

THE
VOICE
OF

ST. PETER'S

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2017

From the Pastor:

As we end the month of August and enter the month of September, we prepare for summer vacation to end and for school to begin. We are also drawing very close to October 31st, which will mark the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Through a series of parish visitations, Martin Luther realized that there was an appalling ignorance of the Bible and basic Christian teachings on the part of both the pastors and the lay people of Saxony. In order to address the problem, Luther wrote two catechisms in 1529. The *Large Catechism* was written to educate pastors so that they could preach and teach correctly. The *Small Catechism* was written to teach lay people the basics of the Christian faith. With the publication of his two *Catechisms*, Martin Luther established Christian Education as a vital and essential part of the Lutheran Church.

On Sunday, August 27th, we will observe “Christian Education Sunday.” Our Sunday School teachers will be installed and we will present Bibles to our 5th Graders during the worship service. We will also be singing Sunday School songs that have been used here for decades, so they will be familiar to both children and adults. During the Sunday School period, we will have a special blessing of the children and their school backpacks and supplies, and our students will be promoted to their new classes. Steve Hikes will begin an Adult Sunday School class series on Luther’s Small Catechism. We are anticipating an enthusiastic turn-out on August 27th so that we can get our new Sunday School year off to a grand beginning!

In September, we will prepare our Third Graders for their First Communion, and we will resume our Confirmation Classes for our 7th, 8th, and 9th Graders. Pastor will also resume teaching our “Wednesday Night Live” classes on the history of the Christian Church.

St. Peter’s has many opportunities for Christian Education, for all ages – so come and join us in the fun of learning about the love of God and our Lutheran heritage!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard

Highlights from the July 6th Council Meeting

The Property Committee reported that several repairs were done in the Church. Another vendor is being contacted to bid on the video hook-up project. The Church furnace needs a new expansion tank. The Church kitchen dishwasher needs to be replaced, and a Council member offered to pay for a new dishwasher. The parsonage furnace is leaking carbon monoxide, and the Council voted to replace it at a cost of \$6,000.

The Christian Education Committee will meet at 6:00 PM and the Evangelism Committee will meet at 7:30 PM on April 24th. The Worship Committee will meet on April 20th.

The Worship Committee will arrange for dry cleaning the choir robes. Some changes are being introduced in the Sunday services, and the Committee is looking for feedback from the Congregation.

The Evangelism Committee noted that churches are using social media to reach out and suggested that St. Peter's needs to utilize social media. The Council approved the establishment of a Technology Committee to develop a social media policy.

The Stewardship Committee reported that Stewardship Sunday will be held on November 19th, with a Temple Talk and the distribution of Time and Talent Sheets.

Under New Business:

Sister Janet Stump will be invited to preach on July 23rd as a "make-up" Anniversary service.

The fund balances as of June 30th were:

General Fund -- \$ 4,167

General Savings -- \$ 140

Capital Improvement Fund -- \$ 22,648 (\$ 6,869 designated for the video and \$1,265 for the Fellowship Committee to use for kitchen improvements)

Memorial Fund -- \$ 10,422

Savings Certificate (Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund) -- \$ 6,995

\$3,610 is needed each week to meet expenses, and we fall short too many weeks. It is important for offerings to stay strong during the "summer slump."

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

To begin celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, in September, 2016, Pastor Richard began teaching an Adult Course on the History of the Christian Church. By June, 2017, we made it through the great Papal Schism of the 14th Century, then took a summer break.

We are now ready to resume our study by looking at the movements and people who were forerunners of the Reformation, so that by the October 31st Anniversary we will be studying Luther and the Reformation!

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

The schedule for September is:

Wednesday, September 6th

Wednesday, September 13th

Wednesday, September 20th

Wednesday, September 27th

Confirmation Class News

Our Confirmation Classes are ready to begin the 2017-2018 class year.

We will combine our Middlers (Eighth Graders) and Seniors (Ninth Graders) into one class, which will meet in the Youth Room from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Saturdays. This year, Pastor Richard will lead the class in a study of the history of the Christian Church. The Middler-Senior Class will meet on September 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

The Junior Class (Seventh Grade) will have an orientation session for our Confirmation students and their parents on Saturday, September 9th, at 9:00 AM in the Social Hall. Everyone will receive a “Confirmation Ministry” information sheet, and we will discuss our vision and expectations for our Confirmation Ministry.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

“Christian Education Sunday” will be held on August 27th this year. Our Sunday School teachers will be installed and we will present Bibles to our 5th Graders during the 9:00 AM worship service. Two of our 5th Graders will serve as lectors and read Scripture lessons from their new Bibles. We will have a special Children’s message, and we will also be singing Sunday School songs that have been used here for decades, so they will be familiar to both children and adults. The Senior Choir will be doing a special anthem. We encourage parents to bring their children to the Church worship service as well as to the Sunday School hour for this special day.

During the Sunday School period, we will have a special blessing of the children and their school backpacks and supplies, and our students will be promoted to their new classes.

Beginning August 27th, the Adult Class, led by Steve Hikes, will study Luther’s *Small Catechism* using the resource book *Free to Be* by Gerhard Forde and James Nestigen, retired Professors at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Adult Class meets in the Sanctuary, near the piano, and new members are always welcome!

We have Sunday School classes for all ages from Nursery through Adult. Our teachers prepare Bible-based lessons, and there are crafts for the younger classes. Barb Hikes leads music for all of the classes, with a mixture of old classics and new tunes that the students really enjoy. Everyone is welcome for Sunday School, which runs from 10:30 to 11:30 AM every Sunday. See you there!

First Communion Class

A special Class will be held on Sunday, September 10th, from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M., to prepare our Third Graders to receive their First Holy Communion. All Third Graders and their parents are invited to attend this session. First Communion will be received on World Communion Sunday (October 1, 2017) at the 9:00 A.M. Worship Service.

Vacation Bible School:

Our Vacation Bible School is over for 2017 and, again, it was a good year at VBS.

We had the hottest weather and most humid weather, but it didn't dampen the spirits of either leaders or children.

Our stories this year were about super-heroes and there was some surprises as we learned how God sees super-heroes. We learned how many ways we too can be super-heroes. There were many special things as well – crafts, music, science, snacks and games.

Our mission project this week helped a local group in Pottsville feed the hungry and clothe people who need clothes and help people find jobs, and other amenities of life.

We really appreciate the support that VBS has from the congregation and the people who attend and the people who help. We enjoy inviting community people into our school and we all learn so many new things as we grow and help each other.

COMING IN OCTOBER

Mark your calendars for four special Sundays in October!

October 1st – 9:00 AM – World Communion Sunday and First Communion

October 8th – 9:00 AM – “Polka Service” – a Service of Holy Communion using polka tunes led by the Heidelberg Brass Band

October 15th – 9:00 AM – Harvest Home Service

October 29th – 9:00 AM – Reformation Day Service, commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

October 29th – 3:30 PM – Mission District Reformation Day Service at St. Peter's, with a sermon by Dr. Karl Krueger of the Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

✝ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the months of April, May, June, July & August:

Steve Yoder, Adam Kulbitsky, Floyd Ney, Ron Murhon, Glenda Nagle, Richard Becker, Dean Wertz, Lisa Geiger, Nancy Reese, Russell Teets, Mattie Tobin, Dave Fickinger, Pat Williams, Caitlin McGarry, Kailee Wessner, Nancy Ditzler, Jeanette Seitzinger, Amber Lewis, Liz Blanton, Rebecca McCormick, Larry Barr, Lindsay Stroupauer,

Lori Knarr, Diane Centeleghe, Cindy Siegel, Shania Thomas, Brandon Strouphauer, Kase Wolfe, Kelly Rhen, Bill Moyer, & Linda Barr.

- ✠ The Family of Margaret Reed, who passed away on April 24th.
- ✠ The Family of Floyd Reed, who passed away on May 3rd.
- ✠ The Family of Charles Brown, who passed away on May 19th.
- ✠ Our High School Graduates – Brandon Babcock, Colton Butler, Alyssa Derr, Brandon Hueston, Steven Krammes, Steven Lengel, & Emily Zimmerman.
- ✠ The Family of Joan Antonelli, who passed away on May 28th.
- ✠ Joseph Stolarick and Andrea Meynard, who were married on June 10th.
- ✠ Keegan Robert Leffler, the son of Ryan and Theresa (Lemke) Leffler, who was born on June 5th.
- ✠ The Family of Lawrence Martin, who passed away on June 7th.
- ✠ Ciaus Allen Huff, the son of Matt and Renee (Duncan Smith) Huff, who was born on June 9th.
- ✠ The Family of Martin “Chico” Moyer, who passed away on July 11th.
- ✠ The Family of Klara Burkle, who passed away on July 18th.
- ✠ The Family of Shirley Lehman, who passed away on July 21st.
- ✠ Kerry Griffiths and Elizabeth Lehman, who were married on July 22nd.
- ✠ The Family of Harry Derr, who passed away on July 28th.
- ✠ The Family of Tom Clarkson, who passed away on July 31st.

*The Prayer Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 6th @ 9:00AM.

Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God

(Capital Improvement Fund)

- \$25 in loving memory of our Mother, Sybilla Gilbert by Children: Anna, Nancy, Mattie, Mary & Charlie.
- \$100 in memory of Mother’s on “Mother’s Day” by Virginia Schwartz.
- \$100 in memory of all Father’s on “Father’s Day” by Virginia Schwartz.
- \$500 in memory of Alda and Sterling Lewars by Will Shiffer.
- \$300 in memory of Lewis and Millie Manbeck by Ken and Sandra Stolarick.
- \$55 in memory of Shirley Lehman by Virginia Schwartz.
- \$20 in memory of Klara Burkle by Betty Miller.
- \$20 in memory of Shirley Lehman by Betty Miller.

(Memorial Fund)

- \$50 in loving memory of Helen M. Schaeffer by June Reed.
- \$50 in memory of Margaret Reed and Marian Long by Norman and Brenda Kreiser.
- \$20 in memory of my Dad, Rich Wertz, in honor of his Birthday by Jerry & Missy Witherow.
- \$100 in memory of George Gilbert for Father’s Day & Sybilla Gilbert for Mother’s Day by The Gilbert Family.
- \$100 in memory of Charles Brown by Eric and Susan Zerbe.
- \$25 in memory of Charles Brown by Shirley and Howard Lengel.

\$500 in memory of Arthur "Pat" Aungst on Father's Day by his wife, Grace, and his Family.

\$100 in loving memory of our son and brother, Ryan D. Lemke for his birthday on July 15th.
Love always, Tim, TC, Theresa and Tim Lemke.

\$25 in memory of Klara Burkle by Robert and Jean Thompson.

\$20 in memory of Shirley Lehman by Donald and Barbara Schwartz.

\$25 in memory of Shirley Lehman by The Cleary Family.

\$20 in memory of Klara Burkle by Arlene Knoll.

\$20 in memory of Shirley Lehman by Kathy Sorokach.

(General Fund)

\$92 in memory of Irma Heinbach on her 92nd Birthday by Great Granddaughter, Angel Venzl.

\$100 in memory of my Mom, on her birthday, by Linda Venzl.

\$120 in honor of our Mom, Mary Bohr, on Mother's Day! Happy Mother's Day, Mom, we love you! TC, Tracey, & Tammy.

\$15 in honor of our 46th Anniversary by Gary & Thelma Adams.

\$100 in loving memory of Brandon Zimmerman's 20th Birthday which was Sunday, May 28th by Beverly Zimmerman and Family.

\$50 in memory of Uncle Charlie Brown by Linda Venzl and Vince.

\$25 in memory of Charles Brown by Peggy Lutz.

\$25 in memory of Dad, George Gilbert, for Father's Day by his children, Anna, Nancy, Mattie, Mary and Charlie.

\$40 in memory of my Wife, Carol Becker, by Husband, Richard Becker and Daughter, Kathy Toy.

\$50 in loving memory of our Grandson, Ryan Lemke by Robert and Sharon Lemke.

\$100 in memory of Olga Miller by Daughter, Mary Shive.

\$100 in honor of Edwin and Ruth Stolarick's 66th Wedding Anniversary by Ken and Sandra Stolarick.

\$50 in memory of Klara Burkle by Fred and Deanna Klinger.

\$25 in memory of Shirley Lehman by Betty Rumpf.

\$30 in memory of Klara Burkle by Arlene Knoll.

(Stew Zerbe Fund)

\$100 in honor of Logan Barr's Confirmation by Mom, Melannie Barr.

\$350 in honor of St. Peter's High School Graduates by Pastor Bob & Nan Hoenich.

(World Hunger Fund)

\$50 in memory of Bryan Reichelt, Sr. for his Birthday, July 18th by Wife, Nancy Reichelt.

-The **Sanctuary Candle** for **August** was given to the Glory of God by Tom and Ruth McMullen.

-The **Sanctuary Candle** for **September** was given to the Glory of God by Albert and Kathleen Brand.

-The **Newsletter** for **September** was given to the Glory of God in memory of her Son, Todd Shadle, for his Birthday, by Brenda Shadle.