



From the Pastor:

“Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.”
 -2 Corinthians 4:1

February has some redeeming qualities. For example, it’s the shortest month of the year, which is fortunate, since it’s my least favorite month of the year. Maybe I’m missing a worse month, but it’s not coming to mind. It’s not the end of football and that baseball hasn’t started yet. The absence of hunting, most fishing, and planting aren’t even the biggest reasons, although that certainly contributes and probably now has overtaken my original reason for dreading February. Elementary school Valentine season is what frosted my heart toward this winter month.

It would start with the first announcements over the PA. The big kids from the high school in National Honors Society would be selling carnations again. I still remember, “Red means I love you, Pink means I like you, White means lets be friends” echoing daily, year after year in the weeks leading up to Valentines Day. Talk about humiliating. Of course, there were girls I wanted to send carnations to, but I wouldn’t dare communicate those feelings by flower as my opening salvo to my heart’s confessions. Those girls would inevitably receive carnations, however, and I would be left feeling defeated and flowerless myself. Yet, carnation envy paled in comparison to Valentine card exchanges.

The process was always the same. It would begin with a trip to Giant Eagle with my mom or both of my parents. As other grocery shopping happened, I would pick out a set of Valentines from the half dozen choices reflecting the pop culture of the day, like *Space Jam* or classic characters like *Peanuts*. Preteen, bespeckled Brandon would try to pick out the box that would be seen by my peers as cool but could also convey my intended feelings to each and every classmate. A decision would ultimately be made under the pressure of the half gallon of ice cream melting before we got home. Each time, like the definition of insanity, I would hold onto my box on the way home and hope that box of Valentines would finally live up to all of my emotional communication desires.

Unsurprisingly, time and again, Bugs Bunny and Michael Jordan on preprinted cards failed to be able to speak to exactly what I wanted to share with each of my classmates. After the realization that card manufacturers failed again to understand the heart and mind of a blossoming youth sank in and the wave of disappointment and guilt for spending my parents’ money on something with which I was unhappy passed enough for me to quit just staring at the pile of discontent, I would begin sorting.

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PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED



Valentines did come in a range of messages at least. General ones like, “You’re cool” I put on the side for the guys who weren’t my better friends and girls to whom I didn’t want to send the wrong message. At the other end of the spectrum were ones like, “Be my Valentine,” which I saved for the special few ladies for whom my heart pined but I would at no other moment ever dare to reveal such feelings. So the night would go, sorting the Valentines according to the strength of their messages and pairing them with the names of classmates that fell into that range.

Ultimately, the cards would be assigned and sealed, then distributed at school. Somewhere in there I would find an uneasy peace, having done my best with what I had but wondering still what the messages meant to their recipients. I never really knew. A few times my better friends and I would joke about them, like when Charlie Brown asked them to be my Valentine, but like Charlie Brown, no preprinted card ever led to a date with the red-haired girl. Life would go on and fall back into the more comfortable patterns of the slow burn of navigating feelings instead of the intense blaze of the pressure cooker that was Valentine’s Day. Maybe back to normal wasn’t the right solution either.

I think there are lessons to be learned from young and adolescent Valentine’s Day. You’ve probably learned them by now, but I am just starting to distill them from among the good laughs at a younger me. Sharing cards with everyone reminds me that although the focus of Valentine’s Day is romantic love, Godly love is for everyone. Christians understand that we were created in love by God who is love for the sake of sharing love with all of God’s creation. From those that light the fires of our hearts to those who heat our tempers, we are called to share love with each and every one. This heart to heart is not meant for one day alone every year and neither cards nor carnations are enough to fulfill its call. Love is an action, caring serving resulting from knowing, kindness rendered in words spoken or silence shared, in arms extended or burdens received. Such channeling of divine love happens at its best when we take the time to know those to whom we extend it, as God fully knows and loves us, so that we know which “card” to give.

Looking back, I think this was my biggest frustration with generic boxed Valentines. Some of the cards said exactly what I wanted to say to someone, but it was impossible for them all to match the feelings and messages I had in mind, even with Michael Jordan on them. I should have written and decorated my own. Now that would’ve taken some serious time, because I would have likely agonized over my own words at least as much as I did in sorting through others’ messages. No doubt there were homework, sports, and other activities to press me for time. That’s how it always goes though.

We run and fill our schedules until we are so short on time, that we think Snoopy will represent our love authentically. Okay, so maybe not that exactly, but you understand. Maybe instead of being frustrated that someone else wasn’t representing my feelings better, I could have used that time to express them myself. Let us together recover God’s gift of time and wed it to the gift of love made known to us by Jesus. Let’s spend more moments sharing self-giving, other-seeing divine love. If we can do that, then Valentine’s Day and all of February would be redeemed. Even more, with such love, God-given love, the whole of Creation finds its redemption.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BIRTHDAYS:



Food Cupboard Volunteers – we have been asked to help with packing food up once a month for the food cupboard. It will usually be the second Sunday of each month immediately following the worship service. In February the date has been changed to the first Sunday, February 6th because the second Sunday is our bulletin of reports meeting. If you would like to volunteer please meet in the food cupboard after the conclusion of worship.



Many thanks to those who participated in our second season of St. Peter's Charity Fantasy Football League.

Congratulations goes to:

Robin VanDyke - Champ! (selects charity to benefit)

Ted Lindgren III - the 2021 runner up

Brian Johns—3rd place overall

February Birthdays

St. Peter's Church Family Wishes Many Blessings To You!

- 1 Kim Morris
- 2 Amy Hogle
- 2 Paige Williams
- 4 Mark Acre
- 4 Nathan Anthony
- 4 Julia Lingenfelter
- 7 Larry Stewart
- 11 Lucille Wingard
- 14 Lloyd Green
- 18 Mark Adomaitis
- 20 Ruth Rasp
- 22 Yumalai Merrison
- 22 Ted Lindgren II
- 25 Charles W. Harbaugh
- 26 Teresa O'Malley
- 26 McKenzie Lindgren



Lunch Bunch- As a way to continue our ministry relationship with our friends from English Lutheran in Zelig, we have been invited to join them for their monthly lunch outings. The next Lunch Bunch will be Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, 12 pm, Montecello's in Cranberry. Bob Jodon is the convener and would like folks who plan to attend to send him a text message/call at 724-316-6648 or an email at rwjodon@gmail.com to confirm the number of people for whom to make the reservations. We order from the menu and lunch is Dutch treat.

Looking Ahead...Lent

- Mar. 1 Shrove Tue.
- Mar. 2 **Ash Wed. 7:00 pm Service
(communion at seats, ashes as you
come forward)**
- Mar. 10 Lent Service 7 pm
with communion



Welcome to St. Peter's!



On Sunday, January 30th Denny & Inez Schmidt and Tom & Cindy Ayers officially joined the St. Peter's family. We are blessed to have you as our newest members and look forward to worshiping, fellowshiping, and serving with all of you for years to come.

Shrove Tuesday – is March 1st. A tentative plan is to host a pancake and sausage dinner beginning at 6 pm followed by a bring your best joke competition and a 2021 year in review DVD presentation, followed by the burning of palms service.

Those who have their best joke ready to share can sign up on Shrove Tuesday to provide and even flow of entertainment. Best jokes can come from folks of all ages, just remember to keep them G rated for younger ears and in respecting our church family as a whole.

Annual Congregational Bulletin of Reports Meeting

will be held on Sunday, February 13th, immediately after worship. After the service, the live stream will continue for those at home. If you have a question or a comment call the church phone number, which we will have ready at the meeting, and we will make sure your question or comment is shared. Please plan to attend this meeting as it gives us a time to reflect on 2021 and the many offerings, dedication and service from member of St. Peter's.

Attention: Committee chairpersons- please submit your annual report to the church office ASAP.



Many thanks to Teresa O'Malley & Christine Johns for thinking outside of the box with a Sunday school reenactment of the wedding at Cana lesson. On a cold snowy morning these kids enjoyed their time together and learned of a miracle by Jesus. Thank you to all of the teachers who dedicate their time to sharing the word of the Lord with others.

WELCA SOUP SALE



Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the 2022 WELCA soup sale a huge success! It took many dedicated volunteers to pull off this fundraiser and the homemade soup was delicious! Please recycle your jars by returning them to the church so they can be used for next year's sale.

A special thank you to Thrivent Financial for their support by giving \$250 seed money to kick start this fundraiser.



FINANCIAL FACTS



St. Peter's Lutheran Church Funds Report	
Posted Contributions For Period: 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2021	
Fund Description	Amount
204 W.E.L.C.A.	506.00
206 Madagascar	3,367.85
208 Lutheran Campus Ministries	35.00
210 Haiti	50.00
211 Meals on Wheels	77.00
212 Food Cupboard	3,194.87
213 Synod Benevolence	12,871.90
214 ELCA World Hunger Appeal	207.49
216 ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief	270.00
217 ELCA Lutheryn Prospect	62.00
218 Lutheran Senior Life	64.00
219 ELCA Glade Run	54.00
221 ELCA Bethesda	59.00
222 Passavant Retire, Zelig	37.00
228 Seminary	57.00
234 Sherri Ifft - Missionary	52.00
240 Evans City Library	41.00
241 Evans City Fire Department	352.00
242 EDCO Park	492.00
244 ALS of Western PA	1,529.25
299 Pastor's Disc. Fund	365.00
400 Current Fund Income	139,379.51
401 Music Fund Income	2,612.56
402 Memorial Fund Income	3,725.00
403 MIF Endowment (M.M.)	500.00
405 Flower Income	3,204.50
406 Youth Fund Income	2,978.00
407 Priority Project Income	23,864.84
New Heating System	14,964.06 +1,598 (in 2020)
408 After School Program Income	29,592.75
409 Loan Income	29,933.00
410 Campership Income	1,815.00
412 Manna Night	1,255.00
413 Applefest	7,501.00
440 Softball Team Income	600.00
Grand Total	270,705.52

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Funds Report	
Posted Contributions For Period: 12/01/2021 to 12/31/2021	
Fund Description	Amount
212 Food Cupboard	383.00
213 Synod Benevolence	1,475.90
216 ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief	175.00
221 ELCA Bethesda	59.00
299 Pastor's Disc. Fund	50.00
400 Current Fund Income	15,290.88
402 Memorial Fund Income	70.00
405 Flower Income	453.00
407 Priority Project Income	670.00
New Heating System	510.00
408 After School Program Income	1,540.00
409 Loan Income	7,935.00
410 Campership Income	690.00
413 Applefest	137.00
Grand Total	28,928.78

A Financial Update – in an effort to keep everyone informed about our current financial situation the reconciled treasurers report of our current fund **as of the end of December 2021** is as follows:

Current Fund \$8,281.80 Memorial Fund 4259.72, Youth Fund \$8,055.01, Manna Fund \$4,118.06,, Priority Project Fund \$7,029.13, Heating System \$22,863.06, After School Program \$16,863.64. Many thanks to those who continue to give to these funds which give us the ability to serve Christ and others.

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for February

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for February will support Sherri Ifft (St. Peter's Missionary). If you would like to support this cause please mark the other line on your contribution envelope Sherri Ifft.

Our Lenten Special Offerings will go toward paying off the Brick Loan (90%) and Synod Benevolence (10%). Fasting for Change Lent collection will benefit ELCA Global Hunger ministry (both pending council approval). Coin boxes are available at church.

Giving To Synod Benevolence in 2022

Just a quick reminder that if you would like to give to Synod Benevolence in 2022 (giving to the greater church that reaches beyond the doors of St. Peter's) you can choose to mark your contribution envelope in the Benevolence section.

If you do not mark your contribution envelope, 10% of your entire donation will go to synod benevolence, as approved by church council. St. Peter's pledged \$13,750 to synod benevolence in 2022. Hopefully we reach that goal this year.

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Amy Anthony (Cancer)
 Cole Barkley
 John, Summer, Timothy Barron & Family
 Sara Barnhart
 Amanda Barron
 Sharla Barron
 Herb Brittner
 Rob Boring (*Liver Problems-nephew of Joe Ludwik*)
 Tom Broeren
 Jane Brown
 Jane Carruth (*Colon Cancer - B.Barkley*)
 Jimmy Dapper
 David English (*Lung Cancer*)
 Diane Fair
 Bob & Joan Ferringer
 Pat Foringer (*ALS*)
 Mary, Glenn, and David Fulghum
 Beryl Gilliland
 Lori Goodwin
 Joyce Hays
 Rich Isreal

Marylee Jones
 Val Kurth (Breast Cancer)
 Carol Kerr
 Kim Long (*cancer*)
Todd Manuel (*blood cancer*)
Tom Manuel (*brain tumor*)
 Matt & Kim Morris
 Erin Price
 Bill Puryear (*cancer*)
 Harold & Barb Rader
 Carol Smith (*Cancer*)
 Tammy Dauben Speck (*Breast Cancer*)
 Carrie Sphar (*cancer – from: Cheryl Thomas*)
 Sadie Terek (*cystic fibrosis – from: Kim Morris*)
 Garret Thomas (*cancer – from: Kim Morris*)
 Cathy Van Dyke (*Robin Van Dyke’s Sister-In-Law*)
 Dave Van Dyke (*Cancer*)
 Tracey Weimer (*submitted by Vonda Weimer*)
 Beverly Williams (*colon cancer- submitted by Vonda Weimer*)
 John & Kay Yuengert (*submitted by Karen Ferrari*)
 Nancy & Butch Zattiero



PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Please contact the church office as soon as possible to request additions or changes.

Norma Iman
 Agnes Watson
 Mary Belle McMillen
 Ruth Rasp
 Lucille Wingard

INTERCESSIONS FOR CONSOLATION IN GRIEF

Members and friends who have entered the Church

Triumphant in the previous 3 months:

The family of Thelma Schoeffel (11-1-21)
 The family of Eileen Spithaler (11-12-21)
 The family of Edward Gilliland (12-30-21)
 The family of Jack Weimer (12-30-21)
 The family of Deb Venturini
 The family of Warren Smith
 The family of Charles Watson (1-5-22)
 The family of Don Zinkhann (1-25-22)

JANUARY COUNCIL MINUTES—UNAPPROVED

Meeting via Zoom January 11, 2022

Present: Pastor Johns, Debbie Merrison, Michael Bettencourt, Rita Reifenstein, Dan Erin, Ted Lindgren III, Casey Guerriero, Robin VanDyke, Jane Taylor, Marlene Domhoff, Adam Price

Absent: Patti Flach, Robb Burr

Visitors: None

President Dan Erin called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm and Pastor Johns led us in prayers of love and thanksgiving.

Minutes: December 14, 2021 minutes were read. Rita motioned to accept the minutes as read, 2nd by Adam. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Written report submitted. Ted motioned accept the report as submitted, 2nd by Debbie. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report: Written report submitted. Ted motioned accept the report as submitted, 2nd by Debbie. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Written report submitted. Tom and Cindy Ayers have officially transferred from English Lutheran in Zelenople to become members of St. Peters. They are officially members as of December 26, 2021. We voted to accept them as members. Denny and Inez Schmidt have also requested to transfer from English Lutheran in Zelenople to become members of St. Peters. We will have a reception for the new members.

Fellowship: No meeting.

Finance: Written report submitted. No action needed by council.

Learning Ministry/Youth/Manna/Afterschool: No meeting.

Memorial: No meeting.

Mutual Ministry: No meeting.

Property: Written report submitted. No action needed by council. We are waiting to hear back about a roof repair cost. We are also looking into having a fence put in but are still looking at quotes.

Music & Worship: No Meeting.

Unfinished Business: We talked about how we are currently using the building for Sunday School, worship, and meetings due to the growing number of cases with COVID-19. We will continue wearing masks and social distancing. We will be singing one less song during worship. We will also encourage and recommend to chairpersons of committees to hold meetings via Zoom at this time.

New Business: We talked about how our theme for this year is Love. Our vision for 2022 is to continue and expand community outreach. We will be connecting with other Evans City churches to expand our community outreach. We are also looking forward to paying off the loan. We would like each committee to set goals for 2022.

New council member committee assignments:

Finance: Ted Lindgren III, Property: Ted Lindgren III

We will talk to Rob Burr about what committee he would like to join.

We voted to approve Pastor's furnishing allowance of \$2,000 for the year. Debbie motioned to accept the allowance, Rita 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous: Teddie Herman gave thanks for the year-end bonus she received. We thanked her for the hard work she does throughout the year.

W-ELCA is having their Soup Sale. The Soup Sale will happen January 22, 2022. The proceeds will be split between the Youth Gathering and Priority Building Projects. Robin motioned to accept the sale and proceeds going to the Youth Gathering and Priority Building Projects. Jane 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Dan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM, 2nd by Debbie. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey Guerriero

FEBRUARY / 1ST WEEK OF MARCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		9am - Pr. Cluster -Zelio. 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Property Mtg.	3:30pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	9am - Quilters Group 1pm - Mary Circle 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Boy Scouts	3:30pm - After School	1pm - All SPY Winter
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scout Sunday 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Bell Choir 11:30am - Food	3:30pm - After School 7pm - Boy/Cub Scouts 7pm - Fellowship	3:30pm - After School 7pm - Council Meeting	12pm - Lunch Bunch 3:30pm - After School 6:30pm - Relay for Life 7pm - Choir Practice	9am - Quilters Group 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Boy Scouts	3:30pm - After School	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Bulletin of Reports 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Bell Choir	3:30pm - After School 7pm - Boy/Cub Scouts	3:30pm - After School	3:30pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	9am - Quilters Group 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Boy Scouts	3:30pm - After School 7pm - Pinewood Derby	9am - Pinewood Derby 6:30pm - Game Night
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Bell Choir	7pm - Boy/Cub Scouts 7pm - Sowers	3:30pm - After School 7:30pm - Dorcas Circle	3:30pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	9am - Quilters Group 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Bible Study	3:30pm - After School	
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
Transfiguration 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Bell Choir	3:30pm - After School 7pm - Boy/Cub Scouts 7pm - Worship Mtg.	Shrove Tue. 9am - Pr. Cluster -Zelio. 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Property Mtg.	Ash Wednesday 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	9am - Quilters Group 1pm - Mary Circle 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Bible Study	3:30pm - After School	

PEOPLE MAKING WORSHIP BETTER TODAY AT ST. PETER'S

Date	02/06/2022	02/13/2022	02/20/2022	02/27/2022
Acolyte	Owen Price	Mark Zoelle	Penelope Erin	Gus Mossor
Usher	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adam Price Brian Johns
Lector	Karen Ferrari	Charlie Flach	Robin Plank	Becky Rengers
Bell Ringer	Davin Beahm	Troy Barkley	Jason Plank	Joe Ludwik
Altar Guild	Pat Capella	Pat Capella	Pat Capella	Pat Capella
Altar Flowers (\$35)	Lucille Wingard	Jenn Erin	Charlie & Patti Flach	Karen Ferrari
Eternal Candle:	Lucille Wingard	Lucille Wingard	Lucille Wingard	Lucille Wingard

**ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

202 Van Buren St.
Evans City, PA
16033

Call us: 724-538-5810
E-mail us
stpeterslccc@zoominternet.net

God's Son



Never Fails

Website: [http://
www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org/](http://www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org/)



Our Staff:

Pastor Brandon Johns

Heidi Beahm, *Secretary*

Marlene Domhoff,
Organist / Music Director

Joe Ludwik, *Sexton*

- The Sunday Bulletin Deadline is
Wednesdays at 10 am
- Monthly Newsletter Deadline is the 3rd Sunday of
each month
 - Sunday School: 9 am
 - Weekly Worship Services:
Sundays at 10:15 am
- Check Our Weekly Calendar of other events.
Office Hours for Secretary:
M-F
9 am—noon

SPONSORING THE NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by

Dan & Jen Erin

In celebration of their anniversary

