



“The Herald” Newsletter

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

February 2022



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

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34

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Shrove Tuesday Palm Burning



We will gather safely (social distancing) on Shrove Tuesday for our brief Palm Burning liturgy on March 1st at 6:30 p.m. under and around the portico at the entrance to the church building. If you have palms in your house from previous years, bring them along. If not, we will have pre-filled bags of palms you can pick up for your family to toss into the Shrove Tuesday fire. The palms that are burned will be used in our two Ash Wednesday services on March 2nd.

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022



St. Peter’s will offer two worship opportunities to mark Ash Wednesday this year. We will have an outdoor worship service at 8:00 a.m. at St. Peter’s Cemetery at 62 Valley Road. We will also have an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We hope that with these two offerings you are able to join your community of faith, as we begin our Lenten journey.

February is Souper Bowl Month



We will be collecting cans of soup for the food bank. You can drop off your donation in the Narthex during regular office hours or on Sunday mornings during worship hours. Your donations are greatly needed at this time!

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February Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 6: The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 AM – Service of Communion in the Sanctuary, Pastor Craig preaches
- 8:30 AM – Outdoor Carport Communion Service, Sister Dottie preaches
- 10:45 AM – Service of the Word in the Sanctuary, Pastor Craig preaches
- 10:45 AM – New Day Service of Communion in the FLC, Sister Dottie preaches

Sunday, February 13: The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 AM – Service of the Word in the Sanctuary, Sister Dottie preaches
- 8:30 AM – Outdoor Carport Communion Service, Pastor Craig preaches
- 10:45 AM – Service of Communion in the Sanctuary, Sister Dottie preaches
- 10:45 AM – New Day Service of the Word in the FLC, Pastor Craig preaches

Sunday, February 20: The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 AM – Service of Communion in the Sanctuary, Pastor Craig preaches
- 8:30 AM – Outdoor Carport Communion Service, Sister Dottie preaches
- 10:45 AM – Service of the Word in the Sanctuary, Pastor Craig preaches
- 10:45 AM – New Day Service of Communion in the FLC, Sister Dottie preaches

Sunday, February 27: Transfiguration Sunday

- 8:00 AM – Service of Communion in the Sanctuary, Sister Dottie preaches
- 8:30 AM – Outdoor Carport Communion Service, Pastor Craig preaches
- 10:45 AM – Service of Communion in the Sanctuary, Sister Dottie preaches
- 10:45 AM – New Day Service of Communion in the FLC, Pastor Craig preaches

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/stpeterslutheranlancaster>

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

Updates to the Church Directory



A new directory will be released soon. Please call or email the office with your correct address, phone numbers, and email addresses. Much of our data is outdated. We are also trying to categorize our adult children as to whether they are attending or have moved on to another worship experience. Any info would be appreciated.

Also, if you would like to update your photo, PLEASE forward your new photo to: directory@stpeterslutheran.org

The goal is to establish accurate membership. It is an important part of the strategic plan that is being developed. Please respond, it is significant to our future!

Feel free to contact me with any questions. Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org



Mission Campaign

St. Peter's Family,

Happy New Year! As of January 3, 105 households have supported the *Faith in Our Future* campaign, pledging treasures totaling \$940,080! These treasures include \$413,383 in pledge payments and outright gifts. To date, Congregation Council has received access to \$380,000 in contributed funds that are already being put to good use.

Last month, we provided you with a progress report on the projects included in the mission campaign. Committed to ensuring continued transparency throughout the campaign, we have added that detail to our campaign website at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/mission-campaign/>. As a reminder, you also can print a campaign pledge/gift form from the website.

Although we are not yet a full year into our campaign effort, we plan to reach out to some of you over the coming weeks, seeking to understand how you're prayerfully approaching your own engagement with the campaign. We are committed to continuing the momentum around the campaign, as our church rostered and lay leaders lead us through times of change, including a pastoral call, congregants worshipping in different ways, and continued execution of our strategic plan.

Again, we thank you for your commitment to the success of *Faith in Our Future*. We look forward to our continued work together in this new year!

With Faith in Our Future,

Jen and Adrian

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 January council meeting, the December 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/congregational-documents/>. 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.

Livestreaming Options

Livestreaming options will be available for the 8:00 a.m. Traditional and 10:45a.m. New Day Praise services. If you can't join us in person, join us online! <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>. Traditional service bulletins can be accessed at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/bulletins>.

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, proceed to the window of the office and someone will be able to help you from the window.

Adult Christian Education

Weekdays

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

In February we will continue our study of “Women in the Bible.” We have already visited the lives of Eve and Sarah, Ruth and Esther, Mary Magdalene and Mary Mother of our Lord. We will continue this month with other women of the Old and New Testaments. Please consider joining us on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. We meet in hybrid form at the moment, with people gathering in person and an equal amount joining us via Zoom. The class is held in the Café



February Pub Theology – Wednesday, February 16th – 6:30 p.m. Place to be determined. Keep an eye out for more information on the topic and if we need to cancel one more month due to COVID numbers. Reach out to Sister Dottie for more information. (dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org)

History of St. Peter’s Narthex Furniture

1987 to present day

Did you know that our narthex furniture was **34 years old**? It has served us well! We had a major expansion program when Pastor Geib was our Senior Pastor. The furniture was *first* purchased in **May 1987** for our **new CHAPEL-PARLOR**. Our building contractor suggested we work with his Interior Decorator who helped us choose furniture and fabrics. In **May of 2006** we had *another* major expansion, and the *former* chapel furniture was moved to our **NEW** narthex area. And this is where the furniture has been for the **past 16 years!!** The former Chapel then became our church Library! The narthex furniture was in very poor condition. Paul, our Church Administrator, recently disposed of most of this furniture prior to a large meeting of the Lower Susquehanna Synod which was being held at St. Peter’s. At the December Council Meeting the Interior Decorating Committee presented a proposal to purchase new furniture. The proposal was approved using funds from the Mission Campaign, and the furniture has been ordered. Delivery will be sometime this Spring.

Carol Esbenshade, Interior Decorating Committee

From the Archives

Lancaster New Era - February 3, 1934

The Rev. Clay E. Rice, pastor of St. Peter’s Lutheran, Neffsville and Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg, will observe the completion of 15 years in this pastorate. Pastor Rice served only one other church, St. Paul’s, Lionville, Chester County, 1914 to 1919. During his fifteen years: Members received into the church, 445; children baptized, 132; marriages performed, 76; funerals conducted, 190. During this period, the congregations have maintained a splendid record in support of general church benevolence. The Neffsville congregation has met its obligation in full every year, contributing a total of \$11,259. The East Petersburg congregation has contributed a total of \$8,807.

“In Touch” Ministry



The “In Touch” Card Team Ministry is looking for volunteers to join in making and sending cards to Church members. Please contact Movita Groff 717-569-0101 or Ann Larrick 717-569-4448 if you can help in this very important ministry.

Prayer Chain Ministry

The Prayer Chain welcomes Cheryl Oeschger and June Wise! Both ladies began their service with the Prayer Chain in January and we are so very happy to have them join us in this ministry!

If you would like to join us, we would LOVE to have you! As we receive a request you also will receive it (either by email or phone call) and pray for that request for a week. Requests come from Pastor Ross or Sister Dottie, or are phoned into the church office or submitted through the website. This is a committee where you do your 'job' (pray) on your schedule from the comfort of your home or when you are driving or wherever you are! Please contact Angela Moshos (717) 392-6201 or Ginny Gerhart (717) 626-7406 (co-chairs) for additional information or to sign up!



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

Health & Wellness

February: National Heart Month - - Go Red Day Friday 2/4/2022



Each February, we celebrate National Heart Month by motivating Americans to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent heart disease and stroke.

By now, you may have made a new year's resolution to get healthy, start exercising, or lose weight. All of these are great steps toward preventing heart disease and stroke! Great job! However, many have said that it's a bit easier to reach those goals by breaking them into smaller ones. For example: I'm going to swap out a sugary snack for some fruit –or- I'm going to walk for 10 minutes today, (even if it's inside the house) –or- I'm going to monitor my calories closely this week. (You may surprise yourself and lose a bit of weight).

Research shows that we're far more successful at meeting personal health goals when we join forces with others. So during National Heart Month, (and beyond), let's inspire and motivate each other to **make heart healthy decisions**. Together we can reach our goals for better health.

Remember: Wear red to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and help save lives.

Social Ministry

Community Meal Day

Community meals are continuing twice a month and are serving 65 meals each time. February Community Meals will be Wednesdays, February 2nd and 9th at Grace Lutheran – Church. For more information about volunteering, please contact Kathy Berkebile at kberkebile@comcast.net.



Community Meal



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

Lydia's Closet Clothing Bank will be open on Saturday, February 5th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. To volunteer, please contact Molly Olmsted at astaloo@me.com. The clothing bank is always in need of new underwear, especially for older teens (adult sizes).

The Recovery Ministry

The Recovery Ministry would like to thank everyone who generously donated to Vantage House over Christmas. The monetary donations, clothing and personal care items were put to good use. We received a thank you letter from them with their heartfelt gratitude for the support they receive from St Peters.

Administratively Speaking ...

Well we are in a new year – 2022. Sadly, COVID still reigns and is preventing the church from fully opening back up and packing the pews again. Thankfully, there are livestream options for both the traditional and contemporary New Day worship services. And...if you miss the service when it is streaming live, you can watch it whenever you want on the church's YouTube channel. At my church, I can even Zoom my Sunday school class if I cannot attend. Thank the Lord for these advances in technology.

I had an exciting holiday this year...nearly had a house fire. One evening while sitting in the living room I sensed the dishwasher was make a strange unearthly sound. My wife and I rushed out to see black smoke pouring out of the front. I sent her to basement to shutoff the circuit breaker while I opened the dishwasher to stop its operation. Sure enough, the electronic control board burned to a crisp...and it did not trip the circuit breaker. Thankfully we were home.



Sadly, this was not our first appliance fire. We have had three dishwasher fires, an electric dryer fire, and a washing machine water hose burst. So, why am I reporting on this? This is a safety notice to not take any of your appliances for granted. We never leave home with any appliance running. Appliance fires and hose breaks can happen at any time. We even shut off our water and turn off the water heater when we go on vacation. Friends of ours went on vacation once and came back to a flood in their house. One of their young children left the water running in the upstairs bathroom with a washcloth over the drain. Imagine the amount of water during a two-week vacation. As the old saying goes, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” and a tremendous upheaval and expense in your life if the worst happens.

Epiphany Star was hung in early January.

Those who are coming to the in-person worship have seen the Epiphany Star hanging in the back of the sanctuary. As soon as the church opened after the new year began, Rich Larrick came in (as he has been doing for over 20 years) to hang and light the Epiphany Star. As a Baptist, this tradition is new to me, so I Googled it.

“Epiphany means ‘appearance or manifestation.’ Throughout the world, Christians celebrate it on January 6 - 12 days after Christmas Day. Many countries refer to it as ‘Three Kings Day’. On this day, Western Christianity recognizes Christ’s manifestation to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, represented when The Magi visited the child Jesus and showed how God’s gift of the Good News is for all people. Eastern Christianity observes Jesus’ baptism on this day. His baptism revealed his identity to mankind. In the East or the West, Epiphany celebrates God revealing himself to the world.” Source: Christianity.com



It is yet another reminder that God lowered himself in the form of a human called Jesus - meaning, God with us – because God loves us and wants us to with Him. What a great tradition.

Have a blessed new year!

Paul Schultz, your parish administrator



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



MUSIC News



Worship Leadership Schedule

Sunday	8:00	10:45
February 6	No Choirs	St. Peter's Ringers, Herald Choir
February 13	No Choirs	No Choirs
February 20	No Choirs	Herald Choir
February 27	St. Peter's Ringers	Exsultate Ringers, Herald Choir

Children's and Youth Choirs POSTPONE!

Here we are again! In an attempt to be careful and respond to the ongoing situation with regard to community spread of COVID, the Children's and Youth Choirs will wait to hold rehearsals until March. Although, I'm sad to have to make this decision, I feel it is prudent to do what we can, given the current climate of cases. Stay tuned for updates.

Herald Choir Hiatus

Similar to the Children's and Youth Choirs, the Herald Choir will also take a short hiatus while we wait for caseloads to come back down to more appropriate levels for singing in close quarters. Herald Choir will NOT rehearse February 3rd or 10th and will resume rehearsals February 17th.

Come Ring Handbells!

Are you into heavy metal? Do you enjoy doing countless sets of arm exercises to tone your muscles? Make ringing handbells part of your fitness routine this Spring! Joking aside, St. Peter's could use a few more ringers to help flesh out our ensembles. The Exsultate Ringers is for more beginning ringers and meets Mondays from 6:00-6:45 p.m. The St. Peter's Ringers is for slightly more advanced ringers, but all ability levels are welcome. This group meets Mondays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Director of Music, Adam Lefever Hughes at adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org. There is a place for you!

Musical Arts – Saturday, February 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Andrew Armstrong and Caleb Flick, Piano Duo

On Saturday, February 19th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. St. Peter's welcomes Andrew Armstrong and Caleb Flick to our series to present a concert of piano music on St. Peter's recently acquired Steinway Model B grand piano. They will present a varied program of piano duet music as well as some solo pieces. Among other pieces, the evening's program includes some solo Haydn, Ravel, and William Grant Still as well as duet performances of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Schubert's F Minor Fantasy. Free to all; bring a mask.

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.



Pastor's Letter

I write this month with an expression of thanks for the variety of ways that you have adjusted to the unique realities of life at Sr. Peter's at the moment. We are expecting Covid case numbers to start falling again following the spike in cases created in part by Christmas and New Year's festivities, along with the spike in cases created by the omicron variant. Although we are all feeling a little ho-hum about the message, it remains true that vaccine usage, mask wearing in group settings, and careful consideration about the places you go and activities you participate in, remain the best practices for keeping the virus and its variants in check. We will continue to use our Risk Management and Worship teams to recommend decisions about the restrictions we will observe in worship and other gatherings inside of our building.

You should be aware that the Bishop of our Lower Susquehanna Synod, the Rev. James Dunlop, visited with Council at their January meeting, for the purpose of having a conversation around the call process. It was a productive and informative meeting. From this point forward, our Congregation Council will take the lead in forming the Call Committee and assigning responsibility for the creation of our Congregational Profile. The Bishop identified a couple of different options that the call process for a new senior pastor can take, granting us a fair amount of flexibility in how the congregation would prefer the call process to proceed. If you have questions about the call process, please direct them to a Council member. The Council will also be spearheading the Call Committee reports that will show up in the bulletin and Herald. My contribution to the process will be to identify a projected date for my retirement. I will have a conversation with my family, give some thought to it myself, and then inform Council of the date. I am personally grateful for the flexibility Bishop Dunlop is allowing our congregation as we decide what is the best process to follow going forward.

Allow me to take this moment to thank many of you for your sacrificial giving this past year. In spite of our in-person worship numbers being modest, many of you have not only maintained your giving, but have increased it. Many of you have stayed in touch with life at St. Peter's through on-line worship and digital communications. We thank you for that as well. You leaders have been humbled by your faithful and consistent contributions and participation in St. Peter's ministries as are possible, and give thanks to God (and to each of you) for keeping the church and our ministries and mission in your thoughts, prayers, and financial planning.

Looking ahead, we continue to strive to grow our worship attendance in safe and protected ways. Weekly, we assess our variety of in-person gatherings to see which ones can safely continue to meet on campus and which ones may need to briefly pause their activities or move to remote gatherings. We make these choices with an eye to safe practices balanced with the value of being together in-person in safe ways. We ask you for your prayers and for your support, even when choices may not be the choices you would make as an individual or family. We are committed to making decisions that consider all of our members, that land at various places on the spectrum of public gatherings and the use of protective practices like mask wearing and social distancing.

See you in church ... virtually or in-person,

Pastor Ross

TORNADO RELIEF

An outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states on December 10-11. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity. Donations are being collected for Lutheran Disaster Response, which will assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. 100% of your gifts will go to direct support on site. Please consider supporting this effort. Donations can be placed in the brown box in front of the Welcome Center.

From Sister Dottie

Current CDC Guidelines for Covid Exposure/Quarantine - January 14, 2022

In order to prevent confusion as to the best policies surrounding COVID exposure, testing and mask wearing, we will be following the CDC guidelines for our staff, preschool, ministries and worship.

Please stay home if you are not feeling well. Also, we are requiring mask wearing during preschool and Sunday morning ministries. During the omicron spike, we are also requesting that even vaccinated people wear masks in their small group ministries.



If you or your child tests positive for COVID:

Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.

- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 days. If after 5 days, the patient is asymptomatic or has resolving symptoms, their isolation period is over; however, they should still wear a mask around others until day 10.
- Regardless of vaccination status, anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must:
 - Isolate at home for 5 days.
 - As much as possible, stay in a specific room away from other people and pets in the home and wear a mask around other people in the home.

If you or your child is exposed to someone with COVID:

Those with an exposure to COVID-19 and are NOT up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations (unvaccinated) or those without the booster shot:

- Stay home and quarantine for at least 5 full days.
- Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.
- Get tested-Even if you don't develop symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- If you develop symptoms: isolate immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.

If you are fully vaccinated and are exposed to someone with Covid:

- You do not need to stay home unless you develop symptoms.
- Get tested even if you don't develop symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- If you develop symptoms-Isolate immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.

Preschool Parents:

Please let us know if your child tests positive or has been exposed to someone who is positive, especially if they are not vaccinated.

SS/Youth Group Parents:

Please let us know if your child has tested positive after being in Sunday school or youth group so we can let others know.

Adults:

Again, if you were in a small ministry group within 5 days of testing positive, please contact the church – we need to contact trace and make sure those who are unvaccinated are aware of the potential risk.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate this pandemic. Our main goal is the health and safety of all who enter our doors. Rest assured we continue to evaluate protocol on a daily basis.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org or call me at 717-569-9211. Policy updates can be found on our website at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/2022/01/updated-covid-protocol-for-church-and-preschool/>.

Message From Dr. David Emmert

The rostered leaders have asked me to summarize where we are currently with the Omicron variant of COVID and what that should mean to us as members of St. Peter’s and members of our Lancaster County community. I’m a family physician in Millersville, and I’ve been attending St. Peter’s and singing in the choir for twenty years, and I want to keep our community healthy.

We’re seeing a huge number of COVID cases in the county right now, far beyond what we saw last year at this time, the previous peak. This does not include the increasing number of cases that are not officially reported, diagnosed by home tests. We should assume it is everywhere, because it probably is.



Omicron may or may not be “milder”. Initial reports from South Africa suggested it didn’t often affect the lungs, but that was a much different population of patients. My colleagues and I are not seeing a milder illness. Hospitals are close to being overwhelmed. This variant has exploded, and we are clinging to the hope that it will pass relatively quickly as well, peaking within the next few weeks.

We still need to take this seriously. If you have not been vaccinated, please get your first shot. We are lucky to have vaccines that have turned out to be not only incredibly effective, but also safe (clear at this point, after 520 million doses given).

If you are vaccinated, consider getting a booster. This tops off your antibodies, making it less likely to get infected at all with COVID for the next 3-4 months, and gives added protection against Omicron complications. Most boosted patients feel like they have a typical cold when they get infected; by contrast, a 50-yr-old unvaccinated patient of mine just died at home before his wife knew he was having symptoms.

Why Cloth Masks Might Not Be Enough as Omicron Spreads
Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

	PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING			
	Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
Nothing	12 mins	22 mins	30 mins	2.3 hours
Cloth mask	28 mins	27 mins	43 mins	3.1 hours
Surgical mask	38 mins	44 mins	1 hour	4 hours
N95	2.3 hours	3.1 hours	4 hours	25 hours

It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit to a person wearing a surgical mask. If they are wearing a cloth mask, it will take 43 minutes. If they are wearing a surgical mask, it will take 1 hour. If they are wearing a cloth mask, it will take 27 minutes. If they are wearing nothing, it will take 12 minutes. If they are wearing a cloth mask, it will take 28 minutes. If they are wearing a surgical mask, it will take 38 minutes. If they are wearing an N95, it will take 2.3 hours.

What else can we do? For a while, we need to go back to masking every time we’re around others. We need to assume others are infected, because they probably are. This includes even small groups, at least for the next month or two. St. Peter’s just updated their masking and quarantine policy (<https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/safety-protocol-while-in-the-church-building/>), which is great!

Let’s up our mask game. Give up the cloth masks—surgical and N95 masks are easily available now, and much better at protecting you. (A word, though: none of them work if they aren’t fitted well. They should be tight but comfortable.)

Get home antigen tests, and if you have any question about whether you are contagious, use one before coming to church. These tests have a reputation for not being accurate, but they are misunderstood. They are excellent at doing one thing, and they do it better than PCR tests: they tell you if you are contagious at that moment. So if you wake up with sinus symptoms, test yourself before you take the chance of infecting others.

I truly believe that, unless there is a new and different variant around the corner (“pi”, I guess?), 2022 will be a transitional year for us with this pandemic. We’re so tired of this, but I can see major progress coming. Game-changing pills called Paxlovid work like Tamiflu if you catch COVID early, and should be available towards summer. Vaccines will be offered to younger children by summer. Once these things happen, COVID won’t be anything we need to fear. I can see St. Peter’s getting back to the kinds of fellowship we have missed so much over the last 2 years, and it really won’t be too long now, though, we’re still in the thick of it. Please get your vaccines, mask up, avoid high-risk groups, and test before coming to church if needed. We’ve come so far from the days of wiping down our groceries. Omicron is a bump in the road, but it’s one that we need to take seriously to protect our families and our community.



Volunteer Steward Message

This is the month we hear about Punxsutawney Phil. We'll soon know if there will be six more weeks of winter. For me, I'm ready for the cold to be over.

Once again, we are back to where we were a year ago. Cases are increasing and we are all being more cautious. How long is it going to last this time? There really isn't an answer. But that doesn't mean we can't move forward in other ways. It's important for us to keep supporting St. Peter's with our time, talent and treasure, as many of us continue to do. For those of you just trying to survive through each day, I get it. But, when you attend church, what about spending 15 minutes after the service to help clean up after communion. Or how about ushering, you're here anyway, and your kids are welcome to serve with you. You've seen it done many times, no learning curve!

I feel like a broken record, but the needs are real. I would love to speak with you to see where your time and talents can be best utilized. Stay healthy, and I look forward to seeing you in church.

Betsy Linn
Volunteer Steward
Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Volunteers Are Needed

Here is a list of volunteer opportunities, with a brief description. Please contact Betsy Linn with questions.

Communications committee – meets monthly through Zoom. Determines what information to share with the congregation and which platforms to use. The committee proofreads the Bulletin and the Herald.

Property—meets monthly or as needed to discuss issues on our property. The committee is seeking younger members to help with maintenance items around the building.

Prayer Chain-- Emails are sent throughout the week with current concerns and/or updates. Access to email isn't necessary - we make phone calls as well to prayer chain members with the same news as our emails! Everything is done from your home.

Tanzania Mission committee-- meets once a month. It supports our companion congregation, Busoka Lutheran Church, in Tanzania Africa. Funds raised support the orphans, the church and the Busoka Community. Various projects such as the cookie walk at Christmas time are organized by the group.

In addition, there is a great need of Sunday morning volunteers at both 8 and 10:45:

Altar Guild- Coordinators	Two months a year - Coordinate setting the altar with communion
Ushers	Once every 2 months-- Direct people to seats and communion
Communion Assistants	Once every 2 months- Help Pastor distribute wine to parishioners
Greeters	Once every 2 months- Stand at door to welcome people to church
Welcome Center	Once every 2 months- Look for visitors, provide info on St. Peter's, gather info
Lectors (also New Day)	Once every 2 months- Receive lesson the week before, read the lesson
Acolytes	Once every 2 months- Light and extinguish candles

The more volunteers, the fewer times per year. There are many other volunteer opportunities to explore. Please contact Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward, for more information. Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward

ST. PETER'S KIDS

Dear Families,



It was a difficult decision to postpone the return to Sunday School to February 6th, but, as always, our first and foremost concern is the health and safety of our children and volunteers. Our Sunday School schedule has returned to the pre-pandemic time schedule. It begins at 9:15 and ends at 10:15 am. PreK/K will continue to meet in the Frog Room with Julia Kroesen as our lead teacher and Jill Pretz conducting the opening songs. Many thanks to those two ladies as well as all the other volunteers, substitutes, parents and youth who continue to assist each week! Our grades 1 to 4 will continue to meet in the café with Megan Thompson as our lead teacher and Brett Miller (and daughter!) leading our games! And again, we have other volunteers and youth who assist at various times. Thank you!! All children, youth and adults are required to wear masks and stay socially distanced. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and understanding of our need to keep everyone healthy and safe!

As we continue with our lectionary-based curriculum, we are exploring other possibilities to enhance our program. Spark House has additional programs and guides as well sermons4kids. We will keep you updated as we explore additional opportunities for learning.

We will offer **first communion instruction** to children and their parents on Sunday, April 3rd, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. I will meet with the children while their parents meet with Pastor Ross. A light lunch will be served. Children will then receive their first communion on Easter Sunday, April 17th, at their service of choice. All children from kindergarten age and older are invited to attend this important milestone in their faith journey.



Registration for Sunday School continues to be open. You can register by visiting <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/learn/>

We welcome additional volunteers to help with Sunday School. The curriculum is scripted and all materials and resources are provided. Please respond to Cindy Geesey, Director of Children's Ministries at cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org with any amount of available Sunday **9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.** time that you may have. Thank you, in advance, for considering serving our youngest children.



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



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.

Youth & Family Ministry News...

No winter Retreats due to the uptick in COVID cases.

Youth Group – (Grades 5-12)

Sunday, February 6th – 5:00 -7:00 p.m. (tentatively depending on our COVID numbers)

Game night with a baked potato bar for dinner.

Sign up for food donations - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4aaea723a4f94-january>



Lancaster Confirmation Camp – June 19-25th Camp Kirchenwald – All youth (attending grades 6 and beyond in the fall) interested in attending camp this year, please contact Sister Dottie. We join other area Lutheran churches from Lancaster County for a week of instruction and camp fun!

If you have any questions, please contact Sister Dottie Almone at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org



St. Peter's Preschool

Brrrrr..... Our preschoolers have been busy the last 2 weeks with everything COLD! They have been learning about polar animals, painting with ice cubes, and playing with snow. There have been some fun STEM activities going on and my personal favorite “Celebrating Kindness week”!

In Playground our students have been talking about Jesus and the story of Epiphany. We are excited to announce that Playground has become very popular with our students, so next year we will be offering this ministry 5 days a week!

We will be postponing our Play for the Kids event scheduled for March 26th, until next school year, due to Covid restrictions. We are also going to reschedule our Scholastic Book fair for next year as well.

Our registration material for the 2022-23 school year went out to all of our current families last week and will be available to the public on February 1st. If you have any questions or would like to set up a tour, please contact our director, Heather Cramer. heather.cramer@stpeterslutheran.org



Heather Cramer
St. Peter's Preschool Director



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.

Groups and Events

50+ GROUP — 50+ will meet in the Chapel on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Frick has been giving us an interesting view of recent presidents. This month's topic will be presidents Clinton and Bush, plus a comparison of the presidents' strengths and weaknesses. In the fall he will return and review the first ladies. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, contact Debbie Shue at 717-318-8848 or djshue52@comcast.net.

WELCA — We will meet on Thursday, February 10th at 9:00 a.m. in Augsburg Alley. After a light breakfast, Sister Dottie will lead us in a program on spiritual journaling. Each of us will be given a journal and she will provide instruction on different ways to use our spiritual journal. Also, bring any items you have purchased for the Personal Care Kits or the Local Kits. All women are welcome. If you have any questions contact Sally Rager (717-569-6119) or Kathy Caldwell (717-371-7296).

Widows Group — Our meetings are continuing at St. Peter's. Our next meeting will be on February 22nd at 10:30 a.m. It will be held in the Café. Meetings last about one hour. We discuss what is going on in our lives and some fun things as well. I look forward to hearing from you! Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Camp Corner — It's not too soon to start thinking about summer camp! Camp brochures are available online. A variety of week-long and day camp options are available at Nawakwa (Biglerville, PA) and Kirchenwald (Colebrook, PA). Kids who have finished grades kindergarten-11th grade have a lot of options. From kayak camp to ultimate sports camp to musical theater camp—check out all the fun that the Lutheran Camping Corporation has to offer! There are also camp options for families and seniors. Early bird discounts apply. See Joy Hosler, St. Peter's Camp Person, with any and all questions about camp! joy@hoslerfamily.net; 717-371-7583 <https://www.lutherancamping.org/>

Upcoming Events:

February 20: Winter Fun Day (Kirchenwald)—a day to play, sled, and ice skate in the snow at camp

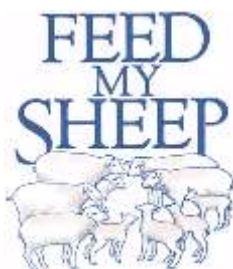
March 12: Lenten Day Apart (Wittel Farm)—a day of Bible study and personal retreat



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE FEBRUARY 10TH

Articles for the March 2022 "Herald" are due in the church office no later than **February 10th**. Please submit articles to Sandy Shattuck in the church office or email sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org. Thank you for your cooperation.



The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

Needed in February: *Peanut butter; jellies and jams; canned fruits; canned pasta; canned tomato products; spaghetti sauce; boxed macaroni and cheese; instant stuffing & potatoes; canned yams; complete pancake mix & syrup; canned tuna and chicken; tuna, beef & chicken helper; cereal; instant oatmeal.* Non-perishable food may be dropped off in the carts in the Narthex and at New Day. Items go to the Lancaster County Food Hub. ***Thanks for your donations!***

Worship Assistant Schedule for February

	LECTORS	GREETERS	USHERS	WELCOME CENTER
February 6 8:00 a.m.	Eric May	Bob & Phyllis Hollinger	Steve & Diane Gegg	Ron & Joan Beck
10:45 a.m.	Nancy Beauregard	Russ & Lois Vollmer	Rich & Ann Larrick	Dan & Karen Beck
February 13 8:00 a.m.	Iain O'Brien	Betsy Kemper	Liz O'Brien	Mary Ann Oberholtzer
10:45 a.m.	Karen Feldt	Mark & Darla Cardin	Nancy & Sam Beauregard	Dave & Lis Wolf
February 20 8:00 a.m.	Diane Gegg	Mark Burkholder	Thompson & Betsy McConnell	Christine Ponti
10:45 a.m.	John Ford	Scott & Sharon Breeden	Jeff & Anneliese Owen	Rich & Ann Larrick
February 27 8:00 a.m.	Don Deibler	Lloyd & Marty Bull	Eric May John Kerchner	Shirley Dombach
10:45 a.m.	Beth Glassford	Sara Gable	Dave & Lis Wolf	Mark & Darla Cardin

(continued on next page)



February Flower Delivery Schedule

Date	Deliverer	Recipient
2/06	Cheryl Oeschger	Arlene Dodd
	John & Kathy Burke	Sally Price
2/13	Cathy Graver	Anna Wetzler
	Lauren Bergren	Peggy Popp
2/20	Liz O'Brien	Phyllis Seitz
	JoAnn Boltz	Bertie Miller
2/27	Lois Benton	June Hemsteger
	Nancy Pokopec	Anna Dowie

Worship Assistant Schedule for February (continued)

	A/V	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	ALTAR GUILD COORDINATORS	ALTAR GUILD
February 6 8:00 a.m.	Jordan Lambert	Diane Gegg Nancy Pokopec	Lori Weaver	Shirley Dombach
10:45 a.m.	Dave Tilley	No Communion	No Communion	No Communion
February 13 8:00 a.m.	Angela Moshos	No Communion	No Communion	No Communion
10:45 a.m.	Randy Ketchum	Jeffrey Pretz Margaret Strausser	Lori Weaver	Loretta Chubb Linda Gall
February 20 8:00 a.m.	Tom Badorf	Bret Hoffmaster Susan Ketchum	Lori Weaver	Diane Gegg
10:45 a.m.	Bill Schlener	No Communion	No Communion	No Communion
February 27 8:00 a.m.	Mark Burkholder	Randy & Debbie Shue	Lori Weaver	TBA
10:45 a.m.	Bob Preston	Paul Berkebile Shirley Gorner	Lori Weaver	Cheryl Oeschger



NEW DAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS — FEBRUARY 2022

	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27
Lector	Megan Thompson	Bob Preston	Sophia Romano	Jenny Sassaman
Communion Assistant	Bill Sassaman	No Communion	Jenny Sassaman	Sharon Schaefer
Ushers	Heath & Anna Edelman	Bill Sassaman	John & Jan Hess	Mark & Sharon Schaefer



LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 1

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
6:30 p.m. - Mutual Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, February 2

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Café & Zoom)
1:00 p.m. - Community Meal Preparation (Kitchen)
2:00 p.m. - Evangelism Committee (Conference Room)
4:30 p.m. - Community Meal (Grace Lutheran)
7:00 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)

Thursday, February 3

1:00 p.m. - 50+ Fellowship (Chapel)

Friday, February 4

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

Saturday, February 5

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

Sunday, February 6

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream)
8:30 a.m. - Outdoor Worship (Portico)
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Deaf Church (Chapel)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m. - New Day Worship (Family Life Center & Livestream)
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group (FLC)

Monday, February 7

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)
10:00 a.m. - Quilters (Augsburg Alley)
6:00 p.m. - Exsultate Ringers (Music Room)
7:00 p.m. - St. Peter's Ringers (Music Room)
8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, February 8

1:00 p.m. - Communications Committee (Zoom)
3:30 p.m. - Cemetery Committee (Conference Room)
7:00 p.m. - Property Committee (Conference Room)
7:00 p.m. - Worship Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 9

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Café & Zoom)
1:00 p.m. - Community Meal Preparation (Kitchen)
4:30 p.m. - Community Meal (Grace Lutheran)
7:00 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)

Thursday, February 10

Herald Deadline
9:00 a.m. - WELCA (Augsburg Alley)

Friday, February 11

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

Sunday, February 13

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream)
8:30 a.m. - Outdoor Worship (Portico)
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Deaf Church (Chapel)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m. - New Day Worship (Family Life Center and Livestream)

Monday, February 14

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)
10:00 a.m. - Quilters (Augsburg Alley)
6:00 p.m. - Exsultate Ringers (Music Room)
7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee (Conference Room)
7:00 p.m. - St. Peter's Ringers (Music Room)
8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, February 15

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
7:00 p.m. - Stewardship Committee (Conference Room)

Wednesday, February 16

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Café & Zoom)
6:30 p.m. - Pub Theology (TBA)
7:00 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)

Thursday, February 17

7:00 p.m. - Herald Choir (Music Room)

Friday, February 18

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

Saturday, February 19

7:00 p.m. - Musical Arts Concert (Sanctuary)

(continued on next page)

FEBRUARY

LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 20

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary & Livestream)
8:30 a.m. - Outdoor Worship (Portico)
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Deaf Church (Chapel)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m. - New Day Worship (Family Life Center and Livestream)

Monday, February 21

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)
10:00 a.m. - Quilters (Augsburg Alley)
6:00 p.m. - Exsultate Ringers (Music Room)
6:30 p.m. - Council Meeting (Conference Room)
7:00 p.m. - St. Peter's Ringers (Music Room)
7:00 p.m. - Moral Mondays Book Club (Zoom)
8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, February 22

10:30 a.m. - Widows Group (Café)

Wednesday, February 23

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Café & Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)

Thursday, February 24

7:00 p.m. - Herald Choir (Music Room)

Friday, February 25

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

Sunday, February 27

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream)
8:30 a.m. - Outdoor Worship (Portico)
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Deaf Church (Chapel)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m. - New Day Worship (Family Life Center and Livestream)

Monday, February 28

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)
10:00 a.m. - Quilters (Augsburg Alley)
6:00 p.m. - Exsultate Ringers (Music Room)
6:30 p.m. - Human Resources Committee (Zoom)
6:45 p.m. - Tanzania Missions Committee (Conference Room)
7:00 p.m. - St. Peter's Ringers (Music Room)
8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)



If you have any questions,

please contact me at

sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org

Sandy Shattuck

Editor & Parish Secretary



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.