

Newsletter

The Voice of St. Peter's



Pastor's Letter

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

As we continue into 2023, a few things.

If you want to use the turning of the calendar from one year to the next to make a positive change, good for you! I hope and pray that it works out well for you.

But if you don't want the arbitrary turning of one human-created time period into another to pressure you into something you're not ready for, that's okay too.

God is still God, and the same God that was with us throughout 2022 will be with us in 2023. God's love will be just as available to you in the new year as it was in years prior. So regardless of the pressure the world sometimes puts upon us, we are still beloved children of God.

If you do choose to make some changes, may I suggest some?

Perhaps it would do us all some good if we tried harder (yes, even your pastor) to practice kindness in the middle of a world that pressures us to move, move, move!

Perhaps it would do us all some good if we purposely engaged in conversation with people who are different than us- perhaps people of a different generation, or people from a different country, or people who practice a different religion. And in those interactions, it would do us some good to look upon them with as much grace and love as possible.

Perhaps it would do us all some good if we judged less and loved more. That includes your pastor in the Dunkin' Donuts line in the morning!

Perhaps it would do us all some good if we tried our best to be more in tune with what scripture says to us, specifically the words of Jesus in the gospels.

Perhaps it would do us all some good if we didn't look at our financial well-being as the only well-being, and considered our spiritual, physical, and emotional health, as well as the well-being of our neighbors.

Perhaps it would do us all some good if we thought about us not as one individual church, but one congregation that is part of a wider church that includes other congregations in our community and beyond.

Perhaps it would do us all some good if we made more of an effort to maintain what we have instead of buying something new.

Again, no pressure. We all have so much in this world that calls for our attention and, quite frankly, takes our eye off of what our goal is in serving Christ. But I promise, my brothers and sisters at St. Peter's, we will have plenty of opportunities to do that in the not too distant future.

Peace,

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

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Church Council Meeting Highlights

December 13, 2022

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Brenda Ferrebee

Fellowship

Donna Zerbe

Evangelism

Angela Brown, CC Liaison

Finance

Angela Brown, CC Liaison

Property

Vernon Stroupbauer

Social Ministry

Stewardship

Angela Brown, CC Liaison

Worship and Music

Brenda Ferrebee, CC Liaison

Youth Ministry

Jodi Derr 570-294-6057

Technology

Ben Moyer 570-617-0703

Wellness

Justin Stroupbauer, CC Liaison

Endowment Fund

Justin Stroupbauer

Stew Zerbe Memorial

Scholarship Fund

Donna Zerbe

Cemetery Association

Kurt Wessner 570-345-8020

Council of Churches

Brenda Ferrebee, CC Liaison

- Pastor Beissel shared there have been challenges finding members to assist with the multiple Christmas Eve services this year (adults and youth).
- Sunday School offerings will continue to be donated to the Weekday Church School.
- Donations will be collected during the Lenten season to be donated to the Weekday Church School program.
- Coffee socials will be held January 8th and February 12th.
- The first book study session of *Rural Evangelism* will be held January 10th. A signup sheet is available. The second book study session is scheduled for January 17th.
- A showing of the movie *The Apostle* is planned for January 21st.
- A signup sheet for the March 9th trip to the Gettysburg Seminary campus is available. Participants will take part in a full communion ceremony and a tour of the grounds. Anticipated departure time is 9:00 am.
- Schuylkill Sales Company has been contracted to clean the church furnace.
- Council accepted a bid from Stony Top Turf & Landscape LLC for the 2022-2023 winter snow removal at the church.

Church Council & Officers

<u>Elected Church Council</u>	<u>Year Elected</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Jodi Derr	2020	2023*
Bill Siegel	2020	2023*
Angela Brown	2020	2023
Dennis Adams	2020	2023
Beverly Morgan	2021	2024
Vernon Stroupbauer	2021	2024
Brenda Ferrebee	2021	2024
Ben Moyer	2021	2024*
Dale Ferrebee	2022	2025
Lillie Morgan	2022	2025
Donna Zerbe	2022	2025
Justin Stroupbauer	2022	2025

*Serving second term consecutively and cannot be reelected

Officers

Dale Ferrebee, President
 Justin Stroupbauer, Vice President
 Angela Brown, Secretary
 Ben Moyer, Treasurer
 Lillie Morgan, Financial Secretary

Pastor: Brian Beissel

January Worship Readings

Sunday, January 1

**First Sunday of Christmas; Name of Jesus;
Holy Communion**

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-24
Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: Luke 2:15-21
Psalm: 8

Sunday, January 8

**Baptism of Our Lord; Holy Communion;
First Sunday after Epiphany**

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9
Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17
Psalm: 29

Sunday, January 15

**Second Sunday after Epiphany; Holy
Communion**

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Gospel: John 1:29-42
Psalm: 40:1-11

Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23
Psalm: 27:1, 4-9

Sunday, January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
Psalm: 15



Adult Sunday School Schedule

As of January, we will have a rotating group of facilitators leading discussions based on the lectionary texts of the morning. We will be reading together the "Faith Lens" blog found on the ELCA's website and talking about its discussion questions. We thank Steve Hikes, who will be leading the first two sessions on January 8th and 15th. Future facilitators will be announced. If anyone is interested in serving as a facilitator, please see Pastor Beissel or Brenda Ferreebe.

Sunday School Schedule The Plagues

January 1st
No Sunday School

January 8
Creative Drama
Barbara Hikes, Sue Stroupbauer

January 15
Food for the Poor
Special Speaker

January 22
Art
Nan Hoenich

January 29
Digital Media/Technology
Jodi Derr

Book Study Group

As an initiative of the Evangelism Committee, we will be inviting everyone to participate in a book study of *Rural Evangelism* by Kevin Ruffcorn. This book can be found very cost effectively on Amazon. There will be two sessions- one on January 10th and one on January 17th, both at 7:00 PM. The second session will feature a discussion over Zoom with the congregation of Elysburg United Methodist Church.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday Service Schedule

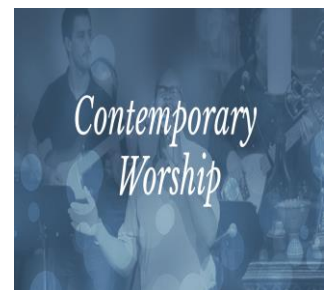
**Contemporary
Worship Service with
Holy Communion 2nd
Saturday of the month
6:00 pm**

Sunday Schedule

**Worship Service
9:00 am**

**Holy Communion
1st & 3rd
Sundays of the month**

**Sunday School
10:30 AM**



Contemporary
worship service with
Holy Communion
will be held on
Saturday,
January 14th at 6:00
pm in the fellowship
hall.



**FOLLOW US ON
facebook**



Monetary donations for the Christmas food baskets amounted to \$609. We were able to feed 18 families this year. Thank you for your generosity.

Confirmation Classes

As of January 2023, confirmation classes will be held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 weekly. The classes will still be taught by Pastors Beissel and Hoenich. This change was made at the behest of the brainstorming session hosted by the Christian Education Committee which the congregation was invited to attend.



Office Hours

Monday – Friday

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

570-345-3306

St. Peter’s Parish Secretary

Melissa Kimmel



Bible Journaling will resume in 2023.

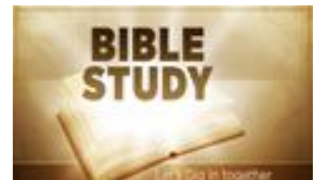
Food Pantry

For the month of January, we will be collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes to refresh the food pantry. Please place your donations on the designated table in the fellowship hall.

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 afternoon at 2:00 pm.

The February 2023 newsletter deadline is Monday, January 16th. This is necessary to allow time to lay out the publication.



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

Committee Reports

Please submit committee reports for the 2022 annual report to the parish secretary via email by Wednesday, January 11, 2023.



Grief Share will be held on January 8th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm, which will end this session.

2023 Offering Envelopes

The 2023 offering envelopes are available in the fellowship hall.

Sponsorships

Altar Flowers are available for January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th– cost is \$25

Chancel Flowers are available for January 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th – cost is \$25

Sanctuary Candle is available for January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and November – cost is \$35

Newsletter is available for January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December– cost is \$40

Bulletin is available for January 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th - cost is \$15

Candle Oil is available for March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December – cost is \$15

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



The **Candle Oil** for **January** is sponsored to the Glory of God in memory of Harry Ilgenfritz, Sr. by Randy and Mary Daubert.

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."

January Ministry Meetings

January 9th
 Worship and Music Committee
 11:00 AM

January 11th
 Christian Education
 8:00 PM

January 12th
 Church Council
 7:00 PM

January 29th
 Annual Congregational Meeting
 10:30 AM

January 30th
 Vacation Bible School
 6:30 PM

January 30th
 Pine Grove Cluster
 7:00 PM

Church Finances - End of November 2022

November General Income: \$11,688.66 **November General Expenses: \$15,907.34**

Checking Balances	Savings Accounts
General Fund \$460.64	Undesignated Savings \$46,487.67
Memorial Fund \$13,051.49	Designated Stew Zerbe \$3,580.00
Youth Ministry Fund \$14,971.19	Memorial Scholarship Fund \$3,580.00
Capital Improvement Fund	Haiti Reservoir Project \$1,539.00
a. Parsonage Improvements \$3,635.86	Total \$51,606.67
b. Video/Audio \$7,552.05	Stew Zerbe
c. Designated Prepaid Fuel \$935.00	Memorial Scholarship Investment
d. Designated Fellowship \$3,613.59	\$9,091.86
e. Undesignated Cap.Improv. \$13,159.47	
Total \$28,895.97	

YTD Contributions Total 160,106.74

Includes the following funds:

General, Lent/Easter, Youth Ministry, Plate, Pre-Buy Oil, Benevolence, Memorial, Building, Capital Imp, World Hunger, Hall Rental, Sunday School, Flowers, Initial Offering, Weekday Church School, Hunger Food Table, VBS, Bulletins, Communion, Newsletter, Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Endowment, Needy Fund, Candle Oil, Souper Bowl of Caring, Christmas Eve, Christmas Food Baskets, Sanctuary Light, Disaster Relief, Pentecost, Ascension, Harvest Home, Reformation, Thanksgiving, Luncheons, Fellowship and Video/Audio

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

**Donald Schwartz
Tracey Schneck
Betty Strubhar
Glenn Moyer
Anna Wertz
Mary Bohr
Keith Kreiser**

**Dr. Bob Yost
Albert Brand
Beverly Zimmerman
Ken Snyder
Bishop Christopher DeForest**



**Christopher Beeman
Frances Heinbach
Paul Lengel
Stacey Harris
Jocelyn Hikes
Shirley Reichert**

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.

Passed Away

**Kay Potts
December 11th**



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery Association has lots available

If interested, please contact Kurt Wessner at (570) 345-8020

Members of St. Peter's

4 grave lot \$800
2 grave lot \$600
1 grave lot \$400

Non-Members of St. Peter's

4 grave lot \$1000
2 grave lot \$800
1 grave lot \$600

Youth Ministry Trip

A youth ministry trip was taken to Haven Mission. On Monday, November 28th, seven youth and 4 adults from St. Peter's went to Haven Ministry in Sunbury. After shopping for ingredients, they prepared 100 sandwiches for the residents there.



Cross Dedication

This outdoor hanging wall cross was dedicated in memory of Virginia J. Schwartz during the December 11th morning worship service.



“A Night in Bethlehem”



“A Night in Bethlehem,” a Bible-Times Christmas event, was held on Sunday, December 11th and Sunday, December 18th from 10:30 am to noon. The church’s fellowship hall was transformed into the Bethlehem Marketplace. Fifty-three individuals attended the first week and 48 the second week.

It was a very busy two weeks in the Bethlehem Marketplace. Upon entering and registering at the City Gate, each child received a canvas bag to hold their keepsakes. Families wandered through the marketplace and discovered what life was like when Jesus was born. The children created keepsakes as they interacted with the shopkeepers.

Families visited the Metal Shop, Pottery Shed, Painter’s Hut, Bethlehem Bakery, Scribe’s Tent, Floral Tent and the Stable. All guests had their picture taken with the Holy Family by the village photographers. A Happy Birthday Jesus party was the finale of the event.



IN GRATITUDE: A sincere thank you to all who participated/volunteered in successfully presenting “A Night in Bethlehem” and the Happy Birthday Jesus party. From the initial planning to the decorating, to the days of the event, to the disassembling, everyone’s help was greatly appreciated.



Memorials and Gifts...To the Glory of God

September: (General Fund) In memory of Ruth Stolarick: \$25 by Carol Baldwin, \$25 by Stephen and Barbara Hikes, \$40 by Stephanie Graham, \$30 by Elaine Benko, \$50 by Donna Zerbe, \$25 by Robert and Brenda Beuchler, \$25 by Cindy Ritchel, \$100 by Susan Herbert Simon, \$30 by R. Thomas, \$20 Scott and Bridget Mellinger, \$50 by Sandra Schwartz, \$50 by Donald and Barbara Schwartz, \$25 by Rob and Paula Dodds, \$35 by George and Alice Brommer, \$50 by Mary Ann Uranium, \$25 by Deanna Banonis, \$20 by Mr. and Mrs. Scott Klinger; \$50 in memory of Norman Beck by Marie Beck, \$100 in memory of Thelma Hubler by Harvey Hubler (**Pre-Buy Oil Fund**) \$100 in memory of William and Gloria Harris' birthdays by George and Kathy Sorokach; (**Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund**) \$50 in memory of Ruth Stolarick by David and Jean Herring.

October: (General Fund) In memory of Ruth Stolarick: donation by Jeffrey and Vicky Benko, \$50 by Wayne and Gary Johnson, \$25 by Robert and Kathleen Hepler, \$30 by James and Claire Maffeo, \$100 by Rodney and Barbara Luckenbill, \$25 by Deborah Griffiths, \$50 by Scott and Shirley Clements, \$50 by Kathy Kershetsky, \$500 by Cathy Stolarick, \$500 by Sandy Stolarick, \$30 by June Thompson; (**Pre-Buy Oil Fund**) \$100 in memory of my husband Marlyn (Pete) and my son Todd by Julie Zimmerman, \$50 in honor of the birth of Knox William Partridge by Steve and Beverly Morgan; (**Youth Ministry Fund**) donation made in memory of Kenny Stolarick by Jeffrey and Vicky Benko; (**Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund**) \$450 in honor of my parents, Stephen and Barbara Hikes for their 45th wedding anniversary by Rachel Hikes

November: (Youth Ministry Fund) \$150 in honor of our granddaughter Jillian's baptism by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich; (**Pre-Buy Oil Fund**) \$200 in honor of Knox William Partridge by Donna Zerbe, \$100 in memory of George Gilbert for his birthday by Charles D. Gilbert; (**General Fund**) \$25 in memory of Ruth Stolarick by Diane Stefanowicz, \$100 in memory of Chester and Gladys Luckenbill by Stephen and Barbara Hikes

December: (General Fund) \$100 in honor of our wedding anniversary by Donald and Barbara Schwartz, \$35 in memory of Charles D. Keefer, Sr. by Tina Keefer; (**Needy Fund**) \$500 in memory of Clarence and Marge Hoenich by Carol Winston

Christmas: (General Fund) \$100 in memory of Sam Baldwin by Carol Baldwin, \$100 in memory of loved ones by Carol Baldwin, \$300 in memory of Thelma Hubler by Allen Hubler, \$100 in memory of Sterling and Mary Jane Stauffer, Wayne Stauffer, and Todd Shadle by Brenda and Shannon Shadle, \$100 in memory of our dad Leroy Strubhar, Sr. by Tom and Kim Pribilla, \$150 in memory of Leo, Jean and Neil Beck by Marty and Valerie Beck, \$150 in memory of Leroy Strubhar, Sr. and Kenneth and Grace Kreiser by Kevin and Patti Kreiser, \$25 in memory of loved ones by Gary and Thelma Adams, \$25 in honor of Gerald Long for his 90th birthday by his brother Arthur Long, \$100 in memory of Leroy Strubhar, Sr. by Betty Strubhar, \$200 in memory of Ruth Stolarick by husband Edwin Stolarick, \$100 in memory of Kenneth Stolarick by Cathy Stolarick, \$25 in memory of Ruth Stolarick by Joe and Fran Ostrowski, \$100 in memory of Chester and Gladys Luckenbill by Rod Luckenbill and family, \$900 in memory of John and Ruth Hikes, Jim and Nora Aungst, Norman and Mildred Balthaser, Luther and Vinnie Luckenbill, Chester and Gladys Luckenbill, John "Jack" Hikes, and Violet Hikes by Stephen and Barbara Hikes; (**Pre-Buy Oil Fund**) \$100 in memory of loved ones, William and Gloria Harris and Stanley and Marion Morgan by Steve and Beverly Morgan, \$100 in memory of loved ones by Kenny and Betty Bressler, \$100 in honor of the birth of Jesus by Sandy Stolarick, \$100 in honor of the birth of Jesus by Charles Gilbert; (**World Hunger**) \$50 in memory of Ken Stolarick by Sandy Stolarick, \$100 in honor of family and friends by Marty and Valerie Beck; (**Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund**) \$50 in honor of grandchildren, James and Isabel Stormont and George Stolarick by Sandy Stolarick; (**Needy Fund**) \$150 in memory of our parents by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich; (**Memorial Fund**) \$50 in memory of Richard and Carol Becker by Kathy Toy, \$100 in memory of Jeffery Dale Rhen by Bob and Kathy Rhen

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year's Day! 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion No Sunday School	2 No Adult Bible Study	3	4 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible at Mamma Bear's in Branchdale
8 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Confirmation Classes 5:00 – 8:00 pm Grief Share	9 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 11:00 am Worship and Music Committee Meeting	10 7:00 pm Book Study	11 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Christian Education Meeting Deadline for Annual Report	12 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	13	14 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service
15 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Classes	16 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	17 7:00 pm Book Study	18 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21 2:00 pm Movie: "The Apostle"
22 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Classes	23 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	24	25 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Classes 10:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting (following worship serv ice)	30 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm VBS Meeting 7:00 pm PG Cluster Meeting	31				