Newsletter

THE VOICE OF St. Peter's



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Pastor's Note

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord."
(Luke 2:11)

These words of the angels to the shepherds so many years ago ring out in our ears again and again. The coming of God incarnate, to save all people from sin and death. The gift of grace from God, a Savior, who gives of one's self for all. This gift is freely given to receive new life through Christ our Lord. This gift is born in a manger, "King of kings, and Lord of lords," the "Alpha and the Omega." God's saving power has come.

These are words we hear as we gather to celebrate the birth of God's Son. The words are a witness to God's ever presence in our lives today as in the time of Jesus' birth. God caring for the people who were oppressed, hurting, terrified, confused, and alone, but who still had hope. That hope continues to live within our hearts today with the coming of Jesus again, in all Christ's glory.

Today, the start of a new decade is an opportunity for all of us to live into the hope and love that came the first Christmas morning each and every day. The light that shines in the darkness of our days beams within us to give us hope for today and for days to come, to live into the light of Christ shining for all to see, Christ living in us.

The Magi followed the light of the star to the newborn Savior, offering gifts to the new king. The visitations of the wise men bearing gifts represent the coming of the Gentiles into the presence of God through the baby Jesus.

Today, in 2020, the same as the wise men were lead by the light; we too are lead by the light and life of Christ, through the Holy Spirit in our lives offering ourselves to serving the King of kings and Lord of lords. In our daily living, and relationship with God through Christ bear gifts through our proclamation of God's love of justice and peace for others. May the light of Christ shine in our hearts today and everyday.

"You are the light of the world" and "Let your light shine." (Matthew 5:14-16)

May everyone have a blessed New Year!!

Peace, Blessings and Love to All.

Pastor Barry

Cell # 484-332-0258

pastorb10@verizon.net

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Nan Hoenich

Fellowship

Donna Zerbe

Evangelism

Justin Strouphauer

Finance

Ben Moyer 570-617-0703

Property

Dale Ferrebee

Social Ministry

Dani Warfield

Stewardship

Nancy Reichelt, CC Liaison

Worship

Steve Hikes, CC Liaison

Youth Ministry

Jodi Derr 570-294-6057

Technology

Ben Moyer 570-617-0703

Wellness

Justin Strouphauer, CC Liaison

Endowment Fund

Steve Hikes

Stew Zerbe Scholarship

Donna Zerbe

Cemetery Association

Kurt Wessner 570-345-8020

Council of Churches

Dale Ferrebee, CC Liaison

Church Council & Officers

Church

Council

Elected Church Council

Jodi Derr

Bill Siegel

Kurt Wessner

Pat Williams

Dale Ferrebee

Nan Hoenich

Nancy Reichelt

Ben Moyer

Missy Witherow

Donna Zerbe

Steve Hikes

Justin Strouphauer

<u>Officers</u>

Nancy Reichelt, President Dale Ferrebee, Vice President Nan Hoenich, Secretary Brenda Ferrebee, Treasurer Ben Moyer, Financial Secretary

Designated Pastor

Barry L. Spatz

December 12th Church Council Meeting Highlights

Social Ministry: nine visits were made last month.

Property Committee: New air fresheners were installed in both hallway restrooms. Next priority will be installing security cameras.

Worship Committee: The committee will look into purchasing new worship gowns.

Wellness Committee: The two recently purchased AEDs were installed- one in the fellowship hall and one in the narthex.

New Business: Motion carried to combine the Sunday School and Weekday Church School offerings to pay the Pine Grove Area Council of Churches for the students who attend St. Peter's and other students who do not have a church affiliation.

January Ministry Meetings

Jan. 2 Worship Committee 8:00 pm

Jan. 9 Church Council 7:00 pm

Jan. 12 Youth Ministry Committee 11:45 am

Call Committee Members

Steve Hikes
Lindsey Zimmerman
Tammy Hikes
Todd Tice
Vernon Strouphauer
Tammy Lengel

January Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 5 2nd Sunday of Christmas Holy Communion, 9:00 am

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Preaching: Pastor Bob Hoenich

Sunday, January 12 Baptism of our Lord, 9:00 am

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43 Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 Preaching: Synod Supply

Sunday, January 19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion, 9:00 am

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel: John 1:29-42

Preaching: Pastor Bob Hoenich

Sunday, January 26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30 am

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 Preaching: Jodi Derr



2020 How Amazing!

At the beginning of a New Year it is ever important for each of us to look back (if but for a few moments) to mark in our minds and in our hearts those events beyond everyday affairs in our lives. Yes, to learn from our mistakes, but also to grow in wisdom, maturity, faith, patience, self-control, etc.

And certainly then for us to use that knowledge and insight to strongly affect the year that stands before us. Besides this personal situation, it is also good to look at our church life:

How we can grow, what we can change to better serve our Lord, in what ways ministry needs to happen, all of the above and more.

May the blessings of God abound in our lives and in our church.

Pastor Bob Hoenich

Worship and Sunday School Time Changes on January 26th

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Annual congregational meeting immediately follows the worship service

Lunch following the meeting



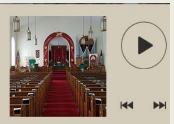
Next evening worship with Holy Communion, led by Pastor Barry Spatz, will be held on Saturday, January 11th at 6:00 pm.

Annual Report

Committee chairs: please submit reports to the parish secretary no later than January 12th.

The annual report will be handed out one week prior to the annual congregational meeting for review.

<u>Listen to the Weekly</u> <u>Sermons on</u> St. Peter's Website



- 1 May 19 2019 Gospel & Sermon (Live)
- May 12 2019 Gospel & Sermon (Live)
- May 5 2019 Gospel & Sermon (Live)

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday Service Schedule

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

> Coffee Social 10:00 am

Sunday School 10:30 am



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."

Sponsorships Available

Altar Flowers are available for Jan 5, 12, 19, 26 – cost is \$20

Chancel Flowers are available for Jan 5, 12, 19, 26–cost is \$20

Bulletins are available for Jan 5, 12, 19, 26 – cost is \$15

Sanctuary Candle is available for Jan, Feb, March – cost is \$35

Candle Oil is available for Jan, Feb, March-cost is \$15

Newsletter is available for Feb, March, April- cost is \$40

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

The January Newsletter is sponsored by St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church Finances - End of November 2019

Nov. General Income: \$10,868.50 Nov. General Expenses: \$5,410.63

Checking Balances

General Fund \$38,414.67

Memorial Fund

\$10,122.14

Youth Ministry Fund

\$9,240.06

Capital Improvement Fund

a. Video/Audio \$1,495.27 b.'20-'21 Pre-Buy Oil \$1,160.40 c. Fellowship \$3,878.00 d. Undesignated Cap.Imp \$13.625.03 Total \$20,158.81 **Savings Accounts**

General Savings \$6,455.51

Designated Stew Zerbe S.F. \$1,135.00

Total Savings \$7,012.45

Certificates of Deposit

Stew Zerbe Scholarship CDs

a. \$3,159.53 b. \$1,598.21 c. \$2,266.63 d. \$1,959.43

Total Stew Zerbe Memorial Fund Balances

CDs \$8,983.80 Savings <u>\$1,185.00</u> **Total** \$10,168.80

YTD All Funds Total \$ 160,635.92

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, Endowment, Needy Fund, Candle Oil, Souper Bowl of Caring, Christmas Eve, Christmas Baskets, Sanctuary Light, Disaster Relief, Pentecost/Ascension, Harvest Home, Reformation, Thanksgiving, Luncheon, Fellowship, Video/Audio and 200th Anniversary



The Youth Ministry Committee would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped volunteered, or donated to the Youth Ministry Fund throughout 2019.

Youth Ministry Committee set a budget of \$5,500 in 2020, an increase of 14.58% from 2019.

Youth Choir \$150.00 Jr. Youth Group \$675.00 Sr. Youth Group \$675.00 Youth Camping/Conferences \$1,500.00 Youth Ministry Events \$2,300.00 Youth Misc. Expenses \$200.00 Total: \$5,500.00

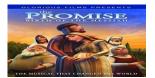
Please follow us on
Facebook, the St. Peter's
Website and the Newsletter
for future events and
information. Some of the
events we are planning for
2020 is a trip to the PG
bowling alley in January, and
also a trip to Lehigh Zoo in
June.

May the Lord bless our children, families, and our Youth Ministry Committee in 2020. Most especially we ask for your prayers as God's work is continually being done.

Happy New Year, Youth Ministry Committee

Photos from Animated Musical

"The Promise: Birth of the Messiah"







Photos from Christmas Caroling









Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee has been busy this fall and winter. We had a pumpkin and nut roll sale in November with proceeds of \$776.00. We will be providing lunch for the congregational meeting in January. We appreciate the support of the congregation.

Fellowship Committee Chair, Donna Zerbe











Christmas Food Basket Distribution Update



A special offering was received during the worship service on Sunday, December 1st and Sunday, December 8th. Our congregation's offerings of \$1,025 dollars and a Thrivent grant of \$250 were used to purchase food for families in need during the holiday season.

Thank you to the youth ministry committee and volunteers who help with the grocery shopping and organizing Christmas food baskets.





Stew Zerbe Scholarship News

The 2020 Scholarship Application Form is available on St. Peter's website or in paper form at the church.

Please submit applications by

April 1, 2020

Thank you.



Click Icon above for St. Peter's Webpage



Beginning of the New Year

St. Peter's will be collecting canned goods for our local food pantry.

A box will be available in the fellowship hall for donations.

Our Goal: **1500 ounces**

A note from the Financial Secretary

On behalf of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and gifts throughout 2019. Our 2019 contributions and gifts throughout the year helped provided:

- \$1,050 toward nine Christmas baskets for families in need during Christmas holiday
- \$10,770 + for the fellowship fund which will help provide kitchen renovations
- Over \$3,400+ in Benevolence donations to help the greater good of the ELCA.
- Over \$2,200+ toward the ELCA world hunger around the world.

Thank you for your generous commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through our church. The contribution envelopes were mailed out. If you did not receive one, please contact church office or myself. The 2019 year-end financial statements will be available to pick up in the fellowship hall starting 1-5-20. There will find a detailed breakdown and summary of your giving during this past year. Please take the time to carefully review your statement of giving for accuracy. Feel free to contact me at [570-617-0703] to make any necessary corrections before January 31st.

May you be blessed by the LORD throughout 2020 and let the Word of God be the standard for your life.

Sincerely,

Ben Moyer - Church Financial Secretary



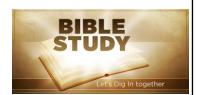
Bible Journaling class will be held on Tuesday, January14th 6:30 pm

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

St. Peter's Parish Secretary

LeAnn Reightler



All are invited to Adult Bible Study.

Wednesday, January 8th 9:00 am



Two brand new AEDs were installed-one located in the fellowship hall and one in the narthex.

Both AEDs are semi automatic and will tell you exactly what to do.They also have one set of adult and pediatric pads.

The 911 operator will helped provide CPR instructions and how to operate the AED device.

There you will find a printed guideline procedure next to the AED machine.

See Justin Strouphauer for any questions.

Resource Links

ELCA

https://www.elca.org/

NEPA Synod http://nepasynod.org/

Schuylkill Mission District http://lutheransalive.org

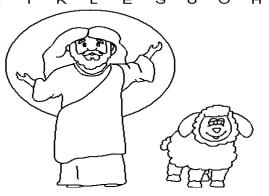


Kid's Zone

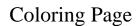
Psalm 23 Word Search

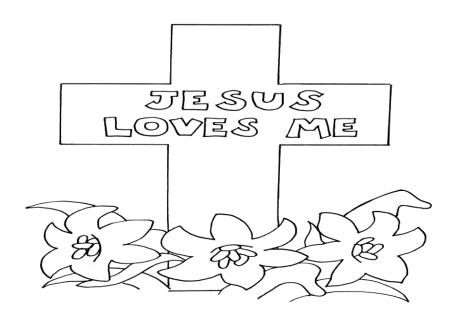
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anoint
banquet
David
enemies
fear
forever
goodness
grass
guide

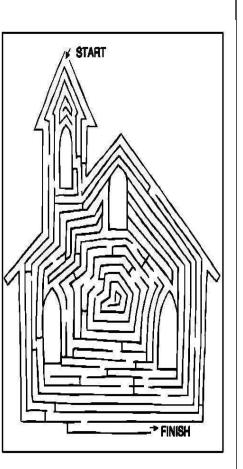


house
king
leads
overflows
path
protect
psalm
sheep
shepherd









Memorials and Gifts... To the Glory of God

General Fund

\$50 in memory of all my loved ones by Sadie Umbenhauer

\$25 in memory of Virginia Schwartz by by John and Terry Schaeffer

\$25 in memory of Virginia Schwartz by Corrine Hippert

\$25 in memory of loved ones Tom McMullen, Ralph (Ronnie) Keefer, Tami Christ and my parents by Ruth McMullen

\$100 in memory of and in honor of loved ones by Carol Baldwin

\$500 in memory of Roxanne Umbenhauer by Charles Umbenhauer and family

\$300 in memory of loved ones by Jane Brommer

\$150 in memory of parents Jean and Leo and brother Neil Beck by Marty and Valerie Beck

\$25 in memory of Wayne Stauffer's birthday by Brenda Shadle

\$200 in memory of Robert Schneck by wife Geraldine Schneck

\$100 in memory of Chester Luckenbill by Rodney and Barbara Luckenbill and family

Pre-Buy Oil

\$50 in memory of Mae Brommer and in honor of Owen Brommer by Jean and Dave Herring

\$50 in honor of our grandchildren by Jean and Dave Herring

Memorial Fund

\$100 in memory of Harold Hepler by Kathryn Hepler

\$300 in memory of Sam Baldwin by wife Carol

Fellowship Fund

\$20 in memory of Virginia Schwartz by Emily Herring

\$20 in memory of Virginia Schwartz by Mary Bohr

\$25 in memory of Virginia Schwartz by George and Kathy Sorokach

\$25 in memory of Gloria Bolton by George and Kathy Sorokach

Youth Ministry Fund

\$100 in memory of William and Gloria Harris by Bev and Steve Morgan

Passed Away

Andy Casterline November 27

Delphine Huber
December 14

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day... unseen, unheard, but always near, Still 10 V e d, still missed and very dear.

2019 Poinsettias



In memory of Kenneth and Grace Kreiser by Kevin and Patti Kreiser and Family

In memory of Betty Wertz and Ida Schach by Roger and Angela Brown

In memory of our parents Lee and Gladys Derr and Milt and Ruthann Reichert by Curt and Trudy

In memory of Carl Zimmerman, Elmer Wertz and Al Wertz by Roger and Angela Brown

In memory of Luther and Rebecca Yorty and Clarence and Margaret Hoenich by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich and family

In memory of loved ones by Shirley Koenig

In memory of my parents by Pat Zimmerman

In honor of our grandchildren Caleb and Ethan by Vernon and Sue Strouphauer

Praying for God's guidance in calling a pastor to St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

<u>Publishing</u> Deadlines

If you want to publish something in the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter, please submit your information by the following deadlines:

The bulletin deadline is Wednesday afternoon, no later than 2:00 pm.

The February newsletter deadline is Sunday, Jan. 19th. This is necessary to allow time to lay out the publication.

<u>Latest Monthly</u> Worship Assignments

<u>Please Visit</u> St. Peter's Webpage at:

stpeterslutheranpinegrove.org

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

Kimberly Buerkle
Naomi Watson
Linda Hoffman
Jennifer White
Toby Tobias
Kathy Adams
Jack Brennan
Evan Keller
Jaden Leiby
Arlene Knoll
Beatrice Minnich
Jack Brennan
Helen Zerbe
Denise Rajchel
Ralph Keefer

Bill Moyer
David Tunney
Elaine Bender
Darlene Weaver
Lou D'Ambrosio
Marci D'Ambrosio
Susan D'Ambrosio
Stacy Bohr
Grace Aungst
Bonnie Kintzel
John Henry Schroeder
201st Red Horse Unit
Linda Nagle
Ruth Stolarick



Derrick Leghart
Charles D. Keefer Sr.
Donald Thomas
Fred Sanders
Angie Keller
Ginger Webb
Linda Brobst
Richard Lengel
Charles Wertz
Susan Hall
Kathryn Hepler
Randy Brown
Tim Ditzler

†You may send a prayer request through St. Peter's website or by calling Nan Hoenich at 570-345-8706.

Growing Stewards Step by Step Twelve Devotions and Prayers

Stewardship is a spiritual issue not a financial issue. The journey to being a good steward has many steps. For some people this starts with reading, reflection and prayer. Here is the ninth of twelve devotions for this purpose. The inspiration for these writings is taken from Stepping Stones of a Steward by Ron Vallet (Eerdsmans Publishing; Grand Rapids, MI; © 1989).

Devotion 9 Being Willing to Take Risks Matthew 13:44-45

Can you empathize with the farmer described in this passage? What are you willing to go and sell everything for so you can obtain it? The first step is to identify what you want to obtain. This means establishing a priority. What is most important to you? At one time I might have said a new car. However, I have had several new cars and have come to realize each one loses it's attraction. At another time I might have said a new house. Again, after a number of years, I realized it is the relationships and events that happen within the house that are most important.

If you made a list of what was most important to you today, what would it look like? What items would be at the top of the list? What would be at the bottom? Would your priorities be different than five years ago? How about five years from now?

Devotions 8 (Continued)

In some form or another, each person goes through this process almost every day. One moment we are dreaming about the possibilities in life and the next we are trying to keep focused on realistic priorities. The basic question is who or what is your treasure?

Reflecting further on this parable, it has a different meaning if we consider God as the leading character and not ourselves. What does it mean if God is willing to sell everything to obtain our heart and our soul? What would God be willing to do to obtain this priceless gift? Is it possible that God would be willing to take a risk, to give up the life of a son to attain this gift? This truly is a great sacrifice. How willing might you be to make a similar sacrifice?

As believers in Jesus Christ, there are times when it is appropriate for us to take risks. This may be in our own life or in the ministry of our congregation. As people of God and stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are given both the permission and responsibility to break out of the molds of this world in order to open the door for God's reign. We are the field, the pearl and the treasure that God so loves, and thus entrusts us to take risks.

As Paul Tournier wrote, "What I have to do is put my signature at the foot of a blank page on which I will accept whatever God wishes to write. I cannot predict what he will put on this blank contract as my life proceeds – but I give my signature today." Have you done this already? Are you willing to do this? When we realize that we are the treasure for whom God gave up Jesus, then perhaps we can treasure doing God's will, whatever the risk

Let us Pray: O God, whether farmer, merchant, leader or follower, help us to realize that we are each your treasure. We each struggle with our priorities. Help us to remember the sacrifice you have made and discern your will. As stewards of the Gospel, open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and empower us by your grace so the risks we take will use our gifts for the sake your reign in the church and the world. Amen.





To Learn More Click

Icon or visit

St. Peter's Website

Baked Desserts



If anyone would like to donate a baked dessert for the Sunday morning coffee social, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board above the water fountain. At least three desserts per Sunday are needed.

We thank everyone who has been graciously donating and are hopeful that more members will participate.

Thank you and know that your baking is greatly appreciated.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Happy New Year Kappy Kaw Year	7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	4
9: 00 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School 11:45 am Youth Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00 pm Brownies	7	9:00 am Prayer Circle/Bible Study 10:30 am Sewing Group	10:00 am Knitting Group 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	6:00 pm Holy Communion Service
9: 00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School 11:45 am Youth Choir Rehearsal 11:45 am Youth Ministry Committee Meeting	6:00 pm Brownies	1:00 pm Senior Citizens 6:30 pm Bible Journaling	15 10:30 am Sewing Group	16 10:00 am Knitting Group 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	18
9: 00 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School 11:45 am Youth Choir Rehearsal Noon-3:00 pm Youth Ministry Event (Bowling)	6:00 pm Brownies	21	9:30 am Newsletter Assembly 10:30 am Sewing Group	10:00 am Knitting Group 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	25
9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Worship Service Annual Congregational Meeting with lunch afterwards	6:00 pm Brownies	28	10:30 am Sewing Group	10:00 am Knitting Group 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	