

THE
VOICE
OF

ST. PETER'S

APRIL 2017

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 March 1st.

As April begins, 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 – April 9

9:00 AM – Worship Service with the Blessing and Distribution of the Palms and the Reading of the Passion According to Matthew
10:30 AM – Sunday School Program in the Social Hall

Holy Thursday – April 13

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 – April 14

7:30 PM – Tenebrae Service

Holy Saturday – April 15

7:00 PM – Easter Vigil Service with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday – April 16

6:00 AM – Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
7:00 AM – Easter Breakfast
9:00 AM – Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion
10:30 AM – Sunday School

Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard

Highlights from the March 2nd Council Meeting

The Property Committee reported that some rollers have been ordered to repair the broken divider in the Social Hall. A representative from Multi Media will be coming to give a proposal for the video hook-up system.

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

The Worship Committee met on February 23rd. Advent and Christmas were reviewed and went well. Some hymns suggestions were made for Lent. Comments on the Cranberry Hymnal are favorable, and we will continue to use it for Communion Services on the third Sunday of the month. In 2017, Christmas Eve will fall on a Sunday, and the Council approved the recommendation that we keep the normal Sunday morning schedule and still have the usual three Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.

The Endowment Fund Committee met on February 6th. The Council approved the recommendation to invest \$700 in the Thrivent High Yield Fund.

The Cemetery Board reported that two big ash trees in the old cemetery across from the Church need to be cut down.

Under Unfinished Business:

The Council voted to change the Sunday schedule for the day of the 2018 Annual Meeting, with Sunday School from 9:00-10:00 AM, the Worship Service at 10:30 AM, and the Annual Meeting beginning immediately after the Service. A pot-luck lunch might follow the Meeting.

Under New Business:

Barb and Steve Hikes were approved as delegates to the 2017 Synod Assembly.

The Council approved participating in the Council of Churches effort to ask for contributions to subsidize the cost of children in the Week Day Church School with no church affiliation.

The Council also voted to designate the offerings from the Easter and the Christmas Sunday School programs for the Week Day Church School.

The fund balances as of February 28th were:

General Fund -- \$ 631

General Savings -- \$ 145

Capital Improvement Fund -- \$ 12,648 (\$ 6,869 designated for the video and \$1,265 for the Fellowship Committee to use for kitchen improvements)

Memorial Fund -- \$ 13,301

Savings Certificate (Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund) -- \$ 6,989

The Treasurer reported that all February bills were paid, but we will have some large expenses in March, so offerings need to be good. \$3,610 is needed each week to meet expenses.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

To begin celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, Pastor Richard is teaching an Adult Course on the History of the Christian Church. In March we studied the growth of the Latin Church under St. Martin of Tours and St. Benedict of Nursia, who developed monasticism in the West, through the able leadership of Pope Gregory I, and with missionaries such as St. Patrick in Ireland and St. Boniface in Germany. We also studied the rise of France, culminating in the reign of Charlemagne, who was crowned by Pope Leo III as the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. After the death of Charlemagne, we saw the decline of secular governments and the rise of the Papacy in the Latin Church and the beginnings of the penitential system of mediating God's forgiveness that would blossom in the Middle Ages but be challenged by the Reformation.

During Lent, the sessions have been moved to **Tuesday** evenings, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, but there will be no session during Holy Week. After Easter, the sessions will return to Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The schedule for March is:

Tuesday, March 21st, and Tuesday, March 28th

The schedule for April is:

Tuesday, April 4th (during Lent)

Wednesday, April 19th, and Wednesday, April 26th

Confirmation Class News

Our Middlers (Eighth Graders) and Seniors (Ninth Graders) are studying Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. We are finished with Luther's understanding of the Apostles Creed, and we have moved on to the Lord's Prayer

The Middler-Senior class will meet at 9:00 AM on April 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th. There will be no class on April 15th because of the Easter weekend.

The Junior Class (Seventh Graders) met on March 4th for a session on friendship. They will not have a class meeting in April, but the students will attend a Triduum Service.

LENTEN SERVICES

Our mid-week Lenten Services, featuring sermons from the Synod's series "Grace and Ernest Go to Church: Lenten Dialogues on Reformation Themes" will be held at 7:30 PM on March 22nd, 29th, and April 5th.

Holy Thursday Services

Just as we did on Ash Wednesday, we will hold an 11:00 AM Communion Service on Holy Thursday, April 13th. We will also have a Holy Thursday Communion Service in the traditional 7:30 PM time slot.

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.

WORLD HUNGER TABLE

Located at the bottom of the stairs coming down from Worship. Starting Sunday, May 7th. A Committee Meeting will be held Sunday morning, April 23rd at 10:30AM @ the tables in the Social Hall near Secretary's Office.

YOUTH NEWS

On Sunday, February 5th, Super Bowl Sunday, our Sunday School students and teachers celebrated "Souper Bowl Sunday" by asking the congregation to support them in bringing to church food items that can be given to our local food Pantry (housed in the basement to the Weekday Church School building.)

To date 76 lbs. of soup cans were brought in along with over \$25 of offerings. Coupled with those offerings, St. Peter's has received a \$250 grant from Thrivent financial for food purchases to also go toward supporting The Pine Grove Area Food Pantry.

On Saturday, March 11th youth group members under the direction of Jodi Derr went on a shopping spree to use this grant money to help those in need.

We thank all those folks involved in this ministry of sharing in The Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Easter egg hunt this year will be held on Saturday, April 8th at 11:00AM. All Children and Youth are invited to be part of this experience. Stories and songs of our faith will add meaning to our fellowship and fun time together.

Children from Nursery age through 6th Grade will hunt for eggs. Older Youth will have the joy of hiding eggs and helping to chaperone our "younger ones" who are normally filled with excitement and lots of energy.

Join us in this fun and faith time together.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our program will be in The Fellowship Hall on Palm Sunday, April 9th following worship at approximately 10:30AM.

Our teachers began planning for the program in February already. Practices began in March to get our students involved in sharing the story of Christ's death and Resurrection.

As teachers, the program preparation gives us another opportunity to teach our students of God's grace and love which is bestowed upon us.

We pray that you would all come to our program and support our children, youth, and adults involved in the teaching ministry of St. Peter's.

We are counting on the families of our students and you, the members of St. Peter's, to fill the Fellowship Hall on April 9th.

The offering taken during the program will be used to sponsor our children going to the Weekday Church School.

Stew Zerbe Memorial Spaghetti Dinner: April 1st from 4-7pm. Tickets are \$8 and are on sale Sunday in the Social Hall or weekdays at the church office. Donations needed: spaghetti, sauce, hamburger, and desserts.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

✠ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the month of March:

Steve Yoder, Adam Kulbitsky, Floyd Ney, Joan Antonelli, Dane Noecker, Jean Bender, Norman Zimmerman, Lucille Christ, Tim Holden, Noah Holden, Brandy Venzsl, Margaret Reed, Daryl Williams, Gary Keller, Klara Burkle, Janet Fidler, Lawrence Martin and Ben Moyer.

✠ The family of Amos Newswanger, who passed away on February 17th.

✠ The family of Elaine Kopinetz, who passed away on February 24th.

✠ The family of Merlin Freeman, who passed away on March 4th.

✠ The family of Kurt Reichelt, who passed away on March 7th.

✠ The family of Margaret Carl, who passed away on March 10th.

✠ The family of Betty Zechman (the sister of Doris Moyer), who passed away on March 11th.

✠ The family of Mabel Sattizahn, who passed away on March 13th.

✠ The family of Richard Martin (the brother of Cyndi Yoder), who passed away on March 15th.

Baptisms

Drew Richard Juritsko, the son of Heather (Schach) and Dustin Juritsko, who was born on February 4, 2017 was baptized on March 12th and Myla Lynn Smith, the daughter of Kaylee Bender and Michael Smith, who was baptized on March 12th.

The Prayer Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 5th at 9:00 AM.

Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God

(Memorial Fund)

\$50 in memory of Marian Long by Mrs. Mary Frances Miller, Chairperson, Swatara Village Hospitality Committee.

\$25 in memory of Donald Nagle by Steve and Barbara Hikes.

\$25 in memory of Marian Long by Tom and Judy Fickinger.

\$50 in honor of Olga Miller's 10th Anniversary since going home to be with the Lord on March 13th, by daughter, Mary Shive.

\$25 in memory of Marian Long by Howard Lengel.

(Capital Improvement Fund)

\$25 in memory of Marian Long by David and Michaelene Watson.

(Stew Zerbe Memorial Fund)

\$50 in memory of Ricky Kline by Ricky Kline's Family.

(General Fund)

\$25 in memory of Elaine Kopinetz by Kevin and Patti Kreiser.

The **April Newsletter** was given to the Glory of God in memory of Loved Ones by Kurt and Sharon Wessner. The **Candle Oil** was given to the Glory of God in memory of my mother, Mary Jane Stauffer's Birthday by Brenda Shadle.

The **Sanctuary Candle** was given to the Glory of God in memory of Loved Ones by Brenda Shadle.

