



“The Herald” Newsletter

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

May 2021



10 Delp Road - Lancaster, PA 17601
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“May grace and peace be yours in abundance.” 1 Peter 1:2

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Safe Church Update

When will we have indoor worship?



We all are praying for the ability to worship inside our building! We have been following the guidance of our Bishop – 5% or less positivity test rate and 20 persons or less per 100,000 infections. April has seen a rise in Covid cases, especially in our school systems. We are nearing herd immunity with the vaccines – we hope everyone takes advantage of getting this important vaccine in order to keep not only yourself safe, but your community safe as well. Keep watch for updates.... Please know that we monitor this situation on a daily basis.

Drive In Worship, Sundays 9:15 a.m.



Join us for worship Sundays at 9:15 a.m. for a brief service featuring confession and forgiveness, Bible readings, communion, and sung hymns! Worship will take place in the church parking lot with the service transmitted over an FM Transmitter for you to enjoy with your car radio. PLEASE NOTE: May 2nd Drive In Worship will be at 8:00 a.m. due to the Mission Campaign Town Hall virtual meeting at 9:15 a.m.

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

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May Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 2: The Fifth Sunday of Easter – High School Senior Recognition

Parking Lot Communion Worship at 8:00 a.m. (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE)

Mission Campaign Town Hall Meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.

Sister Dottie Preaches

Sunday, May 9: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Parking Lot Communion Worship at 9:15 a.m.

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Craig Preaches

Sunday, May 16: The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Parking Lot Communion Worship at 9:15 a.m.

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Sarah Preaches

Sunday, May 23: The Day of Pentecost – Rite of Confirmation

Parking Lot Communion Worship at 9:15 a.m.

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Craig Preaches

Sunday, May 30: The Holy Trinity – Rite of Confirmation

Parking Lot Communion Worship at 9:15 a.m.

Live Streaming Service at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Sarah 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.

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.

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 or dropping off 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/>



Mission Campaign Virtual Town Hall Q&A - Sunday, May 2 @ 9:15 a.m.



St. Peter's Members, you should have recently received a pastor's letter and brochure in the mail on our Mission Campaign over the past several weeks. Each member will soon be receiving a personalized proposal that details the objectives and projects more in depth as well as asks each member to prayerfully consider what they will give to this mission changing endeavor. If you still have questions after reading through your proposal, we invite you to join us on **Sunday, May 2 from 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** for a virtual Mission Campaign Town Hall Q&A. At this meeting, the vision and goals of our *Faith in Our Future* campaign will be shared, discussed, and questions answered. You can join the Zoom at bit.ly/stpeterstownhall. If you have any questions before then, don't hesitate to reach out to Richie Musser, our campaign consultant, at 484-364-0781 or rmusser@kirbysmith.com. We will celebrate the generosity of our congregation on **Sunday, May 16** with a Commitment Blessing during the service.

Don't forget to also check out all the incredible "Mission Minute Monday" moments that are available on our YouTube (bit.ly/missionminutemondays) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/stpeterslancaster). Have a "Mission Minute" to share? Contact Jill Emmert at jmemmert@comcast.net.

Just as past generations have done, we look forward to the future and the incredible opportunities that will arise from our Mission Campaign, and we have the utmost *Faith in Our Future!*



Thank You For Your Financial Support

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you, from your Congregation Council, Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee and Church Staff for your faithful and consistent financial stewardship through the early months of 2021. Your willingness to consistently mail in offerings, use our online giving platforms of Tithe.ly or Simply Giving, or donate automatically through your financial institution, have enabled us to meet the obligations of our congregational budget, meet all of our benevolent commitments to local, national and global ministry partners, and make significant additional gifts to a variety of local ministries that have been especially challenged by the pandemic. Thank you for being the “cheerful givers” that St. Paul identifies in his second letter to the Corinthian church (2 Cor. 9:7).



Mailing Address Update

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

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

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

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

Check out the Church's Website For...

Visit www.stpeterslutheran.org for weekly updates, blog posts, announcements, and ways we can build a community of faith by God's grace.



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

Grocery Cards



Please be aware that grocery cards are now available to purchase from the church office Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Please call the office with the amount and the store that you are requesting. The staff will get them ready for you. When arriving please ring the doorbell and enter the narthex and proceed to the window of the office. You must wear a mask and someone will be able to help you from the window. Thank you.

Adult Christian Education

MAY 2021 Adult Education Class Schedule

Sunday morning Adult education class – meets through zoom at 9:15 a.m. Contact Pastor Ross for more information or to be added to the Zoom list.



Sunday, May 2 – NO CLASS – Please attend the **Town Hall Meeting on the Mission Campaign**

Sunday, May 9 – Ascension Day – A discussion of its roots and meaning

Sunday May 16 – “Lump” – a Nooma Video from Rob Bell

Sunday, May 23 – Open Discussion around topics for the Fall.

Adult Weekly Faith Formation Classes (Through Zoom)



Looking to Sunday Bible Study – Please 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. Contact Pastor Sarah at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org for more information.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



This month our journey through the Book of Exodus comes to a close, in a time that is somewhat less than the forty years it took for the Israelites to reach the promised Land. Consider joining us via Zoom on Wednesday mornings for these final sessions. We always have lively discussions. If you are new to the group, please email Pastor Craig at craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org and he will send you a Zoom link to the class.

Our May schedule looks like this:

May 5 – Chapters 36 & 37

May 12 – Chapters 38 & 39

May 19 – Chapter 40 & Summary

May 26 – Summary, Review and Next Year’s Topics

We meet on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. 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.

Moms of Young Children Bible Study

Hey, mothers of young children - come for an hour to do some Bible study and find support from moms just like you. This month we meet in the narthex every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. The focus of the next few sessions is what it means to be a “woman of valor” and learning how God sees you as valuable and precious. Social distancing and masks are required. For more information, please email Pastor Sarah at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org

May Pub Theology



Wednesday May 19th – 6:30 p.m. at the Dombach Barn, 2060 Ellsworth Road, Lancaster

Bring your own food and drink. We will have a socially distanced discussion. The topic to be announced. RSVP to Sister Dottie at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org.

Social Ministry

Community Meal For May

Our meal for May will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on North Queen Street on Wednesday, May 5th. Please contact Kathy Berkebile for more information.

kberkebile@comcast.net



Lydia's Closet



Lydia's Closet is OPEN the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We will continue to have a modified opening. Our May Distribution Day is Saturday, May 1st. 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 who 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.

Did you know? ~ Lydia's Closet gives out personal hygiene items, laundry detergent pods, school supplies, new socks and underwear?

We appreciate donations of: Gently used clothing, clothing appropriate for school age children (K-12), laundry pods, new socks and underwear.



St. Peter's Archives

The Lancaster Examiner - May 24, 1902

A very pretty wedding was solemnized in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Neffsville on Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock when Mr. Harry J. Taylor of Altoona, was united in marriage with **Miss Mabel Irene Witmer** of Neffsville. The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Witmer and was one of Neffsville's accomplished young ladies. She was always a worker in the above church and Sunday School and was a member of the choir. She was also a graduate of last year's class of the Millersville State Normal School. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion with palms and potted plants and the ceremony was witnessed by a large number of persons. The bridal party entered the church to the strains of the wedding march from Lohengrin, played by Miss Ada Wechter, and made their exit to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march. After the ceremony, a reception followed at the home of the bride, at which several hundred invited guests were present. A room upstairs was devoted to the display of the presents to the bride, which were numerous, and contained many in cut glass and silver. The array was a most handsome one.



Property Committee

Spring Clean Up

It is springtime and time to clean up the church grounds to prepare for our return after COVID. **When? Saturday, May 15th 8:00 AM to Noon.** We will gather at the church to clean up the grounds and spread mulch in the flower beds. There was no clean-up last year due to COVID restrictions, so the beds really need some attention. Many hands make light work. So, grab your rake, shovel, or pitchfork-and maybe one to share- and join us! Our rain-date will be Saturday, May 22nd.



Please email Bud Benton at budbenton@comcast.net if you plan to come or have questions.

Prayer Chain Ministry

Your PRAYER CHAIN has been busy the first three months of the year! We've received over 80 requests from our Pastors, staff or church members and over 60 online requests! We appreciate your confidence in us by allowing us to pray for you. All requests are kept confidential and treated with respect.



Our MEMBER OF THE MONTH is Betsy McConnell! Betsy & her husband, Thom have been St Peter's members for 24 years and Betsy has been involved with the Prayer Chain for over 10 years. Betsy & Thom have four children, ages 17-22. Her family is best known for their musical talents at church, especially playing the bagpipes. Betsy enjoys reading, watching documentaries and painting in her spare time.

Please feel free to ask Betsy or any other member any questions you might have. If you are ready to join us, please call either Ginny Gerhart (717) 626-7406 or Angela Moshos (717) 392-6201.

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



Health & Wellness



MAY: National Physical Fitness & Sports Month

Is physical activity for everyone? YES!

Regular physical activity is good for everyone's health, and people of all ages and body types can be physically active. National Physical Fitness and Sports Month is a great time to spread the word about the benefits of getting active. Here are just a few of those benefits:

- **Children/adolescents** – Physical activity can improve muscular fitness, bone health, and heart health.
- **Adults** – Physical activity can lower the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and some types of cancer.
- **Older adults** – Physical activity can lower the risk of falls and improve cognitive functioning (like learning and judgment skills).

Here are just a few ideas of how to get active (*wearing a mask/practicing social distancing*):

- Encourage family & friends to make small changes, like taking a walk or going for a bike ride.
- Identify friends & neighbors who can talk to their friends/families, and coordinate a neighborhood or group walk.

Whether you take a walk, a bike ride, dance to music, or clean the house with purposeful movement, do your best to get 30 min of physical activity each day, and Thank God for the beauty of each day.



The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

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

Groups and Events

Widows Group

Our meetings are continuing monthly and the next meeting will be held on May 25th at 10:30 a.m. in person at the church. As long as the weather is nice, we will plan on meeting under the portico. Otherwise, we will be in the Narthex. Most of us should be vaccinated by then. Please remember your masks! Feel free to contact Betsy Linn with any questions at betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org.

WELCA — Something special is about to happen!

Since we will not be having our WELCA end of the year luncheon we are inviting you to come to St. Peter's on **Thursday morning, May 13th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** to see each other and renew our friendships. We will meet outdoors so bring a chair and your water or other drink bottle. Pastor Ross will join us and discuss the benefits and problems caused by the COVID pandemic. If you need a ride to the church, please contact Kathy or Sally and they will make arrangements for you. Also, if you need a chair please let us know and we will see that one is available for you. Contacts: Sally Rager, 717-569-6119, Kathy Caldwell, 717-371-7296.

Blessings to all, *Sally and Kathy*

St. Peter's Softball Team

Are you interested in playing on St. Peter's softball team this year? The league is currently finalizing details and more will be shared closer to the time.



- League is co-ed! This league is about having fun, all experience levels over the age of 16 are welcome!
- Games are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. at churches in the Lancaster area.
- League will start middle to end of May, typically runs into early July.
- COVID protocols still being finalized, but we do anticipate masks to be required

If you are interested or have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Jamie Rottmund. jrottmund@gmail.com or 717-286-3688.

St. Peter's Garden Tours Are Back!

Last summer in the midst of COVID-19 and quarantines, the St. Peter's Garden Tour was born. Each Monday evening this summer we will again have a St. Peter's member open their garden/yard for others to tour, admire, chat, and visit. Please consider opening up your garden for the tour—no matter how big or small, there's always something beautiful and amazing in God's creation.



Sign up here to host a garden tour: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094ea8ad23a13-garden5> “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord” (Psalm 96:11-12).

Contact Joy Hosler with any questions at joy@hoslerfamily.net.



Camping Corner

Summer camp is just around the corner! Kirchenwald and Nawakwa are the two Lutheran camps in our area. Day camps for grades K-5, and weeklong overnight camps are available for grades 1-12 and for entire families. What a great way to enjoy God's awesome creation while living in a Christ-centered community.

Check out all the options: <https://lutherancamping.org/>. Various discounts and scholarships are available. Contact Joy & Lyle Hosler (717-371-7583; joy@hoslerfamily.net) with any questions. The Hoslers have attended family camp, day camp, and overnight camps, and they are St. Peter's Camp Persons!

Moral Monday Groups



Moral Monday was a grass roots movement that began in North Carolina 5 years ago to address social issues that affected the population of North Carolina. St. Peter's began our own group back in June of 2020 and it continues today to talk about issues of justice.

Our Moral Monday group meets the first Monday night of the month at 7:00 p.m. through Zoom – we are currently discussing the ELCA social statements and how St. Peter's can be involved in carrying out the mission of the statements. Contact Sister Dottie for more information.

Moral Monday Action Group

This group is an ecumenical group that meets monthly to plan action surrounding voting rights, equitable education funding and other issues that affect our community. If you have a passion for social justice and want to help make a change, we welcome you to be part of this group! Our members come from the ELCA, the Episcopal Church and the UCC church. Contact Sister Dottie for more information.

A Guide to Upcoming Ballot Questions

There are three proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution on the upcoming May 18 Primary Election ballot. The following primer was compiled to raise awareness of these proposed amendments and to explain their potential impact for our community and State if they are approved. Any registered voter, regardless of party affiliation or non-affiliation, can vote on these ballot questions.

Two involve giving the Legislature more say and the governor less say in determining the extension or termination of disaster emergency declarations...If approved they become part of the state Constitution forever, regardless of who the governor is or which party controls the Legislature. The third would add a provision guaranteeing that one's rights under the law cannot be denied because of race or ethnicity. (The League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County, [Three questions on May 18 Primary Ballot | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](#))

Ballot Question 1

“Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law and increase the power of the General Assembly to unilaterally terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration—and the powers of Commonwealth agencies to address the disaster regardless of its severity pursuant to that declaration—through passing a concurrent resolution by simple majority, thereby removing the existing check and balance of presenting a resolution to the Governor for approval or disapproval?”

A **"yes"** vote supports this constitutional amendment to allow the Pennsylvania General Assembly to pass a resolution by a simple majority to extend or terminate the governor's emergency declaration. The governor cannot veto this resolution.

A **"no"** vote opposes this constitutional amendment, meaning that the governor would continue to be allowed to veto resolutions terminating emergency declarations and a two-thirds legislative vote would be required to override the veto.

Ballot Question 2

“Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law so that: a disaster emergency declaration will expire automatically after 21 days, regardless of the severity of the emergency, unless the General Assembly takes action to extend the disaster emergency; the Governor may not declare a new disaster emergency to respond to the dangers facing the Commonwealth unless the General Assembly passes a concurrent resolution; the General Assembly enacts new laws for disaster management?”

A **"yes"** vote supports this constitutional amendment to limit the governor's emergency declaration to 21 days, unless the legislature votes on a resolution to extend the order and provide that the state legislature shall pass laws related to how disaster emergencies must be managed.

A **"no"** vote opposes this constitutional amendment, meaning the governor would continue to be allowed to issue emergency declarations without a legislative vote after 21 days.

Ballot Question 3

“Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended by adding a new section providing that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of an individual's race or ethnicity?”

A **"yes"** vote supports adding language to the state constitution that prohibits the denial or abridgement of rights on account of an individual's race or ethnicity.

A **"no"** vote opposes adding language to the state constitution that prohibits the denial or abridgement of rights on account of an individual's race or ethnicity.



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends:

This month you have two letters for the price of one!

MISSION CAMPAIGN – by now you have received two of three planned mailings from our Mission Campaign team. Our hope is that the information provided so far, has communicated to you the dual focus of this campaign – an outward call for mission partnerships in our local and global communities ... and also an inward call to strengthen our spiritual home here at 10 Delp Road; the place from which our local and global mission is shaped and supported through a safer and restored infrastructure and building.

You will soon be receiving a third mailing from your St. Peter's spiritual home, inviting you to accept for yourself an active and sacrificial share of making this mission campaign come alive, through your generosity. We ask you to read and digest this final communique, as you no doubt have done with the first two. We ask you to pray for boldness in considering what level of giving is right for your household, hopefully in conversation with your family members about your dreams for this campaign. And we ask you to communicate with our Mission Team your intentions for financially supporting this campaign with a sacrificial gift using the commitment card that will be enclosed.

There is no doubt in my mind that we have the resources here to meet our campaign goal of \$1,250,000. There is little doubt in my mind that we can also meet our “stretch” goal of \$1,500,000. My dream is that we will exceed even this goal. The dollars that will be directed to our building and infrastructure are a fixed amount. Once the various projects are completed, that part of the campaign goal will be completed. But every dollar after that will go to ministries and missions, and the sky is the limit in terms of the mission needs that await us near and far.

I thank you ahead of time for your partnership in this continuing campaign endeavor, and I look forward to rejoicing with you when we meet and exceed both of our goal milestones.

WORSHIP LIFE – We find ourselves in the earliest of days of “Covid-life, Year 2” as I sometimes think of it. We have made it through twelve months of limited social contact, Zoom Overload, fear and anxiety around a biological enemy we cannot see with our eyes, and an increasing sense of fatigue because of our inability to live life communally in the ways we always have lived it. Although I rank somewhat high on the introversion spectrum, I do heavily rely on the visual and verbal cues I observe in groups of people. And those cues help me stay properly oriented to and connected with the communities of which I am a part. So Covid-life has created a significant spirit of disorientation in me. I feel like a ship without an anchor in our communal St. Peter's life.

I share this because I am as impatient as you are to get back into in-person worship in our wonderful sanctuary. While there is great satisfaction in leading live-stream worship from the sanctuary, it cannot hold a candle to being gathered with others, in person, in the spiritual discipline of worship and praise. I share this with you, because I want you to know that your leaders who are advising our church-wide practices in the realm of public gatherings, share that same spirit and desire to be together in our worship life. But as a team of staff, Risk Management, Worship and Congregation Council members, we are also committed to good and safe practice. We use metrics established by our local health leaders. We take seriously the advice and counsel of the bishop of our synod. We try to stay abreast of current changes in suggested best practice in the face of the virus. To be frank, these metrics and the research backing them, advise that large in-person, indoor gatherings are still risky. I recognize that some local churches have chosen to return to in-church public worship. Many have quite small congregations and believe they can do it safely. We find that to be an ill-advised choice for St. Peter's, in that when we shut down, we were averaging 350-400 people in worship.

Folks, we are on the downside of this period of Covid-isolation. The longest stretch of isolation is past. I encourage you to continue your support of your friends and fellow parishioners who have accepted the mantle of advising good practice in the midst of a pandemic. They act and lead in an attempt to keep us safe and intact as a community of faith. The Israelites wandered for forty years in exile ... without Zoom. We can manage the months remaining in this pandemic, thanks to the creativity of many in this community. I ask you to join us in this final stretch of life in worship diaspora.

“See you” in virtual church, in our other virtual events,
and occasionally in person,

Pastor Craig

craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org



Pastor Sarah's Message

Dear friends in Christ,

A few years ago, St. Peter's adopted the mission statement "building a community of faith by God's grace." What an appropriate mission to have in the face of a pandemic that has turned the ways that we do community on its ear. And yet, by God's grace lived through and in you, we continue to live into this mission!

Power of Community

I have witnessed the power of community, and the revelation where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, our Lord is present.

I've witnessed this power and presence when it's been 32 degrees outside and the Sunday School learning pod has gathered outdoors, because community trumps temperature. I've witnessed this power in small groups—whether you're in the church kitchen creating the next community meal for Grace Lutheran Downtown, or you're asking questions in a Bible study, or courageously being vulnerable with each other in a support group. I've witnessed the power of community when you faithfully check in with each other because you believe that when we care for each other we are never, ever alone. I've witnessed how pandemics have not kept you from dreaming about our church's future and the new and exciting ways that we can serve the Lord.

Mission Campaign

Can I tell you how I'm strangely grateful that we're doing a mission campaign in the midst of a pandemic? I know it's an odd thing to write, but I am grateful for the timing. The mission campaign in coordination with strategic planning has helped keep certain core principles of who we are in focus. We are church together and together we worship, we learn, we gather, and we serve in Jesus' name. As a community we've discerned needs that need to be addressed. Our five senses can point out some of the needs—especially when it comes to our physical church space. Our hearts and the Holy Spirit's call point to areas of ministry and mission that yearn for attention and support. This Mission Campaign helps to focus on a very important question: *who is God calling us to be in this post-pandemic future?*

Who is God calling us to be as God's people in this time?

This pandemic has caused a lot of anxiety and fear, and yet God is calling us to have faith in the future. God is calling us to lean into the power of community. And our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, is walking alongside us—guiding us, encouraging us, leading us, and loving us.

Thankfulness

I truly give thanks for the ways that you have lived into our shared mission. I give thanks for your grit and your faithfulness. I give thanks for your compassion and love that you abundantly share. I give thanks for you, as we are companions together on this journey.

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.

Congratulations, Sister Dottie!

Sister Dottie Almoney will receive her Doctor Of Ministry degree on Saturday, May 8th from Lancaster Theological Seminary. Her thesis is titled, "Reclaiming the "D" Word: Diakonia in the ELCA". This project focused on the ministry of diakonia or service that moves beyond "band-aid" ministry to how congregations can engage in transformational ministries that can change the systemic issues that keep God's people from flourishing, such as poverty and racism. This paper also discusses the role of deacons and how deacons can help equip congregations to do the work of "diakonia".



From the Director of Music

Music Ministry at St. Peter's

Like many of you, I've had a lot of opportunities to think deeply about what I do over the last year. The ministry of music at St. Peter's has always been robust and full of life. As we have moved through the pandemic, I've thought about all the ways music enlivens our faith and unifies our voices into praising God and proclaiming the story of God's love.

Also, like many of you, this last year has been an amazing chance to take a beat and to work on some of those parts of ministry that go unseen – those nuts and bolts things that are vitally important to doing the work of ministry. This month, I'd like to share some of what I've been thinking about and working on over the last year.

First, I've been working on physical improvements in the music room. With a robust music program, having good storage, room flow, and everything in its place is important. Let's face it, most of us probably cleaned out and organized at least one closet last year. Similarly, I'm working on adding some extra choir folder storage (with many thanks to Don Wenrich), reorganizing shelves, and finding ways to use our space that are efficient and welcoming.

I've also been thinking about some of those small things that can make a big difference. With the help of the property committee, we've added a mirror in the music room. You might be thinking, who cares?! Well, besides being a great way to check out how good you look, a mirror is an amazing tool for becoming a better musician. Especially for our young singers who are just learning how to use their bodies to make music, a mirror gives instant feedback. Becoming the best musicians we can be, and using our skills and talents to glorify God, is one of our callings. Making sure we have the right tools to do our best is important.

Finally, this summer I'm embarking on a project to better catalogue the music in our library. We have a good catalogue to start, but it is centered on technology which by now is a couple of generations old. With a variety of newer tools on the market, taking the time to upgrade our database of music will make it easy as pie to find music to sing and ring that stretches our imaginations, proclaims the faith, and furthers the mission of the church.

So, I leave you asking you these questions: what parts of your faith life need to be cleaned up? What aspects of your devotional life need to be better organized? How can you work behind the scenes to make yourself a better servant to others?

Peace, *Adam*

Worship and Music at St. Peter's

Summer Outdoor Choir Season – Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Folks 9th grade and up, come join with other singers beginning May 6th at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the parking lot at St. Peter's for some outdoor singing. We'll mask and socially distance (following CDC and other professional organizations' guidelines) and sing together in God's acoustic! We'll start out with singing some songs out of the hymnal, other call and response music, and rounds. This is a great way to regain some of your singing "chops"!

Summer Hymn Sing Sundays!

We will continue our tradition of hymn-sing preludes on the last Sundays of the month from May through August (May 30, June 27, July 25, and August 29). We will spend the first few minutes of our livestreamed worship service singing a verse or two of the songs you submit. To submit your requests, send an email to adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org.

Youth & Family Ministry News...



High School Senior Recognition- Sunday May 2nd

We will have a “virtual” high school senior recognition this day during our Church at Home service. Seniors have been mailed information. If you haven’t received the information, please contact Sister Dottie asap. Each senior is asked to submit a recording of information (included in the mailing).

Parents are encouraged to scan and send pictures of their seniors as well.



Confirmation Camp

Confirmation Camp for grades 6-9 at Camp Kirchenwald from Sunday, June 20th thru Saturday, June 26th. Cost is \$250 per camper. We will be joining other area Lutheran Churches to explore our faith in the outdoors. Contact Sister Dottie for registration materials



St. Peter’s Family Day at Camp Kirchenwald

Sunday, May 23rd 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Hiking, ropes course, crafts, games and more! We will conclude with a closing worship at 3:30 p.m. Fun for families of all ages. RSVP to Sister Dottie if you can attend and the ages of the participants for supplies and snacks dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org.

Please contact Sister Dottie Almoney for more information at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org.

ST. PETER’S KIDS

Dear Families,

Although it was a very cold and windy day, I do believe that our Children’s Ministries’ Good Friday Event was a success. We had a drive-up distribution of packets that contained everything necessary to complete the resurrection eggs activity. We hope it provided a meaningful and child friendly explanation of the journey of Jesus to our families who participated. Thanks so much to Christine Hofmann, Cheryl Laub, Megan Thompson, and Julie Gotwald for helping to assemble and distribute the packets.

We will offer Vacation Bible School this summer – outdoors! It will be from July 18th to July 22nd. Mark your calendars and save the date! More information to follow.

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



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.

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 to cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. Stay healthy and safe!



Blessings,
Cindy Geesey

Preschool Corner

Preschool Update:

We have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming 2021/2022 preschool year. There have been a few changes:

1. Due to Covid, we are capping our classes at 12 students. We will have 2- 4/5 year old classes, 2 – 3 year old classes and 1 older 2/younger 3 year old class. We may be opening up a third 4/5 year old class. (Our school is almost full!)
2. Our times for preschool will be 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We will be using our strategic plan for guidance with this ministry:

1. **Seek to teach God’s love through adult education, our programs for children and youth, and our preschool.**
 - ◇ We are offering a *Prayground* program after preschool. Our preschoolers will bring their lunch, have free play and learn the Biblical story.
 - ◇ We are coordinating ministry events between the church and preschool such as our egg hunt, Santa breakfast, VBS and more.
 - ◇ Utilize the rostered staff in educational opportunities for the preschoolers and their families.
2. **Provide ministries opportunities for the entire family to be involved together.**
 - ◇ We will include our preschool families in these ministry opportunities
3. **Connect families with children together, ideally through a small group or support structure.**
 - ◇ A possible future parenting group with the parents of these preschoolers.
4. **Partner with established community programs that provide services to the local community.**
 - ◇ Our preschool will be working with the Ronald McDonald House and other area organizations. We are planning multiple service opportunities for the preschool children and their families for engagement.
5. **Partner with the local school district to identify needs in their district.**
 - ◇ We are in contact with local school districts to identify low income children who could benefit from our preschool program. We are also in conversation with Head Start. – Sandy Hirko has established a scholarship program for low income students to help offset the cost of the preschool. We are accepting donations from parishioners who wish to contribute.

We are also cleaning out our preschool spaces and donating toys, books and other materials that are not needed. We have an abundance of these items and wish to bless other preschools or families who could benefit from these items. We are working with the school district and local service organizations that we hope can take advantage of these supplies. We are excited for the upcoming school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or comments.



Heather Cramer, Preschool Director

St. Peter’s Preschool Fundraiser



For our opening Preschool fundraiser we will be selling St. Peter’s Preschool masks and t-shirts. The shirts will be cherry red and the masks will come in a red hombre, they will both have our preschool logo on them.

Please support the re-opening of our preschool this year and consider purchasing one or more of the following:

T-shirts will be \$12.00

Masks will be \$10.00

Or buy a set (t-shirt & mask) for \$20

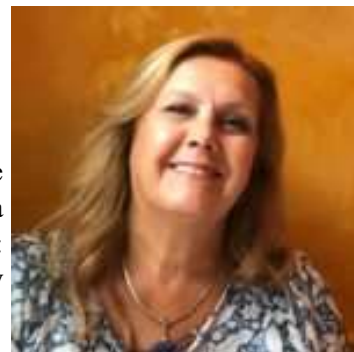


Please contact Heather Cramer to make a purchase at heather.cramer@stpeterslutheran.org or call 717-569-9211.

From the Volunteer Steward

Letter to Congregation

I want to take a moment to let you know your volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated here at St. Peter's. Although this year of volunteering looks different, there have still been a large number of activities that continue. All of our Local Social Ministries are operational: Lydia's Closet, Community Meals, the Quilters, Love Inc, Power Packs, and Recovery Ministry. As well as our Children's Ministries, Property Committee, I could go on and on.



While the church has benefited from your service, your commitment to your faith through your works can not be overlooked. At times it may seem that much of the work is "behind the scenes", and no one really cares. I must emphasize how our lives of service can have a tremendous impact on the world around us. *Matthew 5: 16* "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

You have helped our church fulfill its mission, vision, and values. Your willingness to use your time and talent has strengthened the ministry of our church community. With each minute you spend giving of yourself to St. Peter's, you are reinforcing the bonds of our congregation.

For all your time, effort, work and prayers, please accept the thanks and appreciation of this church, its leaders and staff, and me. You are truly a blessing to this congregation.

With Sincere Gratitude,

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



Volunteers are Needed

Your help is needed! Please consider joining one of our committees that are meeting through Zoom. Consider using some of your time to help with committees that need people & voices. It would be a minimal time commitment. PLEASE consider leading these necessary ministries for St. Peter's.



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

Global Social Ministry Committee--Chair
Stewardship Committee--Chair & Members
Youth and Family--Chair & Members

You can find descriptions for each of the groups on St. Peter's website. 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. Go to 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



LOOKING AHEAD

MAY CALENDAR

Saturday, May 1

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

Sunday, May 2

8:00 a.m. - Drive-in Worship (Parking lot)

9:15 a.m. - Virtual Town Hall (Online)

10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, Pre K-Grade 4 (Livestream)

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

12:00 p.m. - Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 3

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

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

8:00 p.m. - AA (FLC/Café) Al Anon (Music Room)

Tuesday, May 4

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

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

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

Wednesday, May 5

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. - Worship Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, May 6

7:00 p.m. - Outdoor Singing

Friday, May 7

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

Sunday, May 9

9:15 a.m. - Drive-in Worship (Parking lot)

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

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

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

12:00 p.m. - Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 10

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

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

8:00 p.m. - AA (FLC/Café) Al Anon (Music Room)

Tuesday, May 11

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

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

Wednesday, May 12

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

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

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

6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children Bible Study (Narthex)

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

Thursday, May 13

10:30 a.m. - WELCA get together (Outdoors)

7:00 p.m. - Outdoor Singing

Friday, May 14

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

Saturday, May 15

8:00 a.m. - Spring Cleanup (Outdoors)

Sunday, May 16

9:15 a.m. - Drive-in Worship (Parking lot)

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

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

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

12:00 p.m. - Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 17

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

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

8:00 p.m. - AA (FLC/Café) Al Anon (Music Room)

Tuesday, May 18

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

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, May 19

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

6:30 p.m. - Pub Theology (Dombach Farm)

Thursday, May 20

7:00 p.m. - Outdoor Singing

Friday, May 21

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

Saturday, May 22

8:00 a.m. - Rain Date for Spring Clean up

(Continued on next page)



LOOKING AHEAD MAY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 23

Family Camp Day (Kirchenwald)
9:15 a.m. - Drive-in Worship (Parking lot)
9:15 a.m. - Youth & Adult Christian Ed, Grade 5-Adult (Zoom)
10:20 a.m. - Children’s Sunday School, Pre K-Grade 4 (Livestream)
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter’s website/YouTube

Monday, May 24

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor’s Office)
6:45 p.m.– Tanzania Missions Committee (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Human Resources Committee (Zoom)
8:00 p.m. - AA (FLC/Café) Al Anon (Music Room)

Tuesday, May 25

10:30 a.m. - Widows Group (Narthex & Zoom)
12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) Pr. Sarah

Wednesday, May 26

6:30 p.m. - Moms of Young Children Bible Study (Narthex)

Thursday, May 27

7:00 p.m. - Outdoor Singing

Friday, May 28

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

Sunday, May 30

9:15 a.m. - Drive-in Worship (Parking lot)
9:15 a.m. - Youth & Adult Christian Ed, Grade 5-Adult (Zoom)
10:20 a.m. - Children’s Sunday School, Pre K-Grade 4 (Livestream)
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter’s website/YouTube

Monday, May 31

Church Office Closed
8:00 p.m. - AA (FLC/Café) Al Anon (Music Room)

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE MAY 17TH

Articles for the June 2021 “Herald” are due in the church office no later than **May 17th**. Please submit articles to Sandy Shattuck in the church office or email sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org. Thank you for your cooperation.



PLEASE HELP SAVE MAILING COSTS!!!!

PLEASE CONSIDER signing up to receive the online version of the “Herald” Newsletter and help us save on our mailing costs. Contact Sandy Shattuck in the Church Office at 717-569-9211 or sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org to sign up and start receiving the “Herald” by email.

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.

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.

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 by mail. 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 3:00 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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at

sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org.

Sandy Shattuck

Editor & Parish Secretary

