

# **"The Herald" Newsletter** St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

October 2020



10 Delp Road - Lancaster, PA 17601 (717) 569-9211

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9, NRSV

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# **Congregational Meeting – October 25<sup>th</sup> A Vote on Beginning the Mission Campaign**

On October 25<sup>th</sup> we will have two historic firsts at St. Peter's. Our first-ever virtual Congregational Meeting ... and our first-ever Mission Campaign. If you are a bit long of beard here at St. Peter's, you may remember a number of capital appeals and building campaigns over the years that did everything from expanding our church building footprint to adding HVAC systems. But we have never had a "Mission Campaign." Why the distinctive language? Because our expectation is that the proposal our Congregation Council places before you for a fundraising campaign is going to touch down in more areas than HVAC upgrades, parking lot repairs, debt reduction and Wi-Fi work. Our expectation is that our proposed fundraising efforts will also enhance existing and new ministries at St. Peter's as the focal parts of our updated Mission Statement ... thus the term "Mission Campaign". A church is not the Church, unless we are invested in mission beyond our walls, both near and far. This campaign will also help us achieve these ministry goals.

The specific details of which missions and ministries will be enhanced (or created) is

not available yet, because we are also in the early stage of a Strategic Planning process that, with YOUR help, will allow us to identify the ministries here that need further strengthening and supporting along with the new ministries that are waiting to find expression in our congregational life through the support of our congregational time, talents, and treasures. Our Mission Campaign will take care of business in terms of restoring some of the property issues noted above that need attention ... it will allow us to pay down our mortgage in a significant way ... and it will create seed money for some other ministry projects ... ministries that YOU will be determining for us.

So, I expect to "see" you on October 25<sup>th</sup>, as we ask you to consider an affirmative vote to move forward with our Mission Campaign. What you will be asked to vote in favor of is entering into a contract with Kirby-Smith Associates to guide us *(continued on next page)* 

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# Congregational Meeting – October 25<sup>th</sup> A Vote on Beginning the Mission Campaign

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through both this visioning process and the assessment of the financial as well as time & talent support for this mission appeal. The consultation fee for Kirby-Smith to lead this campaign \$44,500. With the help and guidance of Richie & Rachel Musser, we hope to raise at least \$1.3 million. Richie and Rachel have been an invaluable presence in guiding us through our recent feasibility study and in helping us identify realistic goals for this campaign. The consultation fee for the campaign is only about 3% of that expected mission goal. That is a very competitive fee for helping us to raise this amount of money for our physical plant and ministries. You pay a higher rate than that on your credit card, or your Boscov's charge. The Mussers have also been a valuable resource in organizing and coaching the strategic planning process noted earlier in this letter. Begun in August, the planning process should conclude with recommendations to Council in January 2021. The excellence of leadership, wisdom and experience that the Mussers bring to their stewardship ministry among us is significant and timely, to say the least.

As mentioned, the other historic "first" is that we will use as a vehicle of approval, our first virtual congregational meeting. We are currently working to select a virtual meeting platform that will allow us to have presentations ... and answer questions ... and vote in a manner that fulfills the expectations Pennsylvania law requires of us as a non-profit organization. We are also bound by our Lower Susquehanna synod constitutional requirements for a congregational meeting, and so the platform we choose must also fulfill our church constitutional needs for a valid congregational meeting.

We appreciate you tuning in on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for our specially called Congregational Meeting to consider the recommendation: "To contract with Kirby-Smith Associates, in the amount of \$44,500, to lead a Mission Campaign beginning in the fall of 2020 and continuing into 2023 to meet our existing and potential mission goals for St. Peter's."

On behalf of your church staff, I thank you for your consideration and support of our upcoming Mission Campaign under the guidance of Kirby-Smith Associates through the consultation of Richie & Rachel Musser.

God's Peace, Pastor Craig

# **Congregational Meetings**

Join us for two very important congregational meetings. Both will be meetings held online in digital format.

### October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.: Congregational Meeting to Vote on Beginning the Mission Campaign

Go to <u>https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/mission-campaign/</u> to attend the October 25 meeting at 9:00 a.m. You can visit this site beforehand for information about the feasibility study.

#### November 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.: Annual Meeting

Go to <u>https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/annual-meeting/</u> to attend the November 8 meeting at 9:00a.m. As we get closer to the date, relevant annual meeting documents will be available at this site, as well.

If you are unable to access the internet to attend these meetings, please call the St. Peter's office and we will assist you.

# Drive In Worship, Sundays 4:00 p.m.



Join us for worship Sundays at 4:00 p.m. for a brief service featuring confession and forgiveness, Bible readings, communion and a bit of music! Worship will take place in the church parking lot with the service transmitted over an FM Transmitter for you to enjoy with your car radio. When you arrive at church, ushers will help you to a designated parking spot. If you desire to sit outside of your car during the service, please bring a mask and adhere to social distancing. Please call the church at 717-569-9211 to help us get an idea of how many to expect, so we have enough bulletins and Fellowship Communion cups.

# **Live Streaming Continues**



Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. for Church @ Home. Worship features our Lutheran liturgy, prayers for the community, a sermon from one of the rostered leaders, a children's sermon, music from our staff musicians, Adam Lefever Hughes and Erik Teichmann, as well as special music from members of our congregation. Be church together on Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/

## **Worshiping Together**



In these months we have worshiped online from the comfort of our couches and several of you have been worshiping at our Drive-In Worship service. We are exploring ways that we might worship in the Sanctuary, as well. You can find out more information about worship by visiting <u>https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/worship/</u>.

## Weekly Updates

Please watch the church website <u>https://www.stpeterslutheran.org</u> every Wednesday afternoon at approximately 4:00 p.m. for a short article updating news around the church for the week. It is our attempt to keep you connected to "all things St. Peter's" and the continual unfolding of congregational life in a digital world. You'll find updates on worship life, new Zoom groups that are beginning, news from the broader church and how it affects our life together, and service opportunities that may present themselves within our church and out in our community.

# **Giving Thanks for The Ways You Give**

Thank you for being faithful stewards of God's good gifts. We give thanks for the many ways that you have enabled the continuation of St. Peter's mission in the midst of very trying times. Thank you for mailing in your contributions and for using Tithe.ly or Simply Giving for your contributions.



For more information about digital giving visit https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/give/

## **Benevolence Payments**

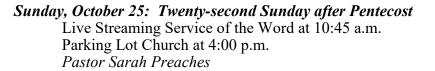
Please be aware that through the month of September, we are fully up to date on all of our benevolent commitments, and have also paid in full the yearly funds to our local benevolent commitments here in Lancaster. With your strong and sacrificial offerings, we have been able to be generous to local charities and missions which are part of our benevolence budget, as they struggle to keep their ministries vibrant and functioning.

## **OCTOBER 2020 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### Sunday, October 4: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Live Streaming Service of the Word at 10:45 a.m. Parking Lot Church at 4:00 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW, EARLIER TIME Pastor Sarah Preaches

Sunday, October 11: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Live Streaming Service of the Word at 10:45 a.m. Parking Lot Church at 4:00 p.m. Pastor Craig Preaches

Sunday, October 18: Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Live Streaming Service of the Word at 10:45 a.m. Parking Lot Church at 6:30 p.m. Sister Dottie Preaches





## St. Peter's Archives

# The Dedication of St. Peter's first church in 1881 was memorable for several reasons and ended with a skirmish!

Lancaster Intelligencer – June 29, 1881 – Dedication of St. Peter's – *Impressive Services followed by a Row* – On Sunday, St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Neffsville, was dedicated with impressive services, conducted both in the German and English languages. The attendance was quite large. The services were led by Rev. Peters, of Manheim, the pastor in charge, Rev. Riemensnyder, and Rev. Meister of this city. St. Stephen's choir, of this city, furnished excellent music during the afternoon and evening. Everything passed off very pleasantly until the close of the evening service when a gang of disorderlies raised something of a row by using insulting language to the ladies and by trying to throw a live cat among the retiring congregation. They attacked and badly whipped Albert Nickle, a young man who remonstrated against their conduct.

**Semi-Weekly New Era – July 2, 1881 –** *A TERRIBLE OUTRAGE* – On Sunday, a number of clergymen from the city went to Neffsville, to dedicate the new church of St. Peter's. The choir of St. Stephen's German Lutheran Church, of this city, Rev. Meister, pastor, also went out for the purpose of assisting in the musical part of the services. During the evening service a couple of young men were observed in the gallery of the church, and it soon became evident that they meant mischief. They were under the influence of liquor and had kittens concealed about their persons, which they intended dropping upon the heads of the worshippers below, but they were watched too closely and were unable to do this. After the congregation had been dismissed, St. Stephen's choir, or a portion of it, left the church, and as they approached the residence of Dr. Bowman (the large yellow B&B on Rt. 501) a number of drunken roughs lined the passage and caught the young ladies by their arms. Against this conduct **Albert Nickel**, a member of the choir, remonstrated, when he was knocked down and brutally kicked. Regaining his feet he escaped from the infuriated mob and sought refuge in Brubaker's hotel, where he was protected until he could be smuggled into an omnibus. It is to be regretted that the black-guards who made this assault could not have been identified and punished.

Lancaster Intelligencer – July 9, 1910 – OBITUARY - Albert Nickel, a well-known citizen, and member of the city police force, died at 11 o'clock Friday morning, at his home, 674 Union St. The deceased had been in ill health for a year or more, and the direct cause of death was dropsy. He was born fifty-two years ago in Neffsville, Manheim Township, but spent the greater part of his life residing in Lancaster. He served as a patrol driver during both terms of Mayor McCaskey and was reappointed by Mayor McClain. He is survived by his wife and eleven children. The deceased was a member of the Lutheran Church, Knights of Friendship and Schiller Death Benefit Association. The funeral will take place Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment in Greenwood Cemetery. (Albert Nickel is the same young man mentioned in the two articles above).

# Adult Christian Education

## **October 2020 Adult Education Class Schedule**

**Sunday, October 4 -- The Reason for God – Session 2** "How Can You Say There Is Only One Way to God? Led by Sister Dottie (Zoom)

**Sunday, October 11-- Daily Discipleship** "The Challenge of Discipleship: Invitation" - Matthew 22:1-14 Led by Pastor Ross (Zoom)

Sunday, October 18 -- The Reason for God – Session 3 "Why Tell Me How to Live My Life & Why So Many Rules?" Led by Pastor Ross (Zoom)

#### Sunday, October 25—NO CLASS--CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



# Adult Weekly Faith Formation Classes (Through Zoom)



**Looking to Sunday** – This Fall join Pastor Sarah on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. for a relaxed 30-40 minute Bible Study where we look to the scripture connected to the upcoming Sunday.

Please contact Pastor Sarah at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org for more information.

# Wednesday Morning Bible Study



We have begun our 2020-21 year of study in Wednesday Bible Class. This year our major unit of study will be the Book of Exodus, the second book of the Hebrew Torah, and the place in our Bible where we hear some of God's first and most powerful promises to his people. And a smaller unit of study in the middle of the year, we will take a comparative look at Christian Denominations in America, and consider their similarities and differences. The class schedule for the month of October is as follows:

October 7 – Chapters 4 & 5 October 21 – Chapters 8 & 9 October 14 – Chapters 6 & 7 October 28 – Chapters 10 & 11

We meet on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. At the moment we are still meeting through the Zoom digital platform. It is never too late to join in the fun. Brush up on your Bible, and enjoy some faith conversation about God, scripture and the world in which we live. Contact Pastor Craig at <u>craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org</u>



**Moral Monday Book Study** - Join us Mondays October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. on zoom for a discussion on this month's book – <u>Dear Church</u> by Lutheran Pastor Lenny Duncan. This group reads and discusses books on racism, and social justice. Interested in joining? Contact Sister Dottie for more details...<u>dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org</u>



**October Pub Theology** – Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 p.m.–zoom - Lutheran/ Halloween Trivia Night! Watch for zoom.

RSVP to Sister Dottie if you can attend at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org

# <u>Fellowship</u>

## St. Peter's Annual Pet Blessing



Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

2:00 p.m.

**Green Acres behind** 

church parking lot



Bring your dogs, cats, hamsters, etc. for their annual blessing. Masks must be worn (only by humans). Kids can bring their favorite stuffed animal for a blessing as well! (Event will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather).

# Halloween Trunk or Treat

# Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



We are looking for families who would be interested in being part of trunk or treat in our St. Peter's Parking lot. We would social distance cars – bring candy or other treats for the kids and youth – sit outside your cars in your chairs! We will have hot dogs, chips, drinks, and other items for food. Music and a spooky story will be told as well. A great addition or alternative to our regular night of trick or treat – masks must be worn by all

during the "trunk or treat" portion of the night. RSVP to Sr. Dottie if interested in participating.



# St. Peter's Needs Your Help



HELP! There's no other way to state it. Your church, St. Peter's, needs help, and we are asking you to step up. It is understood that our lives have been turned upside down, but you've cleaned all your closets and fixed everything that needs to be fixed. Consider using your extra time to help with committees that need people & voices.

Here is a list of vacancies for which there is an immediate and crucial need:

Cemetery---Chairperson Finance—Committee members Homes of Hope---Liaison from St. Peter's and Mentors for families Property Committee—Committee members Stewardship---Chairperson and committee members

There are descriptions for each of the groups on St. Peter's website. Here is the link. Consider taking some time to see if any of these are a fit for you.

We can send you a booklet with the descriptions, or, give a call and we will be happy to explain what is expected. <u>https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fVeQyvmq4O5N6mKFsnNacgEPTbGUIyu\_ai7E90mCWzA/edit#gid=1</u>

Pastor Ross Craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org

Betsy Linn Volunteer Steward 717-618-9615 Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

# All Saints' Sunday

# November 1<sup>st</sup>



All Saints' Sunday is a day we recall loved ones who have died in the last 12 months, as we anticipate the promise of the resurrection. If you have the names of loved ones you would like us to remember in the Litany of the Saints on November 1<sup>st</sup>, at our All Saints services, please contact the church office by email or by phone (717) 569-9211. We ask that you spell out the name of the person to be listed in the Litany of the Saints and that you also give your name and contact information in case the church office has questions of spelling and pronunciation.

# **Prayer Chain Ministry**

The Prayer Chain would like to WELCOME June Crisp to the chain! We were thrilled to have June join us during September and hope she finds her 'work' on the chain to be fulfilling and rewarding. If you have been thinking about joining the chain, now in this time of Covid, might be a good time to 'give us a try' and 'be like June'! Please contact either Ginny Gerhart (717) 626-7406 or Angela Moshos (717) 392-6201 with any questions or to sign up!



"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

# Health and Wellness Committee

## **October – Healthy Lung Month**



Lung disease affects a huge number of Americans. Around 10 million are diagnosed with chronic bronchitis each year, 25 million are believed to be living with asthma, and over 150,000 die from lung cancer annually. Lung health has been a concern throughout history. Diseases such as tuberculosis, the flu, and many other airborne ailments have been around for a long time, looming over societies like a deadly blanket. (We can now add COVID-19 to the list).

We rarely think about breathing, except when it's hard to do. During a normal day we breathe  $\sim$ 25,000 times according to the National Institutes of Health. Because of your heart, the right lung is larger than the left lung, and - they float!

#### HOW TO OBSERVE HEALTHY LUNG MONTH

\*Give up smoking \*Get a check up \*Clean your house \*And..... <u>Know the warning signs</u>: If you have a cough that won't go away, see your doctor. It may be nothing, but it could be an early warning sign of a respiratory condition. Other symptoms include tightness of the chest, wheezing, and ongoing shortness of breath, especially when physically exerting yourself.

Healthy Lung Month is an opportunity for many organizations to join forces to educate the public about the importance of protecting our **lungs** against general neglect, disease, mold, air pollution, and smoking, and create an awareness around healthy lifestyle choices. (And let's take a moment to thank our Respiratory personnel who celebrate Respiratory Care week 10/25 - 10/31/2020.)

# **Communication: The Website Is Your Friend!**

Please go to our website <u>www.stpeterslutheran.org</u> to find out the latest schedules and calendar events. Check out blog posts to help you plan or to engage your faithful preparations this season. Be sure to check out our Facebook page as well (<u>https://www.facebook.com/stpeterslancaster</u>) for posts about upcoming events or to catch the beauty and joy of a past event.

If you have questions about events and schedules that you can't find on the website, don't hesitate to contact a staff member. We would love to hear from you.

# **Social Ministry**



# Our Monthly Community Meal - October 7<sup>th</sup>

The October Community Meal will be on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at Grace Lutheran Church. Community Meal For more information, please contact Jan Gigl at ronjangigl@comcast.net

# Lydia's Lydia's Closet

OSET Lydia's Closet is OPEN the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge and we are continuing to offer our services to students. Since we are unable to have our families come and shop in person we are having them fill out order forms for children who need clothing. Flexibility is something we are all learning! Please pass the information

along to any of your friends and neighbors that may be in need of some extra help. The clothing bank is always in need of new underwear, especially for older teens (adult sizes). We are also in need of socks! Please drop off socks in our donation bin located at the St Peter's front door, or visit our wishlist on Amazon and have them delivered straight to the Church. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3LL9HWIPMAD9B?ref =wl share

Please contact Molly Olmsted at astaloo@comcast.com with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.



### **Membership**

## Fall 2020 New Member Class: October 4 and October 11

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church? Now is the time to join our faith family. During "these extraordinary times" and times of uncertainty, we want you to know and be certain that you have a place here with us. Whether we gather in person, via zoom, or livestream. For our new member classes we want to meet with you — and we can do so in person or online.

Want to know more? Email Pastor Sarah Teichmann sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org or call the church office at 717-569-9211

# **Updates to the Church Directory**



Sometime in the next few months, you will be receiving a call from either a staff member or a volunteer asking to update your family's information. You will be asked to correct your address, phone numbers, and email addresses since much of our data is outdated. We are also trying to categorize our adult children as to whether they are attending or have moved on to another worship experience.

The goal is to establish an accurate membership roll. It is part of the important strategic plan that is being developed. If you receive a message, please respond. It is important to our future!

Please feel free to contact Betsy Linn at <u>betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org</u> with any questions.

# **Groups and Events**

## Widows Group

The Widows Group meetings are continuing at St. Peter's outside (or in the Narthex during cold weather) and are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and usually last about one hour. Our next meeting will be on October 27<sup>th</sup>. If you would be interested in joining, please call or email me for the details. We discuss what is going on in our lives and some fun things as well. I look forward to hearing from you!

Betsy Linn betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

## **Quilters Group**

The Quilters are in need of donations of material. You may drop off material at the church Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Thank you.



# Camp Corner



Camp is open this fall for rentals! Consider a little getaway for your family at Camp Kirchenwald near Mt. Gretna or Camp Nawakwa near Gettysburg. Both are restful, quiet places to explore nature and energize your family. This fall take a weekend trip to Camp Nawakwa to enjoy the fall foliage or to go apple picking in Adams County. Cabins with bathrooms and electric are available for as little as \$45 a night at Nawakwa. Or stay in a rustic cabin at Kirchenwald for \$30. Hike to Buzzards' Rocks or ride on the Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail. Find out more on the Lutheran Camping Corporation website https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-facility-rental-summer-2020/ or

contact Joy & Lyle Hosler (joy@hoslerfamily.net). They vacationed at Nawakwa twice this summer and had a blast just exploring the grounds and cooking over an open fire!

# **Co-Ed Adult Volleyball through October!**



A new outdoor ministry started this fall. Join up with St. Peter's friends for pick-up volleyball games on Saturday evenings at 6:30pm through Oct 24. All adults who are looking for some exercise, fun, and fellowship are welcome. Games will be played at the Hoslers' outdoor volleyball court in their backyard woods (232 Pleasure Rd Lancaster). The evenings will begin with a brief devotion and prayer led by Pastor Sarah. Please bring a mask and water bottle. Questions? Contact Joy & Lyle Hosler (text 717-371-7583 or email

joy@hoslerfamily.net). Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094ea8ad23a13-stpeters





#### NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE OCTOBER 10TH

Articles for the November 2020 "Herald" are due in the church office no later than <u>October 10th</u>. Please submit articles to Sandy Shattuck in the church office or email <u>sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org</u>. Thank you for your cooperation.

# **Pastor's Letter**



Dear Friends:

Can you believe we are in this mess for six months now? A half a year of living in a pandemic world. Crazy. Who would have believed this to be possible as we crawled out of our New Year's hangovers, and began our systematic breaking of all our New Year's resolutions? But such is life. As I think about the past half a year, I find myself reflecting on what I have learned ....

I have learned that while I consider myself an introvert, and don't think that I need to ever be around people, that the incarnational (God in flesh) nature of faith is diminished when we never get to actually be with each other "in the flesh."

I have learned that the pressure of living in a world that has a greater risk of serious illness and death, oft times brings out the best in people. I have observed far more people smiling and saying hello to me and other strangers ... far more people saying thanks when they are the recipients of the most modest of kind gestures ... and far more people taking the time to seriously engage their lives and homes and families.

I have learned that people truly are interested in "helping their neighbor" in ways that may seem modest and simple ... but which none-the-less gives shape to what I believe resides in every person God has created ... the desire to help those in need. (I have also learned that there are also a very few people who seem to work pretty hard to keep that helping spirit buried as deeply in their spirits and bodies as is humanly possible.)



I have learned that the statement I regularly make which claims that I loathe being in front of cameras ... is actually true. Few things suck the life out of me more than having a lens in my face. Having said that, I must also state that I could not be more

grateful for the Teichmann family, and Adam Lefever-Hughes, for their digital wizardry in helping us communicate with you through an incredibly wide range of digital platforms and offerings. I do however pray daily that God will bring live worship back to the world sooner than later.

I have learned that this community of faith (and probably many others – I just don't know them well enough to make observations about their life together) ... yes, this community of faith ... our community of faith is extremely resilient. I am regularly humbled by you who are reading these words. When I see you reaching out to each other and to those who are struggling with kind words, encouraging ministrations, friendly gestures, and heartfelt love for others. You embody what church is supposed to be at its best.

I have learned that while some days I feel morose and hopeless, far more of the days I find myself encouraged by our church (and our world, as far as I can assess), because the spirit of hope and purpose resides in people, even when the chips are down, and luck seems to be running out. My thanks to so many of you for being the face and the voice and the heart of that spirit of hope and purpose.

See you in virtual church,

Pastor Craig

craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org

# **PREVIOUS WORSHIP SERVICES**

Previous services can be accessed under the videos section of our Facebook page, or by visiting our YouTube channel at <u>https://www.youtube.com/c/StPetersLutheranLancaster</u>

A link to the "Live" page is on our website under the stream that links to recent service videos on YouTube.

# Pastor Sarah's Message



#### Dear friends in Christ,

Do you remember the early days of March 2020? At the time, I don't think any of us had an honest idea of the scope of time this pandemic would be. Some of those early days seem foggy now. The phrase that comes to mind, that I found myself saying over and over and over again was, "we are church together." It was such an important phrase for me to say and to hear. We are church... together. Even if we couldn't physically *be* together. Somehow through Christ we are church together.

And we still are church together.

Some of the ways we are church together look a bit different. I look out my office window as I'm writing this letter, and I see folks gathered together for a book study under our car port. Masked, socially distanced, but engaging and being community for one another. In the next few days I get to be "church together" with a new Mom's Bible study here at the church and the new volleyball fellowship time at the Hosler family's backyard. And I continue to experience how we are church together every time I welcome folks during our online Church@Home live stream or when I click on a zoom link and participate in Bible study, like the Looking to Sunday Bible study on Tuesdays at 12:30pm (email me if you want in!)

We are church together. So here are some important ways that we can continue being church together.

#### **Worshiping Together**

In these months we have worshiped online from the comfort of our couches and I've seen several of you worship at our Drive-In Worship service. We are exploring ways that we might worship in the sanctuary, as well. You can find out more information about worship by visiting <u>https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/worship/</u>.

#### Learning and Gathering Together

It is awesome to see how we are church together as we learn about our faith and gather in small groups. I see God's work in you as you find ways to connect with each other—either in person or online. And if you haven't yet been part of Christian Education or a small group, what are you waiting for? Let's be church together! For more information, Check out the following on our website: <a href="https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/learn/">https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/learn/</a> and <a href="https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/gather/">https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/gather/</a>

#### **October 25 Congregational Voting**

On October 25 we will be having an online congregational meeting to vote on going forward with the Mission Campaign. Need a reminder of the Feasibility Study results? Refresh your memory by looking at the Feasibility Study summary or rewatch the March 31 webinar explaining the feasibility study led by Richie Musser. Go to <u>https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/mission-campaign/</u> and be church together by being informed about this vote.

These are just *a few* of the ways that we are church together as children of God. I look forward to continuously being church together with you.

Peace, Pastor Sarah sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org



# CHECK OUT ST. PETER'S FACEBOOK PAGE! <u>LIKE</u> US ON FACEBOOK!

# From the Director of Music



#### Worship and Mission

This month as we consider the mission of the church, St. Peter's mission to its community, and the realities of fall with limited in-person connection, I thought I'd take a moment in this newsletter to consider the relationship between worship and mission. This month we're voting on a Mission Campaign and while at first glance it may seem that worship is a separate arm of the church, I propose that worship is central to the mission of the church.

In worship, God calls us to acts of loving service. We are confronted with the core teachings from Jesus' ministry over the course of the liturgical year. Our lives are transformed by these teachings and we are sent out into the world to proclaim the goodness of the Lord we have received in Christ Jesus.

In worship, we practice the work of reconciliation. Confession and forgiveness, prayers of intercession and sharing the peace are all parts of our worship service which allow us to practice reconciling with our neighbors, even those neighbors with whom we disagree. Practicing such reconciliation in the safe space of worship symbolizes the work of reconciliation for which we are sent to advocate.

In worship, we give up some of our individual preferences and desires for the good of the community. We may not all like the song Amazing Grace, some among us may be tired of singing it, but that doesn't mean we refuse to participate because we don't like it. Instead, we participate because we know it will mean something to the larger community. Worship teaches us that the work of supporting one another as a community sometimes means doing work in support of our neighbor that we would otherwise prefer not to do.

Worship AS Mission is a popular topic in liturgical writings these days and it provides an interesting way to look at our worship service. As selfish human beings, we all have a tendency to look at worship from the viewpoint of "how will this benefit me." Yet, in a community which hopes to serve those in greatest need, there is value in considering worship from the viewpoint of "how will this benefit the community."

Thus, considering worship as part of the mission of the church may alter the way we look at worship services. We may find ourselves asking different questions of the different parts of our worship services. It has been my experience that a life lived in faith is a life lived with unanswered questions. Sometimes, rather than coming up with answers to those questions, the task at hand is to find better, higher, more nuanced questions to ask.

So, I leave you with a series of questions that I ponder as we consider the mission of the church in light of worship. Why do we do what we do in worship? How do these words and actions show forth Christ? What are the primary reasons we gather for worship and for whose service do we gather? The individual answers to these questions may look very different, but our God remains the same steadfast God who loves us, for Christ's sake, and will never let us go.

# Worship and Music at St. Peter's

#### **Beverages and Hymns**

Join with Adam on the first Wednesday of the month (starting in October) for a Beverages and Hymns Zoom meeting at 8:00 p.m. Settle in with your favorite beverage, a hymnal, and your singing voice for some music and fellowship. Our first meeting is Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. Contact Adam at <u>adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org</u> for more info.

#### **Special Music**

Would you like to enhance our Church@Home services with some special music? Take a video of yourself making some music and send it to Adam at <u>adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org</u>. You can do as many takes as you like and send your favorite one to be included during our worship services. We want to see all of you making some beautiful music while at home!

#### Music Thursdays – Music Fundamentals

Look for a video on the church's Facebook page (facebook.com/stpeterslancaster) or YouTube - subscribe at <u>https://</u><u>www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/</u> every Thursday to learn more about music. Adam will spend a little time each week talking about reading music, singing hymns, and music as it relates to the church. Take some time each week to work on your singing and music-making skills so when we do sing together in person you can blow the roof off the building!

# Youth & Family Ministry News...

#### October 18 – Family Corn Maze Event at Oregon Dairy – 2:00 pm



Families are invited to participate together to see who can finish first! Cost is \$5.00 per person – RSVP to Sister Dottie if interested!



#### Youth Sunday School-9:15 am

grades 5-8

Two options- Zoom with Molly Olmsted/Sister Dottie at 9:15 am

In person at the home of Lyle and Joy Hosler – 9:15 am – contact Sr. Dottie for more details

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation – contact Pastor Craig for more details..

Sr. High (grades 10-12) - contact Jimmy Moshos at jimmymoshos@yahoo.com

Contact Sister Dottie Almoney for more info on our youth classes at <u>dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org</u>

**RIGHT OF REFUSAL WAIVER FOR PHOTOS** — To insure the safety of our parishioners, St. Peter's has adopted a policy for the use of photos from various services, events and educational programs here at church. If you wish that your image or the image of your child(ren) NOT BE USED in any media that St. Peter's publishes, please pick up a "Right of Refusal Waiver" (a bright green form) from the literature racks in the narthex or at the Welcome Desk. For the form to be valid, a photo must be included with the form. Forms will be valid for the calendar year (until December 31). Each year a new form and updated photo will need to be filled. Please hand in the completed form with picture to the church office. Please contact Sister Dottie Almoney or Cindy Geesey if you have any questions.



# PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

We are striving to reach out to as many people as possible to communicate the various online resources that we are making available to you during this time. Some of you receive the "Herald" by mail, but during this time we are only able to send it digitally or only to a limited number of people. Please note that we will have some copies of the Herald on the table in the Narthex that may be picked up between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. Please contact Sandy in the church office if your email address has changed or if you are not currently receiving the newsletter digitally so we can add you to the list.

# **ST. PETER'S KIDS**



**Sunday School kicked off on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.** It's wonderful to welcome you to our Virtual Transformation Train Station – a place where we are transformed through the scriptures, through our faith journeys and through our community! We have special rides planned for children from preschool to grade 4 and their families. Be at the station at 10:20 am on Sunday mornings as we embark on a new adventure each Sunday. Your ride will last approximately 15 minutes. We will have items in the baggage car for our younger passengers to use at home. They can be picked up at the station before worship on Sunday evenings or at the ticket station (church building)

during the week. Just reach out to Miss Cindy at <u>cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org</u> so I can make sure to schedule your pick up time. Our first pick up time will be Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Your baggage will correspond to the weekly lessons to use at home. **ALL ABOARD!!!** 





**Children's Ministries** is looking for volunteers to help with weekly virtual Sunday School lessons as well as weekly children's sermons. They are easy and fun to do! Please contact Cindy to volunteer!

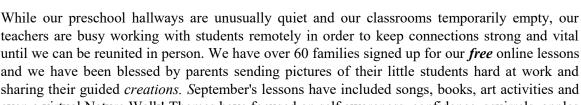


**Bible Presentations** will be on **Sunday**, **October 25<sup>th.</sup>** We will be presenting Spark Story Bibles to our 3 year olds, Spark Bibles (NRSV) to our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, and Connect Bibles to our 5th graders virtually during the Children's Sermon time. Please contact Miss Cindy at <u>cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org</u> to schedule a time to pick up your Bibles at the church.

If you have any questions about Children's Ministries, you may email Cindy at <u>cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org</u>

Blessings, Cindy







even a virtual Nature Walk! Themes have focused on self awareness, confidence, squirrels, apples and the Fall season. While this online curriculum cannot replicate the energy and dynamics of in person education, we can certainly establish bonds between teachers and their potential students, and share the joys of learning while we safely engage with each other from a distance.

If you have children of preschool age, please join us! There is no fee for viewing and participating in our online component and you may join at any time. Videos are posted for viewing every Tuesday and Thursday. Simply send your email address to: stpeterspreschooltime@gmail.com

You will then receive a link to the videos and information regarding themes and materials needed to participate. Learning and growing with St. Peter's Preschool is fun and joyful, even if we can't see you in person!

Lorraine DiBernardo, Preschool Director lorraine@stpeterslutheran.org



**St. Peter's Preschool** 

# From the Volunteer Steward

Happy October! We are finally seeing relief from one of the hottest summers on record. Even though some restrictions have lessened, we are still unable to have large group gatherings inside, here at the church. Our leadership has continued to provide options for worship. Consider joining us for outside worship at 4:00 on Sunday evenings, in the parking lot.

This fall, St. Peter's is offering many educational experiences that will serve several purposes. You may learn something new, and it will give you a chance to reconnect with other members. Follow the link to the website to see all the options being offered. <u>https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/learn/</u>

We are still seeking leadership from our members. We have several key committees that are seeking members to lead us forward. Stewardship needs a leader. Steve Roberts is stepping down after providing direction for the past 7 years. And we need more people for Long Range Planning to help guide us into the future. These are just a small sampling of areas we'd like to provide with more help. As you start to get back into your life, please consider St. Peter's as a place to volunteer your time and talents. We Need You!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may be having.

Please stay safe, Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org





# **Portals of Prayer**

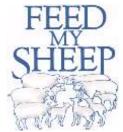


The church has received the current "Portals of Prayer" devotional booklets for October - December. If you are interested in receiving one, please contact Sandy Shattuck at <u>sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org</u> and she will mail a booklet to you. You may also call the church office or stop by the church to pick one up Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

# **Grocery Cards**



Please be aware that grocery cards are now available to purchase from the church office Tuesday through Friday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Please ring the doorbell and enter the narthex and proceed to the window of the office. You must wear a mask and someone will be able to help you from the window. Thank you.



# The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

Needed in October: *Peanut butter; jellies and jams; canned fruits; canned pasta; canned tomato products; spaghetti sauce; boxed macaroni and cheese; instant stuffing & potatoes; canned yams; complete pancake mix & syrup; canned tuna and chicken; tuna, beef & chicken helper; cereal; instant oatmeal.* Food Carts are in the Narthex. Items go to the Lancaster County Food Hub. *Thanks for your donations!* 

## **OUR MISSION**

Building a community of faith by God's grace.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

# **OUR VISION**

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church will show our love for God, our love for neighbors, and our desire to make disciples.

#### Because we love God, we will:

- Worship and pray together.
- Help each other develop a meaningful relationship with God.
- Model our faith to children, youth, and others.

#### Because we love our neighbor, we will:

- Serve one another, especially the unseen and underserved within our congregation.
- Support those in need in our Lancaster community and in the world through our ties with the Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.
- Love others boldly in a diverse and changing world, deepening relationships with our neighbors.

#### Because we desire to make disciples, we will:

- Seek to teach God's love through adult education, our programs for children and youth, and our preschool.
- Offer small groups that connect God's Word to our everyday lives and create communities of faith.
- Share the good news in creative and authentic ways with the St. Peter's family and with neighbors in our community.



Saturday, October 3 10:00 a.m. - Lydia's Closet Clothing Bank 6:30 p.m. - Adult Volleyball (Hoslers Home)

#### Sunday, October 4

9:15 a.m. - Youth & Adult Christian Ed, Grade 5 - Adult (Zoom)

10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, PreK - Grade 4 10:45 a.m. - Online Worship/Hymn Sing, St Peter's website/Youtube

2:00 p.m. - Pet Blessing (Outside grassy area)4:00 p.m. - Drive-in Worship (Church parking lot)

#### Monday, October 5

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom) 7:30 p.m. - Moral Mondays Book Club (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, October 6

12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30 p.m. - Missions Campaign Committee (Host Richie Musser) (Online)

#### Wednesday, October 7

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig
1:00 p.m. - Community Meal Preparation (Kitchen)
2:00 p.m. - Evangelism Committee (Zoom)
4:30 p.m. - Community Meal (Grace Lutheran)
6:30 p.m. - Strategic Planning (Zoom) Pastor Craig
6:30 p.m. - Trivia Night (Home of Shirley Dombach)
8:00 p.m. - Beverages & Hymns (Zoom) Adam

**Thursday, October 8** 7:00 p.m. - Safe Church Committee (Zoom)

Saturday, October 10 Herald Deadline 6:30 p.m. - Adult Volleyball (Hoslers Home)

#### Sunday, October 11

9:15 a.m. - Youth & Adult Christian Ed, Grade 5 - Adult (Zoom)

10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, PreK - Grade 4 (Livestream), Sister Dottie

10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/Youtube 4:00 p.m. - Drive-in Worship (Church parking lot)

# **LOOKING AHEAD**

# **OCTOBER CALENDAR**

Monday, October 12 9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. - Council Meeting (Zoom), Pastor Craig

#### Tuesday, October 13

12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) 1:00 p.m. - Communications Committee (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. - Worship Committee (Zoom)

#### Wednesday, October 14

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children Bible Study (Narthex) Pastor Sarah7:00 p.m. - Property Committee (Zoom)

**Thursday, October 15** 12:00 p.m. - Dick Price funeral (Charles Snyder Funeral Home)

Saturday, October 17 6:30 p.m. - Adult Volleyball (Hoslers Home)

Sunday, October 18
9:15 a.m. - Youth & Adult Christian Ed, Grade 5 - Adult (Zoom)
10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, PreK - Grade 4 (Livestream), Sister Dottie
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/Youtube
2:00 p.m. - Corn Maze (Oregon Dairy) Sister Dottie
4:00 p.m. - Drive-in Worship (Church parking lot)

#### Monday, October 19

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)7:00 p.m. - Finance committee (Zoom), Pastor Craig7:30 p.m. - Moral Mondays Book Club (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, October 20

12:30 p.m. - "Looking to Sunday" Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Sarah 7:00 p.m. - Stewardship Committee (Zoom)

#### Wednesday, October 21

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig 6:30 p.m. - Pub Theology (TBD)



**Thursday, October 22** 6:30 p.m. - Strategic Planning (Zoom), Pastor Craig

Saturday, October 24 6:30 p.m. - Adult Volleyball (Hoslers Home)

### Sunday, October 25

9:00 a.m. Congregation Meeting for Missions Campaign (Online) 10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, PreK - Grade 4 (Livestream), Sister Dottie

10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/Youtube 4:00 p.m. - Drive-in Worship (Church parking lot)

#### Monday, October 26

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:45 p.m. - Tanzania Missions Committee (Zoom)

# **LOOKING AHEAD** (continued)

# **OCTOBER CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, October 27** 10:30 a.m. - Widows Group (St. Peter's) 12:30 p.m. - "Looking to Sunday" Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Sarah

#### Wednesday, October 28

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig 6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children Bible Study (Narthex) Pastor Sarah

#### Saturday, October 31

5:00 p.m. - Trunk or Treat (Church Parking Lot)







If you have any questions, please contact me at <u>sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org</u>. Sandy Shattuck Editor & Parish Secretary

# Worship and Education Survey

(Please fill out this survey and mail it back to St. Peter's or drop it off at the church office.)

Name							
		WOR	SHIP SER	VICES			
The St. Peter's worsh hold be to participate			hip service offerir	ngs. How likely would you and members of your house-			
			In-Person Worsh	ip			
Sanctuary worship or would not include co	-		be a 30-minute l	ong worship of word, preaching, and sacrament, but			
Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very Likely			
		Liv	e-Streamed Wor	rship			
Live-streaming Church @ Home. We will continue to provide a live-streaming service at 10:45am with word, preaching, and music.							
Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very Likely			
			Drive-In Worshi	p			
-	-		-	rvice that includes liturgy, sung music, and communion 0 pm time impractical.			
Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very Likely			
What thoughts would	d you like to share	about in-person,	live-streamed, an	nd drive-in worship?			
Comments:							
				FIONAL OFFERINGS			
hold be to participate	•		irning opportunit	ies. How likely would you and members of your house-			
			Online Learning	3			
Online learning throu	ıgh YouTube video	s and Zoom sessio	ons.				
Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very Likely			
		Wait th	ere's moreflip t	the page!			

# Worship and Education Survey

(continued)

			On-site K-4		
					nrning outside on the church must be accompanied by an
Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very Likely	
			On-site 5-12		
Sunday School youth weather does not co		er outside on the	church premises	s as the weather permits, a	nd inside the building when
Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very Likely	
			On-site Adult		
Adults gather outsid	e on the church pre	emises as the wea	ther permits, and	d inside the building when	weather does not cooperate.
Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very Likely	
What are thoughts y Comments:	ou would like to sh	are about Sunday	Christian educat	tion opportunities?	