



Volume 103 **Summer 2025**

Steeple Views

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WAGNER

Dear church,

This is one of the earliest liturgical lines in Judeo-Christian history. It appears in several psalms and prayers in the Bible, often more than once in one psalm. Various Bible translations have tried to find the best translation for the beautiful Hebrew word “Hesed” (חֶסֶד), and the NIV came up with “steadfast love.” It means ... love in the face of difficulties; love, which is patient, gracious and steadfast (dependable). That’s how the Hebrews described the nature of God in their songs and prayers. And I guess, we might as well qualify God’s love, for human love is not always gracious, dependable and steadfast. Unfortunately, we witness that every week.

***“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!”***

- Psalm 107.1 (NIV translation)

As we reach the month of June, I am grateful for the miracle of my son’s resurrection after we almost lost Samuel in April. I call it a resurrection because that’s exactly how it felt to our family. The parallel process between his journey from near-death to full restoration and the stories of Passover, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter (observed during that same critical week) was simply stunning. I will never forget how we welcomed him back on Palm Sunday when the intubation was taken out in the ICU and we received a first inkling that his brain might be alright and Easter, when he literally stood for the first time. He is receiving some ongoing treatment and PT but will be able to resume college in late summer. Yes, it’s a miracle ... and I don’t use that word lightly. Fact is, he could have died at various points, and the medical professionals weren’t so sure he would make it.

I am grateful for the wonderful support I received during this time from Pastor Mike Carlson, Pastor Dayle Malloy, my staff and the leaders of the congregation. They all gave me permission to turn my attention to my family when we all needed to support one another. Thank you! And thanks for the many cards we received and the

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Summer Schedule:
One service with
Live Streaming
at 9:30 am

ST. PETER'S CHURCH COUNCIL

Martha Heinze, President
Maureen Tang, Vice President
Dave Kinka, Treasurer
Diana Sundar, Secretary
Brooke Alderfer
Brian Brenfleck
Joe Browne
Steve Frescatore
Daren Gross
Doug Longwill
Bill O'Brien
Sharon Skrzat

CORE VALUES

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value and embrace service driven ministry and being “other-oriented” serving God by serving people both locally and globally.

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value and strive for meaningful vibrant worship, enhanced with purposeful liturgy, powerful relevant messages, devout prayer, glorious music and participation by both clergy and lay “ministers”.

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value spiritual growth for all generations defined by well thought out programs available for all ages and strong support for families of all types.

As members of St. Peter's we value and commit to being an inclusive community promoting authentic caring relationships with each other and our partners in ministry, always treating each other with respect.

As members of St. Peter's we value and commit to community hospitality, placing importance on being an integral part of our community by using both our building facility and our actions.

STEEPLE VIEWS

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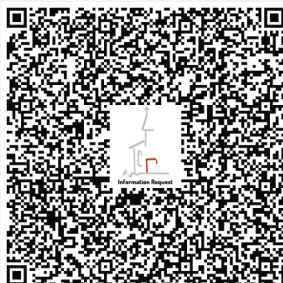
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Articles for *Steeple Views* should be
submitted to the office or
secretary@stpetersnorthwales.org

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



Information Request



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

prayers you offered, the steadfast love you showed us. We are just now at a point where things are slowing down for us.

In our church we are now gearing up for our month of service. We host guests in our Education Building during the month of June. More than a dozen people will go to Boone, North Carolina for a mission trip to do clean-up and repairs following the devastation in that area last year. And we have local projects lined up for the last week of the month. I am grateful for the many willing hands, hearts and feet at work in our congregation.

We are also in the process of forming a team to discern the direction of our congregation. We have a lot of good things going for us, but we don't want to miss opportunities that God may open for us. Please keep the special church in your prayers. And I hope you can join us this summer for some of our worship services (9:30 am).

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his steadfast love endures forever."

Pastor Andreas Wagner

St. Peter's Outreach Team

"Pillowcases"

This article appeared in our daily e-newsletter on May 21 and was written by Bernie Heinze in preparation for the intergenerational mission to North Carolina (June 21-28). It gives insight into the ministries of our partner congregation, Grace Lutheran in Boone North Carolina and encourages us to help with their pillowcase initiative.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

This verse from the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats was shared by Jesus during His final week and delivered before the crucifixion on the Mount of Olives just outside the city of Jerusalem overlooking the temple. It is as strong a message of truth today as it was then. In the verse, we hear Jesus calling; allowing us to see His face in those of the abandoned, broken and burdened...and being told that when we help the least of our brothers and sisters, we honor Him and reveal the heartbeat of God.

A heart that doesn't reside only in temples or cathedrals but beats in the slums and barren sand-blown desert of Tanzania, in the refugee camps, the hungry schoolchild, the single mother, those fighting a prolonged illness, and the unhoused veteran here in our own neighborhood. Wherever there is need, Jesus is there - waiting, watching, longing to be loved through our hands.

As we prepare our hearts and hands for the upcoming St. Peter's Outreach Team's Mission Trip to Boone, North Carolina at the end of June to help those still repairing their homes and businesses following last Fall's hurricane, we are reminded once again that we are truly *"the little church that does big things."* Time and again, you have risen with generosity, compassion, and faith to meet the needs of God's children both near and far.

Our mission partners at Grace Lutheran Church in Boone carry out a deeply touching ministry: they take donated pillowcases—yes, simple pillowcases—and transform them into dresses for displaced girls and shorts for the boys in Tanzania. These garments become more than just clothes; they become symbols of caring, identity, and dignity. For many of these children, it is the first time they can wear something made just for them. It's a gesture that says, "You are seen. You are loved. You are valued."

Look at their happy and proud faces. In those faces...you are seeing the face of God. And in the act of giving something as simple as a pillowcase, we live out the Gospel of love in action. This is not just a "charitable" thing to do—this is true discipleship. This is grace sewn into every hem, and hope stitched into every seam.

We humbly ask: if you have any new or gently used pillowcases—perhaps tucked in the back of a closet, forgotten in a linen drawer—would you kindly consider donating them to this mission? Solid colors, fun patterns, child-friendly prints—*all are welcome*. They will become garments of grace, woven with your kindness and delivered with your prayers.

This year, 300 pillowcase dresses have already been made by the Grace Lutheran Church Pillowcase Dress Ministry Team as well as 55 boys' shorts. We will take your donations with us and donate them to the Church in June. Whether you have 1 or 100...we'll take them all. Just look at all the pillowcases covering the pews at Grace Lutheran Church earlier this year in the picture below.

Please place your pillowcases in the **marked box outside of the Sanctuary** anytime between now and June 14th. Your simple gift can help us deliver a message far louder than words: that God's love knows no borders, and neither does the warmth of this church's heart.

Thank You!

Bernie Heinze



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Mondays
2:00-7:00 pm



Upcoming Dates:

June 23

August 25

October 27

For appointments
www.redcross.org
Enter sponsor code:
St. Peters North Wales

ST. PETER'S SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATES

2025 For 2025! Annual Food Drive



St. Peter's Rocks – Record Donation Amount!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of St. Peter's members and friends, a new record of 2,326 items were donated to Manna on Main Street and New Creation Lutheran Church in Tioga.

Special thanks goes to AA, whose members also donated their highest numbers ever. Your contributions have made a big difference to many in need.

Thank You!
Joy Jacobson

Box City

Box City is an event where youth and adults sleep outside in boxes to raise money and awareness of homelessness in Montgomery County. Sadly this year the weather was Code Blue (when the temperature with wind chill is below 32 degrees) and we had to sleep inside. Still in our boxes and still without heat. The 53 youth and adults were able to raise \$3,279, made 74 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, 14 health kits and 8 no sew blankets to donate. Along with all this we learned about the reasons and trials of homelessness. Ask us about it.

Robin Alderfer





InterFaith Hospitality Network 2025

During the month of June, St Peter's will serve as a host congregation for the InterFaith Hospitality Network. We do this in partnership with other area congregations and Family Promise MontCo PA to provide emergency shelter for local families experiencing homelessness.

Our Social Ministry team hopes all members of our congregations will consider volunteering or providing support to the families while they are staying with us. Opportunities include:

- Set-up and clean-up of our spaces in the building for the program.
- Meal Providers - prepare and drop off meals or share them with the families at church
- Evening Helpers - check in on the families in the evening to ensure they have what they need and that the building is secure
- Transportation Volunteers - transport families between the Family Promise Day Center in Amber and St. Peter's in the morning or the evening
- Financial Support - grocery gift cards for the families or funds for fuel to operate the Family Promise van

Over 50 volunteers provided support for the program last year! If you have any questions about the program or would like to volunteer, please contact Brian Brenfleck or Robin Alderfer.

Take advantage of those Back-to-School Sales!



BUILD-A-BAG

BACKPACK + SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
JULY 1 - AUGUST 1

- Small & Large Backpacks - gender neutral
- Earbud Headphones
- Ruler
- Composition Books (wide & college ruled)
- Spiral Notebooks, 1 subject (wide & college ruled)
- Washable Markers
- Highlighters
- Notecards
- Colored Pencils/Crayons
- Dry Erase Markers
- Folders
- Glue Sticks
- No. 2 Pencils
- Child-size Scissors
- Personal tissue packs & hand sanitizer
- Reuseable Water Bottles

Thrift Shop

As of June 1st, St. Peter's Thrift Shop has generated over \$25,000 in sales! Considering our low prices and only being open 11 hours per week, this is an amazing statistic. Our presence on Facebook and our weekly email to our shoppers have really helped us get the word out about our amazing ministry. We will continue to accept donations through June 11th. After that date, please do not leave any donations at the top of the steps in the Ed Building. We will be open regular hours (Wednesday 9:30-4:30 and Saturday 9:00-1:00) through June 21st. We will be cleaning out and packing up during the week of June 23rd. Our Thrift Shop partners with Mitzva, Grace Project, Salvation Army, and the clothing drop off at North Wales Elementary School which means most of our left over inventory goes to these organizations to help us stay as green as possible. We will begin accepting donations on August 19th and will reopen the shop on September 10th. Anyone interested in helping us out staffing the sales desk please leave your phone number at the church office and we will get back to you.

Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful ministry.
Peg McConnell



ST. PETER'S COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS

For me, the true start of summer is transitioning to our one service schedule! As an early riser and dedicated "8:30-er," I have to say that the full church experience is wonderful! This past Sunday, June 1, was a family service and it was alive with amazing music, a baptism, confirmation stories and our "littlest of littles" participating in the service. From my pew, it looked like a full house!

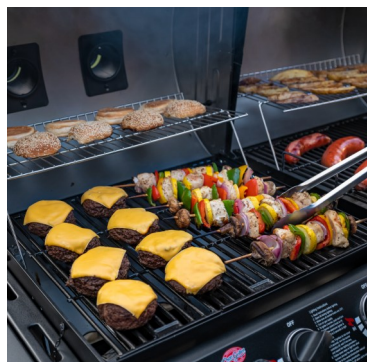
And this observation takes me to some recent Council discussions. First, as you know, we will continue with the 2-service schedule in the Fall. Even as an early service devotee, I was ready to vote for the 1 later service as I love being in a full church. But we looked at the numbers (the ushers take a count at each service on Sundays), and the 2 services brought more people into church than our 1 service schedule. So, while the early service is somewhat less well attended (ok, A LOT less attended), we are serving the worship needs of more people than the 1 service.

The second Council discussion centered on something that we are calling the church Vitality project. I introduced this to you in the last Steeple Views, but we are now moving ahead with a committee that will engage with the congregation. We felt that having the whole Council working on this project would amount to "too many voices," and that we would be better served by a smaller, dedicated group to begin this process. From last month's Steeple Views: *We will be looking at how we can fully engage our youth; ways that we can connect with and serve our North Wales community; and faithfully steward our resources – both monetarily and our own gifts- so that our little church that does big things remains a thriving place of worship and service. I hope we have bold conversations, both within Council and with the congregation. And I hope that you will consider offering your voice.* In the coming weeks we will be offering "listening sessions" so that you CAN use your voice. Do you think we need to encourage younger families? Change up the services? Stay with the status quo? Advertise? There are no wrong answers or ideas. But we want to *talk* with you as opposed to sending yet another survey! Stay tuned!

My last point is a little more serious... as Pastor mentioned at the beginning of the June 1 service, our "giving" is down a bit. Nothing serious, but as we move into the summer months and you are traveling, please consider enrolling in [Online Giving](#) or mailing your weekly pledge to the Office. Winter did hit us a little harder this year when it came to plowing and heat, so think of us while you are enjoying your summer fun!

Peace,

Martha Heinze
St. Peter's Council President



"When I figured out how to work my grill, it was quite a moment. I discovered that summer is a completely different experience when you know how to grill."

~Taylor Swift

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Life Celebrations

Baptisms:

On **April 27**, Tullia Hughes was baptized. Her parents are David and Laura Hughes.

On **June 1**, Gercino Soares received the Holy Sacrament. His parents are Kelsey (nee Rauchut) and Gercino Soares II.

Confirmation:

On May 18, six young people were confirmed in our church: Nathan Browne, Aidan Coover, Emmalee Henderson, Nora Ouellette, Dominic Reinoso Calle and Lily Shaffer.

Weddings:

On **May 31**, Shamala and Daniel Owens renewed their wedding vows on their 10th anniversary with many friends and family members in attendance.

On **June 14**, Lisa Short and Steve Hunter will get married in a ceremony at St. Peter's (4:00 p.m.).

Funerals:

In the month of April, we bid farewell to David Sensinger (April 12) and Jim Kelch (April 26). On May 2, we celebrated the life of Florence Ulrich.

David Sensinger, a Vietnam Vet, died after a short illness at the age of 79. He and his wife Ronnie joined our church in recent years. David had a long career in the postal service and retired as Gwynedd Post Office Station Master in 2010. He was a long-time boy scout leader. A tall man, he was known for his humor, boisterous laughter and positive attitude. He is greatly missed.

Jim Kelch died last year under tragic circumstances in Ohio. He and his wife Ruth had been long time St. Peter's members with Ruth serving as our church secretary for over 35 years. The service on April 26 was a homecoming service as we celebrated their lives and had their ashes placed in the St. Peter's Columbarium. Jim was a WWII Veteran, a great storyteller and a great fellow.

Florence Ulrich passed away in April at the ripe old age of 101. For the longest time, Florence lived in the church neighborhood on 5th Street and was a faithful worship attendee. In recent years she lived at Peter Becker Community in Harleysville. She is remembered as a kind and lovely person who cared deeply about her family and church.

100th Birthday for Bill Reichert

On May 14 of this year, Bill turned 100. A big celebration with family and friends, some of them traveling from afar, was held the following Sunday (May 18) at the Dock Woods Retirement Community in Lansdale. Bill is our last living WW II veteran.



FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

What a wonderful spring at St. Peter's!

We had a fantastic "Music Palooza" after church on Sunday, May 4th. Young and old(er) were able to play various instruments, and the highlight of the morning was putting together and playing a small, working pipe organ! Many thanks to Vincent Ryan at Advent Lutheran Church in Harleysville for lending us the Orgelkids kit, to Gretchen Flanagan, Linda Hubler, George Wunder, and A Common Thread for demonstrating some instruments, to everyone who helped with the kitchen and refreshments, and to Steve Moyer for taking photos, some of which I hope appear in this newsletter – if not, we will share them soon!

I want to thank everyone who participated in our choirs this term:

St. Peter's Choir: Alan Berger, Judy Coates, Stephanie Dunn, George Gross, Jennifer Gutsche, Linda Hubler, Joy Jacobson, Meg Matlack, Nancy Moldofsky, Jamie Nouri, Lily Shaffer, Nancy Simons, Diana Sundar, Julia Wagner, George Wunder;

Festival Singers: Brooke Alderfer, Margaret Almon, Lynda Cipriano, Bethany Coover, Doug Longwill, John MacInnes, Bev McGuire;

St. Peter's Belles: Charlene Bance, Tracy Cavalesi, Karin Clark, Dottie DeStefano, Stephanie Freidly, Gretchen Flanagan, Ruth Ann Kolb, Meg Matlack, Bev McGuire, Diana Sundar;

God's Misfits: Brian and Sharon Brenfleck, Joe Browne, Karin Clark, Gretchen Flanagan, Jennifer Griffin, Doug Mahan, Paul and Suzanne Shaffer, MM Smith;

Early Bird Choir: Liz Allen, Lynda Cipriano, Linda Hubler, Ruth Ann Kolb, Doug Longwill, Cathy Simcox, Diana Sundar;

A Common Thread (hope I got them all – apologies if not): Alan Berger, Brian Brenfleck, Pastor Mike Carlson, Karin Clark, Doug Longwill, Kirsten Olson, Mia Woods.

Special Instrumental Soloists: Alan Berger, Dominic Calle de Reinoso, Karin Clark, Stephanie Freidly, Jim Holton, Cindy LeBlanc, Doug Longwill, Maureen Tang;

Director of our SPARK children's music – Judy Coates

Our SPARK singers: Neil Berger, Charles and Penny DeStefano, Grayson Duffy, Natalie and Luke Freidly, Rory Gaffney, Danny and Caroline McGlynn, Malcolm Tang, Catherine and Jenny Wunder

...and more to come this summer – see elsewhere in this newsletter for the summer line-up of themes and musicians!

And a very special shout out to our sexton, Bill Johnson who has been so helpful to me always – from moving pianos to helping me get in my locked office (even though I had the key!) – much gratitude and love!

While things do slow down a bit for me during the summer, I'm looking forward to working with new and potential bell ringers (if you'd like to try, please contact me), conducting a choir workshop to get ready for the fall, and planning for a Christmas Concert next year (mark Sunday, December 21st at 4 pm on your calendar now!) So – if you're thinking about joining any of our ranks this fall, talk to me soon! I expect to be on the bench most every Sunday this summer.

See you in church!
~Laurie Mueller

I can be reached at dmm@stpetersnorthwales.org or lauriesmueller@gmail.com

Summer Services 2025
9:30 a.m., St. Peter's Lutheran North Wales

June 1 “Out of the mouths of children”

Children have a special way to express faith. Sometimes, children's prayers get right to the point. We will hear the gospel out of the mouths of children.

With: Intergenerational Choir of Children and Adults

June 8 “Veni Sancte Spiritus” - A Pentecost Festival

The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the unpredictable Spirit of God, the sacred force of Life. The Holy Spirit opens doors and new possibilities and speaks to us in different languages.

With: Cindy Le Blanc, Flute and Jim Holton, piano

June 15 “Faith of our Fathers”

For some time now, the Christian faith has been practiced and upheld primarily by women, mothers and grandmothers. That trend is changing. More men are discovering the strength that comes from spiritual practices and teachings.

With: A Men's Ensemble

June 22 “Say more! Say More!”

The Holy Spirit continues to speak to us. While we hold the Bible sacred, no Book can ever contain God. We are forever listening, asking the Spirit, “Say More! Say More!”

With: Jim Holton

June 29 “Faith between a rock and a hard place”

June 29 is the Festival of St. Peter and Paul. These two strong personalities formed the early church, sometimes in contentious ways. The lesson is: do not be afraid of conflict. Sometimes new paths emerge when we passionately engage with one another.

With: A Flute Trio: Ali Backlund, Jeannie Funk, Stephanie Freidly

July 6 “Peace Mission”

Sixty-four years ago, the Peace Corps was established in the US, giving young people an opportunity to serve abroad, fostering peace and appreciation for different cultures. The church has always been called to bring peace to places, going back to the mission of Jesus' disciples.

With: Clarinet duets by Dominic Calle de Reinoso and Dottie DeStefano

July 13 “Thinking Bigger”

We often think too small of God or limit ourselves to the people we feel close to. How we think about God and about people is intertwined. Jesus taught us to think bigger and always bigger...

With: Piano duets by Linda Hubler and Laurie Mueller

July 20 “Action and Contemplation”

Mary and Martha represent two different spiritualities, one more action and service oriented (Martha) and the other more contemplative and reflective (Mary). We need both action and contemplation to become whole.

With: Vocal duets by Gretchen Flanagan and Joy Jacobson



July 27 “Praying with Jesus”

Segments of the Lord’s Prayer will appear in liturgy, prayers, sermon and music this Sunday. One of the most beautiful and all-encompassing prayers deserves our attention and reflection.

With: The Wunder Trio (George, Catherine, Jenny)

August 3 “Celtic Worship”

On this Sunday our worship will be filled with songs and ancient, as well as modern Celtic prayers from sources in Ireland and Scotland, paired with Celtic symbols and stories from this heartland of the Christian faith.

With: Harpist Suzanne Ballam

August 10 “What is faith?”

What is faith? How can we cultivate it, nourish it, keep it, expand it? This worship will be an exploration of our faith.

With: Montgomery County Band Brass Quintet

August 17 “The Sacred Flame”

From the burning bush to Pentecostal tongues of fire, the fire symbol is present in the stories of our faith. Today we will honor the sacred flame that Christ has kindled in us.

With: Norristown Chorale Trio: Christina McCloy, Judi Slater, Debbie Steinberg

August 24 “God of the Poets”

On this Sunday we will hear some beautiful, spiritual and thought-provoking poems from our time, paired with poets from Scripture and music that draws from them.

August 31 “At the Lord’s Table”

There is no assigned seating at the Lord’s table. We are all invited. Today’s worship will focus on the communal aspect of the sacrament.

With: Bell Trio, Charlene Bance, Ruth Ann Kolb, and Laurie Mueller

September 7 “Choices”

We make thousands of little choices every day. How about the big choices, the really bog choices of life? We are praying for God’s guidance.

September 14 Holy Cross - Organ and Hymn Festival

Singing and exploring the meaning and theology behind some beloved old hymns and some interesting new ones will be the focus of this worship service. Come and enjoy this Rally Day Festival, followed by intergenerational activities at the end of our summer services and the beginning of a new church season.



FROM THE FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR

That's a wrap!

The Family Ministry year has come to a close. Here are a few highlights to share from the spring!



Green Team Earth Day Event

Planting, scavenger hunt, prayers for the Earth, decorating the tree and more!

PROTECT THE EARTH

Music Palooza

Building a pipe organ, playing the chimes, meeting the band instruments!



Children's Choir

The SPARK kids did an amazing job singing this spring! Thank you Judy Coates for leading them.



Easter Egg Hunt

LOTS of eggs and lots of fun with the Easter Bunny!



SPARK

The SPARK Children had a special Art Day led by Nancy Moldofsky.

Art by SPARK was a great success and we look forward to doing events like this in the future.

Confirmation

6 youth made their confirmation on May 18th: Nathan Browne, Aidan Coover, Emmalee Henderson, Nora Ouellette, Dominic Reinoso Calle and Lily Shaffer



Confirmation Speeches

Our six Confirmation students were asked to select songs that had meaning to them on their Confirmation journey. In this issue we'll highlight Aiden Coover and Lily Shaffer's confirmation speeches and the other speeches will appear in future Steeple Views.

Aiden Coover

Quite the uplifting song! My name is Aidan, and this song, *"After The Scripture"* by Manchester Orchestra, has really struck a chord with me during my second and final year of confirmation. Knowing the story behind it – how the band was invited to a fan's memorial after she passed away from bone cancer, and how moved they were to write this song about their experience – makes it even more powerful. It highlights how even a simple act of showing up can lead to something deeply meaningful.

For me, the lyrics beautifully capture the confusing and overwhelming nature of grief. The initial lines, "That was a bee sting, a speck in my eye, a casual movement, a thief in the night," resonate with how loss can sometimes feel like a series of small, almost unnoticed moments that suddenly culminate in something huge and painful. Then, the shift to "Now I can't forget you, sword in my side, candle that burned me, delivered me light" speaks to the lasting impact this connection has had. It's like the band members, by witnessing this family's grief, now carry a piece of it with them, a "sword in their side." But the experience, though painful ("burned me"), also brought a new understanding, a "light," to their perspective.

Thinking about this song, two Bible verses come to mind. Romans 5:3, "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance," offers a sense of hope within the pain. It reminds me that even though losing someone, or even the fear of losing someone, is incredibly difficult, it can ultimately make us stronger. I know this from my own experience. In the later months of last year, I almost lost someone I care about deeply. During that time, I found myself turning to God more than ever, praying constantly for their well-being. Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit," became a real comfort to me. It was a reminder that even in those moments of deep fear and uncertainty, when it felt like everything was falling apart, God was still there, offering solace and strength. This song and these verses together speak to the journey of grief, the pain it brings, but also the potential for growth and the unwavering presence of God in our lives.



A poster for Summer Service Days. At the top left is a sun with a heart in the center. The text reads: **SUMMER SERVICE DAYS**, **YOUTH AND ADULTS WELCOME**, **JUNE 23-27**. Below this is a list of activities: **THRIFT SHOP SORTING AND CLEANING**, **ST PETER'S BUILDING CLEAN OUT**, **CEMETERY CLEAN UP**, **1,000 BAG CHALLENGE**, and **GARDEN OF HEALTH - HATFIELD FARM**. There are small icons for a thrift shop, a person cleaning, a tombstone, a bag, and a plant. At the bottom, it says: **CLICK THE LINK BELOW FOR MORE INFO AND TO SIGN UP**.



A poster for the 1,000 Bag Lunch Challenge. At the top, it says: **Donate Snacks for the 1,000 Bag Lunch Challenge**. Below this are illustrations of various snacks: a bag of pretzels, a bag of granola bars, a bag of crackers, and a bag of snacks. The text reads: **pretzels**, **granola bars**, **crackers**. At the bottom, it says: **Snacks Must Be Individually Wrapped** and **Drop off next to the water fountain by June 18th**.

Lily Shaffer

Good morning! My name is Lily. This is my second year in confirmation. I chose *You Will Be Found* as my song. This song is from the musical, *Dear Evan Hansen* which is about a high schooler who gets caught in a lie. Evan feels like an outsider after his personal letter is seen by others. This song, *"You Will Be Found"*, is a speech about hope and connection by Evan.

I relate to Evan in the way of being anxious, a worrier, and an over-thinker. I worry about School. About what people think about me. About the future, the unknown ahead of me.

One excerpt that relates to this is Philippians chapter 4 verse 6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present your request to God." Later in the chapter, verses 8 and 9, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praise-worthy- think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

I need to lift these worries to God. I need to live every day in the path he has set for me. I know it is all I can do to follow him. I know it is meant for me. But I need to ignite this fire. I need to work to start what God has shown me, the lessons I have learned from him and will hold close to me forever. The lessons that are the staples of my life, the reasons for waking up in the morning. The reasons to be kind to not only the people around me but to myself.

Another verse that speaks to me in relation to this song is Exodus chapter 18 verse 18, "You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone." In the song the lyrics "when you don't feel strong enough to stand, you can reach, reach out your hand" relate to this excerpt. Both connect the idea of being able to reach out to God in times of darkness or trouble.

Earlier this year my dad had to go to the hospital. He's okay and I knew he would be okay at the time, but in all honesty I was terrified. And when I felt that way, I took a breath and a moment, and I prayed. I prayed for my dad and that he'd be okay. I prayed for my family and made sure that they were feeling okay at the time too. When I didn't know if everything would be okay, I reached my hand out to God. I knew that I wouldn't be able to handle it on my own in the moment. The situation was too heavy for me to handle alone.

This experience brought me closer to my religion as a whole and this song are the words I needed in that moment. The message of the song is clear, but I know for me it goes so much deeper than just on the surface. In hard times like these I need to know I can't handle it alone or I'll wear myself out. I need to know I'm not alone and that I am always able to communicate with God. I need to trust in him.

This song reminds me that I'm not alone in everything and I will always be able to reach out to God. Even when it's pitch dark around me, God will be the light. He will help you to rise from the floor no matter how many times you fall. He will carry you when you do and don't need help. He will always be there, now and forever. Amen.

Green Team Report

- Our new **water fountain bottle filling station** was installed in time for our Earth Day celebration April 6th. Thanks to a SEPA synod grant applied for by Robin (thank you!) and installation by Joe Brown (thank you!).
- Thanks to all helped with and participated in our **Earth Day** event on April 6th! We planted a seedling, decorated a tree, wrote a prayer petition, did a picture scavenger hunt, shopped some Thrift shop values and enjoyed healthy snacks.
- Brooke and Keith continue to monitor our **solar**. We have a new sign, paid for by Exact Solar, on Sumneytown Pike off our parking lot announcing **WE ARE SOLAR!** Keith and Brooke have gotten inquiries from other churches about how they can also go solar.
- Visit our **butterfly garden** in front of the Ed building. If you have some time this summer to help with occasional watering please contact Cathy Simcox.
- If you aren't already doing so, make sure to check out the weekly **Going Green tips** in the announcement section of Pastor's emails. There is a new one each Sunday. About 200 of these have been written since they began in 2020!



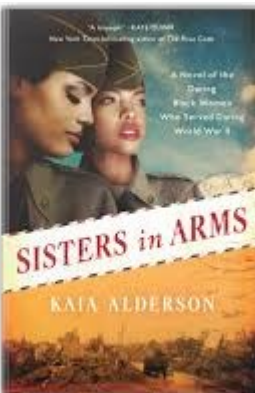
And remember ... **"There are no passengers on planet Earth. We are all crew!"** ~ Marshall McLuhan

Charlene Bance

St. Peter's Readers

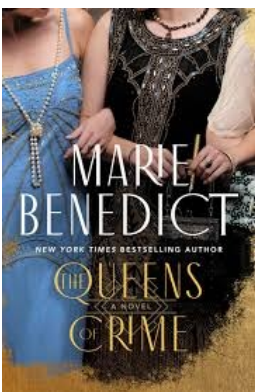
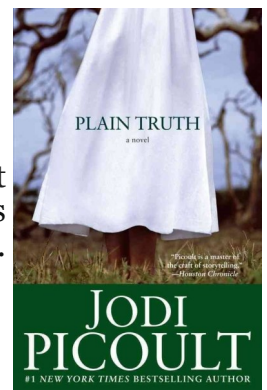
St. Peter's Readers is a group of women who meet about every 6 weeks to discuss a selected book. We meet in the church parlor always on a Tuesday at 11:30am. Join us or if you have any questions contact Charlene Bance at cmbance@gmail.com.

Here are our next books:



6/17 ***Sisters in Arms*** Kaia Alderson
A heartwarming historical novel of the daring first black women who served in the Six Triple Eight during WWII.

7/29 ***Plain Truth*** Jodie Picoult
The riveting story of a murder that shatters the picturesque calm of Amish country.



9/09 (We begin our 18th year!)
The Queens of Crime Marie Benedict
A thrilling story of the five greatest women writers of the Golden Age of Mystery and their bid to solve a real-life murder.

Little Free Library



While at the Little Free Library the other day, I encountered a woman with a little girl waiting to cross the street. I asked the little girl if she wanted a book and she came over and looked at them. I gave her a Dr. Seuss book and another one. I found a book in my car that I gave her also. She started to hand back the books I had given her before and when I told her she could have all three, she smiled and was amazed that I was giving them to her. I told her to stop by and take more if she wanted and if she had books she was finished reading to put them in the library for other kids. They left talking about the library and the books she had gotten.

This is why I started the Little Free Library. So kids could have always have books to read. The experience to have a book to read is magical and that is what every child deserves.

I want to thank everyone that donates books for the Library. Without your generosity, we would not be able to keep good quality books in the Library. The Library is doing very well. Every time I go to check on it, the Library is full. It is being used and I hope the people are enjoying it.

If you have a minute, stop by and take a look. You can even take a book if you find one you like. Thank you again for all your support.

Sharon Baker



Collecting Undies & Socks

for the children at Gemma Services

Coming Soon!

Boxer Briefs & Panties:

Child: L & XL and Adult Sizes

White Undershirts:

Child: L & XL and Adult S & M

Sports Bras: S, M, & L

Socks: Adult sizes

Watch for more information!

Around Church

Baptisms



April 27
Tullia Hughes



June 1
Gercino Soares



Happy 100th Birthday
to Bill Reichert on
May 14th! .

Adult Forum,
March 9th



Dayle English and
Charlene Bance



Adult Forum, March 30th

Bill Kintigh





Julia and Peter Wagner
with visitors on April 6



Nathan's interpretation of his confirmation
song, "Jesus, take the wheel".

Joe Browne demonstrating
the new water fountain.



Renewal of Wedding Vows,
Shamala and Daniel Owens

Easter Sunday



Mother's Day 2025



wishing you a
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June

Lisa Miller June 01
Charlene Bance June 03
Bailee Charles June 03
Mary Ann Landmesser June 03
Nora Ouellette June 03
Cassidy Flanagan June 07
Natalie Freidly June 07
Nancy Simons June 14
Elizabeth Walter June 17
Stephen Wright June 18
Melissa Kalb June 19
Mitch Nguyen June 20
Nathan Browne June 22
Gabriel Henderson June 22
Jean Meyer June 22
Patrick Ouellette June 22
Kelsey Rauchut June 23
Taelyn Gallagher June 26
Julia Wagner June 26
Geneva Wunder June 27
Noah Shaffer June 28
Mia Woods June 28
George Long June 29

July

Diana Blum July 03
Shayne Gallagher July 05
Peg McConnell July 05
Robert McGilloway July 05
Daniel Long July 10
Brian Coover July 11
Megan Flanagan July 14
Bill Kane July 14
Chris Gaffney July 15
Sarah Nguyen July 15
Robert Coates July 16
Ebvy Hayes July 16
Caroline McGlynn July 16
Mark Salerno July 19
Ginny Benner July 23
Rose Nguyen July 24
Nancy Long July 26
Grant Staudt July 26
Dylan Browne July 27
Teaghan Gallagher July 28
Kate Thompson July 28
Sam Martin July 30
Sally Neiderhiser July 30
Joann Rauchut July 30
Andreas Wagner July 30
Peter Wagner July 30
Wayne Stratz July 31

August

Ruth Ann Kolb August 01
Michael Vandergrift August 03
Diane Zenker August 06
Kaitlyn Walter August 07
Sam Tarasenko August 15
Owen Gaffney August 16
Ella Meyer August 17
Joy Jacobson August 18
Robert Kotulka August 20
Mark Ouellette August 21
Karl Hussey August 25
William Hussey III August 25
Michael Cipriano August 27
Brett Kratz August 27
Scott Lauro August 27
Margaret McConnell August 28
Rosanne Keep August 29
Robin Alderfer August 30
Nicole Alumni August 30
Joseph Browne August 30

Healing Father,

We lift **up to you all on our prayer lists and on our hearts**, friends and family, church members, our community, and our world, and all who are in need of prayer.

Help all of us to open our ears and eyes to what is around us.

Help us to have hearts to love and comfort as we are able, just as your son loved and comforted so many.

Help us to especially hear those who are alone, distant from loved ones, or isolating on they own.

Help us to see the struggles and fear and to hear the anguish.

Help us to be there and respond with tender mercy as we hope others will respond to our own cries for help.

Dear Lord, we thank you for your grace, mercy and your great power to heal your people.

Give them relief from pain, rest from weariness, and hope where there is none.

Hear our prayers that they may be whole and well according to your will.

And where this is not possible please abide with each and give them your peace.

We ask this in the name of your son Jesus, Amen.

St. Peter's Prayers

PRAYER LIST

Melissa Allen
Lynne Blair
The Bonner Family
Tom Brauman
Robert Cassel
Joyce Chaffee
Tracy Cicala
Tina Marie Coley
Inge Coleman
Vickie Concepcion
The Crosson Family
Becky Cuccuzza
The Della Valle Family
William DiLiverto
James Doherty
Jane & Leo Doherty
Toni Durian
Len Ecker
Rena Erwin
Kristi Farmer
Bill Feathers
Megan Simpson-Forbes
Buster Francis
Charlie Francis
Kristi Heavener Francis
Lee Andrew Francis
Jim Friling
Janice Furto
Barbara Glover
Eric Gutsche
Ken Halpin
Laura Heebner
Lee Heist III
Ruth Herbert
Gino Hinnershitz
Janet Hoffman

James B. Holton
Karen Howard
Kathy Jessic
Peter Jones
Richard Kaufman
Bill Kesack
Leo Kirschner
RJ Krieswicki
Ian Lantanishen
Pastor Burl Latshaw
Andrew Lee
Donald Leister
Lenihan Family
Nancy Long
John Lopresti
Sandy Luoma
Susan M.
Matt MacInnes
Carlos Malave
Michael Mattoi
Richard McCune
Lilia McGovern
Rylee McLawhorn
Rosemary & Tom
Mellema
Michelle Meltsch
Joe Mitterhur
Haley Motet
Bill Myers
Sally Neiderhiser
Julia Nelson
Arlene Novak
Mike O'Brien
Kirk Olson
Seth Painter
Kim Pavia
Kay Powell
Doug Rogers

The Roma Family
Yolanda Romero
Helen Rose
Dan Rothermel
Dave Sausser
Rev. Ihor & Olga
Shemihon
Bruce Simons
Jen Snively
Diesel Stockton
Marlene Tegge
Timmy
George Uhl
Dale Underwood
Carol Vercauteren
Lannette Velez
Sam Wagner
The Wagner Family
Bev Whiteman
Sheila Wilkins
Jeff Yerkes

AA members

People suffering from illness, depression, anxiety, natural disaster, violence, or uncertainty in their lives. People suffering in wars and political conflicts especially in the Ukraine and the Gaza.

**"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining,
the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and
the lawn mower is broken."**

~James Dent



Saint Peter's

Evangelical Lutheran Church



211 South Main Street

North Wales, PA 19454

It is the Mission of St. Peter's Lutheran Church
to invite all people to

Know, Live, and Share

JESUS CHRIST