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Easter is early this year - April 5th

Actually, Easter can be as early as the end of March all the way to mid to late April. We all know Lent ends with Palm Sunday and the following Sunday is Easter, but all these dates move around!

It's because the date for Easter is not ruled by the calendar, but by the phases of the moon. I have very little understanding about how Easter is determined and you see I like things to stay the same, but Easter messes me up every year. Do I need my winter coat or just a light sweater?? And we have already had a snowstorm!

But Jesus comes into our lives at different times as well. What I mean is that feeling we get when we feel God with us. As we continue our Lent journey to the cross, we need to feel God with us as we come to worship on Wednesday, just as we feel God with us on Sunday morning.

Lent is a time of repentance. It is a time of looking over our lives and remembering that although we may ignore God on occasion, or just forget that we are children of God, we are reminded in the scripture and in our daily lives that God is always with us through the gift of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. So, what are we to do with these feelings?

Not to mention Lent and Easter is a very busy time with extra services and spring break as well, whenever that comes around! It is easy to be distracted by so many things. This year we also had St. Patrick's Day in the mix!

Happy Easter

Pastor Marie

Committee Chairs

Christian Education
Brenda Ferrebee

Discipleship
Nancy Reichelt

Fellowship
Beverly Morgan, CC liaison; Donna Zerbe

Finance
Nancy Reichelt

Property
Vernon Stroupbauer, CC liaison

Social Ministry
Lillie Morgan, CC liaison; Donna Zerbe

Technology
Nancy Reichelt

Wellness
Mary Daubert, CC liaison

Worship and Music
Barbara Hikes

Youth Ministry
Jodi Derr

Endowment Fund
Alethea Wessner

Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donna Zerbe

Cemetery Association
Kurt Wessner 570-345-8020

Council of Churches
Dale and Brenda Ferrebee, CC liaisons

**Church Council Meeting Highlights
March 12, 2026**

- A potluck supper and movie are planned for the evening of April 11, 2026.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held July 12-16, 2026 from 6:00-8:00 pm.
- A road rally is being planned for Sunday, August 9, 2026.
- Upcoming 2026 youth ministry events include the Easter Egg Hunt in April, a trip to Knoebels, making soup in September, and a walk in October.
- Elevator and fire extinguisher inspections were conducted.
- The church’s constitution and parish records need updating.

Church Council Members

2027

Beverly Morgan*
Vernon Stroupbauer*
Brenda Ferrebee*
Jodi Derr

2028

Stephen Hikes
Barbara Hikes
Dale Ferrebee*
Lillie Morgan*

2029

Mary Daubert*
Andrew Hikes
Nancy Reichelt*
Joshua Zimmerman*

*Serving second consecutive term and cannot be reelected at the end of their term.

Officers

Stephen Hikes, President
Dale Ferrebee, Vice President
Jodi Derr, Secretary
Brenda Ferrebee, Treasurer
Lillie Morgan, Financial Secretary
Designated Pastor: Rev. Marie Meeks

Council members are elected for a term of three years, and no more than two consecutive terms.

Call Committee Members

<i>Bryan Reichelt, Chair</i>	<i>Jocelyn Hikes</i>
<i>Stephanie Graham</i>	<i>Julie Koehler</i>
<i>Joshua Zimmerman</i>	<i>Kurt Wessner</i>

April Worship Readings

Sunday, April 5 Easter Day; Resurrection of Our Lord; Holy Communion

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43
Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Sunday, April 12 Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20:19-31
Psalm 16

Sunday, April 19 Third Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Sunday, April 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel: John 10:1-10
Psalm 23



Sunday School Schedule

The Disciples

April 5th
Easter
No Sunday School

April 12th
Creative Drama
Barbara Hikes and Sue
Strouphauer

April 19th
Art
Nan Hoenich and Janelle Gruber

April 26th
Bible Skills and Games
Nancy Reichelt and Sarah
Reichelt

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday Schedule
Worship Service
9:00 am

Holy Communion
1st & 3rd
Sundays of the month

Sunday School
10:30 am

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class continues to meet in the TV room. For the next several weeks the class is studying *Law and Gospel* by Korey Maas.

Parents and their children met on Sunday, February 15, 2026 to discuss and prepare their children for **First Holy Communion**. The following dates were determined for their classes. We are asking that a parent stay with their child during the classes. This is a valuable refresher for parents. The classes will be held in the catechetical classroom.

- Second Class - New Testament - **Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 11:30 AM**
- Third Class - Meaning of the Lord's Supper; preparation and baking of unleavened bread - **Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 10:00 AM**
- **First Holy Communion- Sunday, May 31, 2026**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss them with Pastor Bob Hoenich or Brenda Ferree. If you have a child in second grade or older who hasn't received First Holy Communion instruction, and didn't attend the meeting, please contact the church office at 570-345-3306.

St. Peter's Mission Statement

"We, the members of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, blessed by God's grace in Word and Sacrament, and desiring to fulfill God's call to minister and witness to the world, commit ourselves to a mission which includes: Meaningful worship; Enthusiastic Christian Education programming; Active witnessing to our Christian faith; Dedicated service; and Responsible support of the programs and financial concerns of the church."

April Ministry Meetings

April 8
Worship and Music Committee
6:00 PM

April 9
Church Council
7:00 PM

April 14
VBS
6:00 PM

April 20
Christian Education Committee
6:00 PM

Sponsorships

Altar Flowers are available April 5, 12, and 26 – cost is \$30

Chancel Flowers are available for April 5, 12, 19, and 26 – cost is \$30

Sanctuary Candle is available for April – cost is \$35

Candle Oil is available for April – cost is \$15

Newsletter is available for April – cost is \$40

Bulletins are available for April 26 – cost is \$15

Call the church office for availability or sign the charts in the downstairs hallway.



Church Finances as of February 28, 2026

February 2026 General Fund Contributions	\$15,146.00
February 2026 Restricted Fund Contributions	\$3,677.00
Balance for General Expenses	\$11,469.00
February 2026 General Fund Expenses	(\$9,135.00)

Balance \$2,334.00

Reminder that we are not currently paying compensation/salary for a pastor

February Account Balances:

General Checking	\$62,528.95
General Savings	\$39,595.47
Subtotal	\$102,124.42
Restricted Savings	\$9,126.69
Total	\$111,251.11

Memorial Fund Checking \$17,529.89

Capital Improvement Fund Checking	\$8,789.03
Restricted Funds	\$5,582.01
Balance	\$14,371.04

Youth Ministry Fund \$7,994.29

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

(General Fund) \$100 IMO Sam Baldwin by wife Carol; \$300 IMO loved ones by Donna Zerbe; \$160 IHO Donna Zerbe by her yoga friends
(Sunday School) \$50 IHO the baptism of our son Wesley Malcolm Wissinger by Owen Wissinger and Angel Venzl; \$150 IMO Jerold Kintzel by his wife Geraldine Kintzel and family; \$50 IMO Ryan Lemke by Robert and Sharon Lemke; \$50 IHO Vivienne Morgan’s baptism by her grandparents, Steve and Beverly Morgan; \$100 IMO Leroy Strubhar by Betty Strubhar
(Pre-buy Oil Fund) \$50 to the Glory of God by Steve and Beverly Morgan

Publishing
Deadlines

If you want to publish something in the Sunday bulletin or the monthly newsletter, please submit your information by the following deadlines:
The bulletin deadline is Wednesday at 2:00 pm.
The May 2026 newsletter deadline is Wednesday, April 8th, 2026.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need, especially:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Bender | Bruce Witmer | Eric Umbenhauer |
| Paul Lengel | Janet Jones | Barbara Schwartz |
| Ruth McMullen | Stacey Harris | Waylon Hartman |
| Tom Wertz | Shirley Lengel | Jen Gerhardt |
| Taylor Wessner | Dennis Eckler | Darlene Eckler |
| Bill Siegel | Christopher Beeman | Shannon Shadle |
| Beverly Morgan | Sue Stump | Brian Kustan |
| Kerry Nagle | Lynn Sabadish | Danette Wolfe |
| Bonnie Kintzel | Dana Stroupbauer | Bill Schaeffer |
| Anna Wertz | Joyce Frantz | Kerry Nagle |
| Bessie Keefer | Ray Stump | Tina Keefer |
| McKenna Morgan Cooper | Nancy Ditzler | Janet Fidler |
| Scott Umberger | Hayden Stroupbauer | Hailey Stroupbauer |
| Doris Morgan | Charles “Hack” Umbenhauer | |

Church Office Hours

Monday & Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (in office)
Tuesday & Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (remote)

Please leave a message on the office answering machine (570-345-3306) on Tuesdays and Fridays.

If you have prayer requests or info for the Sunday bulletin prayer listing, please contact the church office or Nan Hoenich at 570-345-8706.



Pictured: Rev. Robert Hoenich and Callee Leffler

Callee Leffler was taken in as an adult confirmed member by profession of faith at St. Peter’s during the worship service on March 22, 2026.

Food Pantry Report

We as volunteers can't thank you enough for the outpouring of monetary and food gifts that you have so generously presented for sharing in this outreach ministry.

At the end of February we had shelves of non-perishable items fully stocked and an ice chest plus our refrigerators (near capacity) filled and ready to go.

We distributed five bags of non-perishable items and one bag of perishable foods per household, touching many lives in those 30 families.

A quick update on the winter clothing and blankets that you have graciously donated. Starting through the season of Christmas into the month of February and early March we have given winter "stuff" to 20 households, including some children's clothing that we shared for a daycare that we were able to make contact with a family we helped in our Food Pantry distribution.

Through you our Lord has opened up so many opportunities to share His love, expressing kindness beyond expectations which have given people hope dealing with difficult situations.

May God bless each one of us as we minister and serve in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

Baptism March 22nd



*Vivienne Lane Irene
Morgan, daughter of
Ian and Heather
Morgan*

Food pantry items for the month of April include:

Cereal

Pancake Mix

Cereal Bars & Toaster Pastries

*Matthew 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

Potluck and Movie Night

**Saturday, April 11th
Potluck at 5:00 PM
Movie at 6:00 PM**

**Movie TBD.
Join us for a night of fellowship.**

2026 Holy Week Services

St. John's Lutheran Church
222 South Tulpehocken Street
Pine Grove, PA

April 2 – Maundy Thursday
2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Both services will include Holy Communion.

April 3 – Good Friday
2:00 PM

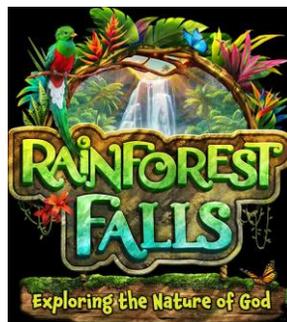
This service will include the reading of the Passion according to
John's Gospel.

7:00 PM Tenebrae Service

2026 Vacation Bible School (VBS)

We are planning a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for this summer with an open invitation to the community. It will be held July 12 – 16 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM here at St. Peter's. The theme is *Rainforest Falls*.

We are looking for teachers and volunteers. Please speak to any member of the Christian Education committee or call the church and we will reach out to you.



Easter Egg Hunt

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Saturday, April 4, 2026 beginning at 11:00 a.m.
 For children up to age 12

Come join us for crafts, music, & the Easter Story. Light lunch and refreshments will be served. All children from the community are welcome to attend.



CommunityAid Partnership

The Pine Grove Cluster of Lutheran churches has received a partnership with CommunityAid Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The CommunityAid organization is unlike national thrift stores. CommunityAid invests time, training, resources, and funding into nonprofit and faith-based organizations making an impact in the local community. CommunityAid focuses particularly on programs addressing housing, food insecurity, and basic human needs. In turn nonprofit partners (Pine Grove Cluster) help make their benevolent mission possible by actively promoting their relationship with CommunityAid, increasing our number of donations and shoppers.

Benefits of our partnership with CommunityAid: For all clothing donations brought to the various store locations the Pine Grove Cluster receives credit of 13 cents per pound by providing the Cluster's partnership ID number. As donations are given to CommunityAid, the Cluster will receive Care Cards to be used for purchases within the CommunityAid stores. In time as the Cluster donations continue to CommunityAid, the Cluster will be eligible for grants to aid support for unseen emergencies, repairs, and funding for operational costs.

Area stores are located at:

4405 Lewis Road
 Harrisburg, PA 17111
 717-412-7706

5370 Allentown Pike
 Reading, PA 19560
 717-412-7706

1070 North Susquehanna Trail
 Selinsgrove, PA 17870
 570-372-1040

The Pine Grove Cluster was assigned a partnership ID number. Please give this number when dropping off donations or when purchasing items in the stores. ID number cards are located in an envelope on a bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

For more information on CommunityAid, please visit CommunityAid.org.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 2026

			1	2	3	4
			7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4:15-9:15 pm Music Lessons 2:00 and 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Services with Holy Communion at St. John's	2:00 pm Good Friday Service at St. John's 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service at St. John's	8:45 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons 11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion; Easter Day; Resurrection of Our Lord; Needy Fund Collection Pastor Linda Bonfiglio No Sunday School or Catechetical Class	4:15 – 7:00 pm Music Lessons	4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons	6:00 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	4:15-9:15 pm Music Lessons 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting		8:45 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons 5:00 pm Potluck 6:00 pm Movie
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 am Worship Service; Second Sunday of Easter 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	4:15 – 7:00 pm Music Lessons	4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm VBS Meeting Senior Citizens	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4:15 – 9:15 pm Music Lessons		8:45 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Third Sunday of Easter Pastor Carey Miller 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class 11:30 am First Holy Communion Class	4:15 – 7:00 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting	4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4:15 – 9:15 pm Music Lessons		8:45 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Hall Rental
26	27	28	29	30		
9:00 am Worship Service; Fourth Sunday of Easter Stephen Hikes 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	4:15 – 7:00 pm Music Lessons	4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons Senior Citizens	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4:15 – 9:15 pm Music Lessons		

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