

**For the grace of God has appeared bringing
salvation to all.**

Titus 2:11 NRSV



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."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

also known as "Die Alt Karrich" or "The Old Church"

JACOB GUNKLE'S ROLE

Following the "Old Indian Trail," also known as the "Shamokin Trail" and the "Sunbury Road," to cross the Blue Mountain circa 1765, the Jacob Gunkle family was one of the earliest families to settle in Pine Grove Township. Here, Mr. Gunkle built the first tavern in the present-day borough of Pine Grove and conducted a prosperous business. A few years later he acquired a large farm in Swopes Valley. He erected a grist mill and a powder mill near the entrance to the valley. It was through the operation of his tavern, grist mill, and powder mill that Mr. Gunkle was able to acquire extensive land holdings and wealth. In 1771, he set apart 17 acres and 147 perches of land from his extensive holdings to be known as "School Land." This land has since been incorporated in the borough of Pine Grove.

Mr. Gunkle, being of Holland Dutch descent and of the Reformed faith, was interested in the church and Christian faith of his forefathers and in the education of his children and the children of other Dutch and German settlers. So, in 1779, on this "School Land," near present-day Church Street, Mr. Gunkle erected a log schoolhouse at his own expense, retaining the title to the land and property. The schoolhouse served two

purposes. First, it was a center of education to which the settlers, who could afford to pay for their children's education, sent their children. The textbooks were the German New Testament and Psalter. Reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling were taught in German without the use of textbooks. Second, the schoolhouse served as a place of worship for the German Reformed settlers, who eventually organized themselves as a German Reformed congregation.

In 1782, in order that the small German Reformed congregation might have a regular House of God, and being a faithful member of the congregation himself, Mr. Gunkle erected a church on the "School Land" at his own expense. It was built of hewn logs and measured about thirty feet square. Known as "Gunkle's Church," it was located directly across the street from the present-day St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The first minister was Rev. Gaensel, who was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Deckert in about 1797. Rev. Deckert was followed by the Rev. Benjamin Boyer, who was pastor until 1820.

In 1802, Mr. Gunkle expressed his willingness to transfer ownership of the "School Land," including the schoolhouse, church, and burial grounds to the German Reformed congregation so that it might have property of its own. He wished to give all of this to the congregation as a gift, but in order to secure the necessary papers for the transaction, the congregation was charged a small sum of money. On December 14, 1802, Mr. Gunkle sold the tract of land and property to the German Reformed congregation for 20 shillings, which amounted to about 48 cents in United States money at the time.

During the later years of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th century, German Lutheran families that had settled in the nearby Swatara Valley and organized Jacob's Church, also commonly known as "The White Church," moved to the Pine Grove area and began worshipping in Gunkle's Church. The Rev. William Kurtz served as their pastor. Due to the movement of these Lutheran families into the area, the small size of Gunkle's Church, and the fact that Jacob Gunkle's wife and children were of the Lutheran faith; it was Mr. Gunkle's wish to see a larger stone church built near the site of Gunkle's Church. On May 16, 1812, Mr. Gunkle drew up his will, leaving some money for the building of the Union German Lutheran and Reformed Church, which would accommodate both the Lutherans and his German Reformed congregation, who were worshipping in Gunkle's Church. Departing from this life on October 20, 1813, at age 67, he was buried in the northwest corner of the cemetery by the side of Gunkle's Church.

Gunkle's Church continued as a house of worship until 1816 when it was dismantled. A raft of its materials was built on the stream of the Swatara and floated downstream to Jonestown, Lebanon County, PA. There it was reassembled as a dwelling house.

LUTHERAN CONGREGATION ORGANIZED AND ERECTION OF STONE CHURCH

In the spring of 1815, a meeting was called by the Gunkle's Church members with some members of Jacob's Church for the purpose of discussing the building of the new stone church. In March of 1816, the aforementioned groups agreed to build the church. A Lutheran congregation of 38 members was

immediately organized. The Rev. George Mennig, who was then serving Jacob's Church, was elected as the Lutheran congregation's first pastor. He served the congregation from 1816 to 1833.

The foundation of the new church was laid during the early spring of 1816. On Whitmonday of the same year, the cornerstone was placed in the foundation. Officiating at this ceremony were the Reverends George Mennig and Daniel Ulrich, who represented the Lutheran congregation, and the Rev. M. Reilly, who represented the Reformed congregation. The laying of the cornerstone was the first public function ever held in Pine Grove. Immediately after the cornerstone was laid, work began on the building.

The church was firmly constructed, built entirely of stone with a shingle roof. Most of the stone came from the Schnoke and Stine farms and was split and dressed on the church lot. Nearly all of the timber was cut on the church lot and then sawed into boards and framing timber at neighboring sawmills. The interior had a gallery running along three sides and a high white pulpit with steep winding stairs leading up to it. The building was completed at a total cost of two thousand dollars. This money was raised at the dedicatory exercises held on October 19, 1817. Thus, the church began services free of debt.

Immediately following the completion of the new stone church, both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations who worshipped in it instituted "Eight Articles of Agreement" by which the congregations were to abide. They petitioned for a charter, citing various reasons why they wanted to have their church incorporated. In 1819, by Act of Assembly No. 285 of

the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of PA, the members of the church and their successors in office were created [as] one corporation and body politic in law by the name and style of "THE SAINT PETER'S CHURCH."

On Holy Easter Sunday, March 22, 1818, Holy Communion was administered for the first time in the new church to 31 members of the Lutheran congregation by the Rev. George Mennig. Rev. Mennig confirmed the first catechetical class of the Lutheran congregation on Sunday, May 16, 1819. During Rev. Mennig's 17 year pastorate, the St. Peter's Lutheran communicant membership increased from 31 to 102 members.

200 Years at St. Peter's

CONFLICT WITHIN THE LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OVER "OLD AND NEW MEASURES"

Following the pastorate of Rev. Mennig, there was considerable disturbance within the Lutheran congregation. This was primarily due to the conflict between "Old and New Measures" or between "German and American/English Lutheranism."

The "Old Measures" or "German Lutheranism" favored German services, adhered strongly to the Augsburg Confession, opposed revivals, and upheld the type of Lutheranism that the Muhlenbergs had planted in America. The "New Measures" or "American/English Lutheranism" questioned sections of the Augsburg Confession and sought to mix the vigor of Presbyterianism and the warmth of Methodism with that of the Lutheran faith. It advocated English

preaching and services, evening worship services, Sunday School, prayer meetings, and revivals.

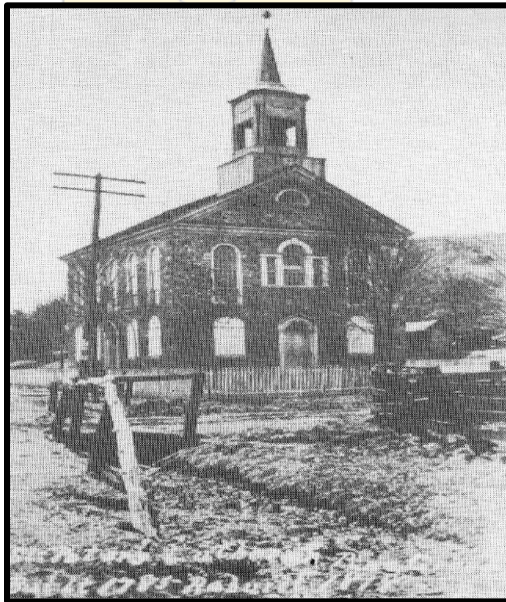
This conflict divided the membership of the congregation. This was evident in the fact that the St. Peter's Lutheran congregation had ten different pastors, together with several supply pastors, during the 19 year period from 1833 to 1852. The ten pastors were the Reverends Haesbaert, Harpel, W. Mennig, Conrad, Gockelen, Dietzler, Friehe, Ehrhart, G.W. Mennig, and Sapper. In June of 1836, some members of St. Peter's organized and began conducting a Lutheran Sunday School in the schoolhouse on West Mill Street in the Pine Grove Borough, rather than in the church building. The communicant membership decreased during these 19 years from 102 to only 21 members.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OFFICIALLY BREAKS UP

The conflict between "Old and New Measures" or "German and American/English Lutheranism" came to a climax within the St. Peter's Lutheran congregation in 1845. As a result, those who supported the "New Measures" or "American/English Lutheranism" left the church. Meeting on the evening of April 10, 1845, a group comprised primarily of former St. Peter's members formed themselves into a congregation under the name of the St. John's Evangelical Congregation, now St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pine Grove.

*INSTALLATION OF FIRST CHURCH BELL;
REMODELLING; ORGANIZATION OF FIRST
SUNDAY SCHOOL*

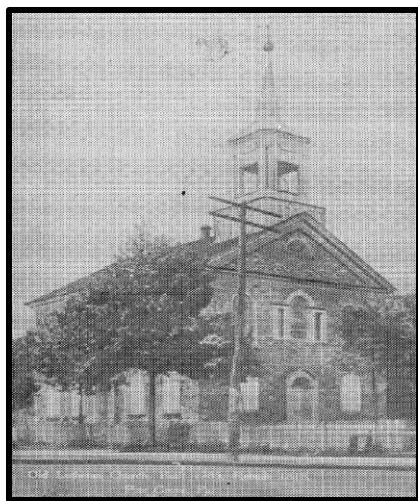
From 1845 through 1852, Pastors John B. Friehe, Julius Ehrhart, George Mennig, and Christian Sapper served the St. Peter's Lutheran congregation. After their service, the congregation was without a pastor until 1855. The most significant occurrence of those ten years was in 1851, when the Lutheran and Reformed congregations combined efforts and added a tower to the church roof. A church bell with a B flat tone was ordered from the Meneebby Bell Foundry of Troy, New York and placed in the tower. For more than 60 years this bell summoned the worshippers to service, and hundreds of times it announced the departure of some loved one.



St. Peter's 1851

In 1855, the Rev. Elias Henry, an advocate of the "New Measures or American/English Lutheranism," was unanimously elected as the pastor of the St. Peter's Lutheran congregation. Having been elected as pastor of St. John's in Pine Grove two years earlier, he served both congregations until his death on April 26, 1897. Rev. Henry served the St. Peter's congregation for 42 years. The St. Peter's communing membership increased from 28 members in 1855 to 165 members in 1881.

In 1870, during Rev. Henry's pastorate, plans were made with the Reformed congregation to remodel the church. The specifications were: a new floor to be placed in the church so as to form a basement, one double door to be installed at the entrance into the basement, the old gallery and pulpit to be removed, the door on the south side and the large window to be closed with stone, the old windows to be removed and the wall cut down to enlarge the windows, new window frames and sashes to replace the old ones, the old ceiling to be removed and a new one placed as high as the roof would permit, two new stairways, new pews, a new gallery and pulpit, and a new wooden bell tower to replace the old one. The work was completed in 1872 at a total cost of \$1800.00. St. Peter's first Sunday School was organized as a Union Sunday School in 1872.



St. Peter's Church 1872

200 Years at St. Peter's

Following Rev. Henry's death, the St. Peter's congregation was without a pastor for almost two years. The communing membership decreased to 28 members. On January 29, 1899, the Rev. H.B. Strodach was unanimously elected as the pastor and served for one year. At a special meeting of the congregation on August 26, 1900, the Rev. Morris Schofer was unanimously elected as the next pastor. He began his active pastorate at St. Peter's on September 1st of that year. He served until March 31, 1906, at which time he relinquished his charge.

THE REFORMED CONGREGATION OF ST. PETER'S WITHDRAWS

Beginning sometime in the latter part of Rev. Henry's pastorate, friction developed between the Lutheran and Reformed congregations worshipping at

St. Peter's. This was largely due to the hope and desire of the Reformed congregation and its pastor to change St. Peter's from a Union Church to a Reformed church based on the facts that the Lutheran congregation was dwindling through the transfer of members to St. John's in Pine Grove and that the old Lutheran families opposed to the "New Measures" or "American/English Lutheranism" were sending their children to the Reformed catechetical classes. The Rev. Elmer S. Noll, D.D., who was pastor of the St. Peter's Reformed congregation at this time, informed his congregation that the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania was determined to continue the Lutheran congregation and to give financial support to the Lutheran pastor at St. Peter's. On the advice of the Rev. Dr. Noll and under his leadership, the Reformed congregation built their own church building about a half block north of St. Peter's, now St. Peter's United Church of Christ. In the fall of 1901, the Reformed congregation withdrew.

Celebrating God's Grace
for All Creation

THE FIRST 33 YEARS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

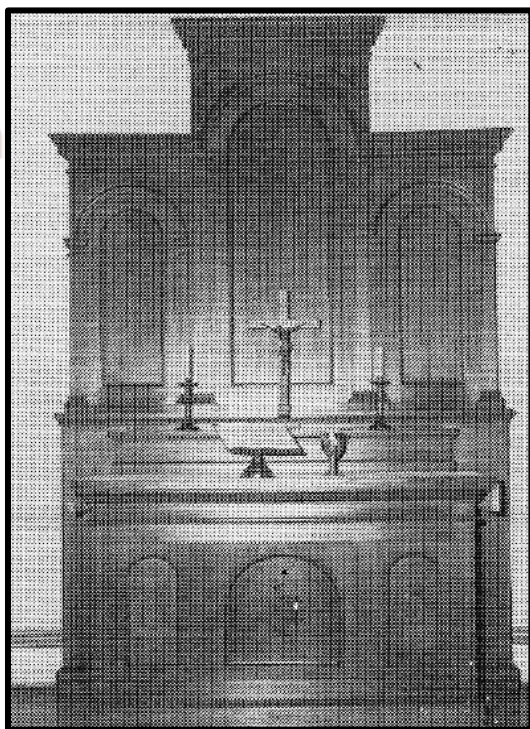
Around 1900, the Home Mission Board of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania formulated plans for a Pine Grove Lutheran Parish consisting of St. Peter's, St. Mark's (Brown's) in Wayne Township, and St. Matthew's in Ravine. The parish formed and was served successively by the Reverends Schofer, Kramlich, Kirsche, Klick, Weber, and Kipps. St. Peter's separated from the parish in 1933.

The Rev. Morris Schofer held the Lutheran congregation together. After his first year at St. Peter's he had the congregation built up to 112 communing members. In 1901, during his pastorate, a Lutheran Sunday School was organized. A new reed organ was purchased and placed in the Sunday School room. It later served as the organ in the church until the fall of 1936.

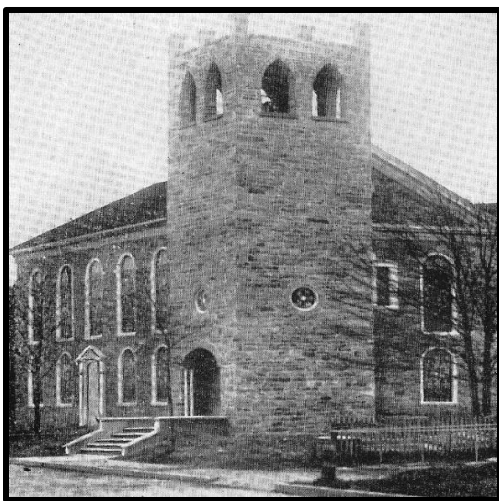
The Rev. William Kramlich followed Rev. Schofer, being elected in 1907 and serving until 1909, during which time no official church records were kept. St. Peter's was without a pastor for one year. Through the efforts of the Home Mission Board of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, the Rev. George Kirsche was called and installed as the pastor on July 16, 1911. In that year, St. Peter's membership declined to the lowest level in its history with only 18 communing members. However, by the end of Rev. Kirsche's pastorate, the confirmed membership was at 94. In 1912, Salem Hetzel's Lutheran Church joined the Pine Grove Lutheran Parish, and the congregations of the parish elected the Rev. Aaron H. Klick as their pastor on October 1st of that year.

During Rev. Klick's pastorate, the congregation began to realize that their church building was in need of repairs and should be remodeled. At a congregational meeting held on December 14, 1913, it was decided to remodel the church. An elected building committee met in May of 1914 to formulate plans. During the years 1914 and 1915, a recess of stone was erected at the south end for a chancel; the entire gallery was removed; new art glass windows were installed; the walls of the church auditorium were frescoed; new carpet, pews, an altar, a pulpit, and a lectern were purchased; a new steam heating plant was placed in the church; and a new stone bell tower

was erected at the northeast corner of the church. On December 15, 1914, the congregation authorized the building committee to replace the church bell which was cracked. The historic bell was sent to the Meneebby Bell Foundry of Troy, New York, where it had been originally cast. The congregation received a new bell with a B flat tone, a duplicate of the old one. The remodeling work was completed in the fall of 1915. The rededication of St. Peter's Lutheran Church was celebrated on Sunday, November 21, 1915, with services continuing throughout the week. The remodeling of the church building cost about \$6800.



Altar 1914



St. Peter's Lutheran Church 1915

200 Years at St. Peter's

After a successful pastorate, Rev. Klick resigned as the pastor of St. Peter's on April 1, 1921. After being without a pastor for a few months, a special congregational meeting was held in October of 1921, at which time the Rev. Ernest A. Weber was unanimously elected as the pastor. During the three years and two months that he served, the confirmed membership increased significantly from 166 to 240 members. Following his resignation on January 25, 1925, the congregation was without a pastor for more than a year.

On the evening of February 14, 1926, a congregational meeting was held for the purpose of electing a new pastor, at which time the Rev. Michael M. Kipps was elected by a unanimous vote. He began his active pastorate on May 1, 1926. During his seven and one-half year pastorate, the inside walls of the stone bell tower were replastered, and steel girders were placed in the tower for the foundation for the large, heavy bell. A new hardwood floor was placed in the Sunday School room, and the primary room was

enlarged. The old steam heating plant was replaced with a large Spence furnace, for which the small cellar under the church was dug out and enlarged. Rev. Kipps relinquished his pastorate on December 31, 1933.

PASTOR YOUSE YEARS

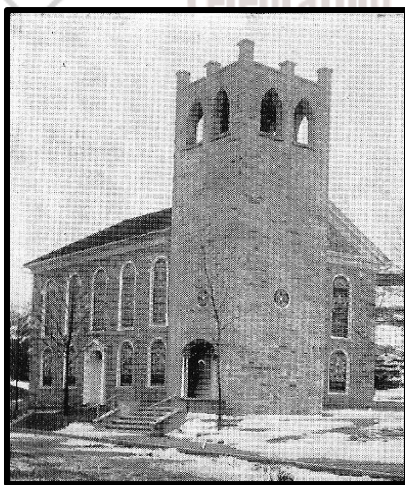
1934 THROUGH 1969

John E. Youse was one of four student pastors from the Mt. Airy Seminary of Philadelphia, PA who supplied at St. Peter's Lutheran Church early in 1934. He conducted the services and delivered the sermons for the first time at St. Peter's on Sunday, January 21, 1934. He was requested to appear for a second trial sermon on Palm Sunday, March 25th, and again on Good Friday evening, March 30th. On May 6, 1934, immediately following the Sunday morning worship service conducted by Mr. Youse, a congregational meeting was held, at which time the members voted unanimously to call him as their pastor. He accepted the call and became the 20th pastor to serve the St. Peter's Lutheran congregation since its organization in 1816. He was ordained on Wednesday evening, June 6, 1934 and installed as the pastor of St. Peter's on Sunday evening, June 24th. Immediately following his installation, Rev. Youse and the members of the Church Council set out to visit every family and member of the congregation.

In August of 1934, Pastor Youse mimeographed the first church bulletin, and it has appeared regularly on Sunday mornings ever since. On the last Saturday of September in 1934, he organized his first catechetical class with 49 people enrolled. All 49 were confirmed on Palm Sunday, April 14, 1935,

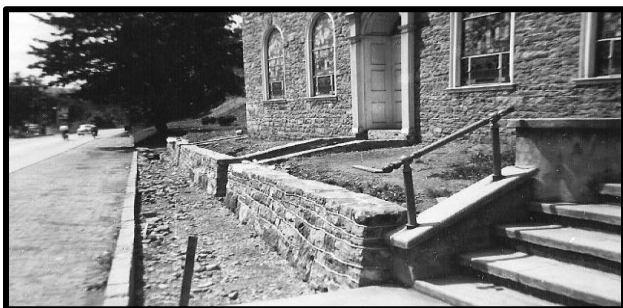
one of the largest confirmation classes in the history of the church.

In 1935, the Church Council and Pastor Youse felt that the time was right for the growing congregation to purchase a pipe organ to replace the reed organ purchased in 1901. A congregational meeting was called in February of 1936, at which time it was decided to purchase a pipe organ. After contacting four organ builders, the Church Council met in April and decided to recommend the two-manual Fritzsche organ to the congregation. At a congregational meeting held on Sunday morning, May 17th, the congregation approved the Church Council's recommendation to purchase the Fritzsche organ for the sum of \$2810. At this meeting it was also decided to build an organ chamber and choir room as an addition to the church building at its southwest corner. The installation of the organ began in the summer and was completed by September 12th. Dedication services for the new organ were held daily from Sunday, September 13th, to Sunday, September 20th, 1936, with the exception of Saturday.

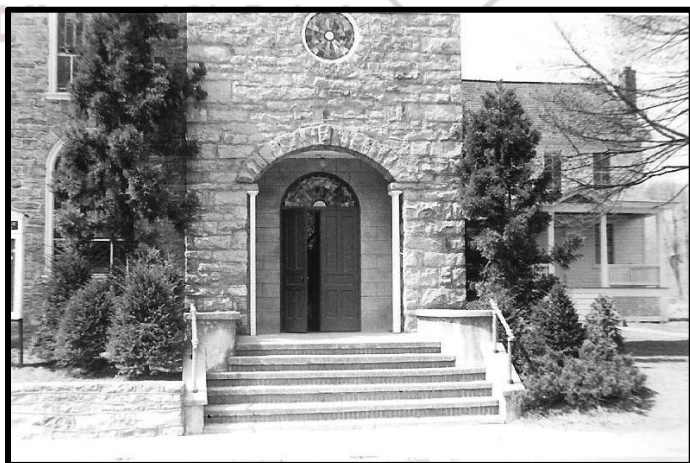


St. Peter's Lutheran Church 1936

In 1941, sidewalks, curbing, and a stone wall were added along the street side of the church. During 1948 – 1949, a two story brick parsonage was built next to the church at a cost of \$23,000.



Sidewalk, curbing and stone wall installation



Church and Old Parsonage to right

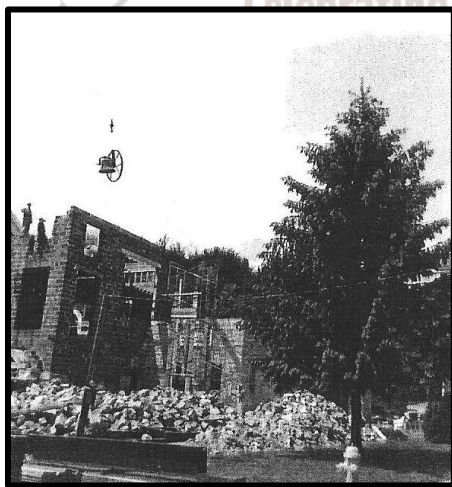


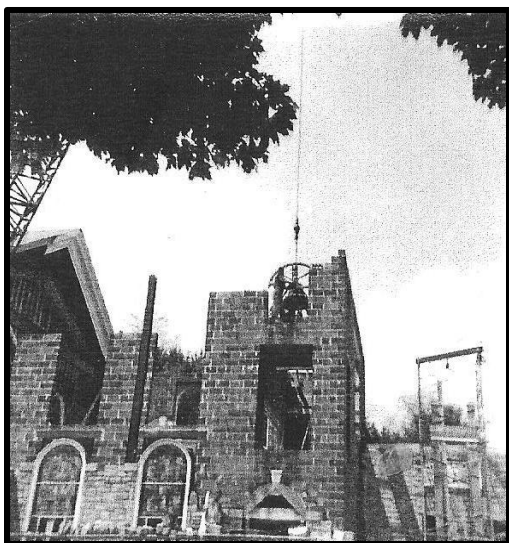
Back view of parsonage built 1948-1949

Pastor Youse began serving the Salem Hetzel's Lutheran congregation in 1943. On October 25, 1953, St. Peter's was yoked together with Salem Hetzel's, forming a two-church parish. Called by the Salem Hetzel's Lutheran congregation in January of 1954 to be their full-time pastor, Pastor Youse served both churches until his retirement.

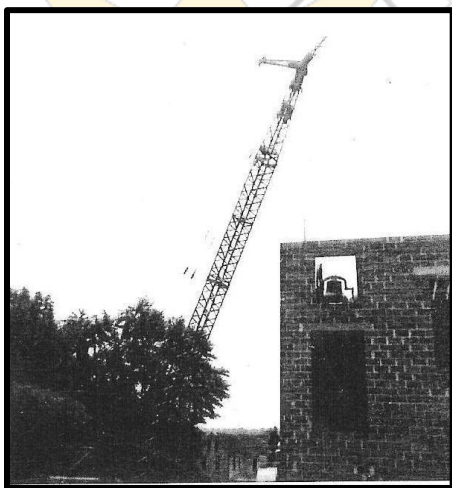
At a congregational meeting held on Sunday morning, March 6, 1955, the congregation approved the building committee's recommendations for a major building and renovation project at St. Peter's. The Ground Breaking Service for this project was held on Sunday morning, July 31, 1955, at 10:00 AM on the church grounds with an attendance of 403. Work started the next day, Monday, August 1st. A one story addition to the rear of the church included a Sunday School auditorium, social room, and kitchen. The building project also included restrooms and a new four door entrance and hallway. The original church building was extended approximately 40 feet on the north side with a flat roof to include the narthex and two stairways. The church sanctuary was renovated to its present-day appearance. Sunday School rooms were

created directly below the church sanctuary. The stone bell tower was removed and a new bell tower constructed at the northeast corner of the church. As part of the project, the old parsonage was moved to the upper lot behind the church, the creek which flowed between the church and the parsonage was piped underground, and the pipe organ was rebuilt. The first Sunday School and church services were held in the new Sunday School auditorium on Sunday, April 22, 1956. The Dedication Service for the new, one story addition was held on Sunday morning, May 6, 1956, with an attendance of 537. The Cornerstone Laying Service for the church building extension was held on Sunday morning, September 30, 1956. The building and renovation project work was completed on Friday, January 18, 1957, just in time for the Dedication Service on Sunday morning, January 20th. Special services of a dedicatory nature were held every evening beginning on Sunday, January 20, through Friday, January 25, 1957. Consecration Sunday was observed on Sunday, January 27, 1957, with a morning service and an evening vespers service. The total cost of the project amounted to \$156,000.





200 Years at St. Peter's



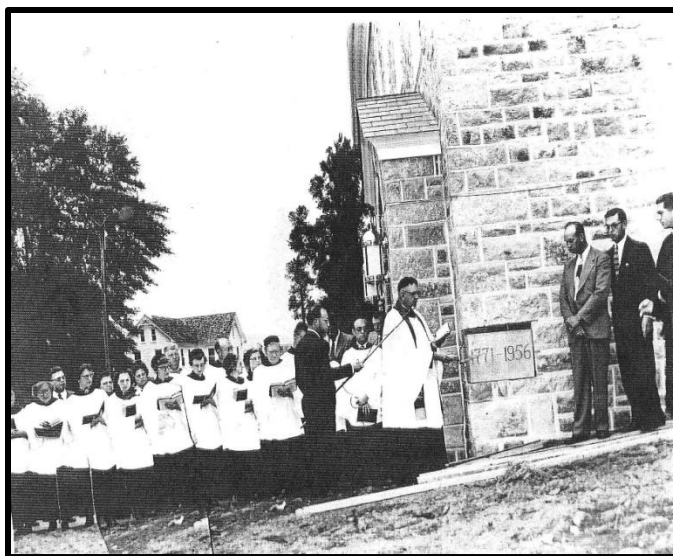
God's Grace
creation



Ground Breaking Service July 31, 1955



Ground Breaking Service July 31, 1955



Cornerstone Laying Service September 30, 1956

In 1959, a two story garage was built behind the church. In 1960, the parking lot was paved, having been elevated with the stones removed from the shale bank behind the church during the building project. In 1965, the church offices with hallway closet space were added to the rear of the church.

It was during Pastor Youse's pastorate that six young men from the congregation were called by God into the ministry. Those were John W. Schwalm, Lawrence L. Hand Jr., George W. Ziegler, Richard C. Jones, Frederick I. Fisher, and David M. Werley.

Having served full-time for 35 years in the active ministry, Pastor Youse retired in the spring of 1969. He was elected as Pastor Emeritus of St. Peter's in June of the same year. At the time of his retirement, there were 640 communing members at St. Peter's. Following his retirement up until his death on January

25, 1985, he served in visitation, supply preaching, the distribution of Holy Communion during several services, catechism instruction, and on the Evangelism Committee.

A TIME OF FIRSTS

Following the congregation's approval at a meeting held on Sunday, October 27, 1968, the St. Peter's Church Council met on October 31st and unanimously voted to extend a call to the Rev. Frederick I. Fisher, a spiritual son of the congregation. Pastor Fisher accepted the call and began serving the St. Peter's and Salem Hetzel's Lutheran Parish in January of 1969. The St. Peter's congregation experienced these firsts during Pastor Fisher's pastorate: during the summer of 1969, an 8:15 AM Sunday morning worship service was introduced; in September of 1970, a part-time church secretary was hired; the church began publishing a newsletter; the Sunday School treasury was merged with the congregation's treasury; on January 9, 1972, two women were elected to the Church Council; first Holy Communion was administered to fifth graders; the Cemetery Association and the Memorial Fund were established; the coal heating system was converted to oil; a pictorial church directory was published; an Altar Guild was organized; a protective covering was placed on the exterior of the church's stained glass windows; a second Christmas Eve service was offered; and the church site was made available for local and county groups/programs. Pastor Fisher submitted his letter of resignation on February 13, 1974 and concluded his ministry at St. Peter's with the services on March 24, 1974.

On June 1, 1971, the Rev. George J. Mathews, Jr. began his ministry as the associate pastor of the St. Peter's and Salem Hetzel's Lutheran Parish with primary responsibility to the Hetzel's congregation. At a congregational meeting held on Sunday, June 16, 1974, the St. Peter's congregation voted to dissolve the two-church parish. On Sunday, June 30, 1974, a congregational meeting was called at St. Peter's at which time Pastor Mathews was called to serve full-time at St. Peter's, a call which he accepted. During his pastorate, the tape ministry program was introduced. Sunday services were recorded, produced on cassette tapes, and delivered by St. Peter's members to the homes of shut-ins. In February of 1975, an elevator chair was installed on the east side set of stairs leading to the church sanctuary. During May of the same year, the sanctuary was repainted, at which time the blue arch surrounding the altar was changed to red. In the late 1970s, through the efforts of the Social Ministry Committee, teams of lay visitors were developed to visit the shut-ins. Coordination between these visitation teams and Pastor Mathews enabled the shut-ins to celebrate a brief service of Holy Communion with both the visitation team and Pastor Mathews. Upon his resignation in July 1979, Pastor Mathews led his last worship service at St. Peter's on Sunday, August 19, 1979.

The Southwestern Schuylkill Lutheran Parish, also known as "the Cluster," was organized in the early 1970s as a cooperative ministry amongst eight Lutheran churches in the Pine Grove area. The parish offered a variety of programs in which the individual congregations participated as their situation warranted. St. Peter's participated in the joint confirmation ministry program, youth ministry events, the pastoral hospital visitation plan, and the pulpit exchanges. St. Peter's was involved in sponsoring and providing an educational setting for an intern seminarian from the

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary who was assigned to the parish for one year.

During the 1970s, the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW), better known as the “green book,” was developed and became available for congregational use in 1978. In anticipation of this new hymnal, St. Peter’s began utilizing updated liturgy booklets in the early 1970s in conjunction with the Common Service Book, first copyrighted in 1917. The congregation moved into the use of the Lutheran Book of Worship in September of 1978 with little difficulty, as the content of the liturgy booklets closely aligned with the liturgy of the new hymnal.

Through the second half of the 1970s, the St. Peter’s congregation engaged in the Parish Life and Ministry Development Program (PLMD) of the Northeastern PA Synod. The process enabled many members of the congregation to become exposed to sound principles of planning which would always be essential for the future. It also allowed the membership to understand the need to reflect upon the needs of the church and community and to begin to develop a vision of what might be possible.

A congregational meeting was held at St. Peter’s on Sunday, March 23, 1980, to act on the recommendation of the Church Council that a call be extended to the Rev. Robert F. Hoenich as pastor. Pastor Hoenich accepted the call and began serving the St. Peter’s congregation on June 11, 1980. The congregation experienced numerous ministries and programs during Pastor Hoenich’s pastorate. An emphasis was placed on World Hunger including World Hunger giving, the World Hunger food table, World Hunger Sunday, and World Hunger month. Members

of the congregation actively participated in the annual local CROP walk. Christmas and Easter baskets were distributed to the needy in cooperation with the local school district. The worship services incorporated more lay involvement. The Church Council was expanded to 16 members, who became involved in the visitation to the grieving and hospitals during pastoral vacations. A caregiver/shepherding program was developed in which members of the congregation maintained contact with other members usually living near their home, providing support and caring in times of crisis. Lay home visitations were made to the grieving, shut-ins, sick, and the aged. Both adult and youth visitations were made to nursing homes. A monthly Bible study group and an effective prayer group and chain were introduced. The "New Venture in Bible Reading," a yearlong plan for reading the Bible, was completed. Bibles were purchased and placed in the church pews. The annual presentation of Bibles to the congregation's fifth graders was begun. Opportunities for Christmas Eve worship were expanded from two to three, with the addition of a 4:00 PM service. The Needy Fund, used to help families of the church experiencing difficult financial situations, and the Endowment Fund were established. Pastor Hoenich developed a workable plan with neighboring churches to care for needy road travelers, who frequently stopped at the church and the parsonage asking for assistance. Pastor Hoenich's resignation was accepted by the Church Council at their meeting on February 15, 2001. He conducted his last worship service on March 18, 2001.

The 200th anniversary of the building of Gunkle's Church was celebrated on Sunday, October 10, 1982. A stone monument with a bronze plaque was dedicated in the old cemetery directly across the street from St. Peter's marking the site where Gunkle's Church was built in 1782. Joining in the celebration

were St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Peter's United Church of Christ, both of Pine Grove. The church bell rang 200 times to commemorate 200 years.



Gunkle Church Stone Marker

A congregational meeting was called at St. Peter's after the second service on September 11, 1988, at which time the congregation voted to have Sister Janet A. Stump, a spiritual daughter of the congregation, become the parish deaconess with responsibility in these ministry areas: Christian education, evangelism, youth work, and assigned pastoral care. During Pastor Hoenich's pastorate, Sister Janet was an active member who was called by God and highly encouraged to attend seminary. During Sister Janet's tenure, a narrative Seder Meal was offered during Holy Week as an educational/devotional experience. Midweek evening Advent services were held. Devotional booklets/guides were provided during Advent and Lent. In 1994, a clown ministry was formed to creatively share the meaning of the Holy Scriptures in primarily non-verbal ways, with presentations both within and outside of St. Peter's. A Youth Ministry Committee was established and initiated a junior youth group in addition to the existing senior

youth group. Youth retreats were held at state parks and within the church facility. New colorful furniture was purchased for the children's classrooms on the east side of the building. The Fellowship Committee was established to promote fellowship in a Christian environment. St. Peter's mission statement was revised and then adopted at the annual congregational meeting in January of 2000. Sister Janet tendered her resignation at the Church Council meeting on October 3, 2002, effective January 1, 2003.

Through the combined efforts of Pastor Hoenich and Sister Janet, the catechetical program was extended to three years with the addition of a first year of Bible instruction. First Holy Communion instruction was offered to third graders, an every member visitation was conducted, and the youth became more involved in the worship services.

In March 13, 1994, a special congregational meeting was held at St. Peter's at which time the congregation voted to rebuild the pipe organ and renovate the Sunday School auditorium (fellowship hall). The organ was rebuilt with the installation of a new console and solid state relay system and dedicated on November 6th of that year. On Christian Education Sunday, September 10, 1995, the dedication of the newly renovated Sunday School auditorium occurred. It was renovated to facilitate classroom teaching for both Sunday School and Vacation Bible School classes and to provide additional storage areas while still allowing the space to be opened up for large group activities. The renovation made that area of the church more energy efficient.



Fritzsche Organ

In 1999, the St. Peter's congregation began using the With One Voice (WOV) book as a supplement to the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). The book was copyrighted in 1995 by Augsburg Fortress as a Lutheran resource for worship.

On Saturday, February 17, 2001, a special congregational meeting was called at St. Peter's to discuss and to vote on the proposed Capital Improvement Projects, which included the replacing of the flat roof area, the installing of a new furnace (boiler) in the church basement, the renovating of the organ chamber, and the installing of an elevator to replace the elevator chair. The members in attendance at the meeting unanimously voted to proceed with the projects. During the 2002 renovation of the organ chamber, two ranks of pipes were removed from the chamber and placed unenclosed on a new windchest in front of the chamber. Handcrafted decorative woodwork was placed on the chamber's facade. A Service of Celebration was held on Sunday, May 3, 2003, at which time the roof, boiler, organ chamber, and elevator were dedicated.



Organ Chamber



Elevator

INTO THE PRESENT

A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, June 9, 2002, at which time St. Peter's extended a call to the Rev. Dr. Richard W. Schoenleber. He accepted the call and began his ministry at St. Peter's on August 15, 2002.

At the annual congregational meeting held on January 30, 2005, St. Peter's adopted a new constitution in full compliance with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Model Constitution for Congregations. At subsequent annual meetings, the constitution has been amended to incorporate changes made to the Model Constitution by the ELCA Church wide Assemblies.

In 2006, St. Peter's began a new role as a teaching parish by participating in the Gettysburg Seminary's internship program. The intern pastors served at St. Peter's for one year and were involved in all aspects of congregational ministry as part of their seminary education. An intern committee met monthly with the interns to provide support, guidance, and evaluation. Pastor Schoenleber served as the supervisor and worked closely with each intern as both their mentor and partner in ministry. The three interns were William Noble (July 2006 to June 2007), Kenneth Melber, Jr. (June 2010 to May 2011), and McFred Brown (August 2013 to July 2014).

St. Peter's has experienced a number of new ministries thus far during Pastor Schoenleber's pastorate. A bi-monthly Saturday evening communion service and an every Sunday morning coffee social after the worship service have been introduced. A lay Eucharistic ministry has been organized in which

teams of lay visitors bring Holy Communion to homebound members each month. The junior youth group has been recreated after a period of dormancy and meets monthly. The Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship has been established for the congregation's high school graduates.

The worship experience at St. Peter's has been enhanced. A new processional cross and torches, given as memorials, are utilized during Sunday morning worship. Gospel processions with a Bible bearer and the reading of the Gospel lesson in the midst of the congregation have been introduced on Festival Sundays. During Holy Week, the congregational reading of the Passion narrative has been added to the Palm Sunday worship service, and a Saturday evening Easter Vigil service is offered. A rolling, free-standing communion table is utilized during the communion liturgy so that the pastor can face the congregation. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month. A children's message is given on Sundays when there is no communion.

An area of emphasis of Pastor Schoenleber has been St. Peter's confirmation ministry. He has enjoyed mentoring the youth and teaching in his Ph.D. area: a year of church history and a year focused on Luther's Small Catechism.

Much maintenance work has been done on the church building and grounds during Pastor Schoenleber's years at St. Peter's. Smaller projects included hanging ceiling fans in two Sunday School classrooms and in the kitchen area of the fellowship hall and providing additional outside lighting. Larger projects included the remodeling of the hallway

restrooms for handicapped accessibility in 2003, the installing of new protective coverings on the exterior of the church's stained glass windows in 2005, the laying of new carpet in the Sunday School classrooms and the connecting hallway in 2015, and both the painting of the sanctuary and the installing of new quiet air conditioning units in the sanctuary in 2016.

Through the years, St. Peter's has been a beacon of strength within the community, and a witness to the importance of the Christian influence. We have a history; we have a future! As time moves on and changes occur, may this congregation's 200 year legacy of faith and witness continue in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

200 Years at St. Peter's



**Celebrating God's Grace
for All Creation**

Spiritual Leaders of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reverend George Mennig (1816-1833)
Reverend John P.C. Haesbaert (1833-1835)
Reverend M. Harpel (1836-1837)
Reverend William G. Mennig (1838-1839)
Reverend Frederick W. Conrad (1839-1840)
Reverend August L. Gockelen (1840-1843)
Reverend J. M. Dietzler (1843-1845)
Reverend John B. Friehe (1845-1847)
Reverend Julius Ehrhart (1849)
Reverend George W. Mennig (1850)
Reverend Christian F. Sapper (1852)
Reverend Elias S. Henry (1855-1897)
Reverend H. B. Strodack (1899)
Reverend Morris Schofer (1900-1906)
Reverend William Kramlich (1907-1909)
Reverend George Kirsche (1911)
Reverend Aaron H. Klick (1912-1920)
Reverend Ernest A. Weber (1921-1925)
Reverend Michael M. Kipps (1926-1933)
Reverend John E. Youse (1934-1969)
Reverend Frederick I. Fisher (1969-1974)
Reverend George J. Mathews, Jr. (1974-1979)
Reverend Robert F. Hoenich (1980-2001)
Sister Janet A. Stump (1988-2002)
Reverend Dr. Richard W. Schoenleber (2002-Present)

Spiritual Sons & Daughter of St. Peter's

Reverend John W. Schwalm	Reverend Richard C. Jones
Reverend David M. Werley	Reverend George W. Ziegler
Sister Janet A. Stump	Reverend Frederick I. Fisher
Reverend Lawrence L. Hand, Jr	SALM John H. Ziegler

200th Anniversary Calendar of Events 2016

Sunday Morning Worship Services-9 AM

January 31 – Children & Youth Sunday

February 21 – message by SALM John Zeigler

March 13 – German Service

April 10 – message by Rev. Carl Shankweiler

May 22 – message by Rev. Frederick Fisher

June 19 – message by Rev. David Werley

July 24 – message by Rev. George Mathews

August 7 – message by Rev. Kenneth Melber, Jr.

September 17 – Free Community Meal – 4-6 PM

6 PM concert by 'Brothers in Grace'

September 25 – Organ recital featuring Daniel Umholtz

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of our organ – 6:30 PM

Sunday Morning Worship Services-9 AM

October 23 – message by Bishop Samuel Zeiser

November 13 – message by Rev. Robert Hoenich

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PARTICIPANTS

SALM John H. Ziegler

John was raised in Pine Grove. He was baptized and confirmed by Pastor John Youse.

He graduated from Pine Grove High School and a graduate of Kutztown State College. His Master's work was done at Earlham College, Millersville State College, San Diego State University, with a degree from Michigan State University.

He was a science teacher and planetarium director for Pine Grove Area School District for 40 years.

He served St. Peter's in the following ways:

Adult Sunday school teacher for 42 years

Clown Ministry

Christian Education Committee

Numerous years on Church Council

Served on the Synod Level as a member of the

Executive Committee

Synod Council

Christian Education Consultant

PLMD Consultant

The World Hunger Task Force

Mission Table

Attended 12 National Assemblies of the LCA and
E LCA

Three National World Hunger Events

Three Global Mission Events

In 2001 he began the SALM program. He served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Tower City, PA, for two years as field work. He was appointed to St. John's Lutheran Church, Pine Grove, in February of 2003, where he continues to serve ever since. He was recently appointed to St. Matthew's Lutheran in Ravine, PA.

He is married to Marian Moyer Ziegler.

Pastor Richard W. Schoenleber

Pastor Schoenleber was born January 31, 1954, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

On May 21, 1977, he married Ruth de Haan in Chatham, New Jersey.

In 1975, he received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He received his M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA. In 1983, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

He did his Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Luke's Hospital, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1976.

He was an intern pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1977-1978.

He was a research and teaching assistant at the University of Iowa, 1979-1983.

From 1983-1992, he was pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, New Florence, Pennsylvania, and Zion Lutheran Church, Robinson, Pennsylvania.

From 1992-2002, he was pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

He is currently the pastor of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

Pastor Carl D. Shankweiler

Pastor Carl D. Shankweiler and his wife, Cynthia, are natives of Valley View, PA, where he was the pastor of their home congregation from 1990 to 2010.

He served on Bishop Zeiser's staff part time while at Valley View and later at St. John's Lutheran in Friedensburg, PA.

Prior to returning to Valley View, he served congregations in Geigertown, Birdsboro, and Wernersville and was on the staffs of the Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia, and Lutheran Welfare Service, Hazleton.

Now he serves only on the synod staff and is also the synod's secretary and archivist.

Pastor Frederick I. Fisher

Pastor Fisher is the son of the late Homer and Martha (Lengel) Fisher. He was baptized, confirmed, and married in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Pine Grove, PA.

He was a graduate of Pine Grove High School, (1959), Susquehanna University, (1963), and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, PA, (1966).

He served the following parishes in the Northeastern PA Synod: Ebenezer, New Tripoli; St. Peter's and Salem Hetzel's, Pine Grove, PA; Hope, Cherryville, PA; St. Paul's, (Summer Hill) Auburn, PA.

He served as Interim Pastor at St. Michael's, Tilden Township; St. John's Lutheran, Friedensburg, PA, and St. Paul's, U.C.C (Summer Hill), Auburn, PA.

On August 1963, he married Ardine Kay Herring.

He has three children-Atty. Andrew Fisher, Dr. Julie Schneider, and Amy Kovalski. He has four grandchildren-Andrew F. and Madison Fisher, Zoe Schneider, and Sophia Kovalski.

He married Janet M. (Darkes) Bishop, in September 2012. They live at Phoebe Berks Village, Wernersville, PA.

Celebrating God's Grace
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Pastor David M. Werley

Pastor Werley graduated from Pine Grove High School in 1962 and from Gettysburg College in 1966. In 1968 he did an internship in Watts, Los Angeles, California.

He attended Yale Divinity School and graduated in 1970. During spring term break at Yale Divinity School, he married Linda Elaine Evenson. In 1970, he was the youth and assistant pastor at Tabor Lutheran Church, Branford, Connecticut.

On March 2, 1971, his firstborn son Matthew David arrived.

He was the Associate Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran in Baltimore, Maryland from 1971-1977.

On February 11, 1973, his second born, Rebecca Joy, joined his elated family.

He was Chaplain at Oakwood Lutheran Homes, Madison, Wisconsin, in 1977.

In 1983, he became the Director of Pastoral Care and Chaplain at Diakon Lutheran Ministries, serving at the Lutheran Home at Topton, Luther Crest in Allentown, PA, and the Caum Memorial Home in Reading, Pennsylvania. He served in this position for 25 years.

In 1997, he was Senior Pastor at Christ Lutheran, Dryville, Pennsylvania.

In 2001, he was Pastor at Morganland Union Church and Pastor at Christ-Little Moore, Danielsville, PA.

From 2009-2010, he was a visiting chaplain with Compassionate Care Hospice of the Lehigh Valley.

He officially retired in 2010 and moved to Sarasota, Florida.

In 2011, for 2 1/2 years, he served as interim pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nokomis (an adjacent community near Venice, Florida).

In 2014, served as supply preacher in the Florida Synod and in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA.

Pastor George J. Mathews, Jr.

Pastor Mathews was born on June 15, 1944, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the son of Frances G. and George J. Mathews.

He was married on May 18, 1968, to Kathryn V. Linn in Zion's Lutheran Church, Old Zionsville, Pennsylvania. They are the parents of two sons, Christopher J. Mathews, who currently resides with his wife, Kerry, and two sons, George and Phillip in Clarks Summit, PA, and Timothy M. Mathews, Ph.D., who currently resides with his wife, Renee, and two daughters, Madison and Elliana, in Canton, Georgia.

He graduated in 1962 from Atlantic City High School in Atlantic City, N. J. He attended Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Pastor Mathews graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, with a A.B. degree in Psychology in 1967. In 1968, he completed a quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Chester, Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the Crozer Theological Seminary. In May of 1971, he graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia with the M. Div. degree.

From July 1969 to August 1970, Pastor Mathews served a seminary internship at St. James Lutheran Church in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania. From June 1971 to May 1974, he served as the Associate Pastor of the St. Peter's and Salem Hetzel's Lutheran Parish in Pine Grove, Pennsylvania. From May 1974 to August 1979, he served as the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Pine Grove, Pennsylvania. From August 1979 to the present, he is serving as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.

Pastor Mathews served as the Dean of the Schuylkill District, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. For thirty-two years, he has served as the treasurer of the Abington Ecumenical Ministerium in Clarks Summit. Pastor Mathews served as the Dean of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor Kenneth T. Melber, Jr.

Pastor Melber is a 2007 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University (Social and Behavioral Science) and a 2012 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Master of Divinity).

He currently serves as the pastor of the New Ringgold Lutheran Parish, which includes Friedens Lutheran Church in New Ringgold, PA, and Advent Lutheran Church in Tuscarora, PA.

Prior to serving these congregations, he served as the pastoral intern at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Pine Grove from 2010-2011.

Pastor Ken has a wife of eight years, Amanda, and a daughter, Yuna, who is two years old.

He has a great interest in worship and music and currently plays the piano. He is a self-described geek who has a deep love for video games and Anime.

His pastoral mission statement is based on 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

Bishop Samuel R. Zeiser

Bishop Zeiser is a 1969 graduate of Jim Thorpe High School, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1977, he received his Master of Divinity Degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia.

Bishop Zeiser has served five congregations. From 1977 to 1979, he was the parish worker at St John Resurrection (now St. Stephen) Lutheran Church, Syracuse, New York. In 1979, he was ordained by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and he returned to Pennsylvania to serve as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Nanticoke. In 1984, he was pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Johnsonville. From 1998-2002, he served as pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church, West Reading. In 2002, he became the senior pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown, where he served until his election as bishop of the synod in 2008. In 2014, he was elected to a second term.

He pursued graduate studies throughout his pastoral work, earning a Master of Sacred Theology Degree from the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia in 1989. He went on to the Casperson School of

Graduate Studies at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, where he earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2001 in Religious and Theological Studies. From 2001-2005, he was a part-time instructor in the Religion Department at Muhlenberg College, Allentown.

He served as a representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the Moravian-Lutheran dialogues that led to the full communion relationship with the Moravian Church in America. Over the years, he has served on several synod committees. When elected synod bishop, he was serving a second term on the synod council. Presently he serves on the Boards of Trustees of Muhlenberg College, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He also serves on the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee.

He is married to Linda L. (Montgomery) Zeiser. They are parents of a married daughter, Samantha, who lives in Tennessee.

**Celebrating God's Grace
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Pastor Robert F. Hoenich

Pastor Hoenich was born on May 13, 1947, in the Pottsville Hospital, son of Clarence and Margaret (Kubich) Hoenich.

He has two sisters: Diane who is deceased and Carol who lives in Boulder, Colorado.

He graduated from Minersville Area in 1965 and Penn State University in 1969. On August 2, 1969, he married Nan Lois Yorty.

He attended The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. The summer of his first year, he did his Clinical Pastoral Education at the Philadelphia State Mental Hospital. He served his internship during the third year, 1971-1972, at Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland area. He graduated in 1973.

He was pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Bangor area, 1973-1980; St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pine Grove, 1980-2001; and Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland area, 2001-2010.

Pastor Hoenich served as Dean of the Schuylkill Mission District from 1996 to 2002. On the synod level, Pastor Hoenich had served on the Social Service Committee and the World Hunger Committee.

In retirement, he preached and shared in ministry at Hetzel's Lutheran Church, Pine Grove, in 2011 and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church from 2012-2013. (his home church).

His children are Dr. Alethea Wessner and husband, Daryl; Gwendalin Moyer and husband, Benjamin; and Janelle Gruber and husband, John. He has four granddaughters: Sophia, Shea, Calista, and Isla.

Sister Janet A. Stump

Sister Janet Stump, formerly a remedial mathematics teacher and, since her Investiture in 1987, a member of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a graduate of Pine Grove Area High School, West Chester State College, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She interned as a deaconess in two congregations in eastern Indiana (1987-1988), and has served congregational calls as parish deaconess in St. Peter's, Pine Grove (1988-2002) and as deaconess with authorization to engage in sacramental ministry in St. John's, Saint Johns, PA (2003-2012). In 2012, Sister Janet was elected by the Deaconess Community to serve as its Directing Deaconess, a Chicago-based call involving travel throughout North America which she began in January 2013.

Throughout her ministry as a rostered leader in the ELCA, Sister Janet also has engaged in volunteer efforts in the Deaconess Community and the wider church, including serving on the Pine Grove Area Council of Churches, the Candidacy Committee for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (NEPS), the Board of Directors of the Deaconess Community, the Joint Conflict Resource Team for NEPS and the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Hazleton-Lehigh Mission District Council, the Policy Council for Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa), and the Word and Service Task Force of the ELCA.

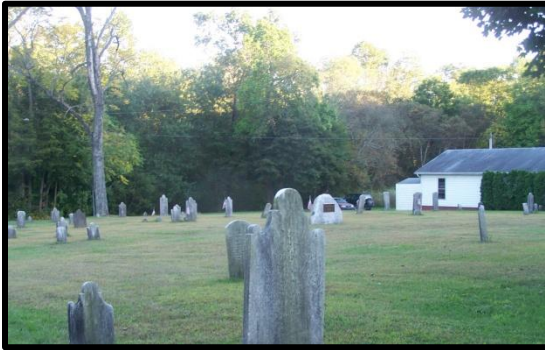
Sister Janet, who is the daughter of the late Ira and Pearl Stump of Pine Grove, has fond memories of

growing up in St. Peter's, attending Sunday School, and later teaching classes of four-year-olds in that same Sunday School. She is grateful to God for the faith example of her parents, for God-conversations shared with her brother, Carl, and for those early mentors in discipleship whom she found in St. Peter's. Prior to her election as Directing Deaconess, she was engaging in a certificate program in formative spirituality at Moravian Seminary, Bethlehem, PA. She plans to resume these studies in the future, since she regards attention to the inner life of the spirit as a primary and essential component in one's participation in the loving transformation which God graciously is accomplishing in the world.

At the writing of this biographical summary, Sister Janet is in the process of transitioning out of the Directing Deaconess position and into a time of intentional discernment, study, and reflection. On the life-long journey of faith, she is grateful to God for the richness of the past, the hope of the future, and God's loving presence in the ever-present "now."

**Celebrating God's Grace
for All Creation**

PRESENT-DAY PHOTOS



St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery 1



St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery 2



St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery 3



Parsonage 2016



Rear of St. Peter's Lutheran Church 2016



South End of St. Peter's Lutheran Church 2016

A Prayer for God's Continued Grace Upon St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We praise and adore You, God our Father; You are the maker of everything.

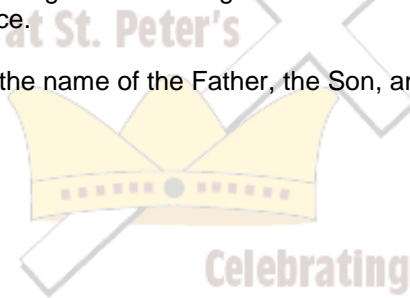
We praise and adore You, Jesus Christ; You are the Savior – the Word made flesh.

We praise and adore You, Holy Spirit; You are the blessed gift to humankind.

Lord God, continue to watch over St. Peter's as we enter a new century as an organized Christian church. May the Church be a strong influence and faithful witness in our community and beyond. May all the people of faith trust always in Your goodness and grace and turn to You for help and guidance.

We pray in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.



**Celebrating God's Grace
for All Creation**

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6: 24-26 NRSV

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.



200th Anniversary Banner

SOURCES

Acknowledgement is given to the following sources utilized in the compilation of the "Brief History of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church":

Church newsletters, bulletins, programs, records, and documents

Church anniversary booklets and anniversary- related publications

Church pictorial directories

Church Council minutes

Annual reports of the congregation

Personal record book of the Rev. John E. Youse

The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Richard W. Schoenleber

Members of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Former pastors and former deaconess

Newspaper articles

Interviews

Pinegrove Historical Society

“St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church History” as submitted by the Rev. Robert F. Hoenich to the Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern PA in August of 1988

History of Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, PA, compiled by Judge George B. Haas, copyrighted 1935 and reprinted 1975.

