

Volume 47 Issue 3

March 2011

**Wednesday Nights in Lent**  
**Mar 9 - Mar 16 - Mar 23 - Mar 30 - April 6 - April 13**

**Soup Suppers from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

**Food for the Soul from 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. in three different locations:**

**Location 1: Parlor**

What about: Spiritual Direction in Prayer

Maximum: 25 people (please sign up)

Leader: Reverend Lesley Richard, Spiritual Director

Week One: ***What should I say?*** How to talk to God by yourself.

Week Two: ***How do I listen?*** Becoming aware of the response of God.

Week Three: ***What does God want me to do?*** Spiritual discernment.

Week Four: ***My prayer doesn't seem to be working.*** Spiritual Dryness

Week Five: ***What is happening today?*** My day through the eyes of God.

**Location 2: Christian Education Gathering Room**

What about: Individual Prayer Stations

Maximum: 12 people (please sign up)

Hosts: Different council members

Station 1: Tree of Life

Station 2: Give us today our daily bread

Station 3: From death to life

Station 4: Worries or Rocky Road

Station 5: Braided lives

Station 6: Blessing Enemies – Forgiving Others



**Location 3: CE Classroom (follow signs)**

What about: Making ornaments for the cross

Maximum: 15 people, appropriate but not only for young children

Leaders: Allison Waugh, June Mc Illhenny and TBD

**Worship at the Close of Day, 7:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

March 9: A heart of flesh, based on Ezekiel 36 and Psalm 51

March 16: Hunger for God, based on Mark 14 and Luke 6:21

March 23: Beside still waters, based on psalm 23

March 30: Yearning to be made whole, based on Mark 5

April 6: For the healing of the nations, based on Isaiah 65 and Revelation 21

April 13: Sighs too deep for words, based on Romans 8

## Adult Forum:

**March 6:** The Theology of the Cross according to Paul and: exploring the Lenten disciplines

**March 13:** Prayer Stations

**March 20:** Prayer Stations

**March 27:** The Faith of our neighbors: The Pentecostal Movement

**April 3:** The life and music of Johann Sebastian Bach



### Liz has a better idea!!

Those of you who may not be comfortable wearing a robe and sitting in those “comfortable” choir seats, are encouraged to sit in the pews with your family and come forth to join the group to sing the anthem. She still needs you for practice on Wednesdays, but you will receive a schedule and although she would love to have you sing every Sunday, don’t feel that it is a lifetime commitment. Come join us and bring the voice that God gave you to sing His praises!!

*The Lenten banner is donated by Sam and Barb Reiner in loving memory of their parents, Sam & Kathryn Reiner and Joe & Mae Silico.*

## March Birthdays

3/1 Dick Stevens  
3/3 Corinne Fuss  
3/5 Diana Sundar  
Karrah Tyson  
3/6 Brian Brenfleck  
3/8 John Meyer, Jr.  
3/10 David Smith  
Christopher Mannon  
3/12 Ruth Ann Feil  
Lars Homan  
3/14 David Long  
3/16 Lynda Cipriano  
3/18 Aidan Knox  
3/22 Sharon Baker  
3/24 Pat Recca  
3/25 Nancy Simpson  
Hilde Reichert  
Maria Wolf  
Heather Laphen  
3/27 Eric Jacobson  
Todd Retzlaff  
Matthew Brenfleck  
Garrett Roberts  
3/28 Terry Riesz  
3/29 Tony Manus  
3/31 Donald Hill

## STEEPLE VIEWS

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St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, North Wales, PA.  
Phone #215-699-4604 Fax 215-699-2179

Office E-mail:

[secretary@stpetersnorthwales.org](mailto:secretary@stpetersnorthwales.org)

[www.stpetersnorthwales.org](http://www.stpetersnorthwales.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Andreas Wagner

[pastor@stpetersnorthwales.org](mailto:pastor@stpetersnorthwales.org)

**Director of Christian Ed:** Joy Jacobson

[DCE@stpetersnorthwales.org](mailto:DCE@stpetersnorthwales.org)

**Organist/Director of Music:** Liz Grebe

**Office Secretary:** Lorraine Daniels

Articles for *Steeple Views* should be brief, and submitted to the Church office or [Steepleviews@stpetersnorthwales.org](mailto:Steepleviews@stpetersnorthwales.org) by the **18th of the month** for the next issue.

*It is the Mission of  
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church  
to invite all people to  
know, live, and share Jesus Christ*

## **Recharge your spiritual batteries in Lent**

**Dear parishioners,**

Please take advantage of the opportunities provided to you during this season of Lent, starting March 9. There will be a number of seasonal changes and flavors that will add to the depth of our Lenten experience and make it what it is supposed to be: a spiritual power house.

There will be some changes on Wednesday nights. From 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. we will offer sessions on Christian Spirituality. In the parlor, Pastor Lesley Richards, a trained Spiritual Director, will lead sessions on prayer. These sessions are self-contained, meaning that they will focus each week on a different dimension of prayer. If you miss one, it's no problem to attend another. The Christian Education Gathering Room will be transformed into a prayer room with six different stations that will stay there throughout Lent. Those stations will be open on Wednesday nights and on Sundays between services for the spiritual edification of our members. There will also be one group on Wednesday nights that will work on ornaments for the cross in one of the classrooms. These 30 minute sessions will be followed by a half hour service (7:30 - 8:00 p.m.).

There will be some changes on Sunday mornings as well during Lent. For one, we will take a fast from Holy Communion. The altar area will be dedicated to the cross and prayer. Our Thursday gang is putting together a big cross that will lean on the altar and shall stay there from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. Trays filled with sand will be placed behind the altar rail. What are these trays for? The part of the service that is usually dedicated to Holy Communion will be dedicated to prayer during Lent. People will pick up a small candle when they enter the church (like on Christmas Eve) and as they come forward (in the same fashion as for communion) they will kneel, light a candle, stick it in the sand and offer a prayer. At the end of the service the altar area and the cross will be lit by a multitude of candles. The cross will be removed on Good Friday and on Easter morning we will receive communion once again. In the upcoming weeks you will find descriptions of this year's Lent at St. Peter's and sign-up sheets for the Soup Suppers (starting at 5:30 p.m. on those Wednesday nights). We will also have sign-up sheets for the Prayer sessions and stations so that they are not overwhelmed with too many people at once. Please do sign up!

Pastor Andreas Wagner



**Office  
Help  
Needed!**

We currently have volunteers for our monthly Steepleviews mailing and volunteers that fold and collate the weekly bulletin. In addition there is a volunteer that knows how to print the weekly bulletin on the duplicator.

We always need substitutes as people go on vacation and have other things to do. If you are interested in learning how to do some of these tasks and would like to be on a *substitute list* please contact Lorraine Daniels in the Church office at (215)699-4604 or email her at [secretary@stpetersnorthwales.org](mailto:secretary@stpetersnorthwales.org).

### Upcoming Youth Group Events

**April 2-3** Box City

**April 25** Easter Breakfast

**April 30** Helping Hands Day

**June 5** Detroit Pre- Trip meeting from 2-5

**July 1-9** Detroit Servant Trip

The Wine and Chocolate Tasting event was well attended at the home of Lois and Bill Kesack's on February 18th. Five different wines were sniffed and sipped with the pairing of five different chocolates. A good time was had by all and all of the proceeds and donations were donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Organization..

### March Acolytes

**6 Emilie Gross**

**13 Maggie Hayes**

**20 Joseph Duffy**

**27 Taelyn Gallagher**

**Tannis Gallagher**

**TBD**

**Jessica Brenfleck**

**Kevin DeStefano**

**Ash Wednesday**

**9 7:00 PM Emilie Gross**

## Secret Pal program kicks off March 13<sup>th</sup>!

The Sunday school children in grades 1 through 6 have filled out information sheets (favorite food, what they want to be when they grow up, etc) at Sunday school, and are currently being matched with a Secret Pal. The program will officially start March 13<sup>th</sup>, with the older pals sending a note or card to their small pals each week.



Small pals can write back to their big pals by using the green Secret Pal mailbox located near the church parlor. Just have them write "John Smith's (their name) Pal" on the envelope and their pal will be sure to get it!

A party is being planned for Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 to 10:30. The pals will get to meet each other, share some refreshments, and do a fun activity together.

This is a wonderful intergenerational activity that is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year!

### The Mardi Gras Party Rap!

St. Peter's is the place to be  
For fun and food and fantasy.

Tuesday night at 5:30, March 8<sup>th</sup> is the date,  
To celebrate Mardi Gras (I can hardly wait!)

All kids can come from age 3 to 18,  
We'll have a great time- come see what I mean.

Dinner and crafts and activities too,  
It will be lots of fun for your friends and you.

So come on down for a really great time,  
Let Mrs. J. know how many, and end this rhyme!



## **Vision Process Update: Youth & Family Ministry Team Completes Its Work**

On Rally Day September 2009, our congregation initiated a “Vision Process” or a strategic planning effort to infuse new ideas and energy into key ministries of our congregation. We created two Vision Action Teams to facilitate the process: one focused on introducing variety and more contemporary elements to our worship practices – “**Vibrant Worship Team**” and the other on developing ideas that will continue to make St Peter’s an active, family friendly congregation – “**Youth and Family Ministry Team.**”

Our Youth and Family Ministry Team has just completed its work and presented its recommendations and ideas to Church Council at their February meeting.

The team contacted congregations with positive family friendly reputations as part of their process. Their report focused on the areas of Marketing, Programming and Scheduling giving suggestions in each area.

**Marketing** suggestions included ideas relative to the web site, brochure, signage, a *Children to Youth* annual booklet and maintaining an active and caring community presence.

**Programming** ideas covered both family and intergenerational programs as well as Sunday School, youth, nursery, and staffing.

**Scheduling** recommendations focused on looking at the Sunday morning schedule with regard to the opportunity to have Sunday School held during worship services.

Key recommendations of the Youth & Family Ministry Team include:

1. Establish a Youth and Family Ministry Committee to support and promote youth and family programming.
2. Appoint a team to look at Sunday morning scheduling opportunities which would include Sunday school for preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade to be held during Worship services.
3. Include more detailed information relative to youth, family, and SCS activities in the new web site design which is currently in progress.
4. Establish a long term goal for a staffing position dedicated to spiritual formation and youth and family ministry.

A full copy of the team’s report will be distributed to the congregation via email. Copies of the report are also available on the table in the hallway in the Narthex. If you’re not able to obtain a copy of the report, please contact a member of Church Council or the Youth & Family Ministry Team.

Our Youth & Family Ministry Team, led by **Charlene Bance**, devoted a great deal of time & energy to this effort. Team members include: **Sharon Baker, Becca Alderfer, Sharon Brenfleck, Andrea Pellegrino, Andy Pellegrino, Joanne Pyott, and Allison Waugh**. When you see them, please thank them for all of their hard work!

**Take a look at the team’s ideas. What talents can you share? Now it’s time for all of us to get involved to help make this vision a reality!**

## Committee and Ministry Reports from St. Peter's

**Council:** Our Congregational council met on February 17. Steve Benner was reelected as council president and Brian Brenfleck was reelected as vice president. Rebecca Alderfer was elected to serve as secretary. The council received a detailed report from the Youth and Family Vision Team, full of recommendations and helpful findings. The evaluation and implementation process will take place between now and the summer.

**Christian Education:** The Christian Education Committee met in February and discussed a proposal for mural wall art in our education building with local illustrator Renee Erwin. The committee is also planning several home gatherings with conversations around biblical topics and passages for this year. The committee also welcomed another new member: Rebecca Ledder.

**Communications:** The new website is under construction and will come out in the beginning of March. The whole site content was re-written. The site is being developed by a company in close collaboration with committee member Jennifer Morrow.

**Finance Committee:** Roy Jones stepped in as interim treasurer, but the committee and the church is searching for someone to take on that responsibility by June. The Finance Committee has introduced automatic pay transfer for staff and is working on a pre-paid card for staff purchases. Lorraine Daniels saved the church upwards of \$ 3,000 last year by finding bargains online.

**H.O.W.:** The H.O.W. Committee is planning to meet in February. Several women took on the pastor's office and turned it into a nice, hospitable place. Soup-Suppers are being planned for Lent and a new member orientation is tentatively planned for the beginning of April.

**Property:** Here is a selection of the Thursday gang's deeds: Installed additional hooks for wreaths in the Fellowship Hall closet; repaired Ed. Bldg. second floor retractable stairs to attic.; replaced one Kitchen receptacle with GFI; reversed ceiling fans in the Fellowship Hall (seasonal change); made skirts for Narthex hall tables; took down & stored manger and outside Christmas decorations in the dungeon; weighted the bases of manger's Wise Men with concrete – prevents them from toppling in the wind; vacuumed the catacombs (to keep the debris out of the sump-pumps); finished repairs to grout behind last row of pews (between wood and tile flooring.); fixed kitchen fans; and the list goes on and on...

**Stewardship:** So far more than 30 people have signed up for the annual Progressive Dinner on March 5.

**Bear Creek Fundraiser!** A total of \$682.00 was raised for the ministry at Bear Creek which includes the \$225 generated from Tex-Mex. Way to go!! Thank you to Jill and Mike Voicheck for this important ministry. **LOVED THE ART WALL!**

## **PROGRESSIVE DINNER - March 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Don't forget to arrive at the church at 5:30 for appetizers and a brief message from the Pastor. Bring an appetizer or dessert.

We meet at the church @ 5:30 for appetizers and a brief message from the Pastor.

At 6:30 we move on to the home of our hosts for dinner and stimulating discussion and at 8:30 we return to the Church for coffee and dessert

Cost is \$10 per person to defray the cost of dinner for our hosts. **See You There!**

### **Fellowship Unlimited**

This group plans social events for the congregation.

April 1st—**Crazy Card Night** at the home of John and Mary Ann Landmesser at 7 PM. Bring hors'doeurvers or dessert. Sign-up sheet in the narthex.

May 6th—**Cinco de Mayo night** at the home of Roy and Judy Jones at 6:30 PM. Bring hors'doeurvers or dessert. Adult only. Sign-up sheet in the narthex

June 11th—**Hike and Bike with picnic at Peace Valley for families.**

### **Mission Trip to Nashville, Tennessee**

In May 2010, Nashville was hit with torrential rains causing floods all around the metropolitan area. Over 2100 building permits have been issued to help homeowners rebuild or repair their homes. Most have no insurance or funds from FEMA to help them. They also do not have a safe place to live since the floods occurred.

We will be teaming up with the United Church of Christ disaster response team to clean-up, rebuild or repair these homes. Our presence and service helps assure people that they are not alone or forgotten.

If you would like to help, St. Peter's is getting a team together for the week of July 31 – August 6<sup>th</sup>. Anyone 14 and up is invited to sign up. It will cost \$50 per person for the week for the accommodations. Shower and kitchen facilities are provided. We provide and cook our own food.

Please contact Sharon Baker for more information or call the church office.

## Belles' Fundraising for Germany Trip in 2012

St. Peter's Belles will be raising funds for the proposed trip to Germany in 2012. Pastor wants the entire choir to attend. **We were surprised to discover that hand bells are virtually unknown in Europe and we would like to help remedy that!!** We have scheduled some activities to help us raise funds for this endeavor. We will need to transport and insure all of our equipment.

Some of our planned activities are listed below and we hope that everyone in the congregation will not only attend and participate, but also invite your friends and neighbors.

### 1.

The Belles will be hosting a **Dinner and Goods-and-Services Auction on March 26th** to support their music program. The four course sit-down dinner and auction will be held in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 PM. Cost is \$10.00 per person. The menu will feature salad, cranberry chicken, baked rice, vegetable, beverage and dessert. Tickets for the dinner are available after each service from a Belle member.

Donation forms will be inserted in the church bulletin or can be picked up at the coffee hour table. Please support the group by attending the dinner. Invite your friends and family for a fun evening and donate an item or service for the auction. Please see Judy Coates or Meg Matlack if you have any questions.

### 2.

The **Annual Garage sale will be Saturday, April 30th, from 8-12** in the Fellowship Hall. Donations of gently used items may be dropped off at the Fellowship hall on Thursday, April 28th from 7-9 PM and Friday, April 29th from 10-8PM. Please call Terry Riesz or Charlene Bance with any questions, or call the church office. Call also if you need transportation of your donated items. Everything left over will be donated to ACRC—American Cancer Research Center. Come out and help us **Renew, Reuse and Recycle!!**

### 3.

We are also exploring alternate funding opportunities.

One of these would be **Thrivent Choice Dollars**.

If you are holding a Thrivent Financial Volunteer leadership position OR  
Have \$800 or more in annual premiums of qualifying life insurance products OR  
Have \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products:

You may be eligible to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Peter's. Instructions for this is located in the Narthex. You can do this on line or by telephone. Please notify the church office, or Dave Smith where you want your Choice Dollars to be allocated, and we hope you will remember the Germany trip fund. Thank you!!

### 4.

**North Wales Day** will be Saturday, June 18th. More information to follow.

**March 5th– Progressive Dinner**  
**March 8th– Mardi Gras**  
**March 9th– Ash Wednesday**  
**March 16th– April 13th—Lenten**  
**Soup suppers and Prayer**  
**(see front page)**  
**March 26th– Dinner and Auction**  
**April 1st– Crazy Card Night**  
**April 17th– Palm Sunday**  
**April 21st– Maunday Thursday**  
**April 22nd– Good Friday**  
**April 24th—Easter and Breakfast**  
**April 30th– Garage Sale**  
**April 30th– Helping Hands Day**  
**May 1st– Secret Pal Party**  
**May 6th– Cinco de Mayo Party**  
**June 11th–Hike and Bike Picnic**  
**June 18th–North Wales Day**  
**July 17-21st–VBS**  
**August 1-7th–Mission Trip**

**Deadline for articles for the April issue of Steeple Views is March 18th. Send to [Steepleviews@stpetersnorthwales.org](mailto:Steepleviews@stpetersnorthwales.org) or bring to the church office. Pictures should be in a digital format. Thank you.**

**The following dates are available for dedications.**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**June 6th**  
**October 30th**  
**November 6th**  
**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dec 24th 7:00**  
**Dec. 25th**

**“Dedications”**

Do you have a special person you would like to remember, a special occasion to celebrate or would like to make a dedication for any other reason? All you need to do is complete the form below and return it, along with your contribution (payable to St. Peter’s) to the church office or place it in the collection plate. Each month, we will publish a list of dedications in the church Bulletin for all dedications for that month. The deadline for dedications is the last day of the month prior to the month you’d like your dedication to appear. If there are any questions, please email Cathy Simcox at [altarguild@stpetersnorthwales.org](mailto:altarguild@stpetersnorthwales.org)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number in case there are any questions: \_\_\_\_\_

What you’d like to say in your dedication:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Special Date related to your Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

Allocation of your Contribution: Christian Education \_\_\_\_\_, Special Music \_\_\_\_\_,

Youth Ministry \_\_\_\_\_, Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_