

THE
VOICE
OF

ST. PETER'S

NOVEMBER 2017

From the Pastor:

We have spent the last twelve months building up to October 31, 2017 – the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses and the beginning of the Reformation! Now in November, we look forward to Thanksgiving Day, when we remember with gratitude the many ways in which we have been richly blessed by God. Although our Thanksgiving festival did not exist in Luther's day, he would have appreciated it because he always had a deep sense of our dependence on God for everything we need in life. In his explanation to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther writes:

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil.

And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey God. This is most certainly true.

Martin Luther was keenly aware that we truly depend on God for everything we need, and that God, in divine love and generosity, graciously blesses us with all the necessities of life. At all times, then, we should thank and praise God for all God's blessings. As we approach another Thanksgiving Day, may we realize that we truly have everything to be thankful for, and may we, with joyful and grateful hearts, offer to God our thanks and praise!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard

Highlights from the October 5th Council Meeting

The Property Committee reported that the leaking bleeder valve in the K-1 Sunday School room has been repaired. The sidewalk leading to the Church office has been replaced using volunteer labor. A pressure reducing valve was installed in the parsonage, but one cannot be installed at the Church. The Committee is still looking into the video project.

The Worship Committee reported on planning for the October 29th Mission District Reformation Service, which will be hosted by St. Peter's. Pastor Richard is on the planning committee for that service.

The Finance Committee met in September to draft a 2018 budget, and Treasurer Brenda Ferrebee presented the proposed budget to the Council, with action to take place at the November Council meeting. The committee recommended purchasing a new refrigerator for the parsonage (to be included in the 2018 budget) and purchasing a new computer for the Treasurer. Financial Secretary Ben Moyer presented information about ACH giving (automatic through the bank) and on-line giving options for St. Peter's.

The Youth Ministry Committee reported that twelve people attended its organizational meeting in September. Officers were elected: Jodi Derr, Chairperson; Betty Bender, Secretary; and Ben Moyer, Treasurer. Arrangements were made for a special Youth Ministry checking account. The Committee received Council permission for having a Temple Talk and special envelopes on October 22nd.

Under New Business:

Kurt Wessner suggested having an "Ask the Pastor" column in the Newsletter.

The fund balances as of September 30th were:

General Fund -- \$ 4,001 General Savings -- \$ 140

Capital Improvement Fund -- \$ 20,305 (\$ 6,869 designated for the video and \$1,265 for the Fellowship Committee to use for kitchen improvements)

Memorial Fund -- \$ 9,245 Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund -- \$ 6,995

The Treasurer reported that although the General Fund balance looks good, after paying some bills, it was already down to \$1,561 by October 5th, and expenses exceeded income in September.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

To begin celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, in September, 2016, Pastor Richard began teaching an Adult Course on the History of the Christian Church. In September, we looked at the movements and people who were forerunners of the Reformation, and we are now studying Martin Luther's development. At our October 25th class, we focused on the 95 Theses—just on time for the 500th Anniversary on October 31st!

The sessions are held on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The schedule for the rest of 2017 is:

Wednesday, November 8th

Wednesday, November 15th

Wednesday, November 29th

Wednesday, December 6th

Wednesday, December 13th

Wednesday, December 20th

CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

Our combined Middler (Eighth Graders) and Senior (Ninth Graders) class has begun its study of the history of the Christian Church with sessions on Jesus, Pentecost, Paul, and the early post-Apostolic Church. The Middler-Senior Class will meet at 9:00 AM on November 4th, 11th, and 18th. There will be no class on November 25th.

The Junior Class (Seventh Grade) met on October 7th for a session on the Genesis creation story. It will meet on November 4th at 9:00 AM in the Youth Room for a lesson on Adam and Eve.

FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to our Third-Graders who received their First Communion on World Communion Sunday (October 1st):

Ian Brown, Andrew Hikes, Lacey Wolfe, Shea Moyer, and Arisa Koehler

IMPORTANT SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 5th – All Saint’s Sunday –

The Worship Service will begin with a special commemoration for the faithful departed and will include the glorious hymn “For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest.”

November 12th – Recognition of 50-Year Members –

The Worship Service will begin with a special recognition of our members who are marking the 50th Anniversary of their adult membership at St. Peter’s in 2017. The 50-Year Members that are known to us are being contacted by phone. Please let Pastor Richard know if we have missed anyone.

November 19th – Stewardship Sunday –

The stewardship of time, talent, and treasure is vital to our Church, and we will focus on those aspects of stewardship on November 19th.

November 26th – Christ the King Sunday –

On the last Sunday of the Church Year (before we begin a new Church Year with the first Sunday in Advent) we focus on Jesus Christ as our true King, and we anticipate his heavenly reign in eternal glory.

“ASK the PASTOR”

Beginning in December, the monthly Newsletter will include a new feature – “Ask the Pastor.” If you have any questions that you would like Pastor Richard to answer, please submit them to him or to the Church office. Pastor Richard will provide brief answers to questions of general interest in future Newsletter columns.

LET'S THINK ADVENT!

-Advent is the period of waiting for the coming of Jesus – as we celebrate anew each year the birth of God's Son and our Savior.

-There are 4 Sundays in Advent; and this year St. Peter's is asking for volunteers of 4 different family/friends units to be responsible for 1 Sunday each. They would go up front to our large Advent wreath to read a prayer. Then a member of the unit would light the candles for that Sunday.

-It's hoped that some children would be involved to aid in their understanding of the season.

-Please speak to Nan Hoenich if you would be interested in participating.

-Specify which Sunday would work for you:

*December 3rd, 10th, 17th, or 24th.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Please give thanks to Church Council members for approving and allowing Youth Ministry to open a separate designated checking account. Youth Ministry Fund will be broken down into five ministry subgroups.

1. Jr. Youth Group
2. Jr. Choir
3. Sr. High Group
4. Children Ministries
5. Lutheran Ministry Camps/Youth Conferences

The money donated towards Youth Ministry Fund will help provide additional financial resources for children, youth, & Sr. activities, events, camping opportunities, youth ministry conference and community outreach projects. We are planning service activities that will nurture our children and teach them the faith, as well as reaching out into the Community through acts of love.

Investing in today's children and youth is necessary in growing the body of Christ and allows the Church to flourish. Our children & Youth members today are a vital and necessary part of today's Church.

At our last Youth Ministry Committee meeting in September, we had 12 in attendance, possibly one of the largest committees at St. Peter's made up of mothers, fathers, and grandparents. This group is excited and full of great ideas to keep expanding our Youth Ministry programs.

Jesus shared these words with His disciples, "Let the little Children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." We are committed to this example of love displayed by our Lord for the Children.

One of the activities that the Youth Committee has completed recently was a shopping event on October 15th.

If you happen to have been at Berger's Market on October 15th, I do apologize for the 30 minute wait at the register lines. It just so happens that St. Peter's Youth Ministry Group stormed the place.

I do want to mention that a young teenager boy who was working at the time wanted to help. He donated \$5.00 of his own money towards Youth Ministry Fund through an act of kindness.

We had 9 parents, 4 teenagers, and 14 Youth. As a group we had an excellent time spending 3 hours reaching out to families in need and bagging 200 Treat Bags for the October 31st Fall Event. I cannot express how much fun the kids had doing these projects.

Our Jr. Youth Group purchased groceries and stapled foods to be delivered to several families in the Church. They even got to go out to help deliver them.

Sr. High kids helped purchase water bottles, snacks, and candy along with placing pencils, crayons, and coloring books inside kids treat bags.

To help offset expenses we had a total of \$750.00 from Thrivent Grants and additional \$215.00 was paid from Youth Ministry Fund.

How to Fund Youth Ministry Fund:

1. Special Youth Ministry Fund Offering Envelopes are located next to the Envelope Drop Box and also in the Narthex. Envelopes are for your use to support our vital Youth Ministries Activities. You may write a separate check and make it out to: St. Peter's Lutheran Youth Fund. Please contact Ben Moyer at 570-617-0703, if you need additional Envelopes.

2. You can also support Youth Ministry through contribution envelopes under the section called "other" by writing in the symbol YMF.

With your support we have the opportunity to impact all of the Children & Teenager's lives and the life future of St. Peter's.

Together we can ensure the full given potential, as a whole, to see St. Peter's Lutheran Church as a place where youth ministry programs flourish.

We hope for your continuing support and contributions toward St. Peter's Youth Ministry Fund in the future. Please remember that we are not asking you to replace your regular contributions.

Most especially we ask for your prayers as God's work is being done.

Thank you!

Ben Moyer

Youth Ministry Committee

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

✠ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the months of September & October:

Chase Morgan, Christian Frey, Dick Becker, Virginia Schwartz, Hugh Zerbe, & Larry Barr.

✠ Brandon Schaeffer and Amy Skripko, who were married on September 23rd.

✠ People and areas hit by hurricanes and earthquakes.

✠ The Family of Merlin Shuey, who passed away on September 22nd.

✠ Our First Communion Recipients – Ian Brown, Andrew (Drew) Hikes, Arissa Koehler, Shea Moyer, & Lacey Wolfe.

✠ Kyle Partridge and Kaitlyn Zerbe, who were married in Indianapolis on October 14th.

*The Prayer Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 8th @ 9:00AM.

Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God

(Sunday School Fund)

\$50 in memory of Kevin Krause by Grandparents.

(Memorial Fund)

\$25 in memory of Eva (Lloyd) Zimmerman by Linda Venzl.

\$100 in loving memory of Sam Baldwin on “Our 50th Anniversary” by Wife, Carol.

(General Fund)

\$25 in memory of Karlene Hughes by Elaine Benko.

\$35 in memory of Ryan Lemke by Tammy & Steven Lengel.

(Youth Ministry Fund)

\$100 in memory of Ryan Lemke & Samantha Lengel by Grandparents.

-The **Sanctuary Candle** for **November** was given to the Glory of God by Elaine Benko.

Bible Journaling

Our new Bible Journaling Group, led by Nancy Reichelt, will meet on Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome!