

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH DIGEST

The Church in the Vineyard

Volume XXIX, Issue V

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!***

We do not speak these words lightly, my friends. And that is exactly the reason we recited them so frequently on Easter morning—because these words alone remind us why we attend worship each and every week. More than any other Sunday, Easter is the one day out of the year in which we remember that our sins are forgiven. In fact, we could “trade in” all of the other Sundays throughout the year, and they would not equal the importance of the Resurrection.

Oh, sure, if Jesus *hadn't* risen from the tomb, our sins would *still* be forgiven (after all, He wasn't *raised* for our redemption; rather, He *died* for it.). But, we would not be aware of the fact that we had been saved.

And I say this because if Jesus had remained in the tomb, His disciples and all of His followers would still be wandering around aimlessly, wondering what to do next. And that includes *us!*

Recall the story that took place on the road to Emmaus: Cleopas and

his companion told Jesus (not knowing it was Him) that they had “hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.” Yes, before the crucifixion, they had believed that He was going to be their Savior. However, with His death, all of that hope was gone—or so they thought.

We, on the other hand, understand that He is alive. And, because of this, we are able to rejoice in our redemption. With His rising, He destroyed death, and we no longer have to worry about what is to come. With His rising, we are inspired to spread His word throughout the land, and, we do so knowing full well that our sins have been forever forgiven.

So, if you missed celebrating Easter with us this time around, please consider joining us next year, when we gather to hallow the day on which the vault of heaven resounded, and our eyes were opened to the fact that our lives have been redeemed by the One who suffered for us on the cross... and was risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Peace,
Pastor Matt

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Finances at a Glance

For the Three Months
Ending March 31, 2019

Total Income received—
year to date \$24,636.86

Amount needed for
2019 Budget 1st quarter

\$31,421.00

(\$6,784.14)

Budget shortfall

*Benevolence is not included
in these totals.*

Life is Crazy. Prayer is Simple.

A Prayer for Mothers

Loving God,
we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end. May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them. We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of love or time, or patience. We ask you to bless them with your own special love. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Ascension of our Lord Service

The Feast of the Ascension is the fortieth day after Easter, which falls on a Thursday, May 30th and we will celebrate it with a service at noon. Please join us!

The risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

A Daily Renewal Prayer

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin. Grant that we who are reborn to new life in him may live in righteousness and holiness all our days, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



**Thursday, May 2, 2019
7:00 p.m. Prayer Service
North East Alliance Church
81 East Main St.**



Book Club

The St. Peter's Book Club will meet on Friday, May 10th to discuss Love without Limits by Jacqueline Bussie. We meet at The Bean, social time 9:30 a.m. and discussion begins at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

Council Meeting Highlights

April 9, 2019

STANDING BUSINESS

• Financial Secretary, Frank Gildersleeve noted that March was a better month than February, although we are still about \$1,600 “in the red”. A total of \$83,497.52 has been pledged for 2019.

COMMITTEE & ORGANIZATION REPORTS

• Audit Committee—oral report—information gathering will begin after Easter.

- East Erie Luther Cluster—oral report—Mission trip fell through, as no one was able to attend—will try again next year. Easter Vigil is on Saturday at Faith. Messiah is holding their first Meal in the Upper Room on 4/15/19. Christ the Redeemer has received bids on their house and is progressing.
- Property—Tom Wheeler has begun working on property

spring clean-up, with much appreciated raking assistance by Paul Witosky and friends.

NEW BUSINESS

- State Trooper will be coming to talk with the Congregation Council regarding Safety/Security measures, at Council's request.
- A reminder was noted for Council to check out a link “Keeping Sacred Spaces Safe”.

Worship Life at St. Peter's

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2019

Readings: **Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19**

The disciples make a big splash and breakfast with the risen Jesus in the gospel. Wading in the water (remembering our baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating the holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us, with Peter, again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 12, 2019

Readings: **Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30**

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 19, 2019

Readings: **Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35**

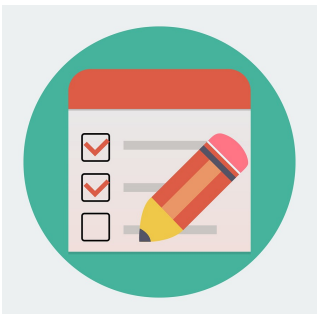
Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Lord is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today the Lord Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 26, 2019

Readings: **Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5; John 14:23-29; John 5:1-9** (alternate)

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination.



YOU'RE INVITED TO TAKE A VERY IMPORTANT SURVEY!

Your thoughts are important and vital to the future of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Just as the signs of life that pop out of the cold ground indicate the new birth of Spring, so does this invitation bring the desire to bring NEW LIFE and NEW GROWTH at St. Peter's!

We are requesting your help in prayerfully and thoughtfully completing this survey. We WANT to know how you feel about worship, attending, and volunteering at St. Peter's, along with your thoughts on how Pastor Matt Dennison is doing since joining us over five years ago.

We cannot stress enough the VALUE and IMPORTANCE of your thoughts whether you attend regularly, occasionally, or not so often!

If you haven't received a survey, please call the church office and one can be sent to you. Or, our website at stpetersne.org, has a link to download a copy. Please take the time to complete it and return it to the church by mail or drop it in the box in the Narthex.

Be honest and share all your thoughts. No need to include your name.

Worship Aides During May 2019

	Sunday May 5	Sunday May 12	Sunday May 19	Sunday May 26
Assistant Minister	Stephanie D	Harriet P	Paul W	Marcia G
Acolyte	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Crucifer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Lector	Beth H	Sally V	Kay P	Stephanie D
Ushers	Carol W	Gary J	Harriet P	Randy R
	Ray W	Kay S	Volunteer	Volunteer
Greeter/Host	Mae D	Sally V	Kay P	Shirley R
Altar Care	Stephanie D	Pat H	Pat H	Marcia G
Counters	Ray W	Cheryl N	Frank G	Cathi N
	Frank G	Volunteer	Richard M	Randy R
Nursery	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 May

Happy Birthday to ...

5..... Amanda Smith

6..... Jean Roache

6..... John Page

11..... Nicholas Greco

14..... Susan Wilson

14..... Dexter Angelcyk

17..... Jan Harris

18..... Brett Ballew

18..... Sara Wakley

20..... Linda Cole

21..... Sharon Chesley

22..... Kurt Lichtenfeld

25..... Stephanie Reagle

29..... Eric Luke



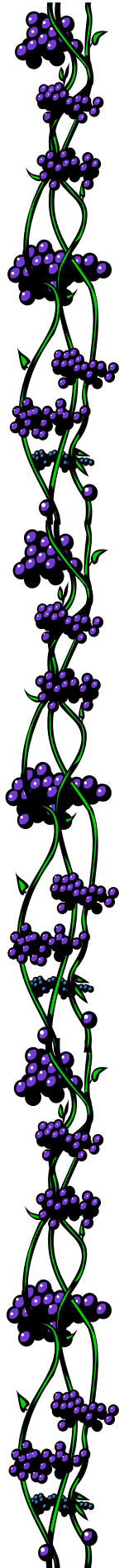
Anthony and
Cathi Newara
on May 2nd

Phil and Beth
Hutchinson
on May 31st



May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00p National Day of Prayer Service at North East Alliance Church	3	4
5 9:00a Sunday Church School 10:30a Worship Coffee Hour after worship	6	7 2:00p Stewardship 7:00p Property	8	9	10 10:00a Book Club meets @ The Bean	11
12 9:00a Sunday Church School 10:30a Worship Mother's Day reception after worship Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17 Digest articles due	18
19 9:00a Sunday Church School 10:30a Worship Coffee Hour after worship Worship & Arts meets	20	21 7:00p Council GECAC Kids last day	22	23	24	25
26 9:00a Last Sunday Church School 10:30a Worship Coffee Hour after worship	27 Church Office closed Memorial Day	28 7:00p EECLC meets @ Messiah	29	30 Noon—Ascension Day Service	31	



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

Website: 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



Attention Graduates

If you will graduate this Spring from school or if you have graduated from school since June of 2018, please call the church office [814-725-1840] so we can include you when we honor our graduates on June 2nd.

Camp Lutherlyn

Saturday, April 27 — Work Day

Saturday, May 11—Camp Blast!!!

June 16—Summer Camp Begins



Visit www.lutherlyn.com for more information about these events and more, at Lutherlyn and for the schedule for the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center & Woodland Center for Arts and Crafts.

Memorials Received

IN MEMORY OF MARGE MAGOON

Anthony & Cathi Newara — **Undesignated**

IN MEMORY OF MAGGIE MORRISON

Anthony & Cathi Newara — **Christian Education**

IN HONOR OF PASTOR KEN & MRS. SUSAN LABER

Pastor Matt & Stephanie Dennison —
Laber's Farewell Party

May at a Glance

- May 2—National Day of Prayer service 7:00 p.m. at North East Alliance Church
- May 7—Stewardship meets at 2:00 p.m.
- May 7—Property meets at 7:00 p.m.
- May 10—Book Club meets at The Bean at 10:00 a.m.
- May 12—Mother's Day with reception following worship
- May 17—Digest articles due
- May 19—Worship & Arts meets after worship
- May 21—Council meets at 7:00 p.m.
- May 28—EECLC at 7:00 p.m. @ Messiah
- May 30—Ascension Day service at Noon