

St. Peter's Church, West Penn

184 St. Peter's Road Tamaqua PA 18252

570-386-4388

Pastor Joshua Nemeth 570-449-5993

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00AM ~ 3:00 PM

Other times available by Appointment

Michael Hunsicker, Board President ~ 570-778-1972

Lori Hoppes, Vice President ~ 610-393-0901

Contact for our TLC Committee for Your Special Needs:

Please call Nancy Knadler at (570) 956-6851 , or email at Lukie@ptd.net

Sexton: Lou Ann Algard 570-778-4063

Financial Secretary: Sharon Main

Church Office: Elaine Koons

Church Office Phone: (570) 386-4388

**Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00am—1:00pm,
Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm (Hours subject to change)**

E-mail addresses: Pastor Josh: pastor@stpwp.com

Church Office: info@stpwp.com

Financial Secretary: financials@stpwp.com

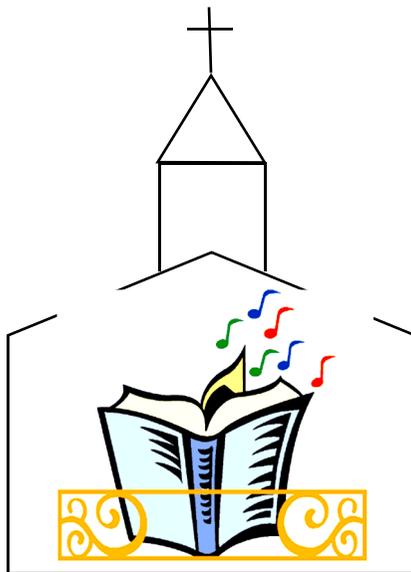
Sunday School: spwsundayschool@gmail.com

Web Site Address: https://www.stpeterschurchwestpenn.com

Web Master email: info@stpwp.com

Facebook: St Peter's Church of West Penn

St. Peter's Church West Penn



where worship and service don't stop with the final hymn.

St. Peter's Church Mission Statement

"St. Peter's Church is committed to providing a family atmosphere for people of all ages. We are a people who sincerely care about each other and the community. We strive to be one people, bonded by Christ's love.

We look to the future for the continued vitality that we share today. Through worship, preaching, fellowship, and servanthood, may we reach out to all people as a witness to the living God."



What's Love Got to Do with It!?

Greetings to each and every one and thank you so much for taking the time to read this article! Over these past weeks, it has been a blessing getting to know many of you as we begin this journey together. Thank you for being so openly welcoming to not just myself, but also to my family. I am encouraged and excited to see where God will be leading us next.

As we enter into February and March, there are two specific things that really stood out to me: Valentines Day and the season of Lent. So many times, these two things kind of feel like opposites. Valentines Day is all about the love that we experience for one another, especially those special relationships we have with our spouse, fiancé, significant other, or friend. This often involves lavish dinner plans, gifts, and time spent intentionally with one another. Lent, however, is a time for self-discipline, giving up luxuries, and increasing spiritual practices like prayer and scripture reading, aiming for inner renewal and drawing closer to Christ. While they feel like polar opposites, the commonality that is shared so clearly together is indeed love. So, the question we may be thinking is the same as the amazing Tina Turner first asked, "*What's love got to do, got to do with it?*" Let's dive right into that!

When it comes to the English language, we have such a broad word we know as "Love." The same word that we use to say "I love my spouse" is the same word we use to say "I love tacos" or even "I love my dog." To best understand love, especially in a biblical sense, is to get into a little bit of Greek. There is a total of 4 words that translate love in from Greek to English. They are: 1. Philia, 2. Eros, 3. Storge, 4. Agape. Philia refers to the love between close friends. It is more of a feeling of the heart of those closest friends that have always been there for us through thick or thin. Eros refers to romantic love. This is the passion and intimacy of being in love with our spouse, the fire that accompanies it. Storge refers to the love between family members. This is that bond shared by parents, children, and those close enough to be within this strong protective love. Finally, there is agape, which refers to God's unconditional, sacrificial love. It is a love that never breaks down, is non transactional, and is selfless in every way.

So, what is this connection of love that we should have with lent then Pastor Josh? I'm glad you asked! It is easy to associate love with Valentine's Day, but Lent is a season of not just sacrifice, but one of love. Let me challenge each and every one of us as we observe lent this year to not do so out of simple tradition, obligation, or expectation, but instead out of our love for our savior. Jesus himself prepared himself for ministry by spending 40 days in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, and Mark 1:12-13). He fasted and spent time before God for those 40 days to be brought to His lowest point, to be tempted by Satan, and to show His power over this world. He went there because He loved us and wanted to show us that it is possible to overcome temptations even at our weakest point. Let us enter this Lenten season with love on our minds as we love God, as we love one another, and as we sacrifice a portion of our lives to make more room for God.

Grace, peace, and blessing to you all,
Pastor Josh



Lenten Series
of
Shared Worship

The Lenten Season Services for this year will again be shared with our sister churches as the pastors will be collaborating in the leadership of the worship services. Lent will begin on February 18th this year, and you may want to plan ahead to attend as many of these community mid-week services as possible. Preaching Themes will be "From Dust To Life." The schedule is as follows:

Ash Wednesday, February 18th Communion and Imposition of Ashes
7:00 PM at St. Peter's Church, West Penn
Pastor Randy Lentz, Preaching

Midweek Lenten Worship at 7:00 PM on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 25th

St. John's Lutheran Church, 826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehighton
Pastor Josh Nemeth, Preaching

Wednesday, March 4th

Ben Salem UCC, 1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighton, PA 18235
Pastor Tony Pagotto, Preaching

Wednesday, March 11th

Zion Stone Church, 45 Cemetery Road, New Ringgold, PA 17960
Pastor Josh Nemeth, Preaching

Wednesday, March 18th

St. Peter's Church, West Penn 184 St. Peter's Road, Tamaqua PA 18252
Mrs. Linnea Meiser, Preaching

Wednesday, March 25th

Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church, 1825 Dinkey Road, Lehighton
Pastor Randy Lentz, Preaching

*Refreshments and fellowship to follow at each church after the mid-week Lenten services.
All offerings will be given to the Cold Weather Warming Station Ministry.*

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd ~ Sacrament of Holy Communion

Ben Salem UCC, 1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighton, PA 18235
Sater Meal

Good Friday, April 3rd

St. John's Lutheran Church, 826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehighton
All Preaching

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST NEEDED

POSITION SUMMARY

The Director of Music is responsible for musical selections and musical performances at St. Peter's Church, West Penn. The Director of Music and the Pastor will work together to ensure that all music performed is appropriate and meaningful to the congregational worship experience.

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JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Maintain, direct, and oversee the church choirs including, bell, cherub, junior, and senior choirs.
2. Hold regularly scheduled practice for junior and senior choirs.
3. Provide musical selections to the office staff in writing/email no later than each Wednesday morning by 9am..
4. Coordinate with the Pastor to make appropriate musical selections for worship including any special services, or other events needed throughout the year.
5. Provide leadership and guidance to cherub choir volunteer(s).
6. Work with the pastor to provide musical oversight as appropriate for weddings and funerals. Work directly with families involved in weddings and funerals to ensure that musical selections are appropriate for the occasion and environment.
7. Coordinate the Bell Choir as appropriate.
8. The Music Director will make appropriate arrangements for organ maintenance and repair including the coordination of piano tuning and repair.

JOB SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. This position requires a multi-talented individual with a preferred background in music.
2. Successful submission of Pennsylvania Child Abuse clearance, state police background check, fingerprint record check and mandated reporter certification.
3. Attention to detail and follow-through on assignments with attention to deadlines.
4. A commitment to good interpersonal relationships, teamwork, and support of church ministries.

BENEFITS

Paid time off for this position is as follows:

- Year 1 = 5 Sundays
- Year 4 = 6 Sundays
- Year 6 = 7 Sundays
- Year 8 = 8 Sundays
- Year 10 = 9 Sundays
- Year 11 and thereafter 10 Sundays

UPCOMING TRIPS

June 26th 2026 ~ Tina Turner Tribute
July 8th-10th 2026 ~ Hudson Valley New York
September 15th-17th 2026 ~ Top Secret Mystery Trip
September 16th-27th 2027 ~ Best of Greece Cruise

For reservations or more information contact
Sue Connor: 570-778-5367

W. A. S. P. News



The next meeting will be held on *Tuesday, February 17th* at 7:00 PM. Worship will be led by Jen Miller.

Charlene Miller and Karen Diehl will be in charge of refreshments.

WASP usually meets in the fellowship hall the third Tuesday of every month, unless a special event is planned. All women are invited to join them.

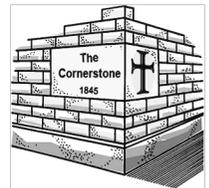
"Snowflakes are one of God's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together!"

adapted from Vesta Kelly

"Nature is full of genius, full of divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes His fashioning hand."

Henry David Thoreau

The February Cornerstone Newsletter is sponsored by the Koons Family in memory Dave Hontz who would have celebrated his 95th birthday on February 22nd, and also memory of Minna Hontz, his wife.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
March Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, February 10th.

ST. PETER'S | FUNDRAISING FOR BUILDING EXPENSES

The current account balance is \$60,500

Highlights:

- The Kitchen Krew was busy with apple dumpling fundraisers during October and November. The Thanksgiving filling sales also added to our account. The profits were spectacular and the quantity of dumplings and filling sold are remarkable. **4,427 apple dumplings** were made and **570 quarts of filling** were sold during 2025. Nice work *Kitchen Krew*!!
- We appreciate the generosity of the St. Peter's members who direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars throughout the year to the Building Fund account. The 2025 total dollars received was **\$1,312.00**.
- Funds from this account were used to pay for a water treatment project at the church as well as some of the Organ project expenses. We are grateful for the hard work that goes into the fund raising efforts which allows for payment of these projects.
- The Building Fund transferred 5% of the 2025 fund raising profits to the St. Peter's Discretionary Fund. The amount was **\$1,155.89**.

Kitchen Krew:

- The *Krew* will be making filling *April 2nd*~pick up will be at the South Entrance from 11:00am ~1:00pm. \$8/quart.



The Joyous Noise Offering for January totaled \$326.47 and was designated for Ira Segreti, a cousin of Jeff Fogel. Ira was born on December 19th with two congenital heart defects. He is at Boston Children's Hospital in order to receive the specialized care that he needs. The collection will go to the family to support them through these times.

Checks should be made payable to St. Peter's Sunday School and may be mailed to the church office. If you know of an organization or individual that could benefit from St. Peter's Joyous Noise Offering, please contact Samantha Hannah Miller or Nicole Hunsicker. Thank you for your support!

St. Peter's
preschool



Love Bugs & Groundhogs!

By: Barbara Nametko

Q

7



February will be full of love, hearts, and valentines. We will start our month learning about Groundhog's Day and hopefully an early spring. We will have fun making some cute groundhog crafts and enjoying a delicious groundhog snack.

Preschool will be inviting community helpers into our class this month, to talk about different jobs and how they are all important. We absolutely love our visits from our community helper friends! Our focus letters will be Q, R, & S along with the colors pink and grey and the number 7 and the heart shape.

During this busy month, we will also be celebrating Valentine's Day. We will be making tons of heart decorations in preparation for our Valentine's Day Party. Our party will include a special snack and craft to go along with our special Valentine card exchange.

Preschool welcomes Pastor Josh and we are looking forward to getting to know him! We can't wait to teach Pastor Josh some of our favorite songs, and maybe we will get him to stop by and do a craft or two with us!

Happy Valentine's Day and thank you for your continued support!



S

R

THE PERFECT CHURCH

“I think that I shall never see
A Church that’s all she ought to be;
A Church whose members never stray;
Beyond the Straight and Narrow way;
A Church that has no empty pews, Whose pastor never has the blues,
A Church whose deacons always deak,
And none is proud, and all are meek.
Where gossips never peddle lies, Or makes complaints or criticize;
Where all are always sweet and kind
And to all others’ faults are blind.
Such perfect Churches there may be,
But none of them known to me.
But still, we’ll work and pray and plan
To make our church the best we can.” ~ author unknown

EPIPHANY

Epiphany is commonly known as Three Kings’ Day or the Feast of the Epiphany. It means “manifestation” or “showing forth”. Epiphany refers not only to the day itself but to the church season that follows it – a season that ends when Lent begins.

It commemorates the first two occasions on which Jesus’ divinity, according to Christian belief, was manifested: when the three kings (also known as wise men or Magi) visited infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and when John the Baptist baptized Him in the River Jordan. The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches emphasize the visit of the Magi when they celebrate the Epiphany.

Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts. It was celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established.



“Lent is a season in which we especially focus on examining our hearts, confessing our sins, and reflecting on the significance of Christ’s death.”

Epiphany

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



BABY, BALTHAZAR, BAPTISM, BETHLEHEM, CASPAR, CHRISTIAN, EPIPHANY, FEAST, FIRST MIRACLE, FRANKINCENSE, GOLD, HEROD, HOLIDAY, HOPE, JANUARY, JESUS, MAGI, MELCHIOR, MYRRH, REVELATION, SIXTH, STAR, SUNDAY, THREE KINGS, TWELFTH DAY, WISE MEN

Say a Prayer for:

Recent

Loved Ones of
ElFreide
Loved Ones of
Brenda Yeakel
Dale Peterson
Daniel Smith
Edna Moyer
Grace Fogel
Hope Gramlich
Jessica Hill
John Tracy
Kim Acierno
Karen Nelson
Liam Melicharek
Lisa Moyer
Margaret Kern
Ron Hinderliter
Scott Middlecamp
Sherry Goerner

Ongoing

Austin Klein
Barry Reinert
Belle Ryan
Beth Pravozino
Betty Breiner
Bonnie Miller
Bruce Miller
Carolyn Lantz
Clyde
Cody Wolfgang
Darlene Kunkel
Darryl Moyer
Debbie Mooney
Dennis Oriel

DeRue Kistler
Donald Hank Williams
Erin Coombe
Erlin Moyer
Gregory Slivka
Judy Gerber
Harry & Janie Conner
Kay Faust
Kenneth Breiner
Leon Kunkel
Linda Garber
Loretta Beers
Lynn Long
Maggie Wehr
Margarita Santnadelon
Mark Wolfe
Marsha Rodgers
Mary Lou McGowan
Nadine
Parker Brode
Paul David
Renee Troutman
Ricky Everett
Rita Yarmell
Russell Snyder
Sandy Clemson
Sharon Horning
Sue Hower
Teresa Fowler
Wayne Lazarus

**Those on
Our Visitation List:**

Buddy Arner, Jr.
Hazel Arner
Edith Coombe
Robert Coombe
Olga Faust
Barbara Kershner
Wendy Kunkel
Larry Miller
Doris Wolfe



Our Missionaries:

Michael, Kay, Mikayla,
Leilani, & Michael
Killar
Maude, Valera, Zarina,
Alexander, & Nicolas
Motovilov

Our Military Overseas:

Deployed to USS Harry Truman: Austin Resch

Deployed to Japan: John McGuire

Deployed to Germany: Joyce Steigerwalt

Our Military ~ Active Not Deployed:

*Mark Habel
Dustin Hoppes
LeRoy E. Kromer II
Timothy Kromer
Ezekiel Kuneck
Sean Kurtz
Antonio Lorenzo
Dominic Lorenzo
Amanda Miller
Tyler Resch*

*Alexis Scott
Trevor Schilling
Andy Snyder
Ryan Snyder
Alexander Thomas
Chad Wehr
Mark West
Scott West
Michael Zeigenfuss*

**If you know of someone to be added or removed from the Prayer List, please contact
Pastor Josh, Chris Miller or the church office.**

***Search not for me in the Scriptures, instead, search within yourself.
When you are lost I will come to you, for I'm the Shepherd who guides the
lost.***

~ adapted from a poem by John Paul

***"God hears what is not spoken and understands what is
not explained, for His love doesn't work in the lips or in the
mind, but in the heart.***

~ Author Unknown

***O Lord, look down from heaven, and visit and relieve those who are ill. Look
upon them with mercy; comfort them; give them a sure confidence in you;
defend them from the attacks of the evil one; and keep them in perpetual peace
and safety. Comfort and relieve your servants, and give your power of healing to
those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their
weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.***

Daily Lectionary Readings for February 2026

Sunday, February 01, 2026: Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
Monday, February 02, 2026: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25;
Monday, February 02, 2026: Psalm 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40
Tuesday, February 03, 2026: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6;
Wednesday, February 04, 2026: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26;
Thursday, February 05, 2026: Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5;
Friday, February 06, 2026: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18;
Saturday, February 07, 2026: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8;
Sunday, February 08, 2026: Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20
Monday, February 09, 2026: Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10;
Tuesday, February 10, 2026: Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12;
Wednesday, February 11, 2026: Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30;
Thursday, February 12, 2026: Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7;
Friday, February 13, 2026: Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28;
Saturday, February 14, 2026: Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13;
Sunday, February 15, 2026: Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
Monday, February 16, 2026: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34;
Tuesday, February 17, 2026: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6;
Wednesday, February 18, 2026: Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday, February 19, 2026: Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7;
Friday, February 20, 2026: Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17;
Saturday, February 21, 2026: Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7;
Sunday, February 22, 2026: Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
Monday, February 23, 2026: Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18;
Tuesday, February 24, 2026: Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10;
Wednesday, February 25, 2026: Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14;
Thursday, February 26, 2026: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7;
Friday, February 27, 2026: Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31;
Saturday, February 28, 2026: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10;



Blessed are those who read and hear the Word of God and keep it.

Tomorrow is never promised. . . .

Today, love a little deeper, kiss a little longer, laugh a little louder and hold the ones you love a little tighter.

~unknown

No problem is too great to place in God's hands.

**St Peter's Church, West Penn
184 St Peters Rd
Tamaqua PA 18252**

Dated Material Enclosed

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