



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

So, how's your supply of chocolate holding up?

If you're like me, you are running low, because you, too, are getting ready to give up the sweet delight for all of Lent. Or, maybe it's ice cream. Or, dare I say, television?

Whatever it may be, please consider doing something different this Lenten season. Instead of giving something up, let's give something instead. After all, that's what we used to do in "the old days." We'd put a quarter into our Lenten folder every single day for 40 days until it was full, and just like that, we'd have \$10 to put into the offering plate on Easter Sunday. It was easy, and to be honest, I don't know why we gave up that particular practice.

So, let's try it again this year! When you come to worship on Sunday, make sure to pick up a *free* Lenten giving box in the hallway. Then, throughout the next five weeks, drop your loose change inside. Fill it up as much as you can, and when

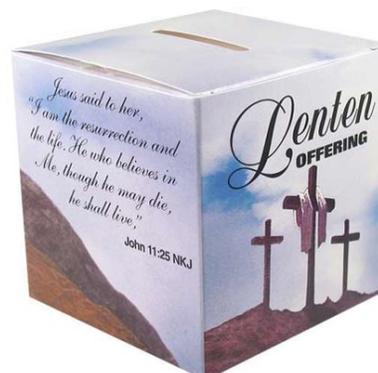
Easter comes along, bring your box back to the church, and we'll count them all up. Really, it doesn't get much easier than that, and yet, it will do a world of good—for both you *and* for the church.

And, since it will be a rather simple task, don't let me stop you from giving up chocolate, also. As I said, that's what I'm going to try to do. So, join me in my quest to honor our Lord not only be giving, but by giving *up*, as well. And, if you would, say a prayer for me that I make it all the way through.

And I shall do the same for you!

Peace,

Pastor Matt



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Mark your calendars for our annual Meal in the Upper Room to be held Tuesday April 7, 2020 at 6pm!

If you have previously shared this special meal, then you realize what a meaningful addition it is to your Lenten journey.

It is an experience to celebrate a Passover Meal with Bible teachings of Jesus, song and a simple meal. The light meal features roast lamb, olives, cheese, grapes, hard-boiled egg, matzos and wine. We eat in silence as candles are lit and the lessons of our Lord Jesus Christ are read.

Space is limited to 64 guests. Please sign the reservation form in the narthex of the church. Invite a friend and/or family members. For further information please contact Stephanie Dennison.

In keeping with tradition, the LCW would appreciate your help with the menu/food donations, set-up, clean-up, food preparation and participation as a disciple. Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. LCW thanks everyone in advance for your assistance.

WORSHIP LIFE AT ST. PETER'S

First Sunday in Lent — March 1, 2020 — Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church, Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Second Sunday in Lent — March 8, 2020 — During Lent, we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Third Sunday in Lent — March 15, 2020 — In today's gospel, the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal — offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Fourth Sunday in Lent — March 22, 2020 — Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Fifth Sunday in Lent — March 29, 2020 — In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil, we will welcome new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font, as we renew our baptismal promises.



HAPPENING AT ST. PETER'S

On Wednesdays during Lent, we will offer a Soup Supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by Mid-week Lenten service at 7:00 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex if you wish to bring something to share for the evening.



WORLD HUNGER LENTEN PROJECT MOTORBIKE FOR A PASTOR

Pastors in rural areas need a reliable source of transportation to preach and teach the Good News and minister to those in need in the communities they serve. We can help them! This year for Lent, we will be collecting offerings toward raising \$375.00 — the cost of one motorbike through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Offering boxes will be distributed at the beginning of Lent to help us meet this goal.



On Sunday, March 22nd, we will present the movie, *Son of God* starring Diogo Morgado as Jesus and Roma Downey as Mary. A light luncheon will also be served. Synopsis: In the Holy Land, the Roman occupation has produced a cauldron of oppression, anxiety and excessive taxes levied upon the Jewish people. Fearing the wrath of Roman governor Pontius Pilate, Jewish high priest Caiaphas tries to keep control of his people.

That control is threatened when Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, performing miracles and spreading messages of love and hope.

Those who fear that Jesus will inspire a revolution decide that he must die.



St. Peter's Book Club will be meeting in late March to begin discussion on the first book of the year, [Beyond the Beautiful Forever](#) by Katherine Boo.



The date and time will be announced soon — look for it in the weekly bulletin announcements!

ATTENTION: All committees and organizations and members are asked to check to refrigerator and freezer for items that may be theirs. The refrigerator and freezer will be cleaned out on **March 2nd**. Any item that is not labeled and/or dated will be thrown out.

DAILY LIFE AT ST. PETER'S

Prayer for Peace

Gracious and holy God lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.



~ ELW page 76 © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Prayer for Vocation in Daily Life

O God, give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty ; pure and temperate in all enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; in whose name we pray. Amen.

~ ELW page 82 © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

1 Jermaine Evans	23 Joan Moorhead
2 Dale Ballerstein	23 Sidney Wheeler
2 Guy Steg	24 Lisa Renee Drakes
2 Christopher Stetson	24 Russell Neill Jr.
3 Leslee Gorzynski	25 Debra Batten
4 Jean Ballerstein	25 Kathy Johnston
4 Shirley Torrance	25 Cassandra Jordan
7 Thomas Wilks	27 Jeremy Pratt
8 Katie Voorhis	29 Cheryl Nielsen
9 Eric Blair	29 Shirley Rudolph
9 Jared Schau	31 Antonio Hodzic
16 Aaron Foster	31 Michael McGuigan
16 Richard Mantsch	31 Samantha Steg
17 Richard Pratt	
18 Owen McGrath	
18 James Million	
21 Gail Blakely	
22 Joan Thayer	
22 Elaine Minns	
23 Frank Gildersleeve	



We are again reminded that here we have no abiding city.

In His infinite mercy, the LORD has graciously received into His nearer presence:

Martha Raye Rogers

Born: 6-27-1938 Died: 2-2-2020

LORD, teach us to consider our own departure that when the hour is come, we may be prepared for a blessed entrance into the Heavenly Kingdom.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Scott and Shirley Torrance
on the 1st

Don and Kimberly MacKeller Jr
on the 2nd

Don and Harriet Partch on the 30th



As we continue into 2020 and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of women being ordained in the ELCA, let's look in the scriptures and review some of the women who we find there.

Searching through the Old Testament, we first encounter **Miriam** in Exodus dutifully watching over her infant brother Moses. She will one day, as a prophetess, be by his side as he leads his people out of Egypt. Following the crossing of the Red Sea, Miriam leads the celebration of the women in the camp with music, song and dance. [Exodus 15:20-21] We learn of **Deborah**, the only woman of the twelve listed in the book of Judges, who sits under the palm trees as the Israelites come to her for judgment. She accompanies Barak, a commander of the Israelites against the Canaanite army. They are victorious over the enemy with help from yet another woman, Jael, ending with the gruesome death of the opposing commander, Sisera. [Judges 4:4—5:37] **Huldah**, the prophetess, offered guidance to King Josiah. It is interesting to note that the young, humble King Josiah and his advisers sought out a Word from the LORD from a woman and not from one of her contemporaries, Jeremiah or Zephaniah. [2 Kings 22:14-20] Finally, **Esther**, the heroic young queen. We read her passionate statement, "*If I perish, I perish.*" [Esther 4:16b] as she prepares to go before King Xerxes to trap Haman and plead for her people's lives.

Going forward in time, we find women in the New Testament who make their mark in the scriptures. Beginning with **Mary**, the mother of our Lord, who declares, "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let I be with me according to your word.*" [Luke 1:38b] Mary embodies what the Lord is seeking – someone who is willing to serve him humbly and with a willing heart. We find **Anna**, a prophet and widow of eight-four years of age, who dedicated who life to the Lord, "*...who never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.*" [Luke 2:37b] **The Samaritan woman at the well** seems an unlikely leader in community, doesn't she? But once she heard of the living waters of salvation from the Savior, she cannot contain it and proclaims Christ to her community. "*Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony.*" [John 4:39a] Though she is unnamed, a chance encounter with Jesus sends this emboldened woman on a mission to bring healing, forgiveness and salvation to her community as freely as it was given to her. [John 4:4-42]

Mary Magdalene, is first mentioned in Luke 8 as the one from whom seven demons had gone out and is one of the women who provided for Jesus' ministry out of their resources. She traveled with Jesus and his disciples, was present at the crucifixion [John 19:25]. She is the first to testify as to the resurrection [Luke 20:1-18] and for that she is sometimes referred to as the "apostle to the apostles." As one of the Lord's most ardent supporters, she proves the old saying true – "It's not how you start that matters, it's how you finish." **Lydia**, meets Paul, Silas and Timothy in Philippi and after hearing Paul preach, she and her household are baptized. She is able to and offers them hospitality at her home. A purple cloth maker, Lydia, influential in her community would have helped to spread Christianity. [Acts 16:14-15] **Priscilla**, along with her husband Aquilla, were some of the earliest converts to Christianity in Rome. They opened their home and taught many the way of the faith. Priscilla, a teacher, was also a missionary for together with her husband, they traveled with Paul bringing the Good News to others. [Acts 18:2-3, 18:18, 18:26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19] Paul, in his letter to the Romans, highly recommends **Phoebe**, "*...a deacon of the church...*" [Romans 16:1b] who may have been a woman of means who dedicated herself to the church as she was a benefactor to many and to Paul.

Each of these women was raised up by God for their unique calling or ministry. The apostle Paul said, "*...there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*" [Galatians 3:28b] Let us remember and honor these saints of the past, recognize our sisters serving in ministry today and look forward to the future giving all Glory to Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF 2-18-2020

- Frank Gildersleeve, Treasurer, provided a rundown of all our financial accounts.
- Final paperwork on the Thorton/Reed mortgage has been completed.
- Discussion on the importance of locking the doors/turning out all lights when leaving.
- Forthcoming is an updated safety brochure which will now include a map and first aid information.
- Discussion on 2020 grass cutting. We will obtain bids from outside contractors and weigh it against the purchase of a tractor and mowing the lawn ourselves.
- Pastor informed Council how the kitchen remodel plans would ideally proceed as the project moves forward.

Special Congregation Meeting February 16, 2020

The Treasurer's Report for 2019 was approved. There was no other business..

Offering Counters Meeting/Training Session Sunday, March 29, 2020

All offering counters are asked to be present for a meeting and training session immediately following worship. We will be reviewing procedures for counting and balancing deposits and will discuss any concerns and issues that you may have. Anyone interested in becoming a counter should attend. Audit, Council, and Finance members are also encouraged to be present. Light refreshments will be served

EECCC 2020 MISSION TRIP

Members of the EECCC along with the Lutheran Hands organization are planning to return to North Carolina on July 12th through the 18th. They are committed to North Carolina and Hurricane Florence victims — mucking out houses, rebuilding and bringing hope back to much of the state. YOU can be a part of this!

Anyone entering high school for 2020-21 or older, yes, even Grandma or Grandpa are invited to participate. The cost is \$350.00 — \$400.00 per participant. The cost includes all lodging, work tools/materials, travel and all meals. Funds are available from the EECCC to help with the costs.

A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit is due by the registration date of March 1, 2020. For more information and to pick up your registration forms, please speak with Cathi in the office or Pastor Matt.

WE NEED U! We are still looking for a 2nd person to volunteer to serve on the East Erie County Cluster of Church's board from St. Peter's. This group meets ten times each year (no meeting in July or December) on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 with the meetings rotating between Faith, Messiah and St. Peter's. The cluster is a good way for members of our sister churches to come together as a group and work as one to help our community! If you are interested in serving, please speak with Pastor.

MEMORIALS RECIEVED

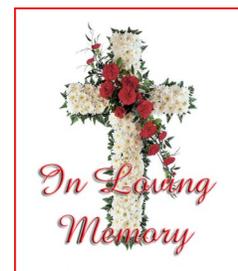
IN MEMORY OF PASTOR J. KENNETH LABER

Anthony and Cathi Newara — **ELCA World Hunger**

IN MEMORY OF KAREN REAGLE

Pastor Matt and Stephanie Dennison — **Kitchen Renovation Project**

Anthony and Cathi Newara — **Endowment**



Easter Flower Order Form

As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday, we also remember our loved ones and friends with beautiful flowers. To place your order, please return this form with your remittance to the church office by **Sunday, April 5, 2020** by mail, in person or by placing your form and payment in an envelope, in the offering plate during any worship service. **No flowers will be ordered without payment.**

These flowers will be in assorted colors as chosen by the florists except Lilies:

_____ Lilies (White) _____ Hyacinths _____ Tulips
 _____ Mums ___ Daffodils

The cost of the flowers is \$9.75 each. Please make checks payable to St. Peter's.

_____ # of plants @ \$9.75 each = \$ _____

To the Glory of God and in Memory of:

To the Glory of God and in Honor of:

To the Glory of God and in Celebration (event) of:

_____ I/We wish to pick up my/our flowers following the 10:30 a.m. Easter Service.

_____ Please have my/our flowers delivered to home-bound/nursing home members.

Given by: _____ **Phone #:** _____



Music in the Vineyard



In response to our 2019 church survey, the Pastoral Relations Committee would like to have St. Peter's hold a concert on our property later this year. We envision a band (or more) performing alongside the vineyard, accompanied by a catered dinner with a French or Italian theme. Needless to say, many details must be worked out, but this would be a great opportunity to bring folks to our churchyard, and, who knows? They may even come back the following Sunday!

If you have any ideas as to how we might make this work, please let us know. We are looking for names of bands that might be willing to play, and caterers that might wish to provide the food. And, most importantly, we are looking for someone to bring it all together. If you have any such ideas, please contact the Pastoral Relations Committee (Dick Mantch, Carol Wakley, Dennis Groce, or, Pastor Matt.) Let the music begin!



*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:00 a SCS 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Coffee Hour 11:30 a W & A 11:30 a Endowment</p>	2	3 2:00 p Stewardship 7:00 p Property	4 6:00 p Soup supper 7:00 p Lenten service	5	6	7 Don't forget to change your clocks! 
<p>8 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 9:00 a SCS 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Coffee Hour 11:30 a Ch. Ed</p>	9	10	11 6:00 p Soup supper 7:00 p Lenten service	12	13	14
<p>15 9:00 a SCS 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a LCW</p>	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 7:00 p Council 	18 6:00 p Soup supper 7:00 p Lenten service	19 FIRST DAY OF SPRING 	20 1:00 p Articles due for the April Digest	21
<p>22 9:00 a SCS 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Coffee Hour 11:30 a Movie & Luncheon</p>	23	24 7:00 p EECC @ Faith Lutheran	25 6:00 p Soup supper 7:00 p Lenten service	26	27	28
<p>29 9:00 a SCS 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Counters Meeting/ Training Session</p>	30	31				

WORSHIP AIDES DURING MARCH 2020

	Sunday March 1	Sunday March 8	Sunday March 15	Sunday March 22	Sunday March 29
Assistant Minister	Marcia G	Cathi N	Carol W	Paul W.	Harriet P.
Acolyte	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Crucifer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Lector	Cathi N.	Stephanie D.	Gerda W	Sally V	Pat H.
Ushers	Gary J	Harriet P.	Ray W	Marcia G.	Gary J.
	Kay S	Anthony N.	Randy R.	Dennis G.	Kay. S.
Greeter/Host	Margrit S.	Stephanie D.	Gerda W.	Sally V	Mae D.
Altar Care	Cathi N.	Stephanie D.	Marcia G.	Patty K.	Pat H
Counters	Leslee G	Frank G	Ray W	Cathi N.	Frank G..
	Cathi N.	Richard M	Randy R.	Marcia G.	Richard M.
Nursery	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	XXXX

*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!*

THORTON/REED MORTGAGE UPDATE

The Thorton/Reed mortgage has been completely paid off. On January 16, 2020, we received a check in the amount of \$5458.75. From this payoff amount, we were required to pay \$58.75 in filing fees and \$95.00 to the Knox Law Firm for the services of attorney, Robert J. Jeffery.

The remaining monies of \$5305.00 will go into the Trust Fund as per previous Congregational vote.



OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

President – Paul Witosky
Vice President – Scott Torrance Sr.
Secretary – Carol Wakley
Treasurer – Frank Gildersleeve
Council Financial Secretary –
Scott Torrance Sr.
Assistant Treasurer –
Sharon Chesley

ST. PETER'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2020

Dale Ballerstein
Stephanie Dennison
Mae Dudick
Gary Johnston
Patty Kimmy
Cathi Newara
Scott Torrance Sr.
Carol Wakley
Paul Witosky
Pastor Matthew Dennison

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm
Telephone: 814-725-1840

PASTOR'S HOURS:

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
Pastor's cell: 814-392-9833
Home: 814-347-9033

Email: stpetersne@velocity.net
Website: www.stpetersne.org

STAFF OF ST. PETER'S:

Rev. Matthew E. Dennison

Sacred Music --
Organist -- Ellsworth Textor
Bell Choir Director -- Gerda Wheeler

Parish Administrator -- Cathi Newara

Sexton -- Robert Riser



St. Peter's newly-formed Choral Group sing a Hymn on Sunday, February 2nd. All are welcome and encouraged to join!
Pictured above Front row left to right: Patricia Huber, Gerda Wheeler and Stephanie Dennison. Back row left to right: Pastor Matthew Dennison, Scott Torrance Sr. and Dennis Groce.

Photograph by Carol Wakley

MARCH AT A GLANCE

- March 1 — Worship & Arts meets after worship
- March 1 — Endowment meets after worship
- March 3 — Stewardship meets at 2:00 pm
- March 3 — Property meets at 7 pm
- March 4 — Soup Supper at 6 pm / Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 7 — Set your clocks and spring ahead one hour!
- March 8 — Christian Ed meets after worship
- March 11 — Soup Supper at 6 pm / Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 15 — LCW meeting after worship
- March 17 — Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- March 17 — Council meets at 7:00 pm
- March 18 — Soup Supper at 6 pm / Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 19 — First Day of Spring!
- March 19 — Articles due for the April Digest by 1 pm
- March 22 — Movie and Luncheon after worship
- March 24 — EECC meets at Faith Lutheran at 7 pm
- March 25 — Soup Supper at 6 pm / Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 29 — Counters Meeting/Training after worship

WE'RE ON THE WEB !!!

Visit us at: www.stpetersne.org

or

[facebook.com/stpeterslutheran.church.3](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterslutheran.church.3)