



2025



*"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." – John 13:15*

As many of you know, I am a big fan of the Minnesota Vikings. I follow them as closely as I can from here in Wisconsin. I read blogs, listen to podcasts, and read whatever articles I am able. Some of you are similarly obsessed with the Green Bay Packers, or some other team. Others probably have another hobby that has you watching similarly closely be it gardening, quilting, weather, woodworking, etc. I think it is a natural part of the human experience to follow others.

I've been told that in Jesus' time there was a saying, "Be covered in the dust of your rabbi (*teacher*)."

Disciples were expected to follow their teacher's footsteps so closely that they would be covered in the dust that was kicked up. Hence the theme for our week in Denver (July 5-12), "Dust."

As I prepare to leave for our week with the youth serving in Denver it has me wondering, how are we doing collecting the dust of our Rabbi, Jesus? This past month I've been inspired by our congregations' generosity collecting items for local food pantries. Then, sometimes, I wonder how might we carry that generosity out throughout the rest of the year? I love the group that gathers on Wednesday evenings at St. Peter's for Wednesday in the Word. Then, sometimes, I wonder how are others wrestling with the Word of God in their lives?

I believe all of us are called to be disciples that follow Jesus so closely that we are collecting the dust from his feet. We are called to follow in his footsteps by living, serving, and loving others just as Jesus did. Perhaps summer just might be the perfect time to do a little self-assessment of how we are doing following. How much dust are you collecting? How might you walk even closer to Jesus?

Blessings,

Pr. Brad <><



**ST. STEPHEN'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Connecting faith through scripture, kindness & generosity*

**St. Peter's**  
**Lutheran Church**

*Called to live God's love  
through open hearts and  
minds.*



## For the beauty of the Earth

La Crosse Area Synod Assembly  
June 6-8, 2025 @ Westby Coon Prairie  
Lutheran Church

The 2025 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly was a profound testament to the power of community and faith, as God's love was evident throughout the event. This year, we gathered under the Theme of "For the Beauty of the Earth" and focused on Creation Care as an integral part of our baptismal identity.

Participants noted a pervasive sense of kindness, compassion, and support among attendees, volunteers, and leaders. This love was mirrored in spirited discussions, worship, and personal stories shared by individuals. With a respectful and uplifting atmosphere, the event succeeded in connecting people across diverse backgrounds and ages. High school youth spoke from the floor and led in worship. Children built relationships and deepened their faith.

All participants had ample opportunity to wrestle with their faith and engage as church beyond congregations. The collective effort to address faith, climate care, and social issues, was marked by compassion, inclusivity, authenticity, and joy.

I am proud to say that our mission of "Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships Rooted in God's Love with a vision of Justice, Love, and Peace for all of God's Creation" was on full display through our work, deliberations, worship, and fellowship. Thank you for making it such a wonderful event.

Rev Felix Javier Malpica  
Bishop, La Crosse Area Synod



### NEWLY ELECTED & INSTALLED SYNOD COUNCIL

#### EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Synod Vice President: Maureen Starmack (of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran in Cashton, WI)
- Secretary: Dennis Glaman (of Trinity Lutheran in Sparta, WI)
- Treasurer: Ross Hardie (of Bethany & East Lemonweir in New Lisbon, WI)
- Bishop: The Rev. Felix Malpica

#### NORTH CONFERENCE

- The Rev. Joe Iverson
- Nancy Solberg
- Fred Rist

#### SOUTH CONFERENCE

- The Rev. Alyssa Weaver
- Blaine Heberg

#### YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVES

- Maddie Sweeney
- Will Tiber

#### EAST CONFERENCE

- The Rev. Dawn Lindberg
- Leslie Peterson
- David Clark

#### WEST CONFERENCE

- The Rev. Jean Schmidt
- Pamela Strittmater
- Randy Nedrelo

#### YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

- Tami Lies
- Crystal Flugee

#### SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

- The Rev. Tara Shilts (Extra Parish)
- JoAnn Salava (WELCA)



### PRAYER LIST

Carolyn Gibbons, Michele Mehne, Dani Zweifel, Jim Loehr, Norm Peterson, CarolAnn Peterson, Marcy Bell, Zane Heinkel, and ALL THOSE MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES, MILITARY – and all loved ones serving overseas.

### ST. PETER'S VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY

LADIES OF THE MONTH: Linda Shisler, Vicki Shisler  
ALTAR CARE: Kathy Alexander, Kristin McGarry

#### CHURCH CLEANING:

June 29—July 31 Kathy Alexander, Kristin McGarry

### ST. STEPHEN'S VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY

USHERS: Mike Macrafc

READER: Sharon Graewin

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: JoAnn Salava

PREPARE COMMUNION: Melissa Chambers, Gyneth Ness

### MAY FINANCES

#### St. Stephen's

General Fund Income	\$ 4,019.33
Expenses	4,623.91

#### Balance of Funds

General	50.18
Building	1,871.72
Memorial	12,117.91
Parsonage	27,044.41

#### St. Peter's

Income	3,670.91
Expenses	5,235.01

#### Balance of Funds

General	5,183.11
Memorial	10,047.95
Congregational Care	1,047.21
Parsonage – Savings	7,963.66
Checking	5,223.80
Sabbatical Reserve Fund	2,263.61

Amount needed to meet our budget:  
**\$ 6,744.40 per month** based on our approved Budget of \$ 80,932.80,

REMINDER – If you would like to set up an automatic donation to your congregation, please contact Ruth Kemp or Jeannine Russell to get the information.



### St. Stephens Council

Don't forget the joint worship service at Nelson Park on July 13, at 10:00, St. Peter's is hosting. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the fellowship

Please continue to support the food pantry competition ending at the joint picnic July 13 between St. Stephen's and St. Peter's churches.

Enjoy your summer and be safe!

### ST. PETER'S WELCA NEWS

Women of the ELCA will meet Thursday, July 10th, at 7 p.m. Devotions: Michelle. Discussion: Rummage sale/s, raffle ticket sales, and upcoming events.

Any two or three people that would like to man the rummage sales in July, let Carlene know so the date/s may be put on the marquee.

Your raffle tickets for the prepaid LP fuel should be in your mailboxes. The drawing will be on Sunday, September 7th with potluck.

The planning committee for the Chicken Dinner has met—We will once again have the Cook Shack from Camp Douglas cater for us. Watch for volunteer sign—up sheets on the kitchen counter to be out around the middle of July. In the meantime pass the word and plan for good food and fellowship.

### **Just the Basics: Discipleship Matters 2025 Summer & Fall Courses**

**Summer Courses – all FREE & via ZOOM**

**Dates: July 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 7:45**

**All summer courses are offered via ZOOM, on-line and are free.**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – At the Intersection of Faith & Politics** (Conversation with Retired Republican Representative and State Senator Brian Rude and Democratic State Senator Brad Pfaff)

**September 11<sup>th</sup> & October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Christian Nationalism: The Heresy and Our Discipleship** (introduction with Dr. Nessen via ZOOM & home congregation conversation around Christian Nationalism and our faithful response – ending with a final Q & A with Dr. Nessen)

**Register:** [office@lacrosseareasynd.org](mailto:office@lacrosseareasynd.org) (608) 788-5000 2301 South Ave., La Crosse, WI 54601-6229

**OR** sign-up on-line at: <https://lacrosseareasynd.org/discipleship-matters>

**OR** sign-up in person at the Discipleship Matters table at Synod Assembly



# St. Peter's Lutheran Church

33458 Hwy. 21, Camp Douglas, WI



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Located between Tomah and Necedah in Shennington.

stpsts@mwt.net

office 608-427-6592

## Chicken Dinner

**Wednesday, August 20, 2025**

To-go option available.

**Serving 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. or until gone**

**\$12 per plate** Includes:  
Breast piece or Thigh & Leg  
Coleslaw, Potato Salad,  
Baked Beans, Bun,  
Dessert, Beverage

**Kids' option  
(10 and under)**

**\$5 per plate**  
1 Leg, Mac & Cheese,  
Baked Beans, Bun,  
Dessert, Beverage



**KATE BATTEN IS HAVING A PARTY ON HER 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**Sunday, July 20, 2025**

**At Fireman's Park, 1009 King Ave, Tomah WI**

**12:30 to 4:00 PM**

**Meal provided.**

**If guests would like to wear something in Kate's favorite colors of green, yellow and purple, that would add to the fun.**

**Please join us!**

Know a

# GRADUATING SENIOR

WHO PLANS TO ATTEND WTC, VITERBO  
OR UWL THIS FALL?

Refer them to Lutheran Campus Ministry  
so we can extend a radical welcome and  
community support!

[luminlax.org](https://luminlax.org)



Do you know a graduating high school senior who plans to attend WTC, Viterbo or UWL this fall? Refer them to Lutheran Campus Ministry-La Crosse so we can extend a radical welcome and community support! <https://luminelca.org/refer-a-student/> Students are also welcome to reach out to Pastor Kathryn directly: [pastorkathryn@luminlax.org](mailto:pastorkathryn@luminlax.org)

Congratulations to the Senior Class of 2025 from Lutheran Campus Ministries!

	July 2025					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> (P)5:30 Quilting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  (P)Connie Albert	<b>4</b>  (P)Bonnie Peterson	<b>5</b> (S) 9:00 Quilting  Youth Mission Trip  (S)Tim Woggon (S)Tom Woggon
<b>6</b> (S)9:00 Worship (P)10:30 Worship  (S)Hannah Schroeder (S)Derek Stickney (P)Jace Singleton	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> (P)5:30 Quilting  (P)Megan Grilley	<b>9</b> 9:30 Women's Birthday Breakfast	<b>10</b> (P) 7:00 WELCA  (S)Krista Kobleska	<b>11</b>  (S)Colleen Woggon (S)Wayde Schroeder	<b>12</b> (S) 9:00 Quilting  Youth Return
<b>13</b> 10:00 Joint Wor- ship w/HC @ Nel- son Park  (P)Cadence Scholze	14  (P)Linda Handy	<b>15</b> (P)5:30 Quilting	<b>16</b> (S) 1:00 Ruth Circle (P) 6:00 Wednesday in the Word  (P)Michelle Neely	<b>17</b>  (P)Kali Scholze (P)Marjory Finstad	<b>18</b>  (S)McKenzie Jaromin (S)Sydney Jaromin (P)Aubrielle Singleton	<b>19</b> (S) 9:00 Quilting  (P)Jeanette Anderson
<b>20</b> (S)9:00 Worship/HC (P)10:30 Worship/HC  (P)Danielle Waltemath	<b>21</b>  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (S)Helen Laehn	<b>22</b> (P)5:30 Quilting	<b>23</b> (P) 6:00 Wednesday in the Word	<b>24</b>  (P)Alexandra Dowson	<b>25</b>  (S)Olivea Chambers (P)Jessica Rezin	<b>26</b> (S) 9:00 Quilting
<b>27</b> (S) Council Mtg (S)9:00 Worship/HC (P)10:30 Worship/HC (P) Council Mtg  (S)Jill Niles	<b>28</b>  (P)Drew Martin	<b>29</b> (P)5:30 Quilting	<b>30</b> (P) 6:00 Wednesday in the Word	<b>31</b>  (P)Collin Dowson		