



# THE COURIER

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, PA**

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

We started the summer off in fine style – with our annual Vacation Bible School. This year our theme -- “Baobab Blast”-- was especially meaningful because of our connection with Madihani Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

During VBS, we sang a variety of songs, including “Go and Trust the Lord” and “Love Never Fails.” We learned Bible verses such as Psalm 119:15: “I will study your teachings and follow your footsteps,” and Philemon 1:6: “Share your faith with others.” We celebrated our faith in God, who has called us, who loves us unconditionally, and who challenges us to share the faith and love with others.

It is our faith which sustains us each and every day, as we experience joys and sorrows, triumphs and challenges. It is our faith which gives us strength and hope as we say our “good-byes” and gives us joy and promise as we join in greetings.

We have said farewell to our former Director of Music, Jean Ocker. In the month of August we will greet our new

Vocal Choir Director Wendy Borst. She will arrive just in time to help with another farewell. On August 22 she will direct the Junior and Senior Choirs for the first time as we celebrate the year that Intern Stacy Lauer-Scovanner and her husband Ryan have spent with us and send them back to Columbus, Ohio. Stacy will begin her senior year at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Eight days later, we will greet our thirteenth Horizon Intern, Rebecca Grate, a student at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. As both Wendy and Rebecca begin their ministries at St. Peter's, this is an opportunity for each member of St. Peter's to practice hospitality and the celebration that “Love Never Fails.”

God's blessings be with you as you open your hearts and spirits to God's powerful presence.

In Christ,

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts  
Senior Pastor

## July Worship Highlights

- Sunday, July 4      6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave  
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Wednesday, July 7      10:30 AM – Holy Communion and Healing in the Chapel
- Sunday, July 11      7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave  
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 
- Wednesday, July 14      10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Sunday, July 18      8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave  
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Wednesday, July 21      10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Sunday, July 25      9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
8:15 AM & 9:30 AM Holy Communion in the Nave  
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- 
- Wednesday, July 28      10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

The Courier of St. Peter's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church

The Courier is published eleven times a year by St. Peter's  
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18015 (a non-profit organization). The Senior Pastor is the Rev.  
Edith B. Roberts. All questions about the publication can be  
addressed to the editor at the Church Office, telephone 610-867-  
0519.

## August Worship Highlights

Sunday, August 1



10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

*Jerusalem Singers*

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 4

10:30 AM – Holy Communion and Healing in the Chapel

Sunday, August 8

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 11

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 15

Mary the Mother of Our Lord

8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 18

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 22



13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

*Service of Farewell and Godspeed for Intern Stacy Lauer-Scovanner*

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 25

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 29

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:15 AM & 9:30 AM Holy Communion in the Nave

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

## Stacy's Spot

Each month as I begin to write my Courier article, I reflect on what is happening in and around St. Peter's. Through Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and the Day of Pentecost, this place has been bustling with activities, meetings, and service projects, so it has always been easy to think of something to share. I figured that now that the Season of Pentecost is here, which is also called the Common Time in the Church Year, things would become, well, more common and less busy around St. Peter's.



Luckily, I was mistaken. Just as the green plants and grass of summertime and the green of the Pentecost Season remind us of constant growth, the growth and discoveries around here are continuing. Throughout June, the youth have continued to attend Whatever Wednesdays, where we have celebrated growth first-hand in graduations and birthdays. Together, we have welcomed the fact that even as a school year ends and times become slightly less hectic, God is still at work in our lives. As two youth travel to our Companion Synods and other youth continue to do service in the community, they get to see the face of God in those around them. In doing so, they experience the growth and love that happens when they are in relationships with others. And, they get to bring their stories back here so that we can all grow together.

Also, the Women of the ELCA Bible Studies are still happening on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month. During this time of growth and exploration, we are learning more about prayer and the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. So far, we have discovered that it really is necessary to pray without ceasing and that our lives are fuller when we recognize that we are not alone.



Even as we travel on summer vacations or enjoy days by the pool, we still have the opportunity to reflect on how God is inspiring us to grow each day. We return to worship each Sunday to get nourished and filled, to recognize the great gift of forgiveness, and to belong to a community that is greater than ourselves. We take part in activities happening around St. Peter's and become closer to each other. After all, the Pentecost Season is about growth, and there isn't

a better way to grow than to be together to learn more about God's love and work in our lives.

God's Blessings,  
Intern Stacy Lauer-Scovanner

## May Council Highlights

The following motions were approved to:

- Allow Lutheran Congregational Services to use the Social Room for Marriage Preparedness Workshops on March 10, 17, & 24, 2011.
- Appoint Glenn Breidenbach to the Audit Committee.
- Approve the transfer of Stephan & Maureen Potsko to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Quakertown upon their written request.
- Accept the resignation of Stephan Potsko from Congregation Council with thanks for his service.
- Authorize the amount of \$1,300, to be expensed from the Ministry Fund, for Madihani Lutheran Church to underwrite the cost of an agricultural project.
- Appoint the following members to serve on the Custodian Search Committee: Tony Strobel, Marianne Napravnik, and George Kummer II.
- Accept the recommendation of the Musician Search Committee to hire Wendy Borst as Vocal Choir Director, effective August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

## Women of the ELCA

*Morning Bible Study* – The group will meet the first and third Tuesday in July and August at 9 AM in the Trauger Room. All women are welcome.

*Business Meeting* – The women held their meeting on June 9 to review ministries and to plan for fall.

*Please mark your calendar for these important dates:*

- October 3, 2010 – Covered Dish Dinner
- October 17, 2010 – Thankoffering Sunday
- November 3, 2010 – Bazaar 10 AM to 2 PM
- November 9 – Bingo Party at Cedarbrook Annex, 6:30 PM
- May 7 & 14, 2011 – Bach Festival Ministry of Hospitality

## 5 The Courier

Your help is greatly needed in all our activities throughout the year. Prayerfully consider volunteering. Call Harriet Tonkins or Connie Wirth for details, etc. – more information will follow.

### Needed items:

*Christmas Ingathering* – hand lotion (place tubes or bottles in Coffee Corner)

*Bingo* – jewelry, snacks, knick knacks, perfume, stamps, etc. to be used for prizes (bring your donations to the Church Office)

*Bazaar* – begin to gather items for White Elephant; no large items such as a TV or a computer. (Check the September edition of The Courier to learn when items may be brought to church.)

## Pastoral Emergencies

Over the summer months, staff members may be taking some vacation time. If you have a pastoral emergency after office hours, call the Church Office and listen to the voicemail to find out which staff members are on call. Then call one of those two people and explain the emergency so you can get the needed help.

Please plan your calls and visits between 8 AM and noon when the Parish Secretary is in the office because other staff members come and go for meetings, visits, etc.

Please do not leave messages at a staff member's home. If that person is away, it could be quite some time until anyone would hear the message. Please help keep the lines of communication open.

## Jerusalem Singers



St. Peter's is fortunate to welcome back the Jerusalem Singers, under the direction of Pete Deshler, at both morning worship services (8:15 and 9:30 AM) on Sunday, August 1. This group of young people presents a wide variety of sacred music. Be sure to invite family and friends to be inspired by this wonderful gift of music!

## September Courier Deadline

The deadline for the September Courier is Sunday, August 15. Please place your articles in the editor's mailbox or email them to her at [courier\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:courier_editor@yahoo.com).

July/August 2010

## *Farewell, Stacy!*

Our Service of Farewell and Godspeed for Intern Stacy Lauer-Scovanner is scheduled for 9:30 AM on Sunday, August 22. Following worship, everyone is invited to a brunch in honor of Stacy. We'll gather in the Goosey Gander banquet room to share a meal and to present gifts and good wishes to Stacy. Confirmed members should have received an invitation. If you need a reservation form, please contact the Church Office so you can be part of the family gathering to wish Stacy well as she returns to Ohio for her final year of studies at Trinity Seminary.

Please remember -- all reservations must be made and completely paid for by August 15. Every person will need to hand in a ticket at Goosey Gander as you arrive for brunch.

## Youth Farwell with Intern Stacy



Following the 9:30 AM worship service on Sunday, August 15, youth of all ages and any adults who wish to participate are invited to come to the Reception Area for pizza and conversation, followed by a round of miniature golf at the Oasis. The tradition is that no matter what your score, ice cream follows the golfing.

This is a fun time for Stacy and all youth to reflect on their year of experiences together. Please sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board outside the Church Office by Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The outing will be over by about 1 PM.

## Shower of Blessings Time

It is time to prepare to welcome St. Peter's 13<sup>th</sup> Horizon Intern, Rebecca Grate, into the St. Peter's family. Rebecca will arrive August 30<sup>th</sup>. We will once again welcome her with items to fill her pantry and refrigerator. Stop by the umbrella in the lower narthex and take a slip or two. Please buy the item(s) requested, as they are what Rebecca has requested, and return them to the Reception Area table. Please bring the items in by Sunday, August 22. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, when Rebecca moves into her apartment, we will have plenty of food and other items to fill her shelves.

## Moving Parties

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 21, at 3 PM to help move Intern Stacy Lauer-Scovanner and her husband Ryan out of the Intern apartment. Stacy will return to Trinity Seminary in Ohio for her senior year.

Also, save Monday, August 30, at 6:30 PM to help move our 2010-2011 Intern, Rebecca Grate into the apartment. This is a great opportunity to meet our new Intern and welcome her to Bethlehem.



## Baptismal Anniversaries

Each Sunday during the Sunday Church School opening in the Chapel, we share the Baptismal Anniversaries of the month. It is a reminder that being a baptized Child of God makes us loved, forgiven, and special every day. We share this prayer together:

*Jesus, you touched us through the water at our Baptism and we became yours! Celebrate with us as we remember (insert name here) \_\_\_\_\_'s Baptism. Thank you for washing our sins away. Amen*

(from **Rejoice Songbook**, Augsburg Fortress Press 1990; page 13)

Please use this prayer to pray for those children and youth who's Baptismal Anniversaries fall during July and August.

- Talia Lehr – July 13
- Gavin Snyder – July 15
- Jordana Chung – July 19
- Douglas Bleier – August 3
- Anna Lehr – August 6
- Brandon Scott Gubich – August 11
- Logan Kenneth Frankenfield – August 12
- Nicolas Patric Ampietro – August 20
- Caden Snyder – August 20
- Halle Zrinski – August 22
- Karli Inez Abrantes – August 28
- Daniel Lehr – August 28
- Mya Mark – August 31



## *Congratulations, Graduate!*

We offer congratulations to the following graduate:

### **Liberty High School:**

James Schneckler, Jr.

We ask God's blessings upon Jimmy as he begins an exciting new part of his journey!

## *Look Who's Having a Birthday*

Please remember, with notes and cards, the following homebound members who are celebrating their birthdays in July and August:

Jane Clay – July 5

Joyce Mingora – July 19

Ken Tuohig – July 19

Margie Bunderla – July 24

Carol J. Groman – August 14



## **Importance of the Unimportant**

The greatest forces in the universe are never spectacular. Summer showers are more effective than hurricanes, but they get no publicity.

The world would soon die without the fidelity, loyalty and consecration of those whose names are unsung.

Any life, however humble, may take its place in the building of a better world and a more beautiful tomorrow.

It is so easy to exaggerate the importance of the seemingly important and to underestimate the importance of the seemingly unimportant.

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### **St. Peter's Mission Statement**

Our mission is to be a Christ-centered worshipping family of faith witnessing to God's inclusive love for individuals, for our community, and for the world.



**St. Peter's is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation**



*Special Thank You Notes from**Our Recent Retirees*

The following thank you notes were received from our recently retired Staff members:

*To: Pastor Roberts, St. Peter's Staff, the Congregation Council, the Planning Committee, and the Congregation*

***From: Jean Ocker, Director of Music (Retired!)***

The glorious celebration on Sunday, June 6, 2010, will certainly be one of my most cherished memories. I really can't find words to adequately express my thanks for all that you did to make the day so meaningful.

The work that so many people gave so much time and attention in planning was quite evident. Letters and e-mails must have been sent. Committees must have met. Obviously, details were carefully thought through.

The worship service was inspirational! The brunch was phenomenal! The tributes and gifts are truly memorable! THANK YOU!

As I said when it was my turn to respond, St. Peter's people will always have a very special place in my heart. You are very caring and supportive. Blessings!

The Cherub Choir song sums it up with these words: "We'll be friends forever – Jesus and you and me. He ties our hearts together, and friends we'll always be."

And the Mitzvah (Mizpah) Benediction – "May the Lord watch between us when we are absent from each other," is my wish for all of us.

As our lives turn to different directions, my hope is that you will continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with singing.

***From Linda Zrinski***

Join the choir!

From the heart of Linda Zrinski: "My dear friends at St. Peter's, my family and I had the most wonderful day on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Your hospitality and kind words will never be forgotten. You are very special friends to me and I thank you for the time spent together as your Parish Secretary, and I appreciated all your generous gifts. May God continue to bless each and every one of you and may your blessings be many."

**With Many Thanks!**

From Harriet Tonkins and Connie Wirth: A big "Thank You" to all the people who came in to work at the Bach Ministry of Hospitality. Also for the donations of rhubarb and other items. You all deserve a big hand. Take a bow for the good work."

From Frances Boudreau for "all your thoughts and prayers when I was in the hospital in May. I'm glad for my St. Peter's Family."

From the Lehigh Valley Chinese Christian Church: "Thanks for partnering with us to further the Kingdom of God. May God continue to bless you in the most abundant way."

From Ron, Kathy, & Kara Godshalk: "We wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful campus ministry you provide to the Lehigh students. Thank you for being Kara's church home away from home in California. We are truly grateful for the important role you played in Kara's spiritual life during her college years. Please accept our small donation on behalf of your Campus Ministry Program." {Kara served as Campus Ministry Coordinator at St. Peters.}

From Doris Brunnabend for all the cards & notes she received.

From Lorraine Koehler, Donna Schwalm & Family, and Karen Gotto & Family to Pastor Spieker: "We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for officiating at the memorial service of our beloved husband and father, Donald M. Koehler. It was a beautiful service, and it comforted us greatly. God bless." (Lorraine Koehler is Connie Litrenta's sister.)

From Bob Helman to "the congregation for the hospitality and generosity in hosting the AARP Tax Aide program. Volunteer tax counselors processed 140 federal returns, in addition to PA and city returns, and tax and rent rebate claims. The space, parking, and accessibility were excellent, making St. Peter's a very user-friendly site. We hope to be able to use St. Peter's facilities again during the 2011 tax season. Again, thank you all for your support of this AARP program."



## BAOBAB BLAST THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the fun of Baobab Blast in June! The songs, stories, plays, food, snacks, and good friends made for a great week. The participants of all ages, adult and young adult helpers, musicians, artists, food providers, everyone who came to the Blast were important pieces of the puzzles that made for a great week of sharing God's love.

Many youth spent several "Whatever Wednesdays" getting props and the backdrop painted and getting the building ready for the week. Brian Wiles-Young designed the backdrop and supervised the painting project. Thank you, Brian! You helped us to settle into the African savanna with all our animal friends.



## New Vocal Choir Director

Wendy E. Borst will begin her service as St. Peter's Vocal Choir Director on August 15. Wendy is a graduate of Liberty High School, Ithaca College, and Westminster Choir College. She is a Vocal Music Teacher in the Bethlehem Area School District. She is also a private voice teacher, sings in the Bach Choir, and recently served as the Musical Director for "School House Rock Live!" at the Pennsylvania Playhouse. She is leaving her position as Choir Director at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Old Williams, to come to St. Peter's. Wendy tells us that she loves her cats!

As you see Wendy in worship, please introduce yourself to her. Remember -- the same procedure as when a new Intern arrives! You will need to tell Wendy your name many times. She needs to get to know several hundred of us. We just need to remember one name!

Please hold Wendy in prayer as she joins the St. Peter's Staff and begins this new part of her faith journey.

## Special Choir Rehearsal

The Junior and Senior Choirs will gather immediately following the 9:30 AM service on Sunday, August 15, to meet Vocal Choir Director Wendy Borst and to run over the anthem for Intern Stacy Lauer-Scovanner's Farewell on August 22. Mark your calendar!



## From the Parish Record

### FUNERALS:

Donald M. Koehler – April 22, 2010 – Pastor Spieker  
(Non-member)

Henry Deutsch – May 13, 2010 – Pastor Roberts  
Emmy Neamand – May 23, 2010 – Pastor Spieker

### WEDDING:

Tami L. Ihle and Robert Holmes, Jr. -  
May 21, 2010

### BLESSING OF A CIVIL MARRIAGE:

Ping Zhang and Zheng Tian – June 12, 2010

## Letter from Madihani

The following letter arrived in an email sent from Edward Masevella, a Staff member of the South Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The letter was hand-written and scanned into the computer. (While Madihani has no electricity, the Diocese Office does have both electricity and a computer with Internet access.) You will note in the letter that mail we sent in November did not arrive in Madihani until March. This letter was dated June 2, 2010, and arrived shortly after that, thanks to email.

*Dear Pastor Edith B. Roberts and all Christians in St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church,*

*We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus. Thank you a lot for your two lovely letters dated in November 2009, which we received in March with one parcel of Christmas cards. Please forgive us because we have made a mistake. We didn't write to you quickly because we were with big changes in our parish.*

*Pastor Sephat Nduvambo is not in our parish now. He is our District Pastor. He is in Utengule. For this time we have a new Pastor. Pastor Isack Mwanjala is working in our parish. That means from now you are going to work and to have contact with Pastor Mwanjala, and we have also our Partnership Committee.*

*The time is going quickly. We heard that Mr. Adam Kolman will visit us this month or in July 2010. We all welcome him to Madihani! We are waiting for him. KARIBU Mr. Adam. Please Adam, you are welcome to Madihani Parish.*

## 9 The Courier

*This time in Madihani, we are harvesting maize. We have finished to plant our wheat. We have finished our seasontime, and we are waiting for summertime in July.*

*Please do not forget to greet all children in your parish.*

*With many regards from the Madihani Parish Partnership Committee,  
Pastor Isack Mwanjala, Chairperson  
Eneza Fungo, Secretary of the Parish  
Tegemea Kusiluka, Evangelist  
Benito Kyando, Skola Sanga, and Agnes Sanga,  
members of our parish*

## Wedding Announcement

Pastor Drew Goodson and Megan Nelson will be married in Decorah, Iowa, on Saturday, August 7. Pastor Roberts and Associate in Ministry Elizabeth Elterich are planning to attend the wedding to represent St. Peter's. Please hold them in prayers as they begin married life.



## Story Time at the Community Gardens



Several times during the spring planting and growing season, Sharon Wiles-Young, who is a Librarian at Lehigh University's Lieberman Library, organized a group of librarians to go to the Community Gardens in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Members of the group read to the two Headstart classes from St. Peter's that are tending a garden plot there. The children have walked to their garden plot each week to watch their vegetable seeds and plants grow. The Headstart teachers will tend to the garden and, hopefully, will have lettuce, tomatoes, and peas to eat together. The children greatly enjoyed their story time and especially liked receiving a book about gardening that they could keep. This represented a wonderful mix of our neighborhood -- St. Peter's Headstart classes, Lehigh University librarians, and gardens in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, which is the park that folks from St. Peter's care for during the year.

Thanks, Sharon, for working to make the St. Peter's neighborhood such a caring place!



July/August 2010

## Fun Donations Needed

On Saturday, July 10, Southside Ministries will host its annual Community Fun Fair from 5:30 to 7 PM at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on Carlton Avenue (at Holy Ghost in case of rain). The event is open to everyone (children, youth, and adults) and is a celebration just for fun. Pizza and snacks are served. Children enjoy balloon sculptures, face painting, and games. And, everyone looks forward to the prize walk! (It's like the old-fashioned cake walk.)

This is where your help is needed. In order for many participants to win, many prizes are needed. Last year about 100 people attended. As you shop over the summer or as you do some house cleaning, please gather small items in good condition --- knick-knacks, toys, stuffed animals, etc. Please contact Barbara Taylor in St. Peter's Church Office to arrange to drop off your donations. Your gifts will bring smiles to many faces. Thank you for sharing the love of God with our neighbors.

### St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church 474 Vine Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015 610-867-0519

CARELINE: A Spiritual Message: 610-868-CARE  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday  
8 AM to NOON  
FAX: 610-867-1249  
E-mail: [church@stpetersbethlehem.org](mailto:church@stpetersbethlehem.org)  
[www.stpetersbethlehem.org](http://www.stpetersbethlehem.org)

#### STAFF

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts - Senior Pastor  
The Rev. George F. Spieker - Visitation Pastor  
Elizabeth McKee Elterich - AIM for Education /Youth/  
Outreach  
Barbara-Anne G. Taylor - AIM for Parish Administration  
Stacy Lauer-Scovanner - Pastoral Intern  
Marisa H. Deshler - Organist  
Wendy E. Borst - Vocal Choir Director  
Anthony DeAngelis, Sr. - Bell Director  
Carol A. Frankenfield - Parish Secretary

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:15 & 9:30 AM Worship in Nave  
6:30 PM Holy Communion in Chapel  
Wednesday: 10:30 AM Holy Communion in Chapel  
Child care is available in the Nursery on Sunday mornings  
for children up to five years of age.  
Sharon Ann Burns - Courier Editor