



“The Herald” Newsletter

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

February 2021



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

“Let all that you do be done in love.”
2 Corinthians 16:14

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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/>

Shrove Tuesday Palm Burning



We will gather safely (social distancing) on Shrove Tuesday for our brief Palm Burning liturgy on February 16th at 7:00 p.m. under and around the portico at the entrance to the church building. If you have palms in your house from previous years, bring them along. If not, we will have

pre-filled bags of palms you can pick up for your family to toss into the Shrove Tuesday fire. The palms that are burned will be used in our two outdoor Ash Wednesday services on February 17th.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021



St. Peter’s will offer three worship opportunities to mark Ash Wednesday this year. The worship staff, in conjunction with the Worship and Risk Management committees, have created a variety of ways to celebrate Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season. We will have two outdoor worship services and one livestream worship service. We hope that with these three offerings you are able to join your community of faith, as we begin our Lenten journey. *(continued on next page)*

Inside This Issue . . .

- Worship Schedule - 2
- St. Peter’s Covid 19 Update - 4
- Adult Christian Ed. - 5
- Committees – 6
- Groups & Events - 8
- Worship & Music - 9
- Pastoral Letters – 10
- From the Director of Music - 12
- From the Volunteer Steward - 12
- St. Peter’s Preschool – 13
- Youth Ministries – 14
- St. Peter’s Kids – 15
- Mission/Vision Statement - 16
- Looking Ahead/Calendar – 17

February Worship Schedule



Sunday, February 7: The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Craig preaches

Sunday, February 14: Transfiguration of Our Lord with retirement of the Alleluia

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Sarah preaches

Tuesday, February 16: Palm Burning Service

Brief in person worship under the church portico at 7:00 p.m.
Bring palms if you have any

Wednesday, February 17: Ash Wednesday Services

In person brief service in our church cemetery at 7:00 a.m. with Imposition of Ashes and Communion
In person brief service in our Memorial Garden at 5:00 p.m. with Imposition of Ashes and Communion
Live Stream Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. with remote Imposition of Ashes

Sunday, February 21: The First Sunday in Lent

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Craig preaches

Wednesday, February 24: Mid-Week Lenten Service

Brief in person worship under the church portico at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion

Sunday, February 28: The Second Sunday in Lent

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.
Sister Dottie preaches

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

(continued)

7 AM Ash Wednesday Service at the St. Peter's Cemetery, 62 Valley Rd. Lancaster, PA

Join Pastor Craig for this unique sunrise Ash Wednesday service at the St. Peter's cemetery. The service will be an abbreviated Ash Wednesday liturgy and will feature confession and forgiveness, the imposition of ashes (administered safely by single use Q-tips), and holy communion.



5 PM Ash Wednesday Service at the St. Peter's Memorial Garden on the north end of the church property.

Join Pastor Sarah for this unique sunset Ash Wednesday service at the memorial garden located on the north end of our building near the corner of Lititz Pike and Delp Road. The service will be an abbreviated Ash Wednesday liturgy and will feature confession and forgiveness, the imposition of ashes (administered safely by single use Q- tips), and holy communion.



7 PM Livestream Ash Wednesday Service at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>

Join Adam for this livestream Ash Wednesday service featuring liturgy and music for the day. There will be an opportunity before Ash Wednesday to pick up "ashes to go" to be able to have remote imposition of ashes.



Mid-Week Lenten Services



Mid-week outdoor, in-person Lenten services will be offered this coming Lenten season on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. under and around the church portico. Services will be brief with a short liturgy, offerings of communion and brief reflection on the theme of the day. We hope you will consider joining us for these safe expressions of communal worship.

Weekly Updates

Please watch the church website <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org> 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 lives together, and service opportunities that may present themselves within our church and out in our community.

Check out the Church’s Website For...

Visit www.stpeterslutheran.org and click on the Worship, Learn, or Gather buttons to find ways to be church together.

Thank You For Your Financial Support

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you, from your Congregation Council, Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee and Church Staff for your faithful and consistent financial stewardship through the end of the calendar year 2020. Your willingness to consistently mail in and drop off offerings, use our online giving platforms of Tithe.ly or Simply Giving, or donate automatically through your financial institution, have enabled us to meet the obligations of our congregational budget, meet all of our benevolent commitments to local, national and global ministry partners, and make significant additional gifts to a variety of local ministries that have been especially challenged by the pandemic.

Please continue to help us get off on the right financial foot early in the year through your continued faithfulness in stewardship. If you have yet to pick up your envelopes, please call the church office (717-569-9211) and stop by to get them – they are in the narthex on tables. If you would like information about our online giving platforms, please call the church office for information. If you are now primarily using an online platform to donate, and no longer need your boxed giving envelopes, please call the church office and leave a message for our financial secretaries to assign you a digital giving offering number.

Thank you for being the “cheerful givers” that St. Paul identifies in his second letter to the Corinthian church (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Security and Mail

In light of concerns regarding the security of mailed offerings and gifts, the church has opened a post office box. You may continue to address your mail to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 or mail to St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, PO Box 5061, Lancaster, PA 17601.

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/>



St. Peter's Covid-19 Update

It has been 10 months since we suspended indoor worship due to the virus. We are all longing to be back in church as we were before this health crisis hit. We have a dedicated group of people on our Safe Church committee who have been working hard to keep updated on CDC recommendations and have been working in conjunction with the staff, the Worship Committee and the Church council as it pertains to our church life. Here are a few questions and answers that hopefully will answer questions you may have:

When will we return to worship in the Sanctuary?

First of all, please know that all of us want to be back in person to worship. Unfortunately, we were ready to be back in November when our Covid numbers rose greatly. With the information from the CDC, local school districts, our medical personnel and the office of our Bishop, we decided to wait until our numbers began to decrease.

Why are other churches holding in person worship?

These are decisions made by individual churches and their denominational structures. Some of these churches do not have the ability to live stream a service. Other churches are strictly holding outdoor worship. We are aware that church gatherings are one of the riskier gatherings to attend and that singing is also a way the virus travels.

Why can't we worship, but groups are allowed to gather in the church?

We are allowing groups of less than 20 to gather and socially distant. We have started with those groups who need to meet the most: AA, AL anon, our widows' group. Other groups have been meeting outdoors. Again, as things improve, we will be adding more indoor group gatherings. Volunteers who are our carryout service ministries of quilting, Lydia's closet and our community meals are also allowed in the building.

Most people don't get that sick, why can't those who want to worship be able to worship in our sanctuary if we social distance?

Again, we follow the guidelines of the CDC, our Bishop, what is happening in our local school districts and the PA department of health. We are also very aware that while you may not get sick, you can also be a spreader of the virus. As people who carry out the command of Jesus, "to love our neighbor", we take the health and well being of our parishioners very seriously. We also need to remember that we are putting our staff and volunteers at risk as well.

What will worship look like when we return?

Until most of us get the vaccine and we begin to see herd immunity, our in-person worship services will be a 30-minute service that will NOT include communal singing. While we will celebrate the Eucharist, it will look a bit different. We will not be communing at the rail, but in the pews with prepackaged elements. Offering will be dropped off in a box as you enter the sanctuary and we will discourage congregating in the narthex after the service.

Most likely the service will take place at 8:00 am which will allow enough time in between this service and the live stream since we will need to clean the sanctuary beforehand. As we are able to control the virus, we will be adding to our worship life. There will be a limit to the number of worshippers as well. According to the PA Department of Health, the guideline for congregant settings is 10 percent of maximum occupancy which translates to 54 persons, including worship leaders and volunteers. While churches may be exempt from this, we feel it is necessary to follow to keep our parishioners and staff safe. Call ahead reservations will be encouraged at the beginning.

Why is singing such a problem for spreading Covid?

When we sing we are forcing air up through our respiratory tract in a more forceful way. On its way out, the air takes any dislodged particles along with it. These particles are aerosolized and these aerosolized particles carry the virus which we can then breathe in. In an enclosed space, without ventilation, these particles can build up to levels which can cause infection. For these reasons, singing together has been identified as contributing to the so-called "super-spreader" events.

The safe church committee, worship committee, council, and worship staff have had numerous lengthy conversations surrounding worship, how we will gather, and what our gatherings will look like. Throughout these conversations, one thing has been at the forefront of our decision-making, namely that we make every effort to protect and serve the most vulnerable among us while retaining our sense of community. For now, this means that when we gather together indoors, we will show our love for our neighbor by refraining from singing together. Music during worship will be instrumental in nature, but to every extent that is possible, will still relate to the Gospel message for the day.

Adult Christian Education

FEBRUARY 2021 Adult Education Class Schedule

Sunday, February 7 – Simply Christian Part 2, N.T. Wright Simply Christian Series, led by Pastor Craig

Sunday, February 14 – Daily Discipleship, “An Attitude of Discipleship”, led by Pastor Sarah

Sunday, February 21 – Cruciform Living in Light of the Jesus Story (NT Wright), Part 1, led by Sister Dottie

Sunday, February 28 – Cruciform Living in Light of the Jesus Story (NT Wright), Part 2, led by Pastor Craig

Adult Weekly Faith Formation Classes (Through Zoom)



Looking to Sunday Bible Study – 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. These are online zoom gatherings. For more information, please contact Pastor Sarah at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



We finish our mini-unit on “Christian Denominations in America”, and begin the second half of the Book of Exodus. Consider joining us via Zoom on Wednesday mornings. We always have lively discussions. If you are new to the group, please email Pastor Craig at craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org and he will send you a Zoom link to the class.

Our February schedule looks like this:

February 3 – Congregational Churches & UCC

February 10 – Evangelical-Fundamentalist & Bible Churches

February 17 – Adventists & Pentecostals

February 24– Introduction & Chapter 19

We meet on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. It is never too late to join in the fun. Join us to brush up on your Bible, and enjoy some faith conversation about God, scripture and the world in which we live.

Moms of Young Children Bible Study

Hey ladies with young kids-come for an hour to do some Bible study and find support from moms just like you. We will meet in the narthex on Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m. Future dates to be decided. The focus of the next couple of sessions is what it means to be a “woman of valor” and learning how God sees you as valuable and precious. Social distancing and masks required. For more information email Pastor Sarah sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org



February Pub Theology will meet by Zoom on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. – note day change due to Lent. RSVP to Sister Dottie at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org for Zoom information!

Prayer Chain Ministry

Due to a miscommunication/misunderstanding, Mary Ann Frontz's name wasn't included in last months listing of active prayer chain members. All of our members are VITALLY important in having a functioning and active prayer chain! We also are thrilled to welcome Richard & Diane Beil to the chain! They joined St Peter's during the pandemic and joined the Prayer Chain in December!

Now...to continue "learning about the Prayer Chain" during 2021, our 20th year!! From the records we have, the first organizational meeting of the Prayer Chain was held on August 28, 2001 with the late Joan Ralston, the late Nalda Olson, Karen Gerber and Thelma Aurand in attendance. This was our new Vicar, Jerry Kulp's, Vicar/Intern project! A second meeting was held in early October, 2001 with Karen Gerber, the late Nalda Olson, Thelma Aurand, the late Joan Ralston, Patty Leaman, Dick Shaefer, Pat Ross, Nancy LeFevre, Pastor Craig Ross & Pastor Walt Cleckley in attendance. At that meeting, a timeline was formalized to get the chain up and running. The Prayer Chain became active at St Peter's on Monday, October 22, 2001 (almost 20 years ago!) On April 23, 2002 Angela Moshos was announced as the Secretary of the Chain, a position she still holds (along with co-chairing). Next month we will continue with "a bit more history" of the Prayer Chain and begin to feature a few members each month!

PLEASE, if you have any interest or questions about joining the Prayer Chain ministry, feel free to contact Ginny Gerhart (717) 626-7406 or Angela Moshos (717) 392-6201 We will be more than happy to answer your questions and have you join us!

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

Health and Wellness Committee



February: National Heart Health Month - - Go Red Day Friday 2/5/2021

Each February, NHLBI and *The Heart Truth*® celebrate American Heart Month by motivating Americans to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent heart disease. Research shows that we're more successful at meeting personal health goals when we join forces with others.

This American Heart Month, join us to inspire and motivate yourself and those you love to **make heart health a regular part of your self-care routine.**

The Nation Goes Red in February. The first Friday each February for American Heart Month, the nation comes together, igniting a wave of red from coast to coast. From landmarks to news anchors, neighborhoods to online communities; this annual groundswell unites millions of people for a common goal: the eradication of heart disease and stroke. **Wear red to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and save lives. Because when we come together, there's nothing we can't do.**

St. Peter's Archives

Gift to St. Peter Lutheran Church Four Paintings Depict History of Church Lancaster New Era Archives – February 25, 1975

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church has received a unique anniversary gift – paintings of the four buildings the church has occupied since it was founded 95 years ago. Giles Kiehl, a member of St. Peter's, Lititz Pike and Delp Road, recently presented to the congregation four oil paintings in honor of the 15th anniversary of the present church building. Kiehl, who lives at 87 Delp Road, has painted the four church buildings occupied by St. Peter's since 1880 beginning with Salem Lutheran Church, Kissel Hill, the mother church from which the 30-member nucleus of St. Peter's came. The 30 members, mostly residents of Neffsville, built a frame church costing \$1,500 on what is now Duke Street, Neffsville. The church has since been torn down and the church cemetery has replaced it. Kiehl painted the Neffsville church from anniversary pictures and copies of the original building. The third St. Peter church building was dedicated in 1906 and was situated on the Lititz Pike near Valley Road, Neffsville. The current building, to which an educational wing was later added, was dedicated February 8, 1960. The paintings, which will hang in the church nave, were accepted by the Rev. Richard E. Geib, pastor, on behalf of the congregation. The 73-year-old artist, who retired from Keystone Bag & Burlap Co. in 1970, decided 10 years ago, to study oil painting as a hobby. He and Mrs. Kiehl have been members of the church for the past 50 years. He has been active in the choir and served on the church council for a number of years.

Membership News

New Member Classes: March 7 & March 14



We will be having classes for visitors who would like to consider becoming members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church On March 7th and March 14th. The first session will focus on meeting the pastors and fellow new members. The second session will focus on ministries of the church.

To find out more contact Pastor Sarah Teichmann at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org or you may call the church at 717-569-9211.

Thank You to Membership Chair, Stephanie Palic

After 8 years of serving as Chair of the Membership committee, Stephanie Palic has decided to step down. Steph was instrumental in creating our digital membership directory and welcoming new members by helping them connect with volunteer opportunities. She was instrumental to me, when I started my new position. Thanks, Steph, for all your years of faithful service to St. Peter's. You will be missed in this ministry! *Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward*

Update on Livestream Attendance

Recently I've been present for a couple of committee and council meetings where I was asked about the livestream Church @ Home attendance. I thought it might be helpful to share our livestream attendance. Each week we look at the number of devices that are concurrently viewing our livestream worship. In this case, concurrent means the number of devices tuning into our 10:45 a.m. Church @ Home worship service at the time we are streaming the worship. We have been estimating that on average there are 2 people on each device. We take the number of devices and multiply by 2, and that's how we get our attendance for that worship service. We realize that this is probably a conservative estimate and that there may be more people viewing on a device at the time or viewing the worship at a time other than 10:45 a.m. on a Sunday morning.

During the month of December attendance ranged between 275-300 viewers per service. Christmas Eve livestream had an audience of about 380 viewers. (The Christmas Eve Drive-In worship services hosted about 370 worshipers over the 4 services.) This report is being written in the middle of January, and the first two Sundays of January had a livestream audience of 285 viewers for each service. The worship staff is deeply grateful for the ways that we can connect via livestream, and also looks forward to the day that we can safely worship together in person.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

HR Committee Update

The Human Resource Committee and Congregation Council have received and accepted resignations from Gary Williams, Parish Administrator, effective April 2, 2021, and Lorraine DiBernardo, Preschool Director, effective February 28, 2021. We thank them for their service and contributions to St. Peter's.

The HR Committee is now working on filling these positions. The Parish Administrator position is a full time position reporting to Pastor Ross and will be responsible for managing the business of the parish including finance and accounting, risk management, human resources, facility management, staff management, strategic planning and communication.

The Preschool Director position will be a part time position averaging 24 hours a week. The Director will be responsible for all aspects of managing the preschool including staffing, budgeting, enrollment, and coordination with church staff.

If you know anyone interested in either of these positions please have them send their resume and salary requirements to sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org with the subject line of either Parish Administrator or Preschool Director.

Social Ministry

February is Souper Bowl Month

We will be collecting cans of soup for the food bank. You can drop off your donation in the church entrance during office hours or in the bins outside the front doors. Your donations are greatly needed at this time!



St. Peter's Community Meal Team Picks Up Slack!



Community Meal

Due to COVID-19, one church has opted out of the monthly rotation of the community meals at Grace Lutheran Church. St. Peter's Community Meal Team has offered to do six additional meals in 2021. The extra meals will be the second Wednesday of every other month. Even though our ways of preparing and serving the meals has changed, the ministry is still able to extend a positive impact. *St. Peter's Community Meal Team*

Lydia's Closet



Lydia's Closet is OPEN the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Our February Distribution Day is Saturday, February 6th. We will also be filling orders through a form that can be obtained through the church office or online at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/serve/local/lydias-closet/>. Please pass the information along to any of your friends and neighbors that may be in need of some extra help.

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



Groups and Events

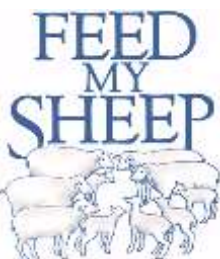
Widows Group

Our meetings are continuing at St. Peter's and are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. HOWEVER, our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 16th**, and will be held in person and through Zoom. Meetings last about 1 hour. 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



Dance Fitness

Join instructor Christine Healy for upbeat aerobic dance fitness classes - in the comfort of your own home! Each class welcomes participants of all experience levels and will offer modifications along the way. Enjoy an energizing workout sure to make you feel great! Videos premier Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLchet49yt-Wt5qRyS9ufMUaL0UrrO5pUa>



The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

Needed in February: *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.* Non-perishable food may be dropped off in the boxes under the carport. Items go to the Lancaster County Food Hub. *Thanks for your donations!*

Worship and Music at St. Peter's

Beverages and Hymns

Join with Adam on the first Wednesday of the month for a Beverages and Hymns Zoom at 8:00 p.m. Settle in with your favorite beverage, a hymnal, and your singing voice for some music and fellowship. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 3rd at 8:00 p.m. Contact Adam at adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org for more info.

Church Musical – The Singing Bishop

If you are interested in being part of St. Peter's first virtual church musical, please let Adam know by emailing him at adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org. We need speakers, singers, and dancers; there's a way for everyone to participate! We're having an organizational Zoom meeting on Thursday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m. During this meeting we will talk about format, how to get involved, and set some goals. The musical tells the story of the famous Palm Sunday hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" and we'll be premiering it on Palm/Passion Sunday (March 28th). Adam will be at the church on February 7th and 14th from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. to distribute music under the portico.

Musical Arts – February 6th: An Evening on Broadway with Mason Emmert

Join us on Saturday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. on our YouTube channel or by going to www.stpeterslutheran.org/live for an evening of music brought to us by Mason Emmert, son of the congregation and Director of Worship and Music at St. John's Lutheran in Boyertown, PA. Donations may be made to the Lancaster County Food Hub at (www.lancasterfoodhub.org) in honor of St. Peter's Musical Arts.

Volunteers are Needed

Right now, there are many options to volunteer in the church. Please consider joining one of our committees that are meeting through Zoom. Consider using your extra time to help with committees that need people & voices. PLEASE consider leading these necessary ministries for St. Peter's.

Here are vacancies for which there is an immediate and crucial need:

Children's Ministry—Chair

Global Social Ministry Committee--Chair

Membership--Chair

Stewardship Committee--Chair & Members

Youth and Family--Chair

You can find descriptions for each of the groups on St. Peter's website. Consider taking some time to see if any of these are a fit for you. I can send you the descriptions, or, give me a call and I'll be happy to explain what is expected. Go to https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fVeQyvmq4O5N6mKFsnNacgEPTbGUIyu_ai7E90mCWzA/edit#gid=1

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

Please stay safe,

Betsy Linn

Volunteer Steward

717-618-9615 betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Thank You From Elaine Lefever

"I would like to thank members of St. Peter's for their prayers, telephone calls, cards and concerns for me and my son, Carl. A special thanks to the prayer group, In Touch Team, Pastor Ross, etc. God bless you, Love and peace,"

Elaine Lefever



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends:

We have almost come full circle. Last year at this time we were hearing talk about a new virus that was wreaking havoc in the east. Before we reached the season of Lent, we were hunkered down in our homes, trying to make sense of life ... trying to sort out how best to stay connected to each other ... and examining the best way to be a congregation in worship ... remotely, in each and every case. There was a fair amount of disorientation, confusion, supposition, and just plain old grief as the world as we knew it seemed like mercury in our fingers, defying our attempts to get a hold on it.

Now, almost a year later, we have gotten a hold of a lot of new realities in terms of “being the church.” We have adapted to a virtual world, we have found ways to use technology in ways that at least approximate some of the things we used to do in person, and we have started to recognize that there will be some silver linings that have blessed us, and which will continue to bless us even after we return to whatever the new normal will be.

It is so tempting to live in the world of “I can’t wait to get back to normal after we have vaccines for this darn virus.” I have said this a zillion times myself to people with whom I’m in conversation. But even as we say this, down deep within our hearts, we know that “back to normal” is a relative term. We will return to a world that is good and blessed ... but it will be a different world. Some of those changes will bring us grief ... for they will be losses of things and practices and experiences that have fed us at deep levels. But some things will be blessings. One somewhat silly example for me is this: *Thanks to my Wednesday Bible Study’s mastery of the Zoom platform, we will never have to cancel a class again for snow ... we’ll just Zoom from home on those days.* There will be others. Some will be light fare ... some will be serious and dramatic. For is life not always filled with the birth of new experiences ... the living out of those experiences ... and the death of those experiences as new ones await us? As Christians, we are completely comfortable with that rhythm of life-death-and life again ... because Jesus’ life, death and resurrection has imprinted that rhythm upon the entire universe.

So ... join me in looking forward to an organized and well run distribution of vaccines for the Covid virus ... join me in modeling patience, when human sin and brokenness slows down that orderly and well-run process ... join me in being people of hope that sooner than later, we will start to see the results of vaccines getting out to our communities ... and ... join me in watching for those places where the grace of God and the newness of creation that defines God’s very Spirit, surprises us with grace and hope and healing. Until that time, I’ll ...

“See you” in virtual church and in our virtual events,

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 <https://www.youtube.com/c/tPetersLutheranLancaster>

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,

The other week I was in our Mom's of Young Children Bible study and we read Proverbs 31:10 which says, "*A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.*"

This is one of the times that our English translation does not quite deliver on the beauty of the Hebrew, the original language of Proverbs. When exploring this verse in the Hebrew we can read "wife" as woman or wife. The word "capable" or in the Hebrew "*cayil*," has a vast treasure trove of meaning. In our Old Testament this word comes to mean virtuous, noble, courageous, and capable warrior. The moms in our Bible study explored what it meant to carry some of these attributes in their lives.

Local author and Christian writer Mari Hernandez-Tuten uses the term "valor" to best describe *cayil*.

So do you see yourself as having valor?

To be honest, when I think about the attribute of valor my mind goes to seasoned military personnel, first responders, and frontline workers. And though many of them bear this attribute upon their shoulders, *cayil* is not relegated to a certain vocation or job description. *Cayil* is God's gift to you.

What about the term virtuous?

When looking at the meaning of the word virtuous—it describes someone who carries virtues with them. The virtues of working for good and not evil, the virtue of being ethical, the virtue of being trustworthy.

I'm reminded of Paul's words to the Romans about the attributes and virtues of being a Christian. He writes,

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

God has gifted you with "*cayil*." **So the big question** is how are you bearing *cayil* in your life? When you walk into the classroom, the boardroom, the living room, any room how do you carry with your valor and virtue?

Peace,

Pastor Sarah

sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org



Communication: The Website Is Your Friend!

Please go to our website www.stpeterslutheran.org 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 (<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterslancaster>) 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.



From the Director of Music

Resiliency

If at this time last year you'd have told me I was going to be all charged up about putting together a virtual church musical, making and cutting together recordings of musicians, dancers, and actors, I'm pretty sure I would have looked at you like a crazy person. Any of you who have spent any time with me in a musical ensemble know the look I'm talking about. My facial expressions are the stuff of legend.

Anyway, lately I've been thinking a lot about being resilient, rolling with the punches, and doing the best you can with what you have. As a perfectionist's perfectionist, until recently I haven't explored this method of being enough. Honestly, I've always been the type that prepares several backup plans in case the first backup plan doesn't work out. Don't get me wrong, I am still a planner, but in the last few months I've had to change plans so many times, that I'm learning that this is part of life. Perhaps I'm late to the party!

I've also been thinking about how being resilient sometimes means evaluating priorities and making conscious decisions to lift those priorities. In the last 9 months, the worship committee and risk management committee have been consistent with their priorities. The health and safety of the community is of utmost importance. I would be lying if I said I have been happy with every decision we have had to make. That said, I have felt honored to witness a community of faith coming together to follow through on God's call to love your neighbor. I am consistently in awe of the commitment to follow this great commandment given to us, the one we remember every Maundy Thursday: the commandment to love our neighbors as God loves us.

Resiliency, pluckiness, flexibility, whatever you choose to call it, the human spirit is not easily dampened. Do we wish the world were a different place? Most certainly. However, haven't we always wished for the world to be a different place? Haven't we always wished for war to cease? For swords (or guns) to be turned into plowshares? For human trafficking to end? For peace and justice for all of God's children? In all these things we have striven to be the voice and hands of God, spreading love.

Such love takes on different forms and our resiliency, our willingness to make amendments to the status quo, is a testament to our grounding in the Gospel. My hope and prayer for this year, as we continue to make difficult decisions, is that we would keep the faith. I pray we would remember the commandment to love, to put the needs of others before our own, and to keep God at the center of our theological discussions. God goes ever before us and is always with us, leading and accompanying us from everlasting to everlasting.

Peace,
Adam

From the Volunteer Steward

Happy February! It finally seems like the beginning of the end. With the promising vaccines on the way, I know I'm feeling more positive. This past year has been one of changes and compromises in my job at St. Peter's. There hasn't been as great of a need for volunteer coordinating so my focus has altered, for now.

Since there is extra time, I started researching software alternatives to our current management software. An update to a windows based program is necessary. Once I started, I realized that before we can think about moving our database, it needs to be cleaned up. We have been contacting members that have not attended or contributed prior to 2015. Parishioners will receive a letter to determine if they would like to remain members.

The purpose is to get a more accurate accounting of our membership. Once the database has been updated, the focus will again be on finding software.

You should have received an updated directory by email in January. There will be copies at the office available for pickup, as well. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office.

As always, please consider what time you have to commit to St. Peter's. We are looking to fill some vacancies on committees, and if you are interested in trying something new, contact me and we can work together to see where your gifts would be best served.

Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward
betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org



St. Peter's Preschool



It is with a bittersweet mix of emotion and after much heartfelt contemplation, that I share my decision to leave my position as Director of St. Peter's Preschool, effective March 1, 2021.

I came to the preschool almost 30 years ago, with the intention of finding a program of excellence for my two year old son, Daniel. Well, I found much more than that. I found a home, a mission, a purpose, a family. I found my life's work.

Shirley Lemon, our original director who established the school with Pastor Geib, welcomed us with such love and kindness, and I have always been committed to Shirley's legacy. I endeavored to do the same for the families who joined ours. It has been the privilege and honor of a lifetime to have guided the preschool through so many years of joyful, creative and challenging times. I have had the absolute pleasure of working alongside our spectacular teaching staff, many of whom have been with me for over twenty years. They have been truly inspiring and the soul of our preschool. Together, we were able to build something special, something to be proud of, a successful, respected and thriving preschool that was full of heart. We loved our work, our students, and each other. We could not have done this alone. There are so many people to thank, as it truly takes a church *village* to accomplish what we always tried to offer.

Pastor Ross, Pastor Teichmann, Pastor Geib, Sister Dottie, Dr. Adam, Erik Teichmann, Cindy Geesey and Betsy Linn have been steadfast and faithful supporters. Their encouragement and wisdom has always been a source of strength. Gary Williams, Sandy Shattuck and JoAnn Harriger have been friends of the preschool in so many ways, helping us with the many daily responsibilities behind the scenes. Thanks also to Nelson and Laura who were always willing to help and keep things spotless for our kiddos. Much appreciation to the countless volunteers, including our dear Library Ladies, who added so much to our preschool through the years.

Kudos and appreciation to our Preschool Board members who always added such professionalism and focus to the educational pieces of our mission.

I wish I had space and time to personally thank all the wonderful folks along the way who made working at St. Peter's simply.. a joy.

And so I'm leaving with many true and enduring friendships, many beautiful memories and countless blessings. I will profoundly miss the daily hugs and the hallways filled with love, laughter and the joys of children learning and growing into good little citizens of the world. I am grateful and humbled by the opportunity I had to make a difference in the lives of young families. I look forward to the continued successes of St. Peter's Preschool as the Covid Era finally ends and the world heals. I'll be available to answer any questions or to keep in touch at lorraineannpreschool@gmail.com

I wish I could say goodbye to each of you in person, and hopefully, that will be an option open to us soon.

Stay well and happy,

Lorraine DiBernardo



Thank You, Lorraine!

It is never easy to say farewell to a colleague and friend. Thank you for a job well done! We wish you all the best and God's blessings in this next chapter of your life. You will be missed, Lorraine. **St. Peter's Staff**

Pastor Craig
Gary Williams
Janell Henney

Frank Teichmann
Sandy Shattuck
JoAnn Harriger

Sister Dottie
Cindy
Lorraine DiBernardo

Adam
Betsy Linn

Youth & Family Ministry News...

Youth and Family Virtual Game Night

Friday February 19th – 7:00 p.m.

Your family is invited to join Sister Dottie for a family game night. We will connect through Zoom for trivia and other games. RSVP to dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org for Zoom information.



Youth Sunday School

Grades 5-8 –

2 options – The Hosler Family hosts an outside class for grades 5-8 at their home on Sunday mornings or join Sister Dottie or Molly Olmsted on Zoom at 9:15 a.m.

Grade 9 Confirmation continues virtually with Pastor Ross and Joe Geesey on Sunday Mornings at 9:15 a.m.

Sr. High typically meets at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings with Jimmy Moshos and Doug May – reach out to Jim for more details at jimmymoshos@yahoo.com

Lancaster Confirmation Camp – June 20-26 at Camp Kirchenwald

If your youth (attending grades 6 and beyond in the fall) are interested in attending camp this year, please contact Sister Dottie. We join other area Lutheran churches from Lancaster County for a week of instruction and camp fun!

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

St. Peter's Preschool is Re-opening in the Fall!



If you have a child or know of others who may be interested, we are having the following options:

3-year olds will attend 3 days a week – M-W-F from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

4/5-year olds will attend 5 days a week with an option for 4 days from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Sr. Dottie Almoney at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org

Card Shower for Mrs. D

St. Peter's Preschool Director Lorraine DiBernardo is retiring after serving as a St. Peter's preschool teacher and our Preschool Director for over 20 years. Her service has impacted countless families in our community. Help celebrate her service, passion, and care for the children in our lives by sending a card! Cards may be addressed to Lorraine DiBernardo and mailed to St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

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.



ST. PETER'S KIDS



Easter Eggs at Christmas
Cindy Geesey
Director of Children's Ministries

I hope this new year finds you healthy, safe, and continuing Christian education with your children through our various virtual venues. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on how Children's Ministries has met the challenge of transforming what we knew as Sunday School into what we know, a meaningful experience to keep our children connected.

A few weeks prior to Christmas, I was in my office at church preparing for Advent Sunday School lessons and looking around at boxes of plastic Easter eggs. Yes, Easter eggs at Christmas! And my thoughts turned to the day that we were told we were in a shutdown due to the widespread contagion, COVID 19. The full impact of that term "shutdown" did not come to my full realization until several weeks later when we had to cancel our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Around that same time, I received the new materials and curriculum for Vacation Bible School. So then there was another quick turn of events. We decided to create a Take-Out VBS program. We filled pizza boxes with stories and crafts to match daily music videos that were engaging to our children. Many of our families participated in that unique way of having VBS.

Also, during the interim, Children's Ministries began assuming responsibility for virtual children's sermons during our Worship @ Home services. I am so grateful for the many contacts I have had with families and the willingness to welcome us into their homes to share child appropriate interpretations of the gospel readings.

Next, we made the decision to offer weekly virtual Sunday School lessons posted on YouTube. We started with Spark Story Bible lessons beginning with Creation, Adam and Eve, The First Sin, Noah's Ark, and Abram's Call. Initially, we provided crafts for pick up to correspond with the lessons. However, because there were not enough participants for crafts, we discontinued those supplements. I extend a huge thank you to all who have helped support these endeavors by volunteering to do virtual Sunday School lessons.

Where will God lead us in the future? We don't always know God's plans, but we do know that we will continue to do our best to provide Christian education to our children. Easter eggs at Christmas? Prayerfully, not. With vaccines on the horizon, the Easter eggs will be ready for another year, another Easter season.

Children's Ministries Chair — I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie Gotwald for her faithful service as Chair of Children's Ministries for the past 2 years. Julie has decided to allow another volunteer (TBD) to lead this important ministry. She helped me tremendously in my transition to Director, and I value the time she dedicated to supporting our mission. Julie remains on our committee and has provided many children's sermons and Sunday School lessons virtually during the pandemic. Thank you, Julie!



Cindy Geesey, Director of Children's Ministries

Grocery Cards



Please be aware that grocery cards are now available to purchase from the church office Tuesday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Please call the office with the amount and the store that you are requesting. The staff will get them ready for you. When arriving 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.

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.

FEBRUARY

LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Monday, February 1

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

Tuesday, February 2

12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 3

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)
8:00 p.m. - Beverages & Hymns (Zoom)

Saturday, February 6

9:00 a.m. - Dance Fitness with Christine (Online)
10:00 a.m. - Clothing Bank (Lydia's Closet)
7:00 p.m. - Musical Arts Concert (Livestream on Youtube)

Sunday, February 7

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
1:00 p.m. - Church Musical Music Pick-up (Portico)

Monday, February 8

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 9

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

Wednesday, February 10

Herald Deadline
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig
6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children (Narthex) Pr. Sarah
7:00 p.m. - Property Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, February 11

6:00 p.m. - Musical Organizational Meeting (Zoom)

Saturday, February 13

9:00 a.m. - Dance Fitness with Christine (Online)

Sunday, February 14

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
1:00 p.m. - Church Musical Music Pick-up (Portico)

Monday, February 15

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

Tuesday, February 16

10:30 a.m. - Widows Group (Zoom)
12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) Pr. Sarah
7:00 p.m. - Shrove Tuesday Service (Parking Lot)
7:00 p.m. - Stewardship Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 17

7:00 a.m. - Ash Wednesday Worship (Outdoors)
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig
5:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Worship (Outdoors)
7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Worship (Live Stream)

Saturday, February 20

9:00 a.m. - Dance Fitness with Christine (Online)

Sunday, February 21

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

Monday, February 22

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

Tuesday, February 23

12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) Pr. Sarah
7:00 p.m. - Pub Theology (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 24

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig
7:00 p.m. - Lenten Service (Outdoors)

Saturday, February 27

9:00 a.m. - Dance Fitness with Christine (Online)

Sunday, February 28

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

NewsLetter DEADLINE

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE FEBRUARY 10TH

Articles for the March 2021 “Herald” are due in the church office no later than **February 10th**. Please submit articles to Sandy Shattuck in the church office or email sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.



CHECK OUT ST. PETER'S
FACEBOOK PAGE!
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



PLEASE HELP SAVE MAILING COSTS!!!!

PLEASE CONSIDER signing up to receive the online version of the “Herald” Newsletter and help us save on our mailing costs. Contact Sandy Shattuck in the Church Office at 717-569-9211 or sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org to sign up and start receiving the “Herald” by email.



If you have any questions, please contact me at
sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org.

Sandy Shattuck
Editor & Parish Secretary

