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Greetings in name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

Today I greet you for the first time in this newsletter as your pastor. I am so looking forward to meeting all of you and getting to know you. If you were at the Sunday Service, where you chose me to be your pastor, you heard me say that I want to meet and hear your hopes and dreams about St. Peter's. To that end, in the June Newsletter, I will have a series of dates published, where I will be at the church, and I would love for people to come and see me.

I want to know about you; I want to know what you love about St. Peter's. I want to know what we are not doing that you think we should be doing; I want to know what you think we are doing well, and what we are not doing well. Over the life of the church, pastors come and go; but it is the people who come that make the church.

I also want to know about the Pine Grove community. I am not from Pine Grove so I will be relying on you to educate me about the community. I will of course go out and about and try to meet people, the businesses, and more. But you, you the people of St. Peter's are my greatest asset. You are the church. As I said on Sunday, before I institute any major changes, I want to get to know you and your vision for St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Pine Grove.

However, here are just a few things you will see me do. I do not see these as major changes, but things you would expect from your Pastor.

1. I will generally offer a Fall and a Spring Bible Study (probably on either a Monday or Tuesday evening). I generally do not do a Winter Bible Study because of the weather and people not liking to drive at night in winter.
2. You will see me interacting and working with the youth.
3. You will see me actively visiting any homebound members we might have monthly and offer home communion as well as those in hospitals, nursing homes, and more.
4. While I will be in and out of the office at different times, I will always try to list at least one day where you know I will be in the office for a few hours, so if you feel you would like to see me, you can stop by.
5. As I mentioned earlier in the letter, I will also post some dates that are listed specifically for the purpose of having you stop by to meet and get to know each other and your vision for St. Peter's.

I look forward to this honor of being your pastor.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

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**

**April 9, 2026**

- Sunday School offerings for Palm Sunday will be designated to My Father's House in Pottsville.
- Sunday School offerings for April – June will be designated to the Pine Grove Area School District lunch bag program.
- The Sunday School offerings from the months of January – March were enough to fund 54 health kits.
- Calista Wessner, Joshua Witherow, and Hunter Stroupbauer were approved for confirmation during the May 17, 2026 worship service.
- Rachel's Day will be observed during the worship service on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Diapers of all sizes will be collected for distribution through the St. Peter's food pantry.
- The Easter egg hunt hosted 32 children who enjoyed crafting, singing, story time, a light lunch, and the egg hunt.
- Youth ministries received a \$500 ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread Grant for the St. Peter's food pantry.
- The condition of the church's parking lot was discussed.

Church Council Members

2027

2028

2029

Beverly Morgan\*

Stephen Hikes

Mary Daubert\*

Vernon Stroupbauer\*

Barbara Hikes

Andrew Hikes

Brenda Ferrebee\*

Dale Ferrebee\*

Nancy Reichelt\*

Jodi Derr

Lillie Morgan\*

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

Pastor: Rev. Michael Reist (beginning 5/16/2026)

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

## May Worship Readings

**Sunday, May 3**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion; Rachel's Day**

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

**Sunday, May 10**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Psalm 66:8-20

**Sunday, May 17**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion; Confirmation**

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Gospel: John 17:1-11

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

**Sunday, May 24**

**Day of Pentecost; Holy Communion**

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

**Sunday, May 31**

**The Holy Trinity; First Sunday after Pentecost; First Holy Communion**

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Psalm 8

## Sunday School Schedule

### The Disciples

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Cooking

Brenda Ferrebee, Alex Ulsh, Terri

Cleary

May 10<sup>th</sup>

Science

Gwen Moyer and Alethea

Wessner

May 17<sup>th</sup>

Video

Jodi Derr and Jessica Geary

### Four Friends

May 24<sup>th</sup>

Art

Nan Hoenich and Janelle Gruber

May 31<sup>st</sup>

Creative Drama

Barbara Hikes and Sue

Stroupbauer

**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**

### **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.

- Third Class - meaning of the Lord's Supper; preparation and baking of unleavened bread - **Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM**
- **First Holy Communion- Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss them with Pastor Bob Hoenich or Brenda Ferrebee. 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."

**May Ministry Meetings**

**May 7**  
Church Council  
7:00 PM

**May 12**  
VBS  
6:00 PM

**May 18**  
Christian Education  
Committee  
6:00 PM

***Sponsorships***

**Altar Flowers** are available for May 31 – cost is \$30

**Chancel Flowers** are available for May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 – cost is \$30

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

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

**Newsletter** is full for May – cost is \$40

**Bulletins** are available for May 31 – cost is \$15

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



The **May newsletter** is given to the Glory of God IMO Thelma Hubler on Mother's Day by Al and Laine.

***Church Finances as of March 31, 2026***

March 2026 General Fund Contributions	\$23,003.00
March 2026 Restricted Fund Contributions	\$6,045.00
Balance for General Expenses	\$16,958.00
March 2026 General Fund Expenses	\$11,381.86
 Balance	 \$5,576.34
 Reminder that we are not currently paying compensation/salary for a pastor	
 March Account Balances	
General Checking	\$72,925.32
General Savings	\$53,534.61
	Subtotal
	\$126,459.93
Restricted Savings	\$13,351.19
	Total
	\$113,108.74
 Memorial Fund Checking	 \$17,533.61
 Capital Improvement Fund Checking	 \$12,280.03
	Restricted Funds
	\$2,161.00
	Balance
	\$10,119.03
 Youth Ministry Fund	 \$7,994.29

### MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

**(General Fund)** \$100 IMO Sam Baldwin by wife Carol; \$100 IMO loved ones by Carol Baldwin; \$100 IMO loved ones by Kenneth and Betty Bressler; \$20 IMO Dad Rich and brother Dean Wertz by Jerry and Missy Witherow; \$100 IMO Donald Schwartz by wife Barbara; \$100 IMO Thelma Hubler by Harvey Hubler

**(Memorial Fund)** \$750 IMO parents Paul W. Lengel and Thelma I. Lengel by Howard Lengel and children; \$500 IMO wife Catherine Lengel, son Robert W. Lengel, grandson Jacob Lengel, and granddaughter Samantha Lengel by Howard Lengel and children; \$500 IHO children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and Shirley Lengel by Howard Lengel

**(Food Pantry)** \$1,000 IMO Adam and Minnie Heinbach, Willard and Irma Heinbach, Flora Hummel, Mabel Zimmerman, and Ronald Heinbach by Linda Venszl

### 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 June 2026 newsletter deadline is Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

### 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.

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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

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.

### We Remember These Saints

- ✝ Aaron Earlosky who passed away on April 12<sup>th</sup>
- ✝ Dorothy Reed Schaeffer who passed away on April 15<sup>th</sup>
- ✝ Geraldine Schneck who passed away on April 20<sup>th</sup>



## Food Pantry Report

### Food Pantry Report

Thank you for your continued support of the food pantry ministries. Our combined efforts have aided 35 families, with approximately 90 people in total this past distribution which occurred April 22, 2026.

We are finally seeing warmer temperatures and in good timing with rising heating prices. The donations of coats, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, scarves and blankets this winter provided warmth to many adults and children who otherwise may have gone without. Someone with a very kind and generous heart once said to me, "God blesses us so that we may bless others", and it stuck. I've used those words of wisdom not only for myself but often repeating it to others. Your support of the church food pantry, whether through dedicating precious time or giving a donation, is that blessing allowing us to continue to follow in the footsteps of Christ by loving and caring for our neighbors especially those less fortunate.

**You are an inspiration of love and kindness!!** Together, we are making a difference. Again, thank you so much. We could not do this without you!

In Christ's Love,  
Jodi Derr



Delivery Day



QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

### Attention High School Seniors

Please contact the church office to obtain your Stew Zerbe Scholarship application. **Completed applications are due in the office by Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.**

*May food pantry items include:  
Dry or Evaporated Milk, Condiments, Oils,  
Vinegar, Jelly & Jams*

*May you be happy.*

*May you be well.*

*May you be safe.*

*May you find comfort.*

*May you have strength.*

*May you have courage.*

*May you find healing.*

*May you have peace.*

*May you have joy.*

*May you be filled with loving kindness.*

*May you be blessed today and always,*

*& May you share your blessings with others.*

**A Memorial Day Remembrance Program** will be held on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am on the cemetery across the street from the church. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held in the fellowship hall.

### Potluck and Movie Night

**Saturday, May 16  
Potluck at 5:00 PM  
Movie at 6:00 PM**

Movie will be *The Grace Card*.  
Join us for a night of fellowship.

## 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.

There are three different ways to register. Registration will begin at 5:30 PM on July 12<sup>th</sup>.  
[myvbs.org/st-peter-s-evangelical-lutheran-church-vbs-2026](https://myvbs.org/st-peter-s-evangelical-lutheran-church-vbs-2026)



### Easter Egg Hunt Holy Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

It was a day filled with joy, love, energy, and excitement. We were blessed with 32 children in attendance who worked on crafts, sang songs of the faith expressed in voice, dance and motion. The story of Holy Week was told lifting up the Cross of Christ and Jesus' victory over death on Easter Sunday.

Prayer was shared with a nutritious meal following. Candies, chocolates, fruits and vegetables were passed out. The hunt for plastic eggs filled with treats brought a lot of smiles and families taking pictures.

Thank you to the five teenagers and 35 adults who helped with this wonderful event.

Candies, chocolates, fruits and vegetables were then distributed to nine households Saturday afternoon, Sunday after worship, and Easter Monday.

What a blessing it is to celebrate our faith with the children in our midst!

### Palm Sunday – March 29, 2026



### Easter Egg Hunt – April 4, 2026



**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**May 2026**

3	4	5	6	7	1	2
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Fifth Sunday of Easter; Rachel's Day; Needy Fund Collection Pastor Mindy Heppe 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	4:15 - 7:00 pm Music Lessons	4:15 - 5:00 pm Music Lessons	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4:15-9:15 pm Music Lessons 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	4:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal  8 4:15 - 4:45 pm Music Lessons	<u>2:00 pm Wedding</u> <u>8:00 am - 12:15 pm Music Lessons</u>  9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am Worship Service; Sixth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day Brenda Ferreebee 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	4:15 - 7:00 pm Music Lessons	4:15 - 5:00 pm Music Lessons Senior Citizens 6:00 pm VBS Meeting	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	4:15-9:15 pm Music Lessons	4:15 - 4:45 pm Music Lessons	8:45 am - 12:15 pm Music Lessons 5:00 pm Potluck 6:00 pm Movie
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Seventh Sunday of Easter; Confirmation 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	4:15 - 7:00 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting	4:15 - 5:00 pm Music Lessons	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4:15 - 9:15 pm Music Lessons	4:15 - 4:45 Music Lessons	8:45 am - 12:15 pm Music Lessons
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Day of Pentecost 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class 10:30 am Memorial Day Remembrance Program	4:15 - 7:00pm Music Lessons	26 4:15 - 5:00 pm Music Lessons Senior Citizens	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4:15 - 9:15 pm Music Lessons	4:15 - 4:45 pm Music Lessons	8:45 am - 12:15 pm Music Lessons 10:00 am First Holy Communion Class
31						
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; the Holy Trinity; First Sunday after Pentecost; First Holy Communion Pastor Bob Hoenich 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class						

