

THE  
VOICE  
OF

*ST. PETER'S*

FEBRUARY 2017

**From the Pastor:**

This year is very significant for the Lutheran Church because October 31, 2017 will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. All around the world, Lutherans will be focusing on the spiritual heritage which was begun by Martin Luther and continues to this day.

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1545. His parents were very religious, and they instilled in him a deep and lasting Christian faith. Young Martin was unusually introspective. He had a great fear of death. He dreaded that awful moment when he, a poor and miserable sinner, would have to stand before the judgment throne of God Almighty. He feared God's judgment. He feared the fires of hell. He yearned for some sign of God's mercy, but in the theology of his day, he could find none. So in an effort to save his soul, he entered the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt, Germany.

Martin eagerly embraced the disciplined life at the monastery. His goal was to find peace with God and win his own salvation through the monastic tools of prayer and good works, but no matter how hard he tried, he could not feel assured that God loved him and would save him. Although Luther became a Professor of Biblical Studies, he still did not feel at peace with God, nor did he feel any assurance of his own salvation. It was only through a gradual process of study, reflection, prayer, and teaching from 1513 to 1519 that Luther came to discover the "gospel" – the good news that we are loved by God, that our sins are forgiven, and that we are promised eternal life, not because of what we do, but by "grace alone." At last, he found peace with God, and that liberated Martin, changing him from a fearful monk who worried only about earning his won salvation into a courageous reformer of the Church.

On February 16, 1546, Luther jotted down a note on a scrap of paper which would become his last written words – "*We are all beggars. That is true.*" Luther realized that before God we are all beggars. We come to God holding nothing in our hands. Everything that we receive from God we receive by grace alone. We are beggars, we are sinners – yet God loves us, and accepts us, and saves us, just the way we are. That was the gospel that Martin Luther discovered and taught, and when, early on the morning of February 18, 1546, he closed his eyes in death, he died confident that the love of God would save even a beggar such as him.

**Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard**

## Highlights from the January 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Pastor Richard reported that attendance in December was good, although Christmas attendance was a little lower than in 2015.

The Property Committee reported that a divider in the Social Hall is broken and will need to be repaired.

The Anniversary Committee reported that the distribution of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklets began following the Christmas Eve Services.

The Christian Education Committee reported that the Sunday School Christmas program went well. Work on the Palm Sunday program will begin in January.

The Property Committee reported that new railings were installed at the parsonage. Work on the broken divider in the Social Hall is underway.

The Worship Committee reported that the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal (the “Cranberry hymnal”) was used in December and will be used again on the third Sunday in January. Ash Wednesday will be March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Synod is producing special dialogues for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, based on Luther, for use in Lenten services. Pastor is planning to use them this year.

The Youth Ministry Committee reported that the Junior Youth Group made cards and ornaments for shut-ins. They also had fun shopping for food to distribute to needy families, using VISA cards from Thrivent.

### Under New Business:

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on February 29, 2017, following the Worship Service, with a snow date of February 19, 2017.

We need to find person by the February meeting for the office of Financial Secretary.

The fund balances as of December 31<sup>st</sup> were:

General Fund -- \$ 5,450

General Savings -- \$ 145

Capital Improvement Fund -- \$ 11,058 (with \$ 6,869 designated for the video)

Memorial Fund -- \$ 9,425

Savings Certificate (Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund) -- \$ 7,727

The Treasurer reported that in September it was necessary to dip into the Memorial Fund to pay some monthly bills, and that money still has not yet been repaid.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

To begin celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, Pastor Richard is teaching an Adult Course on the History of the Christian Church. We started with the early Christianity, which was persecuted by the Roman Empire, and saw how it grew into the official religion of the Roman Empire under Constantine and his successors. We also learned about the turmoil caused by serious disagreements about the doctrine of the Trinity and how the Church and the State worked together to create unity. Join us as we move on to the fall of the Western Roman Empire and the development of the Latin Church, including the monumental dispute between St. Augustine and Pelagius over human agency in salvation.

Sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The schedule for February is: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Confirmation Class News

Our Middlers (Eighth Graders) and Seniors (Ninth Graders) are studying Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*, beginning with Luther's understanding of the Ten Commandments.

The Middler-Senior class will meet at 9:00 AM on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Junior Class (Seventh Graders) met on January 14<sup>th</sup> to study Luke's three great parables of grace (the "Lost Sheep," the "Lost Coin," and the "Lost Son"). They will meet again on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- ✠ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the month of January:  
Steve Yoder, Adam Kulbitsky, Floyd Ney, Joan Antonelli, Klara Burkle, Jean Bender, Norman Zimmerman, Dane Noecker, Lindsay Strouphauer, Robert Lengel and the family of Cory Sholly who died on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Prayer Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM.

### **UPDATE FROM ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE:**

The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklets continue to be available after the service in a basket downstairs in the area of the World Hunger Table.

The anniversary committee encourages members to take for family and friends who have a tie to St. Peter's and would be appreciative to have this memento. Also, anniversary mugs are still available @ \$5 per mug.

### **WORSHIP:**

New members for the choir are always welcome. No musical experience is necessary; just a willing, servant's heart and a desire to sing for the Lord is all that's required.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

1. Preparation for the Easter Program to be held on April 9, 2017. It has been suggested that ALL CLASSES and teachers get involved with the Programs. What does this mean to you? We are divided into two classroom areas in the Church – Nursery, PreK, and Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. The remaining classes are in the Social Hall of the Church. We are asking that each area pick 1 person to represent them. These representatives will come up with a program and present it at our staff meeting. We would like to get everyone involved planning the programs, just not a few. After time we just burn out and cannot get accomplished what we would like. We would like to make and keep the programs exciting for the youth and their families that attend them.

At the last meeting we prepared a schedule. --- This can be revised

- \* **Easter 2017** – Jodi Derr, Brenda Ferrebee, and Nancy Reichelt
- \* **Christmas 2017** – Justine Tice, Andrea Knoll, and Kelly Rhen
- \* **Easter 2018** – Bob & Nan Hoenich and family
- \* **Christmas 2018** – Jodi Derr, Wendy, and Brenda

2. Souper Bowl of Giving, which will be on February 5, 2017 the day of the Super Bowl Game. We will place in the bulletins and give hand-outs to students. It would be nice if every student could bring cans of soup to Church and Sunday school the next few weeks leading up to the game. I have also asked the young at heart of the congregation to participate too. The soup will be donated to the Pine Grove Food Pantry. We are also getting funds from Thrivent (due to a member of the congregation designating that funds be used for the pantry.) Jr. Youth Group will also go shopping and purchase food from the funds that are received and donating it to the Pine Grove Fund Pantry. You may visit the National site – <https://souperbowl.org>.

Thank you again for your full support of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Sunday School Program. Your generous time, knowledge, support, and patience is greatly appreciated. Just remember we make a great impact on the children we teach and mentor.

We are always looking for teachers to help out on Sunday mornings.

### **Memorial Gifts...To the Glory of God**

*(Stew Zerbe Fund)*

\$25 in memory of Cora Siegel by Shirley Lehman

*(Anniversary Fund)*

\$200 in memory of our parents, Clarence Hoenich & Luther Yorty, by Pastor Bob & Nan Hoenich

*(Memorial Fund)*

\$500 in memory of Norman by Marie Beck

\$50 in memory of Chester Luckenbill on his Birthday, 1/14/17, by Rod Luckenbill & Family

\$50 in memory of James Bender on his Birthday, 2/23/17, by wife Elaine and Family

*(General Fund)*

\$40 in memory of John Hesser, Jr., by Gary and Thelma Adams

*(Endowment Fund)*

\$50 in memory of Chester Luckenbill on his Birthday, 1/14/17, by Family



God  
Is  
Love

# February 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 9AM Prayer Circle 10:30AM Sewing Group 7PM WNL	2 10AM Knitting Group 7PM Council Meeting 7PM Senior	3	4 9AM Middler/Senior Confirmation 10AM Junior Confirmation
5 9AM Holy Communion 10AM Coffee Social 10:30 Sun. Sch.	6 6PM Brownies  7PM Endowment	7	8 10:30 AM Sewing Group  7PM WNL	9 10 AM Knitting Group  7PM Senior Choir	10	11 9AM Middler/Senior Confirmation
12 9AM Worship Service 10AM Coffee Social	13 6PM Brownies	14 Senior Citizens	15 10:30AM Sewing Group  7PM WNL	16 10 AM Knitting Group  7PM Senior	17	18 9AM Middler/Senior Confirmation
19 9AM Holy Communion 10AM Coffee Social 10:30 Sun. Sch.	20 6PM Brownies	21	22 10:30AM Sewing Group  7PM WNL	23 10AM Knitting Group  7PM Senior Choir	24	25 9AM Middler/Senior Confirmation
26 9AM Worship Ser	27 6PM	28				

<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thu.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>
Service 10AM Coffee Social 10:30 Sunday School	Brownies	Senior Citizens				