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*Designated Pastor's Letter*

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."(Matthew 11:28-30 NRSV)

I think this is a very appropriate scripture reading for this time of year! School has been back for a while but things are still a little new. My granddaughter began middle school and she is still trying to navigate moving to a different classroom for every class.

For me I am weary because I do not know whether to wear a coat or a sweater when I go out!

And all the sports have started as well. My good friend is taking her two-year-old granddaughter to soccer!

So many things seem to happen in the fall and that is on top of all the things we must do every day. I am so glad that as we look forward to the holiday season we can find rest in the love of Jesus "for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Amen

*Pastor Marie*

**Community Reformation Service**

On **Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>** the Pine Grove Area Cluster of Lutheran Churches is sponsoring a Community Reformation Service at **2:00 pm** at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pine Grove. The Rev. Kenneth T. Melber, Jr. will preach and preside over the Holy Communion.

## 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**

**September 18, 2025**

- Preparation for the 2026 budget will begin at the Finance Committee meeting to be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.
- Approved the institution of a QR code method for submitting offerings
- A new desktop printer will be purchased for the church office.
- Options for clearing the church's parking lot and sidewalks during inclement weather (snow/ice) were discussed.
- The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026 with a snow date of February 1, 2026.

## Church Council Members

### 2026

Mary Daubert  
Gwen Moyer  
Nancy Reichelt  
Joshua Zimmerman

### 2027

Beverly Morgan\*  
Vernon Stroupbauer\*  
Brenda Ferrebee\*  
Jodi Derr

### 2028

Stephen Hikes  
Barbara Hikes  
Dale Ferrebee\*  
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

<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>

## October Worship Readings

### Sunday, October 5

#### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; Worldwide Communion Sunday

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Second: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Psalm: 37:1-9

### Sunday, October 12

#### Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3; 7-15c

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Psalm: 111

### Sunday, October 19

#### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Communion

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Psalm: 121

### Sunday, October 26

#### Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Communion; Reformation Sunday

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Psalm: 46

### Sunday School Schedule

#### The Sower

October 5

Cooking

Brenda Ferree and Alex Ulsh

#### Walking on Water

October 12

Creative Drama

Barbara Hikes and Sue Stroupauer

October 19

Art

Nan Hoenich and Janelle Gruber

October 26

Cooking

Brenda Ferree and Alex Ulsh

### Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class continues to meet in the TV room. The class is participating in a new Bible Study series from Augsburg Fortress titled *Together by Grace: Bible Conversations MATTHEW*.

### St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

#### Sunday Schedule

#### Worship Service

9:00 am

#### Holy Communion

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

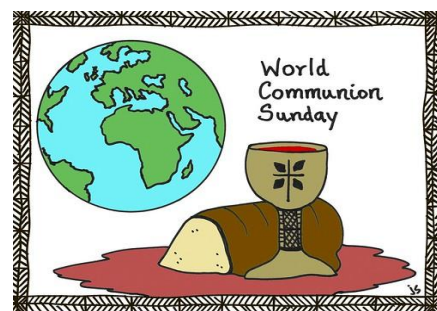
Sundays of the month

#### Sunday School

10:30 am

### Worldwide Communion

Worldwide Communion will be observed on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> during the 9:00 am worship service. It is a time when Christians around the globe partake in Holy Communion, celebrating their connection to one another and to God.



### Reformation Sunday

On Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Reformation Sunday. We are honored to have Bishop Christopher deForest to lead the worship service and preach the sermon. Following the service we will have a time of fellowship with a brunch provided by the Fellowship Committee.

### ***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."

### **October Ministry Meetings**

#### **October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Worship and Music Committee  
11:00 AM

#### **October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Finance Committee  
6:00 PM

#### **October 9<sup>th</sup>**

Church Council  
7:00 PM

#### **October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Christian Education Committee  
6:00 PM

### **Sponsorships**

**Altar Flowers** are available October 5, 19, and 26 – cost is \$30

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

**Sanctuary Candle** is full for October – cost is \$35

**Candle Oil** is full for October – cost is \$15

**Newsletter** is available for October – cost is \$40

**Bulletins** are available for October 5, 12, 19, and 26 – cost is \$15

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



### **Church Finances – End of August 2025**

August 2025 General Fund Contributions: \$13,239.00 (after designated funds are distributed)

August 2025 General Expenses paid: **\$ 11,543.00 \***

\*Currently we are not paying compensation for a minister. The estimated compensation would be \$10,574.00 per month.

August 2025 Account balances:

- Checking \$38,217.50
- Savings\*\* \$40,370.07

\*\*\$5,200.65 is designated towards the Needy Fund and the Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund.

- Memorial Fund \$15,905.69
- Capital Improvement Fund\*\*\* \$10,595.03

\*\*\*\$6,531.00 is designated to Video/Audio, Prepaid Fuel, Fellowship and Parsonage Improvements. \$4,064.03 is designated for Capital Improvement.

\*\*\*\$12,000.00 was used to purchase prepaid oil from Jack Rich, Inc. Purchased 3,954.567 gallons @ \$2.759 per gallon (church rate)

- Youth Ministry \$ 7,331.73

## **MEMORIALS AND GIFTS**

**(General Fund)** \$100 IMO William and Lula Lengel by Patricia Weckle and Sandra Kemmerling; \$100 IMO Leroy Strubhar, Sr. by Betty Strubhar; \$90 IHO Jane Brommer for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by John Brommer and family; \$50 IMO William Harris by Beverly and Steve Morgan, \$50 by Steve and Beverly Morgan; \$100 IMO Sam Baldwin by wife Carol  
**(Pre-Buy Oil Fund)** \$150 IMO William Harris by Donna Zerbe

## ***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	Waylon Hartman
Tom Wertz	Shirley Lengel	Jen Gerhardt
Janet Fisher	Dale Legarht	Elizabeth Platko
Bill Siegel	Christopher Beeman	Shannon Shadle
Beverly Morgan	Sue Stump	Brian Kustan
Lori Fehr Moyer	Lynn Sabadish	Kelsey Cleary
Bonnie Kintzel	Dana Strouphauer	Bill Schaeffer
Anna Wertz	Joyce Frantz	Lee Wessner
Bessie Keefer	Ray Stump	Tina Keefer
McKenna Morgan Cooper	Nancy Ditzler	Janet Fidler
Taylor Wessner	Linda Zimmerman	

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.

## **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 2025 November newsletter deadline is October 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **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.

## **We Remember This Saint**

✠ **James R. Ney, who passed away on September 4<sup>th</sup>**



## **All Saints Sunday**

All Saints Sunday will be observed on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> during our 9:00 am worship service. All members who have passed away in the past year will be remembered. If there is anyone you would like to have remembered during this service, please call the church office at 570-345-3306 by Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.



**October on the run! School is in session and sometimes we need a fast meal between activities! Support our Food Pantry in October with simple, yet nutritious Meal Prep items!**

**Spaghetti Sauce**

**Pasta**

**Pizza Sauce/Chili Sauce**

**Macaroni & Cheese**

**Hamburger Helper**

**Instant Mashed Potatoes**

**Canned Meats**



**Thrivent Members are able to apply for a \$250 Grant for our Church's Food Pantry twice per year! Ask us How!**

### **Church Cleanup Day** **Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**

Volunteers needed to:

- Wash the fellowship hall windows (inside and outside)
- Wash the windows on the inside doors and entryways
- Dust the ceiling fans
- Pledge the pews and woodwork
- Trim the shrubbery around the church and parsonage – bring pruners
- Scrape and paint around the parsonage (outside) – bring scrapers and wire brushes

### **Youth Ministry**

The Youth Ministry Committee is planning a hike for Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. See Gwen Hoenich-Moyer for more details.



**Thank you** to all who donated towards the 2025 – 2026 Pre-Buy Oil Fund. With your donations we were able to purchase \$12,000.00 worth of oil, which should last throughout the winter for both the church and the parish house (parsonage).

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

### **2026 Budget Preparation**

The **Finance Committee** will meet on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

### **Potluck and Movie Night**

There will be a potluck and movie night on **Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**. Potluck begins at 5:00 PM and the movie (TBD) will begin at 6:00 PM.



### **Time and Talent Commitment Form**

Please take a few minutes to complete the form included in this newsletter and return it to the church office as soon as possible.



Come and join the fun!

## Will you be a Trunker this year?

Trunk or Treat at St. Peter's Lutheran will be held October 31, 2025  
 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Trunkers may dress up and/or decorate their car.

Cars are parked and set-up beginning at 4:30 p.m. We have approximately 400+ kids each year.

If you are interested in setting up as a Trunker, the registration forms are available online,  
 in the newsletter, in the office, and in the Sunday bulletins.

Please contact Jodi Derr at 570-294-6057 if you have any questions.

Youth Ministry Committee appreciates any candy donations for this event.

**2025 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY** The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly was held July 28 - August 2 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The approximate 845 voting members, elected by the ELCA's 65 synods, made major decisions on social statements, proposals, and resolutions over the course of eleven plenary sessions. Meaningful and inspiring worship opportunities were offered on a daily basis. The assembly elected the Rev. Yehiel Curry as the new ELCA Presiding Bishop and the Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills as the new ELCA Secretary for six-year terms (pictured below.) The assembly showed their appreciation to retiring ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and ELCA Secretary Sue Rothmeyer. Twenty-two elected voting members attended from the Northeastern PA Synod including these individuals from the Schuylkill Mission District: Nancy Reichelt (NEPA Synod VP), Dr. Donald Boyer (NEPA Synod Treasurer), Pastor Ken Melber, Jr. (NEPA Synod Secretary), Amanda Melber, Pastor Brian Beissel, and Stephen Hikes. Barbara Hikes attended as a non-voting guest.





## BOOKBAG BLESSING



**These bookbags were blessed by Pastor Bob Hoenich during the August 3<sup>rd</sup> worship service and delivered to the Pine Grove Area School District on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY AUGUST 24, 2025

*During Worship Service*



**Blessing of students and bookbags**

**Fifth grade students Hayden Stroupbauer and Connor Reichelt received Bibles.**

*During Sunday School*



**Father Leo Goodman presented Magical Revelations**



## St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2025

			<sup>1</sup> 11:00 am Worship and Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	<sup>2</sup> 4:15 – 9:00 pm Music Lessons	<sup>3</sup>	<sup>4:</sup> 9:30 am – 1:45 pm Music Lessons
<sup>5</sup> 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; Worldwide Communion Sunday Pastor Mindy Heppe 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class Youth Ministry Hike	<sup>6</sup> 4:15 – 6:00 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting	<sup>7</sup> 4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons	<sup>8</sup> 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<sup>9</sup> 4:15 – 9:00 pm Music Lessons 7:00 Church Council Meeting	<sup>10</sup>	<sup>11</sup> 9:00 am Church Cleanup Day 8:30 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons
<sup>12</sup> 9:00 am Worship Service; Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Stephen Hikes 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class 5:00 Potluck Dinner 6:00 Movie Night	<sup>13</sup> 4:15 – 6:00 pm Music Lessons	<sup>14</sup> 4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons	<sup>15</sup> 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	<sup>16</sup> 4:15 – 9:00 pm Music Lessons	<sup>17</sup>	<sup>18</sup> 9:30 am – 1:45 pm Music Lessons
<sup>19</sup> 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Barry Spatz 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	<sup>20</sup> 4:15 – 6:00 pm Music Lessons	<sup>21</sup> 4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons	<sup>22</sup> 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	<sup>23</sup> 4:15 – 9:00 pm Music Lessons	<sup>24</sup>	<sup>275</sup> 8:30 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons
<sup>26</sup> 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; 20th Sunday after Pentecost; Reformation Sunday Bishop Christopher DeForest 10:00 am Brunch 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class 2:00 pm Community Reformation Service @ St. John's	<sup>27</sup> 4:15 – 6:00 pm Music Lessons	<sup>28</sup> 4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons	<sup>29</sup> 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	<sup>30</sup> 4:15 – 9:00 pm Music Lessons	<sup>31</sup> 5:30 – 8:00 pm Trunk or Treat	

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### A New Way to Use Electronic Offering

1 Chronicles 29:14 “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be blessed to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”

If you wish to give electronically, with the very simple use of QR code, you can now do so. Just scan the QR code below using your smart phone’s camera, and touch the yellow box that will appear and it will take you directly to our VANCO account to make your gift. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Nancy Reichelt and we can help you. You will begin seeing the QR code on pew tags and bulletin boards as well as in your church bulletin.

2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”



## ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### ~~TIME AND TALENT COMMITMENT~~

We come in thankfulness for each of you who does God's work and shows God's love. In thankfulness for the life of ministry we share, and in thankfulness for over 200 years of God's grace and generosity, please join us as ministers on this continuing journey together.

In the year ahead, I plan to serve the Lord and the congregation of St. Peter's in the ways checked below:

1. **Care of our members team**
  - ☐ Visitor to shut-ins
  - ☐ Prayer circle
  - ☐ Transport members to church
  - ☐ Transport members to appointments
2. **Christian Education**
  - ☐ Committee member
  - ☐ Sunday School teacher
  - ☐ Vacation Bible School teacher/helper
  - ☐ Confirmation assistant
  - ☐ Youth ministry subcommittee member
  - ☐ Participate in youth activities
3. **Worship and Music**
  - ☐ Committee member
  - ☐ Senior choir
  - ☐ Musician
  - ☐ Communion assistant
  - ☐ Lay reader
  - ☐ Downstairs greeter
  - ☐ Crucifer
  - ☐ Acolyte
  - ☐ Usher
  - ☐ Altar guild
  - ☐ Bell ringer
4. **Social Ministry**
  - ☐ Committee member
  - ☐ Visitor to nursing homes
  - ☐ Help with Christmas/Easter food baskets and food pantry distributions
5. **Discipleship**
  - ☐ Committee member
  - ☐ Emergency telephone chain participant
  - ☐ Assist in producing worship CDs
  - ☐ Grieving team ministry
  - ☐ Deliver church envelopes
6. **Property**
  - ☐ Committee member
  - ☐ Assist in maintenance of church/parish house
  - ☐ Assist in upkeep of grounds/cemeteries
  - ☐ Table and chair setup and removal in fellowship hall
7. **Fellowship**
  - ☐ Committee member
  - ☐ Help with dinners and events
  - ☐ Help with coffee socials
8. **Finance**
  - ☐ Committee member
  - ☐ Offering counter
9. **Technology**
  - ☐ Committee member
  - ☐ Videographer
10. **Other – please tell us what your talent is**

If you would be interested in bringing the following opportunities to our congregation, please check below.

☐ Women of the ELCA

☐ Adult fellowship group

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Best way and time to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_