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Designated Pastor's Letter

Easter is late this year

April 20th

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

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

Or why Christmas Day is always the 25th of December

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??

Not to mention that when I lived up north there could be snow on Easter!

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

Maybe at the funeral of a friend or family member

We sometimes feel God's love as we say goodbye

But other times we feel God and we get angry

Because someone has died way too soon

As we continue our Lenten 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 and feeling our unworthiness

It is a time of looking over our lives

And remembering that although we may ignore God

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.

Caring for us and all people

Through the gift of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Pastor Marie

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Brenda Ferrebee

Discipleship

Nancy Reichelt

Fellowship

Donna Zerbe

Finance

Nancy Reichelt

Property

Vernon Stroupbauer, CC
Liaison

Social Ministry

Technology

Nancy Reichelt

Wellness

Worship and Music

Barbara Hikes

Youth Ministry

Jodi Derr

Endowment Fund

Beverly Morgan

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 13, 2025

- The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 12th beginning at 11:00 am.
- Eligible students will receive their First Holy Communion during the May 4th Sunday morning worship service.
- Two individuals will be confirmed on Sunday, May 18th during the morning worship service.
- Dale and Brenda Ferrebee were approved as voting member delegates to the 2025 NEPA Synod Assembly.
- Second quarter 2025 Sunday School offerings will be designated to ELCA Disaster Relief.
- A web-based computer program is being looked into.
- Church Council is seeking to put together a grief ministry team that will be extended to members of the congregation who would like to participate.
- Property Clean-Up Day will be held in early spring with the date to be announced.
- Youth Ministries will be meeting to discuss ramping up the youth group program again.
- Church Council will be seeking members for a short-term/long-term planning committee.

Church Council Members

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
Youth Ministry	Mary Daubert	Beverly Morgan*	Stephen Hikes
	Gwen Moyer	Vernon Stroupbauer*	Barbara Hikes
Endowment Fund	Nancy Reichelt	Brenda Ferrebee*	Dale Ferrebee*
	Joshua Zimmerman	Jodi Derr	Lillie Morgan*

*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

Bryan Reichelt, Chair	Jocelyn Hikes
Stephanie Graham	Julie Koehler
Joshua Zimmerman	Kurt Wessner

April Worship Readings

Sunday, April 6

Fifth Sunday in Lent; Holy Communion

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel: John 12:1-8

Psalm: 126

Sunday, April 13

Sunday of the Passion; Palm Sunday; Holy Communion

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

Psalm: 31:9-16

Sunday, April 20

Resurrection of Our Lord; Easter Day; Holy Communion

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24

Sunday, April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Psalm: 118:14-29



Sunday School Schedule

Holy Week and Easter

April 6

Creative Drama

Barbara Hikes and Sue Strouphauer

April 13

Art – Palm Sunday

Nan Hoenich and Janelle Gruber

April 20

Easter

No Sunday School

April 27

Bible Skills and Games

Nancy Reichelt and Sarah Reichelt

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class, led by Nan Hoenich, will continue during the Sunday School hour. We are currently studying the I am verses in the Gospel of John, having started with I am the bread of life.

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

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.

Christ in Our Home devotional booklets are currently available for the months of April, May, and June. You can pick up your free copy in the TV room, the fellowship hall, the elevator lobby and the downstairs display rack.

Join us for our **Easter Festival Service** celebrating **the Resurrection of Our Lord** on Sunday, April 20th at 9:00 am. **(Please note that there will only be one service this year.)**



First Holy Communion classes will be held on the following Saturdays at 10:00 am:

April 12th, April 26th, and May 3rd



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."

Sponsorships

Altar Flowers are available for April 6, 20 and 27– cost is \$30

Chancel Flowers are available for April 6, 13, 20, and 27 – cost is \$30

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

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

Newsletter is available for April- cost is \$40

Bulletins are available for April 20 and 27 – cost is \$15

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



April Ministry Meetings

April 7th
 Christian Education
 Committee
 6:00 PM

April 7th
 Worship and Music
 Committee
 7:00 PM

Church Finances – End of February 2025

February 2025 General Funds Contributions:	\$10,488
February 2025 General Expenses Paid:	\$ 9,558
February 2025 Account Balances	
Checking:	\$15,975.61
Savings:	\$29,432.89
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$17,424.03
Memorial Fund:	\$15,454.09
Youth Ministry Fund:	\$ 8,751.66

MEMORIALS

(General Fund) IMO Elaine Bender: \$25 by Donna Zerbe, \$50 by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich, \$25 by Barbara Schwartz; IMO Kathleen Brand: \$25 by Donna Zerbe, \$25 by Steve and Beverly Morgan, \$50 by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich, \$25 by Stephen and Barbara Hikes; \$100 IMO Sam Baldwin, Jr. by Carol Baldwin; \$50 IMO Anna Belle Kreiser by Ed and Jean Kreiser; IMO Thelma Adams: \$100 by David and Michaelene Watson, \$50 by Tina Hippert and Julie Zimmerman, \$25 by Kim Schroeder (Memorial Fund) \$25 IMO Elaine Bender by Jean Bender (Pre-Buy Oil Fund) \$100 IMO my sisters Mattie and Nancy by Charles Gilbert; \$50 IMO Thelma Adams by Kenneth and Betty Bressler

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 2025 newsletter deadline is Wednesday, April 9th.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Alice Hunkapiller | Bruce Witmer | Eric Umbenhauer |
| Paul Lengel | Janet Jones | Barbara Schwartz |
| Ruth McMullen | Stacey Harris | Shannon Shadle |
| Tom Wertz | Shirley Lengel | Jen Peters |
| Janet Fisher | Dale Legarht | Elizabeth Platko |
| Bill Siegel | Christopher Beeman | Dean Wertz |
| Virginia Witherow | Beverly Morgan | Sue Stump |
| John Venzl | Lori Fehr Moyer | Georgene Krammes |
| Bonnie Kintzel | Dana Strouphauer | Elaine Benko |
| Anna Wertz | Joyce Frantz | Lee Wessner |
| Patrick Williams | Bessie Keefer | JJ Vazquez |
| Waylon Hartman | | |

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.



Grief Share will continue its sessions on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and will last for 14 weeks. Please contact Nancy Reichelt for more information.

Grief Ministry

During a vacancy a pastor is not available to care for our congregation. Church Council would like to initiate a **Grief Ministry Team** into our congregation. We realize this is not for everyone. If anyone is interested in serving our congregation in this way, please contact Nancy Reichelt or Steve Hikes.

We Remember These Saints

- ✝ John Brommer who passed away on February 13th
- ✝ Kyle Cleary who passed away on March 6th



Food Pantry

For the month of April, we will be collecting canned and boxed soups to refresh the food pantry. Please place your donations on the designated table in the fellowship hall.

Food Pantry Update

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in giving through offerings and food donations for our church food pantry. I have been trying to take an inventory of the shelves of non-perishable items and the frozen meat products in the freezers. With the Easter Food Basket offerings, a Thrivent grant of \$250 and your monthly donations of food we will be ready for the April 5th distribution.

I was able to respond to a need on Tuesday, March 4th to help two adults with no food in which there also were serious health issues. All of us who volunteer at the food pantry share with the least among us (as Jesus did in His ministry) in the name of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, ever believing how Jesus blesses and multiplies our gifts. Take a moment to read John 6:1-14. It inspires all of us in doing the work our Lord has called us to do. We are truly blessed to be a blessing to others.

Pastor Bob Hoenich

The Youth Ministry committee is requesting donations of **candy** and **plastic eggs** for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on April 12th. Please place your donations on the designated table in the fellowship hall.

Attention High School Seniors

Please contact the church office to obtain your Stew Zerbe Scholarship application.

Community Weekly Lenten Services

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

2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Mid-Week Services
Theme: *In Awe and Love*

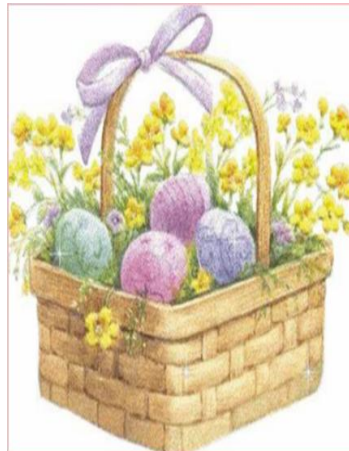
Wednesday, April 2 and 9
7:00 PM services – *Holden Evening Prayer*

Maundy Thursday, April 17
Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 18

*Community Lenten Services sponsored by Pine Grove
Cluster of Schuylkill Mission District of Northeastern PA
Synod of the ELCA*

Offerings are designated for Lutheran Disaster Relief



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12th, 2025

Beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Ages 0 -12

Light lunch, crafting, singing
& the story of Easter.

Event is free & open to the community.



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 2025

		1	2	3	4	5
		4:15 – 5:30 pm Music Lessons	10:00 am Grief Share 2:00 pm Midweek Service @ St. John's 7:00 pm Midweek Service @ St. John's	4:15 – 6:30 pm Music Lessons 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal		9:00 am-12:00 pm Music Lessons 9:00 am Food Pantry Distribution
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30 am Sunday School	4:30 – 8:30 pm Music Lessons 6:00 Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:00 Worship and Music Committee Meeting	4:15 – 5:30 pm Music Lessons Senior Citizens	10:00 am Grief Share 2:00 pm Midweek Service @ St. John's 7:00 pm Midweek Service @ St. John's NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	4:15 – 6:30 pm Music Lessons 6:15 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Church Council Meeting		9:00 am – 12:00 pm Music Lessons 10:00 am First Holy Communion Class 11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Sunday of the Passion; Palm Sunday 10:30 am Sunday School	4:30 – 8:30 pm Music Lessons	4:15 – 5:30 pm Music Lessons	10:00 am Grief Share 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal	2:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion @ St. John's 4:15 – 6:30 pm Music Lessons 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion @ St. John's	2:00 pm Good Friday Service @ St. John's 7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ St. John's	9:00 am – 12:00 pm Music Lessons
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Resurrection of Our Lord; Easter Day	4:30 – 8:30 pm Music Lessons	4:15-5:30 pm Music Lessons Senior Citizens	10:00 am Grief Share 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4:15 – 6:30 pm Music Lessons		9:00 am – 12:00 pm Music Lessons 10:00 am First Holy Communion Class
27	28	29	30			
9:00 am Worship Service; Second Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School	4:30 – 8:30 pm Music Lessons	4:15 – 5:30 pm Music Lessons	10:00 am Grief Share 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal			

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