

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Greeting	2
Pastor's Greeting (continued)	3
Committee Chairs	3
Church Council Members & Officers	3
September Worship Readings	4
St. Peter's Schedule	4
Sunday School Schedule	4
Adult Sunday School	4
New Sunday School Classes	4
Grief Share	4
Sponsorships	5
Church Finances	5
September Ministry Meetings	5
St. Peter's Mission Statement	5
Remember in Your Prayers	6
Publishing Deadlines	6
Memorials	6
We Remember These Saints	6
Church Office Hours	6
Food Pantry	7
QR Code for Online Giving	7
God's Work. Our Hands	7
Attention High School Seniors	7
Blessing of the Animals	7
Acolyte and Crucifer Training	7
Pastor Mike's Installation Service	8
Christian Education Sunday	8
Youth Group Events	9
Trunk or Treat	9
Youth Ministries Knoebels Trip	9
Bible Study	10
With Gratitude	10
Church Council Meeting Highlights	10
September Calendar	11



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, it states, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". Several years ago I did a Bible Study on the Attitude of Gratitude. In this study I pointed out that this is a way of life that Christians are commanded to embrace. Let's face it. All of us have challenges along the way on this journey we call life. But we have two choices. We can allow the challenges to overwhelm us, or we can embrace the challenges, and yes, even the pain, and give thanks for the blessings we have in the midst of challenges.

This is what being grateful and thankful is all about. Living a life where we give thanks for the blessings we have. Most Americans live a life that is more filled with blessings than most of the world. We have much to be thankful for. Most of us have a roof over our head; most of us have enough to eat; most of us have heat in the winter and ways of cooling in the summer; most of us can even at times splurge a little.

I am thankful for all the blessings in my life. I also wanted to acknowledge and thank all the people here at St. Peter's that came out to my installation service, as well as continuing to participate in the ministries here at St. Peter's. For instance, we had so many people that helped with VBS. We had a nice turnout for the Road Rally. We continue to collect food for those in need. Thank you for all you do.

By helping with the ministries here at the church, you are doing your part to live a life of gratitude. Because one major part of living that gratitude filled life is by being a blessing to others. Let us all continue to be grateful and let us all continue to be a blessing to those around us.

Looking forward down the road:

- I will be beginning an evening Bible Study, Tuesday evenings at O'Neals Pub in Pine Grove. The Bible Study is called "Women of the Bible" and it is all about famous and not so famous women found in the Bible. Some of the Women will be paragons of faith; some others may not be. I will plan to be at O'Neals at 6:00 for fellowship and a meal. The actual Bible Study will begin at 6:30 PM. It begins on Tuesday, September 8th.

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Brenda Ferreebee

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 Ferreebee,
CC liaisons

Pastor's Greeting (*continued*)

- Confirmation will begin with an orientation for all parents and students on Sunday, September 13th at 10:30 AM with classes beginning on September 20th. Please plan to be there as I will be giving out the class schedule, expectations and guidelines for the program.
- On Sunday, October 4th we will do the Blessing of the Animals as part of the Worship Service. Please feel free to bring your pet to church that morning for a blessing. This Service will be held in the Fellowship Hall.
- On Sunday, October 11th, we will celebrate Harvest Home Sunday.
- The Children's Christmas Program will be held Dec. 13th during the Church Service.
- The Christmas Cantata will be held Dec. 20th during the Church Service.
- Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4:00 and 8:00 PM.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Mike

Church Council Members

2027

Beverly Morgan*
Vernon Stroupbauer*
Brenda Ferreebee*
Jodi Derr

2028

Stephen Hikes
Barbara Hikes
Dale Ferreebee*
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.

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

Officers

Stephen Hikes, President
Dale Ferreebee, Vice President
Jodi Derr, Secretary
Brenda Ferreebee, Treasurer
Lillie Morgan, Financial Secretary
Pastor: Rev. Michael Reist

September Worship Readings

Sunday, September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Communion

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Psalm 119:33-40

Sunday, September 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Sunday, September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Communion

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Psalm 145:1-8

Sunday, September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Psalm 25:1-9



Sunday School Schedule

Banquet with Simon

September 6th

Art

Nan Hoenich and Janelle Gruber

September 13th

Bible Skills and Games

Jodi Derr and Jessica Geary

September 20th

Cooking

Alex Ulsh and Terri Cleary

September 27th

Science

Gwen Moyer and Alethea Wessner

New Sunday School Classes Launching August 30th

We are thrilled to announce a brand new middle school class open to all fifth and sixth grade students.

A young adult class for those confirmed or in high school and college will be held in the sanctuary.

Please see Brenda Ferree with any questions regarding these new classes.

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 the lessons in *Explore the Bible: Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*. The current topic is Ruth.



Grief Share will begin its sessions on Monday, September 14th at 7:00 pm and will last for 13 weeks. Please contact Nancy Reichelt for more information.

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 September 13 and 20 – cost is \$30

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

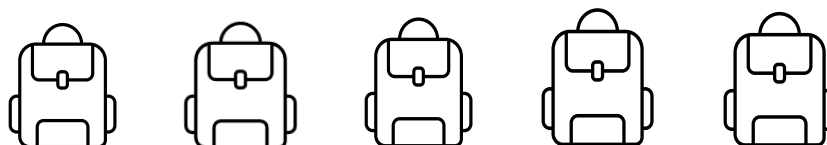
Sanctuary Candle is available for September – cost is \$35

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

Newsletter is available for September – cost is \$40

Bulletins are available for September 13 and 20 – cost is \$15

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



September Ministry Meetings

September 2nd
 Worship and Music
 Committee
 6:00 PM

September 3rd
 Christian Education
 Committee
 6:00 PM

September 3rd
 Church Council
 7:00 PM

Church Finances as of July 31, 2026

July 2026 General Fund Contributions	\$12,392.00
July 2026 Restricted Fund Contributions	\$ 1,583.25
Balance for General Expenses	\$10,808.75
July 2026 General Fund Expenses	\$17,005.08
Balance	(\$ 6,196.33)
July Account Balances	
General Checking	\$64,617.53
General Savings	\$58,793.89
Subtotal	\$123,411.42
Restricted Savings	(\$12,617.51)
General Balance	\$110,793.91
Memorial Fund Checking	\$19,324.34
Capital Improvement Fund Checking	\$12,427.03
Restricted Funds	\$ 2,161.00
Balance	\$14,588.03
Youth Ministry Fund	\$ 8,773.36

MEMORIALS

(General Fund) \$25 IMO Pearl Chwastiak by Catherine Stolarick; \$50 IMO Pastor Mindy Heppe by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich; IMO Charles “Hack” Umbenhauer: \$50 by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich, \$30 by Donna Zerbe, \$50 by Barbara Schwartz, \$200 by Jack and Anne Kline, \$50 by Kevin and Patti Kreiser

(Memorial Fund) IMO Charles “Hack” Umbenhauer: \$25 by Steve and Beverly Morgan, \$25 by Carol Baldwin, \$50 by George and Alice Brommer, \$100 by Wendie Waschitsch and Jim Homan, \$25 by David and Jean Herring, \$50 by Dwight and Patricia Miller, \$100 by Paul and Doris Berger

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 October 2026 newsletter deadline is Wednesday, September 9th.

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
Hayden Stroupbauer	Hailey Stroupbauer	Barbara Sholl
Doris Morgan	Howard Lengel	Drew Hikes
James Brommer	Jane Brommer	Zoey Venzl
Mark Wolfe	Lorraine Shelters	John Tucci
Ronald Zimmerman	Clarence Snyder	Lindsay Stroupbauer
Clarence Snyder	Vince Kulbitsky	Adam Venzl

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.



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 These Saints

- ✠ Rev. Mindy Heppe, who passed away on July 15th
- ✠ A. James Gruber, who passed away on July 24th
- ✠ Joan Moyer, who passed away on July 30th
- ✠ Charles “Hack” Umbenhauer, who passed away on July 31st
- ✠ David Fisher, who passed away on August 1st
- ✠ Catherine Brommer, who passed away on August 13th



September's food pantry items include:

- Applesauce, apple juice or apple cider
- Canned or individual serving peaches
- Pumpkin puree

Proverbs 14:31 Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

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 11, 2027**.



QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING



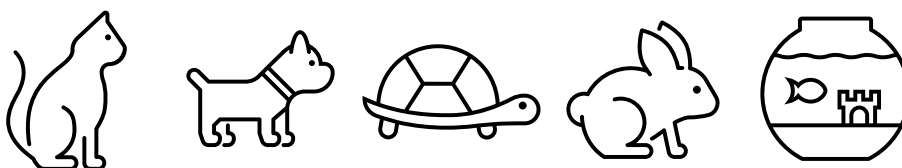
For this year's project for God's Work. Our Hands, the Pine Grove Cluster of Lutheran Churches is sponsoring a free clothing giveaway at Jacob's Lutheran Church from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 13th.

Blessing of the Animals

When: Sunday, October 4th during the 9:00 am worship service

Where: Fellowship hall

What: Bring your pet or a photo of your pet to be blessed



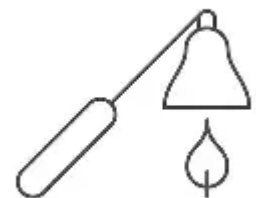
Coming in October

Acolyte and

Crucifer

Training

Stay tuned for the date!



PASTOR MIKE'S INSTALLATION SERVICE AUGUST 2, 2026



Pictured l – r: Pastor Mike, Rev. Kenneth Melber, Jr. (Synod Rep), Stephen Hikes (Council Rep)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY AUGUST 23, 2026



Pastor Mike with Caleb Stroupbauer receiving his Bible.



Pastor Mike blessing the children and their backpacks.

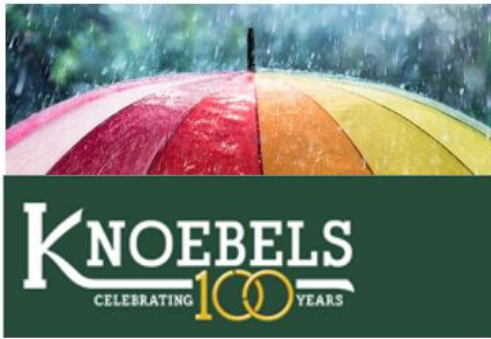


Pastor Mike AKA The Amazing Magi performing his magic show.



Peace Sharers

For more pictures please see our Facebook page.



RAIN DELAY! Our August trip to Knoebels was a washout! We have rescheduled to September 13, 2026, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Youth ministries will provide tickets, lunch & refreshments. More info to follow.

Please RSVP by contacting Jodi Derr at 570-294-6057 (text is fine) or contacting the church office.

Join us for Youth Group!



Date	Time	Event Description/Location
Sun. Sept. 13	12pm	Knoebels Trip
Sun. Oct. 11	12pm	Hayride at Seyfert's Corn Maze
Sun. Nov. 8	11:30am	Soup Making
Sat. Dec. 5	11am	Christmas Caroling



Contact Jodi **570-294-6057** to Sign up for Youth Events



Calling all **Trunkers!** Halloween will be here before we know it and we need to start planning St. Peters biggest community event!

Besides...big people can have Halloween fun too!

So, please say you will decorate your car, dress up and join the fun!

Registration forms will be available in the office, online, or you can contact Jodi Derr. Spread the word and let's make this the best year yet!

Trunk or Treat will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the same night as Pine Grove Trick or Treat night which is typically October 31, 2026.

**Bible Study – Tuesday Evenings Beginning Sept. 8th
Famous Women of the Bible**

Time: 6:00 Fellowship/Meal – 6:30 Bible Study

Where: O'Neals Pub in Pine Grove



Church Council Meeting Highlights August 6, 2026

- 2027 Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held June 20-24.
- The 2026 annual Sunday School Christmas program will be held in the sanctuary during the morning worship service. Date TBD.
- The formation of a young adult Sunday School class was approved.
- A total of 166 bookbags will be donated to the Pine Grove Area School District.
- The parking lot has been repaired.
- Amended elevator regulations are in the works by the PA Department of Labor and Industry.

With Gratitude

Through your faithful giving and support, we were able to purchase and deliver 166 bookbags to the Pine Grove Area School District (PGASD). Each bag contained a pencil, bookmark and blessing tag. We are sending a message of encouragement, care, and love from our church family to local children and their parents as they begin a new academic year.

Thank you to Youth Ministry for their continuous support and donation of \$200.00 in memory of Kenneth Stolarick.

Please keep the students, teachers, and staff of PGASD in your prayers as the school year gets underway!

Blessings,

Christian Education Committee

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 2026

		¹ 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons	² 6:00 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	³ 4:15 – 9:30 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	⁴	⁵ 8:00 am – 12:30 pm Music Lessons
⁶ 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Sunday School	⁷	⁸ 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Meal/Fellowship 6:30 pm Bible Study at O'Neals Pub	⁹ 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	¹⁰ 4:15 – 9:30 pm Music Lessons	¹¹	¹² 8:00 am – 12:30 pm Music Lessons
¹³ 9:00 am Worship Service; Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation class orientation for students and parents	¹⁴ 7:00 pm Grief Share	¹⁵ 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Meal/Fellowship 6:30 pm Bible Study at O'Neals Pub	¹⁶ 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	¹⁷ 4:15 – 9:30 pm Music Lessons	¹⁸	¹⁹ 8:00 am – 12:30 pm Music Lessons
²⁰ 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Sunday School; Confirmation Class ²⁷ 9:00 Worship Service; Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School	²¹ 7:00 pm Grief Share ²⁸ 7:00 pm Grief Share	²² 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Meal/Fellowship 6:30 pm Bible Study at O'Neals Pub ²⁹ 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Meal/Fellowship 6:30 pm Bible Study at O'Neals Pub	²³ 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal ³⁰ 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	²⁴ 4:15 – 9:30 pm Music Lessons	²⁵	²⁶ 8:00 am – 12:30 pm Music Lessons

