On the Sea of Galilee Jesus said, "Come follow me and I will send you out to fish for people." Simon Peter and his brother Andrew at once left their nets and James and John left their boat. The four fishermen responded in trust. This is a story about following and willingness to let Jesus take control. Jesus only calls followers, not leaders. Interesting point—Jesus calls people first to become followers one day at a time, one step leading to the next. Their following would lead to life!

The Bishop's Report shared there are now 565 Congregations (approximately 35 in Canada), 23 global workers, 20 mission starts, 70+ seminary students and 150+ Youth attending the Continental Youth Gathering last month. Pastor Teresa Peters, Director of Youth and Family Ministry for the NALC led the event in Roanoke, Virginia and Cole Peters served as a Young Adult leader.

The NALC commitment is not to institutional strength but to being a movement that continues to advance the mission of Jesus. **The Great Commandment:** Matthew 22: 37-40 and **The Great Commission:** Matthew 28:19-20 remain the heart of who we are and what we are about.

Online Convocation 2026 of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Five years ago, the NALC started the process of meeting every two years instead of every year. In order to meet the constitutional changes, an online convocation was held between the in-person meetings. This year was the last online convocation; it lasted just under three hours, with 416 voting members and 58 visitors. Starting next year, the NALC will meet in person every two years.

The agenda for the August 7th meeting consisted of Bishop Dan Selbo's report, General Secretary Amy Little's report, NALC seminary President Jukka Kääriäinen report, and the adoption of the 2027 budget presented by Treasurer Scott Kramer. The convocation also re-elected three members to the Seminary Board of Regents.

Bishop Selbo stressed the importance of renewing the church to be mission-oriented; he quoted Jesus when he said: "Follow me". Jesus did not say "Come and be Leaders". To become leaders, we must first follow. The NALC is not an institution; it is a mission-driven church.

General Secretary Amy Little reported that the NALC is now 565 congregations strong, and has 23 Global Workers. 506 pastors are serving congregations; other pastors are serving specialized ministries or are retired. Pastor Little delighted in the fact that 70 persons are in various stages of seminary education and 150 youth attended the last Youth Gathering in Roanoke Virginia.

Seminary President Dr. Kääriäinen reported that between 22 and 31 students attend the Ambridge campus and close to 60 students are enrolled in courses online or at recognized colleges. While there may be some changes in the current campus setup, he hoped that enrollment could increase to 132 in 2028-2029.

Treasurer Kramer provided a detailed review of the 2024 and current 2025 financial statements and explained in detail the 2027 unified budget. After only one question, the 2027 Budget of \$5,323,336.00 was adopted. Unified budget means that NALC operation, seminary operation, local and global missions, special ministries, foundations and special projects are all accounted for in one budget. The proposed 2027 budget is a break-even budget with a \$ 362.00 surplus (that is three hundred and sixty-two).

The next in-person convocation is during Luther Week in Orlando, Florida, August 9-13, 2027.

We Care

Submitted by Barb Schott

Pastor Gary, in his time as our Intentional Interim Pastor, was able to make many home visits and provide Communion for those unable to come to church. This is a reminder that the "Care Committee" that we started some time ago, and as announced in earlier newsletters is there to provide visits and Communion under the direction of Pastor Tom, our Interim Pastor. If you would like a visit, or if you would be willing to visit with shut-ins please contact the church office at 204-775-6477 or Barbara Schott at 204-257-3531.

Word and Witness

From May 23–30, twenty young adults gathered in Winnipeg for Word and Witness, a week of worship, Scripture, service, and Christian community. Throughout the week, the team learned that Christian service is not about arriving as the strong ones who have come to rescue others. It is about recognizing that we are sinners who have received mercy from Christ and are therefore called to show mercy to our neighbours.

The week began on Sunday as the team helped lead worship at both Joy Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Lutheran Church. It was a joy to share the same service in two locations and worship alongside both congregations. Afterward, we enjoyed pizza with young adults from St. Peter's and took a trolley tour through Winnipeg. Even those of us who have lived here for many years learned something new about our city.

On Monday, the service work began. After studying Scripture together, the team spent the afternoon at Harvest Manitoba sorting donated food according to expiration dates. We learned that more than 100,000 Manitobans access Harvest Manitoba each month. That number is difficult to hear. It reminds us that hunger, financial stress, and hardship are not distant problems. They are realities faced by people in our own communities.

That evening, we joined the Elmwood Unity Walk, which works to make the Chalmers neighbourhood and surrounding area safer, cleaner, and healthier. We spoke with people living in tents along the river and with residents of nearby homes and apartments. Because it was extremely hot, we handed out water, sandwiches, and granola bars—many of which had been generously donated by members of Joy and St. Peter's.

On Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, the team arrived at Agape Table at 7:00 a.m. to help serve breakfast. We were among the first volunteer groups to work in Agape Table's new facility. The organization provides up to 1,200 meals each day, along with other essential items and support.

Serving there brought to mind the words of Jesus in Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

There is something holy about handing another person a meal. We are reminded that the people standing before us are not statistics, problems, or interruptions. They are people created by God, loved by Christ, and in need of mercy, just as we are.

On Wednesday evening, we walked with the Bear Clan. Once again, we distributed water and food, but we also helped pick up used needles and other sharp or dangerous objects. Seeing children living, walking, and playing in such an environment was difficult. It should grieve us. It should trouble us. Yet feeding God's children and helping make their neighbourhood a little safer is one way that Christian mercy can take shape.

On Thursday, we led worship and completed service projects at Union Gospel Mission. Worshiping our Savior alongside people who may be experiencing homelessness was powerful. Hearing what they were thankful for left a lasting impression on many members of the team.

The week concluded on Friday with a one-day Vacation Bible School at Hope Christian Academy, formerly St. Aidan's Christian School. The energy, faith, and joy of the children made it a wonderful way to end our time together.

Thank you to the members of Joy and St. Peter's for your prayers, encouragement, and donations. Your generosity helped make this week possible, and your gifts were placed directly into the hands of people who needed them.

When we serve at places such as Harvest Manitoba, Agape Table, Union Gospel Mission, Hope Christian Academy, or alongside the Elmwood Unity Walk and Bear Clan, we do not go because we are better than the people we meet. We do not go as the healthy visiting the sick, as though we have no wounds or struggles of our own. We go as sinners who have received mercy.

Because Christ has loved us, forgiven us, and given Himself for us, we are free to love and serve our neighbours. We may not be able to solve every problem, but we can offer a meal, a bottle of water, a listening ear, a safer sidewalk, a word of encouragement, and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

We have received mercy from Christ, and by His grace, we are called to share that mercy with others.

*Many Blessings,
Pastor Teresa Peters*

Rejoice, Recap, Repeat

Highlights from the 2026 Continental Youth Gathering

As reported in the Fall Youth and Family Newsletter of the NALC

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Continental Youth Gathering (CYG) 2026 took place July 7–10 at St. John Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Virginia. This four-day gathering brought together youth from across the North American Lutheran Church to grow in faith, build lasting relationships, and experience what it means to REJOICE as the Body of Christ. Through worship, teaching, service, and shared community, students were encouraged and equipped in their walk with Christ. Including youth, leaders, pastors, and volunteers, we numbered over 300 people in attendance!

Worship was at the heart of the gathering. Sixteen pastors and those training to be pastors helped guide participants in prayer, confession, Scripture, preaching, Holy Communion, and praise. Each service reminded those gathered that the Church is not built around entertainment, personalities, or programs, but around Jesus Christ and the gifts He gives through His Word and Sacraments.

The St. John worship band filled the room with music and helped hundreds of voices join together in proclaiming the joy of the Gospel. Some of the most powerful moments of the week came as the entire gathering stood together in worship, voices raised in song, confessing one faith and celebrating the hope we share in Christ. REJOICE, the theme song written by Cole Peters, one of the Young Adult Lutheran Leaders (YALLs), quickly became one of the favorites.

Our keynote speakers were Pastor Tonya Brittan from Organ Lutheran Church in Salisbury, North Carolina, and Pastor Bert Eldredge from Prince of Peace in Casper, Wyoming. They encouraged participants to experience the Word in five different sessions: Recorded, Revealed, Redeemed, Resilient, and Resurrected.

In addition to sessions, participants were able to see parts of Roanoke through the adventure we titled “Roaming Roanoke.” Groups took part in challenges at Carvin's Cove, a beautiful natural reserve just north of Roanoke; a photo scavenger hunt at the Virginia Museum of Transportation; ice cream at a local ice cream parlor; and more challenges at Launching Pad Trampoline Park. The weather was beautiful, and fun was had by all.

Participants spent Thursday and Friday doing mission in the community. Each group was able to experience two different sites. CYG also packed over 600 complete and 600 almost-complete NALC Disaster Response health kits.

We can't forget the Young Adult Lutheran Leaders, known as YALLs. They also served with energy, humility, and joy. They assisted with small groups, led activities, did videos and skits, welcomed participants, supported worship, helped with transitions, encouraged youth, and responded wherever help was needed.

The YALLs demonstrated what faithful young adult leadership can look like in the Church. They showed younger participants that there is a place for them to continue growing, serving, and leading beyond high school. The NALC is truly blessed by young adults who love Christ, care for His Church, and willingly use their gifts in service to others.

A huge thank you to everyone at St. John who gave their time and energy to make CYG 2026 such a great success!

Sept 2026 Calendar: HS=Healthy Start; TC=Tai Chi; CC= Call Committee

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2 CC 7pm TC 6:30-7:30pm	3	4	5 TC 10am
6 11am Service in English	7	8 HS	9 CC7pm TC 6:30-9:00pm	10	11	12 TC 9:30am-12noon
13 11am Service in English With Communion	14	15 HS	16	17	18	19
20 11am Service in English	21 Church Council Mtg 7pm	22 HS	23	24	25	26 TC10am-12:30pm
27 Special Confirmation Anniversary Celebration 11am Service in English With Communion	28	29 HS	30 TC 6:30-7:30pm			

Any submissions for the October 2026 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thur, Sept 24, 2026. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews1@gmail.com