



*For I know the plans I
have for you, declares the
Lord, plans to prosper
you and not harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah 29:11



St. Peter's Church, West Penn

Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 8, 2025

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

It's that time of year again when we honor those who have achieved the distinction of graduating – whether it be from grad school, college, technical school, high school, or preschool. Please join with us in celebrating the accomplishments of the following young people who are part of the St. Peter's family:



Graduate School –



Dr. Brooke M. Zellner, O.T.D. is the daughter of Michael and Shelly Babinchak, and the granddaughter of Jim and Elaine Koons. Brooke graduated in May from Cedar Crest College with a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. She was a member of SOTA (Student Occupational Therapy Association), and Camp Lilly, a camp for children with disabilities, and has a special interest in acute care and geriatrics. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from the University of Rhode Island in 2022. She actively participates with the Mahoning Township Lion's Club, the Trinity Food Pantry, the Luzerne County Child Advocacy Center and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. In her spare time she enjoys recreational sports and spending time with her dog, Biscuit and her nephew, Miles. Brooke plans to work for Premier Therapy at Gracedale Nursing Home in Nazareth after her post-licensing board exam.

Brooke would like to thank all the member's of St. Peter's that contributed in the hygiene product donation last year for her school project.



College—

Marissa L. Miller is the daughter of Joan Miller and Allen Miller, and also the fiancé of Tanner Davis. She graduated from Lehigh Carbon Community College with a degree of Associates in Business Administration. She obtained Dean's List throughout her college career. She enjoys being outdoors and spending time with family and friends. She is currently working at Berkshire Mechanical in Leesport, PA as a Billing Specialist.



Alyssa M. Myers is the daughter of Daniel and Carissa Myers. She graduated Cum Laude from Lock Haven University with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance & Economics. While at Lock Haven she was a PSAC Scholar Athlete all six semesters, along with Dean's List each semester. She was a NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Player. She is currently job searching and moving to the Poconos of PA to find a home with her boyfriend Gabe and our puppy, Sage.



Riley E. Zeigenfuss is the daughter of Craig and Amy Zeigenfuss. She graduated from Kutztown University with a Dual Major of Bachelor of Science and Marketing & Management. While at Kutztown she was a member of Tau Sigma Honor Society and Transfer Activities Council. She served as a Transfer Mentor and Marketing Intern for Kutztown Dining Services. In her spare time, Riley enjoys baking, hunting, fishing, golfing, and Shopping. She works as a Customer Service Specialist at Horizon Farm Credit.



High School –

Lyma M. Dunbar is the daughter of Heather and Jamie Dunbar and granddaughter of Russel and Christine Miller. She also has an older brother, Allen. She is a recent graduate of Tamaqua Area High School where she was active in many clubs: Treasurer of TASGA, Treasurer and Assistant Stage Manager of the Drama club, Treasurer of NHS, Science National Honor Society, World Language Club, and Raider Marching, Concert, and Jazz Band. Outside of school, Lyma serves as President of West Penn 4-H Club and is a member of Schuylkill County 4-H Teen Council, Mahoning Valley 4-H Club, and Carbon County 4-H Livestock Club. She is a Girl Scout, Jr. Executive Member of PA Holstein Association, and a Dairy Ambassador for Schuylkill County. When Lyma is not busy working at a hobby farm, she likes spending time with her Red & White Holsteins Cotton and Cinnamon, her sheep Mac and Cheese, and her family and friends. Lyma plans on attending LCCC to obtain an Associate Degree in Biology to then become a dairy herds person.





Joseph D. Houser is the son of Rick and Kym Houser. He is a graduate of Carbon Career and Technical Institute. He participated in the Lehigh Area High School Football Team and a work Co-Op Program and received inspection license while at CCTI. Joe is also a member of the Mahoning Volunteer Fire Company, He will be working at Cleveland Brothers Caterpillar in the Apprenticeship Program. In his spare time he enjoys working on his trucks and riding his Harley.



Lorah P. Thomas is the daughter of Anthony and Marsha Thomas. She is a graduate of Lehigh Area High School where she was active in many activities including, Volleyball Captain, a two year Captain in Track & Field, FCCLA, FBLA, a treasurer of Aeviom, the Drum Major of the Marching Band, a Senior Conductor of Concert Band, National Honor Society, and Scholastic Scrimmage. Lorah received many awards including, The President's Scholarship, Athletic Division I Scholarship, the Hill Scholarship, MVP for Offensive Volleyball, and MVP in Track & Field. She is a member of St. Peter's Handbell Choir, the Anthracite Attack Volleyball Club and was a High School Hero Coordinator at Miller Keystone. She intends to continue her education at Saint Frances University majoring in Exercise Physiology.



Olivia R. Thomas is the daughter of Anthony and Marsha Thomas. She is a graduate of Marian High School where she was active in many activities including, Captain of the Basketball Team, and Captain in Track & Field. A member of Catholic Relief Services, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Immaculate Heart Society, Colts & Fillies for Life, Yearbook, FBLA, and Catholic Athletes for Children. She received the Stephanie A. Balik Honor Scholarship, the Honey Comb Award and the Bonner Scholarship. Olivia was a High School Hero Coordinator at Miller Keystone. She intends to continue her education at Waynesburg University majoring in Criminal Justice ~ Psychology.



Lyla R. Kershner is the daughter of Matthew and Misty Kershner. He is a graduate of Lehigh Area High School. While she was there she was a member of the Varsity Volleyball Team throughout her high school career. Lyla was in the top 30% of her class and was awarded the Gregory "Segal" Ebbert Memorial Scholarship. She was named the Volleyball AAA All-State Libero in 2023 & 2024. She was also named 1st Team DXI AAA District Team in 2023 & 2024. Lyla volunteered at the St. Luke's Carbon Campus in the Med Surg and Radiology Units. She plans on attending Penn State Schuylkill to pursue a degree in Radiological Sciences. In her spare time she enjoys volleyball, watching sports, being outside, hiking and reading. She will continue playing volleyball at Penn State Schuylkill for the women's team.



Noah A. Steigerwalt is the son of Aaron and Jennifer Steigerwalt. He is a graduate of Tamaqua Area High School. While there he was a member of the Varsity Baseball and Varsity Golf Teams, and the Schuylkill Conference. Noah was a high honor student, a two time Schuylkill League Champion for baseball, a Varsity Golf Team Captain, and a 2023 & 2024 Schuylkill League qualifier for golf. In his spare time, he is an avid hunter and fisherman, enjoys playing golf with friends, shooting pool and playing poker. He plans on attending Lehigh Carbon Community College majoring in Business.



Chase A. Zeigenfuss is the son of Craig and Amy Zeigenfuss. He is a graduate of Tamaqua Area High School, Schuylkill Technology Center in Precision Machining. While there, he was the Student of the month, and Student of the Semester nominee. Chase was active in many activities including, Tamaqua Varsity Wrestling and Co-Op at GME Steering, Skills USA, STC Student Ambassador. He also served as the West Penn 4-H Club Vice President.

In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, micro sprint racing, and 4-H. Chase plans on attending Lehigh Carbon Community College majoring in Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology A.A.S.



Mason MacMillan is the son of Jen and Brad MacMillan. He is a graduate of Tamaqua Area High School and Schuylkill Technology Center; Outdoor Power Technology. While there, he was a SKILLS USA participant. He also was a 4-year Varsity Soccer player, and was on the Wrestling and Track & Field Teams. Mason received the Outstanding Senior Achievement Award and the Wrestler Scholarship. He plans to attend a technical/trade school for automotive technology.



Preschool-

Kadie M. Foster is the daughter of Tyler and Rachael Foster and a sister of Kenton and Kolby. She is a 2025 Preschool graduate. Kadie enjoys riding dirt bike, gymnastics, playing with the baby calves in the barn, and also making bead jewelry. She will be attending West Penn Elementary in the Fall for Kindergarten.





Emma A. Lenhart is the daughter of Shawn and Jamie Lenhart, and a sister to brother, Gunner. She is a 2025 St Peter's Preschool graduate. Emma enjoys crafts, dancing, swimming, games, Legos, baking and fishing. She will be attending West Penn Elementary in the Fall for Kindergarten.



Liam R. Nelson is the son of Thomas and Hannah Nelson, brother of Landon, and the grandson of Christine and Russel Miller. He is a 2025 graduate of St. Peter's Preschool. Liam enjoys painting and riding on tractors and one day would like to be farmer and a firefighter. He will be attending West Penn Elementary in the Fall for Kindergarten.





Tripp C. Miller is the son of Travis and Taylor Miller and the brother of Talli. He is the grandson of Kent and Jen Miller and the great-grandson of Charlene and Kay Miller. He is a 2025 graduate of St. Peter's Preschool. Tripp enjoys camping, track, T-Ball, and playing outside with his dogs, Kai & Quake. He will be attending West Penn Elementary in the Fall.



We thank God for the gift of these young people to their families, to our faith community, and to the world in which they live. May all that they do today and in the future be a reflection of God's glory!

Congratulations and many prayers for success for each of you in the months

*What great feeling to dawn this day,
 You've made the grade, you're on your way.
 Adulthood looks you in the eye,
 You'll soon decide how high to fly.
 Your childhood bore so many thoughts
 Of friends, of tears, of what life taught,
 But now you face a whole new view,
 Your dreams will surface, encompass you.
 That cool diploma you'll take to stay,
 Now that's a trophy to tuck away.
 Always remember how great the feel,
 There is but one graduation deal.
 Many years have carried you this far,
 Now wear that cap, today you star.
 Give thanks to God before you depart,
 And to teachers, parents, and friends from your heart.*



~ adapted from Roger J. Robicheau

"Everything's always ending. But everything's always beginning, too".
— Patrick Ness

"There is no passion to be found in playing small, in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living". —Nelson Mandela

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened". —Dr. Seuss

"You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result". — Mahatma Ghandi

"The noblest question in the world is: What good may I do in it"?
— Benjamin Franklin

"Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm".
—Winston Churchill

"Don't underestimate the power of your dreams". — Corinna Kong

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us". — Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The important thing is not to stop questioning". — Albert Einstein

"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind".
— C.S. Lewis

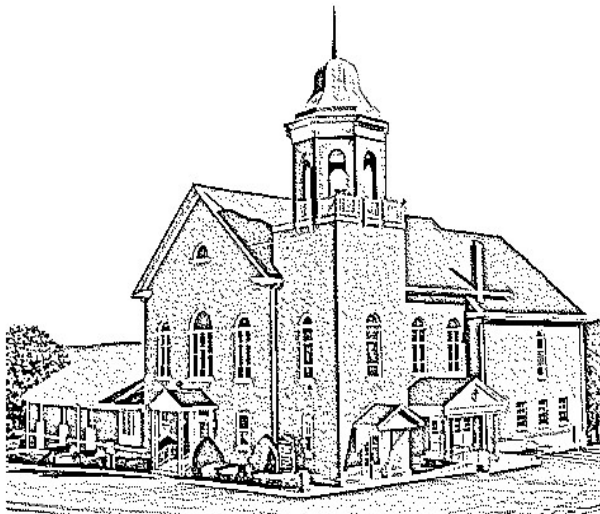
"The best way to predict your future is to create it". — Abraham Lincoln

"No, sky is not the limit. It is only the beginning". — Donovan Livingston

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail". — Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Dream big. Work hard. Think for yourself. Love everything you love, everyone you love, with all your might. And do so, please, with a sense of urgency, for every tick of the clock subtracts from fewer and fewer".
—David McCullough Jr.

"Wherever you go, go with all your heart". — Confucius



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