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Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Some told me having a Bible Study at a pub was a bad idea. And to be fair, I should have considered where I asked the question.

I was curious and posted in the Pine Grove Community page on Facebook, "Would anyone be interested in an open Bible Study at a place like O'Neals?"

Some of the responses I received were positive, but some were very, very negative. We still live in the era of a purity culture for some people. And to be honest, after some people, including myself, started engaging in communication that was not helpful I took the whole thread down.

Then we did it anyway.

So, in July, I sat at the bar waiting for people from St. Peter's, or anyone who would be interested, in talking about what would have been the first lesson for the next coming Sunday. And I sat. And I sat. And one of our members came in, said hello, and kept going, because he was there for a class reunion.

The Discipleship Committee then talked about this, and we decided to schedule it for another month.

I entered the restaurant and there was a table full of people ready to share in a meal and discussion over scripture! By the time all was said and done, we even had to move tables over to include all who had shown up. We had an evening with good food and yes, plenty of deep discussion. We talked about the challenges we go through generationally and where God is leading us. We talked about how radical and all-encompassing God's love is. We had a great night together!

So yes, it is possible to have a good and meaningful Bible Study together in a restaurant that serves alcohol, despite what some strangers on the internet might say.

And yes, it's possible that people show up if you just keep trying.

I think this is where we are called as a church right now. We are called to try things, new things, different things, creative things. And we are called to not give up when it doesn't get the exact response we are looking for.

Let us continue to get creative together!

See you along The Way,

Pastor Brian Beissel

570-516-1787

[brianthepastor@gmail.com](mailto:brianthepastor@gmail.com)

Committee Chairs

**Christian Education**  
Brenda Ferrebee

**Fellowship**  
Donna Zerbe

**Finance**  
Lillie Morgan, CC Liaison

**Property**  
Vernon Stroupauer, CC Liaison

**Social Ministry**

**Discipleship**  
Nancy Reichelt, Chair, CC Liaison

**Worship and Music**  
Barbara Hikes, chair;  
Brenda Ferrebee, CC Liaison

**Youth Ministry**  
Jodi Derr, chair;  
Gwen Moyer, CC liaison

**Technology**

**Wellness**  
Justin Stroupauer, 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  
August 8, 2024**

- Council entered in to a six month contract with Rob Frankford, elementary school music teacher, to use our building for private piano and voice lessons. The contract will be reviewed for extension at the end of the six months.
- Youth ministry reported that the Youth Gathering was very uplifting and a learning opportunity for our youth. Other young people have expressed their desire to attend in three years in Minneapolis.
- Discipleship reported that there will be a movie night on Aug 31 with a potluck dinner at 5:00 pm, movie to begin at 6:00 pm is *Ordinary Angels*. On Sept. 28 will be the next movie night. Again with potluck at 5:00 pm, movie at 6:00 pm and it will be *Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace*. Time and talent sheets will be handed out in Sept. and Bible Study at O'Neals Pub will continue. God's work Our hands Sunday will be at Jacobs Lutheran Church in the Snyder Building. Donations can be brought to St. Peter's and will be transferred down there on 8/24 and 9/4. Thank you for your support.

Church Council Members

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

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

Officers

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

## September Worship Readings

### Sunday, September 1 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Communion

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9  
Second Reading: James 1:17-27  
Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
Psalm: 15

### Sunday, September 8 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Second Reading: James 2:1-10, [11-13] 14-17  
Gospel: Mark 7:24-37  
Psalm: Psalm 146

### Sunday, September 15 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Communion

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Second Reading: James 3:1-12  
Gospel: Mark 8:27-38  
Psalm: Psalm 116:1-9

### Sunday, September 22 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Second Reading: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37  
Psalm: Psalm 54

### Sunday, September 29 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Harvest Home

First Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Second Reading: James 5:13-20  
Gospel: Mark 9:38-50  
Psalm: Psalm 19:7-14



### Sunday School Schedule Noah's Ark

September 1  
Cooking  
Brenda Ferrebee and Alex Ulsh

September 8  
Bible Skills and Games  
Nancy Reichelt and Sarah Reichelt

September 15  
Science  
Gwen Moyer and Alethea Wessner

September 22  
Video  
Jodi Derr and

### Jonah and the Big Fish

September 29  
Creative Drama  
Barbara Hikes and Sue Strouphauer

### Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class, led by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich, will continue during the Sunday School hour. The topic is based on *Dialogues On The Refugee Crisis*.

### Food Pantry

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

### Acolyte and Crucifer Training

There is an Acolyte and Crucifer Training being held on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for both adults and students interested in serving in either of these roles.

### St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

#### Saturday Schedule

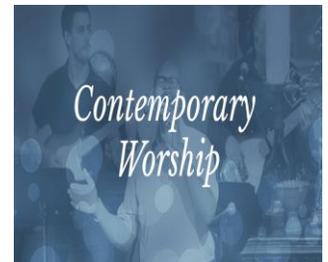
Contemporary  
Worship Service with  
Holy Communion 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday of the month  
6:00 pm

#### 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



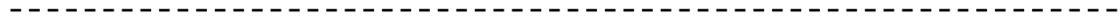
A contemporary worship service with Holy Communion will be held on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

Sponsorships

**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."

- Altar Flowers** are available for September 1, 8, 15, and 22 – cost is \$25
- Chancel Flowers** are available for September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 – cost is \$25
- Sanctuary Candle** is available for September – cost is \$35
- Candle Oil** is available for September – cost is \$15
- Newsletter** is full for September – cost is \$40
- Bulletins** are available for September 1, 15, 22, and 29 – cost is \$15

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



The September newsletter is given to the Glory of God IMO Willard and Irma Heinbach by Linda Venzl.

**September Ministry Meetings**

September 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Worship and Music Committee  
 11:30 AM

September 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Christian Education Committee  
 6:00 PM

Church Finances - End of July 2024

July receipts:	\$11,041
July payments:	\$15,166
<i>July General Spending Deficit: (\$4,125)</i>	
<u>Depository Account Balances as of 07/31/2024</u>	
Checking:	\$ 3,098
Savings:	\$21,777
Memorial:	\$12,774
Capital Improvement:	\$16,965
Youth:	\$ 8,481.25

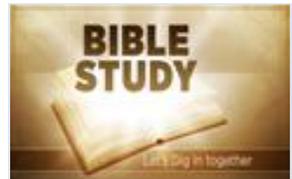
**MEMORIALS**

**(General Fund)** \$100 IMO Thelma Hubler by husband Harvey Hubler; \$50 IMO family members and loved ones by John, Kim, and John Henry Schroeder; \$100 IMO Stew Zerbe on our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Donna Zerbe **(Pre-Buy Oil Fund)** \$100 IMO Gloria Harris for her birthday by Donna Zerbe; \$25 IMO Reba Strubhar by John, Kim and John Henry Schroeder; \$25 IMO Donald Schwartz by John, Kim and John Henry Schroeder; IMO Ruth Stolarick: \$100 by Cathy Stolarick, \$100 by Edwin Stolarick, \$100 by Sandra Stolarick; IMO Robert Kroh: \$50 by Dennis and Cheryl Bixler and family, \$25 by Colleen Stutzman, \$25 by Dolores Brophy, \$25 by Martin Brophy; \$100 IMO Dion Boyer by the Oak Grove Sportsmen Association **(Capital Improvement Fund – Panic Doors)** \$100 IMO Stew Zerbe on our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary by Donna Zerbe

**We Remember This Saint**  
  
✠ **Robert Kroh, who passed away on August 4<sup>th</sup>**

**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 2024 newsletter deadline is Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.



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:

- |                          |                           |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Kathy Sorokach</b>    | <b>Carolyn Nuske</b>      | <b>Bruce Witmer</b>     |
| <b>Paul Lengel</b>       | <b>Janet Jones</b>        | <b>Barbara Schwartz</b> |
| <b>Ruth McMullen</b>     | <b>Stacey Harris</b>      | <b>Shannon Shadle</b>   |
| <b>Tom Wertz</b>         | <b>Shirley Lengel</b>     | <b>Elaine Bender</b>    |
| <b>Janet Fisher</b>      | <b>Dale Legarht</b>       | <b>Elizabeth Platko</b> |
| <b>Bill Siegel</b>       | <b>Christopher Beeman</b> | <b>Dean Wertz</b>       |
| <b>Virginia Witherow</b> | <b>Beverly Morgan</b>     | <b>Rich Nickel</b>      |
| <b>Chuck Nagle</b>       | <b>Thelma Adams</b>       | <b>Lori Fehr Moyer</b>  |
| <b>Bonnie Kintzel</b>    | <b>Kathleen Brand</b>     | <b>Dana Strouphauer</b> |
| <b>Anna Wertz</b>        | <b>Joyce Frantz</b>       | <b>Lee Wessner</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.

**God's Work. Our Hands**  
**Sunday**

For this year's project for God's Work. Our Hands Sunday on September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Pine Grove Cluster of Lutheran Churches is sponsoring a free shopping event at Jacob's Lutheran Church from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We are collecting the following items for this event: small kitchen appliances, household items, coats, shoes, gently used clothing, children's toys, and books. Please place donated items on the designated table in the fellowship hall.



**Bible Journaling** will be held on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Please contact Nancy Reichelt with any questions.

### Potluck and Movie Night

There will be a potluck dinner and movie night on **Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**. Dinner will begin at 5:00 pm and the movie will follow at 6:00 pm. The movie is *Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace*.

We are still in need of **teachers** and **helpers for Sunday School** on Sunday mornings. Please speak to anyone on the Christian Education Committee or Brenda Ferrebee if interested. Thank you.

*Christ in Our Home* devotional booklets for the months of October, November, and December are now available. Free copies can be picked up in the narthex, the elevator lobby, the TV room, the hallway display rack, and the fellowship hall.

Please note that there are a few **large print edition** copies available.

### 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

The church office will be closed on Labor Day. I will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm and Wednesday and Friday I will be working remotely from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm that week. Lillie Morgan, Parish Secretary

### Music Lessons

Mr. Robert Frankford, a music teacher at the Pine Grove Area Elementary School, reached an agreement with the Church Council in August to teach ongoing voice and piano lessons in the church's fellowship hall. Currently he is teaching lessons on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and midday on Saturdays. We look forward to working with Mr. Frankford and appreciate your understanding as we work on this arrangement together.



### **Patriot Day Service**

“WE WILL NEVER FORGET”

**Wednesday, September 11,  
2024**

**6:00 PM**

Pine Grove Union Canal Park  
(in the area of the tank and  
anchor)

Sponsored by the  
**PINE GROVE AREA COUNCIL  
OF CHURCHES**

Freewill offering designated to  
benefit the Weekday Church  
School Program

Please bring lawn chairs

Inclement weather location:  
St. John’s Lutheran Church  
222 South Tulpehocken Street  
Pine Grove, PA

The **Schuylkill Choral Society** is holding **open auditions** on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the First United Church of Christ, 110 PA-61, Schuylkill Haven. (Use lower back entrance.) The first concert will be Exultation – traditional and classic Christmas carols with strings, brass, and organ.

### **Harvest Home**

September 29<sup>th</sup>

Food donations will be placed in the food pantry and monetary donations will be given to ELCA World Hunger (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.)



### **Friedensburg Christian Preschool**

The Friedensburg Christian Preschool of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church is currently accepting students for the 2024-2025 academic school year. We have offered a Faith Based Program for three and four-year-old children for over 25 years. Following the guidelines from area school districts, our students are well prepared socially, emotionally, academically and spiritually to enter Kindergarten. We welcome all area school districts and homeschooling families to contact our preschool to register their child for our upcoming school year. Please contact Miss Lindsay or Miss Jen at 570-739-1291 for more details and information.

**\*\*We will be opening registration for the 2025-2026 school year on January 1, 2025 for all students turning three years old by 08/31/2025.**

### Christian Education Sunday Highlights



### Lake Tobias Highlights



### Backpack Delivery

Sixty-four backpacks containing school supplies were delivered to the Pine Grove Area Elementary School on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> by Pastor Brian and Dale and Brenda Ferrebee.



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

**Make, Model and Color of Vehicle:** \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Peter's Lutheran  
Church**

**Trunk or Treat Vehicle  
Registration Form**



October 31<sup>st</sup> 5:30 – 8:00 PM

All units, directorates and private organizations wishing to participate in the Trunk or Treat should register starting now through October 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Installation Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:15 – 5:20 PM on St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church parking lot. There is normally a large crowd, around 400 plus trick or treaters that come through.

**Please return the registration form to:**

*St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*(Trunk or Treat)*

*312 S. Tulpehocken Street*

*Pine Grove, PA 17963*

**All are encouraged to decorate their vehicle. Please contact the church office at (570)345-3306 for additional information.**

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**September 2024**

1 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Needy Fund Collection 10:30 am Sunday School	2 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 4:00 pm Collection at Jacob's 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Worship Service; Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost; God's Work. Our Hands Sunday 10:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Classes 2:00 – 5:00 pm God's Work. Our Hands Sunday Community Free Shopping Event at Jacob's	9 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Worship and Music Committee Meeting	10 Senior Citizens 6:00 pm Short/Long Term Planning Committee Meeting	11 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Pastor Brian at Synod Candidacy Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	12 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	13	14 9:00 am Prayer and Meditation 10:00 am Acolyte and Crucifer Training 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
15 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Classes	16 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting	17 6:00 pm Bible Journaling	18 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Worship Service; Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Classes	23 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	24 Senior Citizens 6:00 pm Bible Study at O'Neals	25 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28 5:00 pm Potluck Dinner 6:00 pm Movie Night
29 9:00 am Worship Service; Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Harvest Home; Needy Fund Collection 10:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Classes	30 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	31				