



Vol. 54, No. 6



June 2008

THE COURIER

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

One of the challenges that Pastors face is that we spend many hours each week trying to be open to the Holy Spirit as we focus on writing sermons and articles such as this one. "Part Two" of that challenge is that we are never quite sure that anyone is listening or reading. And then there are amazing surprises!

There are the times when people say to me, "I remember what you said in that sermon," as they begin to quote back to me words I may have preached a year or more ago. Other times individuals have remarked on how a Bible study has had a profound affect on how they live their lives.

Most recently, I had a wonderful conversation with a person who had taken to heart my April Courier article. In that article, I encouraged each member of St. Peter's to consider ways to live out the gift of faith in daily life. This individual made a commitment to support the work of New Bethany Ministries by challenging co-workers, friends, and family to make donations. This effort resulted in a substantial financial donation and two vanloads of food and diapers to help the residents of New Bethany. In fact, on the day that the items were delivered, New Bethany had already been unable to fill the needs of two families who needed diapers. Now, thanks to this commitment, there were 1,000 diapers to distribute.

I received a letter from Ellen Jacoby, the Associate Director of New Bethany Ministries, who shared her thanks for this individual's assistance and said that she had promised to send me a "thank you" because the St. Peter's member "feels that your constant reminders to do good for others is what motivated ... to begin this project in the first place. I'm so thankful that [this individual's] heart and mind were receptive to your words of encouragement. They have blessed us richly. And thank you, too, for the support that you and your church offer us in other ways. It is good to share our ministry together."

That is the bottom line – we share in this mission and ministry together. The words that I speak and write are not my words, but the Holy Spirit working through me, to remind us all what it means to live out our faith in the midst of a needy world. As we give, the power of God's love is made real and alive.

We are in the midst of the Church Season of Pentecost. The color for the season is green, symbolizing growth in faith. May you be open to the power of the Holy Spirit as you seek out new ways to live out your faith in daily life.

In Christ,

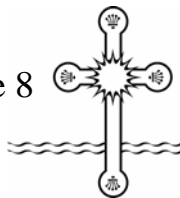
The Rev. Edith B. Roberts
Senior Pastor

June Worship Highlights

Sunday, June 1 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, June 4 10:30 AM – Holy Communion & Healing in the Chapel

Sunday, June 8 4th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



Wednesday, June 11 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, June 15 5th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, June 18 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, June 22 6th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, June 25 10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, June 29 Peter and Paul, Apostles
8:15 & 9:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave
6:30 PM – 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.

From Drew's Desk

"To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints..." (Romans 1:7)

I was driving on an Interstate recently when I saw an all too familiar sight. The words "Jesus Saves" were spray-painted, in simple white letters, on a bridge. In the area of the Southeast called the Bible belt, "Jesus Saves" is a popular slogan for Christianity. Some convenience stores sell "Jesus Saves" suspenders or belt buckles with the phrase neatly engraved on them. They're not your typical fashion item!

When I saw "Jesus Saves" on the bridge, I thought about all the people who must read those words. For many Christians, the phrase may be a comforting reminder that Jesus is in fact, the Savior of the world. For others, both Christian and non-Christian, the phrase "Jesus Saves" may raise questions. Questions like: *Who* does Jesus save? What does Jesus save people *from*? And, how do I know that Jesus will save *me*?

Christians have asked salvation-related questions for two thousand years. No one addresses these questions more directly than the Apostle Paul did in his letter to the Romans. There, Paul writes to early believers who needed to know, in greater detail, what "Jesus Saves" actually means. The Romans had questions like: Does Jesus save both Gentiles *and* Jews? And: Is it really true that Jesus saves those who live by faith *alone*?

Rome was a pluralistic place where Christians, Jews, and pagans lived together. Christians disagreed over the meaning of "Jesus Saves," depending on whether they were Jewish or Gentile converts. Paul's goal was to keep the Christian community unified! Paul wrote, "May the God of steadfastness...grant you to live in harmony with one another" (Romans 15:5). Unity among Christians was a way to glorify God!

This summer, from Sunday, June 1st, through Sunday, September 14th, major

portions of Romans will be read during worship at St. Peter's. In Romans, Paul gives us an important explanation of his theology and a description of what the Christian faith is all about. As we listen to Romans, we'll hear how God is at work in our world today. Like the Romans, American Christians also live in a pluralistic society. Just what *do* Christians mean when they say "Jesus Saves?"

As Christians with a Lutheran perspective, much of the way we understand our faith is grounded in Romans. The Apostle Paul's letter had a significant impact on Martin Luther. Commenting on Romans, Luther once said: "This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he [she] should spend time with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul."

This summer we will be fed by the good news in Romans! Thanks Be to God!



With peace,

Drew Goodson
Pastoral Intern

May Council Highlights

A motion was approved to:

- Welcome as adult members the new Confirmands: Jenna Lynn Casciano, Kimberly Ann DiGisi, Ashley May Heberling, and Cami Angeline VanGorden.
- Make a \$500 donation toward the shipping costs to be incurred by Global Health Ministries to send a sea container filled with medical supplies to Tanzania. Funds will come from the Ministry Fund.
- Use \$500 from the Ministry Fund to send a check with Pastor Kurt Garbe when he goes to Tanzania in July. The money will be designated for ministry with the children and youth of our Partner Congregation, Madihani Lutheran Church.

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May Council Highlights (continued)

- Use \$3,500 from the Ministry Fund to support Pastor Roberts' participation in a trip to Tanzania in September of 2009 to strengthen St. Peter's connection with our Partner Congregation, Madihani Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The trip is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fleetwood, PA.
- Purchase a Panasonic copier for the Church Office at a cost of \$8,902.38 from Valley Business Machines. Funds will come from Trust Fund growth income.
- Renew the contract with Headstart for the 2008-2009 academic year at the current rate.
- Transfer Karen Ann Reisinger and her children, Cory and Colin, to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mechanicsburg, PA.
- Approve the recommendation of the Property Committee to purchase a snow blower at a cost of up to \$500.

Apology from the Editor

There were several errors in the May Courier. First, I would like to extend my sincerest apology to Dot Nagy. Somewhere between my home and the church printer, part of the article *Ministry in Daily Life* was lost. The article tells of the promotion of George Nagy to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force. This article, in its entirety, is being re-run in this edition.

The second error was in listing an incorrect time for The Jerusalem Singers on Sunday, August 3rd. They will be singing at both the 8:15 and 9:30 AM worship services.

Both of these were corrected prior to being placed on the St. Peter's website.

Sincerely,
Sharon Ann Burns, Editor



Women of the ELCA

Morning Bible Study will be held on Tuesdays, June 3 & 17, from 9 AM to 10:30 AM in the Trauger Room. All women are invited to come, as we begin our summer study. It's informal, fun, and friendly, and no special knowledge of the Bible is required. We all learn together! Intern Drew Goodson will lead the summer studies.

Bach Ministry of Hospitality - St. Peter's Women of the ELCA once again hosted two successful "Bach Ministry of Hospitality" weekends last month - for the 42nd year in a row! Those who visited shared how thankful they are for the good food, for the friendliness of St. Peter's, and for a place to rest. Thank you to all who helped to make this ministry happen!

Business Meeting - 9:00 AM on Wednesday, June 11, in the Trauger Room. This is your opportunity to learn how the organization works, to hear the results of our Bach Ministry of Hospitality, and to determine the disbursement of monies received. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Lutheran Men in Mission

The next scheduled meeting of LMM is Saturday, June 21, at 8:30 AM in the Social Room. A light breakfast will be served, followed by Bible Study. All men are welcome!

Keys to the 21st Century Update

During the summer, it is essential that St. Peter's members use the 21st Century envelopes in the box of offering envelopes. The mortgage payment comes due each month, and the only way it gets paid is through the giving of St. Peter's members.

As birthdays, baptisms, graduations, wedding anniversaries, and other special events occur in your life, consider the gift of One Share (\$100) or 1/2 Share (\$50) of Interest for a Day in the Keys to the 21st

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Century Mortgage Fund. Call the Parish Secretary to arrange for the Sunday when you want your gift listed in the bulletin.

Working together, we can keep our mortgage commitment during the summer.



Stained Glass Update

During April, the ventilators of the stained glass windows in the Nave were removed. (A ventilator is the bottom portion of the window that swings open.) Frosted glass ventilators have been installed temporarily while the windows are undergoing repairs and the missing portions of glass are replaced.

We are fortunate to have the Neff-Chattoe company performing the work. The family has done stained glass work since 1903 and has worked at St. Peter's on prior projects.

The stained glass windows are both very old and very valuable, and they add a great deal of beauty to the Nave. The cost of the work will be paid from the growth income of the Trust Fund. As we work together, we assure that St. Peter's will be "In the City for Good, in the City for God" for future generations.

Containers of Deodorant

St. Peter's is collecting 175 containers of deodorant as our donation to the Christmas Ingathering. We need about 150 more. These items will be combined with items from many other congregations to be used to create health kits for area shelters.

Please place your gift in the box located outside the Church Office.

Summer Worship Schedule

The usual summer schedule of Sunday morning worship at 8:15 and 9:30 AM began on May 25th. Sunday evening worship continues at 6:30 PM each Sunday, and Wednesday morning worship continues at 10:30 AM each week.

The one exception to this schedule will be Sunday, August 24th, when there will be one morning worship service only – at 9:30 AM. This is the day scheduled to be Intern Drew Goodson's Service of Farewell and Godspeed.

During these summer months, as we enjoy the beauty of God's creation, let's keep our commitment to the Lord by making weekly worship a part of our lives.



Sponsorships Available

Listed below are summer sponsorships that are available. If interested, please call the Church Office at 610-867-0519 and speak to Linda Zrinski, Parish Secretary:

- June Newspaper Ad - \$25.00
- July 13th Altar Flowers - \$45.00
- August 17th Bulletin - \$18.00
- August Newspaper Ad - \$25.00

Summer Sonshine

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



Office Moving Days

This summer the offices and choir room will be painted and re-carpeted. Volunteers are needed to help move things out of the way for the work to be done. Moving Days will be Friday, June 27, from 9 AM to Noon; Saturday, June 28, in the morning; and Monday, June 30, from 9 AM to 3 PM. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Helpers of all ages are welcome!

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Jerusalem Singers

St. Peter's is again fortunate to host The Jerusalem Singers, under the direction of Pete Deshler, at both morning worship services (8:15 and 9:30 AM) on Sunday, August 3rd.



This group of young people presents a wide variety of sacred music. It's great to invite family and friends to enjoy this wonderful gift of music!

Ministry in Daily Life

We celebrate as members of St. Peter's family of faith live out their faith in a variety of ways in the world. St. Peter's member, George Nagy, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force on April 1, 2008. He is the son of Dot and George Nagy and the grandson of Florence Davis, also members of St. Peter's. George is a career space and missile officer and was commissioned in 1992 through the ROTC program at MIT. From 1993-97, he was assigned as a Minuteman III missile launch crew member at Minot AFB, North Dakota. His later assignments included missile warning and space surveillance test and evaluation at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station in Colorado Springs. From 2002-2005, he served as a strategy/policy officer at Headquarters, United States Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Nebraska. He is currently responsible for the flight of experimental satellite payloads with the Department of Defense Space Test Program at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Albuquerque. Congratulations to all!



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.

June 2008

From the Parish Record

FUNERALS:

Virginia Helms – April 28, 2008
 {Funeral by Intern Andrew Goodson}

Helen Schriffert – May 10, 2008

Mildred L. Jones – May 16, 2008

Roy D. Hagen – May 17, 2008
 {Non-member memorial service by
 Pastor George Spieker}

CONFIRMATION: May 11, 2008

Jenna Lynn Casciano

Kimberly Ann DiGisi

Ashley May Heberling

Cami Angeline VanGorden

Congratulations, Graduates!

We have received information about the following graduations:

Drexel University:

Andrew Stathos

West Chester University:

Scott Rawhouser



Liberty High School:

Benjamin Marzec

Katie Lynn Schnecker

Seth Wiles-Young

We thank families for responding to the request for graduation information so we can celebrate these milestones.

You are Invited to a Wedding

All members of the St. Peter's family are invited to attend the wedding ceremony of Connie Mullen and Ed Wirth at 3:00 PM, on Saturday, June 28, 2008. The wedding will take place in the St. Peter's Nave. Come and join in the celebration!

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Welcome to the Table



Alisia and Ciarra Drayton completed their First Communion preparation on May 14. They received Holy Communion on Holy Trinity Sunday, May 18. Please hold them in your prayers as they join with other Christians at the Lord's Table.

Intictorium Dedication

St. Peter's Wednesday morning worship includes Holy Communion through intinction. The Pastor or Intern uses an intictorium, which includes a small chalice (cup) centered in a paten (plate). The chalice contains the wine, and the paten holds the wafers. The Pastor or Intern dips a wafer into the wine and places the wafer into each person's mouth, as those receiving Holy Communion either kneel or stand at the altar rail.

On Wednesday, April 23, Pastor Roberts dedicated a new intictorium. It was given by Clarence Knapp in memory of his parents William L. and Susanna F. Knapp. The new blue ceramic intictorium was designed and created by another St. Peter's member, Brian Wiles-Young. We celebrate the commitment and gifts of all the members of St. Peter's family, as we worship and praise God together.

Fathers Day

During June, we celebrate all the men who had positive influences on our lives. Fathers, grandfathers, teachers, scout leaders, youth group leaders, and many more may have helped us learn about faith and life.

On Sunday, June 15, a special offering in their honor or memory will be received to support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Place your donation in a pew envelope and note "World Hunger." Supporting those in need is a wonderful way to honor the important men in our lives!



June 2008

Summer Bible Study

The Women of the ELCA Bible study group will begin its summer study on Tuesday, June 3, at 9 AM in the Trauger Room. Intern Drew Goodson will lead the summer study sessions. This is a good time to join with other women of faith to share God's word and support each other in ministry. The group is welcoming and invites you to come when you are able. The theme of the summer study is "Come to the Waters," written by The Rev. Karen Bockelman. Images of Baptism and how the sacrament shapes our lives and vocations will be explored. As Lutheran Christians, we arise each day knowing that because we are baptized, we "walk wet" through life. The group will also meet on June 17; July 1 & 15; and August 5 & 19.

Following the Study on June 3, the group will share a meal together in celebration of all the blessings we share as Baptized People of God!

Time for Bear Creek Camp

The Bear Creek Camp season begins with the youth counselors arriving for training and orientation. When that is accomplished, the fun begins when the campers arrive!

This summer several youth from St. Peter's will explore God's creation, form new friendships, and deepen their faith while at BCC. Adam, Isaac, Elijah, and Micah Kolman; Drew and Rachel Fackenthal; Cami VanGorden; Ashley Heberling; and James Ritchie will all be headed to BCC over the summer.

Please hold the staff, counselors, and campers in your prayers, that they might have a wonderful time together growing in God's love for them and all creation.

PS: There is still time to register for Camp this summer. There are registration forms at the Church office, or you can go on-line at www.bearcreekcamp.org for more information.

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A Tree Top Bible Blast is Ready to Begin!

Hopefully, by now you have turned in your VBS registration card! If not, please turn it in to 'Miss' Liz by June 8 so you can be part of the Rainforest Adventure that begins on Sunday, June 22, at 11 AM in the Social Room (which will take on a Rainforest look for the week).

On Sunday, June 22, we'll set the theme for the week of adventure, learn some fun songs, and meet some new rainforest friends who will take us on our Bible study journey. Shari the Butterfly, Bill the Toucan, Tad the Tree Frog, Esmé the Parrot, and Cleo the Monkey will guide us through the Rainforest adventures.

VBS will continue on June 23-26, Monday through Thursday, from 5:30 to 7:45 PM. The evening will begin with a light supper at 5:30 and then the Adventure begins at 6 PM.

VBS is for all ages! Pastor Roberts will lead an Adult study time while the children/youth go on the Rainforest Adventure. There will be stories to tell in the Rainforest tent, crafts, science projects, and of course, some yummy snacks.

Turn in those VBS Registration cards soon! See you in the Rainforest -- and be sure to bring your friends and family.

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!

June 2008

2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in
New Orleans

"*Jesus ~ Justice ~ Jazz*" will be the theme that brings 30,000+ young people and adults together in New Orleans from July 22-26, 2009. *Jesus* calls us to care for those in need, and that is why we will go to New Orleans: the need is still great for the people who live there. The Youth Gathering will focus on servant events each day so that as always, when the Youth Gathering comes to an end, the city will be better off because the Lutherans came and cared: *Justice*. The pulse of the city revolves around its tradition of music: *Jazz*. In the midst of the waters, turmoil, and destruction of the Hurricanes, the music survives and carries on the traditions of the city!

It will be a different kind of Gathering, with a great emphasis on servant events, but it promises to be a wonderful opportunity to live out Jesus' calling us to serve; to share a sense of God's Justice -- that all deserve a good, safe place to live -- and to listen to the Jazz that is the heartbeat of New Orleans.

Next year's Intern, Elizabeth Nees has been to other Youth Gatherings and is excited to be able to go to this one with the St. Peter's youth and adults!

Who can go? Any youth who will enter 9th - 12th grade for the 2008-09 school year is eligible to go. A parent information meeting has already been held. If you missed it, check in with 'Miss' Liz soon. There will be other meetings this summer, and all those eligible will be notified. Registration time will be Sunday, September 7, at 4 PM. Youth need to have a parent with them for this registration process.



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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 people whose Baptismal Anniversary falls in June.



Shawn McDonald – June 1
 Jasmine Swartz – June 4
 Blake Davis – June 9
 Cassandra Fantasia – June 9
 Hailey McKellin – June 9
 Joshua McKellin – June 9
 Logan Mark – June 10
 Alisia Drayton – June 11
 Rachel Erin Fackenthall – June 11
 Karly Myers – June 12
 Andrew Rupp – June 13
 Abigail Rolls – June 18
 Micah Kolman – June 20
 Brandi Brader – June 23
 Jessica Hein – June 23
 Andrew Reichard – June 28
 James Schneck Jr. – June 28
 Ashlan Snyder – June 29
 Rebecca Derham – June 30

Look Who's Having a Birthday

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

Rosemarie Ummarino – June 4
 Holy Family Apartments
 330-B 13th Avenue
 Bethlehem, PA 18018

David Bartholomew – June 5
 ManorCare II – Room 403 A
 2029 Westgate Drive
 Bethlehem, PA 18017

Doris Brunnabend – June 12
 236 Ninth Avenue
 Bethlehem, PA 18018



Moving Parties

Mark your calendar for Monday, August 25, at 5 PM to help move Intern Drew Goodson out of the Intern apartment. Drew will return to The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia for his senior year.

Also, save Saturday, August 30, at 10 AM to help move our 2008-2009 Intern, Elizabeth Nees, into the apartment. This is a great opportunity to meet our new Intern and welcome her to Bethlehem.

June 2008

Jean Boose – June 16
 3450 Michigan Court
 Bethlehem, PA 18020

Donald Boose – June 29
 ManorCare 1 – Room 326B
 2021 Westgate Drive
 Bethlehem, PA 18017

St. Peter's Designated Gifts List

50 Evangelical Lutheran Worship 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
 200 folding chairs each \$50.00

Additional Designated Giving Opportunities:
 21st 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.

10 The Courier 2008-2009 Intern

June 2008

St. Peter's has been assigned another Horizon Intern for the next academic year. Elizabeth Nees, a student at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will be arriving on August 30. Her autobiography follows this article.

Once again, we have the opportunity to be a warm, welcoming place for a future Pastor of the Church. The "Shower of Blessings" tree will be in the Coffee Corner Reception Area beginning June 1st. Please stop by, choose tags from the tree, purchase the listed items, and return them no later than Sunday, August 24th. Elizabeth has been sharing a small apartment, so she has very little to help her set up housekeeping in an apartment. You can help welcome Elizabeth and make her feel at home at St. Peter's!

The following letter was received from Elizabeth to help us to begin to get to know her:

I was raised as the oldest of 3 children primarily in Evanston, Wyoming. After high school graduation, I ventured off to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Elementary education from the University of Northern Colorado. In college I was involved in Lutheran Campus Ministry, the university band, and also several community organizations.

Following college graduation, I spent one year with Urban Servant Corps in Denver, Colorado, living in intentional Christian community with seven other young adults dedicated to living simply, working toward peace and justice, and living out their faith through community service. During this year, I worked at the Women's Bean Project, a non-profit organization helping women from backgrounds of poverty, chronic unemployment, or drug abuse to attain self-sufficiency. Being transformed by this experience led naturally to a similar type of commitment on the international level.

After this year in Denver, I served for one year in Cairo, Egypt, through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Young Adults in Global Mission program. While in Cairo, I worked at St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo as the Director of the Children's Education Program. This program provided English language education to over 150 refugee children, primarily from Sudan, who were living in Cairo.

After my time in Cairo, I worked at the ELCA church-wide offices in Chicago in the Global Mission unit. For two years I recruited young adults to serve internationally through the church and then supported these young people during their time of service. I have just finished my second year of seminary at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, pursuing a Masters of Divinity leading to ordination and service in the church.

This summer I will be living in Bethlehem, Palestine, for two months. During this time, I will live with a Palestinian family, while studying Arabic for half of each day and volunteering at a local Christian non-profit the other half of the day. I will then come back to the US and spend three weeks in an Arab Lutheran congregation in Brooklyn. This will leave me with a few weeks to visit family, relax, and move to Bethlehem, PA!

In all of the places that my life has taken me thus far, it is the sharing of stories with people that has profoundly shaped me. I believe that every person has a story that is worth sharing and being heard. I look forward to exploring stories with St. Peter's. My hope is that together we will listen and be moved by each other's stories, God's story, and the story of our neighbor.



11 The Courier With Many Thanks!

June 2008

From Judy Ihle: "To everyone who kept me in their prayers, sent cards, phone calls, flowers, and visits from Pastor Roberts, Pastor Spieker and Intern Drew Goodson. For all the wonderful food and the people who prepared the food and the deliverers – Barbara Taylor, Jeanette Gross and Evelyn Smith. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and caring. It is truly appreciated."

From Arlene Mills to her St. Peter's family for the cards, prayers, phone calls, and soup and bread meal she received during her recovery and to Pastor Spieker for his visit.

From Doris Herzog to "Pastor Roberts for her visit during my short hospital stay and to Intern Drew Goodson (who I missed due to my discharge early Wednesday morning). Thanks to everyone for the cards and good wishes. I am so fortunate to have so many wonderful friends at St. Peter's. Thanks to all!"

From Connie Mullen: "For the prayers, cards, phone calls from my Church Family concerning my surgery."

From Andi Howard and Julie Frehafer: "We just wanted to thank you for everything you've done for us this past stressful exam week. The 'finals care packages' were greatly appreciated. We loved eating at The Cup and getting to know everyone. Frisbee and dinner was a much needed and fun study break. Thank you so much for your caring and hospitality. You have made us feel very welcomed and we have found a home for the next three years!"

Pastor's Discretionary fund

There are those among us without enough money to pay for their fuel or electric bill, pay rent for a dry place to live, buy clothing for their children, or place a healthy meal on the table for their family.

From time to time, Pastor Roberts is asked to assist individuals and families experiencing difficulties of a wide variety. This fund has been heavily used over the past few months and is running very low at present. Contributions may be made by placing your donations in a pew envelope and marking it "Pastor's Fund." Won't you reach out to help a neighbor in need?



Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Members of St. Peter's are invited to join with Lutherans from around the Lehigh Valley to be part of the Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Builds program. The plan is to work with a family to construct a home that they can purchase and live in. The home will be built in south Bethlehem.

The Habitat build day is June 26. Under the leadership of Brian Wiles-Young, St. Peter's members will work side-by-side with the Habitat family. Jobs are available for all skill levels.

On Friday, June 27, St. Peter's will provide breakfast and lunch for the workers at the building site. Volunteers are needed to help prepare food and to deliver it. Donna-Marie Dorney is overseeing the food preparation.

To help with the food preparation or with the building project, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. This is a great opportunity to assist a family to become homeowners!



Great Southside Sale

The sale is scheduled for Saturday June 7, at 10:00 AM, at the corner of 4th and Buchanan. Featured are items left by Lehigh University students when they went home for the summer. All proceeds benefit the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center.

Letter from Missionary
Dennis Murnyak

Dennis Murnyak, who has served as a missionary in Africa for almost 30 years, sent the following letter to his supporting congregations. St. Peter's Women of the ELCA has provided support for his ministry for many years. That support has been raised by St. Peter's Women of the ELCA through the Bach Ministry of Hospitality and the Bazaar. In 2003, Dennis and his wife Meredith, who died in March 2006, visited St. Peter's and shared stories about their ministry in Tanzania, both during morning worship and at a dinner following worship. Dennis has also sent us his 27-page Final Report to the ELCA. You may access the report by going to www.stpetersbethlehem.org. Please pray for Dennis and his family as they make this major transition in their shared journey of faith.



Dear Supporting Congregations,

Greetings from rainy and muddy Tanzania! We are in the middle of the raining season, and it is really raining this year. Despite being tired of the muddy roads and paths and gloomy days, we are all thankful for good rains that are needed for the crops and to recharge the ground water and springs.

We are nearing the time to leave Tanzania. My contract with Heifer International is up on June 30th, and we will return to USA on July 3rd. I am starting to feel in limbo and have started to mentally disengage from my work here in Tanzania. I find myself thinking more and more of the USA instead of here. I think that this is being done unconsciously, as I prepare myself for the transition. It will not be easy leaving after living in Africa for close to 30 years, 25 of those in Tanzania.

I still have a few items of work to do before leaving, such as conducting a follow-up visit to Heifer Mozambique to see how their fish farming work is progressing; revising and translating a trainer's manual for natural resource management programs; writing a turning-over report for Heifer; and some last visits to some of the regional zones. Some good news is that my son Jesse has been

accepted and decided to go to Minnesota State University at Moorehead this fall. He still has to pass his exams at the International School, and he is studying now for these. He graduates on May 24th. Chris has gotten a new job at Erik's Bike shop in Maple Grove, Minnesota, and he really likes it.

Our plan is to be in Minnesota for July and August. Kari is currently job-hunting, and we will see where we end up after that time frame. I will be visiting supporting congregations during the fall. We can work on schedules for that after I return to USA.

I wrote a final report to ELCA on the 25 years of our work in Tanzania. I did this early because I thought things might get hectic here as we get closer to leaving. I have attached it for your information. It was a good experience for me to reminisce and try to put 25 years of experience into a report. I tried to make it readable by including stories and memories. I hope you find it interesting.

Yours in Christ,
Dennis Murnyak and Kari Hartwig

Called to Be a Public Church: Hunger

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

James 2:15-17

Last month's Courier brought you thoughts to ponder and questions to consider concerning Housing, as Election Day approaches. This month St. Peter's Advocacy Committee asks you to think about Hunger and how it relates to you and the world around us.

Topic 2: Hunger

The ELCA Issue Brief states that for many US residents, hunger is a reality. In 2005, 35.1 million people lived in households



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considered to be food insecure, meaning people who are hungry or on the edge of hunger. Of those 35.1 million, 22.7 million were adults, and 12.4 million were children.

The food insecurity faced by many Americans is reflected in our church food pantries and food banks. According to the US Conference of Mayors, emergency food requests in 2006 increased by an average of 7 percent in 24 cities. Forty-eight percent of requests for food came from children and their parents; 37 percent of requests for food came from people with jobs. While many congregations participate in charitable feeding programs to meet this vast need locally, federal nutrition programs are often the first response our nation has against hunger, reaching millions of Americans that qualify for assistance. The largest of these programs is Food Assistance, also known as Food Stamps. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities points out that the purchasing power of most households erodes in value each year.

Sample Questions to Ask your Candidates:

- ◇ In what efforts have you personally been involved to serve the poor and hungry?
- ◇ What impact, if any, have these experiences had on you?
- ◇ How will that affect how you care for the poor and hungry in America if you were to be elected?
- ◇ The US Department of Agriculture reported that in 2005, 35.1 million people lived in households considered to be food insecure, including 12.4 million children. What are your specific plans to address these hunger needs in our nation?
- ◇ In recent years, groups such as Catholic Charities USA have called the United States to set the goal of cutting in half the number of Americans living in poverty by 2020. If elected, what concrete steps would you take to accomplish such a goal?

For more information on this issue you may go to:
<http://archive.elca.org/hunger/facts/facts.html>



June 2008 SSM KIDS

One of the ministries supported by St. Peter's, as a member of Southside Ministries, is SSM KIDS, an annual ecumenical Vacation Bible School. The fun begins on July 1st. From 6-8 PM participants will explore a Bible Story, share in the fun, and learn together. SSM KIDS will meet at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity on Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 24. On Friday, July 25, at 7 PM, family and friends are invited to enjoy the closing celebration.

Groups are available for children who will enter kindergarten in the fall through those completing grade 6. Older youth are invited to volunteer to serve as members of the Junior Staff. Class size is limited, so register early.

Forms are now available from the Church Office! If you have questions or need more information, contact SSM Coordinator Barbara Taylor at 610-867-0519. All are welcome to be part of the "RAINFOREST ADVENTURE! See you at "KIDS!"

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The Rev. Edith B. Roberts - Senior Pastor
The Rev. George F. Spieker - Visitation Pastor
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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

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