

## The Voice Of St. Peter's



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### Pastor's Note

As we continue in the Easter season we anticipate the Ascension of Our Lord and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Even though the church calendar continues on schedule, our lives have changed these past several months in various and uncertain ways, one of which is gathering for worship on a Sunday morning. For many of us we have the opportunity to listen to God's word via the Internet. For some, worship is viewing services by television. Maybe some of us do not have the abilities to hear or view worship services at all.

Whatever your case may be in worshipping, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you during these times. For me I find peace, comfort and strength through God's word and music. I reflect on numerous hymns from my childhood providing inspiration and calm for my well-being. Last month I shared a personal favorite hymn for Easter. I would like to share another hymn that I hold dear to my heart from my childhood. The hymn is "Open My Eyes, That I May See" with both the words and music composed by Clara H. Scott of Chicago, Ill. in 1895.

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth you have for me;*

*place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unlock and set me free.*

*Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see;*

*open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth you send so clear;*

*and while the message sounds in my ear, everything false will disappear.*

*Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see;*

*open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;*

*open my heart, and let me prepare love with your children thus to share.*

*Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see;*

*open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

(Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul Book #2*, 2004, p. 228, 229)

I hope during these days of uncertainty, these words of the hymn have given you inspiration and calm. May your days and weeks to come be illuminated by the Spirit of God in, through, and around us as we continue to live in service and love to the glory of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Barry

(Continued on page 2)

Committee Chairs**Christian Education**

Nan Hoenich

**Fellowship**

Donna Zerbe

**Evangelism**

Justin Stroupauer

**Finance****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 Stroupauer, 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

Pastor's Note

Within this newsletter we have attempted to bring to you words of comfort and peace to ease the fear and calm our souls with faith, hope, and love for today and days to come.

- A list of Bible passages has been included within these pages for you to read God's word on a daily basis in relationship to our readings selected for each Sunday. "The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday –Saturday) *prepare* for Sunday's readings. The days following Sunday *reflect* out from Sundays and festivals." (ELW p. 1121)
- A picture page is included this month for children and adults of all ages to color and mail back to the church or place in the letter drop on the parsonage front porch. These will be displayed in the church windows and doors for all to enjoy until we are able to gather again in God's house. We also ask you to use your creativity and create an original message of hope (poem, symbol of hope i.e. rainbow, dove, heart) on an 8x11 piece of paper. Don't forget to write your name on the back.
- Activity pages are included for young people (and young in heart) to enjoy during the days of being at home.

During these difficult times our lives have changed physically, emotionally, and financially. Even though we may not be gathering within the walls of the church, the ministry and expenses continue the same as your households. Your gifts to the church would be greatly appreciated at this time. Your gift may not be what you would like to give, but gifts from the heart are the most important to the Lord and Savior whom we serve.

If you are considering a gift to the church and the ministries of this congregation, please mail your contribution to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 312 South Tulpehocken Street, Pine Grove, PA 17963. Please include in the address: "ATTN: Treasurer"

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity to our faith community and beyond.

Church Council & OfficersElected Church Council

Jodi Derr  
Bill Siegel  
Angie Brown  
Dennis Adams  
Dale Ferrebee  
Nan Hoenich  
Nancy Reichelt  
Ben Moyer  
Missy Witherow  
Donna Zerbe  
Steve Hikes  
Justin Stroupauer

Officers

Nancy Reichelt, President  
Justin Stroupauer, Vice President  
Nan Hoenich, Secretary  
Ben Moyer, Treasurer

Designated Pastor

Barry L. Spatz

April Church Council Meeting Highlights

Due to the circumstances with the coronavirus the April Church Council meeting has been postponed.

## Daily Reading Schedule

### Daily Lectionary Readings

The following list of readings is in relationship to the readings for the Sunday assigned readings.

The readings are provided for the opportunity to read the Bible daily and allow for personal devotion.

(ELW p. 1124-1125)

May 1 – Psalm 23; Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17

May 2 – Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Luke 15:1-7

**May 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25**

May 4 – Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23; 1 Peter 5:1-5

May 5 – Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21

May 6 – Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28

May 7 – Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15

May 8 - Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Exodus 3:1-12; Acts 7:1-16

May 9 - Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59

**May 10 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14**

May 11 – Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40

May 12 – Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:5-12; Acts 7:44-56

May 13 – Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38

May 14 – Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12

May 14 – Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12

May 15 - Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38

May 16 - Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29

**May 17 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21**

May 18 – Psalm 93; Genesis 9:8-17; Acts 27:39-44

May 19 - Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:8-12

May 20 - Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 31:1-13; John 16:16-24

**May 21 – Ascension of Our Lord – Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53**

May 22 - Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ephesians 2:1-7

May 23 - Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:13-15; John 8:21-30

**May 24 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11**

May 25 – Psalm 99; Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Peter 4:1-6

May 26 - Psalm 99; Numbers 16:41-50; 1 Peter 4:7-11

May 27 - Psalm 99; 1 Kings 8:54-65; John 3:31-36

May 28 – Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:1-9; Acts 2:1-11

May 29 - Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:16-25; Romans 8:14-17

May 30 - Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12

**May 31 – Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-35; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; John 7:37-39**

### St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

#### Saturday Service Schedule

Holy Communion 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday of the month

6:00 pm

#### Sunday Schedule

Worship Service

9:00 am

Holy Communion

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sundays of the month

Coffee Social

10:00 am

Sunday School

10:30 am



## Sponsorships Available



### ***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."

**Altar Flowers** are available for May 10,17,31– cost is \$20

**Chancel Flowers** are available for May 17,24,31 – cost is \$20

**Bulletins** are available for May 24– cost is \$15

**Sanctuary Candle** is available for May – cost is \$35

**Candle Oil** is available for November- cost is \$15

**Newsletter** is available for July/August - cost is \$40

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

*Be a Sponsor*

*The May Newsletter is sponsored to the Glory of God in memory of Thelma Hubler by the Hubler family.*

*The May Candle Oil is sponsored to the Glory of God in memory of Tom McMullen for his birthday on May 28<sup>th</sup> by wife Ruth McMullen.*

## Church Finances - End of March 2020

**March General Income: \$9,225.77**

**March General Expenses: \$8,607.89**

### **Checking Balances**

#### **General Fund**

\$45,752.35

#### **Memorial Fund**

\$11,322.87

#### **Youth Ministry Fund**

\$10,518.34

#### **Capital Improvement Fund**

a. Parsonage Improv.	\$1,345.00
b. Video/Audio	\$1,096.67
c. '20-'21 Pre-Buy Oil	\$2,694.00
d. Fellowship	\$4,906.37
e. Undesignated Cap.Imp	\$13,904.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,946.79</b>

### **Savings Accounts**

General Savings	\$ 12,159.81
Designated Stew Zerbe S.F.	\$1,340.00
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$13,499.81</b>

### **Certificates of Deposit**

#### **Stew Zerbe Scholarship CDs**

- a. \$3,159.53
- b. \$1,605.42
- c. \$2,271.17
- d. \$1,970.27

#### **Total Stew Zerbe Memorial Fund Balances**

CDs	\$9,006.39
Savings	\$1,340.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,346.39</b>

**YTD Contributions Total \$34,181.65**

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





Summer 2020 Classic Camp

\$495.00

Session 1 June 14-20\*

Session 2 June 23-27\*

\*Try Camp Available

Session 3 June 28-July 3

Session 4 July 5-11

Session 5 July 12-18

Session 6 July 19-25

Session 7 July 26- August 1

Session 8 August 2-8

The St. Peter's congregation has funds available through the Endowment and Youth Ministry Funds to help defray all expenses. Please contact Alethea Wessner for current discount codes.

Register online at  
[Bearcreekcamp.org](http://Bearcreekcamp.org)

## Jesus Prays for His Disciples

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

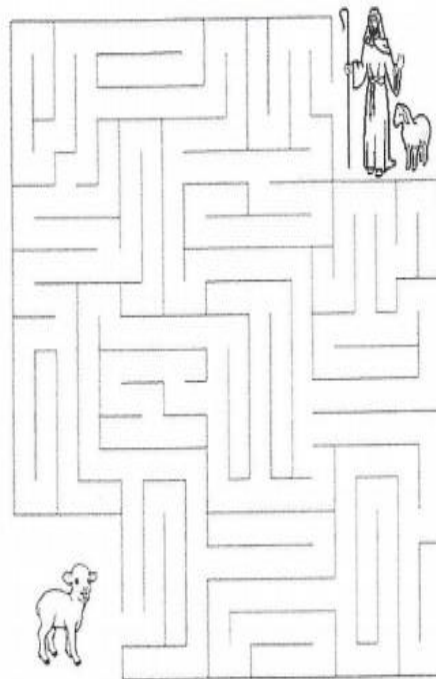


"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have \_\_\_\_\_ your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the \_\_\_\_\_ you gave me and they \_\_\_\_\_ them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I \_\_\_\_\_ for them. I am not praying for the \_\_\_\_\_, but for those you have \_\_\_\_\_ me, for they are yours. All I have is \_\_\_\_\_, and all you have is \_\_\_\_\_. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, \_\_\_\_\_ them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be \_\_\_\_\_ as we are one.

John 17:6-11

accepted	mine	one	protect	world
given	obeyed	pray	words	yours

## The Shepherd



## Showing our Love for Jesus John 14:21

VMXIDGKXMQNBAAV  
MZSUKQWNSHWYROS  
SKYJWDMSSOWWRBDB  
WSROXH GKAWSONWD  
GLABNLOEDFBARJL  
SFCREEXENIMLYLV  
YRYSZAIUVMBMIXD  
ZSODNVJBOEYNTVM  
SZRLAELCMRROFBE  
MPNKXFOREVERIHU  
BJIOVIDHOLLARY  
EVWREOTUFIIYHZNR  
NWOVIAAKEEPAZKP  
UGOVFTSHSKRNKIL  
GLZZUNBFQYPSRZJ

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:4 (NIV)

WHOEVER	SPIRIT	LOVE	ORPHANS
FATHER	COMMANDS	LIVE	FOREVER
KNOW	KEEP	WORLD	LEAVE

**Palm Sunday Program**

The annual Palm Sunday program presented by the Sunday School students has been postponed.

**Call Committee Members**

*Steve Hikes  
Lindsey Zimmerman  
Tammy Hikes  
Todd Tice  
Vernon Stroupbauer  
Tammy Lengel*

**Redner's****Save- A -Tape Program**

If you shop at Redner's, you can help St. Peter's by depositing your cash register receipts in the box downstairs near the elevator.

Linda Venzl will collect and tabulate the receipts. Redner's will contribute 1% of the total to St. Peter's.

All proceeds will go toward the Pre-Buy Oil fund.

**So Far, Save-A-Tape Has Generated \$150.04 Toward the 2020-2021 Pre-Buy Oil Fund.**

Thank you for your participation!



Bible Journaling is meeting every Thursday at 7:00 pm via the Zoom app. Please contact Nancy Reichelt or Angie Brown for the meeting number.

You, *Lord*, are  
forgiving & good,  
*abounding in love*  
to all who call to you.

Psalms 86:5

PsalmsQuotes.com

**Listen to the Weekly Sermons on St. Peter's Website**



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

**Office Hours**

*Monday through Friday*

*9:00 am - 2:00 pm*

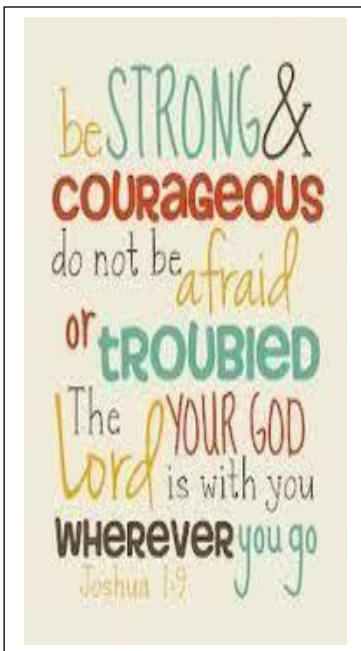
*570-345-3306*

*St. Peter's Parish Secretary*

*LeAnn Reightler*

For a family Sunday School experience go to [www.wearesparkhouse.org/promo](http://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promo)

## Kid's Zone



WNID      
 IFER      
 SIRITP        
 SEKPA       
 CDORW          
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4

Unscramble each word and then place the numbered letters in the numbered boxes at the bottom to reveal the "Final Answer."

Puzzle Clues

Check your answers by looking them up in the Bible.

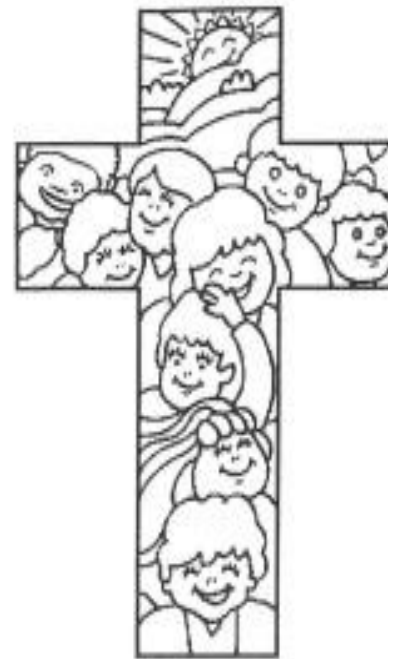
(Clues are from the NIV)

- 1 A sound like the blowing of a violent \_\_\_\_\_ came from heaven. (Acts 2:2)
- 2 They saw what seemed to be tongues of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:3)
- 3 All of them were filled with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:4)
- 4 They began to \_\_\_\_\_ in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)
- 5 Peter stood up and spoke to the \_\_\_\_\_ of people. (Acts 2:14)

FINAL ANSWER: All of these events took place on the day of \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:1)



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I Love Jesus Balloon



We love him, because he first loved us:  
1 John 4:19 (KJV)



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## Memorials and Gifts... To the Glory of God

### General Fund

\$25 in memory of my dad, Sterling Stauffer, on his birthday by daughter Brenda Shadle

\$20 in memory of Carol Betz by Linda Venzl

\$100 in memory of Sterling, Mary Jane, Wayne Stauffer and Todd Shadle on Easter by Brenda Shadle

\$40 in memory of Carl Hoffman by Janet Fidler and family

\$25 in memory of my mom, Mary Jane Stauffer, on her birthday by daughter Brenda Shadle

### Pre-Buy Oil

\$25 in memory of Linda Nagle by John, Kim, and John Henry Schroeder

\$100 in memory of loved ones by Kenneth and Betty Bressler

### Memorial Fund

\$100 in memory of Harold Hepler by wife Kathryn and family

### Capital Improvement Fund

\$25 in memory of father and grandfather Henry F. Koenig and brother and uncle Reed H. Koenig by John, Kim and John Henry Schroeder

### Passed Away

**March 16**  
**Carol A. Zimmerman**

**March 24**  
**Carol Betz**

**March 27**  
**Louis D'Ambrosio**

**April 18**  
**Todd Schaeffer**



### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

**Kimberly Buerkle**  
**Linda Hoffman**  
**Evan Keller**  
**Jaden Leiby**  
**Arlene Knoll**  
**Beatrice Minnich**  
**Denise Rajchel**  
**Ralph Keefer**  
**Junior Brown**  
**Gerry Nagle**  
**Charles D. Keefer Sr.**

**Bill Moyer**  
**Elaine Bender**  
**Marci D'Ambrosio**  
**Susan D'Ambrosio**  
**Grace Aungst**  
**Richard Becker**  
**Catherine Williams**  
**201st Red Horse Unit**  
**Terry & Nancy Ditzler**  
**Dennis Morgan**

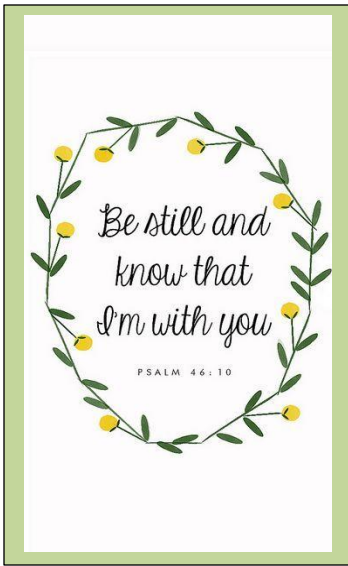


**Derick Legarht**  
**Donald Thomas**  
**Fred Sanders**  
**Angie Keller**  
**Ginger Webb**  
**Thelma Lengel**  
**Alice Miller**  
**Susan Hall**  
**Kathryn Hepler**  
**Randy Brown**  
**Tim Ditzler**

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

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





### Resource Links

ELCA

<https://www.elca.org/>

NEPA Synod

<http://nepasynod.org/>

Schuylkill Mission District

<http://lutheransalive.org>

### Latest Monthly Worship Assignments

Please Visit  
St. Peter's Webpage at:

[stpeterslutheranpinegrove.org](http://stpeterslutheranpinegrove.org)

## 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 twelfth of twelve devotions for this purpose. The inspiration for these writings is taken from *Stepping Stones of a Steward* by Ron Vallet (Eerdsman's Publishing; Grand Rapids, MI; © 1989).

### Devotion 12

*Growing as God Works in Your Life*

*Luke 5:34-35*

These twin parables by Jesus offer a confusing look at reality without understanding the context provided in previous verses. Jesus returned from a trip and was in Capernaum. A number of people including Pharisees and teachers gathered to listen to his teachings. A paralyzed man was lowered through the roof. Jesus said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." After the Pharisees questioned his authority to forgive sins, Jesus told the paralyzed man "...stand up and take your bed and go to your home." Immediately the man stood up took his bed and went home glorifying God.

The Pharisees questioned how a rabbi from Nazareth could be a channel of God's forgiveness. Jesus went to a great banquet given by Levi. Again the Pharisees were complaining about Jesus' behavior, "Why do you eat and drink with sinners and tax collectors?" Jesus responded, "I have come to call not the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Again the Pharisees questioned how this rabbi could offer repentance.

These two examples stretched the minds of the Pharisees until they burst like new wine skins under pressure from fermentation. It challenged their understanding of Scripture and suggested that what they had learned about God in the past was not the whole picture. In order to get a clearer picture, their thinking would have to change.

Yes, the "C" word, "change". This is a word that sometimes sends leaders and worshippers walking out of a gathering shaking their head. Yet a willingness to grow and change is an important part of the journey of a Christian steward. In their book *The Predicament of the Prosperous*, Bruce Birch and Larry Rasmussen conclude "...ours is a time in which change in perception is critical to any kind of human future." What is a perception change? "It is change in how the world is viewed, or portions of it."

How many changes have you seen in your life? Is change likely to stop? Probably not. The question is, "Can the human mind today, unlike that of the Pharisees, adapt to new circumstances and perspectives that allow us to live faithfully in a changing world?" Take a moment and reflect. What changes have occurred in the church over the last twenty years? Do you remember the change from the Service Books and Hymnal (Red) to the Lutheran Book of Worship (Green)? Did people in the pew change easily? Not in many congregations. It took years. Now look at the change occurring with Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Cranberry).

(Continued on Page 10)

## Devotions 12 (Continued)

There were more than 600,000 copies of the book purchased within the first year – more than twice the number the publisher expected. Were worshippers demanding change or simply open to change?

What changes does the world face today? In his thesis *A Battle for Theology*, George Lindbeck writes "only a few periods in the last two thousand years of Christian history when changes comparable in magnitude to the present ones have been in process." Some specific turning points include the transition from Judaism to Hellenism in the first few centuries, the shift on the part of the church from persecuted minority to imperial majority with Constantine, and the Reformation cataclysm.

The world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is more complex and unpredictable than many expected. Change occurs in many ways – modern to post-modern; small to large to small; global to local to global. It is more difficult to predict or understand that implications of change. And yet this is exactly where Jesus stepped in and invited people to believe. Your mistakes can be forgiven and your hope is always present. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our journey will involve growth and change as God leads us. At times this may mean wrestling with God or a radical change in the way reality is perceived. It may mean a change in lifestyle, worship style, or shape of the church. But to engage in such a journey is to be a faithful steward of God!

*Let us Pray:* Dear Lord, Creator, Provider and Protector, grant us the understanding to see the world as it really is, your sacred creation and gift. Forgive us for how we mistreat others and your creation. Give us your Spirit that we might hear your will and make it true. In times of uncertainty, give us a strong faith and the hope of your promises that we may repent and change as you desire. We ask this as disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.



To Learn More Click

Icon or visit

St. Peter's Website

### 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 afternoon at 2:00 pm.

The June newsletter deadline is Sunday, May 17th. This is necessary to allow time to lay out the publication.



