



# THE COURIER

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

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

We enter the month of March in the Epiphany Season and quickly move through Ash Wednesday into the Season of Lent. It is a journey from light to darkness, from celebration to somber.

The Church Year is a mirror of the reality of life. As we journey by faith, we will experience highs and lows, abundance and sacrifice, blessings and disappointments.

One of the blessings we have shared as a congregation is the Horizon Internship Program. Together we have welcomed thirteen Interns – from a variety of states and seminaries, with different gifts and skills and life experiences. Each Intern has left a mark on the lives of individuals and on the mission and ministry of St. Peter's.

Our participation in the Horizon Internship Program has meant that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod have each provided us with financial support. This support covered over half the cost for each Intern. And thanks to the Ministry Fund and to those who filled "Intern Envelopes," no funds were needed from the regular General Fund giving.

As I said before, life is a mixture of blessing and disappointment. The

disappointment comes as a result of the present economy, which has caused cutbacks in the ELCA budget. One of those cutbacks was made in the Horizon Internship Program. We were once one of over thirty congregations in this program. During the 2011-2012 academic year, the ELCA can only help fund ten Horizon Internships.

The disappointment is that we will not be one of those ten congregations. We have been blessed with thirteen Interns. The ELCA needs to share the blessings with congregations who have not had the number of Interns we have. When we say "Farewell and Godspeed" to Intern Rebecca in August, we will not be welcoming a new Intern into our family of faith.

Yet, we have been blessed. I invite you to give thanks to God for the blessing of thirteen Interns in our midst, to pray for our congregation, and to seek out ways that you can participate more fully in our life together.

God's blessings be with you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts  
Senior Pastor

## March Worship Highlights

Wednesday, March 2

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

Sunday, March 6

*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

8:15 & 11:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, March 9



*Ash Wednesday*

10:30 AM – Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes in the Nave

7:30 PM – Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes in the Nave

Sunday, March 13



First Sunday in Lent

8:15 & 11:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, March 16

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, March 20



Second Sunday in Lent

8:15 & 11:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, March 23

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, March 27



Third Sunday in Lent

8:15 & 11:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, March 30

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

We hear the number 40 quite a few times in the Bible:

- 1) It rained for 40 days and 40 nights when the entire world was flooded.
- 2) The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.
- 3) Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mt. Sinai, on three separate occasions.
- 4) Jesus was presented in the Temple 40 days after he was born.
- 5) Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days.

What is so special about this number?

Some numbers in the Bible are meant to be taken literally. But, there are others that are meant to be symbols. The number 40 is a good example of a symbolic number.

Generally, the number 40 represents a long period of time. For example, when we say that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, it actually means they wandered in the desert for a **really long time**. When it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, it actually means it rained for a **really long time**.

But that's not the important part of the number 40. The importance of this number is what it symbolizes – a time of preparation for some special action of God. This has been shown time and time again throughout the Bible. After the Flood, a new creation begins. After Moses talks with God on Mt. Sinai, the covenant is renewed. After Israel's wandering in the wilderness, they enter the Promised Land. After Jesus is tempted, he begins his public ministry of healing and performing miracles.

This is why the season of Lent is 40 days long. During this season, which begins on Ash Wednesday, we spend the 40 days of Lent as a time of preparation to celebrate God's mighty act in the Resurrection on Easter. We spend time focusing on our relationship with God, to ignore all other distractions and grow closer to the God who created us and loves us.

We do this by giving up something that separates us from God. We grow in our relationship with God by serving others in our families, our church, and our communities. We strengthen our relationship with God by spending more time talking with God through prayer.

By growing in our relationship with God, we will understand more fully the love God has for us, God's beloved children. As we begin the journey through Lent, let us have open hearts and minds to serve our neighbors in new and different ways, spend more time talking with our God through prayer, and forgetting the things in this world that distract us from what God wants for our lives.

Peace,  
Intern Rebecca



## January Council Highlights

The following motions were approved to:

- Transfer Carol Myers to St. John UCC in Fullerton at her written request.
- Transfer Robinson and Kerry Cooper and their children Kailin and Kendall to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Dublin, Ohio, at their written request.
- Welcome Benjamin Fistner as an Associate Adult Member.
- Appoint Kimberly Frankenfield to serve as an Assistant to the Treasurer for a one-year term.
- Reaffirm the email/mail vote taken to allow St. John AME Church to hold a Black History Month Celebration in the Nave on February 19 at 4 PM.

Building Use Request Granted to allow:

- Dot Nagy to hold a family gathering in the Social Room on March 13.



## Women of the ELCA

*Morning Bible Study* will meet on Tuesday, March 1 and 29. Note the change in dates, there will be no meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, because of the rescheduled Bishop's Conference, so we'll use the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday as a make-up date.

The women continue to study God's word and discuss how it is that people of faith can live and worship together even if they don't come to the same understandings of God's word.

All women are welcome to participate in this Bible study that meets from 9 to 10:30 AM in the Trauger Room.

*Bach Ministry of Hospitality Planning Meeting* – Wednesday, March 23, at 9 AM in the

Trauger Room. Please join us as we plan for another opportunity to continue the 40-plus years of Bach Hospitality.

*Bach Ministry of Hospitality Weekends* - May 6 & 7 and 13 & 14. It's time to get your fingers busy -- sewing, knitting, crafting, etc. Baked goods, salads, etc., and regular Crisco and sugar will be needed. Volunteers are needed to prepare food, set-up tables, serve the guests, and clean-up. Contact Connie Wirth or Harriet Tonkins with questions. It is a lot of work, but the camaraderie is great! The visitors look forward to our goodies, smiling faces, and rhubarb pie. Come join the fun!

*Bingo Party at Cedarbrook Annex* - Tuesday, March 29, at 6:30 PM. This is St. Peter's 28<sup>th</sup> year of sharing with those who live in this nursing home! Volunteers are needed to assist the guests. Donated prizes are also needed, such as: perfume, small snack packages (i.e., cheese & crackers, cookies, chips), candy bars, dollar store knick-knacks (which are a big hit), jewelry, men's toiletries, etc. Please call Evelyn Smith if you can help or have questions.

*Christmas Ingathering* - The Ingathering provides personal care packets for a variety of people in need. In 2011 we are collecting disposable razors and cans of shaving cream. Items may be dropped off at the Church Office anytime.

## School Kits

Everyone is invited to help St. Peter's Women of the ELCA fill school kits for children in need. Bring school supplies to St. Peter's during March and April to help complete this project just in time for Mothers' Day. Please shop from the following list and place your items on the table in the Coffee Corner by May 13<sup>th</sup>:

- #2 pencils
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- Glue sticks
- Washable markers
- 8 X 10 spiral-bound notebooks
- Assorted construction paper



St. Peter's Women of the ELCA will provide the bags for each kit, and St. Peter's representative to the Synod Women of the ELCA May gathering will deliver our gifts.

Thanks to everyone for helping St. Peter's Women of the ELCA with this special project!



## Ash Wednesday

The Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend worship at 10:30 AM or 7:30 PM to hear the familiar passages from scripture, sing the more somber Lenten hymns, and receive the Imposition of Ashes. Take a moment now to make a prayerful commitment to be part of the journey to the cross.

As sisters and brothers in Christ, we make the Lenten pilgrimage together. Then as we gather early on Easter morning, we can celebrate the resurrection with prayers of thanksgiving and hymns of joy.

Come journey to the cross to understand the meaning of the resurrection message more fully. The Spirit will lead us on the way.



## Daylight Savings Time

This is a reminder that on March 13<sup>th</sup> we will "spring forward." Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour so that you will be on time for worship and other events. By losing an hour of sleep, we gain an hour of sunlight.

## Service of Healing

A Service of Healing, with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil, will be offered at all three worship services on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Healing was an important part of Jesus' ministry and of the ministry of the Church throughout history. At St. Peter's, the Rite of Healing is also offered on the first Wednesday of the month at the 10:30 AM Service of Holy Communion. Come experience the power of healing in your life!



**Keep St. Peter's Warm**

The single-digit temperatures this winter have caused higher-than-normal fuel bills. We have already lowered the temperature on thermostats throughout the two buildings to help lower the bills, but, to be welcoming, we can only lower them so much. In order to help keep St. Peter's warm, please consider making a gift towards "energy needs" each month. You may use the envelope in your offering envelope box or use another envelope and mark it "energy needs." By working together, we can keep St. Peter's a warm, welcoming place!

**Weather-Related Cancellations**

If it is necessary to cancel worship or another St. Peter's event due to bad weather, the cancellation notice will be listed on St. Peter's voicemail. Call the Church Office and let the phone ring about ten times until the voicemail picks up. If you receive the normal message, there are no cancellations.



**St. Peter's Night at the IronPigs**

50 people from St. Peter's will be attending the IronPigs game on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>! This is a reminder to all who signed up to go. If you haven't already paid for your tickets, the money is due (cash only) in the Church Office by Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

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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

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**Souper Bowl of Caring**

Thank you to everyone who helped St. Peter's youth participate in the 2011 Souper Bowl! The generous giving on St. Peter's Souper Bowl Sundays, January 30 and February 6, provided 169 cans of soup for the New Bethany Food Bank, \$250 for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and a cooked meal for the overnight shelter. St. Peter's was one of 7,726 groups throughout the United States who participated in the 2011 Souper Bowl, which raised a total of \$7,018,296 to help feed hungry people in this country and around the world.



*Alleluia to Disappear!*

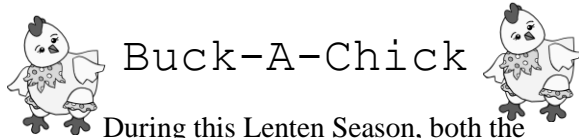
The children and youth of St. Peter's have again prepared to hide the "ALLELUIA" for the Lenten season. As the light and joy of Epiphany fade into the solemn time of Lent, the joyful ALLELUIA will be hidden away until Easter.

Be part of the Transfiguration Sunday Worship on March 6, and see what the SCS students have prepared to hide inside the cocoon in the Nave. The cocoon will not be opened until Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**First Communion Instruction**

St. Peter's First Communion Instruction will take place on Palm Sunday, April 17, following 11 AM Worship. The group will share a light lunch together and then experience the learning and growing time together. Pastor Roberts, Intern Rebecca, and 'Miss' Liz will lead the Instruction experience.

Young people who have been attending Sunday Church School and Worship on a regular basis are eligible to participate. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For information about the Instruction or to ask questions about readiness, please speak with Pastor Roberts or 'Miss' Liz soon. If you are interested in coming, please sign up on the form on 'Miss' Liz's office door.



## Buck-A-Chick

During this Lenten Season, both the Sunday Church School and all members of the Congregation have the opportunity to purchase a "CHICK" through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal! Every dollar that is donated will be used to help buy chickens for struggling families, who can then both feed their children and earn money through selling eggs.

Each child, youth, and adult who brings in a dollar will receive a "Buck-a-Chick" picture, which they may then color and display in the Reception Area. This Challenge begins on Sunday, March 13, and runs through Palm Sunday, April 17. Let's see how many "chicks" we can purchase together, sharing God's love with those in need.

## Lent Shopping List

Many people spend the Season of Lent giving up something – such as candy or chocolate. In reality, the Season of Lent is an opportunity to do more in the name of Jesus Christ. Instead of giving up, we have the opportunity to give. Below is a shopping list for each Sunday in Lent. Please bring your donations to the Lower Narthex or to the Coffee Corner. Together, we can help to fill the shelves at the New Bethany Food Bank.

- March 13 – Peanut butter or jelly
- March 20 – Rice or beans
- March 27 – Fruit juice
- April 4 – Canned vegetables
- April 10 – Dried milk
- April 17 – Baby food
- April 24 – Paper products



## Snow Tubing

All members and friends of St. Peter's are invited to come out for Snow Tubing on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet at St. Peter's at 5:30 PM and carpool to Blue Mountain. St. Peter's members will pay \$14, and friends will pay \$19. Sign-ups are on Intern Rebecca's office door! Reminder: All youth under 6<sup>th</sup> grade must have an adult come with them who will join them in snow tubing!



## Youth Lock-In at St. Peter's

All youth in Confirmation and older are invited to come back to St. Peter's after snow tubing on March 18<sup>th</sup> for a much-anticipated lock-in! There will be plenty of time for fun, snacks, music, games, and devotions before lights-out at 1 AM. Sign up with 'Miss' Liz or Intern Rebecca.

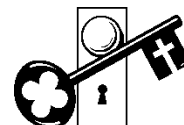


## Youth Spaghetti Dinner

St. Peter's youth will prepare and serve a spaghetti dinner after worship on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will help support the youth who will attend the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. Tickets are available until March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Youth Lock-In for Bethlehem / Easton Mission District

Mark your calendars for July 16-17! Youth from all across our Mission District will be coming to St. Peter's to participate in a World Hunger lock-in. There will be lock-ins held in the eight other Mission Districts at the same time, and there will be communication between the sites. This will be an exciting time to meet other youth in our Mission District and our Synod! There will be time for crafts, games, service projects, devotions, snacks, and more. The youth will also join the St. Peter's family at the 8:15 AM worship service. More information will be coming as the dates get closer, but make sure you have those dates marked so you can be a part of this event.



## Campus Ministry Bible Study

Campus Ministry students have been meeting with Intern Rebecca weekly since mid-October, taking time out of their busy lives to look at difficult questions, such as, "If God really loves us, why don't we have what we want?", "Why is it sometimes so hard to forgive?", and "What do we do when our past catches up to us?" Our time together has been focused on watching one of the NOOMA videos (<http://nooma.com/>) by Rob Bell, then allowing the conversation to develop based on what we have heard and seen.

It has been a wonderful blessing to walk and grow with these college students over the past few months. We began meeting again this semester on Sunday evenings at 8 PM. (Note the time change from last semester!)



## Spring on 4<sup>th</sup>

Spring on 4<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be chili-tasting, street performers, clowns, food, and fun for all ages. St. Peter's booth is normally set up at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Vine Streets. We'll serve our famous "Old-fashioned Lutheran Chili" as we greet our neighbors and share brochures and invitations to St. Peter's. Save the date and check out the April edition of The Courier for details.

## *Look Who's Having a Birthday*

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

Marge Fritchman – March 12

Frances Boudreau – March 20



## *This My Church Shall*

### *Be*

The hymn "This My Church Shall Be" has become a St. Peter's favorite over the years. It has been sung at many celebrations and at funerals of the faithful. The hymn was written by Borghild Jacobsen, and, with permission from her husband, our own John Roberts wrote the last two stanzas that we sing with joy at St. Peter's.

Harvey Jacobson, the husband of Borghild (who has since died), sent St. Peter's a CD of her music, including "This My Church Shall Be." Below is the note sent to the congregation from Mr. Jacobson:

*Thank you for your interest in the music of Borghild Jacobson. I appreciate the creative ways St. Peter's has incorporated Borghild's composition in worship services and ceremonial events. I hope you enjoy the hymns on this keepsake CD.*

## **With Many Thanks!**

From Kenny Young: "I would like to thank everyone who helped with the set-up, take-down, and clean-up of the Christmas tree. The volunteers are as follows: Ed & Connie Wirth, Ron & Travis Frankenfield, Joshua & Cassandra Young, Keith & Becky Young, Matthew Young, Dave Kolman, Al Radtke, Jeff Scheck, Intern Rebecca, and Barbara Taylor."

From Rose Klotz to Pastor Roberts for her visit and Linda Zrinski for bringing her Holy Communion each month. Also, thank you to everyone at St. Peter's who sends cards and a special THANK YOU to Karen VanGorden for the beautiful cards and notes she sends every month.

From Chris & Dave Struble: "Thank you so much for all the thoughts, cards, prayers, and phone calls. It really means a lot to both of us in this difficult time. We can't thank you enough for everything you've done. God bless you all."

From Jim Hogg, Operations Manager of Victory House of Lehigh Valley, on behalf of the Board, Staff, and clients to St. Peter's: "for your generous donation of gift bags. Your support and that of the community will enable our mission of helping the homeless and less fortunate of the area."

From Terry Fistner to Pastor Roberts, St. Peter's Staff, and the Congregation Council for the opportunity for her son Ben to become an Associate Member of St. Peter's: "Your thoughtfulness knows no bounds. I am so thankful to have him a welcome part of my St. Peter's family!"

From former Intern, Pastor Christine Bridge: "Thank you to everyone for all the cards and prayers. My condition is slowly improving, and I am regaining some of my stamina. I am back to my half-time call at Zion Lutheran Church [in Carteret, NJ] as Pastor. I have not yet returned to Seafarers International [She serves as a part-time Chaplain.] because of a stamina issue and the strength that position takes. Again, thank you for all your prayers. God bless you all."

## DRUGS 101



The Anti-Gang Task Force is sponsoring a workshop entitled DRUGS 101 for parents, guardians, teachers, neighbors – any interested adult – on Monday, April 11, at 7 PM at Northeast Middle School. The presentation will include a mock-up of a teenager's room and life so adults can begin to learn signs of drug use and ways to keep children and youth away from the drug culture.

Save the date and watch the April edition of The Courier for details.

## *Hospital Admissions*

Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer always call St. Peter's when one of our members is admitted. If you or another St. Peter's member is admitted to a hospital, please call the Church Office so our Pastors and Intern can stop by and check in!



## April Courier Deadline

The deadline for the April Courier is Sunday, March 13. Please place your articles in the editor's mailbox or email them to her at [courier\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:courier_editor@yahoo.com).

## Southside Ministries Better Buy Thrift Shop

It's time to empty the shop! All winter clothing will be available at the Bag Sale on Tuesday, March 22, and Wednesday, March 23. Any remaining clothing can be picked up on March 24 on Free Day. The shop will be open from 10 AM to 3 PM.

The Thrift Shop will then be closed on Friday, March 25 for cleaning. When the shop opens on Tuesday, March 29, spring and summer clothing will be in place. Be sure to stop by for both the end-of-winter sale and to see what's new for spring.

## Support Group Opportunities

"**Living with Loss,**" a free six-week grief support group, will meet Wednesday evenings, March 16 to April 20, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, at Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA. The group is open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one and seeks understanding and support in dealing with feelings and changes brought on by the loss. To register, call Diakon Family Life Services at 610-682-1337 or 1-888-499-2699 (toll free).

"**Surviving and Thriving through Separation or Divorce,**" a free six-week support group, will meet Wednesday evenings, April 13 to May 18, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Emmaus, PA. The group is open to anyone who has experienced the end of a long-term relationship and seeks support as they navigate the multiple life changes brought about by the end of the relationship. To register, call Diakon Family Life Services at 610-682-1337 or 1-888-499-2699 (toll free).

*Prayer of Saint Francis*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 Where there is doubt, faith;  
 Where there is despair, hope;  
 Where there is darkness, light;  
 Where there is sadness, joy.



O Divine Master, grant that I  
 may not so much seek  
 to be consoled as to console;  
 to be understood as to understand;  
 to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

The Service of Farewell and Godspeed for Intern Rebecca Grate will be held on Sunday, August 21, at 9:30 AM. Mark your calendar now and plan to be a part of the celebration of Rebecca's year with us!

**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](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
- 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 & 11:00 AM Worship in Nave  
 9:30 AM Sunday Church School  
 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



*White Daisy Mums*



Daisy mums are available this year for Easter in memory/honor of a loved one. The cost is \$9.00 per plant. Plants will be delivered to the homebound after Easter worship. The deadline to order daisy mums is Sunday, April 10.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_