



THE COURIER

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It seems hard to believe that it has been a year since we were preparing to celebrate the ministries of our former Director of Music, Jean Ocker, and our former Parish Secretary, Linda Zrinski. We continue to give thanks for their ministries. We also celebrate that during this year, Wendy Borst, our Vocal Choir Director, and Carol Frankenfield, our Parish Secretary, have grown in their commitment to our shared mission and ministry.

Of course, now we are preparing to experience another retirement from St. Peter's Staff, as Associate in Ministry Elizabeth Elterich prepares to end her work with Youth, Education, and Outreach. On June 26th, through a special worship service, we will give thanks to God for her witness in our midst, and at the lunch following worship, we will have the opportunity to express to Elizabeth our gratitude for her ministry.

Again, with another ending come new beginnings. In this case, rather than trying to fill an empty spot with one person, we as a congregation are called to be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Some members of St. Peter's have already been open to this inspiration by

making commitments to be responsible for a variety of ministry areas. Baptismal banners will continue to be created. Sunday Church School will continue to nurture the baptized in the faith. In 2012, several of St. Peter's youth will make another trip to an ELCA Youth Gathering. Things will not be the same, but the Holy Spirit will continue to undergird all the ministries that we share.

In my experience, the old saying about doors opening just as other doors are closing has been a reality. As long as we journey by faith, God will continue to reveal to us new ways to be the Body of Christ in the midst of a needy world.

During of this time of transition, I ask you to please keep the mission and ministry of St. Peter's in your prayers. And as you pray, please be open to the power of the Holy Spirit in your own life. May you be inspired to say: "Here I am, Lord. Use me."

Blessings!

In Christ,

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts
Senior Pastor

June Worship Highlights

Wednesday, June 1 10:30 AM – Holy Communion and Healing in the Chapel

Sunday, June 5 Seventh Sunday of Easter
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



Wednesday, June 8 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, June 12 *Day of Pentecost*
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
Confirmation at 9:30 AM
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



Wednesday, June 15 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, June 19 *The Holy Trinity*
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



Wednesday, June 22 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, June 26 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Ministry
10:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

Wednesday, June 29 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

"I'm confirmed ... now what?"

My Confirmation experience consisted of attending Sunday School every week to learn about the 10 Commandments, the Creed, Baptism, Communion, and what it means to be Lutheran. For two years, we would be in Sunday School to learn about these things so we could be confirmed and have our First Communion. It seemed like Confirmation was just another item to mark off the checklist. Once we were confirmed, we could participate in Holy Communion and didn't have to go to Sunday School anymore. Finally, we were free!

Even though we had spent many Sundays learning about our faith, we did little outside of listen to our teachers talk. There wasn't a time for us to ask questions. There wasn't time devoted to helping us apply it to our lives. There weren't hands-on activities. So, after our Confirmation, I was left thinking, "I'm confirmed ... now what?"

Was Confirmation simply another thing to mark off our checklist, or is it the opportunity to stand up and claim our faith as our own because the promises made in our baptisms had been nurtured through those who loved us? Was Confirmation a lecture series, or was it a chance to learn how much God loves each of us and wants us to share this love with the world that God loves just as much?!

As we celebrate with our Confirmands this Pentecost Sunday, let us be reminded of our own Baptisms and Confirmations. To be a Christian is to live in thanksgiving for the love God has shown to us and share this love with the world!

Peace,
Intern Rebecca



May Council Highlights

The following motions were approved:

-- To authorize the music staff to develop a concert series at which a freewill offering would be received, half of which would be used as an honorarium for the performers and the other half to be placed in the designated holding fund as seed money for future concerts.

-- To welcome new members: Lesley and Jack DaSilva, Brett Hauber, Maureen Gramlich, and Sara Zrinski.

-- Upon completion of the Confirmation requirements to accept as Adult Members: Richard Robert Hawk III, Brandon Scott Gubich, and Savannah Jade Custler.

-- During the summer months when the Parish Secretary takes a vacation day on a Friday the office will be closed.

-- To compensate Parish Secretary Carol Frankenfield for an additional three hours per week to cover some of the ministries no longer covered by the retiring Associate in Ministry. From September through December the additional compensation will come from the the AiM for Christian Ed / Youth / Outreach budget line.

-- To accept the revision to Staff policies.

-- To appoint the following people as advisors for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering: Rebecca Grate, David Kolman, Amy Faulch, and Stephen Granlund.

Women of the ELCA



Business Meeting & Bach Ministry Review

Everyone is invited to the Trauger Room at 9 AM on Wednesday, June 8, for the Women of the ELCA Business Meeting and for a review of our Bach Ministry of Hospitality. If you have ideas to share but can't attend, please be in touch with President Harriet Tonkins prior to June 8 so she can bring the information to the meeting.

Christmas Ingathering - Cans of shaving cream are needed for the Christmas Ingathering. You may place your gifts into the basket outside the Church Office. In December, the items donated by all the congregations will be assembled and kits will be distributed to local shelters.

Bach Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the Bach Ministry of Hospitality. You all did a great job. We greatly appreciate all your time, talent, and energy!

Thank you so much,
Connie Wirth & Harriet Tonkins



Women of the ELCA Summer Bible Study

The summer Women of the ELCA Bible Study will be "Renew, Respond, Rejoice!" In June, we will look at the different ways we are stuck and how we can "unstuck" our faith and find new ways to share with others. In July, we will look at the many and various gifts we have and how we are each gifted to serve. In August, we will look at the different ways we can rejoice in the Lord! We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month! All women of the congregation are welcome to attend!

Celebration of Ministry



Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 26, at 10 AM to be part of the celebration of the ministry of Associate in Ministry Elizabeth Elterich, as she retires from St. Peter's Staff. (This is the ONLY worship service that day!) Plan to be present for worship as we praise and thank God for Elizabeth's ministry.

A celebration brunch will follow worship. Deadline for reservations is June 13. Please call the Church Office if you need a reservation form.

Come be part of the celebration!

Synod Assembly

Members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will gather at Muhlenberg College in Allentown on June 17 & 18 to worship, to hear reports, to attend workshops, and to do the official business of the Synod. Rostered leaders are required to attend, and every congregation is expected to send one male and one female lay voting member. Connie and Ed Wirth were elected to represent St. Peter's. Please hold those gathering at the Assembly in your prayers as they work together to help us follow the call of Jesus.

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

St. Peter's Newest Members

The following people were received into membership on May 15. Please welcome them into the family of faith!

Jack DaSilva works as Lead BSA Investigator for National Penn Bank. He is married to **Lesley DaSilva**, who works as a third grade teacher in Franklin Township, New Jersey. They joined St. Peter's because of the worship and the friendliness of the congregation. Lesley and Jack are expecting their first child in the fall. Carol Frankenfield served as their sponsor.

Maureen Gramlich was received by letter of transfer from St. John's Windish Lutheran Church. She has already been attending VBS at St. Peter's, and she helps with SSM "KIDS." She joined because of the friendliness of the members and the support she has received from the congregation. Karen VanGorden served as her sponsor.

Brett Hauber is employed as an economist by the Research Triangle Institute. He was received by transfer from Family of God Lutheran Church in Buckingham, PA. He recently moved to Allentown with his partner Carl Andrews. Brett chose St. Peter's because it is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, it's in an urban setting, and he likes "Pastor Roberts' great preaching." Sharon Ann Burns served as his sponsor.

Sara Zrinski was received by Affirmation of Faith. She is a busy stay-at-home mom. Her husband Cory served as her sponsor and she was supported by Cody, Halle, and Sophia --- all of whom were baptized in the congregation. Sara joined so the family would all be members together.



Staff Vacations

Over the summer months, Staff members will be enjoying some vacation time. Please do not leave messages on their home answering machines, as the messages may go unheard for some length of time. As always, in case of a pastoral emergency (a death or accident, for example) call the Church Office at 610-867-0519. Let the phone ring until the voicemail picks up to provide the names and telephone numbers of Staff members on call. They will be able to respond to your call to their home.

Church Office Staffing for Summer



During the summer months, Parish Secretary Carol Frankenfield will be taking vacation days on several Fridays. When she is on vacation on a Friday, the Church Office will be closed. The office closure will be shared through the Sunday Bulletin and on the voicemail. If you plan to visit St. Peter's on a Friday during the summer, please call before you come.

Summer Sonshine

There are sunny yellow "Summer Sonshine" envelopes for June, July, and August in each offering envelope box. Please prayerfully consider using each of these for a special gift during each summer month. Your gifts help to plant seeds for the fall programming to begin in September.

Prayer Partners



Last fall those attending the Covered Dish Dinner placed their names into a basket. Following the meal, each person selected the name of someone to pray for during the school year. It is very powerful to know that someone is praying for you every day.

Now it's time to make a call, send an email, or write a note to the person for whom you've been praying. Simply tell her or him that you have been their prayer partner for the year.

It will be fun to see who has been praying for whom! And who knows! Maybe you'll want to keep the prayers going!

July/August Courier Deadline

The deadline for the July/August Courier is Sunday, June 12. Articles received after this date will be held for the September edition. Please place your articles in the editor's mailbox or email them to her at courier_editor@yahoo.com.



SPARK ~ Sunday Church School

Another year of St. Peter's Sunday Church School for all ages ended on May 22. This year's new SPARK curriculum shared stories and ideas that were a part of all the classes. The teachers made the Sunday gatherings interesting with a variety of activities, crafts, and adventures.

The Adults Learning Together class just completed a study of the Gospel of John using the new ELCA Book of Faith Series.

Thank you to each and every one who helped guide the St. Peter's children, youth, young adults, and adults in their Christian Education this past year. You are living out your faith by sharing it with others.

Thanks, too, to Mr. John Roberts, who led the Chapel opening each week with his singing and guitar-playing. Everyone enjoys making a joyful noise!

Sunday Church School will resume in the fall on Sunday, September 11, 2011, at 9:30 AM for ALL AGES.



VBS 2011 A time to plant! A time to grow!

Vacation Bible School 2011 will focus on the Parable of the Sower. In this Jesus story, some seeds fall on hard ground, and birds come and eat them; other seeds fall where the weeds choke their growth; but other seeds fall on good soil and grow well and even bear fruit for others. There will be lots of seeds to plant, songs to sing, snacks to prepare, and good times for all ages! We will also talk about the seeds God plants in us along our faith journey, begun at Baptism!

Plan to come whenever you can during VBS week. The dates of VBS are: Sunday, June 19, from 11 AM to 1:30 PM, and Monday-Thursday, June 20-23, from 5:30 to 7:45 PM. There will

always be a light meal shared before the VBS activities begin.

Some of the youth, along with Sharon Wiles-Young, have already planted “salad plant seeds” in a garden plot at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Gardens. We will “eat” our salad makings during VBS!

Our Mission Project for VBS is to provide items for the Food Bank. The people who care for the Food Bank have suggested the following items:

Sunday: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Monday: Spaghetti and Sauce (no glass jars)

Tuesday: Canned Potatoes

Wednesday: Cans of Tuna or Beef Stew

Thursday: Canned Ravioli

These items will be collected in the Social Room the week of VBS. You may also place your gifts on the table in the Lower Narthex anytime during June.

You can also help with VBS by bringing in the following items to the Coffee Corner area and placing them in the designated containers:

- ~ washed yogurt containers with lids;
- ~ flower/tree/gardening magazines or catalogs;
- ~ children’s magnifying glasses (please label);
- ~ story books about seeds/plants/trees/etc. (please label)
- ~ empty cereal boxes;
- ~ paper tubes - toilet/towel/wrapping paper;
- ~ clean, plastic containers with lids - cool whip, margarine, etc.;
- ~ plastic quart milk cartons with lids - well washed and dried;
- ~ used, broken crayon pieces.

If you or your family and friends have not yet registered for VBS, please see ‘Miss’ Liz or call the Church Office right away. There is still room for many more! Remember ALL AGES are welcome at VBS.

“Whatever Wednesdays”

After long, sometimes difficult, days in middle school and high school, youth and their friends arrive at St. Peter’s for “Whatever Wednesdays” in a variety of energy levels and moods. When they are gathered, they share their “highs and lows” of the day/week, get support while doing their homework, and enjoy some snacks and a light supper. During Lent, the group worshipped in the Chapel, using Holden Evening

Prayer. They are glad to be at St. Peter’s – in a safe place and with friends.

“WW” will continue in June, as youth are able to participate. Gatherings will be announced through emails. There will be a celebration for those youth who will be graduating this year. Watch for email information on the time and place for this Graduation Celebration!

Baptismal Prayers

Each Sunday morning as the children and youth gather for our SCS openings, we remember those who celebrate their Baptismal Anniversaries each month. We share together a prayer and song celebrating God’s love for us each and every day. We ask that during the summer, you would pray for these young people as they are remembered on their Baptismal Anniversary.

June Baptismal Anniversaries:

Cassandra Fantasia – June 9
 Hailey McKellin – June 9
 Joshua McKellin – June 9
 Logan Mark – June 10
 Alisia Drayton – June 11
 Rachel Fackenthall – June 11
 Karly Myers – June 12
 Abigail Rolls – June 18
 Hudson Covely – June 19
 Micah Kolman – June 20
 Andrew Reichard – June 28
 Ashlan Snyder – June 29
 Rebecca Derham – June 30



Congratulations, Graduates!

We have received information about the following graduations:

Freedom High School:

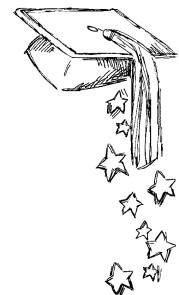
Ashley Heberling

Liberty High School:

Jenna Casciano
 Amanda Holly
 Adam Kolman
 Cami VanGorden

Saucon Valley High School:

Ben Fistner



We ask God’s blessings as they begin this exciting new part of their journey!

Campus Ministry

This has been a busy year for Campus Ministry at St. Peter's! We have welcomed many students from many different countries, as they have worshiped with us. Students have regularly met with Intern Rebecca and 'Miss' Liz for lunch on campus, weekly Bible study, lunch at Johnny's, and LOTS of ice cream!

Some of our Campus Ministry students will continue to worship with us over the summer months. But, many more will be transitioning to new experiences – internships, vacations, and first jobs. We continue to pray for them as they begin these new endeavors!



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
JULY 18-22, 2012

Preparations and plans have begun, as the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans is only 13 months away. The Youth and Advisors from St. Peter's are working together on planning some fund-raising activities and projects. St. Peter's Congregation Council approved the following adults to be the Advisors who will accompany St. Peter's youth to New Orleans: Intern Rebecca Grate, Amy Faulch, Stephen Granlund, and David Kolman. On-line registration will begin in October.

One of the new facets of the 2012 Gathering is that there will be Mission District Events to help with training and developing Youth Ministry Advisors. The first such meeting is on Saturday, June 25, from 9 AM to NOON, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wilson Borough. Intern Rebecca will be attending with other adult advisors from St. Peter's.

Youth Farewell to Intern Rebecca

Following a special Reception on Sunday, August 14, youth of all ages and their families are invited to share some pizza and then go on to The Oasis for some miniature golf and ice cream. This has always been a fun time to reflect on the year together and have a good time!



If you want to be a part of this farewell, please sign up on the paper on Intern Rebecca's door.

Hoagies for New Orleans

St. Peter's Senior High Youth are selling hoagies to support the youth who will be attending the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Orders for hoagies, which will be coming from Valley Farm Market, may be placed until June 12. To order a hoagie, please see a youth in the Lower Narthex on a Sunday morning. Hoagies will be available for pick-up at St. Peter's on Saturday, June 18th, between 9-10 AM. When you come to get your order, please enter through the door near the Social Room. Plan to enjoy some delicious hoagies while helping to support our youth. Don't forget to ask your friends and family to order some as well.

Intern Farewell Brunch

It may seem hard to believe, but it is time to begin planning for Intern Rebecca Grate's farewell on Sunday, August 21. We will gather for worship at 9:30 AM, and a brunch will follow the worship service. St. Peter's members will receive an invitation in the mail shortly. If you need a reservation form, please contact the Church Office.



Save the Date!

The annual fall Confirmation / Sr. High / Young Adult retreat at Central Oak Heights will take place from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, September 23-25.

Look Who's Having a Birthday

Please remember, with notes and cards, the following homebound members who are celebrating their birthdays this month:

Rosemarie Ummarino – June 4

Doris Brunnabend – June 12

Jean Boose – June 16



From the Parish Record

FUNERALS:

Dorothy H. Wetzel - April 19, 2011
(non-member)

Mildred A. Knoedler – May 7, 2011

Robert W. Helman – May 16, 2011

BAPTISMS:

Raiden Kenji Thakrar – May 8, 2011

Patrick Leonard Merkle – May 8, 2011

NEW MEMBERS:

May 15, 2011

Lesley & Jack DaSilva

Brett Hauber

Maureen Gramlich

Sara Zrinski



With Many Thanks!

From Tim and Sr. Ramona Daily to St. Peter's for the prayers, cards, dinners, wheelchair, rides, ashes, visits, groceries, and love provided during our malaise. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

From Chris & Dave Struble to Pastor Roberts and their St. Peter's Family: "the gift of your thoughtfulness means everything to us. All of your prayers, cards, and support are helping us get through this difficult time."

From Roma Ziegler to Pastor Roberts for her recent visit with Holy Communion and to the St. Peter's congregation for "the beautiful white mum, which gave me pleasure for several weeks, and for their prayers, calls, notes, especially for the hand-made Easter greetings, as well as those who continue to provide transportation and many services."

From the Lehigh Valley Unit of the American Cancer Society for the support given through St. Peter's participation in the 2011 Daffodil Days.

From Frank Wetzel for "the cards, support and phone calls from everyone during the passing of my mother. Thanks to Pastor Roberts for the nice service for my mother."

From Mildred Wright and her daughter Joanne: "It was so nice of you to think of me. Thank you for the gift of flowers at Easter. They are beautiful."

Spring on 4th Report

Thank you to all who helped make St. Peter's participation in SPRING ON 4TH part of a great day! The chili made by Adam King and Brian Wiles-Young got rave reviews from all who stopped for a taste. Word spread among the crowd, and many who came after we ran out at 2 PM expressed great disappointment!

We were able to explain where St. Peter's is located and to invite neighbors to visit. The magnets, brochures, and lollipops distributed were enjoyed by all the recipients. Our cups of fresh, cool drinking water, offered in the name of Christ, were very popular with those who had tasted many samples of chili.

It was a great day to show that St. Peter's is **IN THE CITY FOR GOOD, IN THE CITY FOR GOD!**

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!

Summer Musicians Needed

Individuals and groups are needed to provide special music during our summer worship services. If you play an instrument or sing, we'd love to have you share your talents with us during worship. Please contact Wendy Borst to volunteer or for more information.



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

There are those among us without enough money to pay for their fuel or electric bill, pay rent for a dry place to live, buy clothing for their children, or put a healthy meal on the table for their family. From time to time, Pastor Roberts is asked to assist individuals and families experiencing difficulties of a wide variety. This fund has been heavily used over the past few months. Contributions may be made by placing your donations in a pew envelope and marking it "Pastor's Fund." Won't you reach out to help a neighbor in need?

SSM Better Buy Thrift Shop

The Southside Ministries Better Buy Thrift Shop begins summer hours as of June 1. During June, July, and August, the shop is open:

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM to 1 PM
- Fridays from 10:30 AM to 1 PM

The shop is located at Cathedral Church of the Nativity and is full of wonderful summer clothing for children, women, and men. Stop in to browse or to shop. The shop is staffed by members of St. Peter's on the second and fourth Tuesdays and the third Wednesday of each month. To volunteer to help on one of St. Peter's days, contact SSM Coordinator Barbara Taylor. It's fun, and it's a great way to answer Jesus' call to clothe our neighbors in need!



To Post at Home

Fast treatment can save a life! Know the warning signs of a stroke. Ask the person to:

- **S**mile --- is it crooked?
- **T**alk --- can he or she speak a simple, coherent sentence?
- **R**aise both arms over head --- can he or she do that?
- **S**tick out the tongue --- is it crooked or off to one side?

If the person has trouble with any one of the tasks, call 911 immediately. Prompt treatment can save a life!

Great South Side Sale

The annual sale is scheduled for Saturday June 11, in the parking lot in the 600 block of E. 4th Street, across from St. John's Windish Lutheran Church. You may shop from 10 AM to 3 PM for great buys on clothing, household goods, and other assorted items. Proceeds benefit the Homework Clubs.

Volunteer workers are needed on June 11 -- starting at 6:30 AM to unload trucks -- and

throughout the day until 5 PM. To sign up, send an email to: inmove@Lehigh.EDU.

If you are able to help sort and pack items prior to the day of the sale, contact Sharon Wiles-Young or Marianne Napravnik.

Please think about how you can help with the event. This is a great way to help out our neighborhood and have fun, too.



**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

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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
- Rebecca Grate - Pastoral Intern
- 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

