

# THE CHURCH IN THE VINEYARD

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE DIGEST



Volume XXIX, Issue VI

### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

High school graduation day is one of those memorable occasions in our lives when we are faced with the stunning unbelief that it's *all over*. Twelve years of schooling—gone, just like that. If you're like me, flashes of kindergarten and junior high flashed through your mind, as you donned your cap and gown, and marched onto the football field where the grand commencement "exercise" would soon take place.

For me, this day was June 3, 1979. As our class lined up in the hallways of our school, a few of us scattered, looking to say good-bye to friends whom we felt we would never, ever see again. Sure, we were excited to graduate. But even moreso, we were *numb*. After all, most of us had attended our alma mater for four long years. Yet this day was different, because we realized that we come here no more. No more waking up at 6:30 am. No more walking two miles in the wind, rain and cold. No more cheesy squares of luke-warm pizza for lunch. It was truly difficult to process all of this new information about old times. And, in fact, we *couldn't*.

And, because we couldn't figure it all out, you know what did we did the very next day? Well, many of us got up at 6:30 am, walked two miles in the wind, rain or cold, and peeked in to see what all of our successors were doing (until we were "asked" to leave.)

Fortunately, though, we don't graduate from *church*. Sure, we are confirmed after a couple of years of grueling studies. But, we continue to read our bibles, attend worship,



and help out at fellowship events and the like. After all, if everyone "graduated" from church, who would be left in the pews?

No one, of course! And that's why we continue to worship each and

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#### LCW

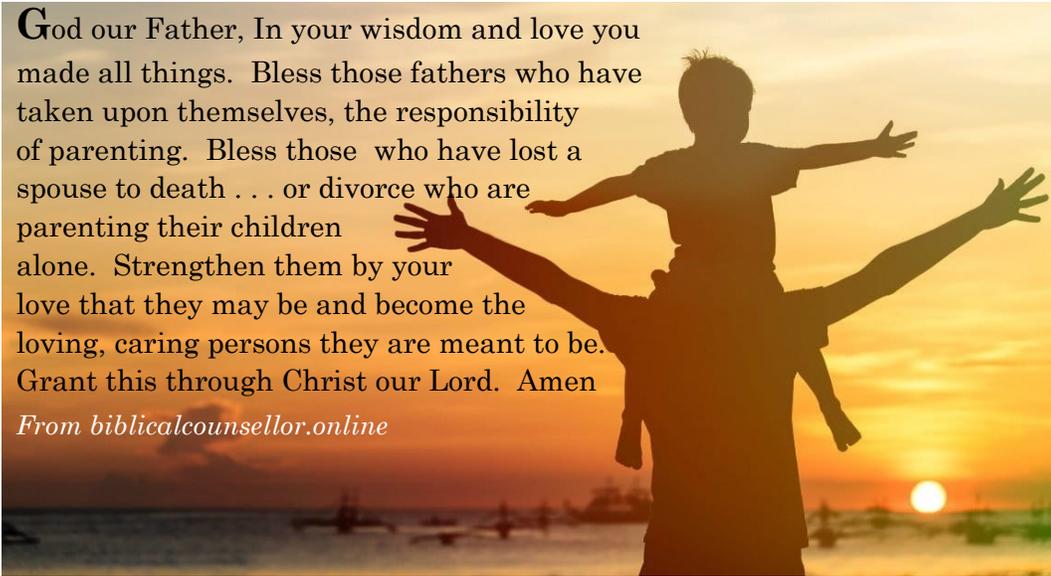
On Sunday, June 9, 2019 there will be a LCW meeting held at the church in the fellowship room after worship.

## Life is Crazy. Prayer is Simple.

### A Father's Day Prayer

God our Father, In your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless those fathers who have taken upon themselves, the responsibility of parenting. Bless those who have lost a spouse to death . . . or divorce who are parenting their children alone. Strengthen them by your love that they may be and become the loving, caring persons they are meant to be. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

*From biblicalcounselor.online*



### A June Prayer

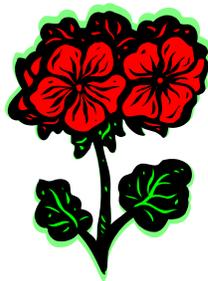
*By Larry Peacock*

Summer God, you dance in on golden sunbeams. Like soil that must be plowed or turned over, So I must prepare to receive your warmth and The planting of your message in my heart. Open me to receiving the seed of hope And the promise of growth. Plant your spirit deep within me And make my life fruitful and bountiful. Amen.

### Pentecost Sunday

On Sunday, June 9th we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. The congregation is asked to wear red articles of clothing and to bring in red geraniums to place around the altar. The geraniums will then be planted around the church building to beautify the grounds.

We will have refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following worship.



### 5th Sunday Giving

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35*

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry.

Sunday, June 30th is the fifth Sunday when we will be collecting donations for ELCA World Hunger. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. Here at St. Peter's, we are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Please consider adding a little more in your offering for World Hunger.

### From the Pastor's Desk Continued

every week, because, honestly, we have *not* received diplomas signed by the bishop that read, "You are finished." Oh, no, quite the opposite! Over the years, we have learned more and more about the importance of attending worship and the true meaning of *ecclesia*.

And so, on Pentecost, when we

sing, "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve," we shall remember that "We go to comfort those who mourn," "We go to be the hands of Christ," and, "We go in Jesus' name." Consequently, we do not stay home and sleep in when there is work to be done.

So, yes, every Sunday should be like June 4, 1979, my friends.

We should all return to our roots—not only to see how the others are doing, but, maybe even teach them a few of the things that we have learned along the way. And I pray that you have learned a lot!

Peace,  
Pastor Matt



# Worship Life at St. Peter's

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

June 2, 2019

Readings: **Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26**

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Lord for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

## DAY OF PENTECOST

June 9, 2019

Readings: **Acts 2:1-21; Genesis 11:1-9(alt); Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; Acts 2:1-21(alt); John 14:8-17 [25-27]**

Pentecost is a day of promises fulfilled. The promised Spirit of God is poured out. The baptized have become "children of God" and "joint heirs with Christ." By the power of the Spirit we have seen the face of the Father in his only begotten Son and been saved by him. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

## THE HOLY TRINITY

June 16, 2019

Readings: **Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15**

"O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Today we celebrate the name of God: holy blessed Trinity. There is no other day quite like this one in the church's year. There is no other god like ours. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 23, 2019

Readings: **Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39**

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific—the demonic—nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of the holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus "until he comes." It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 30, 2019

Readings: **1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62**

We have no good apart from God. That makes our Lord's call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruits: love, joy, peace, patience, and the like. This is the path of life.

## Council Meeting Highlights

May 21, 2019

### CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you note received from Bethesda for box tops.

### COMMITTEE & ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- East Erie Lutheran Cluster – oral report—The NC mission trip was cancelled due to no interest. Messiah & Faith held MIUR, & brief discussion about Christ the Redeemer's move to St. Mary's

in Lawrence Park & the items they offered to us.

- Endowment – Motion to give \$450 to Christ the Redeemer as a donation toward the items they donated to our church. Motion to give Olivia Davis a \$500 scholarship towards college expenses. Both carried.
- Pastoral Relations – Surveys are in & the committee will meet soon to discuss results.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Property Committee is to be scheduling a speaker to meet with Council regarding safety procedures—no update.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Discussed the Saturday evening services that Pastor Matt has planned for the 2nd and 4th Saturdays during the summer months.

## Worship Aides During June 2019

	Sunday June 2	Sunday June 9	Sunday June 16	Sunday June 23	Sunday June 30
Assistant Minister	Stephanie D	Harriet P	Carol W	Paul W	Marcia G
Acolyte	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Crucifer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Lector	Crystal P	Beth H	Sally V	Gerda W	Kay P
Ushers	Randy R	Kay S	Ray W	Marcia G	Kay S
	Volunteer	Gary J	Harriet P	Dennis G	Gary J
Greeter/Host	Mae D	Stephanie D	Sally V	Shirley R	Kay P
Altar Care	Stephanie D	Pat H	Pat H	Marcia G	Marcia G
Counters	Randy R	Cheryl N	Ray W	Cheryl N	Frank G
	Richard M	Frank G	Volunteer	Volunteer	Richard M
Nursery	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer

*If there is a conflict on your given date, it is your responsibility to find someone to substitute.  
Please notify the office by Wednesday before the Sunday of the change. Thank you!*

## Celebrations in June

### Happy Birthday to ...

4.....Mary Helen Page	11 .....Roy Henkes
4.....Jessica Newara	11 .....Don MacKeller Jr.
4.....Aaron Wolf	12 .....Holli Fuller
5.....Kim MacKeller	14 .....Lillian Truesdale
5.....Jacquelyn Olesen	17 .....Debra Rupp
6.....Dennis Groce	20 .....Nathan Newara
6.....Anthony Newara	22 .....Brian Behrens
6.....Dan Sehnke	26 .....Joseph Ferri
6.....Joanna Yamoune	30 .....Theresa Hutchinson
7.....Andrew Aspden	30 .....Scott Torrance Jr.
7.....Matt Dennison	
9.....Emily Carver	



### Happy Anniversary to ...

Richard & Mary Mantsch on June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church on June 7 <sup>th</sup> —123 years
Tracy and James Million on June 8 <sup>th</sup>
Frank & Pam Gildersleeve on June 12 <sup>th</sup>
Richard & Crystal Pratt on June 17 <sup>th</sup>
Rev. Ken & Sue Laber on June 20 <sup>th</sup>

## Saturday Evening Worship

Summer is a busy time for everyone. Vacations, family reunions and graduation parties all seem to keep us going non-stop. And, in some cases, these events even cause us to miss Sunday worship. (Oh, no!) But, you needn't worry, because this June, July and August you will have the chance to praise the Lord on Saturday nights, as well!

This summer, we will offer a casual evening worship service at 7:00 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month. Weather permitting, we will gather outside on the south lawn with the lighting of a fire, followed by an abbreviated service of Holy Communion. Chairs will be



made available, but, if you prefer to bring your own, feel free to do so. And, bring a blanket for the kids, as well!

All are encouraged to attend this new series of services. Yes, they are meant to help those who can't attend on Sunday morning. However, there is nothing to keep you from attending both days—assuming you aren't needed somewhere else.

So, relax and join us once or twice a month for this somewhat quiet, yet inspirational worship experience. It will not be "contemporary," but, we pray it will be meaningful to you, and to your whole family. Hope to see you there!



### St. Peter's Book Club

The St. Peter's Book Club will meet on Friday, July 12 to discuss "Why Religion" by Elaine Pagels

Sept 13—Letters to a Young Girl:

The Rev. Dr. F.W. Kohler to Amelia Grimm & Family  
1894-1909. by Rev. Matthew Dennison

Nov 8—Select books for 2020

We meet at The Bean at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

### Thank You!

We want to thank those who taught and helped with Sunday Church School this past year.



## From the Stewardship Committee

The current World Hunger project for St. Peter's is the blanket project. We are calling the project "**Blankets Here and Blankets There**" since we can donate blankets for refugee programs though the Good Gifts Catalog for \$10.00 each, and we are collecting new and gently used blankets for distribution



locally in the Erie area through agencies that serve women and children and the homeless.

So far a number of blanket cuts of fleece fabric have been collected for the craft day on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. here in the Fellowship room. Bring your lunch and learn how to make tie blankets.

You don't have to stay the whole time... an hour or two would be good. Our goal is 100 blankets for the local area and 100 blankets through the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts. The committee will host a "Sundae Sunday" after worship on July 28 as a fundraiser as well as a Used Book Sale during the Sundays in August for this cause.

## St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

### Officers of the Congregation

President - Cathi Newara

Vice President - Paul Witosky

Secretary - Carol Wakley

Treasurer - Frank Gildersleeve

Council Financial Secretary -  
Scott Torrance Sr.

Council Recording Treasurer -  
Cheryl Nielsen

### St. Peter's Church Council

#### Members for 2019

Dale Ballerstein

Mae Dudick

Patty Kimmy

Richard Mantsch

Cathi Newara

Scott Torrance Sr.

Sally Valone

Carol Wakley

Paul Witosky

Pastor Matthew Dennison

#### Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM - 1:00PM

Telephone: 814-725-1840

#### Pastor Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM

Pastor's cell: 814-392-9833

Home: 814-347-9033

Email: [stpetersne@velocity.net](mailto:stpetersne@velocity.net)

Website: [www.stpetersne.org](http://www.stpetersne.org)

#### Staff of St. Peter's

Rev. Matthew E. Dennison

#### Pastor Emeritus:

Rev. J. Kenneth Laber

#### Sacred Music:

Gerda Wheeler, Bell Choir Director

#### Parish Administrator:

Pam Gildersleeve

Sexton: Robert Riser



## Graduation Sunday

Join us on Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. for worship as we honor our graduates. Following worship, there will be a cake reception for the graduates, their families and friends.

### *Olivia Grace Davis*

Olivia will be graduating with honors on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 from North East High School. She will be attending Point Park University in Pittsburgh as a multimedia major with an emphasis in graphic design.

She is also a member of the National Honor Society and has attended Erie County VoTech and is graduating with honors from the Art and Design for Business program as well.

### *Benjamin Alan Reed*

Ben graduated from Gannon University on May 11<sup>th</sup> with a Bachelor of Science in Bio Medical Engineer and a minor in Philosophy. His plans for the future is to get a job in his field in Raleigh, North Carolina, where his sister Paige Miles resides.

*Congratulations to our graduates!*

*May God continue to bless you and your abilities.*

## June at a Glance

- June 2—Worship & Arts meets after worship
- June 4—Stewardship meets at 2:00 p.m.
- June 4—Property meets at 7:00 p.m.
- June 8 & 22—Saturday Evening Service @ 7:00 p.m.
- June 9—Pentecost & Youth Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. service
- June 9—LCW meets after worship
- June 13-15—NWPAsynod Assembly
- June 16—Father's Day with reception following worship
- June 17—Fleece blanket assembly 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
- June 18—Council meets at 7:00 p.m.
- June 21—Digest articles due
- June 25—EECLC at 7:00 p.m. @ St. Peters
- June 30—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday giving for ELCA World Hunger

# June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10:30a Worship—Graduation Sun. Cake reception after worship Worship & Arts meets	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 2:00p Stewardship 7:00p Property	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00p Evening Worship Service
<b>9</b> 10:30a Worship—Pentecost & Youth Sunday Coffee Hour after worship LCW meets after worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Synod Assembly 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10:30a Worship—Holy Trinity Fathers reception after worship <b>Father's Day</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00a—2:00p Fleece blankets for the Homeless	<b>18</b> 7:00p Council	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Digest articles due	<b>22</b> 7:00p Evening Worship Service
<b>23</b> 10:30a Worship Coffee Hour after worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00p EECLC meets @ St. Peter's	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:30a Worship—ELCA World Hunger giving Coffee Hour after worship						

