



“The Herald” Newsletter

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

July 2021



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

“From the rising sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.” Psalm 113:3

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Traditional Service at 8:00 a.m. & 9:45 a.m.



In the plan to move toward a more regular schedule, the church leadership is delighted to announce the addition of a 9:45 a.m. Traditional worship service, so that the July and August worship schedule will include an 8:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. indoor service. More information about the worship services can be found in this newsletter as well as visiting our worship page: www.stpeterslutheran.org/worship/indoor-worship

Summer Livestreaming During the 9:45 a.m. Traditional Indoor Service

Livestreaming continues this summer during the 9:45 a.m. indoor worship service. There will be a bit of a change of perspective from a front pew to a back pew view, but we hope you are able to join us for worship if you can’t join us in person. <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>

Outdoor Worship Continues Through July & August



We hope that you are able to join us on the “green acre” section of our property for an 11:00 a.m. outdoor service. Masks are recommended, but not required. Bring a chair!

Each week outdoor worship features something new!

1st Sundays: New Day
2nd & 3rd Sundays: Traditional
4th Sundays: Family Themed

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July Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 4: The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. In Person Worship in the Sanctuary,
Pastor Craig preaches
- 9:45 a.m. In Person Worship in the Sanctuary,
Pastor Craig preaches, Children's Sermon
- 9:45 a.m. Livestream Worship Service, St. Peter's Website/YouTube
Pastor Craig preaches, Children's Sermon
- 11:00 a.m. In Person Outside New Day Worship,
Pastor Sarah preaches, Children's Sermon



Sunday, July 11: The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. In Person Worship in the Sanctuary,
Sister Dottie preaches
- 9:45 a.m. In Person Worship in the Sanctuary,
Sister Dottie preaches, Children's Sermon
- 9:45 a.m. Livestream Worship Service, St. Peter's Website/YouTube
Sister Dottie preaches, Children's Sermon
- 11:00 a.m. In Person Outside Traditional Worship,
Pastor Craig preaches, Children's Sermon

Sunday, July 18: The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. In Person Worship in the Sanctuary,
Pastor Craig preaches
- 9:45 a.m. In Person Worship in the Sanctuary,
Pastor Craig preaches, Children's Sermon
- 9:45 a.m. Livestream Worship Service, St. Peter's Website/YouTube
Pastor Craig preaches, Children's Sermon
- 11:00 a.m. In Person Outside Traditional Worship,
Pastor Sarah preaches, Children's Sermon

Sunday, July 25: The Festival of St. James, Apostle

- 8:00 a.m. In Person Worship in the Sanctuary,
Pastor Sarah preaches
- 9:45 a.m. In Person Worship in the Sanctuary,
Pastor Sarah preaches, Children's Sermon
- 9:45 a.m. Livestream Worship Service, St. Peter's Website/YouTube
Pastor Sarah preaches, Children's Sermon
- 11:00 a.m. In Person Outside Family Themed Worship,
Sister Dottie preaches, Children's Sermon

Coming This Fall: New Day Praise Service



This Fall our worship service schedule returns to Traditional services in the sanctuary at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. and also reintroduces a 10:45 a.m. New Day Praise service in the Family Life Center! The New Day Praise Band has been helping to lead 1st Sunday outdoor services this summer, and they are excited to lead you in worship once again. So be sure to mark your calendars for September 5th!

Mission Campaign

St. Peter's family,

As promised in our June note, we are pleased to share the good news of our campaign progress to-date!



Campaign Progress

As of mid-June when we submitted this article, 89 households had pledged or gifted their treasures, totaling \$889,640. Of that total, we have received \$206,800 funds-in-hand. Having received commitments that account for 70% of our base campaign goal within the first month of the campaign is reason to offer thanks and praise! We are off to a strong start, and we are grateful for your continued prayers and generosity. THANK YOU!

Our Kirby-Smith campaign consultants, Rachel and Richie Musser, are reaching out to the nearly 500 households who have not yet made a commitment to the campaign. If you have misplaced your commitment form, you can access one on our website at www.stpeterslutheran.org/mission-campaign/ or contact the Church Office for the commitment form. The Mussers will continue their outreach to the congregation throughout the summer months.

Ongoing Communications

And, as we stated last month, we are committed to providing monthly progress updates via our various church communication vehicles.

We hope you will continue to reach out to either of us, directly, with your questions and/or concerns. Both of us appreciate the many questions related to the alignment of this campaign and the approval and launch of the strategic plan. We are actively partnering with congregation Council leaders to ensure transparency and clarity to the strategic plan's impact on the campaign.

Allocation of Campaign Funds Received

We attended the June 14 Council meeting to provide a campaign update and propose a process for expending the cash received. We are grateful to Council for approving the approach, so that campaign dollars received are put to good use quickly. Prior to the launch of the campaign, in a show of faith, Council approved expenditures totaling \$180,000 to address several of our immediate facilities needs, including replacement of the rooftop heat pump units, installment of a new boiler, and replacing the control system. We asked that Council allocate \$180,000 of the campaign funds received to the general fund as "reimbursement" for the advance spend.

The next \$425,000 of cash received will be directed to the remaining church property needs outlined in our campaign materials. Thereafter, and until the base campaign goal is reached, received funds will be proportionally distributed between debt reduction and the mission fund. The two of us will liaise between Norm Yunginger, who is expertly leading the conservation/gift recording part of the campaign, and Council, offering recommendations as to where/when funds should be distributed. As campaign co-chairs, we are also members of the Finance Committee, which provides another key connection point. We will continue to communicate when and how campaign dollars are used.

Mission Fund

We are absolutely delighted that Council formally approved the concept of a Mission Fund Advisory Board, the body that will recommend to Council how mission funds raised through this campaign will be allocated. We each bring experience in creating and engaging in such advisory boards, and we will be drafting the necessary charter, policies, and decision-making processes to provide to Council for their review and approval. We know there is a strong desire to understand how we would operationalize a Mission Fund, and the "meat" will be on the "bones" of this concept very soon. Suffice it to say, we are confident that the results will be a shot in the arm to the outward-facing missions of St. Peter's and the opportunities that all of us have to participate in advancing ministry. We're happy to be partnering with Council to commence this important planning work.

Thank you for your continued prayers and your discernment of the treasures God calls you to provide to help St. Peter's grow into the future. We look forward to seeing you at church!

With faith in our future,
Adrian and Jen

Jennifer Schlener-Thomas (jmschlener@gmail.com or 717-228-8450)
Adrian Young (adrianyoung@verizon.net or 717-314-8556)

Church Council Meeting Minutes Available

During the June council meeting, the May council minutes were approved. The minutes can now be accessed at the following link to a page on the church website to make them more accessible to the congregation: https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Council-meeting-minutes_May_10_2021.pdf . If you are unable to access the link and would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the church office at 717-569-9211.

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 Spring of 2021. 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. Thank you for being the “cheerful givers” that St. Paul identifies in his second letter to the Corinthian church (2 Cor. 9:7). Please do not forget about us over the summer while you are swimming at the shore or hiking in the mountains.

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

Offering Envelopes Need a Home!

You may have received an email because your 2021 offering envelopes have not been picked up. We understand there are many reasons for this - you haven't been able to get into the church, you have switched to electronic giving, or you didn't know they were there. We are providing the opportunity to pick up offering envelopes Monday – Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Ring the doorbell when you arrive, and you can pick up your envelopes in the narthex.

If you will no longer be needing your envelopes because of electronic giving or are no longer associated with St. Peter's, please let us know that as well. Thanks for your faithful support of the ministry of St. Peter's.

Donate to St. Peter's When You Shop on Amazon

Did you know that when you shop at Amazon.com **Amazon will make a donation to St. Peter's**. You get the item(s) you need and St. Peter's receives a donation! It is easy to do. Just sign up at Amazon Smile and select St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church as your preferred charity at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6050984 Remember to shop for deals using our special website link, or with AmazonSmile turned ON in the Amazon app, and AmazonSmile will donate to us at no cost to you.

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.

With Our Sympathy



The Rev. Richard E. Geib, died on June 24, 2021 at the age of 89. Our sympathy is extended to his family and friends who were so blessed to have known him and the many people whose lives he touched. A memorial service will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church Sanctuary at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 2, 2021. A visitation with the family will precede the service from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Following the service, the family has arranged for a frozen treats truck in our parking lot for fellowship time. "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your master." Matthew 25:21

Need Volunteers

HELP! There's no other way to state it. Your church, St. Peter's, needs help, and we are asking you to step up. As we return to in-person worship, we are going to need you to continue the community we've developed over our years. Several of our committees are in need of guidance and committee members. Each of us plays a role in helping to drive St. Peter's. Please consider where your time and talents are best served to support the valued ministries at your church.

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

Communications Committee-- Chairperson
Evangelism—Chairperson & committee members
Homes of Hope---Liaison from St. Peter's and Mentors for families
Membership Committee-- Chairperson & committee members
Property Committee—Committee members
Stewardship---Committee members
Greeters—Sunday mornings
Ushers--Sunday mornings
Welcome Center--Sunday mornings



There are descriptions for each of the groups on St. Peter's website. Here is the link. Consider taking some time to see if any of these are a fit for you. Or, give me a call to discuss where your talents would be best used.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fVeQyvnmq4O5N6mKFsnNacgEPTbGUIyu_ai7E90mCWzA/edit#gid=1

Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward

717-618-9615

betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Schedulers Needed for In-Person Worship

Did you ever wonder how Sunday morning worship assistants know how to be there? We have volunteers prepare schedules! This includes volunteers for Altar Guild, Ushers, Lectors, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Welcome Center and many more.

Several of our schedulers have retired from their positions after many years of service. This is a task that is done once every 2-3 months, and instructions are provided on how and what to do.

Right now we need someone to schedule Welcome Center.



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.

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. 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 by mail. Please note that we have some copies of the Herald at the Welcome Desk that may be picked up. Please contact Sandy in the church office at (717) 569-9211 if your email address has changed or if you are not currently receiving the newsletter digitally so we can add you to the list.

Are You Interested in Sponsoring Altar Flowers, Communion Wine or Bulletins?

Now that we have returned for Indoor Traditional Worship services in the Sanctuary, you can now sponsor altar flowers (\$35), communion wine (\$15) and bulletins (\$15). If there is a special date you would like to commemorate, please sign up now. The sheets are posted on the bulletin board, just outside of the church office or you may call the office at 717-569-9211 to sign up.

Seeking Altar Flower Deliverers



Have you ever wondered what happens to the altar flowers after Sunday services are over? They are delivered to some of our homebound members. We are looking for some members to join the altar flower delivery team now that indoor worship services have resumed. Commitment is only once every 6-8 weeks. Pick up the altar flowers, deliver them and pass on a smile to an aging member of St. Peter's. If you are interested or would like more information, please email Christine Smith at cjsmith1984@gmail.com or phone at 717-299-0949. This is a great family activity opportunity.

Gardener Needed

Don and Thelma Aurand have been planting flowers around the sign at the cemetery for the past 20 or so years. They have decided to retire. Someone is needed to plant 16 pink geraniums and water as needed. We have many members who visit. PLEASE consider helping to beautify the cemetery! Contact Betsy Linn at Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org



Mailing Address Update

Please be aware that we are in the process of restarting mail delivery directly to the church building. We have staff coverage of the office through the mid-late afternoon, and our postal carrier is returning to a mid-afternoon delivery schedule which allows us to get the mail immediately upon delivery.

We thank those of you who helped us in our use of the P.O Box at our local post office, by changing our address to a P.O. box number. You may now return to our preferred use of address, which is:

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
10 Delp Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Thank you for your assistance in helping us keep our mail delivery safe and secure in recent months ... we are grateful to you, and grateful to be returning to our normal mail protocol.



Church Office Closed



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day, as defined in our Human Resources Handbook. The Office will re-open on Tuesday, July 6th at 8:30 a.m.

Adult Christian Education

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



The votes are in. Coming in September, Pastor Craig's Wednesday Morning Bible Study will examine 1st & 2nd Kings as their major topic for the year. Join us as we learn about King David and King Solomon ... the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah ... Elijah and Elisha's ministries ... and the destruction of the Jerusalem temple and the exile of the people of God into Babylon.

For a brief 6 -7 week mid-year break we'll step into the mind of Martin Luther with an examination of the Small Catechism, and brush up on some of the foundational pieces of our Lutheran Confessions. We'll start a week later this year on September 15. Watch for more details in the September newsletter. Classes are held in the Café most Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. We expect to combine in person participants with Zoom accessibility for those who cannot join us live.



July Pub Theology

Pub Theology will not meet in July or August. We will resume on Wednesday, September 15th! Watch for more info.



Social Ministry

Local Social Ministry Corner

This month we will focus on our Community Meal Ministry. St Peter's Community Meal Ministry cooks meals and serves them at Grace Lutheran. Pre-COVID the team was able to serve them indoors in Grace's dining room area. Currently, the meals are packaged "to go", there is a hot bag which features the meal and a cold bag for the dessert, drink, and a snack. The volunteers were able to pivot to this new format and we never missed a month of providing meals. In addition, St Peter's was asked to pick up some additional meals and we now serve an additional six meals a year. If there are left overs, the team makes sure that nothing goes to waste and takes the extras to the Transitional Living Center to help feed those living there.

We thank these volunteers for prioritizing these meals throughout the year.

Community Meal Day

We serve a community meal the first Wednesday of every month at Grace Lutheran Church on North Queen Street! Our July meals will take place on Wednesday, July 7th and July 14th. Those interested in helping should contact Kathy Berkebile at kberkebile@comcast.net



Lydia's Closet Clothing Bank at St. Peter's

Our July distribution day is Saturday, July 3rd from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Please contact Molly Olmsted if you can help out. (astaloo@me.com)

Property

SANCTUARY LIGHT BULB REPLACEMENT...CONTINUED



In my last article I told you about sanctuary lamp bulbs being replaced using a mechanical lift. Well, next time you enter the sanctuary, look up and you will see MANY lamps lighting the sanctuary. Some are replaced using a special lift BUT many more can only be changed from above.

This month I joined octogenarian, George Groff (who can still climb like a child on the playground), in the rafters above the sanctuary changing lamps that had burned out. Rich Larrick of the Property Committee has been doing this for many years but was not available this year. The photos below give you a picture of what it looks like above you and how difficult it is to crawl over and under the roof rafters and even over heating/cooling ducts to get to each lamp. Property Chair, Bud

Benton, manned the lighting panel as he and I communicated by walkie-talkie as George and I searched for the burned-out bulbs. Thankfully it was a cool day!

Be sure to thank these dedicated volunteers for their continued work in making St. Peter's a safe and inviting environment for us to worship God.

Paul Schultz, your new parish administrator



GIVING THE CHURCH A GOOD WASHING



One thing we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is that left alone, buildings will be reclaimed by nature. The weeds will come back. Spiders will spin their webs across every entrance and window. Vines will climb the walls. Shrubbery will grow wild. Leaves will pile up along walls and doors and even stick to bricks. In less than a year a building can look abandoned.

Your Property Committee, as well as volunteer gardeners tending the parking lot plots, have been very busy this spring reclaiming the church from nature preparing for the return of the congregation. In June, they brought out the power-washer to give the exterior of the church a good cleaning. The photos below show Bud Benton, Don Wenrich and Rich Larrick (not pictured) hard at work beautifying the church's exterior and washing outside windows.

You may have noticed that all of the screens are out of the windows. This was on purpose so as not to destroy the screens while power-washing the exterior. Plus, the parish administrator discovered window weather-stripping was coming off almost every window. This will be replaced next by a team of volunteers.

If you enjoy using your hands, getting a bit dirty, and using your skills for God's service, then consider joining this great group of guys in maintaining our church. There is still much to do. We have weather-stripping to repair, screens to clean and reinstall, towel dispensers to replace, and several bookcases to assemble in the new preschool library in the Puppy Room. Contact me if you are interested in joining our maintenance team.

Paul Schultz, your new parish administrator



Prayer Chain Ministry

Since January, we have been introducing you to some of the Prayer Chain members. Our hope was as we “start to return to a new normal” you would see someone you know that was involved with the Prayer Chain and talk to them and ask them any questions you might have. Please keep us in mind, if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that is done almost exclusively from your home and whenever it suits your schedule. Co-chairs Ginny Gerhart (717) 626-7406 and/or Angela Moshos (717) 392-6201 are always available to answer any questions or concerns. We would LOVE to have you join us!



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

Health & Wellness



JULY: NATIONAL BLUEBERRY MONTH

National Blueberry Month is an annual observation during the entire month of July. This once wild berry became domesticated during the early 1900s. Before this, wild blueberries were never successfully transplanted and raised in any farming operation for personal or commercial production. The only way to enjoy fresh blueberries was to seek them out where they grew naturally! National Blueberry Month has been officially recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture since being founded in 2003.

So why is your Health & Wellness Committee talking about blueberries? Well, these vibrant berries pack a punch in vitamins and health benefits. They have antioxidants and phytoflavonoids, and are also high in potassium and vitamin C. This makes them a top dietary choice of doctors and nutritionists. Not only can they lower your risk of heart disease and cancer, they are also anti-inflammatory. "Inflammation is a key driver of all chronic diseases, so blueberries have a host of benefits," says Ann Kulze, MD, of Charleston, S.C., author of *Dr. Ann's 10 Step Diet: A Simple Plan for Permanent Weight Loss and Lifelong Vitality*. When selecting berries, note that the darker they are, the more antioxidants they have. Kulze also strongly suggests: "...have a serving (about 1/2 cup) every day, and frozen are just as good as fresh." Blueberries make a great snack all on their own, or enhance a meal. They also make stellar desserts or sauces.

So, enjoy some fresh blueberries! They're in season, and they are ripe for the picking!



St. Peter's Archives

Rev. Craig A. Ross elected St. Peter Lutheran co-pastor *February 4, 1994 - Lancaster New Era*

The Rev. Craig A. Ross has been elected co-pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, at Lititz Pike and Delp Road. Ross and the Rev. Richard E. Geib will serve as the church's co-pastors during 1994. Geib plans to retire at the end of the year, and Ross will become the Senior Pastor at that time. When Geib retires he will have served more than 20 years at St. Peter's. Ross began serving as assistant pastor in 1986 and was later named associate pastor. He was the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Hoernerstown from 1983 to 1986. A native of North Babylon, New York, Ross is a graduate of Furman University and Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg.

Grocery Cards



Please be aware that grocery cards are available to purchase from the church office Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. 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 and someone will be able to help you from the window. Thank you.

Worship and Music at St. Peter's

Summer Worship Schedule

As we continue to move toward the fall, St. Peter's is gradually stepping toward a regular worship life together. On July 4th we will adjust our worship service offerings to this schedule:

- 8:00 – Indoor service with traditional music
- 9:45 – Indoor service with traditional music, also livestreamed for at-home worshippers
- 11:00 – Outdoor service with rotating leadership

July 4 – New Day
July 11 – Traditional with choir
July 18 – Traditional
July 25 – Family service

Indoor Service Additions

This month we add a second congregational sung hymn and start to add in pieces of our sung liturgy. We are moving cautiously but are optimistic about the continued low case metrics. As we approach August and September we will continue to add in pieces of music. The worship staff and altar guild are also determining best practices around communion distribution as we move toward the fall. It is our intent to be back to a worship schedule by September that resembles what we have had in the past.

Church Mask Policy Update

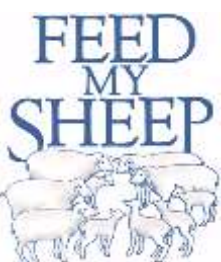
As the mask mandate for PA lifts, our church mask policy updates as well. Keeping in line with the authorities (CDC, Department of Health, Department of Education) we have been relying on throughout the pandemic, St. Peter's recommends we follow the CDC guidelines. Those who are fully vaccinated need not wear masks; those who have not been fully vaccinated should wear masks. Per the CDC recommendations regarding being in groups with mixed vaccination status, **WHEN WE SING DURING WORSHIP**, we ask that **all** wear masks, to help protect those among us who cannot yet get vaccinated (children younger than 12, immunocompromised, etc.). **We will continue to evaluate this policy as we approach the fall.**

2021-2022 Musical Arts Concert Series

We're very excited to announce St. Peter's 2021-2022 Musical Arts Concert Series! Scheduled concerts are:

- Saturday, August 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. *online concert* – Lancaster British Brass Band
- Sunday, December 5, 2021, 4:00 p.m. – Hershey Handbell Ensemble
- Sunday, March 27, 2022, 4:00 p.m. – Principally Harps, Harp Duo
- Sunday, June 5, 2022, 4:00 p.m. – Come to Us, Creative Spirit, St. Peter's Hymn Festival

We're both grateful for your support of last year's unusual series and quite pleased to continue the Musical Arts series this year in a more in-person format. A letter asking for your support, should be on its way to your door; we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting the arts. We will continue our practice of giving 10% of free-will offerings received at concerts to charity. This year we will continue to support the Lancaster County Food Hub.



The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

Needed in July: *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 or in the grocery carts in the Narthex. Items go to the Lancaster County Food Hub. **Thanks for your donations!**

Groups and Events

Widows Group

The Widows Group meetings are continuing at St. Peter's outside (or in the Café during hot weather) and are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and usually last about one hour. Our next meeting will be on July 27th. 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

St. Peter's Garden Tours

St. Peter's garden tours continue through August 2nd on Monday evenings. All are welcome to walk around the gardens and enjoy the fruits of our St. Peter's members' hard work. No sign up is needed! The schedule is as follows:



July 05 - Home of Randy & Debbie Shue

July 12 - Home of Tim & Sharon Fickes

July 26 - Host, Joy Hosler at Brecht Elementary School Garden

August 02 - Home of Joy & Lyle Hosler



Camp Corner

Please keep the summer campers at Nawakwa and Kirchenwald in your prayers this month as they embark on fun-filled weeks in a Christ-centered community.

A prayer for the summer campers:

We ask your blessing on all who will attend Camp Kirchenwald/Nawakwa this summer.

Keep them safe and help them know that You are always with us, even when we are apart from family and home. May their time at camp be a time of growth in Your Spirit and delight in Your creation. We pray for a safe return and look forward to seeing the ways that You have worked in their lives through outdoor ministry.



Congratulations Don & Thelma!

The Aurands celebrated a special milestone... 70 years of marriage on June 16th! They are longtime members of St. Peter's and both have been active in the life of our church. They were married in St. John's Lutheran Church, Lewistown following graduation from college. Don's degree was in Industrial Engineering from Penn State and Thelma's was in Elementary Education from Shippensburg University. They moved to Lancaster where Don worked in various positions for Armstrong for 37 years, and Thelma taught school first in Lancaster City and then Manheim Twp. for 26 years. They are the parents of two sons – David, (Reading, PA) and Steven (Miami, FL). They have one granddaughter and 3 great grandchildren. Don and Thelma enjoyed traveling to all 50 states, plus 53 foreign countries.

Congratulations, Don & Thelma!



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.



Pastor's Letter

Hi Folks:

So ... we are almost a month into our return to in-person worship. The overall strategy we have adopted throughout the pandemic, has been to proceed with some caution, safely and gradually restoring the variety of ministries and activities that place us in close proximity to each other. We have amended and revised some ministries, while keeping others in much the same format as they existed in pre-pandemic days. We have been grateful for your patience ... understanding of your frustrations when you thought we weren't moving quickly enough, or too quickly ... and pleased with your ability to adapt and adjust when circumstances required it. This has been a good test of the mettle of our community of faith.

Starting in July on the 4th, we will add our second in-person worship service at 9:45 a.m. Thus our Sunday mornings will be back to normal in terms of our sanctuary worship times of 8:00 & 9:45 a.m., along with the added bonus of our rotating schedule of 11:00 a.m. outdoor worship services, **and** a live-stream experience that will become an actual "live stream" of one of our indoor worship services. If you have been to any of the 8:00 a.m. in-person gatherings, you have experienced our gradual re-introduction of parts of the worship service. We have been the most careful in expanding our worship life in regards to music, so as to make sure we are proceeding using safe practice. Our 8:00 a.m. services have been well attended thus far, and we look forward to welcoming back those of you who simply prefer a bit later start to your sabbath observance.

Although we are not up to full speed yet in terms of our in-person gatherings, we will continue to grow into what should be pretty close to whatever the "new normal" will be in the world in which we currently live. On behalf of our staff and lay leaders who have accepted the mantle of deliberation and decision-making for virtually every activity that has involved people gathering together, I thank you. Whether you have felt yourself to be patient with the process or impatient ... whether you envisioned yourself as a critic or supporter of various choices and actions ... whether you thought we moved too quickly or too slowly ... you have been here with us throughout these past fifteen months. Maybe you were actively engaging decisions and choices, or not. Maybe you were vocal, or silent. Maybe you engaged in discussions with friends and neighbors, or kept your thoughts to yourself. Community is typically most healthy when it has diverse and unique opinions and perspectives that can be voiced in love and concern without being divisive. That has been the case here for the most part.

So I pray that in the coming weeks of summer, you will either continue your engagement of the worship, service, fellowship and learning activities available in our community of faith ... or that you will consider anew, where your time, talents and passions may best find expression in our community of faith. We are always better when your gifts and talents and passions are invested in our congregational life.

See you in church ...

Pastor Craig

craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org

Pastor Craig's Medical Leave

Please be aware that Pastor Craig will have double knee replacement surgery on August 12th. His surgeon's projection is that he will be recovering at home for up to seven weeks, followed by a gradual return to the office. As his healing progresses in the later weeks of recovery, he hopes to be able to engage in some digital communication from home. His family members will be his caretakers as he recovers. Please keep him in prayer for healing and wholeness.



Pastor Sarah's Message

Dear friends in Christ,

I wanted to share with you a few reflections from these past few weeks—and how exciting they are as we are entering into a new chapter of our life together building a community of faith by God's grace.

The first reflection is worship, because our lives together are grounded in worship. On June 6th I was able to worship with many of you in the sanctuary. I was delighted to see you in the flesh! During our 8:00 a.m. service, Pastor Craig took the lead in worship, so I could sit in the pews and worship. I knew that I would be affected by seeing so many of you, but I hadn't anticipated the impact of hearing you, when we as a congregation began the words of the Apostles' Creed.

For so many months, Pastor Craig, Sister Dottie and I have been leading the creed in a solitary fashion. Those first words, "I believe in God..." when spoken by just one person does lift up one's own individual experience of faith. And yet on the 6th, to hear you join me in speaking those words, "I believe in God..." it is hard for me to even put words to paper as to how impactful that experience was for me. To know that we are truly church together, to hear siblings in Christ gathered for the same faith, the same mission of Jesus Christ. What a beautiful thing! I invite you, the next time I get to see you at worship in the sanctuary, to just take a moment and hear your brothers and sisters in Christ share this faith alongside you.

The second reflection is also worship, and that happened a little later in the morning, on June 6th when I was able to lead the outdoor worship service with the New Day band. I hadn't heard the band play together since March 2020, and you wouldn't have known that they had been on such a long hiatus given the way they faithfully and beautifully played as they gave glory to God through their music. And it was so good to see so many of your faces, and to hear you sing, and be able to enjoy each other. What a beautiful thing to do. Even if that day it was 95 degrees!

My third reflection is on the activities that we get to reinstate in our lives. We got to have family visit (from several states away!). My daughter was able to go to summer day camp at Camp Kirchenwald. Erik and I were able to have a date night, and eat dinner, in a restaurant! Last year none of these things could have happened. Like many of us, there are a lot more things that we get to do now that were just not an option for us then.

I hope that this summer you are able to reinstate beloved traditions, visit beloved people, and join me in turning the page of our story as we enter into a new chapter of life together.

If someone has yet to invite you to church, please consider this invitation! I would love to worship with you, to pray with you, and to hear what new chapters you are beginning.

May God bless you as you renew and try new experiences in the days ahead.

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

Health and Well-being

We're a month into our worship plans for the summer. I have so very much enjoyed getting to see everyone, to worship together, and to finally hear your voices raised in song together. The emotions run deep as we gather and I'm so grateful for the chances we are getting to praise God and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Of course, we're not done yet. There are more steps to take until we get back to our typical, pre-pandemic worship services. The worship staff have been talking about the logic behind stepping back into worship together and I thought I'd share them here.

First, the pandemic made a lot of us reexamine our commitments. Personally speaking, last year I suddenly had more time on my hands and I found that it wasn't always a bad thing. I was able to engage with my family more, to engage with my own personal hobbies, and to really think about what activities sparked joy. As we gather back together, we have heard from some who are excited to get back to serving in church because it brings you joy. We've also heard from some who realized they were overtaxed and that stepping away from some aspects of service was a hidden blessing. Both of these responses are valid and good to hear! Serving is meant to be an act based in joy and as a response to the saving message of Jesus' death and resurrection. Stepping our worship practices in gradually has allowed our various groups associated with worship to get their bearings, evaluate, and move forward from a place of physical, mental, and emotional health.

By stepping in some of our actual worship practices we also have a chance to observe how our actions may be affecting the health of our community. We began by gathering together indoors and saw this was safe. We added singing one song together and we continue to see that this is safe. We'll add more indoor gatherings and more songs with the expectation that our community will remain safe. In this same way we will continue to step in practices such as communion distribution, passing offering plates, and so on. This journey allows us to evaluate, work together with the lay worship leadership, and make decisions that progress toward our goal of gathering fully.

Our goal throughout this pandemic has been to keep the health and well-being of our community at the forefront of all decisions regarding worship. I count the lack of an outbreak associated with St. Peter's a huge success for our community and we have all of you to thank for that. It hasn't been easy, and we haven't always agreed about methods, but your commitment, patience, and love for one another saved lives. And for that, I say, "Thanks be to God!"

Adam Lefever Hughes

St. Peter's Preschool

preschool registration



The Preschool halls are bustling with teachers setting up classes and parents bringing their children in for tours. We are all so excited for this upcoming school year! Our classes are almost full, if you would like to register your child for preschool please go to this link <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/preschool/> for our application or contact me in the office 717-569-9211. We have a lot of great things planned for this upcoming school year.

In June, as part of our set up process, we realized we had an over abundance of gently used toys; everything from games, puzzles and books to cars and doll houses. We contacted a few organizations in the Lancaster area that might benefit from some of these educational and fun resources. We were thrilled to see the excitement as representatives from Milagro House, Vantage House and Miracle Center Fellowship saw all the treasures we had to share. MC Fellowship, located in Mount Joy, will be able to use a lot of these items to help them set up their Sunday School Program and Vacation Bible Camp. Milagro House and Vantage House will have some great new things for the children who visit with them and can utilize during their stay. What a great feeling to be able to share with our community and know that we will have our program up and running again this fall!



For more information, please contact Heather Cramer at heather.cramer@stpeterslutheran.org.

Youth & Family Ministry News...

Youth Vacation Bible School helpers needed

Youth who will be entering grade 6 and above can help with VBS which will take place July 18th through July 22nd. We will be meeting outdoors (weather permitting) and focusing on the life and times of Jesus. VBS runs from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Contact Sister Dottie if you can help at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org.



Fall 9th Grade Confirmation

Starting this coming September, the final year of Confirmation Classes will begin for 9th graders, in preparation for their Rite of Confirmation on May 15, 2022. Letters will go out to families in mid-July with information on the class. If you have a 9th grader and you do not get a letter, please contact Pastor Craig, so that we can make sure your son or daughter is in the communication loop.

ST. PETER'S KIDS

Dear Families,



This is our BIG month! Vacation Bible School this summer – outdoors! It will be from July 18th to July 22nd, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please go to our website at stpeterslutheran.org/vbs to register! The deadline to register is July 11th. Our curriculum will focus on “The World Jesus Knew” written by Sister Dottie! We will study the families of Peter, David, Joseph, Amos, Levi, and Abraham. Children will circulate stations participating in music, cooking, carpentry and weaving to name a few. It promises to be a fun, learning experience! We will need many volunteers to help coordinate the activities. Please contact me to volunteer.

A huge thank you to all volunteers who assisted with children’s sermons and Sunday School lessons presented this past year on our YouTube channel. These provided an excellent way to keeping our kids connected during the pandemic.



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. We will soon begin preparation for our fall Sunday School. Thank you, in advance, for considering! I look forward to an amazing year ahead!

Stay healthy and safe!

Blessings,

Cindy Geesey

cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org.



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.

Volunteer Steward Message

It feels good to be back in church. It seems like a VERY long time since we have been together. We are all happy to be part of a living, breathing community again.

With that, comes the task of continuing our service to St. Peter's where we left off 15 months ago. Many of our committees and groups have continued to meet virtually or by practicing social distancing but now we are looking to ramp up many of the activities/committees that have been dormant for the past year.

So, where do you fit in? the answer is easy-ANYWHERE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE!

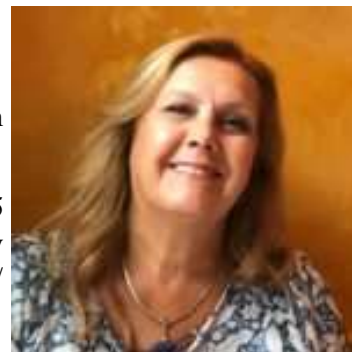
We are seeking volunteers for many, many areas as well as re-starting many of our social opportunities.

Check out the rest of Herald to see all the opportunities you have to serve St. Peter's to get back to the thriving church we are.

I am always available to help you discern where your talents/gifts would be best used. Please contact me to chat on how you can best fulfill your ministry within your church!

To continue the legacy that is St. Peter's, your leadership definitely needs you. It cannot be done by them alone. Please help!

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



Worship Assistant Schedule for July

	A/V	LECTORS	GREETERS	USHERS	WELCOME CENTER
July 4 8:00 a.m.	Jordan Lambert	Donald Deibler	Betsy Kemper	Mark Beauregard, Dave Wolf	John & Kathy Burke
9:45 a.m.	Bill Schlener	Nancy Beauregard	Alan & Beverly Swanson	TBA	Rich & Ann Larrick
July 11 8:00 a.m.	Angela Moshos	Steph Sherk	Jan & Mark Gilliford	Bob & Phyllis Hollinger	Bob & Edee Bedford
9:45 a.m.	Dave Tilley	Craig Boyhont	Darla & Mark Cardin	TBA	Ron & Treva Shaffer
July 18 8:00 a.m.	Bill Schlener	Jennifer Schlener	Tom & Pat Badorf	Liz O'Brien, Dave Tilley	Ron & Joan Beck
9:45 a.m.	Randy Ketchum	Geoffrey Groff	Richard & Ann Wolf	TBA	TBA
July 25 8:00 a.m.	Tom Badorf	Karen Feldt	Mark Burkholder	Cindy Miley, Dave Wolf	Christine Ponti Susie Roderick
9:45 a.m.	Bob Preston	Greg Hand	TBA	TBA	Sandi Hirko Sherry Weller



LOOKING AHEAD

JULY CALENDAR

Thursday, July 1

7:00 p.m. - Outdoor Singing (Portico)

Friday, July 2

12:00 p.m. - Visitation, Pr. Richard Geib (FLC)

1:00 p.m. - Memorial Service, Pr. Richard Geib (Sanctuary)

Saturday, July 3

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

Sunday, July 4

8:00 a.m. - In Person Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. - In Person Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. - Online Worship (St Peter's website/YouTube)

11:00 a.m. - Outdoor Worship (Church green space)

Monday, July 5

Church Office Closed

6:00 p.m. - Garden Tour

8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100), Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, July 6

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

10:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Conference Room)

6:30 p.m. - Mutual Ministry (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 7

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. - Worship Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, July 8

7:00 p.m. - Outdoor Singing (Church Portico)

Friday, July 9

1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Cry Room)

Saturday, July 10

Herald Deadline

Sunday, July 11

8:00 a.m. - In Person Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. - In Person Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. - Online Worship (St Peter's website/YouTube)

11:00 a.m. - Outdoor Worship (Church green space)

Monday, July 12

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)

6:00 p.m. - Garden Tour (Home of Tim & Sharon Fickes, 2353 Raleigh Dr., Lancaster)

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

8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, July 13

3:30 p.m. - Cemetery Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 14

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

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

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

Friday, July 16

1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Cry Room)

Sunday, July 18

8:00 a.m. - In Person Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. - In Person Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. - Online Worship at (St. Peter's website/YouTube)

11:00 a.m. - Outdoor Worship (Church green space)

6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 19

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)

6:00 p.m. - Garden Tour

6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School

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

Tuesday, July 20

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

1:30 p.m. - Book Club (Zoom)

6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School

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

Wednesday, July 21

6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School

Thursday, July 22

6:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School

Friday, July 23

1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Cry Room)

Sunday, July 25

8:00 a.m. - In Person Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. - In Person Worship (Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. - Online Worship (St. Peter's website/YouTube)

11:00 a.m. - Outdoor Worship (Church green space)

Monday, July 26

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)

6:00 p.m. - Garden Tour

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

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

8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, July 27

11:00 a.m. - Widows Group (Café)

Friday, July 30

1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Cry Room)

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.

NewsLetter DEADLine

AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE JULY 10TH

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



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



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

Sandy Shattuck
Editor & Parish Secretary

