

# St. Peter Lutheran

## November 2023 Newsletter

- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
~ Hat, mitten and sock tree pickup for distribution.
- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> - Men's Breakfast Bible Study, 8:00 a.m. Study leader is Pastor Czymbor. Breakfast server is Tim Goldammer.
- Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> - Communion Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.  
~ Free Will offering during fellowship for Rodney and Malinda Hinrichs' "Reaching the Unreached"
- Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> - WMF Bible Study and Business Meeting with Election of Officers, 7:00 p.m. Lesson # 7
- Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.  
~ Samaritan Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes need to be returned this Sunday.
- Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> - Quilting Workday, 1:00 p.m.
- Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> - FLY Bible Study and business meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.  
~ Muffin Sunday - Ladies A - J are asked to bring the Muffins
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Thanksgiving Day Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.
- Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - First Sunday in Advent. Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.  
~ Advent Family Night - Soup Supper served by the FLY group. More info to follow

Usher's List: Nov. 5 - David Hartmann & Don Fink

**Communion Lay Assistant - Don Fink**

12 - Doug VanZee & Dwight Brenner

19 - Ervin Fink & Ewald Fink

26 - Jack Hartmann & Jeff Grosz

Cleaning List: Oct. 30 - Nov. 5 Dee Fink & Donnelle Hoffman

Nov. 6 - 12 Hannah Lau & Joyce Sprecher

13 - 19 Jean Fink & Joanne Hartmann

20 - 26 Kathy Lau & Nicole Whitney

Nov. 27 - Dec. 3 Kendra Thies & Renee Engelland



## ***Thou Shalt Not Covet***

*Exodus 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.*

*Deuteronomy 5:21 And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.*

Look around yourself and take inventory of what you see and are a manager of. You woke up today. What a great gift from God and you get to manage your life today. Your thoughts, your words, your deeds are yours to manage. When they are good, you get to enjoy the blessings. When they are poor you may have to suffer the consequences, but often God spares us the worst of the consequences we have rightly earned.

What possessions are around you? Your home, your many toys, your tools, your spouse and kids, all of these things are a blessing to you from the Lord. You have built up a kingdom of earthly possessions around you through the many ways that God has blessed you, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Are you grateful? Do you thank God in the morning when you wake up? Do you thank Him when you lay your head down at the end of the day? 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Or do you grumble and complain that someone else has greater things or better circumstances than you?

To covet is defined as "to desire or wish for without regard for the rights of others," and to is the same as desiring or lusting after something. To be obedient in this commandment is to be satisfied with what God has given to you. This does not mean that desiring something and working towards attaining it is sinful. Contrary to that, working to attain things we want and desire can be holy and good if we are working for the Lord and His will rather than our own selfish desires.

However, in the specific context of this commandment, we are coveting when we observe our neighbor and long for what they have instead of being content with God's blessings upon us. King David lusted after Bathsheba and his covetous heart carried him further into acting against his neighbor and against God by bearing sinful fruit of adultery and murder. (2 Samuel 11) Our coveting thoughts can lead to many other sins if we dwell upon them instead of overcoming them through self-control and faithfulness.

The heart is wicked and deceitful and often rushes into sin. When we see greener grass in other pastures than our own we often fail to see the costs involved for that particular grass to be greener. We overlook the hard work, the many sacrifices of time or treasure, the many times of testing and tribulation that were part of the journey to produce that green grass. We may also fail to see the burden of managing and protecting that particular green grass. In either case, we may long for something we desire but lack the strength or ability to hold onto that thing. God knows this because He knows us, much better than we ever will know ourselves.

So, why does God give good things to others but not to us? Because He knows what we are capable of managing, He knows what we are ready for now. For those who trust in Him and demonstrate obedience to Him He provides the path to follow as well as helps along the way to get to where He desires them to go. He provides the mission, the team, and the tools to fulfill His plans and to bring Him glory. In the process of Him being glorified and praised He lavishes wisdom, peace, understanding, and often earthly blessings as well. It is truly good to be grateful and humble in response to all that God has blessed us with. To not take for granted nor to overlook the many ways in which He has blessed us. The Christian has an eternal list of reasons to be forever optimistic and hopeful. The pessimistic heart is one that is turning aside from looking upon Jesus and is instead being led away from the peace, strength, and security of God because they look up on the storm, wind, and waves. The one who knows God will cry out to Him, just as Peter did, and in that instance God will never leave us nor forsake us, because He eternally loves His people.

When tempted to envy or look aside from God, cry out to Him for help and turn your eyes upon Jesus!