



"The Herald" Newsletter

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

March 2020



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

"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me."
Psalm 51:10

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Midweek Lenten Services



Outdoor Midweek Lenten services continue on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Join us under the carport for a brief outdoor service. This year's focus is on healing stories. Worship will include liturgy, responsive reading, a healing story from the Gospels and reflection, prayers, and communion. Masks and social distancing are required.

Congregational Lent and Holy Week Events



April 2- 10:00 a.m. - Young Families journey to the Cross – a self-guided outdoor event that will explain some of the symbols and traditions of Easter. There will also be a modified egg hunt as well. Youth are needed to help with this outdoor event (masks and social distancing). RSVP to Sister Dottie with number and ages of children at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org

April 2 – 12:00 p.m. – Outdoor stations of the Cross for older elementary kids and youth.

Looking Ahead to Easter Sunday



Since Easter Sunday arrives early next month, on April 4th, we wanted you to have an idea of the current plans for this important morning in our worship life. Our hope is to have three early services, that will each be about thirty minutes long ... at 6:30 a.m. (Sunrise Service) at the church cemetery, and two parking lot services at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. *(continued on next page)*

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Looking Ahead to Easter Sunday

(continued)

These services will offer the singing of a few Easter hymns (in your car), some brief liturgy, a homily, and Holy Communion using our fellowship cups. If you came to our Christmas Eve parking lot services, these will have a similar format. Sign-up Genius sites will be created later this month to take reservations for these services. Watch our news feeds for news on when those sign-up sites will be available.

We will also offer a 10:45 a.m. Live Stream worship service with Easter Hymns, a sermon, liturgy and special music for our Easter celebration. We look forward to many of you joining us from your homes for this festive Easter service.



March Worship Schedule

Wednesday, March 3: The Second Week in Lent, Midweek

Brief in-person service of Holy Communion at the Portico at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Craig Preaches

Sunday, March 7: The Third Sunday in Lent

Live Streaming Service at 10:45

Pastor Sarah Preaches

Wednesday, March 10: The Third Week in Lent, Midweek

Brief in-person service of Holy Communion at the Portico at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Sarah Preaches

Sunday, March 14: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Live Streaming Service at 10:45

Pastor Craig Preaches

Wednesday, March 17: The Fourth Week in Lent, Midweek

Brief in-person service of Holy Communion at the Portico at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Craig Preaches

Sunday, March 21: The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Live Streaming Service at 10:45

Sister Dottie Preaches

Wednesday, March 24: The Fifth Week in Lent, Midweek

Brief in-person service of Holy Communion at the Portico at 7:00 p.m.

Sister Dottie Preaches

Sunday, March 28: Passion Sunday

In person 30-minute parking lot services at 8:00 & 9:00 a.m. with the singing of a few Lenten hymns (in your car), brief liturgy, a homily, and Holy Communion using our fellowship cups. We will also have a children's palm processional around their cars. Watch for Sign-up Genius sites to make reservations for the services

Live Streaming Service at 10:45, with Lenten hymns, liturgy, special music and a reading of the Passion Narrative from Mark.



Faith in Our Future Mission Campaign

St. Peter's continues to be a dynamic force in our community, while seeking to fulfill our vision to love God, love our neighbors, and help make disciples. We gratefully embrace the initiatives of our founders, humbly celebrate God's blessings throughout our journey, and eagerly welcome the new opportunities for mission and ministry that our Mission Campaign, "Faith in Our Future", will make possible.



Be on the lookout for more detailed information on the campaign this spring, including in the April Herald, on the St. Peter's Facebook and YouTube platforms, and through literature that will be sent to each household.

Just as past generations have done, we look forward to the future and the incredible opportunities that will arise from our Mission Campaign, and we have the utmost Faith in Our Future!



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 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).



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/>



Check out the Church's Website For...

Visit www.stpeterslutheran.org for weekly updates, blog posts, announcements, and ways we can build a community of faith by God's grace.



Advocacy Corner

Moral Monday Group – this group began in June of 2020 discussing systemic racism and what action we as Christians can take to help educate and help to change hearts, minds and laws that lead to systemic racism. We read and recommend the follow books on Racism:

- *White Fragility, Why it is so Hard to Talk About Race* by Robin DiAngelo
- *Dear Church, A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US* by Lenny Duncan
- *Who Will Be a Witness* by Drew Hart

Our discussions have led to another action group that is organizing people from across denominations to help bring awareness of issues of injustice in our local and state municipalities. We are currently studying some of our ELCA social statements and social messages as they pertain to racism, education, and voting suppression.

Visit <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements> for a list of the church's current social statements.

We have a meeting the first Monday of the month for a broader discussion at 7:00 p.m. through zoom. Our action committee meets monthly as well - usually the third or fourth Tuesday to discuss a plan of action.

If you are interested in being part of either group, please reach out to Sr. Dottie at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org. Our next meeting will be March 1st with engagement on our social statements.

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, and music.

Be church together on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>



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.

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.

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 17606.

Adult Christian Education

MARCH 2021 Adult Education Class Schedule

Sunday, March 7 – Gospel in Life, Part 5 Witness: An Alternative City (video series)
Led by Sister Dottie

Sunday, March 14 – Gospel in Life: Part 6: Work: Cultivating the Garden (video series)
Led by Pastor Craig

Sunday, March 21 – Daily Discipleship, “The Path of Discipleship: Within the Light – John 3:14-21
Led by Pastor Sarah

Sunday, March 28 – NO CLASS due to parking lot morning worship services.



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



This month we continue our journey through the Book of Exodus, and literally are in the early stages of the wilderness wandering for the Jewish people. 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 March schedule looks like this:

March 3 – Chapters 20 & 21 – Pastor Craig leads class

March 10 – Chapters 22 & 23 – Pastor Craig leads class

March 17 – Chapters 24 & 25 – Pastor Sarah leads class

March 24 – Chapters 26 & 27 – Pastor Craig leads class

March 31 – NO CLASS – HOLY WEEK

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, mothers of young children - come for an hour to do some Bible study and find support from moms just like you. During the season of Lent (February 17th-April 2nd), we meet in the narthex every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m. 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 are required. For more information, please email Pastor Sarah at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org

Prayer Chain Ministry

OUR 20th year!! This month you will meet the current co-chairs of the Prayer Chain, Angela Moshos and Ginny Gerhart. They took over when the original co-chairs, Pat Ross and the late Joan Ralston resigned in the summer of 2015 because of Joan's illness.



Angela and her husband Mark have been active members of St Peter's for over 20 years and have two adult sons, Jimmy & Andy. Angela is an active member of the music program, playing in bell choir and for funerals. Angie has helped in the kitchen a lot and is active in adult education programs. She sends out EVERY prayer request that is received by the chain to the chain and is secretary of the chain.

Ginny and her husband Karl have been active St Peter's members for over 40 years and have two adult children, Becky and David and a granddaughter, Lillian. Ginny was baptized at the old church 'on Lititz Pike' and was married here by Pastor Geib and has served on church council, been council secretary, served as chair of benevolence committee, organized the Giving Tree in the narthex for many years and now co-chairs the prayer chain with Angela. Ginny likes doing 'behind the scenes' things.

PLEASE feel free to reach out to either Angela (717) 392-6201 or Ginny (717) 626-7406 with any questions you might have or to sign up and join us!

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

Global Missions

From the Tanzania Mission Committee —

From the Tanzania Mission Committee (TMC): Thank you to all who contributed to the 2020 Cookie Walk! Due to the pandemic, we altered our usual Cookie Walk to a Cookie Drive- Thru where bakers could drop off their cookies safely from their cars and purchasers could buy cookies the next day, again safely from their cars. However, during the week before the event, based on the uptick in COVID numbers, the TMC members decided, and immediately thereafter the Governor mandated, that it was in the best interest of everyone to cancel the event. St. Peter's, the TMC, and the parishioners were disappointed at the cancellation but understood the decision that was made. Those of you who baked cookies, we THANK YOU for your work and effort. We know they were "yummy"!

The good news is that, despite cancelling the Cookie Drive-Thru, the contributions poured in, and \$3,267.10 was collected for the Busoka orphans of Tanzania. The support was beyond our wildest dreams and will be so appreciated by the orphans. It certainly is a sure sign that the Cookie Walk in 2021 will come back stronger than ever. Thank you!

Sincerely, Members of the TMC

Health and Wellness Committee



MARCH: National Nutrition Month

National Nutrition month is celebrated each year and focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. This annual nutrition education and information campaign was created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

This occasion hopefully increases awareness of registered dietitian & nutritionists as the indispensable providers of food and nutrition services, while recognizing both RDNs and nutrition and dietetic technicians, for their commitment to helping people enjoy healthy lives. "National Nutrition Week," initiated in March 1973, was embraced by members of the American Dietetic Association (now the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics) as a way to deliver nutrition education messages to the public while promoting the profession of dietetics. In 1980, in response to growing public interest in nutrition, the week-long celebration expanded to become a month-long observance. What an important time to recognize these professionals, and how nutrition is being dramatically impacted during this pandemic. If you're able, please consider contributing to Feeding our Sheep or other food pantry initiatives, or *please* reach out if you are in need of assistance. Here's a link to a recipe that is healthy, easy to make, and tasty too. ENJOY! <https://www.myplate.gov/recipes/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/fish-tacos>

Social Ministry



Community Meal For March

Wednesday, March 3rd and March 10th at Grace Lutheran Church from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Please contact Kathy Berkebille for more information.

Lydia's Closet



Lydia's Closet is OPEN the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Our March Distribution Day is Saturday, March 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.

Spring and summer will be here before you know it, and Lydia's Closet is in need of clothing for those seasons.

Did you know? ~ Lydia's Closet gives out personal hygiene items, laundry detergent pods, school supplies, new socks and underwear?

We appreciate donations of: Gently used clothing, clothing appropriate for school age children (K-12), laundry pods, new socks and underwear.



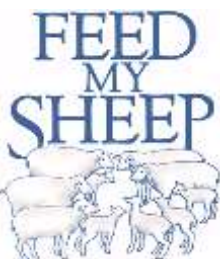
Groups and Events

Widows Group

Our meetings are continuing at St. Peter's and are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 23rd**, 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

Spring Family Wiffleball

The Hoslers will be hosting family wiffleball on their backyard diamond this spring. Families of all ages and sorts are invited to form teams at the Hosler Diamond on Saturday evenings at 6:30 p.m. from March 20-April 24. Wear a mask and bring a water bottle. Contact Joy & Lyle (joy@hoslerfamily.net; 717-371-7583) if you're interested!



The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

Needed in March: *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 8:00pm. Settle in with your favorite beverage, a hymnal, and your singing voice for some music and fellowship. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 3rd at 8:00pm. Contact Adam at adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org for more info.

Musical Arts – March 27th: The Singing Bishop, Church Musical

Join us on Saturday, March 27th at 7pm on our YouTube channel for a presentation of Hal Hopson's The Singing Bishop. Airing the day before Palm/Passion Sunday, this musical tells the story of the beloved hymn All Glory, Laud, and Honor, a hymn from the 9th century that we still sing today! The children and youth of St. Peter's have been working hard and hope you enjoy the tale of this song set to music.

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.

Volunteers are Needed

Hello! Your help is needed! Please consider joining one of our committees that are meeting through Zoom. Consider using some of your time to help with committees that need people & voices. It would be a minimal time commitment. PLEASE consider leading these necessary ministries for St. Peter's.



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

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

St. Peter's Archives

Lutherans Bless Neffsville Church Site, Turn Ground Intelligencer Journal, April 6, 1959

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Neffsville, blessed its new church site, located at the corner of Lititz Pike and Delp Road, and held groundbreaking ceremonies Sunday. The Rev. Ernest W. Huston, pastor of the church, turned the first spade of dirt. Approximately 200 persons attended the ceremony held at 3 p.m. Construction of the new church will begin Wednesday and is expected to be completed in January. Total cost, including sub-contracts, will not exceed \$210,000. (based on today's inflation rates the cost would be \$1,867,285). St. Peter's church was organized in the Spring of 1880 by 30 members of Salem Lutheran Church, Kissel Hill. A new church was built and in 1881 the East Pennsylvania Synod recommended the church be joined with the church in Millersville for pastoral services. In June 1889, the church was joined with Kissel Hill and Lititz, and until 1917 was part of the Lititz charge. On April 2, 1918, the Neffsville - East Petersburg charge was formed. The church's present building in Neffsville at the corner of Lititz Pike and Church Street was built in 1905. The church currently has 335 communicant members.

Parking Lot Beauty



According to some of the groundhogs, we still have six more weeks of winter. However, once spring arrives, it will be time to get the garden islands around the parking lot ready to go. We have a couple of garden islands available to be beautified. We also need someone to plant flowers around our sign on the Lititz Pike.

For those of you who love to garden, please consider spending some time to help perk up the outside of your church.

Please let me know if you are interested in making a difference in how our parking lot looks!

Betsy Linn

betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org



Daylight Saving Time Begins! On March 14th!

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead on the evening of March 13th, so that you will not be late for virtual church and Sunday School on Sunday, March 14th.



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



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends:

If I had told you a year ago that the Lenten season we were facing in March of 2020 would be quite similar to the Lenten season we are facing in February 2021, you might have told me I was crazy. I would have felt crazy saying that almost a year ago, But here we are. Facing a somewhat similar world to the one we faced a year ago ... well, with the qualifier that must acknowledge the almost two and a half million people who have died from Covid-19 during this period of time. Yeah, there is that. But in some ways things are not much different. Zoom is still our close companion and it feels like most of us haven't seen the inside of a restaurant since the Truman administration. Oh sure, we have been clever with FM

transmitters, pre-packaged communion elements, live-stream worship and parking lot gatherings of all sorts. But we are still not worshipping in our sanctuary and FLC. We have buried the dead and married a few couples, and now baptized our first Covid baptismal candidate ... but not in the way we prefer to celebrate those milestones. We have stayed in touch digitally, and via phone calls and cards and occasional visits through the glass of a window. But we have not been "community" in the visceral and incarnate way we prefer, that is found in pews, and the narthex, and across a Palm Sunday breakfast, or side-by-side at the communion rail. In some ways, nothing has changed this past year.

We have cried and we have argued. We have questioned each other's convictions around the Virus and about wearing face masks and gathering together in person. We have fought over how our nation approaches race relations, and who should be our leaders at the highest levels of government. We have reached out with calls and socially distanced visits and greeting cards when people we know have had loved ones die, or who contracted the Virus, or who found themselves isolated in nursing home wings or Covid units in the hospital. We have been bold and we have been scared. We have been gracious and we have been mean. We have been cooperative and understanding and we have been argumentative and demanding.

Yup ... sounds like life in a community of faith. Because no matter our high intentions ... no matter our belief that everyone is a child of God ... no matter how well intentioned our actions and choices of words – we will still hurt each other with our words and our judgments and our actions....

So THANK GOD FOR LENT! Because Lent allows us to embrace the brokenness of our souls and spirits ... give them over to God in humble repentance ... and be assured that God not only hears us, but hears us and forgives us. And that God not only hears us and forgives us, but also restores us to the community in which our faith is forged. Yes, we are an imperfect people. Like St. Paul, "I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." (Romans 7:15) To this most human of realities, God arrives at our doorstep every morning, and as we wash our faces in the bathroom sink or the morning shower, proclaims to us "You ... are ... baptized." And with those words, invites us to dare to try to be different ... to be better ... to be faithful ... to be the children of God that we want to be.

So yeah ... its been a year ... so what. It's gonna be a few months more. But we are on the down slope of the Covid mountain. And while life at the bottom of the mountain will be different than it was 12 or 15 months ago ... it will still be good. Life will still be good! Let that simmer in your stew pot of emotions, and see what God will bring to your life from it. Till then, I'll ...

"See you" in virtual church, in our other virtual events,
and occasionally in person,

Pastor Craig

craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org



Pastor Sarah's Message

Dear friends in Christ,

We are in the season of Lent. In some ways, it may feel like we've been in Lent for a year, and so it may be tempting to skip Lent all together. Who needs to give up something when we feel like we've given up so much already, right?

What if rather than giving something up, you try to pick something up instead?

Perhaps that 'something' is learning something new and expanding your mind, or perhaps that something is picking up something at the store to donate to the food bank, or perhaps that something is deepening your prayer practice.

Centering Prayer

On this last point, may I suggest the following beginner's 'how to' tips for centering prayer that has helped me. This italicized advice comes from Thomas Keating, one of the founding developers of centered prayer.

You may choose to begin your centering prayer time with a brief scripture. After you read scripture, put everything down and just sit unencumbered by anything. As soon as you sit down to begin your centering prayer time, your mind will start its rapid fire program of thoughts. You are no different than anyone else. The lungs breathe, the heart beats and the mind thinks. We can't control it. During centering prayer, we're not trying to control our thinking or forcefully clear our mind. We simply want to fulfill our heart's desire to be in the presence of God, consenting to the transforming work within us and the deepening of our relationship. When you are ready to begin your prayer, close your eyes, rest your hands on your thighs, notice your breathing and begin to settle.

Choose a sacred word.

This is a short word that you will use during your prayer time as a symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within you. It's best to use only one word during prayer. You may change it in time, but try not to think too hard about it. Your sacred word is not chosen for its meaning, but as a symbol of your consent to God's healing presence and transforming action within you. Some examples of a sacred word may be: Abba, Jesus, Spirit, Love, Yes, Peace or any other you choose. If it feels more suitable to you, instead of a word, you may want to recognize your breath. Either way, your word or breath is sacred because it's used as your turning point, your gentle inner movement toward God.

Scripture, Prayer, and Journaling

Sometimes my prayer time begins with a Bible and a journal. I open my journal and enter a grace I need for that day. Sometimes it's "Lord help me listen" or "Lord help me with time" or "Lord help me to forgive." Then I read the scripture for the day and see how God might be speaking to me. I visit <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/> for daily scripture readings. I end my journal entry with thoughts, prayers, or a petition for God's guidance. I find that when I begin my day this way, I can better listen for God's guidance.

Blessings on this shared Lenten journey, and I pray that during this season you may be filled with the goodness of God.

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

Worship and Service

Worship and service are often presented as two separate arms of the mission of the church. Some may say that worship is a time for us to give back to God, to praise the creator of the universe, to give credit where credit is due, and they would not be wrong. These ideas, and many more, make up the messages we share during worship. Some may also say that service is our chance to go out into the world and spread the good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, to be God's hands in the world. They're not wrong either, we're literally called to do this work in our baptisms when these or similar words are shared: "you are entrusted with responsibilities...so that you may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace."

And yet, sometimes we call worship a service. We talk about our livestream service, services of communion, services of the word. It's clear that there is some act of service going on during that hour of prayer, praise, and proclamation. We certainly make our attempts to render service to God during our time together. We prepare to read and to sing; we prepare worship slides and worship previews on a website; we prepare our hearts, speak the words of prayer, and sing with love in our hearts. I suspect I'm not alone, though, when I say that I think the service happening on Sunday morning is not only through our ascendant prayers, but also through God's willingness to come down and be with us, God's "con-descension."

In Gordon Lathrop's book *Central Things: Worship in Word and Sacrament* from the series *Worship Matters* by Augsburg Fortress, he writes: "The central things of Christian worship are not so much things that *we* do as events where *God* has promised to act." Turning worship on its head as primarily a place God can act in our lives, changes how we might plan and prepare for worship. Instead of a sacrifice, an offering of praise, time, or money, worship becomes a service from God to us. God comes to us in the words read from the bible, in prayers shared for the sake of the world, in music lovingly crafted and chosen to remind us of God's "con-descension." Or, as Lathrop puts it, "It is not just 'worship.' It is 'worship in word and sacrament,' worship with the giving away of the leaves and the fruit of the tree of life at its center."

As we move through another Lenten season, it is my hope that God's "con-descension" might be more palpable. That, rather than focusing on our own wants, needs, or desires, we may come to view our time together on Sunday morning as a time to open ourselves to the possibility that God may work on our hearts through the sharing of God's word and promises. We know God will meet those wants and needs; God always has and always will. Therefore, this time on Sunday is for reorienting ourselves to the priorities set forth in our baptismal calls. Namely, we are to trust God, proclaim Christ, care for others, and work for justice and peace.

Perhaps worship and service are inextricably linked. If in worship we are open to the possibility of being served by God, then maybe that means we are called to acts of service to our neighbors which stand as public witness to our faith, or more simply, as worship. Worship and service are two sides of the same coin, each one an act of God that draws us closer to God's mission.

I'll leave with the last stanza of *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* which seems to get at this more poetically than I could ever hope to:

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

Peace,

Adam

From the Volunteer Steward

Is it Spring yet?

Boy, this winter is going on forever. As someone who loves snow, I've had enough. It's going to be great to get outside and walk without climbing over snowbanks.

I'm hoping by the time you read this, we are seeing more and more people receiving the vaccine for Covid. I cannot believe it's been a year since this started. At some point, we will be able to gather again, and resume our church life. Since I'm the Volunteer Steward, that for me includes volunteering. You can see in your Herald, the need for volunteers in many aspects of the church. Reach inside yourself and see if you can donate a small amount of *your* time to *your* church.

As always, please consider what talents 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.

Stay healthy and safe,
Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward
betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org



St. Peter's Preschool



I'd like to take this opportunity to honor the outstanding members of our preschool staff who retired during the Covid shutdown. Because of the Pandemic, we were unable to say goodbye in a manner worthy of the closure and celebration they so deserved.

Leaving the preschool after so many years of dedicated service are : Ann McGuigan (one of our first teachers, with us from Day One!) Lisa Heck, Dawn Katch, Sue Kunzelman, Mary Latanision, Jane Savidge, Carleen Shea, Ann Swavely and Bethanne Woods. Their talent, creativity, professionalism and love for the preschool and their students will be deeply missed and so appreciated.

I'd like to give a special, heartfelt thank you to our retiring Assistant Director, Dawn Katch, who has been a trusted partner, devoted leader and a dear and supportive friend.

Kudos also to Janelle Almone, our bookkeeper, so great with numbers and budget, who helps keep us fiscally healthy.



And a very warm welcome to the incoming Preschool Director, Heather Cramer, who was an accomplished teacher in the preschool for many years. Heather is an experienced member of our preschool family who always appreciated the culture and vision of our program. I feel confident in leaving the preschool in her very capable hands.

Stay well, safe and happy, my friends. Thank you for all your kind words and well wishes. I appreciate all of them,

Lorraine DiBernardo

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 Almone at dottie.almone@stpeterslutheran.org



Youth & Family Ministry News...

Calendar



March 28 – 6:00 pm – Outdoor Youth Egg Hunt and bonfire with smores

RSVP to Sister Dottie at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org

April 2– 10:00 am -Young Families journey to the Cross – an outdoor event that will explain some of the symbols and traditions of Easter – there will also be a modified egg hunt as well. **Youth are needed to help with this outdoor event** (masks and social distancing)- RSVP to Sister Dottie at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org

April 2 – Older children/Youth Outdoor Stations of the Cross – 12:00 noon



Tentative Summer Youth Activities...mark your calendars....

June 20 - 26– Confirmation Camp (grades 6-9) at Camp Kirchenwald

August 13-15th– Senior High Beach Retreat at Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes, Delaware – for youth who will be entering grades 9 and up in the fall. Cost is \$150 – includes lodging, food, and other activities.

Contact Sister Dottie Almoney at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org



SUMMER CAMPING CORNER...

Is your child or youth interested in attending church camp this summer? St. Peter's offers a \$75 scholarship per child to Nawakwa or Kirchenwald to help offset the cost.

Lancaster Confirmation Camp will take place Sunday June 20th thru Saturday June 26th at Camp Kirchenwald for those who will be entering grades 6-9 in the fall of 2020.

Summer is right around the corner and **camp is happening** this summer! Early registration is open now. Check out the Lutheran Camping Corporation's website for all the summer camp options—from day camp for grades K-1 to full week residential camps for grades 1-12 to Elder Camp and Family Camp for all the other age groups! <https://lutherancamping.org/> A **fully refundable** deposit is due upon registration. The camp brochure is available online, and Lyle & Joy Hosler are the Camp Persons for St. Peter's. Contact them with any and all questions about camp! (717-371-7583); joy@hoslerfamily.net

Camp Kirchenwald and Camp Nawakwa are also looking for high school and college students to work at camp. Counselors, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, lifeguards, and craft helpers are all needed. Camp is an awesome place to work, meet new friends, and develop life-long skills. <https://lutherancamping.org/>

Upcoming Events:

March 13: Lenten Day Apart (Wittel Farm)

March 21: Summer Camp Open House (Kirchenwald & Nawakwa)

April 11: Summer Camp Open House (Kirchenwald & Nawakwa)

April 24: Work Day (Kirchenwald & Nawakwa)

April 30-May 1: Men's Retreat (Kirchenwald)



ST. PETER'S KIDS

Dear Families,

March marks one year since we have been together. In some ways, it seems so long ago; in other ways, it seems like yesterday. But whether it feels like a year ago or yesterday, we continue to look forward to being together again. With hope in our hearts, we will begin to reactivate our Children's Ministry Committee. I am currently planning a zoom meeting to discuss plans for the possibility of an outdoor Vacation Bible School this summer. Hopefully, I will have more information for the April Herald newsletter. But until then, we will continue to do our best to keep your children connected to Christian education.



Each Sunday a new Sunday School lesson is premiered on our YouTube channel at 10:15 a.m. lasting about 10 minutes and including songs for children to sing! Families simply need to visit <https://www.youtube.com/c/stpeterslutheranlancaster> to find the latest Sunday School lesson and all other St. Peter's videos that have been uploaded to our YouTube channel.



We also continue to seek volunteers to assist with our Sunday School lessons. Many of you have volunteered to do children's sermons which have been amazing, and we are so grateful for your willingness to serve! Our Sunday School lessons are equally easy to do and can be video taped ahead of time. We are following the sequential stories from the Spark Story Bible. Please consider this opportunity. You can email me with your interest to cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Stay healthy and safe!

Blessings,

Cindy Geesey
Director of Children's Ministry



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.



Grocery Cards



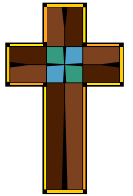
Please be aware that grocery cards are now available to purchase from the church office Tuesday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Please call the office with the amount and the store that you are requesting. The staff will get them ready for you. When arriving please ring the doorbell and enter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

EASTER FLOWERS & MEMORIAL GIFTS

Easter Flowers or a Memorial Gift may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one.
Please fill out the form below and **return it to the church office by Monday, March 22.**

A listing for Flowers and Benevolence Gifts will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

MEMORIAL GIFT TO ST. PETER'S BENEVOLENCE FUND



\$ _____ Gift Envelope # _____

Please check _____ in memory or _____ in honor

(Print name(s) of those to be honored or in memory of as you desire printed in the bulletin)

Given by



EASTER FLOWERS (assortment) all \$8.00 each

\$ _____ Total Envelope # _____

Please check _____ in memory or _____ in honor

(Print name(s) of those to be honored or in memory of as you desire printed in the bulletin)

Given by

Please check: _____ I will leave my plant to be delivered to a homebound member.
 _____ I will pick up my plant.

(Flowers may be picked up after the 10:45 a.m. Livestream Service on Easter)

**Please return this form and check payable
to "St. Peter's Lutheran Church" no later than March 22.**

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.



LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH CALENDAR

Monday, March 1

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

Tuesday, March 2

12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) Pr. Sarah
6:30 p.m. - Mutual Ministry (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 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)
7:00 p.m. - Lenten Service (Outside - Church portico)
8:00 p.m. - Beverages & Hymns (Zoom)

Friday, March 5

7:00 p.m. - Women's Paint Night (Zoom)

Saturday, March 6

10:00 a.m. - Clothing Bank (Lydia's Closet)

Sunday, March 7

9:15 a.m. - New Member Class
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, March 8

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

Tuesday, March 9

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

Wednesday, March 10

Herald Deadline
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig
1:00 p.m. - Community Meal Preparation (Kitchen)
4:30 p.m. - Community Meal (Grace Lutheran)
7:00 p.m. - Lenten Service (Outside - Church portico)
7:00 p.m. - Property Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, March 11

6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children (Narthex) Pr. Sarah

Sunday, March 14

9:15 a.m. - New Member Class
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, March 15

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

Tuesday, March 16

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

Wednesday, March 17

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

Saturday, March 20

6:30 p.m. - Wiffleball at the Hoslers

Sunday, March 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, March 22

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)
6:45 p.m. - Tanzania Missions Committee (Zoom)
6:30 p.m. - Human Resources Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 23

10:30 a.m. - Widows Group (Zoom)
12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) Pr. Sarah
7:00 p.m. - Moral Mondays Book Club (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 24

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

Thursday, March 25

6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children (Narthex) Pr. Sarah

Saturday, March 27

6:30 p.m. - Wiffleball at the Hoslers
7:00 p.m. - Church Musical (YouTube)

Sunday, March 28

8:00 a.m. - Palm Sunday Parking Lot worship
9:00 a.m. - Palm Sunday Parking Lot Worship
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube
6:00 p.m. - Youth Activity - Outdoor Egg Hunt and Bonfire

Monday, March 29

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

Tuesday, March 30

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

Wednesday, March 31

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig

NewsLetter DEADLine

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE MARCH 10TH

Articles for the April 2021 “Herald” are due in the church office no later than **March 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.



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.



“Be Still and Know That I am God”

Psalm 46:10

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

Sandy Shattuck
Editor & Parish Secretary

