



# St. Peter *papers*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SUMMER 2010

## We Believe: National Youth Gathering 2010

By Heather Weith

What do “We Believe”? That is the question being asked at this year’s National Youth Gathering that 13 youth and 3 adults from St. Peter are attending this July. The gathering theme is based on words from John 20:31: “These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” These are powerful words and are in fact the purpose statement of the book of John.

In today’s day and age, many people have different views on faith and what life after death means, especially teenagers. They are taught by peers and others that “all paths lead to heaven” and “it doesn’t matter what you believe, just that you believe in something.” This theme, which speaks to the

truth of what we believe as LCMS Lutherans, is relevant to all of us, not just youth.

I am so excited to be a part of this trip and can’t wait to see the youth and other adults grow together in faith. Youth ministry is so important to me because being a part of youth ministry affected the growth of my faith in high school. The adults that

supported our youth group were an essential part of that experience. Early on in my youth group experience, I went to the National Youth Gathering held in San Antonio, Texas and had a life-changing experience. Being around 28,000 other Christians for worship, workshops, and fellowship

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***“Being around 28,000 other Christians for worship, workshops, and fellowship activities helped me to learn more about the faith...”***

### Upcoming Events

- July 10 – Baptism Class
- July 17 – SOFA Bonfire
- July 17–21 – National Youth Gathering
- July 24 – C.L.A.S.S. 101
- July 24 – Women’s Volunteer Event
- August 8 – Ordination Service
- August 14 – Baptism Class
- August 15 – SOFA Bonfire
- August 26 – Town Hall Meeting
- September 11 – Baptism Class
- September 12 – Sunday School Begins
- September 24 – SOFA Campout

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# My Faith Story

*Finding fulfillment in Christ*

By Mark Swiatkowski

Have you ever heard someone say, “If it makes you happy, it can’t be wrong” or “You only live once, go for it”? Growing up a Christian, I was taught that God is all forgiving. No matter what I did, God would forgive me and I’d go to heaven. Do you believe

that statement? Are you prepared to depart from this earth with confidence that you’ll be judged positively?

Over the last several years, I began questioning my beliefs, actions, and thoughts. I’ve asked myself, “What is right?” “How

should I live my life?” and “What truly is happiness?”

As I searched for the answers, I decided to give the Bible a shot, for even though I’ve been a Christian my entire life, I never read it. I opened it and began reading Matthew 5. By the time I completed verse 7, a feeling of fulfillment came over me. I finally knew what was right and how I should live my life. I also realized how hard it is to be human, burdened with sin and

temptation. But that’s OK. The more I try to live by the teachings of Jesus and not by my own wants and desires, the more confident and happy I’ve become.

Do you have a faith story or experience you would like to share? We need stories from our members to encourage and inspire others. Please e-mail us your story at [papers@stpeterlcms.com](mailto:papers@stpeterlcms.com).

# Seeking God’s Kingdom

By Crown Financial Ministries

“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). The admonition to “seek first His kingdom” is given by Jesus as a contrast to worrying about material things. Today’s American Christian society is unprecedented in worrying about material possessions. Christians in America today have a greater abundance available to them on a day-by-day basis than at any time in the history of this country. Yet, many Christians are so caught up in making more money and buying bigger and better things that they have lost their vision of reaching the world for Christ.

## Priorities

It seems logical to assume that, if we’re going to spend eternity with Christ and only a fraction of time on this earth—when compared to eternity—we should be more concerned about the treasures we have laid up in heaven, rather than the material possessions we have gathered on earth. Yet when we evaluate the actions, values, attitudes, and priorities of most Christians in America, we find that most are far more concerned about storing up treasures and possessions on earth than in heaven and are more willing to pay interest to lenders than to give tithes to God.

Nevertheless, it’s not the material possessions that cause difficulties; it is the attitude of the heart. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Are we more dedicated to accumulating material things and paying for those things than to serving God and giving in order to spread His Gospel throughout the world? Regardless of what we declare, if obtaining material possessions takes precedence in our hearts over reaching the world for Christ, our hearts’ attitudes betray our true priorities. Unfortunately, if accumulating possessions is a priority, our energies will

become so depleted in worrying about bigger, more, and better things and how to pay for those things that we won’t have time to seek God’s kingdom.

## Two choices

Christ said that His followers have only two choices: to serve and follow God or to serve wealth (possessions). “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth” (Matthew 6:24). Jesus was very clear when He indicated that we would be judged on the evidence of how we served God with our material lives, not on how successful or wealthy we were in life. Again, it’s not material possessions that are the problem; it’s materialism—a preoccupation with accumulating material things at the expense of a passion for God and His work.

## Why Christians make the wrong choices

Many Christians in America today talk a lot about God’s

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## New to Our Family

Please help us joyfully welcome the following new members to the St. Peter family: Mrs. Melissa Crowe, Mrs. Shirley Dutton, Ms. LaVerne Geisheimer, Mr. Lowell Hertsgaard, Mrs. Judith Hertsgaard, Mr. Christopher Kalish, Mrs. Jillian Kalish, Miss Melissa O’Hara, Mr. Patrick O’Hara, Miss Marinela Qendro, Mrs. Amanda Reynolds, Mr. Joseph Riemma, Mrs. Kari Riemma, Mr. John Roufis, Mrs. Kimberly Roufis, Mrs. Jayne Sanne, and Mrs. Rachel Zunniga.

# Seeking God's Kingdom

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material blessings but seldom talk about or experience real joy and peace. Why? Because they have become too busy to listen to God's voice. There are two primary reasons: *they become too busy to serve* and *they have too many distractions*.

*They become too busy to serve.* Jesus told His disciples that many would be called to serve in God's kingdom (Luke 14:16–26), but most would give excuses why they couldn't. Too many outside obligations would prevent them from getting involved.

*They have too many distractions.* The more things accumulate, the more distractions they cause. Two cars break down twice as often, two computers cause twice the errors, two mortgages cost two times the interest, and so on. As we accumulate more things, we generally assume more debt. As we assume more debt, we pay more interest, increase family stress, and create reasons to worry. Yet Jesus said, *"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what*

*you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"* (Matthew 6:25).

## **Evidence of making the right choice**

It's always good to have some standard of measure to determine whether we have made the right choice between God and wealth. This standard of measure is expressed through *humility, self-denial, and love for others*.

*Humility.* Christ is the most exalted in the eternal kingdom of God. Yet, knowing this, He assumed the lowliest, most humble position during His earthly life. Since Jesus is our perfect example, we must look to Him for lessons in humility. Perhaps that will mean giving up having the most or best or giving your best to someone in need.

*Self-denial.* It is a contrast in human logic that by giving up something we can receive even more. However, this is what Christ taught; it's called sowing and reaping. There are three amazing principles taught by Jesus regarding sowing and reaping: (1) we reap what we sow; (2) we reap in a different

season and at a different time than when we sow; and (3) we reap more than we sow. These principles are established regardless of whether we sow good or evil, materialism or godliness, or love or hate.

*Love for others.* God's Word tells us that an evidence of our commitment to His way is shown by our concern for others and what we do about those who are in need.

## **Conclusion**

As we start each day we have a choice: to follow God or to follow the world and the ways of the world. If we decide to follow God's path, it will cost us. Our enemy will probably buffet us as never before and we'll doubt the wisdom and logic of the decision. On the authority of God's Word, though, we can know that the decision was the right one.



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# We Believe: National Youth Gathering 2010

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activities helped me to learn more about the faith, that by the grace of God that I had been led to early in my life.

After reviewing the few notes I made in my journals during that time, I saw that I had written "I really need to spend more time paying attention in Bible studies, worship, and reading my Bible." That is something I pray for the youth at St. Peter and encourage you to pray for as well.

For more information about the National Youth Gathering, please visit the gathering's website: [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com). As we leave for New Orleans on July 16, please keep those of us going on the trip in your prayers. We ask that you pray specifically for spiritual growth, safety, and for all of the experiences our group will have while down there.

# Upcoming Events

What's happening at St. Peter Lutheran Church and School

## July

**Baptism Class** Are you planning to have your child baptized? Before having your child baptized here at St. Peter, you get to attend a pre-baptism class! The next class is Saturday, July 10 from 9:00AM–11:00AM. Please call the church office to register.

**SOFA Bonfire** SOFA is hosting another bonfire in the grove from 6:00PM–9:00PM on Saturday, July 17. Bring your dinner; we'll provide s'mores. Please contact Joanna Eden at [SOFA@edenfamily.com](mailto:SOFA@edenfamily.com) to RSVP.

**National Youth Gathering** This year's LCMS National Youth Gathering is July 17–21 in New Orleans, Louisiana. This will be an exciting time for all involved as they join 30,000 like-minded people who believe that Jesus is the Christ. Please pray for the following adults and youth attending the gathering: Jerica Balusek, Destiny Bradley, Mark Dabler, Jim Decker, Joe Decker, Kristin Decker, Nancy Decker, Victoria Gandar, Jake Gfesser, Andrew Haman, DJ Karbowski, Jimmy Miller, Simeon Nittala, Paige Longerman, Heather Weith, and Brenna Zaplatynsky.

**C.L.A.S.S. 101** Join us for C.L.A.S.S. 101 on Saturday, July 24 from 8:00AM–1:30PM. Learn the basics of the Christian faith and prepare for membership at St. Peter, with special emphasis on the church's purpose, mission, and core values. Coffee, beverages, and snacks will be offered, and a light lunch will be served at noon.

**Women's Volunteer Opportunity** Have you been looking for an opportunity to serve the women of the Schaumburg community? The

Women's Ministry will be volunteering to do a little spring cleaning at a local WINGS residence on Saturday, July 24 starting at 9:30AM. WINGS helps provide safe, secure living environments for homeless and abused women and children. For more information or to volunteer, call Sarah Chang at (847) 680-0131 or e-mail us at [stpeterwomensministry@live.com](mailto:stpeterwomensministry@live.com).

## August

**Vicar Peterson Ordination Service** Please join us for a celebration dinner following the ordination of Vicar Matthew Peterson. The ordination service is scheduled for Sunday,

August 8 at 3:00PM. Dinner will be served immediately following the service. We are asking the congregation for donations of desserts and baked goods. We are also requesting monetary assistance to help cover expenses. Volunteers are needed as well for set-up and clean-up. Please contact Linda Maine at (847) 301-1288 or Georgene Beazley at (630) 894-5207 for information.

**Baptism Class** will be held on Saturday, August 14 from 9:00AM–11:00AM. Please call the church office to register.

**SOFA Bonfire** SOFA is hosting another bonfire in the grove from 6:00PM–9:00PM on Sunday, August 15. Bring your dinner; we'll provide

## Seasonal Outdoor Family Adventures

What better way to experience God's amazing creation than to experience it firsthand through SOFAdventures all summer long! Visit SOFA's website <http://church.stpeterlcms.com/sharegroups/sofa> for more information about each location. Contact Joanna Eden at [SOFA@Edenfamily.com](mailto:SOFA@Edenfamily.com) or (847) 305-0676 for questions or to sign up to be on the e-mail list.

Date	Time	Location
July 10	9:30–10:30AM	LeRoy Oaks Forest Preserve, St. Charles
July 17	9:30–10:30AM	Fullersburg Woods Nature Center, Oak Brook
July 17	6:00–9:00PM	Bonfire at St. Peter Lutheran Church
August 14	9:30–10:30AM	Ryerson Woods Nature Center, Deerfield
August 15	6:00–9:00PM	Bonfire at St. Peter Lutheran Church
August 21	9:30–10:30AM	Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington
September 11	9:30–10:30AM	Tekawitha Nature Center, South Elgin
September 18	9:30–10:30AM	Kline Creek Farm, West Chicago
September 24	5:00PM–10:00AM	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Schaumburg
September 25	TBD	St. Peter Lutheran Church—We'll be helping to beautify the church grounds! Please RSVP.
October 9	9:30–10:30AM	TBD

s'mores. Please contact Joanna Eden to RSVP.

**Town Hall Meeting** The Mission and Ministry Council invites you to attend its semi-annual town hall meeting on Thursday, August 26 at 7:00PM. Look for more information regarding the meeting's topics in the Weekly Take-Home as the date nears. This will be a fantastic opportunity for you to ask questions and learn about what's going on here at St. Peter.

## September

**Baptism Class** will be held on Saturday, September 11 from 9:00AM–11:00AM. Please call the church office to register.

**SOFA Campout** SOFA will be holding its second annual campout in the grove on Saturday, September 24 starting at 5:00PM. Bring your camping gear and stay overnight, or just spend the evening around the campfire. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to pass. For more information or to sign up, contact Joanna Eden at [SOFA@edenfamily.com](mailto:SOFA@edenfamily.com). Please RSVP by September 15.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

September 12 is the BIG day! We are so excited we just can't contain ourselves! Do you know what September 12 brings? A new year! At least it brings in a new year for our Sunday School Ministry! Each Sunday morning starting September 12, 2010 through May 22, 2011 from 10:05–10:55AM, you can join us for lots of fun learning about Jesus! Sunday School begins with our 2-year-old friends and continues to 5th grade.

Are you an adult and want to have all this fun with us? Never fear, we have plenty of opportunities for you to have fun, too! You can join in on the fun by being a teacher or leader! Please contact Ginny Lamborn or Anne Marie Calderon to find out more information.

## Spotlight on Don Busche



*Where did you grow up?* I grew up in unincorporated Schaumburg Township. The house where I lived backs up to Alexian Field, where the Flyers play.

*How long have you been at St. Peter?* I am a baptized member of St. Peter since 1959. I attended St. Peter School (K-8th Grade) and was confirmed here in 1973. I married my wife, Vickie, in September of 1980. We have been blessed with four daughters, two sons-in-law, and five grandchildren.

*What is your favorite memory of St. Peter?* There have been quite a few memories along the way, but the ones that stand out the most would be the church picnics we used to have—especially the pageant that was put together to celebrate St. Peter's 125th anniversary.

*Name one interesting thing about yourself that others might not know.* I don't know if this is interesting or not, but I was the lead in the 8th grade operetta "The Great Mikado."

*If you could ask God one question, what would you ask?* I would be in such awe at being in His presence that if I could think of one, I wouldn't be able to get it out.

*What is your favorite Bible story?* One of the ones at the top of the list is the story of the Good Samaritan. It's a great example of being a servant to our brothers and sisters in need whether we have a personal connection to them or not.

The next issue of the St. Peter Papers will be published in October. If you have an upcoming event you would like to share, please send us the information at [papers@stpeterlcms.com](mailto:papers@stpeterlcms.com) prior to **September 15.**



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*The Lutheran Church • Missouri Synod*

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Phil's Friends Walkfest 2010

Walkfest 2010 was held on May 23, 2010 from 12:00PM–10:00PM. God certainly blessed the event! The day was filled with walking, games, Christian music, including Matthew West and SuperChick, and testimonies from cancer patients, including Vicar Matt Peterson and founder Phil Zielke. It was an extremely warm day, and as a result, the dunk tank was a big hit! With nearly 1,000 people in attendance, we were able to raise close to \$35,000. Thank you to all of you who participated in the event through walking and volunteering. We look forward to celebrating with you next year at St. Peter for Walkfest 2011 on Saturday, May 21!

Phil's Friends provides Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer. The organization reaches out through age- and gender-specific care packages and follows up through one-on-one support. If you know someone with cancer, please go to [www.philsfriends.org](http://www.philsfriends.org) and request a free care package. In addition, you will find registration information for volunteering and upcoming events, such as our inaugural Phil's Friends Golf Outing held on Wednesday, August 4 at Bloomingdale Golf Club.

