

*The Voice of St. Peter's*Pastor's Letter**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

About five years ago when I was at Trinity in Valley View, I received a concerned call from a parishioner. "Pastor," he said, "are you okay?"

At the time, it was a Friday and Michelle and I had Timmy in the car. We like this unique supermarket called Trader Joe's. At that point, the closest one was in State College. So I was on I-80 on the way back with a car full of food.

Apparently, he had received a text claiming to be from me saying that I was in some sort of trouble and needed \$500 sent via Western Union. It was fairly stilted language, so he was skeptical that it was really me. He was right to be skeptical.

Since then, a time or two other people who have called me pastor have gotten text messages claiming to be from me asking for gift cards and all kinds of other things. I have colleagues who have had this happen as well- it's getting to be a popular scam.

So this is as good a time as any to say this- I will never, ever, EVER call you or text you to ask for gift cards. In general, I don't ask parishioners for money, and if I needed an emergency \$500, I probably would ask family members (and I have never been in a situation where I've needed something like that.)

People like to prey on others' trust in their pastors, unfortunately. And in our technological age, people use all kinds of technology to take advantage of others. In the meantime, we need to be vigilant.

The heartache in this is that we are a people who try to care about others (at least I hope we are.) When someone hurts someone in this way, we tend to want to shut off that part of ourselves in a move motivated by protection.

I just finished a Bible Study about the Dorcas story in Acts. Dorcas was a woman in the early church who knit all kinds of cloth and clothes for people in need. We are told that charity was in her heart, and when Peter goes to visit her community, people show him all that she had made to help others. She at that point was sick and died, and then God uses Peter to bring her back. The message, to me, is clear- God loves generosity and charity, and loves when his children act in certain ways.

So yes, be vigilant. But also be loving.

See you along the way!

Pastor Brian Beissel
570-516-1787
brianthepastor@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Brenda Ferrebee

Fellowship

Donna Zerbe

Finance

Lillie Morgan, CC Liaison

Property

Vernon Stroupbauer, CC Liaison

Social Ministry

Discipleship

Nancy Reichelt

Worship and Music

Brenda Ferrebee, CC Liaison

Youth Ministry

Jodi Derr, chair; Gwen Moyer, CC liaison

Technology

Wellness

Justin Stroupbauer, CC Liaison

Endowment Fund

Beverly Morgan

Stew Zerbe Memorial

Scholarship Fund

Donna Zerbe

Cemetery Association

Kurt Wessner 570-345-8020

Council of Churches

Nancy Reichelt, CC Liaison

Church Council Meeting Highlights

April 11, 2024

- + Pastor Beissel will begin evening Bible Studies that will be open to the community at O'Neals, Pine Grove location, on Tuesday, June 11th at 6:00 pm.
- + The World Hunger table will begin in May with all proceeds supporting the church's food pantry.
- + Twenty-five children and their families attended the Easter Egg Hunt.
- + The leak in the roof has been fixed and plans to seal seams have been discussed.

Church Council Members

Dale Ferrebee, Lillie Morgan, Donna Zerbe, Justin Stroupbauer, Mary Daubert, Gwen Moyer, Nancy Reichelt, Joshua Zimmerman, Beverly Morgan, Vernon Stroupbauer, Brenda Ferrebee, Jodi Derr

Officers

Dale Ferrebee, President
 Nancy Reichelt, Vice President
 Jodi Derr, Secretary
 Angela Brown, Treasurer
 Lillie Morgan, Financial Secretary
 Pastor: Brian Beissel

May Worship Readings

Sunday, May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Psalm: 98

Sunday, May 12

Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Second Reading: 1 John 5:9-13

Gospel: John 17:6-19

Psalm: 1

Sunday, May 19

Day of Pentecost; Holy Communion; Confirmation Sunday

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27

Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Psalm: 104:24-34, 35b

Sunday, May 26

The Holy Trinity; First Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Psalm: 29



Sunday School Schedule

Daniel and the Lions

May 5

Science

Gwen Moyer and Alethea Wessner

May 12

Bible Skills and Games

Sarah Reichelt and Nancy Reichelt

May 19

Art

Nan Hoenich and Janelle Gruber

May 26

Video

Jodi Derr

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class, led by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich, continues during the Sunday School hour. Lessons are based on Rob Bell's Nooma video series.

Food Pantry

For the month of May, we will be collecting spaghetti sauce to refresh the food pantry. Please place your donations on the designated table in the fellowship hall.

Church Picnic

Our **church picnic** will be held on **Sunday, June 23rd** beginning at noon at the Washington Township Park.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday Schedule

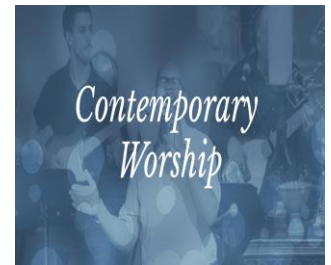
Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion 2nd Saturday of the month 6:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service 9:00 am

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

Sunday School 10:30 am



A contemporary campfire worship service with Holy Communion will be held on Saturday, May 11th at 6:00 pm in the church parking lot. Roasted hotdogs and s'mores will be offered after the service. Please bring a lawn chair.

Sponsorships

Altar Flowers are available for May 12, 19, and 26 – cost is \$25

Chancel Flowers are available for May 5, 12, 19, and 26– cost is \$25

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 5 and 26 – 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 our mom, Thelma Hubler, for Mother’s Day by Alan Hubler and Elaine Quinn.

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 13
 Worship and Music Committee
 11:00 AM

May 15
 VBS
 6:00 PM at St. Peter’s

May 16
 Church Council
 7:00 PM

May 22
 Christian Education Committee
 5:45 PM

May 30
 Finance Committee
 3:00 PM
 Discipleship Committee
 5:00 PM

Church Finances - End of March 2024

March receipts: \$19,642
 March payments: \$25,047

Depository Account Balances as of 03/31/2024

Checking	\$9,529
Savings	\$25,401
Memorial	\$11,394
Capital Improvement	\$16,032
Youth	\$13,510

Pine Grove Community Ascension Day Service

On **Thursday, May 9th**, at 6:00 PM, everyone is invited to join in the celebration of our **Savior's ascension**. The service will take place on St. Peter's Lutheran Church Cemetery. The service will include scripture readings, prayers, message, and communion. PLEASE bring your lawn chair. Following the service we will offer a light fare meal. If the weather is not favorable for an outdoor service we will gather in the church. All are welcome.

MEMORIALS

(General Fund) \$25 IMO Albert Brand by Donald and Barbara Schwartz and \$25 by Stephen and Barbara Hikes; \$20 IMO our dad and husband by Anna, Missy and Dean Wertz; \$10 IMO loved ones by Gary and Thelma Adams; \$1750 IMO loved ones by Howard Lengel and children; \$25 IMO Beverly Zimmerman by Stephen and Barbara Hikes

(Pre-Buy Oil Fund) \$250 IMO loved ones by Linda Venzl and Vince Kulbitsky **(Fellowship Committee)** \$100 IMO Owen and Mae Brommer by Jean and David Herring

(Memorial Fund) \$200 IMO Dennis H. Loy by Sharon and Kurt Wessner

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 2024 newsletter deadline is Wednesday, May 8th.

A Memorial Day Remembrance Program will be held on **Sunday, May 26th** 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.

Thank You

Thank you for showing so much love and kindness. Thank you for all you did for Albert and me.
You were such a blessing.

Kathleen Brand



Adult Bible Study is held every Monday at 10:00 am. For more information, please contact Pastor Beissel.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Donald Schwartz | Kathy Sorokach | Frances Heinbach |
| Shirley Koenig | Paul Lengel | Richard Schaeffer |
| Ruth McMullen | Stacey Harris | Shannon Shadle |
| Tom Wertz | Shirley Lengel | Elaine Bender |
| Janet Fisher | Glenn Moyer | Elizabeth Platko |
| Bill Siegel | Christopher Beeman | Dean Wertz |
| Virginia Witherow | Beverly Morgan | Dirk Musselman |
| Chuck Nagle | Thelma Adams | Lori Fehr Moyer |
| Bonnie Kintzel | Kathleen Brand | Dana Stroupbauer |
| Anna Wertz | Joyce Frantz | George Jones |
| Barbara Schwartz | Janet Jones | Rich Nickel |

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.



Bible Journaling will be held on a date to be determined. Please contact Nancy Reichelt with any questions.

Worship Participants

If you missed handing in your Time and Talent Sheet and would still like to volunteer as an usher, lay reader, communion assistant, crucifer, acolyte, altar guild member, videographer or downstairs greeter, please let our secretary know so your name can be added to the worship participant list.

Database Update

If you have recently moved, changed your telephone number, or have an email address that you would like to share, please let our secretary know so our database can be continually updated. Thank you.

We are in dire need of **teachers and helpers for Sunday School** on Sunday mornings. We do dual teaching, so it's not all on one person. Teachers teach every six weeks. Our rotation schedule is very flexible to fit your schedule. Our children are the foundation and future leaders of our church. Please speak to anyone on the Christian Education Committee or Brenda Ferrebee if interested. Thank You.

Congratulations to Derek Knoll and Heather Raudenbush who were married here at St. Peter's on April 20th. We pray God's blessings on them as they begin their new life together.



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 and I will call you back as soon as possible.

Lillie Morgan
St. Peter's Parish Secretary

Attention High School Seniors!

Don't forget to obtain your Stew Zerbe Scholarship application.

Please contact the church office for the application.

The deadline to submit applications is Monday, May 6th.



As the youth are preparing to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer, they are collecting **first aid kits** to take along to the gathering. These kits can be any size and should be placed on the designated table in the fellowship hall.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Hosted by: Lutheran Cluster of Churches

Theme: SCUBA - will take children on an amazing undersea adventure, where they will experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God

Location: St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 312 S.

Tulpehocken St., Pine Grove, PA 17963

Dates: June 2 through June 6, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Registration begins at 5:30 PM on June 2nd

Follow our website for updates and pre-registration, which is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.stpeterslutheranpinegrove.org>

Hope to see you all at VBS!!

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION



Pictured below are the props recently utilized during the instructional unit entitled *Solomon Builds the Temple* in Sunday School. The Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Most Holy Place, an inner sanctuary of the temple. Decorative colored flowers were hung on the front interior walls by the students.



Over two pastors and three years, six young people will confirm their faith during worship on Sunday, May 19th.

Ian Brown

Drew Hikes

Arisa Koehler

Shea Moyer

Travis Reichelt

Lacey Wolfe

Years ago these confirmands were taken to the font where they were welcomed into the family of God. They will affirm what their mothers and fathers did for them as they created additional family, the family of God. Congratulations to everyone.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
May 2024

			1 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Sixth Sunday of Easter; Rachel's Day 10:30 am Sunday School; Confirmation Classes 2:00 pm Mission District Assembly at St. Peter's	6 10:00 am Adult Bible Study STEW ZERBE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE	7 Senior Citizens	8 10:00 am Pastor Brian at Dean's Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	9 6:00 pm Community Ascension Day Service at St. Peter's Cemetery	10	11 6:00 pm Contemporary Campfire Worship Service with Holy Communion
12 9:00 am Worship Service; Seventh Sunday of Easter 10:30 am Sunday School; Confirmation Classes	13 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 11:00 am Worship and Music Committee Meeting	14	15 6:00 pm VBS meeting at St. Peter's 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 Church Council Meeting	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Day of Pentecost; Confirmation Sunday 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School	20 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	21 Senior Citizens	22 5:45 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 10:30 am to 12:30 pm Hot Dog Drive-Thru
26 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; The Holy Trinity; First Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Memorial Day Remembrance Program 10:30 am Sunday School	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28	29 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	30 11:00 am – 8:30 pm Community Night at Hoss's in Cressona 3:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting 5:00 pm Discipleship Committee Meeting	31	