



Volume 103 **Fall 2025**

# Steeple Views

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WAGNER

Dear church,

Speaking truth in love is one of those skills that probably take us a lifetime to learn. Some of us lean more toward the truth and we can occasionally come across as blunt and uncaring. Some of us lean more toward love and we often avoid addressing issues that build up in our relationships for fear of losing someone's favor. I know a few people who have just the right touch in this tension field of love and truth, and I deeply admire that skill. Those of us who can speak truth in love often bring healing and renewal to someone's life; they help communities avoid unnecessary hurt and generally bring balance and maturity to a place, wherever they show up. The

***"Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become  
in every respect the mature body of him who is  
the head, that is, Christ."***

- Ephesians 4:15

Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians makes those types of life skills a central point of what it means to be a Christ-centered church community.

Since the beginning of summer, we have been gathering in a small group to talk about St. Peter's vitality and its place in the Greater North Wales Community. We have received feedback from church members and community members who are not affiliated with our church. We have pondered and prayed over this place of worship that is so precious to us. And we have come back time and again to the theme of giving people a sense of belonging and a spiritual home.

Kelley Gaffney, a relatively new member of the church wrote, "I appreciate how St. Peter's shows up in joyful ways, like Oktoberfest at Community Day, and how there is always an outreach or service effort happening."

Heather Alderfer, who grew up in our church, described her personal favorite stand out moment in the church thus: (People) "always coming together for events. Whether it be a fundraiser or collecting food for a food drive. It is inspiring how the congregation

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**Beginning  
September 21st,  
2 services at  
8:30 and 10:00 am  
with Live Streaming  
at 10:00 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

is published quarterly by

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submitted to the office or  
[secretary@stpetersnorthwales.org](mailto: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

always rallies to help support and lend a helping hand.”

Our world has changed very significantly in the 18 years since I started my call at St. Peter's. The smartphone has changed us more than we sometimes realize. The pandemic has left its mark. The political climate has been brutal in the sense that it tends to divide us much more than bring us together. A lot of people have lost touch with a real church community. They may have preconceived notions about religion; they may have had bad experiences, being judged or excluded, etc.; they may be caught in constant activity and distraction; they may be lonely and disconnected. We believe that our church is not just “God's House” but in equal measure a house for people to find truth and love, a little bit of both.

As we move into fall, please pray that our church may remain a lively place where people receive orientation (truth) and comfort (love) and contribute their own unique, god-given gifts. We hope to see you soon and especially at our Rally Day on September 14 and our Ministry Fair.

Enjoy what is left of summer,  
*Pastor Andreas Wagner*

## St. Peter's Social Ministry Team

At our Social Ministry meeting we were talking about all the Lutheran Ministries, some of them we have supported here at St Peter's. We thought it would be cool to learn more about what they actually do. So we are starting a series of articles on Lutheran Ministries. We will start with KenCrest.

KenCrest was founded by a Lutheran deaconess, Sister Maria Roeck in 1905. Initially it focused on helping people with tuberculosis in Philadelphia. Now its focus is on supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Some of these include:

- community Living (Group homes and apartments)
- life sharing programs (People with intellectual disabilities living with trained host families)
- supported independent living (up to 30 hours of support therapy weekly)
- transitional homes for medically complex newborns, infants toddlers and kids
- early intervention (collaborating with physical, occupational, speech, behavioral, support specialist and social workers)
- Philadelphia early learning centers

Our Thrift Store keeps none of its proceeds and pays none of its workers. **ALL** donations and purchases to/from St. Peter's Thrift Store support KenCrest and our other charities. Thank you for being part of this vital ministry!

Robin Alderfer



## 2025 Interfaith Hospitality Network Hosting a Success!

During the month of June, our congregation provided emergency shelter, food resources and transportation for three families being served by Family Promise Montgomery County PA. What was really great to see this year was that two of the families moved from St. Peter's into new housing of their own!

This year we had 38 volunteers provide over 140 hours of service including 59 rides, 28 meals and 29 visits during the month. Many generous financial contributions were also made to support the families during their stay to purchase grocery and gas gift cards. This truly is a full congregation effort!

The Social Ministry Team extends a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers and contributors!!

Brian Brenfleck

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## Good Gifts Begins October 5<sup>th</sup> – November 2nd



The collection is a coin drive to raise funds for the ELCA Good Gifts Program. The funds collected will purchase livestock, such as cows, chicks, and goats to help families start small, sustainable businesses selling eggs, meat, and dairy products. Last year we were able to buy animals for 6 family farms.

Piggy banks will be distributed beginning on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Our small gifts make a BIG difference to families around the globe.

Joy Jacobson

## Backpacks Galore!

St. Peter's Build-A-Bag backpack and school supply drive was quite a success! 30 backpacks, most filled to the brim with school supplies, were donated to the North Penn Education Foundation. These items will then be dispersed to those children in need in the North Penn School District, with any surplus given to surrounding school districts to help other children in need.

Thank you to the members of St. Peter's, AA, and art camp participants for your amazing generosity!

Joy Jacobson



## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Mondays**  
2:00-7:00 pm



Upcoming Dates:

**October 27**

For appointments

**[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)**

Enter sponsor code:

***St. Peters North Wales***

## Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Peter's Lutheran Church and American Red Cross have been partnering together for more than 25 years. Each year we hold 3 to 5 blood drives depending on their needs. Since Covid, we have been doing more drives, as many corporations had not brought their entire work-force back into the office. In 2024, we collected 168 units of blood, impacting over 504 lives. 2025 year to date we've collected 62 units, impacting another 124 lives.

We have 2, possibly 3 blood drives yet for 2025 enabling us to continue this life saving mission. All blood drives are held in the comfort of our Fellowship Hall between the hours of 2 PM and 7 PM. Any questions or concerns, please contact Diana Sundar at 215-519-2837 or at [Sundard@comcast.net](mailto:Sundard@comcast.net). We appreciate all those that have been supporting this mission and really hope that if you haven't tried giving yet – you'll consider trying here!

The next blood drive is Monday, October 27th.

Diana Sundar

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## Council Conversations

As I sit here overlooking Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, I'm feeling ambivalent this morning. I'm sad to see our family's summer "wind down" coming to an end. This is truly the only place where Bernie and I can shut off emails (or at least try...) for almost 3 weeks. But I'm also looking forward to fall... my favorite season. It's always been the start of a "new year" for me: school starting, getting back to routines and "sweater weather!"

So, this will be a short "conversation" today! Council took August off and July was relatively quiet. This fall we will be focusing on communication and how we can get the message out to the community of our "little church that does big things!" The Vitality Committee posed the question, "what would the North Wales community look like without St. Peter's?" Think about that. We serve so many more people than just our members and we need to get that message out!

We will also look inward as we will be gearing up for our Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship takes so many more forms than just monetary giving. We all have gifts, and those gifts help St. Peter's thrive. Volunteering in the Thrift Shop, teaching Sunday School, being a Stephen Minister, coordinating our coffee hour; these are all part of being a steward of our church. But we do need the monetary gifts to help keep the lights on, the grass cut and the parking lot repaired. So as we move forward, please consider the call to give. No gift is too small.

So, for now, I'm going back to my book and savor the last couple of days on the lake. I look forward to seeing you all... as the old song says, "see you in September!"

Peace,  
Martha Heinze, St. Peter's Council President



## Thrift Shop Report

Our year-end total for sales (September 2024 through June 2025) at St. Peter's Thrift Shop was \$32,248.21. Another amazing year for our little shop which is only open 11 hours per week. As of June 2025, the Thrift Shop has donated over \$500,000 to the charities we have supported during our 33 years of existence. We donate this money to Laurel House, Gemma, Manna on Main Street and KenCrest. We also have partnered with Mitzva, Grace Project, and Community of Love Lutheran Church Share the Love Family Boutique to donate our extra inventory and The Salvation Army takes what's left after we close the shop for the summer.

Our Thrift Shop tries to be as green as possible! As part of our preparations for reopening on September 10th, we have gotten new carpet in the front two rooms of the shop thanks to a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous. We have rearranged our racks and shelving creating a brand new look. A huge thank you goes out to the volunteers who moved shelves, ripped up the old carpet and cleaned everything during the week of service in June. Please stop by and check it out!

We are excited to welcome several new volunteers, but we could always use a few more if you would consider donating a few hours a month to our wonderful ministry. We will reopen for business on Wednesday, September 10th. Our regular hours will continue to be Wednesday 9:30-4:30 and Saturday 9:00-1:00. You can begin leaving donations in the bins at the top of the steps in the Ed. Building now.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 23rd to enjoy the Celebration of St. Peter's Thrift Shop at the 10:00am service. Stay tuned for further details. For over 30 years, The Thrift Shop has been an important ministry here at St. Peter's and we cherish your continued prayers and support.

Peg McConnell



## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**What has happened:** I have been busy this summer! I hope you have enjoyed the variety of guest musicians each Sunday, many from our own congregation, and I hope the weekly bios in the bulletin helped you connect with each of them.

I finished entering all our choir music onto a spreadsheet so that I can easily see what we have. This has made program planning for the fall and Christmas so much easier. **Liz Allen** helped with the music arranged for women's and men's groups. A huge shout-out to **Abby Clark...and her family**, who took on the enormous task of cataloguing all of our handbell music this summer.

In addition to rehearsing with Sunday musicians, I also started a group for people who might like to join our handbell choirs. I'm so happy to say that all of them are prepared to join one of our groups. Final assignments are still in progress, but I'm thrilled to welcome **Joan Anton, Kelley Gaffney, George Gross, Jen Gutsche,** and **Nancy Moldofsky** to our handbell program!

And last but not least, I heard from Kirsten Olson that our band, A Common Thread, is adding **Jesse Detweiler** to our “Sacred Threads” as a bassist and vocalist. Welcome, Jesse!

**What will happen:** Recently, I sent an email to our SPARK families to see if there is interest in starting a weekday children's music program. This will be separate from what they learn on Sunday mornings, and it is not a priority for them to perform in church. The purpose is to learn about music and worship through singing, listening, movement, and playing simple instruments. The tentative plan is for this group to meet on Thursday nights from 5-5:45 pm starting in late September. They will meet for about four weeks at a time and then be off for four weeks. If you know a child interested in this program (remember, since the goal is not singing in church, they don't need to be a member of St. Peter's), please let me know. This group will only happen if at least five children can attend. So far, we have three, so we're almost there! If you'd like to fill out the interest survey for this, go to [tinyurl.com/SPchildrensMusic](https://tinyurl.com/SPchildrensMusic)

We will have a **Hymn Festival** during worship on **September 7<sup>th</sup>**. I will choose hymns with an effort to include YOUR FAVORITES. The only caveat is they must be in our hymnal, because we will use hymnals that day. If you'd like to submit a favorite, please do so not later than August 31<sup>st</sup> to me at [lauriesmueller@gmail.com](mailto:lauriesmueller@gmail.com).

Then comes **Rally Day** on **September 14<sup>th</sup>**. There is only one service at 9:30 am. Our band, A Common Thread, will lead worship that day, and there will be a wonderful **Ministry Fair** afterward where you can learn about all the wonderful groups and programs at St. Peter's. We'll return to **two services at 8:30 and 10 am on September 21<sup>st</sup>**. As this is the third Sunday of the month, it is Bell Sunday, and you can look forward to hearing handbells in church that day.

The date **is not set yet**, but we are planning to return to The Lutheran Home at Telford in **December** for a Christmas-themed bell choir program.

Further into the future is our **Christmas Concert on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm.** This is going to be a really big deal! Our bell choir will play some Christmas music to get you into the spirit, and then our Festival Choir will be accompanied by string quartet, harp, flute, and a few handbells and some percussion instruments in a performance of (recently deceased) Hal Hopson's cantata "Come Ye Faithful." This is my favorite Christmas cantata, because it involves the congregation in singing very familiar carols, and the orchestrations are absolutely gorgeous. Save the date!





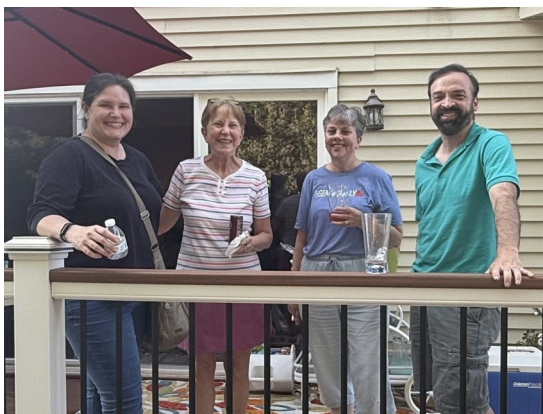
**An invitation:** We have fun in the music department! Below you will see photos of our summer party (many thanks to Diana Sundar for hosting!) And even our work is fun. If you can carry a tune in a bucket, please consider trying out St. Peter's Choir. If you have children interested in our weekly music class, please click the link above. If you'd like to try the bells, let me know and I'll put you on the list for next summer's beginner's class. And if you're not musical but just want to lend a hand when you can, please let me know. We can sometimes use set-up and tear-down help. We'll need sponsors and ushers for our Christmas Concert. I occasionally need clerical help. So – if you'd like to make yourself available, just let me know!

Here are the starting dates for fall:

- September 3<sup>rd</sup>: First Belles Rehearsal at 6 pm; First St. Peter's Choir rehearsal at 7:15 pm
- September 25<sup>th</sup>: (tentative) First Children's music class at 5 pm (to continue for 4 weeks)
- September 25<sup>th</sup>: First Misfits Rehearsal at 6 pm (to continue for 4 weeks)

If you've read this far – thank you! I'm looking forward to the new school year at St. Peter's!

Laurie Mueller



## Collecting Undies & Socks

for the children at Gemma Services

**September 1 - October 10**

### 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

## FROM THE FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Family Ministry is gearing up for a fun filled fall here at St. Peter's. Be sure to check out all the upcoming events!

### Family Sunday is now Ohana Sunday!

Ohana Sunday celebrates our entire church family and more! In Hawaiian, Ohana means family, but it extends beyond blood relatives to include close friends, extended family, and anyone with whom a deep bond is shared. In Hawaiian culture, Ohana is not just a word; it's a way of life, emphasizing a sense of belonging. Community is something we do well at St. Peter's and Ohana Sunday will celebrate community in all forms. There will still be opportunities for children to participate in the service in roles that they choose. More info about this will come soon.

**Ohana Sunday will take place the first Sunday of each month, October - May, at the 10:00 am service.** Following the service we will gather for Coffee Hour and fun in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for the first Ohana Sunday on October 5th!

### SPARK

SPARK will officially begin October 12, a week after the first Ohana Sunday. It will be both similar and different for this year. For the younger kids, we will follow a similar format as last year with singing, Bible stories, games, etc. For the older kids, we have created new age-appropriate activities that seek to put faith into action and encourage involvement with the larger church community. This older group will use the break-out room that is adjacent to the SPARK Room for their activities.

Teacher sign-ups are open for the Fall!

Link for daily email:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DAAAE2DA4FFC16-57954289-spark>

### Rally Day

Rally Day will kick off the year on September 14th, 2025. Festivities begin at the 9:30 am service with music by A Common Thread, followed by the Ministry Fair in Fellowship Hall that showcases all the groups and ministries of St. Peter's. There will be food, games, and prizes! It is also Holy Cross Sunday and there will be a special Holy Cross themed scavenger hunt for the kids. We look forward to seeing you there!

### September SPARK Days

Since there are two Sundays after Rally Day, we decided to have some special themed days before starting the typical schedule. Our music and art teachers have graciously volunteered to host these special days. Starting September 21st we return to two services so the time for these events will be 10:00 am. Please join us for:

#### Music Day

September 21 with Miss Judy. She will lead the kids in instruments, songs and games.

#### Art Day

September 28th with Miss Nancy. She will lead the kids in some creative projects that kick off the SPARK year.







# Fall Family Ministry Calendar

## September

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 14th | Rally Day: Service 9:30 am - Ministry Fair and fun! |
| 21st | Music Day: 10:00 am                                 |
| 28th | Art Day: 10:00 am                                   |

## October

All Events at 10:00 am

- |      |              |
|------|--------------|
| 5th  | Ohana Sunday |
| 12th | SPARK        |
| 19th | SPARK        |
| 26th | SPARK        |

## November

All Events at 10:00 am

- |      |                                  |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 2nd  | Ohana Sunday                     |
| 9th  | SPARK                            |
| 16th | ART DAY                          |
| 23rd | SPARK                            |
| 30th | No events - Thanksgiving weekend |

## December

All Events at 10:00 am

- |      |                             |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 7th  | Ohana Sunday                |
| 14th | SPARK                       |
| 21st | SPARK                       |
| 28th | No events - Christmas Break |

## Stephen Ministry Update: Continuing Christ-Centered Care at Saint Peter's

At Saint Peter's Church, our Stephen Ministry continues to be a vital part of our mission as we continue to care for one another in the spirit of Christ. As we move forward in our journey together, I want to take a moment to remind you of what Stephen Ministry is all about—and how you can be part of this meaningful ministry.

### What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry equips God's people for the work of ministry by training lay caregivers to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to individuals who are experiencing difficult times. Whether someone is facing grief, illness, job loss, divorce, or other life challenges, Stephen Ministers walk alongside them, offering compassion, support, and prayer.

### Our Mission in Action

At Saint Peter's, we continue to fulfill the goals of Stephen Ministry by:

- **Equipping God's people** to serve through training and spiritual growth.
- **Providing Christ-centered care** to those in need of comfort and support.
- **Helping individuals identify, develop, and use their spiritual gifts** in meaningful ministry.
- **Deepening faith and discipleship** through service and connection.
- **Reaching out to the unchurched** with Jesus' care and compassion.

**Growing as a caring Christian community** that reflects God's love.

I am deeply grateful for our current Stephen Ministers, **Robin Alderfer, Diana Blum, Meg Matlack, Stephen Moyer, Nancy Simons, and Sharon Skrzat**, who faithfully serve our congregation and community. Their dedication and compassion are a living testimony to the power of Christ's love in action. Together, we invite you to reach out to anyone of us to learn more about ways the Stephen Ministry can become a meaningful part of your life.

### How You Can Get Involved

- **Are you (or someone you know) going through a difficult time?** A Stephen Minister can walk with you and offer confidential support.
- **Interested in joining the ministry?** We welcome new members who feel called to serve and care for others.
- **Want to learn more?** We invite you to explore what Stephen Ministry is and how it might be a part of your spiritual journey.

If you feel a nudge in your heart—whether to receive care, to serve, or simply to learn—**visit our table at the Ministry Fair on Rally Day/Holy Cross Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Or reach out to Pastor Wagner, to me, or to any of our Stephen Ministers. Together, we continue to grow as a community of hope, healing, and grace.

Yvonne Garrity  
St. Peter's Stephen Ministry Leader



## **Adult Forum Sessions, Fall 2025**

**Following the 10:00 a.m. service in the parlor.**

### **September 21: Scarcity versus Abundance**

**This interactive** session will explore the concepts of scarcity and abundance mindsets in our everyday lives. Maureen will share some of the latest research from behavioral economics and positive psychology and relate these ideas to Christian teachings.

Presenter: Maureen Tang

### **October 12: Miracles in the Bible and Beyond**

We experienced no small miracle in our own parish this year. This, combined with recent cutting-edge biblical scholarship about the topic, inspired Pastor Mike to lead two sessions about miracles in the Bible and beyond.

Presenter: Pastor Michael Carlson

### **October 19: Miracles in the Bible and Beyond (Part Two)**

See above

### **October 26: The Separation of Church and State**

Where does this concept come from? When was it instituted in our democracy? What are some of the advantages and disadvantages? How does it show up in public discourse today? And what would Martin Luther say?

Presenter: Rob Strauss

### **November 9: Hidden Voices, Living Wisdom - Exploring Female Mystics**

In this session, Sherri and Stephanie will introduce us to passages from brilliant spiritual women, such as Julian of Norwich, Hadewijch, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila and some of the desert mothers.

Presenters: Sherri Retif and Stephanie Freidly

### **November 16: Adenauer: Portrait of a Christian Statesman**

This session will present a biographical sketch of Konrad Adenauer, the first chancellor of Germany after WW II. The swift economic and moral recovery of the country after the collapse of Nazi Germany was made possible by many people and gracious international support, but Adenauer's faith and principles, his amazing tenacity and leadership is something to remember in our world today.

Presenter: Pastor Andreas Wagner

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## **Future Events at St. Peter's**

### **November 15, 4:00 p.m.: International Food Festival**

This will be a fun social gathering on a Saturday afternoon with food from Japan, Greece, India, Italy, Mexico, Vietnam and Korea. We are calling on our various ethnic cuisine chefs in our congregation. The suggested donation of \$20 per person will go to a good cause.



### **November 23: Thrift Store Celebration**

For our regular 10:00 a.m. Sunday service on that day, we will take time to celebrate the St. Peter's Thrift Store Ministry with special guests and presentations, customers and costumes, an Open House, Acknowledgments and Thanksgiving.



# REPORT OF THE GREEN TEAM

## Climate Change: How can I help?

As Christians we are all charged with taking care of creation.

**Eco quote:** "Twenty-five years ago people could be excused for not knowing much or doing much about climate change. Today we have no excuse." Desmond Tutu 4/2014



**Fossil fuels** (coal, oil & gas) are the largest contributors to global climate change accounting for 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions. As these emissions blanket the Earth they trap the sun's heat and leads to global warming and climate change. Warmer temperature over time are changing weather pattern and disrupting the balance of nature posing risks to human beings and all other forms of life on Earth. From UN Climate website.

**CAUSES:** Generating power, Manufacturing goods, Cutting down forests, Using transportation, Producing food, Powering building, Consuming too much.

## WHAT ARE WE SEEING:

- Hotter temperatures
- More severe storms and floods,
- Food challenges
- Increased droughts
- A warming rising ocean
- Loss of species
- Increased human health risks

**WHAT CAN WE DO?:** To proactively address climate change we can focus on reducing our carbon footprint through lifestyle changes, advocate for policy changes and support organizations working on climate solutions!

**Here are some ways we can EACH help to take proactive steps and contribute to mitigating climate change for ourselves and for future generations.**

- Reduce energy consumption by adjusting thermostats and turning off lights and electronics when not in use
- Consider fuel-efficient or electric vehicles
- Reduce food waste by planning meals and using leftovers
- Conserve water
- Eat a plant-based diet or reduce consumption of animal products
- Buy local and seasonal produce
- REDUCE, REUSE, REPURPOSE, RECYCLE
- AVOID single use plastics!!!!
- Support climate-friendly policies
- Donate/volunteer with environmental organizations
- Support businesses with sustainable practices
- Contact your representatives to express concerns and encourage support of legislation promoting policies that advocate for our planet.

Charlene Bance

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"What has become clear from the science is that we cannot burn all of the fossil fuels without creating a very different planet." ~ James Hansen

## Offering Envelope Changes

We will be making a change to our offering envelope distribution. For 2026 we will be issuing an entire year of envelopes in a carton type box to those of you who get envelopes. They will be available sometime in December at church to be picked up. This is a green initiative in that the paper and printing of the cover page now three times a year will not have to be done. It is also going to save a bit of money for St. Peter's. Remember if you are a regular online giver, an annual giver or someone who has indicated they don't need envelopes you will not be getting these. However, we are happy to provide envelopes to anyone who would like them. If you are not currently getting envelopes and would like them OR you get envelopes and don't feel you need them, please contact Charlene Bance at [cmstance@gmail.com](mailto:cmstance@gmail.com).

Charlene Bance

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**St. Peter's Readers** begins our 18th year reading together in September. We are a group of St. Peter's women who gather about every 6 weeks in the church parlor at 11:30am to discuss books.



Here are our next books:

**September 9: *The Queens of Crime*** by 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.

**October 21: *The Diamond Eye*** by Kate Quinn  
Based on a true story...a World War II tale of a quiet book-worm who becomes history's deadliest female sniper.

**December 2: *James*** by Percival Everett

A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

If you're interested, contact Charlene Bance with any questions.

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A promotional graphic for St. Peter's Thrift Shop. The top left corner features the shop's logo: 'St. Peter's Thrift Shop' with a hanger icon. The background is light blue with three balloons (orange, yellow, and teal) floating in the upper right. A large yellow megaphone is in the bottom left. The text 'REOPENING!' is in large, bold, yellow letters, followed by 'SEPTEMBER 10TH' in bold black letters. At the bottom, the weekly hours are listed: 'WEEKLY HOURS: WED 9:30AM - 4:30PM SAT 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM'.

A colorful promotional graphic for a 'Rally Day' event. The top features a banner with the text 'Rally Day' in blue, flanked by balloons and a string of colorful pennants. Below the banner, the date and time are listed: 'September 14th 9:30 am Service'. This is followed by the text 'followed by' in blue, and then 'Ministry Fair in Fellowship Hall' in red. Below this, three items are listed in red: 'Games for Kids', 'Food and Drinks', and 'Fun for Everyone!'. The graphic is decorated with various icons: a glass of juice, a pretzel, a child playing a game, and a small red tent with a 'TICKET' sign.

## **Making A Difference: The SPOT 2025 Mission Trip**

By: Steve Frescatore; Doug & Jennifer Mahan and Lizzy; Jean Prindle; Joe & Nathan Browne; Sherri "Coach" Retif; Joan Anton, Bill Kammerle & Adriane Glass; Frank DiCicco; and Bernie & Martha Heinze



When Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina last fall, it caused unprecedented loss and damage. Two storms during the prior week dropped 8 inches of rain. The hurricane brought 22 inches more, together with 60 mile-per-hour winds with gusts up to 100 mph – all of which caused the cascading of devastation, landslides, loss of homes (some of which had become inaccessible), loss of life, the closing of businesses and essential services and for many, a loss of hope. Across the region, 40 trillion gallons of water caused 74,000 homes to be destroyed, damaged 5,000 miles of state roads and 7,000 miles of private roads; and 1,000 bridges and culverts.

It was a lot to comprehend, and even more difficult to observe in person, realizing that the hurricane had hit 8 months before we got there and there was still so much damage that had yet been not yet been addressed. We were also surprised that over 8,000 claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency from people whose homes and businesses needed help had not yet even been opened or responded to.

Right after the storm, we reached out to the Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Boone, NC, which along with Asheville, had been especially hard hit. "What can we do to help?" we asked. The response was immediate: "Bring everyone you can." And so, 14 members of St. Peter's Outreach Team made the 9-hour drive down to Boone for a week of restorative work. Welcomed by our hosts at the Church and Lutheran Disaster Response, we worshipped with the folks at Grace Lutheran on Sunday morning and then spent the rest of the week working on various projects, including: clearing a homestead of heavy fallen timber and debris using 7 chainsaws, axes and our own arms and legs; installed a new vapor barrier on the underside of a home; split wood at the "wood lot" where people can come to get free firewood to heat their homes in the winter months; restocked a food pantry and served hot dogs to people who were coming in to pick up groceries; fixed a patio and railing of a home damaged by a tree that had fallen and was still there; cleared a section of the South Fork of the New River from rocks and debris still blocking its flow; did work around the church and Parish House; and worked with the National Park Service to clean and clear a trail along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

While the physical part of our work was challenging, there were also tremendous rewards. A number of us felt that the work we could do would be inadequate to respond to the extreme needs that still exist. That feeling quickly disappeared as we were greeted by the smiles and thanks of everyone we met. Many of us also did not "know" each other that well. While we see each other on Sunday mornings, we didn't know much about one another as "people." In our morning breakfasts and evening dinners together, in living together in the same house for a week, as well as during the daily devotions we shared and working on jig-saw puzzles in the evenings, we quickly came together as a "family;" a bond that will last among and between us in the years to come.

As for what each of us reflected on looking back on the experience, here's what some of the "Mission Trip Family" had to say:

- "I was humbled and grateful to contribute in a tiny way to our relief efforts. Another thing I appreciated most about our trip was having the opportunity to spend time with such a benevolent group of volunteers who were ready to take on any challenge to help others. Each person in our mission trip family exemplified kindness and integrity."



- “I came to admire how these Boone-area residents have always respected each other and the land they are blessed with...long before hurricane Helene visited last year.”
- “It was my first 'official' mission trip and it affected me profoundly. I had not anticipated the perspective shift that could occur in eight short days. Stepping into an unfamiliar place with basically strangers provided a heightened awareness of the world that surrounds us. . . how we see the world and how we can be seen in this world. What I learned and resonated with me throughout the trip was simple, yet profound. When we approach our world from a mindset of humility and service, we ourselves experience a reciprocity of being cared for and cared about.”
- “Daily opportunities of devotion, established a deeper sense of belonging and awareness of grace all around us. What I truly felt and witnessed with our mission family was a BOLD love, in the messiness of daily work.”
- “I will never forget the mission trip family that we created with the other volunteers for the week. We all shared so many events like celebrating Nathan’s birthday, sitting on the floor and couch seeing how far we can get on that night’s puzzle, watching and cheering on the Phillies, and the pre-rainstorm lunch break looking out into the vast views on the Blue Ridge Highway. This was such an amazing experience, and we cannot wait to see what adventures will be the focus for our next mission trip.”

All in all, we all brought back the sentiment that while the hurricane was an act of nature, our volunteering and efforts are an act of God. We will keep that spirit alive throughout the year as we continue to look for other ways to reach out within and beyond our North Wales community to offer ourselves to the service of others.

We wish to thank all of you who donated to our ability to make this trip a reality, coming to our North Carolina BBQ fundraiser, collecting pillowcases to donate and supporting us with your prayers and good wishes. If you are interested in future mission trips, please contact [bernie@theheinzgroup.com](mailto:bernie@theheinzgroup.com).

Bernie Heinze



## Recap of Service Week

Service Week 2025 was a great success! Thanks to all our volunteers for a productive week of service and building community while we worked. Many hands make light work!

Tasks completed:

- Thrift Shop: all merchandise packed-up, all rooms thoroughly cleaned, carpet removed
- Education Building: cleaned out rooms and closets and reorganized spaces
- Archive Room: cleaned out and organized
- Emeals Program: completed the 1,000 Bag Lunch Challenge
- Main Building: washed windows, cleaned out closets
- Busy Bags: checked and updated
- More!

Tricia Riordan  
Director of Family Ministry  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



## Around Church



A Common Thread



Wedding of Lisa Short and Steve Hunter on June 14



Coffee Hour with Diana Blum



Brian giving Grayson a drum lesson.



Playing the organ is fun!





NC Mission Trip Volunteers



Doug and Jenny Mahan



The Green Team



Jessica Brenfleck with her new husband, Hunter. They were married on July 12.





**September 27, 2025**  
**St. Peter's 18th Annual**  
**Oktoberfest**  
**11:00am - 5:00pm**

**Food and Drink: 11:00am - 5:00pm**

Brats, pulled pork, pierogis, German potato salad, sauerkraut, pretzels, apple-kuchen, and ice cream! Plus beer, wine, Boardroom Spirits Cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages in the Beer Garden!

**Music and Entertainment: 11:00am - 4:00 pm**

Tommy Groeber on the Accordion 11:00-1:00  
A Common Thread

**Children's Corner: 11:00am - 5:00pm**

Bounce house, pumpkin painting, games, Wissahickon robotics, & photo booth!

**Silent Auction & 50/50: 11:00am - 4:30pm**

Auctioning starts at steeply discounted rates and ends at 4:30pm. The winners of each basket and the 50/50 drawing will be announced at 5:00pm. *No need to be present to win!*



**St. Peter's**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

211 South Main Street  
North Wales, PA 19454  
215-699-4604



*wishing you a*  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

## September

Karin Clark .....Sept 02  
Patrick Dallas .....Sept 02  
Paul Staudt .....Sept 03  
Holden Browne .....Sept 04  
Sidnie Harris .....Sept 04  
William Adams .....Sept 07  
Matthew McCarty .....Sept 09  
Lee Heist .....Sept 10  
Douglas Longwill .....Sept 11  
Michael Carlson .....Sept 12  
Laurie Kane .....Sept 13  
Polly Beckham .....Sept 14  
James Friling .....Sept 14  
William Johnson .....Sept 15  
Katherine Staudt .....Sept 15  
Robert Hain .....Sept 16  
Kyra Lynn DeStefano .....Sept 17  
Carol Seipp .....Sept 22  
Daniel McGlynn .....Sept 24  
William Hussey .....Sept 27  
Anthony Pavia .....Sept 27  
Barbara Heimerdinger .....Sept 28  
William O'Brien .....Sept 28  
Boris Borichevsky .....Sept 29  
Lisa Short .....Sept 29  
Coleen Arena .....Sept 30  
Steven Fitzgerald .....Sept 30

## October

Elwood Kolb .....Oct 01  
William Hubler .....Oct 02  
Joan Schiele .....Oct 02  
Brooke Alderfer .....Oct 03  
Tannis Gallagher .....Oct 04  
Rory Gaffney .....Oct 05  
Charles DeStefano .....Oct 06  
Catherine Wunder .....Oct 06  
Mackenzie Lauro .....Oct 07  
Shirley Whitner .....Oct 07  
Penelope DeStefano .....Oct 10  
Jenny MacInnes .....Oct 12  
Howard Edson .....Oct 13  
Wendy Skrzat .....Oct 13  
Nancy Zeigler .....Oct 13  
Ananda Jones .....Oct 16  
Helen Adams .....Oct 19  
Peggy Ann Matwey .....Oct 16  
Jessica Brenfleck .....Oct 20  
Stella Murray .....Oct 22  
Larry Richmond .....Oct 22  
Ray Whitner .....Oct 27  
Christine Hussey .....Oct 28  
Heather Alderfer .....Oct 29  
Scott Hoagey .....Oct 29  
Carol Lee O'Brien .....Oct 29  
Kaleen Duffy .....Oct 30  
William Kesack .....Oct 30  
Liz Allen .....Oct 31

## November

Nathaniel Erwin .....Nov 03  
JoAnn Rittenhouse .....Nov 03  
Annie Robinett .....Nov 03  
Ryan Walter .....Nov 04  
Kathy Anglim .....Nov 06  
Tim Beckham .....Nov 07  
Colton Cooper .....Nov 08  
Gretchen Flanagan .....Nov 08  
Yvonne Garrity .....Nov 09  
Pamela Paraskewik .....Nov 09  
Deborah Honeywell .....Nov 11  
Stephen Staudt .....Nov 12  
Daniel Clark .....Nov 13  
Scott Zenker .....Nov 14  
George Uhl .....Nov 15  
Janine Martin .....Nov 17  
Elizabeth Fitzgerald .....Nov 20  
Thomas Anglim .....Nov 22  
Jane Doherty .....Nov 23  
Abigail Clark .....Nov 25  
Marie Conner .....Nov 25  
Daren Gross .....Nov 26  
Linda Hubler .....Nov 29  
Linda Sausser .....Nov 29  
David Rodgers .....Nov 30

## PRAYER LIST

Stacy Bailey  
Basem Bayoumy  
Kareen Bayoumy  
Carol Blythe  
Mary Day  
Deborah deHeyman  
Megan Simpson Forbes  
Charlie Fuqua  
Raymond Gindhart  
Eric Gutsche  
William Haas, Sr.  
Laura Heebner  
Karen Howard  
Bill Kesack

Corey Leibowitz  
Rhea Macasieb  
Don McClung  
Bob McGilloway  
Rosemary Mellema  
Jan Miller  
Nancy Moldofsky  
Richard Myers  
Julia Nelson  
Kim Pavia  
Ivy Lyn Ramey  
Doug Rogers  
Ann Romano  
Dave Sausser  
Meghan Snelling  
Rob Strauss

Sam Wagner  
Earl & Matthew Wampole  
Bev Whiteman  
Carol Wynne

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.

**As a faith community, we're here to share in each others' experiences and lift each other in prayer. In order to keep the Prayer List current, we removed all the names on July 1st.**

**If there is someone you would like to add or keep on the list, please use the prayer sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office.**

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*