

St. Peter's Church

Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

*Providing opportunities for all people to
grow in Faith, Hope, and Love*

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ST. PETER'S NEWS

October, 2019

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WORSHIP

REMEMBER AND REJOICE: 2020 Stewardship Drive: God has richly blessed St. Peter's with the spiritual and financial support of its members and friends over the years. Now, as we look forward to the coming year, you are invited to pray and reflect on how God has blessed you. What are your stories about how God has worked in your life? How has God given you strength and direction when you've needed it? Learn how to share your story. Live it out in generous giving and thanksgiving with your time, your talent and your treasure. Remember and rejoice! Soon you will be receiving a 2020 pledge card to complete and return, either **on Commitment Sunday (November 3rd)**, or ahead of time at church or by email. God bless and inspire you in your giving!

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST is at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel, followed at 10:00 a.m. by a Bible study. We are currently studying Exodus in a series called, "Entering Exodus." Everyone is welcome to join us at any point in the series.

THURSDAY @ ST. PETER'S will be suspended after this Thursday, October 17th, and will resume in the spring after the days are longer once again.

ST. PETER'S @ TERRACE PLACE will be next **Tuesday, October 22nd**. Father John leads a monthly Protestant worship service on the fourth Wednesday every month. The service, based in the Prayer Book, gives us an opportunity to join with our members who live in this assisted-living residential community. We gather at **10:30 a.m.** in the Party Room. All are welcome! Terrace Place is at 1231 Eisner Avenue in Sheboygan.

MINISTRY

Deacon Greg has begun having a healing ministry in the Chapel following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist on the first and third Sunday of every month. He will be available for

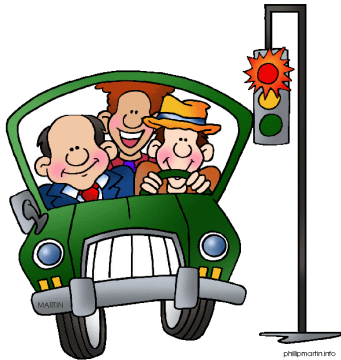
prayer, anointing and encouragement during that time.



Would you like to assist in worship on Sunday mornings? We need some more **acolytes** to assist Father John and Deacon Greg at the Altar during the Eucharist.



Or you can become a **Lay Eucharistic Minister**, assisting with delivery of the chalice at the Altar or to people in the congregation who cannot make it to the Altar. If you are interested, or would like some more information, please see Father John or Deacon Greg.



TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Some of our parishioners have trouble getting to church, temporarily or permanently. Some don't drive or no longer own a car. If you need transportation to church services or events, or if you can provide transportation regularly or from time to time, let the church office know, and we will get you linked with one another. Thanks for your help!



CHOIR

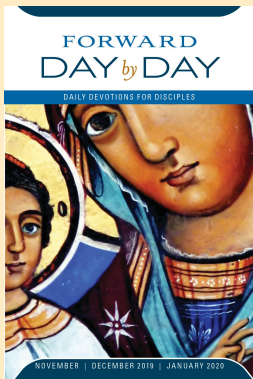
Rehearsals begin at 9:15 a.m., on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

Please see Barb Zirwes-Nysse for more information.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Children's Ministry Community Project We are excited to announce our first community project! It is all about animals. We are making animal treats and

blankets, decorating food dishes and chew toys for the animal shelter. Folks from the shelter are coming to our Fellowship hour on **November 3rd** to receive the items we have made. At that time, if you would like to bring donations, they will be gladly received. We had a great time making items for our furry friends. Stay tuned for our November community project!



FORWARD DAY BY DAY The new *Forward Day by Day* for November 2019 through February 2020 is available at the back of the church, and in the Broadway Street lobby. Large-print and regular-size print are available. Copies are free, and donations are welcome. Just put your donation in the collection plate.

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY



COFFEE HOUR

Can you help with coffee hour after the 10 a.m. Eucharist? We can get the coffee started and cups set out. You can help by providing food (snacks or more) and help with the clean-up. There's a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for signing up!

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH



The next monthly meeting of the Vestry is scheduled for November 10th, following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall Meeting Room.

Construction Ahead....

A few words from your Senior Warden

What comes to mind when you hear those words? Inconvenience, slowdowns, roadblocks, expense, messiness, just to name a few. Well I want to talk about a different kind of construction ahead. It began about 10 months ago. Ok, in earnest about 3 months ago, but groundwork had to be laid.

When I took on the job of Senior Warden back in January, I was very troubled by the rather large budget deficit, and dwindling attendance, and a few other things, but these were the biggest of my concerns. I know I was not alone with those concerns. The vestry, which I must say, is a very dedicated group of people who really do have what is best for St. Peter's at heart, has been putting in a lot of extra hours working on those concerns.

One offshoot of our extra meetings has been the realization that even though we might know names, in some cases that is even questionable, and we might know some things about one another, there is a disconnect in our overall relationships with one another, and with Father John. Here's where you might want a hard hat.... "construction ahead"! To help build up those relationships, the vestry has decided to host a series of socials. They will be small group gatherings with Father and a vestry member, where we can engage in some small group discussions, and get to know one another a little better. The vestry had the first social this past Sunday with the backdrop of the Packers-Cowboys game. We had lots of chatter, laughter, and came away feeling a little more connected.

Another offshoot comes with the help of Bishop Matt. We have been in discussion with him as well, as we have been going through the year. He recommended we meet with Gary Manning, who is the Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Wauwatosa, and a consultant with ChurchWerkes, LLC, who works with churches who are going through various difficulties. We had one introductory meeting with him so far, and plan to continue. One good take away from the first meeting is that he sees HOPE, he sees that we are not dead or dying! As of this writing he is drafting a proposal designed specifically for us, which the vestry will take up at our October business meeting.

The more we connect, the more we learn to share our stories the more we come together as the parish family that St. Peter's has always had. This family in turn, will be better equipped to invite others to join in, and share in our family, and thus we can grow. So please pay attention to announcements, emails, and any other form of communication as we work to rebuild and re-connect. There might be some other changes as we grow and build, but change isn't always a bad thing. There's a bright future for St. Peter's. I hope we can all enjoy the ride!

Cheryl

ALL SOULS DAY is Saturday, November 2nd. We'll gather at 10:00 a.m. for Holy Eucharist, and we'll pray for all the faithful departed. An **All Faithful Departed Form** will be available at the back of the church for you to use as you print the names of family and friends you wish to have remembered in Prayers of the People that day. Please put the forms in the marked box or hand them to Father John. You also can email Fr. John with names you wish to have remembered: frjohn@stpetersfalls.org. Please get all names in place by **Thursday, November 1st**.

HURRICANE DORIAN RELIEF We're still collecting donations for the

church's contribution to hurricane relief for the people of the Bahamas. We have a \$500.00 challenge from a parishioner who will match our contributions dollar for dollar up to that amount. Please be as generous as you can. Checks can be made payable to the church and earmarked Hurricane. We'll send out a check at the end of the month to **Episcopal Relief and Development** which is coordinating the Episcopal Church response.

UNITED THANK OFFERING FALL INGATHERING will be **Sunday, November 10th** at both services. Use the "blue box" or a blue UTO envelope. Make a check payable to the church and mark it UTO. You'll be supporting a wonderful program of the Episcopal Church Women.

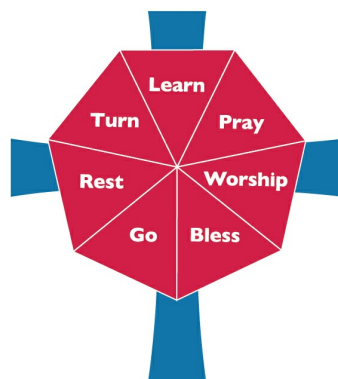
QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS are available at the back of the church. If you have any questions or need more information, please call Financial Administrator Jenny Dewitz at the church or email her at info@stpetersfalls.org.

IN THE DIOCESE



145th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF FOND DU LAC

DIOCESAN CONVENTION The 145th Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac will take place on **October 25th** in Appleton. The business sessions meet at the Red Lion Inn and services take place at All Saints Episcopal Church. Diocesan business will be conducted during the day. A Q&A session with our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Friday. Please keep your parish delegates in prayer: Karen Ambelang, Raylyn Krauter and Barbara Zirwes-Nysse; and your clergy, the Rev. John Throop and the Rev. Deacon Greg Schultz.



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

THE WAY OF LOVE REVIVAL

The Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac welcomes the **Way of Love Revival**. It's a Spirit-filled event featuring a time of worship with the Most Rev. Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, as preacher. It's an opportunity to invite family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers to hear the Gospel and to take a step in life with Christ.

DATE: Saturday, October 26th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

COST: Free, with lunch available for purchase

Transportation available—we're working with Grace, Sheboygan and St. Paul's, Plymouth to provide round-trip transportation—more details to come.

What is the Way of Love Revival? It's a Spirit-filled event with worship, preaching and teaching about what it means to be, and to live, as a disciple of Jesus Christ. It's a gathering with many other people who are on the same faith journey as you and I are. We come together to be refreshed and to be re-charged. We can have a better sense of the seven parts of the spiritual life called the Way of Love.

Why should I go to the Revival? *All* of us are seeking a deeper and richer relationship with Jesus Christ. We may be at different places in that journey, but we all need inspiration and refreshment to encourage us on the way. You'll find a lot of joy and excitement there.

What should I expect *at* the Revival? You will hear some dynamic preaching from our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. You'll feel connected to him and to the message of Christ's love that he will share in exciting ways. The music and singing will lift your heart in amazing ways. There will be an opportunity for prayer and reflection. And there will be teaching and learning on how to put the Revival lessons to work as you go.

What should I expect *from* the Revival? You may have a strong sense of renewed faith and trust in God. The life of prayer may be livelier, and worship more exciting. You may have a hunger for the Word, finding joy and excitement in the reading of Scripture. You may have healing in relationships and greater energy to accomplish great things for God. You may hear God's call to you in a more direct way than ever. There are so many outcomes you can expect from a Revival—but you have to get yourself *to* the Revival to experience what God can do and how God can work in your life!

GO TO www.diofdl.org/events/way-of-love-revival-oct-26 for a complete report on this event. And go to www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love to read more about the Way of Love as a spiritual way of life.

Questions? Talk further with Father John, or see Cheryl Dobrzynski or Barbara Zirwes-Nysse, who are part of the planning teams in the diocese.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **October 25th: "Living Out Love", the second annual fundraising banquet for Love INC, will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Pine Hills, Sheboygan. For more information, go to www.loveincsheboygancounty.org/ This year St. Peter's will not be buying a table due to our scheduling conflict with the Conference.**

- **October 26th: Way of Love Revival, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Fox Cities Exposition Center in Appleton**
- **Saturday, November 2nd: All Faithful Departed Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, where we will remember people named by parishioners. The form to list names is available at the back of the church.**

IN THE COMMUNITY



LIVING OUT LOVE 2ND ANNUAL BANQUET AND AUCTION

Friday, October 25th (St. Peter's is not buying a table this year.)

41st ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT ST. PAUL'S, PLYMOUTH

We're invited to join folks at St. Paul's, Plymouth for the Pancake Breakfast on November 3rd, from 8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. Lots of great food, fellowship and a craft table and bake sale! The church is at 312 Main Street.



SHARON RICHARDSON RETAIL STORE in Sheboygan Falls is in need of donations.

If you have any questions about what is and what is not satisfactory you can call the store or contact Sharon Dulmes.

We are also looking for volunteers, so if you can give a couple hours a week please pick up a form, available at the store and from Sharon Dulmes.

REFLECTIONS

WAY OF LOVE

THE WAY OF LOVE: REST

REST: Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. – John 14:27

Blessed are you, O Lord ... giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 113)

From the beginning of creation, God has established the sacred pattern of going and returning, labor and rest. Especially today, God invites us to dedicate time for restoration and wholeness - within our bodies, minds, and souls, and within our communities and institutions. By resting we place our trust in God, the primary actor who brings all things to their fullness. For Reflection Rest: Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration

A Note from Fr. John: These days, it's hard to get some rest. We live in a 24/7 world. We Americans are not good at shutting off our devices for a while, or observing a Sabbath rest, or taking all of the vacation time that our employers give to us. I own up to that lack of rest, When I was a boy growing up in Evanston, Illinois,

I learned about "blue laws". Evanston was shut tight on Sundays. Almost nothing was open. No alcohol was sold or served. But one place my family lived was about a half block away from the northern border of Chicago. On the south side of Howard Street, not only was there a different city. The neighborhood was primarily Jewish. *Everything* was open on Sundays—the variety store, the soda fountain, and the bowling alley. There was plenty to do on Sundays—but hardly anything on Saturdays, for I learned that this day was the Jewish Sabbath. Depending on which side of the street I walked, there was something to do *every* day, one side or the other.

I've had to "un-learn" that lesson. A day of Rest: the Sabbath that God himself observed after six days of creation, is essential for physical, mental and spiritual health. Over the years, I have learned that it's *easier to love* when you're well-rested. I pray that you will allow yourself some Rest.

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Have you ever heard a good storyteller? Before movies, television and the internet, we used to gather together to hear a storyteller who could spark our imaginations, bring laughter or tears, and teach us some life lessons.

In other times, we'd gather as a family to hear tales of heroes or villains Amon among our ancestors. In the early days of radio, dramas and comedies for children or for adults would be

broadcast on major networks. We'd gather in the parlor or living room to listen. and see in our minds some of the scenery or live in the drama of the moment. Not long ago, Cindy and I were listening to the Grand Ol' Opry, just like our grandparents did in the day—except that we were listening on one of Spectrum's music channels via satellite through our smart TV. Weird....



Stories have characters, settings, actions, decisions, and a climax of some kind. You and I are walking stories. We all have histories, events and people who have made us who we are today. People of faith also have stories of how God became real in a moment in time. Some of us have stories about a conversion experience. Others of us can tell of how God provided for our needs when we were struggling to make ends meet. Others can talk about family and friends who made a positive and holy impact on our life—or some who were negative and hurtful from whom we were able to escape with God's help.

So, how do we start shaping a story we have to tell about God's real presence in our lives? The Bible always is a great place to begin. The gospels are filled with stories of how Jesus had a life-changing impact on them. Recently, in the Wednesday morning Bible study, we read through Exodus 3:1-6, the story of Moses' encounter with the burning bush, and then hearing the voice of an angel who called him by name. That story wasn't simply made up. No doubt Moses told it to remind people how God called him from tending sheep to the great cause of leading the people of Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land. For some of us, that's a starting point: when have we had a burning bush experience in our lives, a moment that opened us to God?

When we have a story to tell of God's real presence in our life, then we have a way to share with another person, one on a spiritual search. The story may give them a "peg" where they can hang their interest. This way, we're not shoving Bible verses at them or save a soul for another hash mark on the church wall. We are inviting another into our life to walk with us, and for us to walk with them, so that they can meet Jesus. And, as we come to know them spiritually, we can invite them to church also.

Let the Holy Spirit develop your faith story. Learn how to tell it. And rejoice as you remember how God has become real in your life, and that you are now a part of the dominion of God.

Blessings,
Father John+

Thank you for your support

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