



THE COURIER

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

On Sunday, November 6th, we will celebrate another All Saints Sunday. This Church Festival was originally a day to commemorate martyrs of the ancient Church: men, women, and children who were persecuted and killed for their faith in Jesus Christ. Today it is a day on which the Church remembers all who have died in the faith, especially those who have died since the last All Saints Sunday, and for each of us to give thanks for those who have nurtured us in our spiritual journeys.

The English word "saint" comes from the Latin word *sanctus*, which means "holy." To be holy is to be set apart for something special. We as Lutherans do not pray to the Saints, but we do honor them. One of the Reformers who worked closely with Martin Luther, Philip Melanchthon, described three ways for Christians to honor the Saints.

The first way to honor the Saints is in thanksgiving to God for providing examples of what it means to live life as a journey of faith. The second is in the strengthening of our own faith. Melanchthon used the story of Peter, who was forgiven for denying his Lord, as an example that God's grace is more powerful than sin. The third is imitation, to use their lives as patterns for our lives.

When we honor the Saints, we give the glory to God and not to the Saints themselves. They were as human as we are. It was their faith which gave them strength to witness to Jesus Christ as Lord in their daily lives, even when that was a dangerous thing to do.

On the day of our baptisms, each of us became holy, that is, set apart for something special: to be God's next generation of saints. We are challenged to focus on what God has given to us and has done for us – and to respond in the way we live and the way we give. We can be the patterns for the next generation, as we work together to make sure that the Church continues to be a strong witness to God's love.

It is appropriate that in the same month in which we celebrate the Saints, we are challenged to make our financial commitments to our Lord and Savior. Please pray over your 2012 Commitment Card, which is contained in this edition of The Courier. And may your commitment reflect your faith.

In Christ,

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts
Senior Pastor

November Worship Highlights

Wednesday, November 2 10:30 AM – Holy Communion and Healing in the Chapel

Sunday, November 6



All Saints Sunday

8:15 & 11:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave with candle lighting in memory of loved ones

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel with candle lighting in memory of loved ones

Wednesday, November 9

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, November 13

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, November 16

Commitment Wednesday

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, November 20



Christ the King Sunday / Commitment Sunday

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

3:00 PM - Thanksgiving Worship Service sponsored by Southside Ministries

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, November 23

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, November 27



First Sunday of Advent

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, November 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.

October Council Highlights

The following motions were approved:

- To recommend the adoption of the revisions to the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations at the December Special Congregational Meeting.
- To recommend the adoption of the 2012 Budget at the December Special Congregational Meeting.
- To recommend the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees for Congregation Council to the December Special Congregational Meeting. The nominees include: George Kummer to serve a second 3-year term, and Debbie Albors, Amy Faulch, and Brett Hauber to serve their first 3-year term.

Women of the ELCA

Missionary Offering – Thank you to everyone who gave to the special offering on Sunday, October 2nd. The total of the offering was \$253!

Soup and Bake Sale – Thank you to everyone who made soup, baked apple pies, and donated baked goods! And thank you to everyone who purchased the soup and baked goods. Thanks to your commitment, an additional \$876.50 was raised to help support our missionary family in Argentina.

Cedarbrook Annex Bingo Party - Tuesday, November 1, at 6:30 PM. Help is needed to assist the guests. Also needed are prizes such as jewelry, toiletries, small gift items, snacks such as cheese & crackers, candy bars, perfume, greeting and Christmas cards, stamps, etc. Please bring your prizes to the Church Office by October 30. Call Evelyn Smith if you can help or have questions. Join us. The guests really enjoy our visit.

The *Women of the ELCA Morning Bible Study* will meet at 9:30 AM on November 1st and 15th. The study of Mark, chapter 4, will focus on how our words can have an impact – positive or negative – on the people in our lives. Women of all ages are invited to be part of the study.

Bethlehem-Easton Mission District Christmas Ingathering – 9 AM on Wednesday, December 7, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Old Williams. Thank you to all who have contributed shaving cream. We still need 100 more containers.



Please place your gifts in the box in the office equipment room.

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 6, we will give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith and remember that we are connected with them and with all the faithful of the present and the future as members of the Communion of Saints. The tolling bell will be rung in memory of those whose funerals were held through St. Peter's since last All Saints Sunday. The list will also include names of family members and friends submitted by St. Peter's members. Worshippers will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones. With God's help, we remember the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future mission and ministry of St. Peter's!



Kathy's Korner

The activity level in the ministry office has been building as the autumn progresses. I find myself counting blessings as November is the traditional month for giving thanks. There is much happening in the St. Peter's community for which we can be grateful.

We had a very successful youth and young adult retreat in late September, and registration for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering was completed on October 9th. Seven youth from St. Peter's will be traveling to New Orleans in July 2012: Alisia Drayton, Rachel Fackenthal, Jordan Geiger, Tori Geiger, Brandon Gubich, Richard Robert Hawk, and Elijah Kolman. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this transformational experience. They will need our help to fund expenses for the trip, so stay tuned for some great gift ideas in time for Christmas!

We have been blessed by the presence of new and returning Lehigh students during worship since the fall semester began. And the opportunity for ministry to international students has been presented to us through contacts in the international services office at Lehigh. Check out the Volunteer Opportunities bulletin board in the Coffee Corner for more information on how you can lend a "helping hand" to students who are far away from home. And if you are interested in



local children who need our support, consider volunteering at Donegan Elementary in their after-school program.

Thanks to those of you who have contributed food for the “Backpack Buddies” program, the New Bethany Food Bank, and the Thanksgiving food baskets. *Thanks* for your contributions to Meals on Wheels and to address World Hunger. *Thanks* for sharing your volunteer interests with me through the Time and Talent survey. If you would still like to complete one, copies are available outside the ministry office. *Thanks* for being willing to share your time, talents, and treasure. All this we do in gratitude for the love that God has for each of us. *Thanks be to God!*

God’s blessings to you,
Kathy



Fall Back!

Remember to move your clock back one hour before you go to sleep on Saturday, November 5. This way you will be sure to be on time for worship on All Saints Sunday, November 6.

Advent Begins the New Church Year

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 27. Worship on each of the four Sundays of Advent reflects our preparation and our waiting for the coming of Christ and includes the lighting of the Advent candles.

Also, at each morning worship service, the Sunday Church School children will receive a special offering for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. The children will follow the ushers to receive your gifts in their offering baskets. May we use God’s gift of Advent time to prepare our hearts and spirits for the coming of the Lord!



Special Congregational Meeting

The 2011 Special Congregational Meeting is scheduled in the Nave, immediately following the 11 AM worship service on Sunday, December 4. This meeting is for the purposes of adopting the 2012 budget, approving mandated constitutional changes, and electing members of the Congregation Council. Please plan to be present to support the future of St. Peter’s ministries.

2012 Budget

Please see an usher after worship on Sunday, November 13, to get your copy of the proposed 2012 budget. Study the budget, and bring questions to Pastor Roberts, Treasurer Joe Bleier, or Finance Committee Chairperson Adam King. Also, please bring your copy of the budget to the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 4th

Annual Report Deadline

The Annual Report deadline is Sunday, December 4. All committee Chairs and Staff members are asked to submit their reports to the Church Office by that date to allow time for the report to be assembled. Thank you for your help!

Simply Giving

St. Peter’s members may choose to have offerings automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts and then deposited into St. Peter’s account. It’s a great way to be sure that offering is given on a regular basis, whether or not the giver can attend worship in a particular week.

There are a number of members who already use this method. Perhaps you have noticed on a Sunday morning that an individual or family just nods when an usher arrives with the offering plate. Others choose to place an empty envelope marked “Simply Giving” into the plate. Still others use Simply Giving for their weekly commitment and use the special envelopes to place other donations onto the plate.

If this electronic withdrawal method is of interest to you, give the Church Office a call to

discuss the process. It's a great way to provide on-going, faithful support of the work of the Lord through St. Peter's.

Freed in Christ to Serve

We as Christians have been Freed in Christ, and now we are called to go serve our neighbors, both at home and around the world.

We are freed and called to share God's love with the people of Madihani Lutheran Church and receive God's love from them, as well. We share God's love with senior citizens and children as we support Meals on Wheels and Head Start and receive love from young and old alike.

One special way the members of St. Peter's share God's love is through faithful, committed, thankful giving to the work of the Lord through St. Peter's. During November, each adult member of the congregation is asked to make a financial commitment for the coming year. God gives us everything. What will we give in return in thanksgiving for all our blessings?

Please complete the card below and return it to St. Peter's during worship on Sunday, November 20. If you cannot attend on that day, please mail your completed card to the Church Office. As we combine all of our financial commitments, the Church can do ministry that no one person could ever do alone.

God has freed us through the gift of Jesus Christ. God gives us EVERYTHING! What portion of your money is God calling you to give back in thanksgiving to help share God's love with others?



Thanksgiving Worship Service

Everyone is invited to the annual community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by Southside Ministries. The service will be held at St. Peter's at 3 PM on Sunday, November 20. A choir from each congregation will sing, and The Rev. Mariclaire Partee of The Cathedral Church of the Nativity will preach. Every person who attends is invited to bring non-perishable items for the food bank.

There will be time for food and fellowship following worship, so please contact SSM Coordinator Barbara Taylor if you can help provide finger food and share St. Peter's warm hospitality.

Mark your calendar and come be part of this important Southside Ministries celebration!

Blood Drive at St. Peter's

St. Peter's Blood Drive is scheduled from 8 AM to Noon on Sunday, November 13. We are in need of 20 donors. Please speak with Associate in Ministry Barbara Taylor to make an appointment. Blood donation usually takes no more than an hour, *and* juice & cookies are included! Prayerfully consider giving the gift of life. If you cannot give blood but would like to support this ministry, please bring a pack of cookies to the Church Office to help replenish the blood center's canteen.

Considering Membership?

Have you been worshipping at St. Peter's and are now interested in joining? If you answered "yes," please contact Pastor Roberts or the Church Office.

**Thank you for your
commitment!**

Concert Series

St. Peter's Concert Series will present The Easton Area High School Chamber Singers on Sunday, November 13, at 3 PM. Invite family and friends to join you to hear the beautiful music and to support these young people. The concert will include a freewill offering to help support the entire concert series. Thanks to those who attended Marisa Deshler's Organ Recital on Sunday, October 9, an offering of \$234 was received to help begin this support.



Ethnic Christmas Tree

The Ethnic Christmas Tree Exhibit at the Comfort Suites opens on Sunday, November 20, and runs until the New Year. The display includes a variety of trees decorated by local churches. St. Peter's and University Parish of Holy Ghost decorate the "German Tree." Ruth Walter and Jane Merkel represent our congregation on this project. Be sure to stop by to enjoy the special beauty of the decorated trees.

46th Annual Community Advent Breakfast

The Bethlehem Community Advent Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 26, at 8:30 AM at Moravian Village. The breakfast is an opportunity to welcome the season of Advent with sisters and brothers in Christ from the Bethlehem area.

The speaker will be Rob Vaughn, news anchor at Channel 69 WFMZ TV. It will be great to have a group from St. Peter's present to welcome the season.

Following the meal and meditation, the event will close with candle lighting and the singing of "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Please sign up on the Bulletin Board outside the Church Office if you would like to purchase a ticket. Be a part of this opportunity to prepare our hearts for the birth of the Christ Child.



Share the Joy of Christmas!

St. Peter's members are fortunate to have the opportunity to share the spirit of Christmas with our neighbors.

Clients of Meals on Wheels - Purchase items from the shopping lists provided in the Coffee Corner and bring the gifts back unwrapped. In order to meet the deadline set by the agency, gifts need to be at St. Peter's no later than Sunday, November 27.

St. Peter's Head Start Children - Choose an ornament from the giving tree and purchase: (1) a hat and (2) mittens or gloves for the child. Place the items and \$2.00 into a plastic bag and secure the ornament to the bag. Each child will also receive a book. Books have been purchased wholesale, so each child receives the same type of book. The \$2 covers the cost of the gift book for your child. Gifts are due at St. Peter's by December 11.



Lessons and Carols

A special thank you to all the women who sang with us as part of the Women's Choir on October 16th. Thank you for your extra rehearsal time and your beautiful singing!

We will be starting rehearsals for Lessons and Carols in November. We welcome all members of the congregation to join the choir for this special holiday service. Anyone who is unable to make regular Wednesday night Choir rehearsals can attend three special rehearsals on Sunday mornings. We will hold these extra rehearsals on November 27, December 4, and December 11 at 9:30 AM in the choir room. We hope to see you there!

We are always looking to expand the size of our choirs. We'd love to have you join us! We are especially in need of a few good altos, but we welcome all voice parts. Stop by on a Wednesday night and give us a try!

December Courier Deadline

The deadline for the December Courier is Sunday, November 13. Please place your articles in the editor's mailbox or email them to her at courier_editor@yahoo.com.

November "Something Sunday"

Youth (grades 7 through 12) are invited to bake cookies and work on projects to raise money for the 2012 Youth Gathering. We will meet from noon to 3 PM on Sunday, November 13th, to put our creative energies to work for the benefit of others. Look for the sign-up sheet outside the Ministry Office in early November. Join us for fun and fellowship with your St. Peter's friends! Contact Kathy Thomforde in the Ministry Office with any questions.

Southside Ministries' Friday Fun Night

St. Peter's youth and our campus ministry students are helping to host Friday Fun Night on Friday, November 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at University Parish of the Holy Ghost on Carlton Avenue. The children really enjoy an evening of food, games, and crafts – and so do those who help out! Please sign up if you are interested in joining us. A sign-up sheet will be posted in early November. Contact Kathy Thomforde in the Ministry Office with any questions.

One-stop Christmas Shopping

Our youth who will be attending the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July would like to make your holiday gift shopping easier. We will be selling Lehigh Valley Entertainment Books, gift cards, fair trade coffee, and some handmade items in the Coffee Corner on Sunday mornings throughout November to help meet expenses for the upcoming trip. Contact Kathy Thomforde in the ministry office with any questions.

Christmas Caroling

Mark your calendar on Friday evening, December 2nd, to be a part of St. Peter's "Christmas Carolers." Everyone is welcome to gather at St. Peter's at 6 PM for pizza. We will leave for Moravian House around 6:40 PM. This a wonderful time, as all ages share the Christmas

spirit with our neighbors, including some of our homebound members. If you are coming for supper at 6 PM, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the Church Offices by November 27.

Look Who's Having A Birthday

Please remember, with notes and cards, the following homebound member who is celebrating her birthday this month:

Mildred Wright – November 3

Mildred is turning 101, and she is St. Peter's oldest member. Please send a greeting.

From the Parish Record

RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM:

Christian Joseph Scheck – September 25, 2011

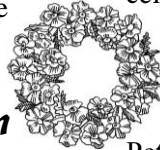
With Many Thanks!

From Doris Herzog "for the soup and rolls, and to the ladies who delivered it. Thank you also for all the cards, the prayers and the loving thoughts. I feel so blessed to belong to an extended family as St. Peter's. My visit from Pastor Roberts was just what I needed at that time. My love – blessings – and appreciation!"

From Marianne Napravnik: "A warm thank you for all the prayers, cards and love expressed for me while recovering from my fall."

From Joan Helman: "A special thank you to all my church friends for all the cards during my recent surgery and recovery. Sometimes the cards bring tears to my eyes – they mean so much. Also, a big thank you to Pastor Roberts for the help with my communion."

To Judy Keller, Don Snider, and Susan Swavely from Pastor Roberts and the Wednesday worshippers for volunteering their time and talent to play the piano for Wednesday Morning Worship. Their support helps worshippers to sing God's praises!



*"Thank You" from Marisa
Deshler*

I would like to thank all who attended my recent organ recital. It was great to see so many friendly faces in the audience. Your support meant a lot to me. I also want to express my gratitude to all who helped to make my recital successful. It was a day filled with excitement and joy for me and was only made possible by many volunteers. I appreciated the willing hands who moved the organ, passed out programs, and helped out with the reception. The reception had a delicious selection of foods, and I'm thankful to all who made that possible. I feel truly blessed for the people of St. Peter's for all of their support in my musical endeavors.

Meals on Wheels



On the second Sunday in October, St. Peter's received our annual offering for Meals on Wheels. Once again, donations were sufficient to cover the \$500 cost of sponsoring "our" route. This means that there is a large magnet reading "This route sponsored by St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church" on the car that delivers meals to south side residents. Thank you to everyone who helped our south side neighbors!

Calling the Church Office

During the upcoming holiday seasons, Staff members will be taking some vacation time. As always, call the Church Office to get the names and telephone numbers of those on call for emergencies. Please do not leave messages at the homes of staff members, because, if they are away, it might be a long time before your message is heard.



Cancellations Due to the Weather

If you are not sure if a St. Peter's worship service or event will take place, please call the Church Office and listen to the recorded message for an update. If there is no cancellation message, worship and events will go on as scheduled. You may also check the cancellations on Channel 69.

SSM THRIFT SHOP

The Southside Ministries Better Buy Thrift Shop is once again open regular hours! The shop is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10 AM to 3 PM. Friday hours are from 10:30 AM to 1 PM.

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

Fountain Hill Cemetery

November is the time of year to make your annual donation to Fountain Hill Cemetery. Please make your check payable to St. Peter's and write "Ft. Hill Cemetery" in the memo line. Place your gift in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office.

Disaster Response Update

Lutheran Congregational Services is the Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) affiliate for both the Northeastern and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synods. LDR works to equip congregations for response, both within and outside their communities, and works collaboratively with other faith-based disaster response organizations and county governments in preparing for and responding to disasters. In February of 2011, Lutheran Congregational Services provided immediate support and leadership for communities of faith that were responding to the fatal explosion in Allentown. In the spring of 2011, over 50 people from 10 congregations throughout Eastern PA were supported on mission trips to Tennessee and Mississippi to do recovery work from flooding and Hurricane Katrina.

More recently, flooding has caused major destruction of homes, businesses, and roads in our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. You can help by contacting Lutheran Congregational Services

(610-770-9205) to volunteer your time to help for a clean-up day in an affected area. You may also make a cash donation to help with this recovery. Make your check payable to St. Peter's and write "LCS" in the memo line. Place your gift in the offering plate or mail your check to the Church Office. Neighbors, both near and far away, who are in despair following a disaster find hope because of committed volunteers and financial gifts to Lutheran Congregational Services.

All Saints Day Service at the Lutheran Center

Rostered leaders who have died in the past year will be remembered at an All Saints Day service on Tuesday, November 1, at 1 PM. Bishop Zeiser will preach at the first of what will be an annual event in the synod's new worship space, 2354 Grove Road in Allentown, near the airport. Everyone is invited to join us in giving thanks for the saints who have shared ministry with us.

The Lutheran Center Dedication

Dedication of the new Lutheran Center in Northeastern Pennsylvania (our Synod offices are there!) is scheduled for 3 PM on Sunday, December 4. Everyone is invited to be part of the celebration worship and the reception to follow. The Center is conveniently located at 2354 Grove Road – right near the airport. In fact, St. Peter's Congregation Council held its monthly meeting there in October.

Mark your calendar and watch Sunday bulletins and the December edition of The Courier for details.

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

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 & 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



POINSETTIA PLANTS

Poinsettia plants will again decorate the nave of St. Peter's this Christmas. Please order your plant(s) using the form below and include a donation of \$9.00 for each plant ordered. You may place your donation and order form in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office. As in past years, a sufficient number of plants will be ordered to decorate the nave and additional monies will be donated to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Plants will be distributed to homebound members after Christmas worship. Order deadline: Sunday, December 11.

To honor: _____

To remember: _____

Given by: _____

Enclosed is: \$ _____