

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

**From the Pastor:**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, we always celebrate New Year's Day, as we mark the transition from one year to another. In the last three months of the calendar year we celebrate three major festivals – Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. But in the Lutheran tradition, we follow a different annual calendar. Because our Church Year always begins with the season of Advent, our religious “New Year's Day” is really the First Sunday in Advent, which falls on December 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Thus in October and November, we will be closing out the current Church Year with five important celebrations.

The first Sunday in October is always observed as “World Communion Sunday.” On this special Sunday, we join together with Christians all around the world in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The word “Communion” means “to unite with” – and in Holy Communion we are united with Jesus, our Savior, and with all Christians in the world today and throughout the ages as we partake of the body and blood of Christ.

We will observe “Harvest Home Sunday” on October 14<sup>th</sup>. In our worship, we will offer thanks to God for the bounties of the earth, and we will present our gifts of food to help those in need.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation with his 95 Theses, and in the Lutheran Church we observe the last Sunday in October as “Reformation Sunday.” We remember Luther's life and work and celebrate our heritage as his spiritual heirs.

Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> is “All Saints Day” when the Church remembers the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly labors and live with God in heaven. We will celebrate this special day with a remembrance for those who passed from this life to heavenly glory since last All Saints Day.

Our Church Year will conclude with the celebration of “The Sunday of Christ the King” on November 25<sup>th</sup>. In the midst of all the turmoil of this world, we always end our Christian Year by remembering that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is the true King of all the world!

**Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard**

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE**

In our Wednesday Night Live sessions we finished our focus on the Reformation Period last May and began in September with the modern era, with a focus on the Church in the USA. Our sessions are held on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

The schedule for October is:

Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

There will be no class on Wednesdays, October 17<sup>th</sup> & October 31<sup>st</sup>

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS**

Our Confirmation Classes are now underway for the 2018-2019 year.

The Middler-Senior Class (Grades 8 and 9) began its study of Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*, with sessions on the Ten Commandments. We will conclude our study by the end of January so that our Seniors (Grade 9) will be ready to be confirmed on Sunday, February 3, 2019.

The Middler-Senior Class will meet from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be no class held on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Junior (Grade 7) Class will have its first session at 9:00 AM on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Mission District Joint Worship Service**

The Schuylkill Mission District is inviting all our congregations and members to attend a Joint Worship Service at 4:00 PM on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven. Bishop Samuel Zeiser will be the guest preacher. Pastor Richard will participate in the Service, and some of our choir members will sing in the joint choir. It promises to be an inspirational service, with pastors and choir members from many of the Mission District congregations involved. See you there!

## **First Communion Class**

A special Class was held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> to prepare our Third Graders to receive their First Holy Communion with seven Third Graders and their parents in attendance. First Communion will be received on World Communion Sunday at the 7:00 PM Service on October 6<sup>th</sup> or the 9:00 AM Service on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Highlights from the September 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting**

Christian Education Committee Report: attendance was excellent for Christian Education Sunday on August 26<sup>th</sup>. First Communion classes will be held and Wednesday Night Live will resume in September. Pastor outlined his plan to finish teaching Luther's *Small Catechism* in the Grades 8 & 9 Classes so that the 9<sup>th</sup> Graders can be confirmed in February, 2019.

Property Committee Report: Randy Knoll reported that the Pine Grove Borough repaired the damaged spots in the parking lot. Randy will look into sealing the new asphalt.

Evangelism Committee Report: plans are underway for a Church picnic at Twin Grove Park on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Youth Ministry Committee Report: plans are underway for the Halloween Party and "Trunk or Treat" on October 31<sup>st</sup> and for a special showing of "The Star" at the Pine Grove Theater on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Unfinished Business: Council approved purchasing a diaper changing table to be installed near the children's rest rooms and approved \$9,460 for pre-buying heating oil at \$2.389 per gallon in order to save money on heating costs for the upcoming winter.

New Business: Council approved that request of the PG Community Band to hold a concert in the parking lot on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Council approved participation in Redner's "Save the Tape Program" with Linda Venzl in charge. Council voted to keep the Church building locked at all times when not in use for an event or activity. Keys will be issued to people who need access, including altar guild members. One key will be issued to a leader of the Senior Citizens group and one key to a leader to the Girls Scouts Group, with strict guidelines for use. Council renewed last year's arrangement for snow removal. Council began working on transition concerns. Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Associate to the Bishop, will attend the November Council meeting to explain Synod policies for providing pastoral care during the vacancy and for calling a new Pastor.

### **Harvest Home Sunday**

-Harvest Home Sunday will be celebrated Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all of our members to share food items that will be taken to our Pine Grove Area food Pantry to be distributed October 20<sup>th</sup>. That same Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Group will go on a shopping spree (using a Thrivent Grant) to purchase more items to be distributed to families in need (in our congregation) as well as to increase the number of non-perishable items we take to the food pantry.

-We are blessed by the Lord to be a blessing to others in this outreach ministry of St. Peter's.

## SPONSORS

Some things are still available to be sponsored in October.

**Altar Flowers** are available for October 14<sup>th</sup> – cost is \$20.

**Bulletins** are available for October 28<sup>th</sup> – cost is \$15.

**Sanctuary Candle** is available for October – cost is \$35.

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](http://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 Aug 2018)

Aug General Income: \$11, 7922.00

Aug General Expenses: \$18,239.89

## Checking Balances as of Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> were:

General Fund --\$850.85

Capital Improvement Fund --\$ 27,069.34 (\$2,040 for the Fellowship Committee to use for Kitchen Improvements, \$1,894.26 for Video/Audio & Pre-Buy Oil \$9,640

Memorial Fund --\$ 4,153.62

Youth Ministry Fund --\$ 5,828.46

## Saving Balances as of Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> were:

Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund --\$ 8,954.06

General Savings -- \$1850.00

**YTD All Funds Total \$ 119,479.00**

**Includes the following Funds**

|

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

## Saturday Evening Services

-There will be a Saturday Evening Service at 7:00 PM on October 6<sup>th</sup> as part of our World Communion Sunday celebration. There will be no Service held on October 20<sup>th</sup> because of the Pine Grove Parade.

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

✠ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the month of September: Nancy Reichelt, Al Wertz, Charles Keefer, Jr., Dennis Loy, Colleen Schaeffer, Jeff Heim, William Hendricks, Jean Strausser, Cody Stanton, Lou D'Ambrosio, Anita Loy, and Charlotte Gassert.

✠ All who have been impacted by Hurricane Florence.

\*\*The Prayer Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 9:00AM.

**-Bible Journaling** - Our new Bible Journaling Group, led by Nancy Reichelt, will meet on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome!

# Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God

## *(Memorial Fund)*

\$25 in memory of Steve Yoder by Howard and Shirley Lengel.

\$50 in memory of Harold Hepler by Wife, Kathryn Hepler.

\$100 in memory of Sam Baldwin by Wife, Carol.

## *(General Fund)*

\$100 in memory of Mother, Katherine Moyer and Brother, Clarence Moyer, Jr. by Glenn Moyer.

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

## *(Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund)*

\$30 in memory of Steve Yoder by Donna Zerbe.

\$25 in memory of William Harris by The Sorokach Family.

-The **Candle Oil** for **October** is given to the Glory of God by Ruth McMullen.

-The **Newsletter** for **October** is given to the Glory of God in memory of “My Grandfather” by Bill Siegel.

## 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

