



Dear Members of St. Peter's:

I am writing with an update from council about the transition our congregation will embark upon this summer after Pastor Ross's retirement on June 30. I will explain where we are in the process and the sequence of steps and events in the process. I recognize that there can be anxiety associated with such transition. This is understandable and normal. I ask for your prayers, willingness to help, and extension of grace to those involved in the process.

The first step involves the placement of an Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP), who assumes that role after the retirement of Pastor Ross.

- In January, I reached out to the Assistant of the Bishop, Rev. Beth Martini, for the Lower Susquehanna Synod (LSS) for guidance and assistance in placing an IIP.
- Rev. Martini promptly responded, acknowledging the unique concerns of St. Peter's. The LSS has recently identified a potential IIP. The IIP is a pastor who has training, gifts and skills in guiding congregations through transitions. The placement of the IIP is subject to approval by council and agreement between the prospective IIP and council. The council will soon meet with the prospective IIP.
- Rev. Martini also provided a two-page questionnaire, which solicits general information about our congregation, governance and administration, and expectations (duties) of the interim Pastor. The answers will help the IIP assess the needs of St. Peter's and serve our needs on a short-term basis as a congregation upon Pastor Ross's retirement. A committee is working on the questionnaire.

A detailed explanation of the call process can be found at the Lower Susquehanna Synod web site: Call Manual for Congregations and Institutions - Lower Susquehanna Synod (lss-elca.org). The web site includes videos (Overview of the Call Process and The Call Process for Call Committees) as well as the Call Manual and Appendices that help guide congregations through the call process.

The second step, the formation of a call committee, may take place only after the departure of the outgoing pastor with an IIP in place. It is important that there is a period of discernment and that the IIP and Congregation Council agree that it is appropriate to form a Call Committee. This period is designed to allow members through prayerful discernment and deep introspection to develop greater awareness of their gifts and needs, as well as that of the congregation. "The time in-between call is a period of significant change." It offers "opportunities for self-reflection, new visioning, and renewal of ministry." This process can require a substantial period of time.

I hope that this adequately addresses the concerns that some have expressed about the process that we will be embarking upon Pastor Ross's retirement. These next few months provide us an opportunity to honor, pay respect and say goodbye to Pastor Ross for his 39 years of faithful service to St. Peter's.

Please pray for wisdom and discernment for members of our committees, church council and Pastor Ross as we all enter a time of transition.

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE: June 30, 2024. This is Pastor Ross's last service as St. Peter's Senior Pastor. We will be taking the opportunity to recognize him for his 39 years of service as Senior Pastor after the 9:30 a.m. service in the Family Life Center. There will be a luncheon and recognition of his selfless service to our congregation. More details will follow in The Herald.

Christ's Peace,

Greg Hand
Council President
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship for April 14

Traditional Worship, Service of the Word & Communion

8:00 a.m.

Pastor Hand preaching
Livestream at stpeterslutheran.org

Traditional Worship, Service of the Word & Communion

10:30 a.m.

Pastor Hand preaching



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

10 Delp Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Worship Assistant Schedule

April 14

8:00 a.m. — **Lector:** Larry Wilcox;
Greeters: Randy & Susan Ketchum;
Ushers: Jo Boltz & Bob Courtois;
Welcome Center: Ron & Joan Beck;
Communion Assistants: Kevin
& Weston Groff; **A/V:** Benjamin
DeLeonardis.

10:30 a.m. — **Lector:** Nancy
Beauregard; **Greeter:** Scott Glassford;
Ushers: Kathleen Bailey & Jane
Musser; **Welcome Center:** Mark
& Darla Cardin; **A/V:** Bob Preston;
Communion Assistants: Paul
Berkebile & Carolyn McNaughton;
Altar Guild Coordinators: Debbie
Shue & Lori Weaver; **Altar Guild:** Barb
Beyer.

Coffee Bar: Bob & Pam Preston;
Flower Delivery: Lois Benton & Jo
Boltz.

April 21

8:00 a.m. — **Lector:** Ena Marie
Banks; **Greeters:** Luther & Catharine
Kimmich; **Ushers:** Liz O'Brien & Gene
Olson; **Welcome Center:** Benjamin
DeLeonardis; **A/V:** Angela Moshos;
Communion Assistants: Nancy
LeFevre & Bill Sassaman.

10:30 a.m. — **Lector:** Paul Berkebile;
Greeters: Joann & Jillian Gorner;
Ushers: Scott & Sharon Breeden;
Welcome Center: Rich & Ann Larrick;
A/V: Bob Preston; **Communion**
Assistants: Dawn & Gary Troxell; **Altar**
Guild Coordinators: Debbie Shue
& Lori Weaver; **Altar Guild:** Jeff &
Anneliese Owen.

Quick Notes

BRAVER ANGELS WORKSHOP "DEPOLARIZING WITHIN"—

Please join us for a workshop facilitated by the leaders of the Lower Susquehanna Alliance of Braver Angels called "Depolarizing Within" on Saturday, April 13 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. This workshop will help us examine our own inner polarization and teach us how to have healthy conversations without condemning or ridiculing others with whom we may disagree. As a community of faith made up of almost 1,000 members of varying ages, viewpoints, and life experiences, we want to make sure we know how to listen to one another and learn from each other so that we can work together through this period of transition in ministry here at St. Peter's. All are welcome to participate, regardless of whether they attended our previous Braver Angels event. Please register here by using QR code below. A continental breakfast will be offered beginning at 8:30 a.m. Questions can be directed to Jean Pretz, jean.pretz@gmail.com or Bob Bowman, bowman.robert@outlook.com. For more information, see BraverAngels.org.



ARE YOU SMARTER THAN THE YOUTH GROUP? —

Join us on Sunday, April 14 for "Are You Smarter Than The Youth Group Trivia Night," from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The youth group will be playing against adults in a fun generational trivia battle. Please sign up using this QR Code, and parents who want to play on the adult team, please sign up too. Dinner will be served.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY —

Pastor Ross' Wednesday Morning Bible Study continues its study of Holy week in Mark's gospel. It's never too late to join our Bible Study and walk with Jesus to the cross of Calvary in worship and in Bible Study. The study meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Café.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERING — On Saturday, April 20, we will begin a new monthly volunteering opportunity in support of the food pantry at St. Paul Penryn's, where the youth group brought donations to in January. There was interest in continuing to support this ministry particularly as they look to expand their "Backyard" vegetable garden. Times and more details will be coming soon.