

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Letter	2
Committee Chairs	3
Church Council & Officers	3
Church Council Meeting Highlights	3
May Worship Readings	4
Contemporary Worship Service	4
St. Peter's Schedule	4
Confirmation Classes	4
Sunday School Schedule	4
Adult Bible Study	5
Office Hours	5
Annual Easter Egg Hunt	5
Bible Journaling	5
Sidewalk Project	5
Publishing Deadlines	5
May Ministry Meetings	6
St. Peter's Mission Statement	6
Sponsorships	6
Church Finances	6
Memorials	7
Passed Away	7
Remember in Your Prayers	7
World Hunger Table	7
Food Pantry	8
Memorial Day Remembrance Program	8
Rachel's Day	8
Church Picnic	8
May Calendar	9

Pastor's Letter

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord!

Did you know that we are having an Ascension Day service? Maybe some of you are thinking, "What is Ascension Day?"

If you are of an older persuasion (please don't be offended by that), perhaps you remember Ascension Day taking place and the church you attended when you were younger having a large service. The day itself marks the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and it takes place on the 40th day after Easter, which is why it is always on a Thursday.

The day reminds us that we are born of a kingdom that is above, as we see our Lord go to that kingdom. It also reminds us that our true residence is in that kingdom, and we have promises of being in that kingdom when our earthly life is over.

So yes, we are having an Ascension Day service! Including the Pine Grove cluster of churches, it will be an outside service held at the top of our cemetery (the "new" one) on Thursday, May 18th at 6:00 PM. There will be a light (outside) supper held as well consisting of sandwiches.

In much of the church, celebrating days like this has fallen by the wayside. Part of this is the busy world in which we live, in which many have a difficult time making it to Sunday worship, let alone special midweek services. However, this is important because of what it points to. We will hear the story of the Ascension on that night and be reminded that we have a job to do while we look towards the promises of ultimately being with God in God's kingdom.

Please consider joining us on the 18th. It will be a special night reminding us of the ultimate promises of our faith. We will get to worship in a different way, in a different place, where the saints are laid, as the promises that are for us are for them as well.

Peace be with you along the way,

Pastor Brian Beissel
570-516-1787
brianthepastor@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Brenda Ferrebee

Fellowship

Donna Zerbe

Finance

Lillie Morgan, CC Liaison

Property

Vernon Stroupbauer

Social Ministry

Discipleship

Nancy Reichelt

Worship and Music

Brenda Ferrebee, CC Liaison

Youth Ministry

Gwen Moyer

Technology

Wellness

Justin Stroupbauer, CC Liaison

Endowment Fund

Beverly Morgan

Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund

Donna Zerbe

Cemetery Association

Kurt Wessner 570-345-8020

Council of Churches

Nancy Reichelt, CC Liaison

Church Council Meeting Highlights

April 13, 2023

- Covered dish dinner on May 4th at 5:00 PM with movie at 6:00 PM – *I Can Only Imagine*
- Planning on starting a meal train for people as they come home from the hospital. Volunteers are being recruited.
- We are restarting the book club. Possible books are being reviewed now.
- We will be looking for a volunteer to help with some home communions.
- May 7th is Rachel’s Day with temple talk and special music during the sermon.
- There will be a community Ascension Day service held here in the cemetery on May 18th at 6:00 PM.
- August 12th will be a campfire service.
- We have several young people planning on the National Youth Gathering in 2024.
- Sub tickets for sale for month of May at \$8.00 each to benefit weekday church school. See Nancy Reichelt or Dale Ferrebee for your tickets.
- We were also reminded to close interior doors when not in the building.
- Restart the world hunger table in May with proceeds going to our food pantry

Church Council & Officers

<u>Elected Church Council</u>	<u>Year Elected</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Beverly Morgan	2021	2024
Vernon Stroupbauer	2021	2024
Brenda Ferrebee	2021	2024
Ben Moyer	2021	2024*
Dale Ferrebee	2022	2025
Lillie Morgan	2022	2025
Donna Zerbe	2022	2025*
Justin Stroupbauer	2022	2025*
Mary Daubert	2023	2026
Gwen Moyer	2023	2026
Nancy Reichelt	2023	2026
Joshua Zimmerman	2023	2026

*Serving second term consecutively and cannot be reelected

Officers

Dale Ferrebee, President
 Beverly Morgan, Vice President
 Nancy Reichelt, Secretary
 Ben Moyer, Treasurer
 Lillie Morgan, Financial Secretary

Pastor: Brian Beissel

May Worship Readings

Sunday, May 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel: John 14:1-14
Psalm: 31:1-5, 15-16

Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31
Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel: John 14:15-21
Psalm: 66:8-20

Sunday, May 21

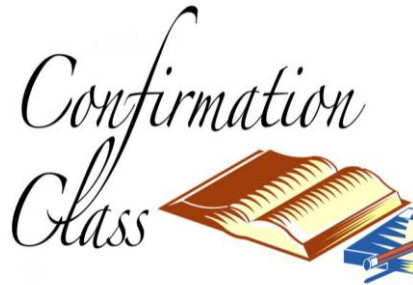
Seventh Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14
Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
Gospel: John 17:1-11
Psalm: 68:1-10, 32-35

Sunday, May 28

Day of Pentecost; Holy Communion

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
Gospel: John 20:19-23
Psalm: 104:24-34, 35b



Confirmation Classes are being held every Sunday after worship at 10:30 am.

Sunday School Schedule **Wandering in the Wilderness**

May 7
Creative Drama
Barbara Hikes, Sue Strouphauer

May 14
Bible Skills and Games
Sarah Reichelt, Nancy Reichelt

May 21
Art
Nan Hoenich

May 28
Science
Gwen Moyer, Alethea Wessner



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday Schedule

Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion 2nd Saturday of the month 6:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service 9:00 am

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

Sunday School 10:30 AM

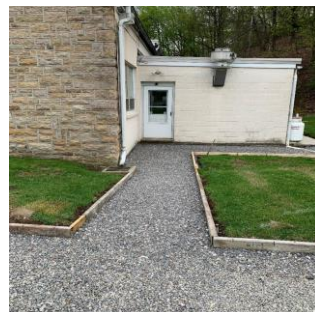


Contemporary worship service with Holy Communion will be held on Saturday, May 13th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt 2023



Sidewalk Project Completed



Office Hours

Monday – Friday

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

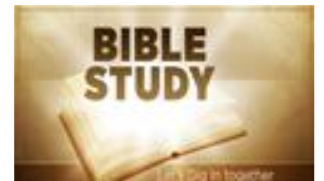
570-345-3306

St. Peter's Parish Secretary

Melissa Kimmel



Bible Journaling will resume on Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00 pm.



Adult Bible Study is held every Monday at 10:00 am. For more information, please contact Pastor Beissel.

Publishing Deadlines

If you want to publish something in the Sunday bulletin or the monthly newsletter, please submit your information by the following deadlines: The bulletin deadline is Wednesday at 2:00 pm. The June 2023 newsletter deadline is Monday, May 15th.

Sponsorships

Altar Flowers are available for May 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th– cost is \$25

Chancel Flowers are available for May 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th – cost is \$25

Sanctuary Candle is available for May, July, August, October, and November– cost is \$35

Newsletter is available for June, August, September, October, and November– cost is \$40

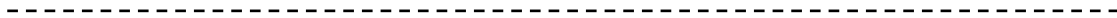
Bulletin is available for May 21st and 28th– cost is \$15

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

Call the church office for availability or sign the charts in the hallway.

The **Candle Oil** for **May** is sponsored to the Glory of God in memory of our son- in- law Edwin Keller by Randy and Mary Daubert.

The **Newsletter** for **May** is sponsored to the Glory of God in memory of Thelma Hubler and Mabel Umbenhauer for Mother’s Day by Elaine Quinn.



Church Finances - End of March 2023

March General Income: \$14,408.35

March General Expenses: \$17,552.53

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."

May Ministry Meetings

May 3rd
 Christian Education Committee
 8:00 PM

May 9th
 Worship and Music Committee
 10:00 AM

May 11th
 Endowment Fund Committee
 6:00 PM

Church Council
 7:00 PM

May 23rd
 Discipleship Committee
 5:00 PM

May 25th
 Technology Committee
 6:00 PM

Checking Balances		Savings Accounts	
General Fund		Undesignated Savings	\$40,137.62
	\$465.34	Designated Stew Zerbe	
Memorial Fund		Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$3,710.00
	\$13,483.49	Haiti Reservoir Project	
Youth Ministry Fund		Allotment	\$1,539.00
	\$15,456.96	Total	\$45,386.62
Capital Improvement Fund		Stew Zerbe	
a. Parsonage Improvements	\$3,635.86	Memorial Scholarship Investment	
b. Video/Audio	\$2,972.11		\$9,159.37
c. Designated Prepaid Fuel	\$4,085.00		
d. Designated Fellowship	\$3,368.59		
e. Undesignated Cap.Improv.	<u>\$18,397.24</u>		
Total	\$32,458.80		

YTD Contributions Total \$49,213.80

Includes the following funds:

General, Lent/Easter, Youth Ministry, Plate, Pre-Buy 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 Scholarship Fund, Endowment, Needy Fund, Candle Oil, Souper Bowl of Caring, Christmas Eve, Christmas Food Baskets, Sanctuary Light, Disaster Relief, Pentecost, Ascension, Harvest Home, Reformation, Thanksgiving, Luncheons, Fellowship and Video/Audio

MEMORIALS

(General Fund) \$100 in memory of Sam Baldwin, Jr. by his wife Carol Baldwin; \$100 in memory of loved ones by Carol Baldwin; \$100 in memory of Leroy Strubhar, Sr. by Tom and Kim Pribilla; \$300 in memory of Stew Zerbe and William and Gloria Harris by Donna Zerbe; \$50 in memory of William and Gloria Harris and Stanley and Marion Morgan by Steve and Beverly Morgan **(Pre-Buy Oil Fund)** \$100 in memory of Alan “Butch” Felty by Ronald Heinbach and Linda Venzl **(Endowment Fund)** \$20 in memory of Cheryl Schneck by Donna Stokes **(ELCA World Hunger)** \$20 in memory of Bryan Reichelt, Sr. by Nancy Reichelt **(Memorial Fund)** \$50 in memory of Mildred Roth by Paul and Doris Berger

Passed Away

Vincent Witherow
March 29th

Alan H. Felty
April 6th

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need, especially:

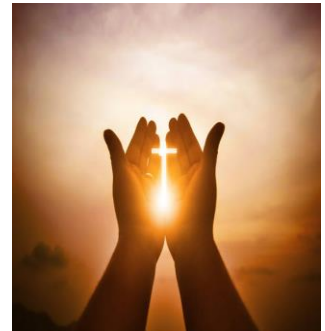
Donald Schwartz
Tracey Schneck
Ruth McMullen
Anna Wertz
Paula Moran
Tom Wertz
Janet Fisher
Bill Siegel
Greg Seiger

Dr. Bob Yost
Albert Brand
Beverly Zimmerman
Ken Snyder
Bishop Christopher DeForest
Glenn Moyer



Frances Heinbach
Paul Lengel
Stacey Harris
Chris Hutchinson
Betty Strubhar
Tom Harrison
Elizabeth Platko
Christopher Beeman
Donna Zerbe

If you have prayer requests or info for the Sunday bulletin prayer listing, please contact the church office or Nan Hoenich at 570-345-8706.



World Hunger Table

We will start the table on Sunday, May 14th. Transplants like pussywillows and rose of sharon will be available. Perhaps even a few lilac starters will cooperate with the initial digging out and placement in a pot. These particular plants thrive in our environment. We can have a conversation about their benefit in God’s beautiful creation.

We encourage bakers to share their “goodies” by bringing them and placing them on the table before worship. Likewise, gardeners, we ask you to share your vegetables or fruit “treats.” All monetary gifts placed in the basket will go into the church Needy Fund and will be used to purchase food items for the pantry housed in the former parsonage.

Any help to be present at the table before or after worship would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Pastor Bob Hoenich about this opportunity. Thank you.



Food Pantry

For the month of May, we will be collecting paper towels and toilet paper to refresh the food pantry. Please place your donations on the designated table in the fellowship hall.

**We are aware that we just collected these items, but we gave a lot away with the last distribution. **

The annual **Memorial Day Remembrance Program** will be held on Sunday, May 28th at 10:30 am on the cemetery across the street from the church. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held in the fellowship hall.

Rachel’s Day will be observed on May 7th. This observance was started by the Women of the ELCA in 1995 to raise awareness of the violence and fear that our children face every day in the US. Rachel’s Day is based on Jeremiah 31:15. Jeremiah 31:15 is a verse in the Bible that says the Lord heard a voice in Ramah, a town near Jerusalem, of Rachel weeping for her children who were killed or exiled by the Assyrians. Ramah means a high place. Rachel is the mother of three tribes of Israel: Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh. This verse is quoted in the New Testament as a type of the sorrow of the mothers of Bethlehem who lost their sons to Herod's massacre.

We will be collecting disposable diapers and wipes. These will be used for local families with small children that are facing difficulty. Please bring items to donate anytime between now and May 30th and place on the designated table in the fellowship hall.

2023 CHURCH PICNIC

June 4, 2023 11:00 am

Twin Grove Campground

Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon.

If you are able to bring something to share for the meal – there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church or you may contact the church office.

We will be having family fun activities and don’t worry if your family is not there with you, we will make church families. We will also be providing transportation from the parking lot to our pavilion for those who do not want to walk up to the pavilion.



All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:4

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	10:00 am Adult Bible Study	7:00 pm Bible Journaling	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting	5:00 pm dinner 6:00 pm movie: <i>I Can Only Imagine</i>		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Classes	10:00 am Adult Bible Study	Senior Citizens 10:00 am Worship and Music Committee Meeting	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm Endowment Fund Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting		6:00 pm Contemporary Worship Service
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Classes	10:00 am Adult Bible Study		7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm Ascension Day Service		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Classes	10:00 am Adult Bible Study	Senior Citizens 5:00 pm Discipleship Committee Meeting	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm Technology Committee Meeting		
28	29	30	31			
Day of Pentecost 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Confirmation Classes	No Adult Bible Study Church Office Closed		7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal			

