

THE
VOICE
OF

ST. PETER'S

MAY 2017

From the Pastor:

<i>Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands</i>	<i>It was a strange and dreadful strife</i>
<i>For our offenses given;</i>	<i>When life and death contended;</i>
<i>But now at God's right hand he stands</i>	<i>The victory remained with life,</i>
<i>And brings us life from heaven.</i>	<i>The reign of death was ended.</i>
<i>Therefore let us joyful be</i>	<i>Holy Scripture plainly says</i>
<i>And sing to God right thankfully</i>	<i>That death is swallowed up by death,</i>
<i>Loud songs of hallelujah!</i>	<i>Its sting is lost forever.</i>

Martin Luther

What a difference six weeks can make! On March 15th we were busy shoveling away two feet of snow, but now we are seeing the signs of spring all around us! Spring means the rebirth of new life after the “death” of winter. Every spring we see new plants shoot forth from the ground, we see the new green leaves emerge on the trees, and we hear the return of the song-birds. And every spring we celebrate the great festival of Easter.

Easter is the victory of new life over death. On Good Friday Jesus died on the cross. For three days Jesus struggled with sin, death, and the power of the devil—but on Easter Sunday a victorious Christ rose triumphantly from the grave!

The victory of Jesus over death means that we are given new life. Because Jesus lives, we shall live also! Because Jesus conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil, our sins have been forgiven, the devil has no power over us, and we shall live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven! So let us use this Easter season to lift up our hearts and voices in praise of Jesus, our risen Lord, and to receive once again the gift of new life in his Name.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard

Highlights from the April 6th Council Meeting

The Property Committee reported that Randy Knoll is still finishing repairs to the broken divider in the Social Hall. A representative from Multi Media looked at the video hook-up system but has not yet submitted a proposal.

The Christian Education Committee will meet at 6:00 PM and the Evangelism Committee will meet at 7:30 PM on April 24th. The Worship Committee will meet on April 20th.

The Cemetery Board reported that two big ash trees in the old cemetery across from the Church are being cut down.

Under New Business:

At the recommendation of Pastor Richard, Logan Barr and Ethan Hindman were approved for Confirmation on Sunday, May 21st.

At the request of Nancy Reichelt, approval was given to start a Bible Journaling Group on Tuesday evenings.

Approval was given to replace the island in the kitchen, with funding being provided by the Fellowship Committee.

The fund balances as of March 31st were:

General Fund -- unpaid bills totaling \$ 8,432

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 -- \$ 13,626

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

The Treasurer reported that March offerings did not cover expenses due to low offerings and several major annual bills. \$3,610 is needed each week to meet expenses, and we fall short too many weeks. After much discussion, the Council voted to transfer \$5,000 from the Memorial Fund to the General Fund to enable the Treasurer to pay outstanding bills.

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 Lord's Prayer, and we will conclude our study of the *Small Catechism* with the sections on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

The Middler-Senior class will meet at 9:00 AM on May 6th for their final class session of this year. The Seniors (9th graders) will meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 20th for the Confirmation rehearsal. The Rite of Confirmation will be held at the 9:00 AM Worship Service on Sunday, May 21st.

The Junior Class (Seventh Graders) all attended a Triduum Service during Holy Week. They will meet at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 6th for their final class session of this year.

BIBLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

The following supplies are needed – (2) 16oz. Ranch dressing, (1) 28oz. Jar of Peanut Butter, (2) 26oz. Jars of Cheese Balls, (5) Bags of Large Marshmallows, (3) Boxes of Ritz Crackers, (1) Large Box of Goldfish, (1) 500 Pack of Napkins, (5) Packs of 5oz. Cups, (4) Packs of Orange Jello, (4) Packs of Strawberry Jello, (4) Packs of Lime Jello, and (4) Packs of Grape Jello. Donations are greatly appreciated!

WORLD HUNGER NEWS

Pink 'Piggy Banks' were distributed in March to raise monies towards our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America thrust to combat world hunger nationally and globally.

The banks can be brought back and given to the ushers to be included in our Sunday's offerings. THANK YOU.....

THE WORLD HUNGER TABLE

The World Hunger Table will begin on Sunday, May 7th. Hopefully we will have some early produce items. Food items, crafts, handmade articles, jewelry, knitting and crochet pieces, plants, flowers, etc. can also be added to the table.

Years ago eggs were even brought in to be shared. The committee will be at or near the table (right next to the elevator) to converse with worshippers about this outreach ministry.

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 April we studied the Crusades and spiritual renewal in the age of St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

After a shift to Tuesday evenings during Lent, the sessions have returned to Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The schedule for May is:

Wednesday, May 3rd

Wednesday, May 17th

Wednesday, May 24th

Wednesday, May 31st

There will be no session on Wednesday, May 10th

EASTER EGG HUNT

On a cool Saturday morning on April 8th, teachers and staff gathered at the church approximately 1 hour before the scheduled event – our Annual Easter egg hunt. The adults prepared crafts for starters, counted over 1,000 plastic eggs filled with chocolate treats, and set out the nutritious snack foods and drinks (with some chocolate peanut butter candy).

Our children and youth started arriving bringing with them parents and grandparents and family. Of course, there was excitement and energy filling the ‘air.’ Our craft project pointed to our Savior, Jesus Christ and His Life given for us. Stories and songs of our faith were then shared. Five older youth and 3 adults hid brightly colored, plastic eggs in the ‘upper’ parking lot and then chaperoned a ‘safe’ and fun hunt. Each child collected more than 25 eggs a piece.

We all came back into the church for fellowship and sharing over eating the donated foods brought in by our Sunday School Staff.

There were 24 children and youth involved, along with 25 adults. A special thank you to all of the congregational members who shared chocolate ‘goodies’ for our event.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our Palm Sunday program was scheduled after worship on April 9th. We started at around 10:40AM as teachers and staff and teen helpers scurried about trying to get our students into costumes as we prepared ourselves to portray Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem, the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane, His arrest, His trial before Pilate, the Crucifixion, and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.

Our nursery and pre-K Sunday School students sang: "Hosanna" and "Easter Chimes." Our Youth Choir sang: "The Butterfly Song" and "E is for Easter." The stage was filled with the Spirit of joy, excitement, and faith as it exuded from the hearts of our students, youth, and teachers. Oh yes, our Adult class was a great part of the crowd response at Jesus' trial.

Barb Hikes and Beverly Zimmerman provided the piano and organ music throughout the program.

Somehow, someway our teachers and staff 'pulled it off' in a very special way, as they could only do as devoted and caring teachers, by working with our children.

The program closed with a powerful song shared by 1st Graders through 8th Graders - "A Mighty Resurrection Day!" We marched out of the Fellowship Hall through the Sunday School rooms back into the Hall waving our palms and singing "Praise Him."

Eighty-two adults filled the Social Hall giving Thanks for the faith of our children and youth and the commitment of our teachers to share the faith.

Thirty children and youth need to be commended for their cooperation and input giving character and great meaning to the entire program. Also, the offering taken was \$163 – this amount will go towards St. Peter's support of the Weekday Church School run by The Pine Grove Area Council of Churches.

Vacation Bible School:

Vacation Bible School is a few months away yet, but our plans are well under way. As always, we have a dedicated staff of adults helping out and planning for the week.

Our week will be the 17th-21st of July this year. It'll be right in the heart of Summer! Our opening worship will start at 9:00am and we'll be done by noon for each of the days, except Friday, when we'll enjoy a program and then a meal together in the social hall.

For our lessons this year we'll be studying "Super Heroes." We'll learn about David being anointed by Samuel. We'll learn about Abigail and what she has to teach about cooperating and negotiating. We'll learn about Jesus when he was a young boy. Studying the Beatitudes will be our task for Thursday and the lessons they have for life. On Friday, we'll imagine the amazing things that God did with ordinary people (gone Super Hero?) on the first Pentecost.

We'll be enjoying Lesson Time, Craft Time, Music, Science, and Snacks and Games. Our adults and youth work hard to make this a special week at St. Peter's. Come join us or look for the many opportunities to participate through donations of all sorts of things we'll be needing – from food (a list is in this month's newsletter already), to craft items, to extra donations, and other things we'll let you know about later.

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, Gary Keller, Klara Burkle, Janet Fidler, Charles Brown, Ben Moyer, Ron Murhon, Glenda Nagle, Charles Brown, Richard Becker, Dean Wertz, Lisa Geiger, and Nancy Reese.

✠ The family of Donald Eroh, who died on March 8th.

✠ The family of Donald Nagle, who died on March 9th.

✠ Sophia Grace Kimmel and Lauren Kelly Kimmel, the daughters of Cody and Jessica Lynn (Yoder) Kimmel, who were baptized on Saturday, April 22nd, 2017.

*The Prayer Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 3rd at 9:00 AM.

Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God

(Memorial Fund)

\$25 in memory of Marian Long by Kay Potts.

\$75 in memory of Donald Nagle by Harvey Hubler and Family.

\$25 in memory of Elaine Kopinetz by Linda Venszl.

\$50 in memory of Elaine Kopinetz by Ed and Jean Kreiser.

\$25 in memory of Elaine Kopinetz by Mary Jane Brown.

\$25 in memory of Elaine Kopinetz by Betty Sabadish.

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

\$50 in memory of my Husband, Parents, and Loved Ones by Barbara Zimmerman.

(Weekday Church School)

\$250 in memory of, our fathers, Clarence Hoenich and Luther Yorty by Pastor Bob & Nan Hoenich.

(Capital Improvement Fund)

\$20 in memory of Dale Ferrebee's Aunt Mabel by Virginia Schwartz.

\$100 in memory of Loved Ones by Virginia Schwartz.

\$100 in memory of Loved Ones by Carol Baldwin.

\$100 in loving memory of my husband, Sam Baldwin, by wife, Carol Baldwin.

(General Fund)

\$500 in memory of Arthur "Pat" Aungst by his Wife and Children.

\$50 in memory of Carol Becker by Daughter, Kathy Toy and Husband, Richard Becker.

\$100 in memory of our Daughter, Stephanie, our pet, Tanner, and Loved Ones by Randy & Nancy Brown and Family.

\$100 in memory of my Granddaughter, Stephanie and Loved Ones by Eva M. Dubbs Zimmerman.

The **Sanctuary Candle** was given to the Glory of God by Ruth McMullen.

