



# “The Herald” Newsletter

## St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

July 2020



10 Delp Road - Lancaster, PA 17601  
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*“In the face of the darkness light is near.”*  
Job 17:12

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### St. Peter’s Take Out Vacation Bible School

Are you ready for a delicious and fun filled week? We can’t wait! The official start date for Take Out VBS is July 20<sup>th</sup> through July 24<sup>th</sup>. You pick the time of day to engage your child on any day that works for you. Participate from your home while social distancing. Pre-registration is required. See page 13 for more information.

### Building Use Safety Protocol

As our county enters into the "green" phase, we are gradually opening up the church building for church activities. Be informed about what to expect. Check out the [June 24 Weekly Update](#) for safety protocol for being in the church. Additional information can also be found on page 2.

### Live streaming worship



Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:45 for Church @ Home. Worship features our Lutheran liturgy, prayers for the community, a sermon from one of the rostered leaders, music from our staff musicians, Adam Lefever Hughes and Erik Teichmann, as well as special music from members of our congregation.

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

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## JULY 2020 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, July 5: *The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost***

Live Stream Worship online at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ross Preaches

(check e-news or the web site for a link to the live-stream)



### **Sunday, July 12: *The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost***

Live Stream Worship online at 10:45 a.m.

Sister Dottie Preaches

(check e-news or the web site for a link to the live-stream)

### **Sunday, July 19: *The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost***

Live Stream Worship online at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Sarah Preaches

(check e-news or the web site for a link to the live-stream)

### **Sunday, July 26: *The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost***

Live Stream Worship online at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ross Preaches

(check e-news or the web site for a link to the live-stream)

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## Safe Church Protocols

As we move into the Green Phase of openings, protocols have been set up that will be in place when we are able to come back to our building. Green DOES NOT mean that things will be back to normal. We can only have 50 percent occupancy in each room. Your Safe Church committee has come up with the following protocols:

1. Masks are mandatory to wear inside the building. If you forget a mask, we will be able to provide you with a mask.
2. Temperatures will be taken upon entering for worship, meetings, etc. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or over will be asked to return home.
3. Social distancing is expected – 6 feet apart
4. Access to the church office will be only through the front window.
5. One person at a time in the bathroom – unless it is a parent and young children
6. Bathrooms need to be wiped down after use (items will be provided)
7. For worship and meetings, we will be keeping a list of who is in the building (for contact tracing purposes)
8. We are asking those who are feeling ill not to enter the church.
9. If you end up with symptoms of COVID-19 or a diagnosis after you have been at church, please contact the church office.

We know this sounds overwhelming, but our goal as a committee is to keep everyone who enters our door safe. If you have any questions, contact someone on our committee:

- Joe Almone
- Kris Armitage
- Mark Beauregard
- Kathy Berkebile
- Lorraine DiBernardo
- Cindy Geesey
- Geoff Groff
- Cheryl Laub
- Rob Morrison
- Sister Dottie



## **Church @ Home Attendance**

During church leadership meetings and Zoom gatherings, some folks have raised the question about attendance for Church @ Home during this time of Covid-19. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, people joining the live stream at the time of the service was about 452. We calculated that for June 7<sup>th</sup>, people joining the live stream at the time of the service was about 340 viewers. This pattern of attendance follows our usual Spring to Summer attendance patterns when we meet in person.

### ***How did we calculate these numbers?***

Church @ Home is simultaneously live streamed on both Facebook and YouTube on Sundays at 10:45am. Following the worship service, we look at the “peak concurrent viewers.” What that means is that this was the peak number of devices attending the service at the time the stream was “live”—these viewer numbers have been consistent along the length of the service. We also want to take into account views that represent worshippers and not a device simply scrolling by the video. This is akin to when we gather in person our ushers taking attendance of people who have gathered in one space, and not counting people who’ve just driven by the church that morning.

We take the number of peak concurrent views and multiply by two (an average of viewers on each device) to get the attendance. The Lower Susquehanna Synod guidelines have been less stringent, but we thought it helpful to have a more accurate reflection of our worshipping community that gathers digitally on Sundays at 10:45am. Viewing numbers for past worship services are available on these platforms, but unfortunately don’t represent an accurate view of those participating in worship.

### ***Who’s been tuning into our Church @ Home***

We hope you have been joining us for worship each week! And we hope that you have been inviting friends to join us for worship at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/> and share God’s good news. We received some questions from church leaders and small group participants about who has been worshipping. Is our digital community all members? Are there a lot of visitors? Are they local or distant? We’ve looked into the demographic data provided by Facebook and YouTube, but at this time haven’t found these data to be reliable. For example, YouTube thinks that all our viewers (100%) are all over 65 years of age, but we know that this isn’t the case.

We will continue to take attendance (peak concurrent viewers) each week for our church record.

## **Weekly Updates**

Watch the church website <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org> every Wednesday afternoon approximately 4:00 p.m., for a short article updating news around the church for the week. It is our attempt to keep you connected to “all things St. Peter’s” and the continual unfolding of congregational life in a digital world. You’ll find updates on worship life, new Zoom groups that are beginning, news from the broader church and how it affects our life together, and service opportunities that may present themselves within our church and out in our community.

## **Updates to the Church Directory**

Sometime in the next few months, you will be receiving a call from either a staff member or a volunteer asking to update your family’s information. You will be asked to correct your address, phone numbers, and email addresses since 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.

The goal is to establish an accurate membership roll. It is part of the important strategic plan that is being developed. If you receive a message, please respond. It is important to our future!

Please feel free to contact Betsy Linn at [betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org) with any questions.

## **United Lutheran Seminary Names Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin As Next President**

The United Lutheran Seminary Board of Trustees has named the Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, fourth bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as its next president. His appointment is effective August 1, 2020. Bishop Erwin succeeds interim president, the Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann.

*“I am so very grateful that the Holy Spirit has brought us to this moment. With Bishop Erwin’s deep commitment to Luther’s theology of the cross, and his long history of working for justice, I believe he will lead the way in lifting up before our students and our church a greater sense of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ empowers us to be servant leaders in the world. Our society, indeed, our world is facing incredibly challenging issues. I have no doubt that he will inspire and help shape a new generation of seminarians to lead the church in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to bear on those challenges.” - Rev. Dr. Peter Boehringer, chair of the ULS Board of Trustees*

Bishop Erwin is the ELCA’s first gay, partnered bishop and the first openly gay male to serve in that office in the churches of the Lutheran World Federation. As an enrolled member of the Osage Nation, on whose reservation he was born in Oklahoma, he is the first Native bishop in the ELCA. In the ELCA Conference of Bishops, he serves on the Executive Committee and as Region 2 liaison bishop to the ELCA Church Council, and as chair of the bishops’ Theological and Ethical Concerns Committee.

From 2000 until his election as synod bishop in 2013, Bishop Erwin held the Gerhard and Olga J. Belgum Chair in Lutheran Confessional Theology at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. At Cal Lutheran, he taught in the Religion and History departments, served as faculty chair for two years, and directed the university’s Segerhammar Center for Faith and Culture.

*“Though I am sad to leave my work as bishop, which I have dearly loved as a life-long educator I rejoice in the chance to work with ULS’s remarkable faculty in carrying out the seminary’s mission to prepare its students for public ministry and principled engagement in the world. As a historian, I honor what our two predecessor seminaries have meant to the church, and the legacy with which we have been entrusted. At the same time, we stand on the threshold of tremendous changes in theological education, in the life of the church, and in our society, and I embrace the opportunity that this provides for ULS to be a leader in new ways.” - Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin*

During the Reformation anniversary year in 2017, Bishop Erwin was in high demand as a teacher and speaker and gave 30 lectures and presentations in the United States and Germany in addition to his normal duties as bishop. Through the Lutheran World Federation and his work with the Faith & Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, Bishop Erwin maintains an extensive set of international connections, particularly in Germany and the Nordic countries.

Bishop Erwin holds a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and a doctorate from Yale University. He also received a Fulbright grant for two years of study at the University of Tübingen in Germany, and an IREX grant for a year at the University of Leipzig. His doctoral dissertation was on the late medieval roots of Luther’s theology of the cross, and his subsequent scholarly work has focused on the religious culture of Lutheranism, particularly its worship and piety, with a special interest in the visual arts and architecture.

*“Bishop Erwin’s coming to ULS just as we are beginning to wrestle with shaping our life around the seminary’s mission statement, means that the seminary will be blessed by hearing his unique voice as it discerns how to best prepare the people who will lead the church in the future.”  
- Rev. Dr. Peter Boehringer, chair of the ULS Board of Trustees*

In 2000, after teaching church history and historical theology at the Yale Divinity School for six years, Bishop Erwin moved to Southern California with his husband, Robert T. Flynn, a West Virginia native and Yale Divinity School alumnus, who has worked in scholarly publishing at Yale University Press, Columbia University Press and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, as well as serving two terms on the Board of Trustees of 1517 Media, the publishing house of the ELCA. Bishop Erwin and Mr. Flynn have not yet announced where they will live.

“I join with Rev. Dr. Boehringer in warmly welcoming Bishop Erwin to the ULS community, and look forward to serving in ministry together,” said Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann, who has served as interim president of ULS since December 1, 2019 and will return to her position as Vice President of Institutional Advancement. “With Bishop Erwin’s leadership, by the grace of God, United Lutheran Seminary is well-positioned and re-energized for moving forward into a faithful future.”



## Adult Christian Education

### Ways to Connect in Our Community stpeterslutheran.org/live

#### Wednesday Morning Bible Study—Summer Edition

We will continue our Wednesday Morning Bible Study Class summer two mini-series curriculum. The first session has been an examination of the life of Martin Luther. Lutherans in general have a host of details regarding Luther's life. We have been sharing those ideas, and hopefully learning some new ones. If you have never attended this vibrant Bible Study Class, why not try us out for the final session of our first three-week summer session. You can also catch the first session of our second three-week series on the Book of Revelation. See the schedule for July below.



**July 1 – Martin Luther, The Later Years**

**July 29 -- Revelation 1-7, John of Patmos, Churches & Seals**

We gather via Zoom on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Stay as long as you can. Come for one session, or come for them all. You can bring your copy of the Small Catechism for the July 1 session, and your Bible for the July 29 session.

If you are interested in being involved in Wednesday Morning Bible Study Zoom session, please contact Pastor Craig at [craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org)

#### Crosspoints Sunday School Class

Our Crosspoints Sunday School Class will continue to meet via Zoom over the summer months on a roughly every-other-week schedule. We are gathering around the theme, "*Questions You Always Wanted to Ask Your Pastor, but Haven't.*" We meet Sunday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 p.m. via Zoom. Come for one or come for a bunch of them. In June we discussed, "Pastors and Seminaries" and "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Death and New Life." In July, our meeting dates and topics are as follows:

**July 5 – The Four Evangelists**

**July 26 – Our Favorite Saints and Spiritual Authors**



#### Sign up to be part of a Virtual Small Group

St. Peter's staff members are leading Zoom small groups, and would like you to be part of their group. Go to <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/virtual-groups-signup/> to sign up for a group. Are you in desire for a small group you don't see listed? Reach out to one of your church leaders today and brainstorm with them about how we can be church together!



#### St. Peter' YouTube Channel

Are you longing for a music moment with Adam Lefever Hughes? Did you hear about Christine Healy's Yoga videos, but you missed them in May? No worries you can catch these videos and many more on our YouTube Channel! Visit and explore by going to: <https://www.youtube.com/c/stpeterslutheranlancaster>

## Prayer Chain Ministry

PLEASE remember your Prayer Chain is here for your requests!!! We pray for those with illnesses, those who have suffered a loss, those that are having surgery, those who are celebrating a momentous event and any other request that is needed. We treat ALL requests with respect and privacy. Your request is prayed for daily for a week, unless it's for a specific time frame. If you are comfortable having others pray for you, we will be happy to do it! Requests may be submitted to either Pastor or to Angela Moshos or Ginny Gerhart. If you have any interest in being part of this small but amazing group, please contact either Angela (717) 392-6201 or Ginny (717) 626-7406 for more info. We would love to have you!!



“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” Romans 12:12

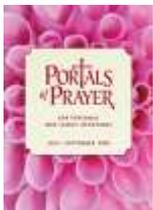
## Social Ministry



### **Our Monthly Community Meal - July 1<sup>st</sup> at Grace Lutheran Church**

#### **Community Meal**

We will continue to hand out boxed meals outside the Grace Lutheran Church. We have served approximately 50 people. All leftover food items get donated to Transitional Living Center.



### Portals of Prayer

The church has received the current “Portals of Prayer” devotional booklets for July - September. If you are interested in receiving one, please contact Sandy Shattuck at [sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org) and she will mail a booklet to you. You may also call the church office and leave a message with your address, as someone is checking phone messages each day.

*Thank  
You*

THANK YOU to my wonderful St Peter’s family for your prayers, cards, emails, texts, visits and meals during my recent pancreatitis attack and gall bladder removal. In this time of covid, every prayer, phone call, etc. meant even more! Special thanks to Pastor Ross for the “phone prayer” before surgery and Pastor Sarah and Sister Dottie for reaching out. I feel VERY THANKFUL & BLESSED to be a part of this community.

*Ginny Gerhart*

**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 Almony or Cindy Geesey if you have any questions.

## **Giving Thanks for The Ways You Give**

Thank you for being faithful stewards of God's good gifts. We give thanks for the many ways that you have enabled the continuation of St. Peter's mission in the midst of very trying times. Thank you for mailing in your contributions and for using Tithe.ly or Simply Giving for your contributions.



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

## **Offering Checks**

Under the current pandemic situation, and with concern about having frequent meetings of the group of money counters, the financial secretaries, Norm Yunginger and Randy Shue are handling the money counting together every other Monday. The mail is checked every day and checks are placed in our drop safe until the financial secretaries are in the office to handle it. That is the reason for the delay.

For the foreseeable future, we are planning on continuing to do money counting this way, realizing it can add a delay to the timing for checks to clear. We hope you understand and can appreciate the need for caution during this time. Our suggestion is to give any check to the church some time (1 to 3 weeks) before it clears before getting too concerned. Please continue to feel free to contact the church with any concerns or questions.

## **Benevolence Payments**

Please be aware that through the month of June, we are fully up to date on all of our benevolent commitments, and have also paid in full the yearly funds to our local benevolent commitments here in Lancaster. With your strong and sacrificial offerings, we have been able to be generous to local charities and missions which are part of our benevolence budget, as they struggle to keep their ministries vibrant and functioning.

## **Communication: The Website Is Your Friend!**

Please go to our website [www.stpeterslutheran.org](http://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.

## **Spiritual Gifts Assessment**



Please consider completing the Spiritual Gifts questionnaire now available on line at the St. Peter's website. It only takes about 15 minutes and will help you determine where your spiritual gifts lie. Follow this link to complete the assessment. A copy of the results will be sent to you and me to be used when help is needed.

Please stay safe and healthy! <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/serve/spiritual-gifts-assessment/>

Please contact Betsy Linn with any questions. [betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org)



## Health and Wellness Committee

### July is National Park and Recreation Month

I'm sure that all of us are anxious to get outside more, and enjoy parks, hiking and the great outdoors. What a better time than July, because it's National Park and Recreation Month.

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. A study conducted for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) found that 3 in 10 U.S. adults do not spend time outdoors on a daily basis. Taking advantage of your local public park is a simple and economical way to improve your physical fitness. Parks offer children and adults an opportunity to engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity during their visit. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, having access to parks and playgrounds can initiate other healthy lifestyle choices.



Every day, in communities across the country, the people of parks and recreation **sites** are providing essential services and making their communities better places to live, work and play. This July, let's celebrate our Parks and Recreation, and their vital part in helping us support a healthy lifestyle. Get outside & enjoy your local park.



### LNP ARCHIVES

#### **NEFFSVILLE CHURCH DEDICATED - 1906** **Appropriate Services by St. Peter's Lutheran Congregation** *(From the Archives of Lancaster Newspapers)*

**The Lancaster Examiner – July 18, 1906** - On Sunday, dedication exercises were held by St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran church, Neffsville, Rev. J. E. Maurer, pastor. The day's services opened at 10 o'clock with an anthem by the choir. The scriptures were read by Rev. J. E. Maurer, and prayer was offered by Rev. J. Peter, the first pastor twenty-five years ago. Rev. L. Kuhlman, D.D., delivered the dedication sermon. The church was consecrated by the former pastors, and Rev. Isaac W. Bobst pronounced the benediction.

The Sunday School held a rally at 2 o'clock, presided over by Dr. E. H. Witmer, superintendent, and at the evening service the sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. C. S. Albert. During the day the services were very largely attended and the contributions liberal, in all \$1,800 given. *(based on current inflation rates, approx. \$50,000 today).*

The new church is of brick, and a handsome structure, located on the main street near the center of the village. The Building Committee was composed of A. B. Haverstick, Isaac G. Weaver, and Jacob G. Herr, the last named being now deceased. The church council is composed of the following: A. B. Haverstick, Jacob M. Amer, Isaac G. Weaver, Daniel Buch. Elders: A. B. Vogel, J. C. Klaus and M. P. Haverstick. Jacob Dornbaugh, trustee.



### Cards and Letters

The children of the church, with their parents' help, have been connecting with some of our older parishioners. Please continue to send cards, letters and pictures when you are able. You can bring such delight to another with this simple task. Thank you!

## Worship and Music at St. Peter's



### Summer Hymn Sing Sundays!

We will continue our tradition of hymn-sing preludes on the first Sundays of the month throughout the summer months. We'll spend the first few minutes of our Church@Home broadcast on singing a verse or two of the songs you submit. To submit your requests, please send an email to [adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org).

### Devotions@Home

Our Devotions@Home weekly resource for personal study and worship continues this month. This resource includes daily lectionary readings as well as some prayers, information about Sunday services, and a song of the week. We hope you will continue to cultivate a practice of daily engagement with scripture.



Would you like to enhance our Church@Home services with some special music? Take a video of yourself making some music and send it to Adam at [adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org). You can do as many takes as you like and send your favorite one to be included during our worship services. We want to see all of you making some beautiful music while at home!



## Groups and Events



### White Fragility Book Study

JOIN OUR  
**STUDY**

Join our group as we read *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. We will also be discussing racism and what we as church can do to be allies in the movement. Contact Sister Dottie if you are interested in being part of this study.

### Widows Group

The St. Peter's widows group will meet on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. at St. Peter's. We will try to meet outside, depending on the weather. Feel free to bring your lunch. I will give you a final location closer to the date.

If you have any feedback from the meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, please feel free to share. I welcome making this YOUR meeting and not my format!

There are a few protocols we will need to follow:

1. I will be taking your temperature
2. I will provide hand sanitizer if needed.
3. Please bring your own chair if you have one. I will have a few extras if needed.
4. Rest Rooms will be available if needed.
5. Please bring a mask to use.
6. You may bring your lunch & a beverage.

Please contact me with any questions. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Betsy Linn [betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org)



## **Pastor's Letter**

Dear Friends:

As you read this, we are about three and a half months into the new world as we know it. Some things remain the same ... some things are different. Church life has settled into being “virtual church” for the most part, while we await the move into the “Green Phase” in Lancaster County. At the time of writing these articles, we are still in the “Yellow Phase.” We have expanded a number of educational offerings through the summer months, since many are not doing the traveling they might have done in more normal times. We continue to strive to stay in touch with each other through phone calls, emails, texts and cards. Live-stream worship from the Teichmann home continues, but we are also working diligently to create the opportunity to live stream worship from our church worship spaces. It is a complicated process involving finding the right equipment, the right team of technicians to help us install it, and a time of training so that we are able to use it effectively. We have slowly started to test-drive on-campus meetings for a few smaller church groups, so that we can assess what works well and what needs to be tweaked in terms of keeping our building spaces clean and safe.

Financially, we are actually doing fairly well. We are a few thousand dollars behind in our offering commitments, but that is not unusual for us when the summer season begins. We are very grateful for those of you who are consistently mailing in your offerings, or sending them to us via Tithely, Simply Giving, or bank checks sent from your bank accounts. We have saved a few dollars in some property areas, since we are not using our utilities as heavily as we would when the building is in full use. But we are also anticipating significantly increased expenses when we need to start regularly sanitizing the building once in-house worship services and group/committee gatherings in the church building crank up. We did qualify for a CARES Act loan, and have that available to us if costs begin to outpace our offerings.

Some community events have been canceled or postponed, like concerts, outside group meetings, and the United Lutheran Seminary Graduation ceremony. A number of church events have been postponed, like the Rite of Confirmation, a number of funeral services, and some baptisms. A few events will be re-fashioned into something new. VBS as we have typically known it will not occur, due to our concern for the health and safety of our children. But we will have a “take-home VBS” in which families can pick up pizza boxes with a host of activities, learning experiences, video puppet shows and music, along with the supplies and lessons to make them happen. Other new events have arisen like the Garden Tours events that are occurring, and some Zoom music events that have been hosted.

Our thanks to all of you as you share this opportunity to be church in a unique landscape. May God walk with us all, and inspire us to engage new ministries, and old ministries in new ways.

... see you in (digital) church,

*Pastor Craig*

[craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org)



## **Phishing Scams**

Your Church Staff will never solicit donations of gift cards or similar items over email. We've heard reports of a scam targeting members from an email claiming to be from a church leader. If you see something that looks suspicious, please let us know!



## Pastor Sarah's Message

Dear friends in Christ,

We are in transitional times, and times of unknown, but also times of hope.

I've mentioned to some of our church leaders and leaders in the community that in some ways the decision to suspend in-person church gatherings was easier than the process of reconvening and regathering. Before we had ever heard the words "Covid-19", we as a church had experienced having to cancel an in-person gathering because we had experienced snow storms, blizzards, and severe weather events. We had that collective memory in our community, and in some ways, we knew the path that we needed to trod.

Regathering—whether in "yellow" or "green" is taking us on paths yet to be discovered. Daily I'm reminded of the words known as the "Prayer of Good Courage."

*O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.*

Indeed, God is calling us forward, to new ways of being the body of Christ.

The staff regularly connects with each other and discusses ways that we can live our mission of "building a community of faith by God's grace." During the "yellow" phase, the staff have brainstormed ways to gather safely in small groups of 25 and less. Some of these groups are taking form through prayer groups and support groups.

The Covid-19 Safe Church task force meets regularly to visit and revisit some of the research regarding ways that we may gather together safely when we are in the "green" phase.

These "paths as yet untrodden" will incorporate new ways we may worship and be community together. During our June 2020 council meeting, the council approved expenditures that will allow us to livestream from our church spaces.

It is our intent to continue to livestream worship <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>, and continue to do so even as many of us may be gathered together in person. We believe that in this post-covid-19 reality, we need to make space for both worshippers on church campus and worshippers in other locations. We hope to have these livestream pieces in place by the latter part of the summer.

One of the many challenges of these "ventures of which we cannot see the ending" is that it seems that news and updates about the virus change from week to week, and how we may live out our mission together may change from week to week, as well. One of the ways we are addressing these changes is by publishing a weekly update found on our website <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/>

God is calling us as servants. As we venture onto paths untrodden, could you continue to communicate with your church staff? Ask questions. Offer suggestions. Could you continue to pray? Pray for your church leaders and fellow members of our family of faith. We're in this together.

Peace,

**Pastor Sarah**

[sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org)



### Pray With Pastor Sarah

Pray with Pastor Sarah on Tuesdays in person at 8:30 a.m. (weather permitting) in the Memorial Garden. Every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. on Facebook Live.

Join her by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterslancaster>



# From the Director of Music



## Church Music for the Immediate Future

As we look forward to gathering together again in person, our thoughts turn toward what life will look like. Having spent so much time apart we are really looking forward to being back together again. The staff and committees of the church have been working hard determining sustainable and safe protocols for our gathering. Music and worship have definitely been a part of that conversation.

As of this writing, the available information points us to this reality: singing together in an enclosed space is not safe at this time. Now, I will be the first, and perhaps the loudest, to express my deep sadness about not making music together as a church. I feel it deep in my bones that when we sing together we become the body of Christ and having that important act torn from our gatherings causes me great grief.

Those who may be more curious about some of the science and conversations behind this reality may care to look at some of these resources:

[Moravian Music Foundation](#)

[ACDA Webinar – A Conversation: What Do Science and Data Say about the Near Term Future of Singing](#)

The worship committee, worship staff, and pastors have had numerous lengthy conversations surrounding worship, how we will gather, and what our gatherings will look like. Know that we are making every effort to retain our sense of community while also protecting and serving the most vulnerable among us.

Also know this: God has always been with God's church and God will continue to guide the church. It is okay to be sad about this current reality. It is okay to express your sadness about this current reality. The St. Peter's community, the Lutheran church, and the Christian church will continue to be led by the Spirit even now. When we look back on this time decades from now, we may even discover that this is the time when the church made tremendous strides forward into a new and greater reality.

It's my hope that we will be able to use this time to grow inwardly and to bring more music into our homes. We may not be able to sing together in body, but we will be able to sing together in spirit by lifting our voices in song to God on a regular basis in our homes. I am working on resources to help foster these possibilities and look forward to your feedback on what they may look like.

While music in the church may look a little different for a while, the God of the covenant, the God of our salvation, remains the same steadfast God who chose us in our baptisms. Peace and blessings to all of you and stay well!

*Adam*



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

# ST. PETER'S KIDS

## St. Peter's Take Out Vacation Bible School



We are very excited to announce our first St. Peter's Take Out Vacation Bible School!! It is a creative way to keep our children involved in Christian education this summer while we are experiencing unprecedented times of a world-wide pandemic. Take Out boxes containing daily menus with links to appetizers (music), salads (puppet shows) as well as other menu items such as soups (crafts/activities), main courses (Bible stories) and desserts (crafts/activities) In addition, there will be daily health related announcements such as handwashing and social distancing protocols. You pick the time of day to engage your children or any day that works for you! The official start date for Take Out VBS is from July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have your takeout boxes ready for pick up outside the main door of church on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and 6:00 to 7:00 pm. and again on Monday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. You must preregister at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/vbs/>

Are you hungry for a delicious and fun filled week? We can't wait!!!

If you have any questions about Children's Ministries, you may email Cindy at [cindy.geeseey@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:cindy.geeseey@stpeterslutheran.org)

Blessings,  
Cindy



## Youth & Family Ministry News...



We will continue to have bi-weekly gatherings through zoom through the month of July. Please contact Sister Dottie if you want to be included. We have two groups: Middle School (grades 5-8) and High School (Grades 9-12).

Contact Sister Dottie at [dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org) for more information about these events!



## St. Peter's Preschool

Hello to our Preschool and Church families and friends. We hope you are staying well and happy during these unprecedented times.

Our preschool, church staff and Safe Church task force are working diligently to plan for the 2020/21 school year. At this point, we are certainly hoping all will be well for a September opening. That is a firm aspiration and we are dedicated to bringing children and families back safely and in a way that we can all feel confident in our updated Covid19 protocols and systems. This is a careful and methodical process and we want to assure you we are getting the best advice and guidance from our Bishop, the medical and science communities and the educational experts in our surrounding school districts.

Until we can all be united in person again ( and we hope that will be soon ) please continue to enjoy the simple blessings of family, friends and the summer season.

**Lorraine DiBernardo, Preschool Director**  
[lorraine@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:lorraine@stpeterslutheran.org)



## From the Volunteer Steward

What a difference a month makes! I realize we are not returning to normal, but it feels good to be able to at least leave the house without a really good reason. I have noticed things are opening up around the county. People are going back to doctors' appointments, stores are opening and restaurants are permitted to serve food again. Although each of these new developments helps the feeling of freedom, most of us still don't feel free. We are still attentive to the impact of Covid19 on our family and friends.

The staff at St. Peter's is worried about the impact on our members as we try to figure out a way to return to church. From my perspective, as the volunteer steward, I wonder what our new life at church will look like. Will we still have greeters, and if we do, what does that look like? We won't be shaking hands. And nursery, how do we keep that safe? These are just two small examples of Sunday morning worship that needs to adjust.

What has NOT changed is the need for leadership from our members. We have several key committees that are seeking members to lead us forward. Stewardship needs a leader. Steve Roberts is stepping down after providing direction for the past 7 years. And we need more people for Long Range Planning to help guide us into the future.

These are just a small sampling of areas we'd like to provide with more help. As you start to get back into your life, please consider St. Peter's as a place to volunteer your time and talents. We Need You!

For now, the Zoom meetings being held will continue. I'm involved with the Widows Group and we've been meeting every 10 days. We discuss how we're surviving and sometimes play some trivia or talk about memories. If you would like to be included, contact me and I'll send you our next meeting date.

The Pastors, Sister Dottie and Adam have been holding their normal meetings, so there are several ways to stay in touch with fellow members. Cross Points, Faith & Values, Pub Theology, Music ministry, Bible Study and classes for some of our youth are being held weekly. If you would like to be included, here is the link to sign up, or you can contact me to send you in the right direction. <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/virtual-groups-signup/>

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may be having.

Please stay safe,

**Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward**

[betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org)



## Camp Corner



Camp is open... for hiking and cabin rentals! Although summer camp cannot happen this summer, you can still visit camp for a hike for a day or rent a cabin for your family at Nawakwa or Kirchenwald for a weekend. The Hoslers visited Nawakwa for a weekend recently and enjoyed hiking, exploring, and cooking out on a campfire! Cabins are available with private baths or even entire kitchens. Contact Joy & Lyle Hosler at [joy@hoslerfamily.net](mailto:joy@hoslerfamily.net) with any questions. Camp is a relaxing escape from the world. <https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-facility-rental-summer-2020/>

## OUR MISSION

Building a community of faith by God's grace.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”  
John 15:12

## OUR VISION

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church will show our love for God, our love for neighbors, and our desire to make disciples.

### **Because we love God, we will:**

- Worship and pray together.
- Help each other develop a meaningful relationship with God.
- Model our faith to children, youth, and others.

### **Because we love our neighbor, we will:**

- Serve one another, especially the unseen and underserved within our congregation.
- Support those in need in our Lancaster community and in the world through our ties with the Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.
- Love others boldly in a diverse and changing world, deepening relationships with our neighbors.

### **Because we desire to make disciples, we will:**

- Seek to teach God's love through adult education, our programs for children and youth, and our preschool.
- Offer small groups that connect God's Word to our everyday lives and create communities of faith.
- Share the good news in creative and authentic ways with the St. Peter's family and with neighbors in our community.



## LOOKING AHEAD

# JULY CALENDAR

### **Wednesday, July 1**

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom), Pastor Craig  
1:00 p.m. - Community Meal Preparation (Kitchen), Sister Dottie  
2:00 p.m. - Evangelism Committee (Zoom), Pastor Sarah  
4:30 p.m. - Community Meal (Grace Lutheran)

### **Thursday, July 2**

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

### **Saturday, July 4**

10:00 a.m. - Junior High (Zoom), Sister Dottie

### **Sunday, July 5**

9:30 a.m. - Senior High (Zoom), Sister Dottie  
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship, St Peter's website/Youtube  
11:30 a.m. - Virtual Coffee Time (Zoom), Pastor Craig  
2:00 p.m. - Cross Points (Zoom), Pastor Craig

### **Monday, July 6**

Church Office Closed  
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (outside)

### **Tuesday, July 7**

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)  
8:30 p.m. - Prayer Time with Pastor Sarah (Memorial Garden)

### **Wednesday, July 8**

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

### **Friday, July 10**

Herald Deadline

### **Saturday, July 11**

10:00 a.m. - Junior High (Zoom), Sister Dottie

### **Sunday, July 12**

9:30 a.m. - Senior High (Zoom), Sister Dottie  
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/Youtube  
11:30 a.m. - Virtual Coffee Time (Zoom), Pastor Craig

### **Monday, July 13**

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)  
7:00 p.m. - Congregation Council Meeting (Zoom), Pastor Craig

### **Tuesday, July 14**

8:30 p.m. - Prayer Time with Pastor Sarah (Memorial Garden)

### **Tuesday, July 14 (continued)**

1:30 p.m. - Communications Committee (Zoom) Pastor Sarah

### **Saturday, July 18**

10:00 a.m. - Junior High (Zoom), Sister Dottie

### **Sunday, July 19**

9:30 a.m. - Senior High (Zoom), Sister Dottie  
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/Youtube  
11:30 a.m. - Virtual Coffee Time (Zoom), Pastor Craig  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.—Pick up VBS Take out boxes  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.—Pick up VBS Take out boxes

### **Monday, July 20**

#### **AT HOME VBS**

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.—Pick up VBS Take out boxes  
7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee (Zoom) Pastor Craig

### **Tuesday, July 21**

#### **AT HOME VBS**

8:30 p.m. - Prayer Time with Pastor Sarah (Memorial Garden)  
7:00 p.m. - Stewardship Committee (Zoom), Pastor Craig

### **Wednesday, July 22**

#### **AT HOME VBS**

### **Thursday, July 23**

#### **AT HOME VBS**

### **Friday, July 24**

#### **AT HOME VBS**

### **Sunday, July 26**

9:30 a.m. - Senior High (Zoom), Sister Dottie  
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/Youtube  
11:30 a.m. - Virtual Coffee Time (Zoom), Pastor Craig  
2:00 p.m. - Cross Points (Zoom), Pastor Craig

### **Monday, July 27**

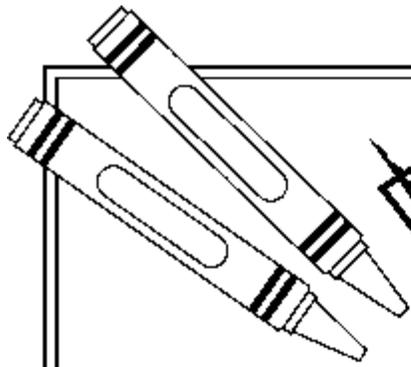
9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, July 28**

8:30 p.m. - Prayer Time with Pastor Sarah (Memorial Garden)

### **Wednesday, July 29**

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

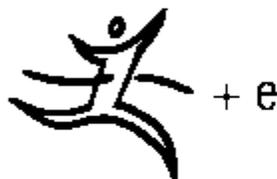


# PUZZLE

## WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

*Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.*



Water changes to

\_\_\_\_\_

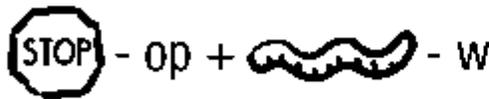
JOHN 2:1-11



Heals a man born

\_\_\_\_\_

JOHN 9



Calms a

\_\_\_\_\_

MATTHEW 8:23-27



Catch of

\_\_\_\_\_

LUKE 5:1-11



Walks on

\_\_\_\_\_

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answers: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

## 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.

## PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

We are striving to reach out to as many people as possible to communicate the various online resources that we are making available to you during this time. Some of you receive the "Herald" by mail, but during this time we are only able to send it digitally. Please contact Sandy in the church office if your email address has changed or if you are not currently receiving the newsletter digitally so we can add you to the list.

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

### AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE JUNE 10TH

Articles for the August 2020 "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](mailto:sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org). Thank you for your cooperation.



**If you have any questions, please contact me at**

**[sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org).**

***Sandy Shattuck***

***Editor & Parish Secretary***

