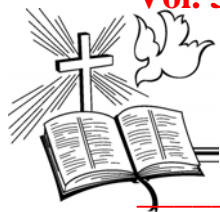




Vol. 54, No. 7

July/August 2008



THE COURIER

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

We have a lot to celebrate as a family of faith. Most recently, we have been celebrating with our 2008 Vacation Bible School: "Rainforest Adventure – A Treetop Bible Blast." Children, youth, and adults have been learning the songs and singing them with gusto. We have connected with the Bible stories about Ruth and Boaz; the Prophet Elisha and a faithful man who joyfully shared his first fruits with the Lord; the mustard seed, which starts small and grows into a plant which provides homes for birds and shade for people and animals; Jesus the vine and we, the branches; and Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We have met a variety of rainforest animals and have been reminded that the word "stewardship" means that God has made us responsible to care for Creation and to share what we have with others.

Each day of our "Rainforest Adventure" had a theme. Because we are God's people, WE SHARE, WE GIVE, WE GROW, WE LOVE, and WE PRAISE. Each day we also learned a new song to go with our theme. On the first day, WE SHARE, we learned "Share Every Good Thing." The words are: "Share, share, share every good thing you have. Share your time. Share your talent. Share your stuff, then we'll all have enough. Share God's love and forgiveness. Share every good thing you have." While not the best poetry, this catchy little song is well-grounded in what it means to live the Christian life.

Even in times of rising prices, we have an abundance of gifts from God. The reality is that when we share our "stuff," the world is a better place.

Because of those who have gone before us in the faith, we have the means through our Trust Fund to keep our buildings in repair. And we have the means through our Ministry Fund to make a difference in the lives of others, as we support a variety of outreach ministries: the Horizon Internship Program; our Partner Congregation, Madihani Lutheran Church in Tanzania; young people traveling as a part of the Companion Synod Program; a Lutheran seminarian in India. The list goes on.

We are challenged to keep the list going on. As you get your tax stimulus checks, I invite you to prayerfully consider tithing your check to the Keys to the 21st Century Mortgage Fund. We are so close to paying off this debt. And when we do pay it off, we will have the opportunity to "share our stuff" in the name of the Lord – in a variety of new ministries. As we share, give, grow, love, and praise, we witness to the love of God in a needy world.

Blessings!

In Christ,

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts
Senior Pastor

July Worship Highlights

Wednesday, July 2 10:30 AM – Holy Communion & Healing in the Chapel

Sunday, July 6



8th Sunday after Pentecost

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, July 9

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, July 13

9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, July 16

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, July 20



10th Sunday after Pentecost

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, July 23

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, July 27

11th Sunday after Pentecost

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, July 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.

August Worship Highlights

Sunday, August 3



12th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Jerusalem Singers

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 6

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

Sunday, August 10

13th Sunday after Pentecost

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 13

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 17

14th Sunday after Pentecost

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 20

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 24



15th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave

Service of Farewell and Godspeed for Intern Drew Goodson

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, August 27

10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, August 31

16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

From Drew's Desk

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."
(Revelation 21:5)*

Sometimes the old becomes new in unexpected ways.

Each summer when I was in high school, my youth group climbed aboard several church vans with our sleeping bags in hand. Behind one van was a trailer, full of tools and supplies. We drove to Wise County, Virginia, a small coal-mining community in the Appalachian Mountains. Wise County is nicknamed the "*Safest Place on Earth*," and in terms of crime, it is. Considering the harsh effects of poverty on the people who live there, however, it had its share of dangers.

We were teenagers from the suburbs, who had never experienced living conditions quite like what we found in Wise. Each of us was assigned to a small group and given a project to work on for an individual or a family in the area. Some of the projects we did were to install ceiling fans, to replace rotted floor boards, and to build a handicap ramp. Our task was to *renovate*. The word renovate comes from the Latin *renovare*, which means "to make new." Our mission seemed simple enough.

My small group went to the home of a man named Carlos. Carlos had a front porch that badly needed to be renovated. Nails were exposed, and the floor boards were weak. Soon after our group began to work, Carlos came to us with a smile and said: "It's time for a break, we need to ride bikes!" Carlos had a collection of two-wheelers, and he loved to ride them. Shortly after we returned to work, Carlos again invited us to take a break. I remember thinking: "*How are we ever going to get any work done?*"

It turned out that work *was* being done, but not in the way we expected. Through each of us, God was going about a much larger work of *renovation*—of making all things new. This work began with Christ's resurrection—and it continued in the hills of Wise. In the evenings, our youth group gathered around a campfire to reflect on the day. The firelight danced, and the lightening bugs glowed in the distance. When we thought about the people we met in Wise County, Virginia, the word that we used most often was—*joy*.

We heard joy in the songs of one family who played bluegrass music while a group worked on their roof. We saw joy in the faces of kids at a church festival. We felt joy working side by side with members of the local Lutheran church—trimming bushes and pulling up weeds. I remember how this joy made my life feel new. My life was renovated in the mountains of Virginia. That experience left an indelible impression on me. *When were times when you experienced joy? How has God begun to make your life new?*

In July, several rooms here at St. Peter's will be renovated. After desks, chairs, and books are taken out, the offices will be painted. New carpet will be put down. This is important work that will help the church building be a place where God's people can continue to gather. I'm reminded of my time in Wise and of the way that *our work is always a part of God's renovation*—God's wonderful process of making all things new.



With peace,
Drew Goodson
Pastoral Intern



June Council Highlights

A motion was approved to:

- Authorize the application for a 2009-2010 Horizon Intern.
- Authorize the closing of the church offices in the event the building becomes unusable in the process of being painted and re-carpeted.
- Accept new dates for the 2008-2009 Headstart Contract.
- Accept the 2009 Budget Schedule.
- Support Kelly Fackenthal in attending Theological Education for Youth.

Building Use Requests:

- To allow Lutheran Congregational Services to hold a 2009 Marriage Preparedness Series on Thursdays, March 5, 12, and 19, from 7-9 PM. Snowdate is March 26.
- To allow the family of Irene Smith to hold a wedding shower in the Trauger Room on Sunday, June 29, from 12:30-4:30 PM.

Women of the ELCA



Morning Bible Study will be held on Tuesdays, July 1 & 15, and August 5 & 19, from 9 to 10:30 AM in the Trauger Room. All women are invited to be part of our summer study, which is being led by Intern Drew Goodson. It's informal, fun, and friendly, and no special knowledge of the Bible is required. We all learn together!

Business Meeting was held on June 11. The Bazaar will be held on November 5 from 9 AM – 2 PM. Put your fingers to work – items needed include knitted items, aprons, craft items, etc. White elephant items – must be clean and in working order – please no large items (computers, etc.), telephones, shoes, belts, purses, or clothing as these items do not

sell. More information will be forthcoming in September.

Bach Festival - \$4,361.00 was realized for our mission and ministry, thanks to all your hard work.

Missionary Support – Dennis Murnyak, our missionary from Tanzania, whom we have supported for approximately 20 years will be returning in fall 2008. Pastor Roberts is working with ELCA Global Mission to identify another missionary to support.

Blanket Making will not be held over the summer months. Watch the September edition of The Courier and Sunday bulletins for September meeting dates.

Thankoffering Sunday – November 9, at both the 8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services. The guest speaker will be Pastor Lori Kochanski, a former St. Peter's Horizon Intern. Pastor Kochanski now works as a Chaplain for Diakon. A *Covered Dish Meal* will follow the 11 AM service.

Cedarbrook Annex Bingo Party – November 11th. Volunteers and prizes are needed – knick knacks, crackers, jewelry, cologne, small bags of candy, etc. No playing cards, please.

Ingathering – men's and women's deodorant are still needed. Watch for sales. Have a great summer!

Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission will be on vacation during July and August. Plan to make a commitment to be a part of this group in September.

 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.

Keys to the 21st Century Update

Please remember St. Peter's 21st Century Mortgage Reduction Fund during the summer months. Working together, we can do it!

Christmas in July

St. Peter's has made the commitment to provide 175 full-size containers of deodorant for the Christmas Ingathering. We still need about 100 more to meet our commitment. As you shop over the summer months, please help by purchasing deodorant on sale and placing the containers in the Ingathering box in the Reception Area.



Spirituality On-line

Café – Stirring the Spirit Within is a new on-line faith magazine for young women sponsored by Women of the ELCA. Each issue contains articles that focus on what it means to live out the faith in the midst of the 21st Century. The magazine can be accessed at www.boldcafe.org. *Café* also has a free podcast, which can be accessed at www.boldcafe.org/listen.html or through the iTunes store in the Faith and Spirituality section under "Café podcast."



Worship in the Summer

During the summer months, many people change their routines. Maybe there is a vacation, maybe a day away with family, or maybe a change to your work schedule. Change is often the norm for us in the summer!

No matter how much things change, God never changes. And our need

to worship and praise God together remains as important as ever.

St. Peter's offers four opportunities each week for worship:

- 1) Sundays at 8:15 AM
- 2) Sundays at 9:30 AM
- 3) Sundays at 6:30 PM
- 4) Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

Choose the one that works best in your schedule and come worship the Lord of Life!

Farewell Brunch



On Sunday, August 24, there will be one morning worship service – at 9:30 AM. The worship service will include a Service of Farewell and Godspeed for Intern Drew Goodson. Brunch will follow at 11 AM at the Portuguese Club. Each St. Peter's adult member should have received a reservation form in the mail. (If you need a form, please call the Church Office.)

Reservations are needed by August 3, because we must provide the final count for the restaurant. Please make your reservation today and be part of the celebration!

Youth Farewell to Drew

Youth of all ages are invited to a farewell to Drew on Sunday, August 17. Following 9:30 AM Worship, we'll have a light meal at St. Peter's and then head off to Oasis for miniature golf.

There will be a sign up sheet on 'Miss' Liz's office door so that you can sign up so we make sure to have enough drivers/adults to go along.



7 The Courier

July/August 2008

A Summer Musical Treat

Staff Vacations

During the summer months, 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 longtime before your message is heard.



When the Parish Secretary is away, the office will be staffed by a volunteer from 9 AM – Noon. Please plan calls and visits during those hours. The other staff members will be in and out as usual for meetings, visits, etc.

Keeping St. Peter's Looking Good



The Property Committee has again planned a number of summer projects in order to keep St. Peter's looking good – inside and outside. Thanks to a great crew, the geraniums were planted around the building, and volunteers mow the lawn each week. The hardwood floors in the nursery and nursery kitchen will be refinished. The restored stained glass windows will be back in place in the Nave. The biggest project of 2008 will be the painting and re-carpeting of the offices, choir room, and vesting sacristy. Check Sunday bulletins to see when help will be needed to move furnishings back into the spaces.

Please enjoy St. Peter's beautiful facilities and continue to give generously so the buildings can be kept in good condition for use in mission and ministry.

On Sunday, August 3, at the 8:15 and 9:30 AM worship services, the congregation will be treated to a musical presentation by the Jerusalem Singers. Their director is Pete Deshler, husband of St. Peter's Organist, Marisa Deshler.

The group was formed in 1996 and performs in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas. The only "pay" the singers ask for is the donation of nonperishable food items, which they present to New Bethany Ministries. Mark your calendar, invite family and friends, and bring food items on August 3. You'll be blessed by the gift of music!



Ministry in Daily Life

Meals on Wheels extended heartfelt thanks to volunteers during a recognition luncheon. Connie and Morris Litrenta were recognized for 25 years of service, delivering a hot meal to homebound people on the assigned route.

Congratulations, Connie and Morris!

From the Parish Record

MARRIAGE:

Connie Mullen & Ed Wirth -
Saturday, June 28, 2008

Lawn Mowing

Volunteers are needed to mow the lawn at St. Peter's. Please choose a week that fits your schedule and sign up on the chart on the Bulletin Board outside the Church Office. Let's keep St. Peter's looking beautiful!



8 The Courier

2009 Budget

Calling all committee chairs and staff members! Look for your 2009 budget worksheets on July 13th. The completed worksheets are due back in the Church Office by Sunday, August 3. Thank you in advance for completing the worksheets on time so the Finance Committee can develop a draft budget.

Sponsorships Available

If you are interested in any of these sponsorships, please call the Church Office at 610-867-0519 and talk to Parish Secretary Linda Zrinski.

August 3

Newspaper Ad - \$25.00

August 17

Bulletin - \$18.00

August 31

Altar Flowers - \$45.00

Bulletin - \$18.00

Bulletin - \$18.00

September 7

Newspaper Ad - \$25.00

Flexibility

All of St. Peter's members are asked to help out with our famous "St. Peter's Flexibility" during the month of July. As the offices are painted and carpeted, there will be times when staff members may not be able to access files, provide immediate answers to your questions, or be in the office at all. As always, the voicemail will provide the names and phone numbers of Staff members on call for emergencies.

The hope is to keep the disruption to a minimum and to get our offices up and running quickly. As we all work

July/August 2008

together, we will be able to worship and to care for one another. Then things can get "back to normal" in just a short time.

Thanks in advance to everyone for your flexibility!



Summer Prayers

All of us have so much to be thankful for each day. When we awake to a new day, when a friend is in touch with us, for the food we eat, for the water that flows into our homes, for flowers, birds, trees, our health, for doctors close by who care for us, the list can go on and on. Thanking God should be part of our daily lives.

Those who work with Children and Youth are often touched by the simplicity and honesty of young people in their shared prayers to God. The children/youth at St. Peter's have learned that they can pray any time and in any place -- a good reminder for adults!

It is a blessing to stop throughout the day and give thanks. It is also good to tell God about worries and concerns: about jobs, relationships, family, health, whatever comes to mind. Sharing those thoughts with God will often help to lessen the burdens we carry.

Take time -- lots of it -- each day to talk to God in prayer. If you spend time with children/youth, engage them in prayer with you, and listen to how they share their joys/concerns/thanks with God.

Baptismal Anniversaries

Each Sunday in the SCS openings and classes, there is a celebration of Baptism. The names of those celebrating their Baptismal Anniversaries are read, and then a prayer is said and a song sung. Please pray for these children and young



9 The Courier

July/August 2008

people whose Baptismal Anniversary falls in July and August:

Katie Lynn Schnecker – July 8
Talia Lehr – July 13
Gavin Snyder – July 15
Anna Lehr – August 6
Brandon Scott Gubich – August 11
Logan Kenneth Frankenfield – August 12
Matthew Fair – August 12
Seth Wiles-Young – August 12
Nicolas Patric Ampietro – August 20
Caden Snyder – August 20
Halle Zrinski – August 22
Dale David McKellin III – August 25
Karli Inez Abrantes – August 28
Daniel Lehr – August 28
Mya Mark – August 31

Internship Recognition

Pastor Roberts was at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia May 21-22 for the Internship Teambuilding Workshop with St. Peter's 2008-2009 Intern, Elizabeth Nees. During one of the worship services, Pastor Roberts was recognized with an award for supervising ten Interns, and St. Peter's received a Citation for the congregation's commitment to the Internship Program. Below are the words from the Citation, which is a celebration of our commitment to prepare pastors for the future of the Church.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia is proud to recognize Saint Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church on this day, May 22, 2008, for its commitment to the Internship Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Whereas, you have been in partnership with the Seminary in preparing church leaders for service in the Church; and

Whereas, you have hosted a number of prospective pastors for internship over the last decade; and

Whereas, you have guided, encouraged, and supervised students while affirming the gifts they bring to parish ministry; and

Whereas, you have provided a safe, trusting, and positive learning environment for student interns; and

Whereas, members of your congregation have committed many hours and have taken on the task of caring and supporting these interns directly; and

Whereas, you have committed many hours of your Pastor's time over the years; and

Whereas, you have committed great financial resources to making the Internship Program successful in your Congregation;

Therefore, *we extend our appreciation and heartfelt thanks for your genuine commitment and partnership to preparing leadership for Christ's Church.*

Signed by:

*The Rev. Dr. Charles Leonard, Ed.D.
Director of Contextual Education*

*The Rev. Dr. Philip D. W. Krey, Ph.D.
President of the Seminary*



Schedule Your Own
Lutheran Day at
Dorney Park

Discounted tickets to Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom are available through the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod office. Proceeds will benefit the NEPS Youth Scholarship Fund. These tickets are good for admission to the parks on any date during the 2008 operating season -- except when closed for private events.

10 The Courier

Dorney Park (continued)

Get an order form at www.godslove.org, or contact Debbie Frey at the Synod Office at 610-395-6891. Tickets for Youth and Adults are \$31.00. And tickets for Children age 3 and older who are under 48 inches tall and Adults age 62 or older are \$18.00. (No personal checks accepted.)

It's a Party ~ NO ~ Two Parties!

Everyone is invited to a party on Monday, August 25, at 5 PM – a moving party! We'll need to help Intern Drew Goodson move out of the apartment and send him on his way back to The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

And, on Saturday, August 30, at 10 AM, you are invited to a second moving party, as we welcome our 2008-2009 Horizon Intern, Elizabeth Nees. Members of the Intern Support Committee and of the Hospitality and Care Committee will be some of those present to provide a hospitable welcome.

Please contact Intern Support Committee Chairperson Lee Rayden or the Church Office to volunteer or for more information.

A Shower of Blessings for Intern Elizabeth

Once again it is time to begin to welcome a new intern to St. Peter's. Elizabeth Nees, a student at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will be arriving in Bethlehem on Saturday, August 30th. We want to be able to fill her cabinets and refrigerator with foods and supplies as a way of welcoming Elizabeth to the St. Peter's family.

July/August 2008

You will find the Shower of Blessings Umbrella located in the upper Narthex hallway. Please take a slip or two, do your shopping, and then return the items to that same table. With all the moving/ painting/carpeting happening this summer this seems like the best place to begin gathering the items for Elizabeth.

We will need to have all the items returned by Sunday, August 24th.

Thank you in advance for shopping and caring for Intern Elizabeth Nees.



Think Ahead to Fall

As soon as St. Peter's program year ends in June, planning begins for the start of the new program year after Labor Day. 2008 is no exception!

Take a moment now to mark your calendar for these fall events so you don't miss out on any of the excitement in the congregation!

Sunday - September 7

St. Peter's returns to the Fall Sunday Worship Schedule at 8:15 & 11 AM and 6:30 PM. Sunday Church School at 9:30 AM. Wednesday Worship at 10:30 AM.

Sunday - September 28

Our annual Service of Harvest Home -- a celebration of God's gifts of Creation -- will include the "Blessing of Animals" by picture. Everyone is invited to bring a picture of their pets to Pastor Roberts to be included in the "Blessing." Please bring pictures that do not need to be returned and which are marked with your name and the name of your pet.



11 The Courier

July/August 2008

Sunday - November 9

The Rev. Lori Kochanski will preach at the 8:15 and 11 AM worship services on Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Sunday. There will be the opportunity to gather in the Trauger Room between services to have time for conversation with Pastor Kochanski. A Covered Dish Dinner will follow the 11 AM worship service.

Sunday - November 16

St. Peter's Organist Marisa Deshler will present her annual organ recital at 3 PM in the Nave. With the organ pulled out into the center of the Nave, members of the community join members of St. Peter's to watch Marisa's fingers fly across the keys and her feet fly across the pedals. Marisa always amazes the audience with her varied repertoire. And, there's often a surprise ending --- sometimes involving a work written or composed by Marisa's husband Pete Deshler.

These are just a few of the events in the planning stages for fall of 2008. Watch the next issue of The Courier for more details and for updates on what else is coming up in the congregation, the neighborhood, and the Wider Church!

Look Who's Having a Birthday

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

Jane Clay – July 5
517 Lechauweki Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Emmy Neamand – July 16
1506 University Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18015



Joyce Mingora – July 19
737 Main Street – Apt 108
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Ken Tuohig – July 19
NE 1 – Room 13
Gracedale
2 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064

Margie Bunderla – July 24
NE 2 – Room 3
Gracedale
2 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064

Carol J. Groman – August 14
ManorCare II – Room 118B
2029 Westgate Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Daisy Huhn – August 31
1060 Hawthorn Road
Allentown, PA 18103



St. Peter's News

St. Peter's email newsletter is sent out each week, usually on either Wednesday or Thursday. The newsletter begins with a devotion and prayer and lists the Worship Ministers for the coming Sunday and important announcements. Special events and "breaking news" are sent out via email immediately. To be "in the know," send your email address to: **barbara_taylor@stpetersbethlehem.org**.

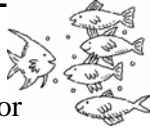
You may also send email to other members of St. Peter's staff. Let's work together to keep the lines of communication open. The Courier text is also available each month online at our web page www.stpetersbethlehem.org.



12 The Courier

Baby Born to Former Intern

St. Peter's former Intern, Pastor Julie Tillberg, and her husband John Pederson became parents on May 28th. John Luke Tillberg Pederson and his parents are doing well in Mayville, ND. Congratulations!



Thank You!

When the St. Peter's Congregation Council met in March, it voted to donate \$1,000 from the Ministry Fund to Gurukul Lutheran Theological Seminary in Chennai, India, to support Dora Babu. Dora is a friend of Intern Drew Goodson and is studying to be a Lutheran pastor. A picture of Dora can be found on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Recently, Dora sent a thank you letter to Intern Drew, part of which is reprinted below:

Dear Brother Andrew,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...again our college re-opens on June 12th. Please pray for me. I was completely dependent upon God. He has to guide me and he has to support me the next academic year. Brother, I am very thankful to each and every member in your church. Please convey my regards to each and every member...May God bless you.

*Your Loving brother,
Dora Babu.*



July/August 2008 With Many Thanks!

From Associate in Ministry Barbara Taylor to the St. Peter's family for all the prayers and cards as she recuperates from knee replacement surgery. Thanks, too, to the members of St. Peter's Staff and to all the volunteers for caring for some of her duties so she could focus on healing.

From St. Peter's former Intern, Pastor Chris Bridge, for all of the cards and prayers during her months of chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

From Connie Litrenta: "for the prayers, cards and phone calls during my absence from my St. Peter's family. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten."

From Beverly Krenos to Pastor Roberts, Pastor Spieker, and the members of St. Peter's "for all the visits, cards, and prayers for my Mom, Mildred Jones, during her illness and her time being home-bound. She looked forward to them and appreciated it so very much. Also, thank you for everything since her passing, for your prayers and cards and thoughts and kind words... Her funeral service was beautiful... God's blessings to all."

From Carol Erikson, Director of Donor Stewardship for the ELCA, on behalf of Bishop Hanson, the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, to St. Peter's congregation for "recent gifts given through your synod between February and April. Gifts like yours make a real difference in the world, as the ELCA works to spread the Gospel, build and nurture the faith lives of others, reach out to the unchurched, provide educational opportunities and much more."

From The Rev. Twila Schock, Director of ELCA Global Mission Support to St. Peter's Women of the ELCA "for your participation in global mission through your sponsorship of Dennis

13 The Courier

Murnyak, whose ministry in Tanzania you have helped make possible.”

From The Rev. Kerry W. Smart, Coordinator of Congregational Services for Lutheran Congregational Services, “for graciously allowing LCS to hold a Marriage preparedness series in your church building. I have personally appreciated your hospitality and have enjoyed working with your seminary interns over the past years.”

Hospitalizations



When a St. Peter’s member is admitted to a hospital, the ministry of care and visitation can be very important to both the patient and the family members. Please call the Church Office with the patient’s name and the name of the hospital, because the institutions no longer notify congregations when someone is admitted.

What’s in the Showcase

Stop by the showcase at the entrance to St. Peter’s Christian Education Building to see what’s new. Harriet Tonkins and AIM Elizabeth Elterich are responsible for the displays.

Check it out and see what’s new for summer!

Pastor’s Discretionary Fund

Pastor’s Discretionary Fund has been heavily used for several emergency needs last month. The funds are used to help pay rent in a crisis, pay a doctor bill, or, perhaps, to keep a family’s house warm in winter.

To make a donation, place your gift in an envelope and mark it “Pastor’s Fund.” Gifts may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office.

July/August 2008

Thanks to all who help their sisters and brothers in need in this special way!

September Courier Deadline

The deadline for the September Courier is Sunday, August 10. Please place your articles in the editor’s mailbox or email them to her at courier_editor@yahoo.com.

Called to Be a Public Church: Health Care

It was the power of his name that gave strength to this lame man. What you see and know was done by faith in his name; it was faith in Jesus that has made him well, as you can all see.

Acts 2:16

Important issues face us as we move to the election of a new President. We are called to be a public church in confronting these issues, one of which is health care.

Topic 3: Health Care

The ELCA believes all persons should have access to basic physical and mental health care central to personal well-being and functioning.

Currently there are 50 million uninsured in this country. 79% are from working families. In excess of eight million are children. Uninsured persons are not receiving timely preventive care and are three times less likely to receive needed urgent care.

Sample Questions to Ask your Candidates:

- ◇ What would be done to assure adequate affordable health care?
- ◇ How would all our children receive health care and other support to grow up

14 The Courier

strong and healthy?

◇ What is being put in place to ensure that employer sponsored health care is affordable to employees?

For more information on this issue you may go to:

<http://archive.elca.org/advocacy/publicchurch/07-11-domestichealth.html>

Have You Called CARELINE Lately?

CARELINE is a recorded message that contains a short devotion, a prayer, and a blessing. Pastor Roberts usually records the one-minute message each week. The message is accessible 24 hours a day by calling 610-868-CARE (610-868-2273) and waiting for the answering machine to pick up.

CARELINE provides a measure of comfort to someone feeling lonely or an opportunity to hear the Word of God when you can't be present at St. Peter's. It's great to be able to share the phone number with family and friends who would enjoy hearing CARELINE. You may wish to call in often, too! It's a great way to stay connected with the family of God!

Call or Email the Church Office If. . .

. . . you or another member of St. Peter's is admitted to the hospital or to a care facility.

. . . your telephone number, address, or email has changed.

. . . new baby has been born in your family.

. . . you need to share a concern with Pastor Roberts or another staff member.



July/August 2008

Please help keep the lines of communication open among the members of our family of faith.

St. Peter's Designated Gifts List

25 <u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> Hymnals	each \$22.00
Furniture for Bride's Room:	
2 sofas	\$2,000.00
10 Arm Chairs for Reception Room and Social Room	each \$150.00
ADF	\$1,000.00
200 Folding Chairs	each \$50.00
15 Plastic Folding Tables	each \$75.00

Additional Designated Giving Opportunities:

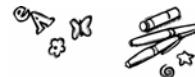
21 st Century Fund	Any Amount
Youth Gathering	Any Amount
Bear Creek Camperships	Any Amount

- NOTE:
1. Prices are approximate.
 2. Where a range of prices is indicated, more specific information is available from the Church Office.
 3. A memorial Plaque may be purchased separately for mounting on Memorial Board in the Narthex. Approximate cost is \$20.00-\$30.00.
 4. Please call Designated Gifts Coordinator, Evelyn Smith (610-868-2166) with questions or for more information.

St. Peter's WELCOMES South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center's South Side Expressions Summer Program!



One of South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center's summer programs is calling St. Peter's "home" for eight weeks this summer. A group of about a dozen middle school students are gathering in St. Peter's Christian Education Building Monday-Thursday from June 23 to August 15 from 8:30 to 3:30 PM.



15 The Courier

The program, South Side Expressions, uses art to help youth to learn how to better interact with each other, improve self-esteem, and begin to understand how to be an involved, active citizen of the Bethlehem Community and the wider world.

This program will be using curricula that encourage the development of skills for involved citizens who will know how to identify community issues and work within the system to speak to the issues and help solve community problems.

The leaders for this SBNC Summer program are two Lehigh University students who are passionate about empowering youth to have better self-awareness of their abilities and opportunities, working through artistic expression. The Lehigh students, Dan and Ashley, have worked for several months to develop their proposal for this program, sought out funding sources, and now are pleased to be leading the program they designed this summer at St. Peter's.

SSM KIDS

SSM "KIDS 2008" begins on Tuesday, July 1, and continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 24. We'll gather from 6 to 8 PM at Cathedral Church of the Nativity for music, art, Bible stories, snacks, and games.

Each child will receive a T-shirt and will have a part in the closing musical program at 7 PM on Friday, July 25, as we share what was learned during our "Rainforest Adventure" with family and friends. Refreshments will follow the show.

There are groups available for children from age 4 through those completing grade 6. There is no cost to attend. Pre-registration is helpful, so please obtain a registration form from the

July/August 2008

Church Office, complete it, and return it to SSM as soon as possible.

Plan now to be part of this summer fun and adventure!



SSM Thrift Shop

During July and August, the Thrift Shop, sponsored by Southside Ministries and located at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, will be open Tuesday-Thursday from 10 AM-1 PM and Fridays from 10:30 AM-1 PM. Summer clothing for women, men, and children is plentiful. Stop in to shop for great summer clothing at good low prices and support the important work of SSM at the same time.

St. Peter's members staff the shop on the second and fourth Tuesday, and third Wednesday. See Barbara Taylor to volunteer.



SSM Festival

A summer festival for people of all ages is scheduled for Saturday, August 23, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM at Holy Ghost Roman Catholic Church on Carlton Avenue. Mark your calendar, and plan to stop by to enjoy pizza, face painting, games, music, and more. Everything is free to all who attend. It's a great way to share good times with members of the south side congregations and residents in our neighborhood. See you at the festival!

Southside Ministries Web Page



Southside Ministries (SSM) has a new web page. Visit www.ssbethlehem.org and be up to date on all Southside Ministries activities and events. To email Southside Ministries, send to Barbara_Taylor@ssmbethlehem.org.

16 The Courier

July/August 2008

Help Is Just a Click Away

Hunger, illiteracy, cancer, childhood illnesses, animals suffering, the Rainforest being depleted.... YOU can help work toward solving these six problems in 30 seconds! Interested? It's easy!

Each day as you prepare to close down your computer, click on **thehungersite.com**. You may click on "give food," and the sponsors of the site will donate a portion of food for every click. There is no cost to you.

Then simply click on each tab, click on the spot to donate, and you've given six gifts in under a minute!

A little from each of us adds up to mean a lot of love shared with others.

Victory House

Victory House is a south Bethlehem shelter that provides new beginnings for men in need. Thanks to the generosity of the community, in 2007 Victory House helped 116 homeless men, providing 22,898 meals and 9,158 shelter nights.

When food is left after St. Peter's events, it is often delivered to the Victory House kitchen. We always receive notes of thanks from the men for the delicious food we share.

Please hold the men at Victory House and the staff members who assist them in prayer as they work to rebuild lives.

Money & Mission

The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA is the perfect way to do two good things at once:

1) Invest your money and earn interest.

2) Provide money to start new congregations.

It's simple to understand, and it's easy to do! Contact Barbara Taylor in the Church Office for a one-page form to complete and submit with your check. Then simply sit back and watch your savings grow, knowing that you are helping others, too.

St. Peter's has a portion of its investments in the Mission Investment Fund. Prayerfully consider using a portion of your savings to help both you and others.

Save a Life

Blood is needed every day to save the lives of people injured in accidents or those having surgeries. Blood is also needed by both adults and children who are under-going cancer treatments.

To give a blood donation, call the Miller-Keystone Blood Center at 610-691-5850. Your donation will take only about an hour and that includes free juice and cookies!

Call today and give the gift of life!

Global Mission

2007 was a banner year in the ELCA! Giving for missionary sponsorship and other Global Mission programs totaled \$6.87 million.

Our congregation played a part in this mission. St. Peter's sponsored Missionary Dennis Murnyak, who served in Tanzania, through gifts of the Women of the ELCA.

There are many opportunities to offer financial support to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Visit www.elca.org to learn more.



17 The Courier Head Start Update

St. Peter's has the privilege of following Jesus' call to love and care for the little children by opening our building to Head Start. Each weekday, 40 pre-school children are able to learn in a safe, clean space because we share our building.

The federal poverty level for a family of 4 is listed at \$20,600. According to "Community Services for Children Update," the average income for a family of 4 in our local Head Start program is \$11,500. 77% of those families had an employed adult.

Our ministry of providing space enables:

- ♥ parents to work or to go back to school.

- ♥ children to have the opportunity to attend pre-school so they are ready to learn when they begin kindergarten.

Keep these 40 precious children of God and their teachers in your prayers.

Feeding the Hungry

We can help those who are hungry! How?

- 1) "Give a Loaf" -- Place the cost of a loaf of bread (about \$2) in an envelope each week, mark the envelope "World Hunger," and place it in the offering plate.

- 2) Save your change each week and place it in the "cookie jar" marked for World Hunger, located on the table outside the Church Office.

- 3) Write a check payable to St. Peter's, write "World Hunger" in the memo line, and mail it to the Church Office.

- 4) Pray that God will work through us to care for those in need.

July/August 2008

As each one of us does a little, a lot can be accomplished with God's help.



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

CARELINE: A Spiritual Message: 610-868-CARE

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
8 AM to 3 PM

Friday: 9 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

Elizabeth McKee Elterich - AIM for
Education/Youth/Outreach

Barbara-Anne G. Taylor - AIM for Parish
Administration

Andrew D. Goodson - Intern Pastor

Jean E. Ocker - Director of Music

Marisa H. Deshler - Organist

Anthony DeAngelis, Sr. - Bell Director

Linda M. Zrinski - Parish Secretary

SUMMER 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

