



"The Herald" Newsletter

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

April 2021



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

"Alleluia! He is Risen!"

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Easter Services and Drive-In Sign-up

*Join us for Easter services on April 4, 2021.
There are many ways to worship this Easter.*

Sunrise Service at St. Peter's Cemetery

Join us at 6:30 a.m. for this unique worship service located at the St. Peter's Cemetery, 62 Valley Rd., Lancaster, PA featuring a brief liturgy, Easter message, and holy communion.



Drive In Worship at 8:00 & 9:00 a.m.

Join us in our parking lot at **10 Delp Rd.** for two Drive-In Easter services at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Similar to our 2020 Christmas Eve services, our Drive-In Easter worship will include beloved Easter hymns accompanied by the organ, Holy Communion,

liturgy and prayers to celebrate our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

You can sign up by visiting our Easter webpage at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/easter/>



Livestreamed Easter Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Join us at [stpeterslutheran.org/live](https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live) for a livestreamed Easter service at 10:45 a.m. on April 4th. The service will feature beloved Easter hymns and music, the reading of the Easter story, and scenes from our sanctuary space.

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April Worship Schedule



Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday

Live Streaming Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.
with Stripping of the Altar
Sister Dottie Preaches

Friday, April 2: Good Friday

Good Friday Event for Children in the Parking Lot at 11:00 a.m.
Children's Stations of the Cross in the Parking Lot at 12:00 Noon
Live Streaming Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 3: Easter Vigil

Services of the Light, the Word and Holy Baptism, Live-streamed at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 4: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunrise Holy Communion Service in our Church Cemetery at 6:30 a.m.
Parking Lot Communion Services at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
(Please check the website to make reservations, as parking spaces are limited)
Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Preaches

Sunday, April 11: The Second Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday, April 18: The Third Sunday of Easter

Parking Lot Communion Service at 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.
Sister Dottie Preaches

Sunday, April 25: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Parking Lot Communion Service at 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Preaches



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.

A Special Message to St. Peter's Sages



Regrets that the church cannot offer the Sages Maundy Thursday Service and Luncheon again this year. Hopefully the church will soon be able to have in person worship and have fellowship time together. Plans will be made to have a special time to honor you, worship with you and gather together over the summer. Blessings to you and a heartfelt thank you for your dedication to St. Peter's.

Volunteers Wanted to Deliver Easter Plants



The altar will be dressed with many beautiful plants that would like a permanent home with a member who isn't able to get out much. A special delivery would certainly brighten their day. Might you consider delivering a plant on Easter Sunday or in the days to follow? Proper precautions will be in place. Please call or email Christine Smith at 717-299-0949 or cjsmith1984@gmail.com if you are able to help.



Safe church Updates:

According to Bishop Jim Dunlop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, churches can resume a modified in person worship when the following criteria are met:

- Less than 20 new cases per 100,000
- Less than a 5 % positivity rate.

As of March 10, 2021, Lancaster was at 22.3 cases per 100.000 and at a 6.9 positivity rate. 13% of the population has had at least one shot. According to the CDC website, Covidactnow.org, these are the following recommendations for Lancaster PA.

- Gatherings should be limited to 25 people and physical distance should be maintained. The CDC also recommends that gatherings take place outdoors.
- Masks should be mandated in all indoor spaces and worn by everyone outside their home.
- We are still considered in a medium risk area.

We monitor the numbers daily and are working to resume modified in person worship as soon as we can. Please know that like most of you, your staff wants to get back to in person indoor worship and other activities. When our Safe Church, Worship Committee and Council feel we can safely resume in person indoor worship, we will do so.

If our numbers of new cases and the positivity rates keep declining, we are hopeful that we can soon begin a modified indoor worship, which will still include masks and social distancing. Singing will be a way off, however, since this is a big factor of aerosol spread.

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 or dropping off 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/>



Faith IN OUR FUTURE

Mission Campaign

St. Peter's is excited to announce the kick off of our Mission Campaign *Faith in Our Future!* Over the next month, you will receive more communication, via mail and digitally, on the projects and objectives of this endeavor. We cannot thank each member enough for already playing such a critical role in our Feasibility Study, which shaped the plans for this campaign. Just as past generations have done, we look forward to the future and the incredible opportunities that will arise from this journey!

Campaign Mission Prayer

Almighty God, we turn to you and pray that you lead us into the mission to which you have called us. Strengthen and sustain us as we follow Jesus' command to love God, love neighbor, and make disciples. Give us the courage to share our blessings - our time, our talent, and our treasure - so that the world you so dearly love may be blessed. Open our hearts and deepen our faith so that we may live into the future you desire for us. Amen

Mission Minute Mondays

In honor of our Mission Campaign, we are looking for members to tell us why they love St. Peter's and its ministries! These stories will be showcased as "Mission Minute Mondays" on our YouTube and Facebook. Want to share? Reach out to Jill Emmert at jmemmert@comcast.net.



May 2
Virtual Town Hall

May 16
Commitment Sunday

Mission Campaign

Have questions? Want to see what is going on? Check out St. Peter's Mission Campaign Page at stpeterslutheran.org/mission-campaign



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.

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/1fVeQyvqm4O5N6mKFsnNacgEPTbGUIyu_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

Adult Christian Education

APRIL 2021 Adult Education Class Schedule

Sunday morning Adult education class – meets through zoom at 9:15 a.m. Contact Pastor Ross for more information or to be added to the Zoom list.



Sunday, April 4 – NO CLASS – Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 11 – Gospel in Life: Part 7: Justice: A People For Others (video series)
Led by Sister Dottie

Sunday, April 18 -- Gospel in Life: Part 8: Eternity: The World That Is To Come (video series) Led by Pastor Craig

Sunday, April 25 – Daily Discipleship: The Path of Discipleship (John 10:11-18)
Leader TBA

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 April schedule looks like this:

April 7 – Chapters 28 & 29

April 14 – Chapters 30-31

April 21 – Chapters 32 & 33

April 28 – Chapters 34 & 35

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. This month we meet in the narthex every 2nd and 4th Wednesday 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



April Pub Theology

We will be meeting outside at the church at 6:30 pm for pub theology on Wednesday, April 21st -bring your chair, dinner and a beverage and we will eat and discuss – topic to be announced closer to the time.

Human Resources

Q&A with our newest staff members

We Welcome Paul Schultz, Parish Administrator

St. Peter's recently hired Paul Shultz, our new parish administrator, who will join us in our mission of building a community of faith by God's grace. We hope that you get to know Paul, and the leadership he will provide. This Q&A is a foretaste of good things to come.



◇ **Where did you grow up and what is a favorite memory that took place there?**

I grew up in the town of Horsham, PA. It lies on Easton Road just north of the PA Turnpike east exit at Willow Grove. I attended Hatboro Horsham Highschool and after a two-year enlistment in the US Navy as an Electricians Technician I was selected for officer training and graduated from Villanova University. I served another five years in the Navy as a Supply Corps officer handling the business side of the Navy.

I enjoyed my childhood in Horsham. I especially loved to play outside with my best friend using our matchbox cars and trucks to build cities in the dirt. I was always outside hiking thru woods pretending to be Daniel Boone, even making fishing poles out of branches.

◇ **What is something that you enjoy to do or something that have a passion for?**

Fresh water fishing. There is nothing as therapeutic as casting your line in the water and waiting for the line to grow taut. As you cast your line you also cast your worries and troubles out in the water...at least for the afternoon. What joy it brings when you reel in the "big one."

◇ **You have been hired as St. Peter's parish administrator. In your own words, can you tell us what that ministry looks like?**

In Latin, administrator means to serve or to minister. I see the role of the parish administrator as a calling to serve God behind the scene. My role is to relieve the senior pastor and other pastoral staff from the burdens of administration so they can concentrate on their calling as ordained ministers – to preach the Word of God, disciple St. Peter's members, and minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation and the surrounding community.

◇ **As you step into this new role, how can this community of faith keep you in prayer?**

As with any ministry or job change, there is a lot to learn at your new employer. Pray for me to quickly learn the business-side of St. Peter's...its people, procedures, policies, and church polity. Pray for God to use my 30 plus years of naval, church, and mission business administration experience along with my spiritual gifts and business education to serve the congregation of St. Peter's.

◇ **This last question is the big, serious question. When it comes to ice cream...what's your favorite?**

This is a difficult question to answer. I like soft serve as well as traditional ice cream. My favorite flavor is vanilla with peanut butter swirl or just plain vanilla with crushed peanuts.

Hopefully St. Peter's has ice cream socials where everyone brings ice cream and toppings to share – store bought and especially home-made. These are very popular in the south where I served for 10 years.

We welcome Heather Cramer, Preschool Director

St. Peter's recently hired Heather Cramer, our new preschool director, who will join us in our mission of building a community of faith by God's grace. We hope that you get to know Heather, and the leadership she will provide for the St. Peter's Preschool. This Q&A is a foretaste of good things to come.



(continued on next page)

We welcome Heather Cramer, Preschool Director

(continued)

◇ **Where did you grow up and what is a favorite memory that took place there?**

I was born in Selinsgrove, PA, but my family moved a lot. I spent most of my childhood in Indiana and Connecticut. My favorite memories were spending Christmas and summers back here in PA with my Nana, in Selinsgrove. I love the Christmas holidays – decorating, baking, Christmas music, and getting together with family.

◇ **You have some history with your participation in St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the preschool. Could you tell us a little about that?**

I think my family and I joined St. Peter's around 1994. All 3 of our children attended preschool and the Confirmation program here. I taught Second Step (showing my age), Sunday School for the preschool age class, Vacation Bible School and I've helped with the Inner-City Day Camp. I was a teacher's aide in Tendercare, back in 1999, then I was able to have my own class in the Butterfly Room. I worked for the preschool for about 13 years. I was very involved with Scholastic Books, the book fairs and the speech and hearing screening. My husband, George, and I were also involved with Boy and Girl Scouts here at St. Peter's.

◇ **You have been hired as St. Peter's Preschool director. In your own words, can you tell us what that ministry looks like?**

I feel that our Preschool ministry is so important! Sharing with our youth that God loves us all and that we are all the same in His eyes. To treat others as you would want to be treated.

◇ **As you step into this new role, how can this community of faith keep you and the preschool in prayer?**

Please pray for our new and past staff to work together to keep the children and ourselves safe and healthy. To provide the children with a safe, nurturing environment where they can feel free to explore and learn. To implement a program where everyone feels welcome and appreciated.

◇ **This last question is the big, serious question. When it comes to ice cream...what's your favorite?**

I can't pick just one!

Thank You, Gary Williams

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. Enjoy your retirement! You will be missed, Gary. **St. Peter's Staff**

Pastor Craig

Frank Teichman

Sister Karen

Danby Whittuck

Adam LHC

Cinder

JoAnn Harrigan

Janelle Henney

LMuse Gilmore

Betsy Linn

Heather Cramer



Prayer Chain Ministry

Last month you were introduced to the current leaders. This month we are introducing you to a few of our original leaders. As you know, our Prayer Chain was Vicar Jerry Kulp's intern project and will be 20 years old this Fall. The late Joan Ralston was a significant part of the recruitment of members in the formation of the chain. This is one of the big reasons a number of our longtime members are 8:00 a.m. service attendees, as that is when Joan attended. She recruited her co-chair, Pat Ross and they served together as co-leaders until the summer of 2015.



Pat Ross and her husband, Arnold retired here from the Long Island area in June of 1986, to be closer to their family. Pat has been active in church her entire life and here at St Peter's has been an active "behind the scenes" member of the altar guild and instrumental in organizing our library.

Thelma Aurand was also one of Joan's first recruits. Thelma and her husband, Don have been active members for over 60 years and currently reside at Brethren Village. Thelma likes serving on the prayer chain as it gives insight into others lives and reminds her to be grateful for all she has. She receives requests by phone (the only way the chain was done in the beginning) and would very much enjoy phoning requests to chain members!

So, if you've been thinking about joining us, please know you don't need to have a computer (or if you do, be good at using it) to be a member of the chain. You choose how you receive the requests, either by email or by a phone call from Thelma!

If you are ready to sign-up, please call either Ginny Gerhart (717) 626-7406 or Angela Moshos (717) 392-6201. We would love to have you join us!! Happy Easter!!

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



Worship and Music at St. Peter's

Beverages and Hymns – April 14th, 8:00 p.m.

Beverages and Hymns will be on the second Wednesday of this month instead of the first. Join with Adam on April 14th 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. This month we'll be looking at some of the songs that can be found in a new hymnal supplement, All Creation Sings, and what it has to offer. Contact Adam at adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org for more info.

Church Musical Thanks

Thank you to ALL who participated in this year's church musical. Although it looked a little different, your pluckiness, persistence, and positive attitudes won the day! Special thank you to the children and parents for all their work learning songs, dances, and dialogue. Thanks to Doug May who designed the cast t-shirts and to Christine Healy who choreographed dances for two songs. Thank you to all who submitted various recordings to enhance the production.



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

Social Ministry



Community Meal For April

Community Meal

Our meal for April will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on North Queen Street on Wednesday, April 7th. Please contact Kathy Berkebile for more information. kberkebile@comcast.net

Lydia's Closet



Lydia's Closet is OPEN the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Our April Distribution Day is Saturday, April 3rd. 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.

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.

Parking Lot Beauty



Spring is here! It is 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



Thank You!

"A sincere thank you to our church family and friends for the outpouring of condolences after the passing of our beloved Joel Ellis; husband, father, and Poppy. We appreciated your cards, baked goods, and most of all, prayers. Thank you,"

Susan Ellis, Scott, Leigh, Jack and Kyle Trayer

"Thank you to the 'In Touch' team and to many members of St. Peter's who sent cards of sympathy and support to my wife, Brenda, and me after my sister in-law Karen died. It meant a lot to receive your cards & support – the expressions of care & love came in a truly difficult time, and they helped."

—Pastor Russ Rockwell, Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church.

Moral Monday Groups



Moral Monday was a grass roots movement that began in North Carolina 5 years ago to address social issues that affected the population of North Carolina. St. Peter's began our own group back in June of 2020 and it continues today to talk about issues of justice.

Our Moral Monday group meets the first Monday night of the month at 7:00 p.m. through Zoom – we are currently discussing the ELCA social statements and how St. Peter's can be involved in carrying out the mission of the statements. Contact Sister Dottie for more information.

Moral Monday Action Group

This group is an ecumenical group that meets monthly to plan action surrounding voting rights, equitable education funding and other issues that affect our community. If you have a passion for social justice and want to help make a change, we welcome you to be part of this group! Our members come from the ELCA, the Episcopal Church and the UCC church. Contact Sister Dottie for more information.

Moral Monday Group is Taking Action!

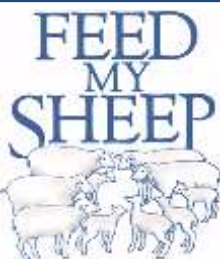
Over the past several months, members of the Moral Monday book group at St. Peter's have learned a great deal about how racism in American society impacts our relationships with our brothers and sisters of color and contributes to their experience of injustice in our communities. Through conversation and outreach, we find ourselves building an ecumenical network of individuals who are committed to taking action together to address systemic racism.

Isaiah 1:17 urges us to “learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” Racial inequities play out in our local community in many ways, from hunger and housing to voting rights and access to quality education. We have been researching advocacy and activism efforts on these justice issues among other local groups such as the PA Poor People's Campaign, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA, POWER Interfaith, and Lancaster Stands Up as we discern our own next steps.

As part of our efforts, we will be sharing resources with you including social statements from national church bodies on issues related to social justice. We will also invite you to participate in programs to deepen our understanding of the experience of people of color and to learn how we can lend our voices in solidarity to work for racial justice in our community. We hope you will join us. Stay tuned!

Sister Dottie Almoney, St. Peter's
Lois Benton, St. Peter's
Robert (Bob) Bowman, St. Peter's
Pat Brady, Zion Lutheran, Landisville
Greg Hand, St. Peter's
Jill Kerchner, St. Peter's
Leslie McCarthy, St. Peter's

Deacon Jane Miron, St. Thomas Episcopal, Lancaster
Molly Olmsted, St. Peter's
Jean Pretz, Zion Lutheran, Landisville and St. Peter's
The Rev. Amy Shorner-Johnson, Christ Church United
Church of Christ, Elizabethtown
Judy Wenrich, St. Peter's



The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

Needed in April: *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!***

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, April 27th**, 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

Family Wiffleball Continues

Family wiffleball games continue through the month of April. Bring your family—whatever your family looks like!—over to the Hoslers' backyard every Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. for a fun evening of wiffleball. Please bring water and a mask. Contact Joy & Lyle Hosler if you are interested at 717-371-7583 OR you may sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094EA8AD23A13-family1>



St. Peter's is having a Puzzle Swap!

If you are tired of your puzzles, bring them to St Peter's on April 3rd from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. When you sign up, please let us know how many people will be coming and how many puzzles you plan on bringing. You may take as many puzzles as you bring! There will be tables to spread out the puzzles. This event will take place in the parking lot to allow for distancing. Everyone is required to mask up and keep 6ft apart.

The signup link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4fa4a72da3f58-stpeters1>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Molly Olmsted astaloo@me.com

January Through March Pastoral Acts

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| January 7, 2021 -- | Graveside Service for David Schlotzhauer
at St. Peter's Cemetery, Neffsville PA |
| January 8, 2021 -- | Funeral Service for Edris Herr "Edie" Galway
at Spacht Funeral Home, Lititz PA |
| January 30, 2021 -- | Wedding Ceremony for Preston Ketchum and Kelsey Frey
at Pepper Theo café, Lancaster PA |
| February 14, 2021 -- | Baptism of Olivia Elaine Rieker at St. Peter's Lutheran Church |
| February 21, 2021 -- | Funeral Service for Joel E. Ellis
at Charles Snyder Funeral Home, Lititz PA |

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.



Pastor's Letter

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ..."

--Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

Dear Friends:

I appropriate Dickens' famous words with caution, because in applying them to this past year of pandemic, I fully recognize that my application speaks to an entirely different scenario than the French Revolution, and especially the infamous "Reign of Terror." However, a bit more than twenty-five thousand people died in the Reign of Terror ... and more than two and a half million people have died at the hands of Covid. So there is that. (... moment of silence ...)

It is easy to just go right to the "worst of times." I have been visiting that particular obsession a lot this past year. From people known and unknown, to jobs, to freedoms, to rituals, to family traditions, to little things and big things that help anchor our lives ... we have lost a lot this past year. And some of that loss has been significant. When we are speaking about the death of loved ones, and the loss of jobs and businesses, and the end of traditions and practices that have fed us and brought order to our world, we are in deep waters of life. I acknowledge that and I mourn those losses, as you do. And as such we honor them and the place they had in our lives.

But I also want to think about this year in time as the "best of times." Because the presence of a worldwide pandemic has forced us to find resources within us and our world, along with creating new traditions and practices that we would not have had to develop absent the pandemic. We have grown resilient ... when we weren't crying in the corner of the room in despair. We have learned to respect and honor some professions that we probably took for granted in many ways prior to March 2020. We have learned to be creative in all kinds of ways, and found resources for that creativity that we might never had discovered absent the pandemic. We have rediscovered the beauty of simplicity. And we have learned how easy it is to take blessings and freedoms for granted. The preacher in me thinks of the countless times I have tried from the pulpit to stir in you who sometimes sit in the pews ... the need to avoid taking things for granted ... to no avail. All we needed was a pandemic to remind us of how many blessings we take for granted on a daily ,, maybe an hourly ... basis.

As you read this, we will be standing on the threshold of the sacred Three Days ... Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday ... days which prepare us for, and teach us, about the magnificent gift that is Easter Sunday's empty tomb and God's power of resurrection that stands behind it and within it. I pray that the heightened awareness to blessings that you have developed these past twelve months, will give you new eyes for this old, old story of death and resurrection ... this old, old story of Jesus and his love. It should be an Easter like no other Easter in our lifetimes. So you better start brushing up your "He is Risen Indeed!" response to the proclamation you will soon be hearing ... Christ is Risen!

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

Pastor Craig

craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org

St. Peter's Archives

FROM THE ARCHIVES—APRIL 20, 1957—Lancaster Intelligencer Journal

The Confirmation Class of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Neffsville, largest in the church history, will receive first communion at the 8:00 a.m. Easter worship service with the Rev. Ernest W. Huston, pastor, officiating. The seventeen confirmands were received into the church on Palm Sunday. They are Donald Witwer, Joseph Weidel, John Patches, Martin Murray, Harold Murray, Anne Nuss, Marianne Knoepfle, Rhoda Weidman, Frances Groff, Jane Mae Lausch, Joyce Heckel, Dawn Young, Lorraine Heckel, Betty Kimmet, Peggy Kirchner, Gerald Miller, and Carol Reichard.



Pastor Sarah's Message

Easter blessings, my friends!

Last year at this time, I was writing an Easter message while our county, nation, and world was entering into a pandemic. I recall writing about joy. Though at the time it seemed hard to find joy in the midst of the unknown. I quoted an author I was reading at the time, and again I will share his words. He writes that joy is “somehow terror and delight sitting next to each other, their feet dangling off the side of a bridge very high up.” (Ross Gay, *Book of Delights*, pg. 45)

It's a great quote, and it seems to have more meaning to me on this side of the pandemic. There have been MANY moments where I felt my feet dangling high up in the air or doing a high wire act with no net or trekking a path on uncharted terrain. I'm certain you have felt these moments, as well!

Since last Easter, we've had many moments of terror and delight, confinement and freedom, death and life sitting next to each other in this bridge called life.

And yet also with us—and being the very bridge that we need—is the resurrected Christ. The one who promises to be with us *through* the terror and delight. The Christ who *frees* us from that which binds us. The Christ who promises to deliver us from death into new life.

And yes, on this side of things, we still have terror, confinement, and death. But we are an Easter people. We hold the Easter joy. We live with Easter hope. *And hope is powerful.*

Let me share with you some things that we, as a church, have hope in.

- **Drive-In Worship Services**

We hope to see you at our special [Easter Drive-In](#) worship services on April 4 at 8:00 & 9:00 a.m.! We hope the weather will be good to sit outside your car during our Drive-In Easter services, and future Drive-In worship services beginning April 18 at 9:15 a.m.

- **Indoor Worship**

We hope that the Covid-19 rates continue to decrease as we hope to gather for in-door worship. Following synod guidelines, we hope to resume modified worship when our county has a 5% or less positive case rate and a 20 per 100k daily new case rate.

- **Mission Campaign**

We hope that you prayerfully consider how you may take part in our [mission campaign](#), and faithfully give as we have faith in our future as we live into God's mission for us.

- **Vaccines Becoming Available**

We hope that vaccines become more available in our community. To find out more about vaccination in our area, visit <https://vaccinatelancaster.org/>

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

Hymn Texts and Community

In our faith and in our worship services we say and hear a lot of words. I'm sure you aren't surprised that I want to talk about the words found in our hymn texts. After all, my job includes thinking about planning hymns to match up with the themes of our weekly worship gatherings and to encourage the community to make these songs a part of its identity. Hymn texts are a rich resource handed down to us from generations of writers, crafted to draw out some aspect of our faith.

Some hymn texts work with first-person singular language. "Be thou my vision"; "Here I am, Lord"; and "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!" all call to mind the truly personal experience we can have with our faith. The danger with singing too many of these hymns is that the focus on the individual may give us the false impression that our personal piety is the most important expression of our faith.

And yet, other songs take a decidedly communal feel with first-person plural language. "Now we join in celebration", "Let us break bread together", and "Faith of our fathers" call to mind the communal nature of our faith. Christianity is, at its best, celebrated in community with each other, and these hymns draw us away from ourselves. Of course, swing too far this direction and we may miss out on the message that many gifts of the same spirit reside in each of us and it is our individuality which helps to create our community.

Still, other songs put God's words in our mouths: "Will you come and follow me"; "I, the Lord of sea and sky"; and "I am the bread of life" have us sing the words of God to our fellow worshipers. Hearing such words can be a comfort and yet, despite best efforts to the contrary, we may begin to associate us singing these words with us having the answers to life's problems when it is God who we must rely on.

Still, more songs address God directly in prayer and praise using the second-person singular form. "Restore in us, O God"; "Guide me ever, great Redeemer"; "Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given" and more turn our minds and our gaze toward God. Singing in prayer and praise this way we have a chance to learn and proclaim the goodness of God. Of course, too far this direction and we lose out on all the other wonderful aspects to our faith.

Which type of hymn text (first-person singular, first-person plural, the words of God, second-person singular) has some of your favorite hymns? I certainly have types of hymn texts I gravitate toward, but there are hymns in each category that speak to me. As with many things, there is an art to balancing these types of texts in a way that keeps them relevant and fresh and I believe it should be our goal to attempt this balance.

Peace,
Adam

Camping Corner



Summer camp is just a few months away and registration is now open at Nawakwa and Kirchenwald, the two Lutheran camps in southcentral PA. Consider a week away for your child or grandchild to explore God's creation in a Christ centered community! There are week-long sleepover camps for grades 1-12 from Classic Camp to Kayak Camp to Arts and Crafts Camp to Ultimate Sports Camp! Lots of options for lots of fun. Day camps (grades K-5) and family camps are also available. Discounts are also available: St. Peter's will pay \$75 for each camper or family. Another \$20 is saved off each registration because Joy and Lyle Hosler are CampPersons. AND Register and pay by April 3rd to save \$15. Check out the camp website to learn more and register. <https://www.lutherancamping.org/> Contact Joy & Lyle Hosler (717-371-7583) with any and all questions!

Youth & Family Ministry News...

REMINDER – NO Youth Zoom Sunday School on April 4th due to Easter.

Sunday April 25th – Outdoor youth event – 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Pizza and individually packed snacks and drinks provided. We will have an outdoor scavenger hunt and socially distanced games (weather permitting). Bring a lawn chair or a blanket.



Summer Events

2021 Summer Confirmation Camp (grades 6 thru 9) – June 20th thru 26th
Camp Kirchenwald — We will join youth from other area Lancaster County Churches. Our Theme will be based on the Affirmation of Baptism. Cost is \$250 for the week. Please contact Sister Dottie Almoney for more information at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org



Preschool Corner

Welcome our new director, Heather Cramer! Below is her bio:



My name is Heather Cramer and I am the new Preschool Director, here at St. Peter's. I am a Millersville University graduate, with a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. I live here in Manheim Township, with my husband George. We are members of St. Peter's Church, where all 3 of our children attended preschool, Sunday school, as well as the Confirmation program. I worked here as a preschool teacher for many years in the Butterfly Room and most recently I was the Assistant Executive Director of the ENVISIONS Program, in Manheim Township School District. I am so excited to be back at St. Peter's!

This upcoming school year, we will be offering a “young” 3 year old class, two 3 year old classes, a 4 day 4-5 year old class and a 5 day 4-5 year old class. Our classes will run from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

There will also be an optional extended lunch program called “Prayground”, that will run on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, from 12:00-1:30. Prayground will be led by St. Peter's Christian Educators, as well as preschool staff. This lunch program will include time for free play, Bible stories, crafts, music and of course lunch. Please remember all of these opportunities are on a first come first serve basis and space is limited. Contact me anytime for applications!

heather.cramer@stpeterslutheran.org.

New Direction for the Preschool



While our main goals will continue to educate and socialize our preschool students, we are also using our new strategic plan to help guide our preschool program. We are working to serve our community and our neighbors. Our focus is always on the mandate to love God and love our neighbors.

We are looking for persons who would be willing to sponsor scholarships to low income children in our area. We have a partnership with Head Start who are identifying children who fall through the cracks financially for their program – they make a bit too much to qualify. At this point we have two children who will be coming on scholarships and hope that we can accommodate a few more children. If you want to contribute, please contact Sister Dottie for more information at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org.



ST. PETER'S KIDS

Dear Families,

April has arrived! I am so excited! April always reminds me of rebirth and rejuvenation. And I do believe it is especially true this year. After a year of pandemic confinement, we are certainly looking forward to rebirth and rejuvenation.

Our Children's Ministries Committee has a new chairperson, Christine Hofmann. We thank Julie Gotwald for her years of service and look forward to Christine's leadership role.

Children's Ministries Committee held a Zoom meeting on March 9th. We are planning a children's event on Good Friday, April 2nd, at 11:00 a.m. in the church parking lot. We will have rotating stations with various crafts and activities, socially distancing and requiring all participants to wear masks. There will be preregistration so watch for that news via our website and other means of communication.

In addition, we will offer Vacation Bible School this summer – outdoors! It will be from July 18th to July 22nd. Mark your calendars and save the date! More information to follow.



As our Children's Ministries Committee continues to grow, please consider joining us. Many volunteers are needed to help plan and deliver Christian education to our children in meaningful and fun ways.

Each Sunday a new Sunday School lesson is premiered on our YouTube channel at 10:15 a.m. lasting approximately 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



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.

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

APRIL CALENDAR

Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service (Livestream)

Friday, April 2

11:00 a.m. - Good Friday Children's Event (Outside)

12:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross (Outside)

7:00 p.m. - Good Friday Worship (Livestream)

Saturday, April 3

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

6:30 p.m. - Wiffleball (Hoslers' Home)

7:00 p.m. - Easter Vigil (Livestream)

Sunday, April 4

6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service (Church Cemetery)

8:00 a.m. - Easter Drive In Worship (Parking Lot)

9:00 a.m. - Easter Drive In Worship (Parking Lot)

10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube

Monday, April 5

Church Office Closed

7:00 p.m. - Moral Mondays Book Club (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 6

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

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

Wednesday, April 7

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

1:00 p.m. - Community Meal Preparation (Kitchen)

2:00 p.m. - Evangelism Committee (Zoom)

4:30 p.m. - Community Meal (Grace Lutheran)

Saturday, April 10

Herald Deadline

6:30 p.m. - Wiffleball (Hoslers' Home)

Sunday, April 11

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

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

10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube

Monday, April 12

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

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

Tuesday, April 13

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

1:00 p.m. - Communication Committee (Zoom)

6:30 p.m. - Children's Ministry (FLC)

7:00 p.m. - Worship Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 14

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

6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children Bible Study (Narthex)

7:00 p.m. - Property Committee (Zoom)

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

Saturday, April 17

6:30 p.m. - Wiffleball (Hoslers' Home)

Sunday, April 18

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

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

10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube

Monday, April 19

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

7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 20

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

Wednesday, April 21

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

6:30 p.m. - Pub Theology (Church Memorial Garden)

Friday, April 23

10:30 a.m. - Win May Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 24

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

Sunday, April 25

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

10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, Pre K-Grade 4 (Livestream)

10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube

6:00 p.m. - Youth Event

Monday, April 26

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

6:45 p.m. - Tanzania Missions Committee (Zoom)

7:00 p.m. - Human Resources Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 27

10:30 a.m. - Widows Group (Narthex & Zoom)

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

Wednesday, April 28

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

6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children Bible Study (Narthex)

NewsLetter DEADLine

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE APRIL 10TH

Articles for the May 2021 “Herald” are due in the church office no later than **April 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 3:00 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.



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

Sandy Shattuck
Editor & Parish Secretary

