



“The Herald” Newsletter

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

January 2021



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

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord ... to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

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Live Streaming Continues



Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. for Church @ Home. Worship features our Lutheran liturgy, prayers for the community, a sermon from one of the rostered leaders, a children’s sermon, 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/>

Check out the Church’s Website For...

It’s a new year, so try something new. Visit www.stpeterslutheran.org and click on the Worship, Learn, or Gather buttons to find ways to be church together. Who knows...maybe this is God’s way of calling you to a new thing for a new year!

Safe Church Updates

Due to the recommendations by Governor Wolf in December, we have cancelled all in-person group meetings at church. Staff scheduling will also be staggered in the office and we ask that all persons who wish to come to the office to call beforehand. Watch our e-news, Facebook and website for up to date Covid-19 information and how it affects St. Peter’s.

Previous Worship Services

Previous services can be accessed under the videos section of our Facebook page, or by visiting our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/tPetersLutheranLancaster>

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

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January Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 3: The Second Sunday of Christmas

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

Sunday, January 10: Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

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

Sunday, January 17: The Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Sunday, January 24: The Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

Sunday, January 31: The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.
Sister Dottie Preaches



Weekly Updates

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

Updates to the Church Directory

We need your HELP! You should have received a call from either a staff member or a volunteer asking to update your family’s information. A new directory will be released this month. If you have not responded, 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.

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!

Please feel free to contact Betsy Linn at betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org with any questions.

Security and Mail

In light of concerns regarding the security of mailed offerings and gifts, the church has opened a post office box. You may continue to address your mail to St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 or mail to St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, PO Box 5061, Lancaster, PA 17601.

Adult Christian Education

JANUARY 2021 Adult Education Class Schedule

Sunday, January 3 – Daily Discipleship, “Grace Upon Grace”, led by Pastor Sarah

Sunday, January 10 – Simply Christian Introduction, N.T. Wright Simply Christian Series, led by Pr. Craig

Sunday, January 17 – Daily Discipleship, “Following the Lamb of God”, led by Sister Dottie

Sunday, January 24 – Simply Christian Introduction: Justice & Spirituality, N.T. Wright Series, led by Pr. Craig

Sunday, January 31 – Daily Discipleship, “Following the Master Teacher” led by Pr. Sarah



Adult Weekly Faith Formation Classes (Through Zoom)



Looking to Sunday Bible Study – Join Pastor Sarah on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. for a relaxed 30-40 minute Bible Study where we look to the scripture connected to the upcoming Sunday. These are online zoom gatherings. For more information, please contact Pastor Sarah at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



We are taking a brief respite from the Book of Exodus, to discuss the theme of “Christian Denominations in America”, for the month of January and a few Wednesdays into February. Do you wonder why Catholics have nuns? ... do you wonder why Presbyterians believe in pre-destination? ... do you wonder what the two-tiered version of heaven that Mormons talk about really means? Do you wonder whether there is anything that Unitarians will not sign up for in terms of religious belief? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then this six-week study may be perfect for you. Consider joining us on Wednesday mornings. We will return to the second half of the Book of Exodus in the last weeks of February. Our January schedule looks like this

January 6 – Roman Catholicism

January 20 – Presbyterianism & Methodism

January 13 – Orthodox & Anglicanism

January 27 – Anabaptists & Baptists

We meet on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. At the moment we are still meeting through the Zoom digital platform. It is never too late to join in the fun. Join us to brush up on your Bible, and enjoy some faith conversation about God, scripture and the world in which we live. Contact Pastor Craig at craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org



Moral Monday Group—Monday, January 4th at 7:00 p.m.

We will discuss Chapters 5 and 8 of **Who Will Be a Witness: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love and Deliverance** by Drew G. I. Hart. Jean Pretz will be leading our study. If you have never attended and want to be part of the discussion, contact Sister Dottie at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org for a zoom invite.



January Pub Theology will meet by zoom on Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. – watch for details and topic closer to the time. Contact Sister Dottie at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org for a zoom invite if this is your first time!

Prayer Chain Ministry

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Prayer Chain!! During 2021, we thought it would be fun to introduce you to some of our members and give you a little history of the Chain. Our hope is by seeing names of folks you know are involved in the Chain, you might ask them questions about the chain and decide to join us (and learn a bit about us) at the same time. These are some of our active members of the chain: Thelma Aurand, Ena Marie Banks, Marsha Chamberlain, Patti Courtois, June Crisp, Don Deibler, Cindy Geesey, Ginny Gerhart (co-chair), Shirley Gorner, Art Grimm, Nancy LeFevre, Becky Lutz, Betsy McConnell, Cindy Miley, Linda Montgomery, Angela Moshos (co-chair), Christine Ponti, Janet Roberts, Pastor Craig Ross (rostered leader advisor), Shirley Schlener, Nancy Shimer, Louise Sitler, Christine Smith, Margaret Strausser, Pastor Sarah Teichmann, Jennifer Schlener-Thomas, Josephine Tietbohl, Mike Wildasin. Our wonderful church secretary Sandy, also prays most of our requests. A few active members chose not to have their participation in the chain public. If you didn't know some of these folks were on the chain, then we are doing our jobs correctly. All requests are treated with respect, sensitivity and privacy. If you have ever put in a request through the chain, these are the folks that are praying for you. If you have any questions about membership in the chain, please contact Ginny Gerhart at (717) 626-7406 or Angela Moshos at (717) 392-6201.



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

Health and Wellness Committee



HEALTH & WELLNESS in 2021

We start the New Year with hopefulness because of the birth of Jesus. Let us stop and pray every day for ourselves and others around the world, as we continue to face challenging times.

Here are some encouraging words from the Bible, to help us develop a strong Godly spirit ...

Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Psalm 34:17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

I thought I would add this one as well from **Eleanor Roosevelt** "With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts."

God's Blessings to You

St. Peter's Archives

From the Lancaster Newspaper Archives
THE CHURCH CROWDED - January 7th, 1891

Lancaster Intelligencer – January 10, 1891 – The Lutheran church at Neffsville was well packed on Sunday afternoon, to hear the exercises of the Neffsville Union Sunday school, which consisted of instrumental music by Miss Ada G. Wechter on the organ, B. Frank Wentz, violin, and Dr. E. H. Witmer cornet; a solo by Miss Maggie Heiss “Dream Faces” was presented in fine style, “Lead Kindly Light” by Messrs. Sheely and Unger, and an address by the pastor, Rev. Isaac W. Bobst, and vocal music by the school. Every member of the school received a half pound box of fine mixed candy. Rev. Bobst, pastor of the Neffsville church, was agreeably surprised at the conclusion of the service on Sunday evening by receiving an envelope containing between \$12 and \$13* from the congregation, Dr. E. H. Witmer making the presentation speech, which was feelingly responded to by the pastor, who is quite an able speaker and who is very highly esteemed in the community. (*based on current inflation rates \$13 would equal approximately \$360 today).

Global Social Ministry

From the Tanzania Mission Committee

The Tanzania Mission Committee cancelled the 2020 Cookie Drive-Thru due to the ever-increasing Covid-19 spike in Lancaster County. Many thanks to all who were working to make the event happen: TMC members, pastors, office staff, and, especially, the 100 bakers who had signed up to bake their amazing Christmas cookies. Thank you everyone.

Anyone who would care to make a donation to the Busoka orphans' cause, which is what the Cookie Walk has always been about, may send checks made payable to St Peter's Lutheran Church to the church office. Please put Cookies in the memo.

The TMC thanks everyone for the support shown every year for the Cookie Walk and its mission, but we will be back next year, stronger than ever!

Letters From Busoka

From Pastor John Mwasakilali:

“It's so nice to hearing from you in this wonderful season of Christmas. May the almighty God continue to bless you. How about Covid-19 in the USA? How is sunday services are taken and celebrated? Yes to our part, God is so marvelous. He has done that is not possible to human being to explain. It so true that, Tanzania is free from Covid-19 praise the Lord who hears our prayers.

We still proceeding with Busoka's church's construction. I hope our brother Murdock told you a lot about it and took some pictures to show you how the new Building looks like.

Lastly, I would like to wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

May the living God be with you in the time you will be entering that happy New Year.” Yours, John

From Pastor Kumbuka Mwasanguti:

“Thank you for Christmas Greetings. Hopeful you are doing well although COVID-19 seems to be a big challenge to your Country. I am wondering how the Christmas Worship services will be done during this Corona Virus Pandemic. Isn't the Vaccine working well?

How about the snow in Pennsylvania and your home during this winter season?

The people of Busoka are fine, there is a transition of pastors, the old pastor Mwamboma moved to another Parish few miles from Busoka and the new pastor Mwaitebele have taken his position. During this changes of Pastors Peter was here at Busoka hopeful he told you about this story.

Christmas times in Tanzania as usual means Worshipping, praising, dancing and feasting. The second day of Christmas (December 26). My last son will be Confirmed by the Pastor. It is a Confirmation Day. So tihis Year my family shall be having two Celebrations- The Christmas and the Confirmation.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Pastor Kumbuka Mwasanguti , District Pastor

Membership News

New Member Classes: March 7 & March 14

We will be having classes for visitors who would like to consider becoming members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church On March 7th and March 14th. The first session will focus on meeting the pastors and fellow new members. The second session will focus on ministries of the church.

To find out more contact Pastor Sarah Teichmann at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org or you may all the church at 717-569-9211.

Social Ministry

St. Peter's Community Outreach Programs

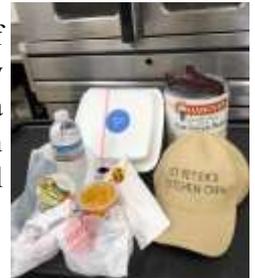
Even though parts of our world have stopped, St. Peter's community outreach is continuing to serve our neighborhood, and beyond. Our community meals are continuing monthly, our quilting ladies have provided a total of 87 beautiful quilts for Transitional Living Center so far this year and Lydia's Closet is serving clients that need clothing. We are THANKFUL to all our members that continue to help those around us!

St. Peter's Community Meal Team Picks Up Slack!



Community Meal

Due to COVID-19, one church has opted out of the monthly rotation of the community meals at Grace Lutheran Church. St. Peter's Community Meal Team has offered to do six additional meals in 2021. The extra meals will be the second Wednesday of every other month beginning in January. Even though our ways of preparing and serving the meals has changed, the ministry is still able to extend a positive impact. *St. Peter's Community Meal Team*



Lydia's Closet



Lydia's Closet is OPEN the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Our January Distribution Day is Saturday, January 2nd. We will also be filling orders through a form that can be obtained through the church office or online at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/serve/local/lydias-closet/>.

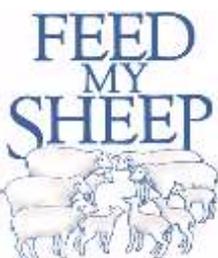
Please pass the information along to any of your friends and neighbors that may be in need of some extra help. Please contact Molly Olmsted at astaloo@comcast.com with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

The Community Aid bin may no longer be in our parking lot, but Lydia's Closet continues to earn money through our donations. All of the clothing donated to Lydia's Closet is sorted through by our volunteers, some of those items are not suitable for children and those get donated to Community Aid. For every pound donated, Lydia's Closet receives 6 cents. This may not seem like a lot, but over the past year we have earned over \$900 dollars! This money combined with a generous donation from Matthew 25 has allowed Lydia's Closet to purchase more socks, underwear, coats, and toiletries. We have been able to restock those items that need to be new.

Thank you to everyone who has donated!

Lydia's Closet—Extra Clothes to Transport

We are seeking volunteers to take loads of extra clothes to Community Aid. If you have some extra time, please consider taking a load for us! Please contact Betsy Linn, betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org, for more info.



The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

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

Groups and Events

WELCA Report

Presently we will not be resuming our monthly meetings until further notice. It has been brought to our attention that there is interest in collecting items for our Personal Care Kits. This is a good idea as long as you follow the mandated rules of social distancing and wearing masks while shopping. If you are not comfortable with shopping right now please wait for better times. We have until September, when we prepare the kits for shipment, to collect items.

Below is Lutheran World Relief's most recent list of items we will need for each kit.

ONE light-weight bath-sized towel between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27", dark color recommended
TWO or three bath-sized bars of soap equaling 8 or 9 oz
ONE adult-sized toothbrush in it's original packaging
ONE sturdy comb
ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

Items may be placed in the WELCA blue box found in the church narthex. Or you may also keep the items at your home for now. We look forward to the time we can again be together. During these difficult days may we stay safe and thank God for our many blessings.

Love to all,
Sally Rager, (717-569-6119) and Kathy Caldwell (717-371-7296)

Widows Group

Our meetings are continuing at St. Peter's and are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30a.m. Our next meeting will be on January 26th, and will be held in person and through Zoom. They last about 1 hour. If you would be interested in joining, please call or email me for the details. We discuss what is going on in our lives and some fun things as well.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Betsy Linn betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Women's Trivia Night

Friday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m., Join us for a virtual trivia night through zoom - prizes for the winners! Contact Sister Dottie for Zoom info.

Grocery Cards

Please be aware that grocery cards are now available to purchase from the church office by appointment between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Please call the office with the amount and the store that you are requesting. The staff will get them ready for you. When arriving please ring the doorbell and someone will let you in the area between the double doors to pick up your cards in the envelope with your name on it on the table. Please place your check in the brown box on the table. Thank you.

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/>





Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends:

One of our most overblown and meaningless cultural practices in America, is that of making New Year's resolutions. According to a study by US News and World Report, 8 in 10 people do not keep their resolutions beyond mid-February. It takes real mettle to make substantive changes in the routines and patterns that a person has established in his or her life. As the phrase goes ... "talk is cheap." It fits for the vast majority of New Year's resolutions. BUT

But ... but ... maybe this year will be different. Maybe the trauma of the last nine and a half months, will create a determination within us, that leads to a deep desire to make some real changes in our lives. Maybe the solitude ... the isolation ... the opportunities for reflection ... will draw from us a deeper level of introspection, and a deeper will of resolution, to make some substantive changes in our lives.

What might that look like in your life? Has the isolation caused by the Covid virus reminded you of the rich blessings that are brought to your life by those that you love and cherish? ... and might that reminder lead you to stay more substantively connected to those very loved ones? Has the stark fragility of life that we see in the daily tallies of those whose lives have been claimed by Covid, lead you to recognize what a singular gift life is, and invite you to cherish it more deeply than you have in the past? ... maybe even to the point of making changes in your diet, or your exercise, or your acceptance of activities that bring stress to your life? Has the universality of the impact of Covid on cultures across our globe brought home to you the truth that we are in fact a worldwide community of God's children, and that we can no longer ignore the trauma, nor the hunger, nor the warfare of peoples and cultures that are a half-a-world away from us. Has the stark truth that we are not as completely in control of the forces of nature in our world as we normally think we are, reminded you that we are but stewards on this earth, and not creators of the universe ... a reminder that invites in us a greater acknowledgement of that One who Is the creator of the universe?

Maybe ... maybe, not. But I would ask you to consider the possibility that this coming year offers you and me the opportunity to seriously examine the priorities that drive our lives, and consider whether some adjustments are in order. The adjustments may be ones that will not be obvious to the person you meet on the street, and with whom you talk about the weather. But they should be adjustments that will be noticed by those who know you best and who love you with the greatest depth. The adjustments should be ones that God might take notice of, and ones which just might elicit a smile from that one who brought you to life. The Bible actually has a word for this kind of reflection. It is a word that has an affinity for the Lenten season that awaits us in a couple of months. But it is a word that applies to the Christian life every day, no matter the season. It is the word ... repentance. I doubt that I have ever included this word repentance in a January Herald article in my time in the ministry. But it feels like a good fit for the moment of time in which we live.

Why not try it on for size this month? Sackcloth and ashes need not accompany your reflection. A simple acknowledgement that we are not the masters of the universe will suffice. And an expression of faith that God is the only one truly in control of life, will help you get to the place of reflection and to the knowledge that the Light of Christ celebrated during the Epiphany season, did not solely reveal itself over a manger in Bethlehem ... but also revealed itself over a cross on Calvary. May your Epiphany/Lenten journey be fruitful for you ... and those around you.

"See you" in virtual church and in our virtual meetings,

Pastor Craig

craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org

Newsletter
DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE JANUARY 10TH

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



Pastor Sarah's Message

"Are we there yet?"

I'm the youngest in my family. Being the youngest means that you get away with somethings that your older and wiser siblings no longer can. Every so often they remind me that I got away with everything! But being the youngest meant that I had no conception of time, or space, or how long it would take to get from point A to point B. And this inability to understand time and space meant that on family trips I would ask "are we there yet?" every five minutes.

My brother would quietly sigh and roll his eyes and sister would say something snarky about my repeated questions. My dad, however, would give another answer. And his answer has stayed with me through the years. In fact, whenever I hear anyone ask any version of the age-old question "are we there yet?" my answer echoes the one I heard all those years ago.

"We're closer than we were."

Wow! There's a lot of wisdom to that simple answer! In truth, we're not there yet, but we aren't back in the place we were five minutes ago or five months ago. We're closer than we were.

And this response is true in so many of the time-related questions and challenges we face.

When will we receive a vaccine? When can I hug my grandkids? When can I have a big sleepover with all my friends? When will we be able to worship together in the sanctuary? When can we go on spring break? When will Jesus come again?

In anticipation of this new year came daydreams of how all our challenges from last year miraculously fall away as the calendar slips from 2020 to 2021. But you and I know that journeys don't unfold that way. They don't magically go from point A to point B, but rather unfold mile by mile and moment by moment. Each day we take a step at a time. Each day we might encounter a new joy or a new challenge at a time.

This is part of our journey, this big family trip we're taking.

We're not there yet. But we are closer than we were.

Some of my family trips were really long, and we got really tired and fatigued, so we got in the habit of using the journey to play games, read, tell stories, and watch for signs.

Maybe we could do the same as a church family. There's fatigue on this journey, and we need to lean on each other while we're getting closer than we were. Maybe this is the time to jump into a Bible study (we have a few going on or starting a study of your own!), or maybe it's time to adopt a sage, a family, or a new member as an email or card pal, or maybe it's time to point to the signs of God's love and share those signs with someone in your life.

This journey is long, but we're closer than we were...

...and we're not alone. We're together. And most importantly, our Lord is leading the way.

Peace,

Pastor Sarah

sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org



Communication: The Website Is Your Friend!

Please go to our website www.stpeterslutheran.org to find out the latest schedules and calendar events. Check out blog posts to help you plan or to engage your faithful preparations this season. Be sure to check out our Facebook page as well (<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterslancaster>) for posts about upcoming events or to catch the beauty and joy of a past event. If you have questions about events and schedules that you can't find on the website, don't hesitate to contact a staff member. We would love to hear from you.



From the Director of Music

New Things

In the music building at Valparaiso University, where I went to college, there was an inscription on a stone staircase which read “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” This quote from Isaiah 43:19 has always stuck with me, which probably has more to say about the number of hours I spent sitting in the lobby of the building looking at those words instead of in the practice room. Seriously though, the idea that God is always about to do a new thing, that creativity springs eternal from God, has been a comfort to me in times past and even more so in these last 10 months.

While we all might have a bit of fatigue from the new realities we’ve been living into these days, I can’t help but wonder if there might be some good to come of this radical shake-up we’ve been living through. Don’t get me wrong, I am in NO WAY saying that the COVID-19 pandemic was sent by God as a punishment or even as a method for getting across some sort of cosmic message. But, I do believe we can choose how we respond to situations like these. I, for one, have been trying to choose the way of positivity, focusing on those things we might carry forward as the world gets back to some semblance of normal.

I have been so impressed this last year with how resilient and forthright we have been with one another. Living in community is not easy work, and the willingness to “go with the flow” and to speak truth to power is essential for a community to function well. One of my great hopes, is that we will hold on to this willingness to bear with one another and a willingness to be open to new experiences in the years to come, new experiences such as varied musical options, varied ways of conducting services, and varied ways of using our gifts to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Of course, not all of our way of being can or should be new. After all, the whole company of saints goes with us from whom we inherit an enormous treasury of liturgy, hymnody, and tradition. It would be a mistake to utterly disregard these gifts from our past, but it would perhaps be even a bigger mistake to hold on to these traditions too tightly, ceasing to share the Gospel in relevant ways.

I propose a middle path, being open to the new while carrying along the best of the old, as a goal for the next year. My hope is that we will carry forward our willingness to try and evaluate new hymns and music and to think deeply about how we, St. Peter’s, will continue to minister to our community through creative, thoughtful worship. This new thing God is doing has already begun whether or not we are aware of it. God’s call to us is to pray that we might perceive God’s new tasks in our lives. This isn’t easy work, but the breadth and depth of sharing Christ’s love in new and amazing ways far outweighs any difficulties.

Worship and Music at St. Peter’s

Beverages and Hymns

Join with Adam on the first Wednesday of the month for a Beverages and Hymns Zoom at 8:00 p.m. Settle in with your favorite beverage, a hymnal, and your singing voice for some music and fellowship. We’ll kick off the next season of the church year with our next meeting on the Day of Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6th at 8:00 p.m. Contact Adam at adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org for more info.

Church Musical

A church musical? Now? How?! Over the next couple of months St. Peter’s will put together a church musical. We will tape speaking parts via Zoom meetings, put together songs by making recordings, and present the musical as part of our Palm/Passion Sunday celebration. Please send an email to Adam at adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org if you are interested in participating. There’s a part for everyone!

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped to make St. Peter’s Christmas celebrations special. Between decorators, musicians, delivery people, and a host of other people, worship this season wouldn’t be the same without the amazing people of St. Peter’s. Peace and joy to all in this new year.

Youth & Family Ministry News...



No Winter Retreats this year. Due to the spread of Covid 19, we will not be having our annual youth and women's retreats this winter. Stay safe and continue to wear your mask and social distance!

Youth Sunday school resumes on Sunday, January 3rd at 9:15 a.m. – Watch for zoom invites. Also, if you meet at the home of Joy and Lyle Hosler, please watch for updates!

Youth Virtual Painting Party - Sunday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m. - materials will be provided - pickup or drop off! Contact Sister Dottie if interested .

Contact Sister Dottie Almoney for more info on our youth classes at dottie.almoney@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.

ST. PETER'S KIDS

Dear Families,

January has arrived with so much hope and peace in our hearts! We are definitely looking forward to this coming year as a new beginning to our lives post pandemic. But until then, we will continue to do our best to keep your children connected to Christian education.

Each Sunday a new Sunday School lesson is premiered on our YouTube channel at 10:15 a.m. lasting about 10 minutes and including songs for children to sing! Families simply need to visit

<https://www.youtube.com/c/stpeterslutheranlancaster>

to find the latest Sunday School lesson and all other St. Peter's videos that have been uploaded to our YouTube channel.

In the past, we have had included in this article an update on our first communion instruction and first communion service designed for children in grades 1 to 3 and typically taking place at the end of February. However, this year, in consultation with the pastors, we have decided to postpone this sacrament until the spring when we will re-evaluate our ability to gather as a group.

We also continue to seek volunteers to assist with our Sunday School lessons. Many of you have volunteered to do children's sermons which have been amazing, and we are so grateful for your willingness to serve! Our Sunday School lessons are equally easy to do and can be video taped ahead of time. We are following the sequential stories from the Spark Story Bible. Please consider this opportunity. You can email me with your interest. cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

May you and your family enjoy good health, safety and happiness as we enter a new and exciting year!

Blessings,
Cindy Geesey



St. Peter's Preschool

It is with great sadness that we announce we are unable to resume *in person* Preschool classes for a January semester. Under the guidance of church leadership and input from our Safe Church Task Force, it was determined that the resources required to re-open the school, coupled with the number of students willing to return in January, makes resuming classes neither viable nor practical. In addition, with the prevalence of Covid related and additional respiratory illness forecasts for the upcoming months, we cannot, in good conscience, be confident in our ability to provide a safe, healthy environment for students, staff, families and parishioners.

We are restructuring our preschool for the 2021/2022 school year. We will begin with 2 -5 day classes for ages 4/5 and 2 three day classes for age 3. Classes will be held in the mornings with a possibility of additional afternoon classes if needed. Please reach out to preschool@stpeterslutheran.org if you have a child that you would like to enroll.

Our aspiration is to come back strong to our students in September, 2021. A Preschool Steering Committee has convened to strategize ways to successfully reopen in September. Until then, we appreciate your continued support and prayers. Stay well everyone.

Lorraine DiBernardo, Preschool Director

lorraine@stpeterslutheran.org



From the Volunteer Steward



Volunteers are Needed:

Right now, there are many options to volunteer in the church. Please consider joining one of our committees that are meeting through Zoom. Your church needs help, and we are asking you to step up. It is understood that our lives have been turned upside down, but you've cleaned all your closets and fixed everything that needs to be fixed. Consider using your extra time to help with committees that need people & voices.

Here are vacancies for which there is an immediate and crucial need:

Global Social Ministry Committee — Chair

Long Range Planning Committee — Members

Stewardship Committee — Chair & Members

You can find descriptions for each of the groups on St. Peter's website. Here is the link. Consider taking some time to see if any of these are a fit for you. I can send you the descriptions, or, give me a call and I'll be happy to explain what is expected.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fVeQyvmq4O5N6mKFsnNacgEPTbGUIyu_ai7E90mCWzA/edit#gid=1

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

Please stay safe,

Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward

717-618-9615 betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

We are striving to reach out to as many people as possible to communicate the various online resources that we are making available to you during this time. Some of you receive the "Herald" by mail, but during this time we are only able to send it digitally or only to a limited number of people. Please note that we will have some copies of the Herald on the table in the Narthex that may be picked up between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. Please contact Sandy in the church office if your email address has changed or if you are not currently receiving the newsletter digitally so we can add you to the list.



LOOKING AHEAD

JANUARY CALENDAR

Friday, January 1

New Year's Day - Church Closed

Saturday, January 2

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

Sunday, January 3

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

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

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

Monday, January 4

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

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

Tuesday, January 5

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

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

Wednesday, January 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, January 10

Herald Deadline

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

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

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

Monday, January 11

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

6:30 p.m. - Strategic Planning (Zoom)

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

Tuesday, January 12

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

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

2:30 p.m. - Cemetery Committee (Zoom)

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

Wednesday, January 13

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

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

6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children (Narthex) Pr. Sarah

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

Sunday, January 17

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

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

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

7:00 p.m. - Youth Virtual Painting Party (Zoom) Sister Dottie

Monday, January 18

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

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

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

Tuesday, January 19

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

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

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

Wednesday, January 20

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

6:30 p.m. - Pub Theology (Zoom)

Friday, January 22

7:00 p.m. - Women's Trivia Night (Zoom), Sister Dottie

Sunday, January 24

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

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

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

Monday, January 25

Church Office Closed

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

Tuesday, January 26

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

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

Wednesday, January 27

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

6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children (Narthex) Pr. Sarah

Sunday, January 31

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

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

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

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.



If you have any questions, please contact me at

sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org.

Sandy Shattuck

Editor & Parish Secretary

