



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Intentional Interim Pastor: Rev. Gary Braeuer

February 2026

Living the Christian Life in the City

Greetings to you all, dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we gather in the heart of Winnipeg, surrounded by the sounds and rhythms of urban life, I am reminded of the many ways faith is both challenged and enriched by the modern world. For those who are new to Winnipeg and those who have witnessed decades of change, modern living can make the world, the city and the church feel unfamiliar at times. Yet, here, amid our busy streets and in our busy lives, we are called to follow Jesus. It is only in Christ Jesus that we find the true meaning and purpose for living.

Urban living presents unique opportunities for us as Christians. The diversity and pace of the city invite us to reflect on how we embody Christ's love in our daily routines, interactions, and choices. It is easy to feel lost in the crowd, but the Gospel assures us that God sees each one of us, knows our stories, and calls us to shine as lights wherever we may be. We are not alone—our faith community remains a steadfast source of comfort and strength, especially for those in their senior years.

Michael Niebauer, in his book "Virtuous Persuasion", he reminds us that true Christian influence is not about grand gestures or persuasive words, but is rooted in authenticity, integrity, and service. In the city, our ethos—our credibility and character—is revealed through simple acts of kindness, patience, and honesty. Whether we greet a neighbour in the hallway, offer a listening ear to a friend, or pray quietly for those in need, we are living witnesses to Christ's grace.

Niebauer also speaks of pathos—the power of emotional connection. In our urban congregation, we have countless stories of faith lived out in the midst of everyday life: supporting loved ones through illness, volunteering at local charities, or welcoming newcomers to our worship services. These experiences create bonds that draw others to us, not because we demand their attention, but because we offer genuine care and a sense of belonging. Our mission is not to maintain our traditions for their own sake, but to share the life of Christ with those around us, in ways both familiar and new.

For many the city may present physical and social challenges, but it also offers opportunities to serve and encourage others. Perhaps it is a phone call to someone who is lonely, a donation to the food bank, or simply sharing your wisdom and faith with younger generations. Every act, no matter how small, contributes to the well-being of our community and demonstrates the love of Jesus in practical ways.

I urge each of you to continue living your faith authentically. Let us support one another as we navigate the complexities of urban life, drawing strength from our heritage and the promise of God's steadfast presence. May our congregation be known not only for its traditions, but for the good we do in Christ's name—here, in this city, among these people.

Peace be with you all,

Pastor Gary

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Note: The author, Michael Niebauer, cited in this article has been invited to teach at this year's Canadian Rockies Theological Conference, April 14-16 in Canmore, Alberta. If this article has captured your interest, please consider attending. For more information contact Pastor Gary, or a member of the congregation Council.

Welcome to the Intentional Interim Ministry by Rev. Gary Braeuer

A Season of Growth.

In every congregation's journey, there are seasons of transition that may feel uncertain, but these moments may also be filled with hope and possibility. Intentional Interim Ministry is a special approach to caring for congregations. It is designed to help congregations navigate the time between permanent pastors with clarity, and purpose. Let's celebrate this unique season as a time to reflect, renew, and prepare for an exciting future.

What Makes My Interim Ministry Intentional?

Intentional Interim Ministry goes beyond simply "holding the fort." It is a deliberate, guided process that equips your congregation to thrive during times of change. As your Intentional Interim Pastor, I will work within your faith community to address practical and spiritual needs while laying the groundwork for a vibrant next chapter.

Supporting Our Church Family Through Change.

- **Healing & Reconciliation:** We will support one another as we process the emotional and spiritual impressions following a pastor's departure, so everyone feels heard and valued.
- **Organizational Assessment:** We will look at our church's culture and systems, with the objective to strengthen what works and gently improve what doesn't.
- **Mission & Vision Clarity:** We will work to articulate our unique calling as a congregation, so we know where we're going before we search for a new pastor.
- **Search Committee Coaching:** We will empower our lay leaders with wisdom and spiritual guidance needed to find the right long-term fit for our faith community.
- **Strategic Stability:** we will keep our ministries and daily routines running smoothly, while also making meaningful changes that set us up for future success.

Questions to Guide Our Time Together.

As we move through this season, it's helpful to reflect on key questions together:

- Are we financially and administratively healthy? How do our resources support our mission?
- What lessons from our history need gentle closure and which blessings need to be emboldened?
- How are we working together within the congregation and to support the church body? Are there areas we need more encouragement and collaboration?
- Is our church family looking outward, ready to serve the broader community and live our mission with joy?

Above all, this season is about inviting everyone to participate in shaping the future with hope. By embracing this time as a gift, we will emerge stronger and ready to welcome a new pastor with open hearts. I ask you to join with me, council, and ministry team leaders so that together we embrace the great things awaiting our church!

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

Special Birthday Celebrations for February 2026

For members at least 65

Gisela Knudsen, Feb 5

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



The next **St. Peter's Eaters** breakfast will be held in the church basement on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 8AM. It's a men's breakfast group to which all men are invited for food and fellowship. If you plan on coming, please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church or contact the church office by phone (204.775.6477) or email stpetersoffice@mymts.net .

The **Women's circle** will not meet in February. The next gathering will be announced in the March Newsletter

St. Peter's Singers News

Submitted by Linda Lurvey

We will resume choir practices on Sunday, February 22, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. The plan is to practice each Sunday leading up to Holy Week. We welcome singers of all ages to join us. No music reading experience is necessary. Please call Linda Lurvey for more information: 204-663-1287.

"The one who sings prays twice"
St. Augustine

Financial update

Due to the generous support by the members and friends of St. Peter's, we will meet all of our financial obligations for 2025.

Submitted by Ralf Oppitz

NALC Youth event in 2026

NALC Continental Youth Gathering 2026 - July 7 - 10, 2026 at St. John Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Virginia.

Please see website below for more information and registration.

<https://thenalc.org/en-us/our-work/equipping-disciples/families/>

Younger Adults

Submitted by Ulrike Schreckenbach

Young adults aged 18–28 from NALC congregations are invited to participate in *Word & Witness*: a week-long mission experience serving under-resourced neighborhoods here in Winnipeg. It takes place May 23-30, 2026. For details, please see the Bulletin Board or the NALC website. Young adults who attended this event last year were interviewed by Pastor Teresa Peters. They testified to the meaningful impact this experience had on them personally. This interview can be accessed here: <https://vimeo.com/1095148770>

Please note: Registration will close soon (mid to end February)!

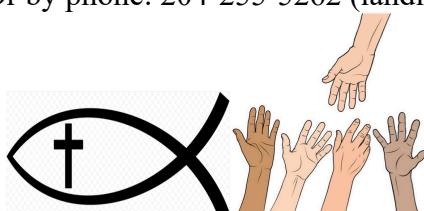
Questions?

Would like more information?

Know someone you would like to see invited?

Please talk to *Ulrike*, or contact her:

By email: schrecke@mymts.net Or by phone: 204-255-5262 (landline).



North American Lutheran Church (NALC). This past June, two professors of the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) joined over 100 theologians from around the world in Rome for a landmark ecumenical gathering marking the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. Dr. David Luy, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology (the pastor can tell you what that is), served as one of the conference plenary speakers. He was the only Lutheran theologian to do so. Dr. Alexander Pierce, Associate Professor for Historical Theology, presented at one of the breakout sessions. A highlight for both professors was a private audience with Pope Leo XIV. The NALC-owned seminary has only been in existence for eleven years. We all should be proud that we belong to a North American church body that has already received worldwide recognition.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

John Longhurst. We always like to inform our congregation about religious news in our community. In his latest report, John writes: “And a bit of personal news: As I think most of you know, I started doing local religion commentary for CBC Radio Manitoba in April. In September, CBC National asked if I would be interested in doing it for stations across the country—a three-month experiment. It seems to have gone well, with stations from the east coast to the west and up to Whitehorse signing up for monthly columns about religion. As a result, the CBC has asked me to keep doing national commentary in 2026.”

Nine religious articles appeared in the Free Press in December 2025.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr



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As the students went home for Christmas, school activities are reduced to farm work and the multi-building construction we reported on in the last newsletter.



Besides the movable chicken coop, there are now goats at the farm. Caring for live animals will teach life skills to the students and will help to provide a better home life for their families.

Kuwala has moved to an online newsletter. The newsletters are now featured as they are online posts only and can be accessed through the Kuwala website (kuwala.org). You can log onto the website and scroll down to find Stories from the Field. Each month, there will be a story from the classroom, the campus, community and the farm. On the right side header, there will be the stories by date, and they will all be featured there. Once every two months, the three-story blogs are uploaded. If you sign up to receive the newsletter by e-mail, it will be easier to view all the latest blogs.



Last year, in addition to the \$21,000.00 Kuwala student scholarships, we received \$3,300.00 in general school support. Answering a Kuwala request, this amount was forwarded to Kuwala for “lawn mowing equipment”. This is how Mark Kinzel responded, in part. *It helps. We found a trusted Husqvarna dealer in Malawi who will order the tractor, trailer (for hauling stuff) and other equipment from South Africa. We are adding your funds towards the total price of \$20,000.00. Another “win” for the campus.*

2025 Mission Budget Update.

- We are pleased to report that, after our December Mission appeal, donations to Missions exceeded our \$31,000.00 budget.
- In addition, we received \$16,853.13 of unsolicited donations to support ministries not listed in our budget.
- Also, as authorized by the Church Council, \$1,000.00 was submitted to the NALC Canada Section, including the following wording:

In response to the assistance received from Dean Mac de Wall and Assistant to the Bishop Kevin Ree, during our pastoral vacancy, our church council, at its last meeting, approved the following motion: (authorizing the \$1,000.00 spending.) We have received thank-you notes and expressions of appreciation from the Assistant to the Bishop, Kevin Ree, Dean Mac de Wall and the NALC General Secretary Amy Little.

- In addition to the \$21,000.00 Kuwala student scholarship, we received \$3,300.00 in general school support. This amount was forwarded to Kuwala for “lawn mowing equipment”.
- The 2025 Mission budget surplus and the surplus from 2024 will allow us to start funding budgeted Mission support early in anticipation of new 2026 donations.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

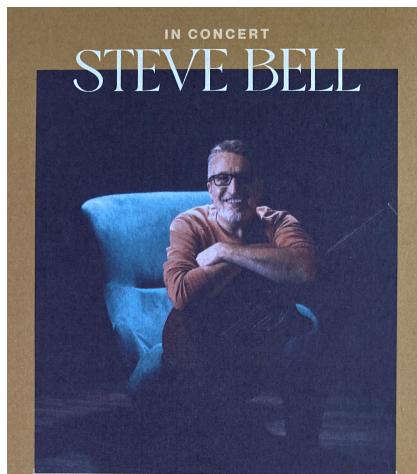


Congratulations Patience Saabon on the arrival of Cyrus on Jan 2, 2026!
A warm welcome to Cyrus and God's blessings to you both!

Ash Wednesday

You are invited to join us for our Ash Wednesday service on Feb 18. There will be a soup supper at 6pm followed by the service at 7pm.

**You, Your Family and Friends are invited to a Steve Bell concert on
February 20 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 7:30pm
Doors open at 6:30pm.
Admission is Free!**



IMPORTANT REMINDER!

**The Annual General Meeting will be held at St. Peter's on March 15.
Immediately following the 11 am service there will be a soup luncheon in the basement followed
by the AGM!
A sign-up sheet for soup donations for the luncheon will be posted in the Narthex.**

SAVE THE DATE!!

**Our Annual Church Picnic will take place on June 14. Location TBA.
Hope to see many of you there!!**

It's Time to Revive a Tradition✿

Submitted by Barb Schott

A long-standing tradition at St. Peter's was for parishioners to donate flowers for the altar in celebration of events, anniversaries or in remembrance of a loved one.

We would like to revive that tradition and if you have an occasion that you would like to honour please bring your flower/s and let Gudrun know beforehand, or Pastor when you arrive, so he can make the announcement at the start of the service.

February 2026 Calendar; *TC = Tai Chi, **HS=Healthy Start

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 11 am Service in English	2	3 HS	4 TC 7pm	5	6	7 TC 10am
8 11 am Service in English with Communion	9	10 HS	11 TC 7pm	12	13	14 TC 10am
15 11am Service in English	16 Council meeting 7pm	17 HS	18 Ash Wed Soup supper @ 6pm and service @7pm	19	20 Steve Bell concert @ 7:30pm Doors open @6:30pm	21 TC 10am
22 11am Service in English with Communion	23	24 HS	25 TC 7pm	26	27	28 Men's breakfast 8am TC 10am

Any submissions for the March 2026 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thur, Feb. 19, 2025. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews1@gmail.com