



THE COURIER

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

We are in the Season of Pentecost, continuing the celebration of that festival day when the Holy Spirit whipped into the lives of the early disciples with wind and fire and in many languages. It is a season in which we are challenged to be open to the power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, growing in faith and hope and love.

I have to admit that while I have never experienced the Holy Spirit in the way that the early disciples did, there have been many times in my life when I have felt the presence of the Spirit in my life – sometimes in gentle nudges and other times in what has seemed like pushes or even shoves. I want to share one of those times with you.

With the retirement of Elizabeth Elterich and the end of the Horizon Internship program, there are some major changes on St. Peter's horizon. Committees and I have been working, with the help of Elizabeth and Rebecca, to plan ways that volunteers will take on many of the ministries, with Staff support. Of course, Staff support would mean Barbara Taylor or me.

Just before I left for China, I was in a discussion with one of our members who was seeking God's direction in her life – and – just like that – the Holy Spirit was there with a push and a shove. In the midst of the sharing, I could feel the powerful inspiration to make a bold suggestion. That suggestion led to prayerful consideration, and the Congregation Council has made that suggestion a reality.

On August 1, a new Staff position will come into being – Ministry Coordinator. It is a one-year term position for 15 hours per week. The position will include oversight and Staff support for Youth and Campus Ministries. Because of the lower number of hours, the position will not include attendance at all events, but rather, to provide support in the planning stages and ensuring that volunteers are in place. The position will also include social ministry, developing opportunities for all members of St. Peter's to reach out to our neighbors with the power of God's love.

The new Staff position will be filled by Kathy Thomforde, who has been a member of St. Peter's for over four years and who traveled with me to visit our Partner Congregation in Tanzania in 2009. After spending nine days with her in the village of Madihani – with no electricity or running water -- I know that we can work together. Kathy is a college professor, so she has a lot of experience with students. She has served as a volunteer with St. Peter's youth. And she has a commitment to social ministry. As I said before, the Holy Spirit just brought everything together.

Please pray for this new venture in our life together, as we seek out new ways to do mission and ministry.

In Christ,

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts
Senior Pastor

July Worship Highlights

- Sunday, July 3 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel 
- Wednesday, July 6 10:30 AM – Holy Communion and Healing in the Chapel
- Sunday, July 10 4th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Wednesday, July 13 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Sunday, July 17 5th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel 
- Wednesday, July 20 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Sunday, July 24 6th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Wednesday, July 27 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel
- Sunday, July 31 7th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
Jerusalem Singers
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



August Worship Highlights

Wednesday, August 3 10:30 AM – Holy Communion and Healing in the Chapel

Sunday, August 7 8th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



Wednesday, August 10 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 14 9th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 17 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 21 10th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
Service of Farewell and Godspeed for Intern Rebecca Grate
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



Wednesday, August 24 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 28 11th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 31 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church, 474 Vine Street, Bethlehem, PA 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.

Rebecca's Reflections

Likewise, the Spirit helps in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

(Romans 8:26)



The Holy Spirit is a funny thing. We never quite know exactly where or how it will show itself working in our lives. Sometimes it's a gentle breeze, nudging us to continue on the path we're walking. Sometimes it's a blustering gale, trying with all its might to get us to change directions. But, most of the time, it's somewhere in the middle – nudging us on and reigning us in after slight straying.

When I began working at Hershey Medical Center as a Chaplain Intern in the summer of 2009, I entered the doors with a lot of dread and anxiety. My fellow seminarians had done a superb job of sharing mostly their bad experiences of their summer chaplaincy internships and sparingly shared their positive experiences. I definitely did not have high hopes as I began my summer internship.

However, the Spirit works in many and various surprising ways! As the summer progressed, our summer group as well as year-long chaplain residents grew close. We shared our celebrations and our losses with each other, prayed for each other, worshiped with each other, and accompanied each other to the Emergency Room when we were visiting with patients. The same held true for our relationships with the patients and the medical, nursing, and hospital staff at the hospital.

During that summer, I fell in love with hospital chaplaincy. Visiting with individuals while they are in the hospital, when they are scared, confused, and at their most broken, both energized and calmed me. Instead of being overwhelmed when meeting a patient and learning their story, I was humbled that they were open enough to invite me – a stranger – into their story for a little while.

The most blatant example of this is that I was excited to wake up in the mornings! There was no pressing the “snooze” button numerous

times before I pulled myself out of bed. When my alarm went off at 5:30 a.m. every morning, I eagerly got out of bed to get ready for another day of work at Hershey Medical Center. There is certainly something worth exploring if I am eager to wake up early in the morning!

This is why my next year is going to look different. In August, I will be moving back on the campus of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. But, instead of beginning my senior year of studies, I will be doing a year-long chaplaincy residency at Palmetto Health in Columbia, South Carolina. This will be an intense year gaining further experience in crisis ministry and honing pastoral care skills. Also, I will be using the coming year to discern how and where my gifts for ministry will be best used. Even though I won't be in the classroom, I will certainly be continuing to learn and grow through another full year of hands-on experience. In August 2012, I will begin my senior year of studies at the seminary.

While it is scary to not be doing the same thing as my classmates, I am excited to see what new learnings and experiences this year will bring. However, I am reminded of Jesus' words in John 14:16 -- “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.” These words remind me that no matter how scary a new situation is, I am never entering that new place alone. God is there with me, helping, guiding, and nudging me to continue following on that path.

Peace,
Intern Rebecca



June Council Highlights

The following motions were approved:

- To accept the resignation of Gloria Jedinak from Congregation Council, acknowledging her need for time to pursue her educational goals, thanking her for her service on the Council, and celebrating her continuing commitment to serve in St. Peter's ministries.
- To elect Jeff Scheck as Council Secretary.
- To approve the 2011-2012 Facilities Use Agreement with Head Start.
- That a one-year 15-hour-per-week position of Ministry Coordinator, which will include staff

support for Youth, Campus Ministry, and Social Ministry, be added to St. Peter's Staff and that Kathy G. Thomforde, Ph.D. be hired to fill this position, beginning August 1, 2011.

✠ The results of the Campus Ministry Quadrennial Review are that St. Peter's has been granted renewal of eligibility to request operating grants for the funding of Campus Ministry through January 31, 2016.

✠✠ Council took part in the Exit Interview with Elizabeth Elterich.

A Building Use Request was Granted:

- To allow Family Answers to use the Social Room on July 12, 2011 from 11AM to 2 PM.

"Now Thank We All Our God"

*"Now thank we all our God with hearts
and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices"*

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 840)

Reflecting on years of shared ministry together is not an easy experience! I have spent time reflecting since coming to the decision that it is time to retire from my staff position at St. Peter's.

It was not an easy decision to reach or to share with those who have shared the journey with me: the staff, the youth and children, all the members of our congregation, and others in the wider church. There have been a variety of reactions as this decision was shared: stunned silence from some, shouting and questioning from others. Some have chosen to sort of ignore the issue but are aware that I am, in fact, cleaning out my office and organizing so others can use the wonderful resources that are there for the congregation's use!

We have shared so much on this journey of ministry together. Having grown up in this congregation, I am now watching the third generation of little Lutherans learn and grow in faith. It has been both a blessing and a privilege to walk this faith journey together. I do thank God each and every day for the shared opportunity it has been for each of you to be a part of my life of faith in this place and all the places our journey

together has taken us. There is so much to be thankful for, the wondrous things God has done amongst and through us over these years together! There is no way to start listing even the highlights. Each moment has been precious. The joys, the sorrows, the struggles, the triumphs, the births, the illnesses, the deaths have all brought us closer together as we realized we walk with God. God provides us with the energy and love to live each day.

As I thank God for each of you with all my heart, my hands, and my voice, my prayer is that you will continue to live out your faith journey in love within our St. Peter's congregation, with all those you know and love, and with those who are strangers, but need to know God's love as well.



*"All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven"*
(ELW # 840)

You will all remain in my prayers.

Blessings,
'Miss' Liz



Women of the ELCA

Morning Bible Study – The group will meet the first and third Tuesdays in July and August at 9 AM in the Trauger Room. During July, the group will focus on how Mary the Mother of Jesus and the widow of Zeraphath used their gifts to glorify God. In August the group will look at a variety of Biblical times of rejoicing. All women are welcome.

Bach Report – Bach Festival of Hospitality will continue in 2012. Harriet Tonkins and Donna-Marie Dorney will serve as co-chairs.

Bazaar – At the June 8 Business Meeting, the decision was made that Women of the ELCA will no longer sponsor a Bazaar in November.

Covered Dish Event – October 2. This is Companion Synod Sunday. Tori Geiger will speak about her trip to Argentina.

Thankoffering Sunday – October 16. Pastor Mary Gade, Associate of the Bishop, will preach.

Soup & Bake Sale – October 16. More information will follow. The money raised will be used to support our missionaries in Argentina.

Bingo at Cedarbrook Annex – November 1, at 6:30 PM. Prizes are needed such as jewelry, snacks, stamps, cards, lotion, after shave, knick-knacks, etc. Please bring donations to the Church Office.

Christmas Ingathering – shaving cream is still needed. The goal for razors has been met. No more are needed. Thank you. Please place your donations in the basket outside the Church Office.

School supplies collected in the spring will be used to fill backpacks for students at Fountain Hill Elementary School. Thank you for your generosity.

New Member Received

Rob Holmes was received into membership by Adult Baptism and Affirmation of Faith on June 5th. He is employed by Nestle Waters North America as an Operations Technician. Rob is joining St. Peter's because of the family connections. He is married to Tami Ihle Holmes, who served as his sponsor. Rob and Tami are expecting their first child in July.

Summer Fridays

During the summer, Parish Secretary Carol Frankenfield will be taking her vacation days one day at a time on several Fridays. Because of the decrease in staffing, the Church Office will be closed on those Fridays. Please check the calendar and also call ahead if you plan to come to the Church Office on a Friday during the summer.

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.

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, July 31. 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!

Farewell, Rebecca!

Our Service of Farewell and Godspeed for Intern Rebecca Grate is scheduled for 9:30 AM on Sunday, August 21. Following worship, everyone is invited to a brunch in honor of Rebecca. We'll gather in the Goosey Gander banquet room to share a meal and to present gifts and good wishes to her. 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 Rebecca well! Please remember -- all reservations must be made and completely paid for by August 10. Every person will need to hand in a ticket at Goosey Gander as you arrive for brunch.



Celebrating 60 Years of Ordained Ministry

On Sunday, August 14, immediately following the 9:30 AM worship service, everyone is invited to the Social Room to honor Pastor Dick Hintz as he celebrates his **sixtieth** Anniversary of Ordination! Sharon Strobel and her crew will provide coffee, tea, and snacks. You are invited to spend a short while greeting Pastor Hintz and thanking him for all he does in the name of the Lord.

Mark your calendar and plan to be part of the ministry celebration.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Gloria Jedinak for completing a Half Marathon on May 15. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center was the recipient of the funds raised. Gloria's daughter Alie and son Greg completed the marathon, too.



Bethlehem/Easton Mission District Youth World Hunger Lock-in

St. Peter's will host one of the nine youth Mission District Lock-ins that will occur on July 16-17. Youth from St. Peter's and from the other congregations in the Mission District will be a part of this opportunity to learn more about how hunger affects people around the world. Each lock-in will include projects in the community, for instance, working at soup kitchens or food pantries. The youth will also make health kits for Lutheran World Relief, which will be distributed to those in need around the world. Pastor Bruce MacLaughlin will be with the St. Peter's group on Saturday evening to do a "memorial service" for those who have died from hunger in the past year. And yes, there will be time for the "usual" lock-in activities – music, games, and fun!

However, there is one catch -- there will be no food at this lock-in until breakfast Sunday morning! This will give the participants an opportunity to experience in miniature the hunger with which millions of people live on a daily basis. After a shared breakfast, all participants will present a skit and music at both morning worship services on July 17.

On Saturday, August 27, there will be an all-day follow-up event at Bear Creek Camp. There will be food, games, hiking, and sharing what each lock-in group experienced, so participants can continue learning and growing!

Citizens with the Saints

On July 18-22, 2012, tens of thousands of youth will once again gather in New Orleans for

the ELCA Youth Gathering. While there, they will have the opportunity to help this community continue to rebuild after the destruction from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

The youth will spend their time at the gathering worshiping, singing, engaging in Bible Studies, serving the community, and working with youth from all around the world, as they grow in their understanding of justice, discipleship, and peacemaking. They will continue to live out St. Peter's theme for the 2010-2011 year – *"Let all that you do be done in love"* – as they serve their neighbors in New Orleans and share God's love with them. This will also tie into St. Peter's theme for the 2011-2012 year – *Freed in Christ to Serve* – as they learn that our freedom is not an occasion to serve ourselves, but instead, to serve others in love.

Any St. Peter's youth in Confirmation through 12th grade in September 2011 is eligible to participate in this life-changing and growing experience! While in New Orleans, it may be possible to meet up with past Interns, now Pastors, who will be bringing their own youth with them!

There will continue to be fundraisers throughout the upcoming year to help with the costs for this event. Through fundraisers and donations, the goal is to cover costs for all youth, advisors, and volunteers attending the gathering. Costs, per person, are approximately \$1200, so it is necessary for this effort to begin early!

Offering envelopes marked "2012 ELCA Youth Gathering Donations" will be in the pews. During the upcoming months there will be more announcements about the ELCA Youth Gathering. Thank you for supporting St. Peter's youth!



Youth Farewell to Intern Rebecca

On Sunday, August 14, following the Reception to honor Pastor Hintz's 60th Anniversary of Ordination, the children, youth, and their families will share some pizza and conversation together with Intern Rebecca, reflecting on the year shared and the memories made.

After the time of pizza and sharing, the group will head off to The Oasis for a round of miniature golf, followed by some ice cream cones. If you want to be part of this fun farewell

experience, please sign up on the sheet on Intern Rebecca's door, or speak to Beth Hawk by August 7th.

A Lovely New Look!

Have you been in the Social Room lately? If not, be sure to stop by and take a look. Thanks to generous donations from several families using memorial monies, St. Peter's now has beautiful new stacking chairs.

The chair seats are padded and covered with navy blue cloth which has a tiny print. The hardware is burnished silver. The Social Room is looking great. Thanks to all who helped make the purchase of the chairs possible.



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:

- Richard Clay – July 13
- Joyce Mingora – July 19
- Ken Tuohig – July 19
- Carol J. Groman – August 14



September Courier Deadline

The deadline for the September Courier is Sunday, August 14. Please place your articles in the editor's mailbox or email them to her at courier_editor@yahoo.com.

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

With Many Thanks!

From Joan Helman and Family: "I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Roberts for officiating at my beloved Robert's funeral. I heard many compliments from friends who aren't members of St. Peter's about Pastor's sermon and the service. The Faith Choir was just beautiful. Thank you to our St. Peter's family for all the cards, prayers, and notes of sympathy during Robert's sickness. We are blessed to have two families. It was like you were hugging us. And again to Pastor Roberts who was there at every operation and at the end, you are a blessing to St. Peter's. To Barbara Taylor, who is special, "thank you" for all your help."

From Frank Romaker, District Coordinator for the AARP Foundation: "Thank you, so much, for allowing the AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program to provide tax preparation service at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church again this year. We have enjoyed your hospitality and hope to continue in the future. The tax preparation team, led by Angelica Baez, prepared 96 Federal and State Income Tax returns, as well as 43 Pennsylvania Property Tax or Rent Rebate Claims this past season at your church."

From Carole Brosious and family and the Knoedler family: "to Pastor Roberts, Pastor Spieker, and Intern Rebecca for their prayers and numerous visits to my mother Mildred Knoedler. To Pastor Roberts for her support after my mother's death and during her funeral. Thank you to the congregation for all the cards and kind words during this difficult time."

From Karen VanGorden: "I wanted to take the time to say thank you for all your help and support throughout my journey toward walking again since my accident in October. You all mean so much to me and there are so many people to thank. A special thank you to Sharon Wiles-Young for shopping for me and for her visits, to Tom & Na Sarver for monthly Communion, to Barbara Taylor for all her cards, to the women from the Bible study group for their kindnesses, to George Kummer for his weekly phone calls, and to 'Miss' Liz for her puzzle books and gluten free goodies. I am still on my journey to walk as I once did and face many other changes and challenges that are very difficult. I ask to be kept in your prayers."

VBS Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Vacation Bible School! Thank you to the teachers and staff, who committed many hours and their talents to prepare for VBS and to provide a wonderful learning experience. Thank you to Brian Wiles-Young and Tori Geiger, who designed and painted "The Sower" mural. Thank you to everyone who brought in their recycling to be used in crafts. Thank you to all who gave food for the Food Bank to help feed our neighbors.

June 19-23 was a great to Renew -- to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world!

From the Parish Record

BAPTISM AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Robert Holmes, Jr. – June 5, 2011

CONFIRMATION - June 12, 2011

Richard Robert Hawk III

Brandon Scott Gubich

Baptismal Anniversaries

Each Sunday, during the Sunday Church School opening in the Chapel, we share the month's Baptismal Anniversaries. 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 have Baptismal Anniversaries which 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 Frankenfield – August 12

Nicolas Patric Ampietro – August 20

Caden Snyder – August 20

Halle Zrinski – August 22

Jacob Thomas Yob – August 25

Daniel Lehr – August 28

Mya Mark – August 31

Fun Donations Needed

On Saturday, July 9, Southside Ministries will host its annual Community Fun Fair from 5:30 to 7 PM at Martin Luther King, Jr., Park on Carlton Avenue (or 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 will be served. Children will 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

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

8 AM to NOON

FAX: 610-867-1249

E-mail: church@stpetersbethlehem.org

www.stpetersbethlehem.org

STAFF

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts - Senior Pastor

The Rev. George F. Spieker - Visitation Pastor

Barbara-Anne G. Taylor - AIM for Parish

Administration

Rebecca Grate - Pastoral Intern

Kathy G. Thomforde – Ministry Coordinator

Marisa H. Deshler - Organist

Wendy E. Borst - Vocal Choir Director

Anthony DeAngelis, Sr. - Bell Choir 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