

THE ***ST. PETER'S***
VOICE
OF **NOVEMBER 2018**

From the Pastor:

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, we remember with gratitude the many ways in which we have been richly blessed by God. God gives us the world around us with all its beauty. God blesses us with family and friends, home and property, food and clothing, and all the necessities of life. All of these things are truly miracles that we have received from the love and generosity of God.

The Biblical concept of stewardship is closely tied to giving proper thanks to God. Stewardship is based upon the realization that since everything has been created by God, everything therefore really belongs to God. We are not really the owners of things. We are stewards, that is, caretakers of that which really belongs to God. Stewardship, then, is being a good caretaker of what God has entrusted to our care.

Stewardship is about living in a state of gratitude to God. It is God's very nature to be loving and giving, and recognizing that divine nature inspires in us a sense of gratitude to God. Reflecting on the many ways that God has blessed us in our lives inspires us to be loving and giving in our daily lives.

Stewardship involves how, in the words of our Sunday liturgy, "we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you (God) have given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love." Stewardship means giving out of gratitude for what God has given to us. Stewardship means sharing generously in proportion to the generous blessings which we have received from God.

In infinite love for us, God, our Heavenly Parent, has created a magnificent world and set us in it to enjoy all God's blessings. As we approach another Thanksgiving Day, we realize that we truly have everything to be thankful for, and so with joyful and grateful hearts we offer to God our thanks and praise in thought, word, and deed.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard

Highlights from the October 4th Council Meeting

The Social Ministry Committee will begin planning for the Christmas Baskets. Special offering envelopes will be in the November 25th bulletin.

The Finance Committee has begun working on the 2019 budget, but some items cannot be finalized until we receive information from the Synod on the cost of a Designated Pastor and Supply Pastors.

The Council voted to authorize bank safety deposit box access to Brenda Ferrebee and Ben Moyer.

The Council approved a plan for filling the pulpit and leading worship services during the upcoming vacancy. Pastor Bob Hoenich will preach and lead worship on all Communion Sundays. Once a month, worship will be led by a lay member, with a sermon written by Pastor Hoenich and read by a lay member. Once a month, the Synod will assign a Supply Pastor to lead worship and preach. Children's messages will be given by lay members. Volunteers will be needed for the various roles in the worship services. The Synod will appoint a "Designated Pastor" who will be responsible for attending Council meetings, conducting weddings and funerals, and providing pastoral care as requested by the Council.

Pastor Carl Schankweiler, an Associate to the Bishop, will be at the November Council meeting to discuss the transition process and the call process. In order to facilitate the formation of the Call Committee, the Council voted by the required two-thirds majority to make a change, for this year only, in Continuing Resolution R13.02.A05, which states that the nominating ballot for Council elections "shall be available to all voting members at all worship services on at least two Sundays in December." Instead of waiting until December, the nominating ballots will be available to all voting members on three weekends in November – Sunday, November 11th, Saturday, November 17th, Sunday, November 18th, and Sunday, November 25th. This change in the normal schedule will enable the Council to select the membership of the Call Committee quicker so that the call process can begin as soon as possible. The Council will keep the Congregation informed of the progress of the call process through periodic announcements and Temple Talks during the Sunday worship services.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

In September and October, we began looking at Modern Church History, with sessions on the beginnings of the Church in America, the Enlightenment and the influence of rationalism on Christianity, the Pietistic movement in the Lutheran and Reformed Churches, and the two leaders and their two denominations which arose from Pietism – Nikolaus von Zinzendorf and the Moravian Church, and John Wesley and the Methodist Church.

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

The schedule for November is:

Wednesday, November 7th

Wednesday, November 21st

Wednesday, November 28th

CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

Our combined Middler (Eighth Graders) and Senior (Ninth Graders) class has begun its study of Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* with sessions on Law and Gospel and the Ten Commandments. The Middler-Senior Class will meet at 9:00 AM on November 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th.

The Junior Class (Seventh Grade) met on October 6^h for a session on the Genesis creation story. It will meet on November 3rd at 9:00 AM in the Social Hall for a lesson on the story of Adam and Eve.

FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to our young members who received their First Communion on World Communion Sunday weekend (October 6th and 7th):

*Aedyn Ditzler, Kellie Geary, Hunter Strouphauer, Allie Strubhar,
Grayden Strubhar, Adam Venszl, and Zoey Venszl*

IMPORTANT SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 4th – All Saint’s Sunday –

The Worship Service will begin with a special commemoration for the faithful departed and will include the glorious hymn “For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest.” You may call the Church office to include the name of a loved one in the commemoration.

November 11th – Stewardship Sunday –

The stewardship of time, talent, and treasure is vital to our Church, and we will focus on those aspects of stewardship on November 11th.

November 19th – Recognition of 50-Year Members –

The Worship Service will begin with a special recognition of our members who are marking the 50th Anniversary of their adult membership at St. Peter’s in 2018. Letters of invitation are being sent to all the 50-Year Members that are known to us. Please let Pastor Richard know if we have missed anyone.

November 25th – Christ the King Sunday –

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

BALLOTING FOR COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

In order to better prepare for the coming Pastoral vacancy, the Church Council voted to hold the balloting for Council nominations in November this year in order to allow the Council to establish a Call Committee sooner. The balloting will take place during the worship services on Sunday, November 11th, Saturday, November 17th, Sunday, November 18th, and Sunday, November 25th.

SPONSORS

Some things are still available to be sponsored in November.

Altar Flowers are available for November 11th – cost is \$20.

Bulletins are available for November 4th, 18th, and 25th – cost is \$15.

Sanctuary Candle is available for November – cost is \$35.

Newsletter is available for November – cost is \$35.

Candle Oil is available for November – cost is \$15.

Call the church office (570-345-3306) or sign the charts in the hallway.

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

If interested, contact Kurt Wessner at 570-345-8020.

Prices are as follows:

<u>Member of St. Peter's</u>		<u>Non-member of St. Peter's</u>
4 grave lot	\$800	\$900
2 grave lot	\$600	\$700
1 grave lot	\$400	\$500

****Please clean lots of flowers and decorations in a timely manner.**

Enjoy The Convenience of Online Giving

St. Peter's wants to remind you that we offer online giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering and offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

-Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

-Credit & Debit Card Giving allows you to make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

-Online Giving allows you to go to stpeterslutheranpinegrove.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

*Please Contact Ben Moyer if you need further assistants. An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

Thank you for your continued generosity towards:

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church Finances (End of Sept 2018)

Sept General Income: \$13,151

Sept General Expenses: \$20,674.41

Checking Balances as of Sept. 30th were:

General Fund --\$2,970.63

Capital Improvement Fund --\$ 17,824.30 (\$2,040 for the Fellowship Committee to use for Kitchen Improvements, \$1,894.26 for Video/Audio & 2019-2020 Pre-Buy Oil \$100

Memorial Fund --\$ 4,313.62

Youth Ministry Fund --\$ 6,241.95

Saving Balances as of Sept. 30th were:

Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund --\$ 8,962.08

General Savings -- \$331.01

YTD All Funds Total \$ 134,444

Includes the following Funds

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General, Lent/Easter, Youth Ministry, Plate, 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, Endowment, Needy Fund, Candle Oil, Souper Bowl of Caring, Christmas, Christmas Baskets, Sanctuary Light, Disaster Relief, Pentecost/Ascension, Harvest Home, Reformation, Thanksgiving & 200 Anniversary

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

✠ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the month of October: Nancy Reichelt, Al Wertz, Charles Keefer, Jr., Dennis Loy, Colleen Schaeffer, Cody Stanton, Anita Loy, and Al Miller.

✠ Our First Communion Recipients: Aedyn Ditzler, Kellie Geary, Hunter Strouphauer, Allie Strubhar, Grayden Strubhar, Adam Venzl, and Zoey Venzl.

✠ Nora Lynn Hoffman, the daughter of Stephen Max III and Lisa Marie (Wessner) Hoffman, who was baptized on October 21st.

✠ The Family of Ronald Rehrer, who passed away on October 14th.

**The Prayer Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 7th @ 9:00AM.

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

Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God

(Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund)

\$25 in honor of Kyle and Kaitlyn Partridge on their 1st Anniversary by Carol Baldwin.

(General Fund)

\$30 in memory of Olga Miller by Daughter, Mary Shive.

\$30 in memory of Olga Miller by Daughter, Mary Shive.

\$60 in memory of Ryan Lemke by Andy, Tammy, and Steven Lengel.

\$50 in memory of Carol Becker by Husband, Richard and Daughter, Kathy Toy.

Church Council & Officers 2018

2018 Church Council

Term Expires

Gary Adams (1yr)	2019
Mary Bohr	2019
Tina Keefer	2019
Randy Knoll	2019
Jodi Derr	2020
Bill Siegel	2020
Kurt Wessner	2020
Pat Williams	2020
Dale Ferrebee	2021
Nan Hoenich	2021
Nancy Reichelt	2021
Ben Moyer	2021

Officers:

Nancy Reichelt, President
Bill Siegel, Vice-President
Nan Hoenich, Secretary
Brenda Ferrebee, Treasurer
Ben Moyer, Financial Secretary

Committee Chair/CC Liaison Persons

Christian Education- Nan Hoenich, Chair
Fellowship- Donna Zerbe, Chair/Mary Bohr, CC Liaison
Evangelism- Justin Stroupbauer, Chair/Jodi Derr, CC Liaison
Finance- Ben Moyer, Chair/Gary Adam, CC Liaison
Property-Randy Knoll, CC Liaison
Social Ministry- Donna Zerbe, Chair/Tina Keefer, CC Liaison
Stewardship- Nancy Brown, Chair/Nancy Reichelt, CC Liaison

Worship-Pastor, CC Liaison & Michaelene Watson & Pastor, Co –Chairs
Youth Ministry- Jodi Derr, Chair/CC Liaison
Technology- Ben Moyer, CC Liaison
Endowment Fund- Steve Hikes, Chair/Gary Adams, CC Liaison
Cemetery- Kurt Wessner, CC Liaison
Council of Churches- Dale Ferrebee, CC Liaison