

THE
VOICE
OF

ST. PETER'S

MARCH 2018

From the Pastor:

We are in the midst of the penitential season of Lent, in which we focus ourselves on the great themes of sin and repentance, forgiveness and redemption. We began our Lenten season with solemn Ash Wednesday services on February 14th.

As March ends, Lent will reach its climax in Holy Week, when we commemorate our Lord's suffering and sacrificial death upon the cross. But the sadness and solemnity of Holy Week will give way to the glorious celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday! Please take note of the following services and times, and please join us as we remember the suffering and death of Jesus and then celebrate with great joy his triumphant resurrection!

Palm Sunday – March 25

9:00 AM – Worship Service with the Blessing and Distribution of the Palms and
the Reading of the Passion According to Mark

10:30 AM – Sunday School Program in the Social Hall

Holy Thursday – March 29

11:00 AM – Service of Holy Communion in Commemoration of the Last Supper

7:30 PM – Service of Holy Communion in Commemoration of the Last Supper

Good Friday – March 30

7:30 PM – Tenebrae Service in remembrance of the Cross

Holy Saturday – March 31

7:00 PM – Easter Vigil Service with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday – April 1

6:00 AM – Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion

7:15 AM – Easter Breakfast

9:00 AM – Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion

10:30 AM – Sunday School

Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard

LENTEN SERVICES

Our mid-week Lenten Services, featuring sermons from “Standing at the Cross: A Series of Services for Lent on Themes from Martin Luther,” will be held at 7:30 PM on March 7th, 14th, and 21st.

Holy Thursday, March 29th, we will have Communion Services at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM.

TRIDUUM SERVICES

Our observation of Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and continues with the *Triduum*. The word *Triduum* is Latin and means “three days.” It refers to the three sacred days of Holy Week—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These three days really form one celebration in which we commemorate the central events of Christianity.

Ash Wednesday began the season of Lent with an extended confession of sins, and our Holy Thursday liturgy begins with confession and absolution to mark the end of our Lenten discipline and our reconciliation with God. We then join together for three days of intense meditation upon the mystery of redemption.

On Holy Thursday we remember that in his love for his disciples and for us, Jesus instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion, in which we partake of his body and blood and receive the forgiveness of sins. After receiving the gift of Communion, we conclude the service with the stripping of the altar, which reminds us of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the Roman soldiers. We leave without any benediction, reminding us that the service continues the next day.

On Good Friday we remember the death of Jesus upon the cross. The tone of the service is solemn, with an empty altar, black hangings instead of paraments, and large black cross carried in solemn procession. There will be a time of silence to meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus and the mystery of our redemption. The service ends with “Tenebrae”—the gradual darkening of the Church as the seven words from the cross are read. We leave the service in silence, reflecting on the death of our Savior.

The climax of the *Triduum* comes on Holy Saturday as we join in the Easter Vigil service. This grand service begins in darkness, with the striking of a single light. The large Christ candle is lighted, symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus, the Light of the World. Individual candles are lighted from the Christ candle, and the Easter Proclamation (which recalls the victory of Jesus over sin, death, and evil) is sung by candlelight. The focus then shifts to the lectern and the Old Testament lessons are read, reminding us of God’s saving actions for God’s chosen people. In the ancient Church, new Christians were baptized at the Easter Vigil, and we will join in a renewal of our baptismal vows. The service continues with prayer and the reading of the Easter

Gospel from St. John, then concludes with the first celebration of Holy Communion for the Easter Season.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

In February, we continued our study of the Reformation period, with attention to the spread of Lutheranism in Germany and Scandinavia, the development of the Church of England, and the advances of Reformed Protestantism in Germany and Switzerland, with special attention paid to the work of John Calvin, the foremost Reformed theologian.

The sessions, which run from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, will be held on Tuesday evenings during Lent. The schedule for March is Tuesday, March 7th, and Tuesday, March 20th. There will be no sessions on March 13th and March 27th.

After Easter, we return to our normal Wednesday schedule, beginning on April 4th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

Our combined Middler (Eighth Graders) and Senior (Ninth Graders) class is continuing its study of the history of the Christian Church with sessions on Martin Luther and the Reformation.

The Middler-Senior Class will meet at 9:00 AM on March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. There will be no class on March 31st.

The Junior Class (Seventh Grade) met on February 3rd for a lesson on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. It will meet on March 3rd at 9:00 AM in the Youth Room for a lesson on baptism. At the end of March, the seventh graders will attend one of the three Triduum Services.

Highlights from the February 1st Council Meeting

Officers were elected for 2018: President Nancy Reichelt, Vice President Bill Siegel, Secretary Nan Hoenich, Treasurer Brenda Ferree, Financial Secretary Ben Moyer.

The Council voted to eliminate shaking hands during the Sharing of the Peace during February and March because of the flu season. We hope to resume the Peace on Easter Sunday (April 1st).

The fund balances as of January 31st were:

General Fund -- \$ 4,489	General Savings -- \$ 178	
Capital Improvement Fund -- \$ 21949 (\$ 6,869 designated for the video and		\$2,040 for
the Fellowship Committee to use for kitchen improvements)		
Memorial Fund -- \$ 10,676	Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund -- \$ 8,954	

The Treasurer reported that offerings were very good in December and helped us catch up for 2017. A thank you to all for your generous support of St. Peter's.

SPONSORS

Some things are still available to be sponsored in March.

Altar Flowers are available for March 11 & 25 – cost is \$20.

Bulletins are available for March 4, 11, & 25 – cost is \$15.

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

Candle oil is available for March – cost is \$15.

Sanctuary Candle oil is available for March – cost is \$35.

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

Fellowship Committee News

The Fellowship Committee held the 6th annual Souper Bowl Soup Sale on February 4th. The following talented cooks prepared and donated 68 quarts of soup; Thelma Adams, Mary Bohr, Jean Herring, Tina Hippert, Brenda Kreiser, Doris Moyer, Sharon Wessner, and Donna Zerbe. A variety of soups were offered for sale including Ham and Bean, Chicken Corn Rivel, Chicken Corn Noodle, Chicken Noodle, Sausage and Potato, Chili, Beef Vegetable and two vegetarian offerings, Vegetable and Potato. This year we added small loaves of cornbread to compliment our Chili.

Despite the winter weather, all 68 quarts and cornbread were sold. Profits realized were \$425.00, an increase from last year's sale of \$339.00. This money will be used for ongoing improvements in the Church kitchen. Thank you to all who prepared and donated soup, and to our members who supported the sale and making monetary donations.

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 4th Super Bowl Sunday our Sunday School Children and Teachers celebrated "Souper Bowl Sunday". The members of our congregation help donate 92 cans of soup and \$70 dollars to our local food pantry in Pine Grove. The total weight of the soup cans was 72lbs. Pine Grove Food Pantry distributed our contributions on Feb 17th.

We thank everyone involved in this sharing act of kindness.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The next YMC meeting will be on March 11th at 11:30am.

The next meeting for Jubilee and Spark groups will be on Good Friday, March 30th at Noon to help paint Easter eggs. YMC will provide a light lunch.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 31st at 11:30am for nursery age through 6th grade. We will have stories and songs along with crafts, egg hunt and a light lunch & refreshments.

Please sign up for this event before March 27th on church's website at stpeterslutheranpinegrove.org (select event tab). This is so we can get a general idea of how many children will be attending Easter Egg Hunt.

Older Youth will have the joy of hiding eggs and to help chaperone our "younger children" who are normally filled with excitement.

On April 1st the Youth Ministry Committee will hold its annual Easter breakfast. Food will be served starting after the sunrise service (approximately 7:15 am). A free will donation at breakfast will benefit the children attending Bear Creek Camp or Camp Kirchenwald. A \$250 dollar Thrivent Grant was applied to help purchase breakfast food for this event.

YMC is planning a trip to Lake Tobias on May 20th; starting March 2nd you may sign up. Group will be leaving from the Church at 11:45-12noon to arrival at 1pm.

Included in the Trip:

- Admission
- Petting Zoo, Pack of Animal Food (Choose between Carrots, Food Pellets, or Popcorn).
- Reptiles
- Safari Tour
- Reserved Tables
- Dinner Provided by YMC (Sandwiches, Cheese, Chips Pretzels, Fruit, Beverages)
- Transportation by a Bus or Van depending on the amount of families with children that signs up under Bus/Van option.

Any children and their families that are interested please sign up by April 30th located at the Youth Bulletin Board by restrooms. Or call Ben Moyer at 570-617-0703 to reserve a spot. The Lake Tobias section will also be in April and May newsletter.

The Youth Ministry Fund Balance as of 2-14-18 is: **4,393.84.**

Sincerely,

Ben Moyer, Youth Ministry Committee

2017 Finance Committee Annual Report

Finance Committee members: Mark Barry, Gary Adams, Bill Siegel, Jodi Derr, Dale Ferrebee, Brenda Ferrebee, Ben Moyer and Pastor Schoenleber.

The responsibility of the Finance Committee is to oversee the financial well-being of the congregation and to make recommendations to the Church Council on all financial matters as deemed appropriate by the Committee or requested by Church Council.

Throughout the year, like any other church depends on offerings and commitments from members to help support the work of Jesus Christ and the annual budget through St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

During 2017 our monthly expenses were exceeding our total offerings per month. The Treasurer had no other choice but to dip into the Memorial Fund to help cover current expenses.

In October of 2017 the Finance Committee held their annual budget meeting. During the meeting the committee members voiced their concerns over increase expenses, borrowing from other funds to cover expenses, and not being transparent enough with our members.

The committee needed to discover ways to control expenses for the 2018 budget and help spend God's money in a cost effective manner.

The highest percentages of the 2018 budget are the salaries and staff benefits at 67%. The second highest percentage is utilities and insurance at 17%. Not only did the committee control spending, but also saved \$350.00 from the prior year and we were able to give increases to the Organist/Choir Director, Custodian and Secretary. The Council also approved several additional cost-saving suggestions from the Finance Committee.

The Verizon bill was approximately \$178 a month. By applying new discounts and disconnecting the rotary phone, our new Verizon bill will be around \$105 a month. Total projected savings on the Verizon bill is \$876.00 a year.

The combined bill for PP&L was approximately \$360 a month. The rate for Business Transmission and Generation rate, at the time, was 7.701KW and the Residential rate was 7.463. With the 7% fix rate program with no early cancellation fees the new Business Rate will be 7.162 and Residential rate will be 6.941. Total projected savings of \$400.00 a year.

In March of 2018 churches liability insurance bill was increasing to \$6,761.00 annually. After a long discussion and brief hold, the committee was able to get liability insurance down to \$5,364.00 from \$6,761.00 annually. The Council also voted to raise the deductible from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for an additional savings of \$400.00. Total projected savings of liability insurance is \$1,797.00 annually.

The Finance Committee is anticipating a savings of \$3,073.00 for 2018. All of these discounts and rates were negotiated, after the 2018 Budget was prepared.

The Finance Committee Goals for 2018:

The Finance Committee will continue to be more transparent to our congregation. We will meet every two months to oversee the financial well-being of the Church and insert a report in the newsletter. Set up and have a secure online giving for St. Peter's Church onto our webpage at (stpeterslutheranpinegrove.org).

Thank you and God Bless!

Respectfully submitted,

Finance Committee

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

✠ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the months of February & March: Chase Morgan, Shirley Zimmerman, Steve Morgan, Kathy Sorokach, Ryland Merkey, Michelle Myers, Gary Bohr, Sue Moyer, Stephen Krammes, & Rebecca Yorty.

✠ Our Church Council and Congregation Officers: Gary Adams, Jodi Derr, Pat Williams, Bill Siegel, Mary Bohr, Randy Knoll, Tina Keefer, Kurt Wessner, President, Nancy Reichelt
Vice President, Dale Ferrebee
Secretary, Nan Hoenich
Treasurer, Brenda Ferrebee
Financial Secretary, Ben Moyer

✠ The Family of Mattie Tobin who passed away on February 9th.

✠ Landon Brooks Steven Morgan, the son of Ian and Heather Lynn (McMillin) Morgan, who was baptized on February 18th.

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

Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God

(Memorial Fund)

\$100 in memory of Mae Brommer's Birthday by Jean and Dave Herring.
\$50 in memory of my Aunt, Mattie Tobin by Jerry and Missy Witherow.
\$25 in memory of my Dad, Rich Wertz by Jerry and Missy Witherow.
\$20 in memory of Mattie Tobin by Donald and Barbara Schwartz.
\$25 in memory of Mattie Tobin by Arthur and Marian Long.
\$20 in memory of Mattie Tobin (Anonymous).
\$30 in memory of Mattie Tobin by Howard and Shirley Lengel.

(General Fund)

\$500 in memory of Norman Beck by Marie Beck.
\$50 in memory of Sybilla Gilbert's Birthday by The Charles Gilbert Family.

(Weekday Church School Fund)

\$30 in memory of Norman Beck by Marie Beck.

Bible Journaling

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

