

THE ***ST. PETER'S***
VOICE
OF **JULY-AUGUST 2018**

From the Pastor:

In many ways, the flow of life in the United States follows the School Year, and in some respects this is true of our life together at St. Peter's. The first half of our liturgical year, which follows the great events in the life of Jesus, ended in May with the Festival of Pentecost, and we are now in the second half with focuses on our life as Christians in the world. In May, we finished our Confirmation Classes and our Wednesday Night Live sessions, and they will resume again in September. We have just finished a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School—so now we are ready for a summer break.

But some things continue throughout the summer at St. Peter's. We continue to have our weekly worship services, and we do encourage you to attend in our nicely air-conditioned nave. We also have weekly Sunday School classes for all ages—nursery through adult. At St. Peter's the basic essentials continue all summer long.

The Public Schools used to begin their new year after Labor Day, but now they begin in August. We have adapted to that at St. Peter's by making a change in our Sunday School schedule.

On Sunday, August 26th, we will observe "Christian Education Sunday." Our Sunday School teachers will be installed and we will present Bibles to our 5th Graders during the worship service. We will also be singing Sunday School songs that have been used here for decades, so they will be familiar to both children and adults. During the Sunday School period, we will have a special blessing of the children and their school backpacks and supplies, and our students will be promoted to their new classes. We are anticipating an enthusiastic turn-out on August 26th so that we can get our new Sunday School year off to a grand beginning!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

In our Wednesday Night Live sessions we finished our focus on the Reformation Period and concluded the 2017-2018 year with a session on the intellectual and scientific breakthroughs that gave rise to the modern era. Our sessions will resume in September.

CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

Congratulations to our 2018 Confirmands: Dawson Fleisher, Osric Smith, Matthew Ulsh, Angel Venzl, and Haylie Yoder. Classes will resume in September.

Highlights from the June 7th Council Meeting

Property Committee Report: a new high-pressure toilet has been installed in the handicapped stall of the woman's restroom and single-ply tissue will be used; the fan in the men's room is not working and will be repaired.

Unfinished Business: \$3,750 has already been donated for pre-buying heating oil during the summer in order to save money on heating costs for the upcoming winter.

New Business: a motion was passed that the Evangelism Committee will be responsible for weekly updates and Scripture references on the outside information board; there will not be a Council meeting in July – the next meeting will be August 2nd.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Vacation Bible School is over for 2018 and, again, it was a good year at VBS. We had some very hot and humid weather, especially on Monday and Tuesday, but it didn't dampen the spirits of either leaders or children.

Our Bible stories this year included Jesus calling his disciples, Jesus visiting Mary and Martha, Jesus reaching out to Zacchaeus, Jesus sharing the Last Supper with his disciples, and Jesus giving them the "Great Commission." In addition to our lesson time, there were many special things as well—crafts, music, science, snacks and games.

We also learned about God's good creation and the importance of conservation, and our Mission Project will tie into the care of the earth.

We really appreciate the support that VBS has from the congregation and the people who attend and the people who help. We enjoy inviting community people into our school and we all learn so many new things as we grow and help each other.

SPONSORS

Some things are still available to be sponsored in July & August.

Altar Flowers are available for July 8, 22, & 29 and August 12 – cost is \$20.

Bulletins are available for July 8, 15, & 22 and August 5, 12, & 26 – cost is \$15.

Newsletter is available for August – cost is \$35.

Sanctuary Candle is available for July & August – 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.

Pre-Buy Oil

-The Finance Committee voiced their concern with the church's oil expenses and would like to start an annual early buy oil purchase beginning in August of 2018. From July 2017 to April 2018 we used a total of 6025 gallons to heat the church and parsonage, with the total cost being **\$13,885.58**. Pre-buying oil last August would have saved \$4,500.

-The Committee is taking steps to plan ahead financially and we are asking the congregation for help in making a difference, in an effort to help save dollars off of the 2019 oil expense. **Starting now until July 29th our goal is to raise \$8,750 dollars** in contribution offerings specifically to pre-buy oil at a discount summer price. All Pre-Buy Oil offerings will be a designated fund and will be held in the Capital Improvement Fund.

-Please write "Pre-Buy Oil" onto any offering or regular envelope.

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 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 (May 2018)

May General Income: \$15,162

May General Expenses: \$14,083.87

YTD General Income: \$ 70,131

YTD General Expenses: \$75,881.60

Checking Balances as of May 31st were:

General Fund --\$ (-485.59)

Capital Improvement Fund --\$ 19,979.34 (\$2,040 for the Fellowship Committee to use for Kitchen Improvements, \$1,894.26 for Video/Audio & Pre-Buy Oil \$2580.00)

Memorial Fund --\$ 12,646.90

Youth Ministry Fund --\$ 4,401.45

Saving Balances as of May 31st were:

Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund --\$ 8,954

General Savings -- \$100

YTD All Funds Total \$ 75,869

Includes the following Funds

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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

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh my!

We were saying our prayers and crossing our fingers for good weather after a spell of rainy days for the Youth Ministry team's long-awaited trip to Lake Tobias Wildlife Reserve on Sunday, May 20th. The rays from the sun just poured over us that afternoon and we could not have asked for better weather.

When we arrived at Lake Tobias, the day started with a prayer and lunch in a rented pavilion provided by the Youth Ministry Committee.


After a little downtime of visiting exhibits and the ravenous mob of goats, llamas, deer and monkeys at the petting zoo, we filled an entire safari bus and headed out into the range. The kids were equipped with plenty of animal pellets and popcorn for the trip consisting of over 150 acres of rolling lands filled with exotic animals from around the world.

Following our safari adventure, we walked through more animal exhibits and finished with creepy crawly things at the reptile center where the children were excited to see a tree hugging sloth, pet a snake, discover unusual frogs and stare in the face of an alligator.

To close the trip, we trudged back to our pavilion for hot dogs and sandwiches and called it a great day!!! We look forward to many more fun times like this in the future and thank you all for the generous donations that make these positive Christian experiences possible for our youth.

Congratulations Class of 2018!

We are proud of all of our graduates! You will receive abundant advice as you new step in the journey of your lives. St. Peters Youth Ministry committee you much success, strength, courage and wisdom, but most of all we wish you Let Christ guide you. Pray on your choices and let Christ be the center of all of your decisions. Make all of your choices by his teachings which is to walk any path take in life with love, kindness, generosity, compassion, humility and empathy others. No matter where you land in life, remember that your church family Peters Lutheran Evangelical Lutheran Church is your place to come home to. beautiful, 200-year-old church amassed in stone will be here with the doors and always welcoming.



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Congratulations Sierra, Justine, Iris, Emily, Reilly, Nicholas, Melinda, Caitlin, Kailee.
Let Your Light Shine!

Upcoming Events

The next YMC meeting will be on July 8th at 11:30am.

The next youth group meeting for Jubilee group (ages 2-5) and Spark group (ages 6-12) is on July 15th at Noon.

We look forward to each and every experience we have growing in faith with our youth and hope to encourage more children to experience our youth ministries. Please feel free to reach out to any committee member with any questions or suggestions at any time.

Sincerely,
Youth Ministry Committee

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- ✝ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the month of June:
Kevin Schneck, Pat Gilbert, Shirley Zimmerman, Nancy Reichelt, Al Wertz,
Dieter Brommer, and Zachary Cochran.
- ✝ The Family of Gloria Harris, who passed away on May 21st.
- ✝ Our High School Graduates: Reilly Bender, Sierra Briskey, Iris Chow, Emily Hindman,
Caitlin Kimmel, Nicholas Kreiser, Justine Manges, Kailee Wessner, & Melinda Yorty.
- ✝ The Family of Gladys Barr, who passed away on June 3rd.
- ✝ Charlotte Ann Gassert, the daughter of Daniel and Brandi (Wertz) Gassert, who was
baptized on June 17th.
- ✝ The Family of Timothy Hoy, who passed away on June 22nd.
- ✝ The Family of Nancy Miller, who passed away on June 28th.

****The Prayer Circle will not meet in July and August. It will meet again on Wednesday, September 5th @ 9:00AM.**

-Bible Journaling - Our new Bible Journaling Group, led by Nancy Reichelt, will meet on Tuesday, July 3rd at 6:30 PM and Tuesday, August 7th at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome!

Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God

(Memorial Fund)

- \$100 in memory of Doris E. Halye by Jim and Jane Halye.
- \$30 in memory of Gloria Harris by Howard and Shirley Lengel.
- \$50 in memory of Harold Hepler by Kathryn Hepler.
- \$20 in memory of Betty Miller by Elaine Benko.
- \$125 in memory of Betty (Sattizahn) Miller by Ethics & Compliance Friend of Jennifer Kintzel.
- \$50 in memory of Chester Luckenbill on Fathers' Day by Son, Rod and Family.
- \$50 in memory of Ruby Thissen by Michael and Shirley Hertz.
- \$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Kay Morgan.
- \$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Gerry and Paula Elenchin.

(General Fund)

\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Leona and Kyle Warfield.
\$20 in memory of Betty Miller by Marie Beck.
\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Marie Beck.
\$50 in memory of Betty Miller by Bruce and Deborah Wolbrette.
\$250 in memory of "My Mother, Betty Miller" by Son, Tom Miller.
\$400 in memory of "My beloved Grandma, Betty Miller" by Granddaughter, Jennifer and Brandi, Alex, and Scott Kintzel.
\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Leona and Kyle Warfield.
\$100 in memory of Merlin Jones by Donald E. Brown (Oak Grove Sportsman Association).
\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Bill Siegel.
\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Norm and Brenda Kreiser.
\$100 in memory of Betty Miller by Jake and Barbara Heisey.
\$30 in memory of Olga Miller by Daughter, Mary Shive.
\$100 in memory of Loved Ones by Glenn & Doris Moyer.

(Fuel Oil Pre-Pay Fund)

\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Don and Barbara Schwartz.
\$300 in memory of "My Mom, Gloria Harris" by Donna Zerbe.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by Dion and Kay Boyer.
\$250 in memory of Gloria Harris "Nana" by Oley and Keri Rusynyk & Family.
\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Harvey Sutton.
\$100 in memory of Gloria Harris by Dave and Jean Herring.
\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Helen Zerbe.
\$100 in memory of Gloria Harris by Tom and Judy Fickinger.
\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Connie Aungst and Thelma Lengel.
\$100 in memory of Gloria Harris by Carol Baldwin.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by Arthur Long.
\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Catherine Stolarick.
\$25 in memory of Betty Miller by Donna Zerbe.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by Virginia Schwartz.
\$30 in memory of Gloria Harris by Ken and Sandy Stolarick.
\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Brown's Mill Farm.
\$100 in memory of Gloria Harris on behalf of all of Josh Sorokach's friends and co-workers at Decider.com.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by Tim and Barbara Brown.
\$100 in memory of Gloria Harris by Wayne & Ann Marie Stellfox.
\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Jane Brommer.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by Stephen & Barbara Hikes.
\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Florence Rusynyk.
\$25 in memory of Merlin Jones by Charles Umbenhauer.
\$60 in memory of Gloria Harris by Kay M. Morgan.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by Ed and Ruth Stolarick.

\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Jim and Linda Witherow.
\$50 in memory of Chester Luckenbill on Fathers' Day by Stephen & Barbara Hikes.
\$40 in memory of Gloria Harris by Elaine Benko.
\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Marty & Valerie Beck.
\$100 in memory of All Dear Dads and those with us today, June 17th, "Bless Them All," by Virginia Schwartz.
\$20 in memory of Gloria Harris by Mary & Gary Bohr.
\$20 in memory of Betty Miller by Mary & Gary Bohr.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by David & Michaelene Watson.
\$300 in memory of Gloria Harris by George & Kathy Sorokach & Family.
\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Michael and Shirley Hertz.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by Larry and Lois Lehman.
\$50 in memory of Gloria Harris by Ken & Gail Wolfe & Sons & Families.
\$30 in memory of Gloria Harris by Pearl Kreichbaum.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by George & Alice Brommer.
\$25 in memory of Merlin Jones by George & Alice Brommer.
\$25 in memory of Betty Miller by Kay Potts.
\$25 in memory of Gloria Harris by Kay Potts.
\$50 in memory of Stew Zerbe, for his Birthday, by Donna Zerbe.

(Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund)

\$300 in honor of "Our 2018 High School Graduates" by Pastor Bob & Nan Hoenich.
\$100 in honor of High School Graduates by Pastor Bob & Nan Hoenich.

-The **Candle Oil** for **July** is given to the Glory of God in memory of Ryan D. Lemke.

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

-The **Newsletter** for **July** is given to the Glory of God in honor of the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Leroy and Betty Strubhar, Sr. by Kevin & Patti Kreiser and Family.

Firefighters' Memorial Service

Pine Grove's Hose, Hook, and Ladder #1 is hosting the 64th Annual Schuylkill County Firefighters' Convention, which always begins with a Memorial Service for members of volunteer fire companies who have died in the line of duty, giving thanks to God for their sacrifice and for the faithful service of all volunteer firefighters.

This year's Memorial Service will be held here at St. Peter's on Sunday, August 19th, beginning at 6:00PM, with the Pine Grove Council of Churches Mass Choir participating. Everyone is invited to the Memorial Service and to a reception at H.H.&L. #1 following the Service.

