



Vol. 54, No. 5



May 2008

# THE COURIER

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

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## FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, is Ascension Day. This is the Church Festival which reminds us that we have been left in charge. Almost 2000 years ago, the Risen Christ stood on a mountain top with his friends and said to them: "All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20, NRSV)

This Great Commission has been the mission and ministry of the Christian Church since the Day of Pentecost – celebrated this year on May 11<sup>th</sup>. On that day the early disciples were inspired and empowered to preach the Gospel message. Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church.

It is on the Day of Pentecost that our St. Peter's congregation celebrates the Rite of Confirmation. On the same day that early Christians committed themselves to reach out and to share the Good News in the midst of a non-receptive world, we as a congregation commission young people to live out their faith in a similarly non-receptive world.

The Festivals of Ascension and Pentecost challenge us to look at our own faith commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of our lives. Here are some questions to ponder. How do you make your decisions? Are they self-centered or Christ-centered? How do you relate to family and friends? Do you invite them to join you for worship, or do you ignore Jesus' mandate to "make disciples?" Do you make worship a priority in your life, or is worship something that happens when you can "fit it in?"

God created us to live in relationship with God and with other human beings. This is why we have the opportunity to live on this earth. How do you say "thank you" for the amazing opportunity to experience the wonder of life and love and relationships?

May your faith be the center of your life. May you invite family and friends to experience the wonder of living out faith in daily life. God's blessings be with you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Edith B. Roberts  
Senior Pastor

# May Worship Highlights

Sunday, May 4                      7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
 8:15 & 11:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave  
 6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, May 7                10:30 AM – Holy Communion and Healing in the Chapel

Sunday, May 11                    *Day of Pentecost*  
 8:15 & 11:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave  
 Confirmation at 11 AM  
 6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



Wednesday, May 14              10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel  
 Lesser Festival: Matthias, Apostle

Sunday, May 18                    *The Holy Trinity*  
 8:15 & 11:00 AM – Holy Communion in the Nave  
 6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel



Wednesday, May 21              10:30 AM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Sunday, May 25                    2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
*(Summer Schedule Begins)* 8:15 AM & 9:30 AM Holy Communion in the Nave  
 6:30 PM – Holy Communion in the Chapel

Wednesday, May 28              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.

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#### From Drew's Desk

*"But be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts..." (Ephesians 5:19)*

On one of my first days as a seminary student, I decided to join the seminary choir. The choir "lingo" was foreign to me, and when asked if I was a "tenor" or a "bass," I admitted my ignorance and said "I don't know." The choir director, whom I had already met, surprised me by asking me to "Say Hello." I complied, and from that, he recognized that I was a tenor. I felt enlightened.

I believed that joining the choir would be a good challenge, and I was not disappointed. The first piece we sang was entirely in German, and even the experienced singers considered it thorny. I also thought that being in the choir would prepare me to lead the Lutheran liturgy, which is known for being infused with music. As my cousin once said, "At the Lutheran Church they don't just say Amen, they sing it!"

For many, no one exemplifies the musical heritage of Lutherans better than Johann Sebastian Bach. If I, as a new seminarian, represented a musical novice, Bach sat at the other end of the spectrum. By age fourteen, Bach was already an accomplished musician. He became a prominent organist and composer in Germany.

Music for Bach was nothing less than a form of worship. This legendary composer initialed his masterpieces with the letters "SDG," for the Latin words meaning "To God Alone be the Glory." Bach was a devout Christian, and he used his tremendous skill largely to write and perform "sacred" music, or music used for worship. At St. Peter's, the prelude before worship will often be by Bach.

### May 2008

Once again in May, St. Peter's will offer a "ministry of hospitality" for people attending the Bach Festival. Many are optimistically hoping that the rhubarb will be ready for St. Peter's famous pies! Either way, St. Peter's will provide a place for music lovers to rest and re-energize. What a great way to welcome our neighbors in the city. I think Bach would be happy.

Meanwhile, we Lutherans at St. Peter's continue to value good music. The choirs all share their musical gifts with us. Singing in the Senior Choir during internship has been a lot of fun for me. I once heard a seminary classmate say that singing "is good for the soul." Ever since I first joined a choir, I have found that to be true. Singing with other Christians can uplift your spirit while praising God. At St. Peter's, there is always an open seat in the choir for you!



With peace,  
Drew Goodson  
Pastoral Intern

### April Council Highlights

*The April Congregation Council meeting was cancelled due to assorted absences and illnesses. By a mail/email ballot, the Council voted to:*

- Approve the minutes of the March 11, 2008, Congregation Council meeting as presented.
- Approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.
- Accept the proposal from Valley Business Systems for the purchase of a copier later in 2008.
- Accept the proposal from the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center to hold their eight-week summer program at St. Peter's.



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April Council Highlights (continued)

-- Approve the building use request from Headstart to hold a shower in the Social Room on April 26.

### Women of the ELCA

Morning Bible Study will be held on Tuesdays, May 6 & 20, from 9 to 10:30 AM in the Trauger Room. All women are welcome.

Blanket-Making will not be held in May.

Bach Festival Ministry of Hospitality  
– Set-up dates are May 2 & 9, from 9:00 AM to Noon. Serve and clean-up – May 3 & 10, from 9 AM to 5 PM. Volunteers are needed in all areas to help set up and to clean up and to serve guests. Call Jeanette Gross, Evelyn Smith, or Harriet Tonkins if you can help all day or a few hours. Your help will be greatly appreciated! If you have never helped at the Festival, try it - we guarantee you will have a great time. The following items are needed: *pie bakers* - regular Crisco, sugar, & rhubarb. *Boutique* - handcrafted items such as slippers, sweaters, doilies, pillows, aprons, afghans, etc. Non-perishable items may be dropped off at the Church Office anytime. *Salad bar* – Jello salads (regular and sugar free), deviled eggs, red beet eggs, pickled eggs, etc. *Baked goods* – cakes, cookies, breads, etc. Come be part of the fun!

### Lutheran Men in Mission

The next scheduled meeting of LMM is Saturday, May 17, at 8:30 AM in the Social Room. The group will share a light breakfast and continue their study.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Update

St. Peter's mortgage is getting smaller! Every month our congregation's Treasurer, Joe Bleier, sends a payment of

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\$4,750, and extra payments are made as donations permit. However, recent giving has not kept pace with the amount of the mortgage payment. To help reduce St. Peter's debt, please place your gifts in the monthly 21<sup>st</sup> Century envelopes that are contained in the offering envelope boxes.

You may sponsor a share (\$100) or a ½ share (\$50) of Interest for a Day in honor or in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an event. Please call our Parish Secretary, Linda Zrinski, to let her know what Sunday you want your gift listed in the bulletin. At the time of a death, memorials may be given to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund.

As we work together, we will be able to meet our commitment to keep St. Peter's buildings in good shape as we serve "In the City for Good, In the City for God."

### Simply Giving® Program

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings deducted from your bank account, just as you do other monthly drafts, and at no cost to you or to St. Peter's? Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors a program called *Simply Giving*®, which offers this service for people who wish to have offerings transferred electronically to the congregation's account. For those who travel, this service is particularly helpful in keeping up with their offerings, rather than having to catch up when returning home. Contact Barbara Taylor in the Church Office for details.



### Synod Assembly

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA will be meeting on May 29 - 31. Each of the Synod's congregations sends voting members and its rostered leaders to the assembly. Sharon Ann Burns and Lee Rayden will attend as St. Peter's voting members, and Pastor Roberts and Associates in Ministry Barbara Taylor and

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Elizabeth Elterich will attend as rostered leaders. Others members attending the Assembly are Intern Drew Goodson, Sister Gunnel Sterner, and Carol Weiser.

Bishop David Strobel will lead the Assembly sessions. Associate in Ministry Barbara Taylor will also be on the Assembly stage, serving in the elected office of Secretary of the Synod. Please pray for those who attend the Assembly, as they work together to elect a Bishop and to provide ministries that no one congregation could accomplish alone. We are created to live and work in community. The Synod provides a wonderful way for Northeastern Pennsylvania congregations to plan for ministry in this part of God's creation.

### *Celebrate With Our Rostered Leaders*

Rostered leaders on St. Peter's staff and retired rostered leaders who are members of the congregation will celebrate anniversaries in May, June, and August.

#### Ordinations

- † Senior Pastor Edith B. Roberts  
June 3, 1979
- † Visitation Pastor George Spieker  
May 26, 1957
- † Retired Pastor Richard Hintz  
August 15, 1951
- † Retired Pastor Cliff Rhode  
May 27, 1959
- † Retired Pastor Arvo Beck  
August 15, 1985
- † Retired Pastor Barbara Davis  
June 6, 1987
- † The Rev. Dr. Christopher Thomforde  
August 7, 1976

#### Deaconess Consecration

- † Sister Gunnel Sterner  
June 17, 1962



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#### Certification for Associates in Ministry

- † Elizabeth Rose McKee Elterich  
May 14, 1987
- † Barbara-Anne Gross Taylor  
May 16, 1991

### **Summer Schedule Begins**

Beginning on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, worship will be at 8:15 AM & 9:30 AM in the Nave and 6:30 PM in the Chapel. There is no Sunday Church School. Children are encouraged to worship with their parents and to come forward for the young people's sermon.

The one exception to this schedule will be Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Following worship, we will gather at the Portuguese Club for a farewell brunch for Drew. Each adult member will receive a mailing with the brunch reservation information.

### *Confirmation 2008*

On Sunday, May 11, at the 11 AM worship service, four young women will become adult members of St. Peter's. Through Affirmation of Baptism, they will make their own promises before God, the promises that others made for them when they were baptized.

These young women have completed the two-year Confirmation program at St. Peter's. Together they have read the Bible and Martin Luther's Small Catechism. They have been on a journey of discovery, asking tough questions and seeking how to live as Lutheran Christians in today's world. They are prepared to become adult members of St. Peter's and to live out their faith in their daily world of family, school, friends, and activities.



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*Confirmation 2008 (continued)*

Please keep these young women in your prayers: Jenna Casciano; Kim Di Gisi; Ashley Heberling; and Cami Van Gorden. Then come celebrate with them on Sunday, May 11, at 11 AM Worship.

**Jenna Casciano** is 15 and a freshman at Liberty High School. She is an active Girl Scout and plays Bagpipes and Violin in the Liberty Grenadier Band and Orchestra. She enjoys reading, writing, drawing, and bike-riding during the warmer months. At St. Peter's, Jenna serves as an Acolyte, a Crucifer, and an Usher, and enjoys playing her violin during Worship Services.

**Kim Di Gisi** is 16, lives in Springfield Township, and is a freshman at Palisades High School. She likes to play basketball and soccer and loves to ski. At St. Peter's, Kim serves as a Crucifer and an Usher. She is looking forward to her Confirmation and enjoys the friendships she has made at St. Peter's.

**Ashley Heberling** is 15 and a freshman at Freedom High School. She is a competitive baton twirler and has been twirling for the past seven years. She is also a Freedom majorette. At St. Peter's, Ashley serves as an Acolyte, a Crucifer, an Usher, and a Nursery Attendant. Her favorite activity at St. Peter's is the annual youth retreat at Central Oak Heights.

**Cami VanGorden** is 14 and a freshman at Liberty High School. She loves music and sings in the Liberty Women's Chorale and Chorus. She is also interested in art and photography and loves animals. At St. Peter's, Cami sings in the Junior Choir and serves as an Acolyte, a Crucifer, and an Usher. Cami says that she is "very happy to be a member of God's house (St. Peter's)."

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### St. Peter's Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a Christ-centered worshipping family of faith witnessing to God's inclusive love for individuals, for our community, and for the world.

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## May 2008 Geraniums

Geraniums representing the Tongues of Fire will decorate the Nave on Pentecost, May 11. There are two ways to help with this project:

1. Make a donation toward the cost of the plants by placing your gift in an envelope and marking it "geraniums." Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office.
2. Offer to help plant the geraniums around the building on May 15 at 6 PM. Contact Barbara Taylor to volunteer to help.

## Lunch Bunch

We will celebrate the arrival of spring on Wednesday, May 14, at the monthly Lunch Bunch gathering by sharing a picnic lunch. Come to the Social Room following the 10:30 AM Chapel Worship Service.

This is a good time to share together in worship and in conversation over lunch -- catered by 'Miss' Liz.

## *Graduating? Let Us Know!*

May and June are times of graduations, celebrations, and new beginnings. Graduations are a time for celebrating accomplishments, successes, and the hard work that goes into the accomplishment.

If you are a St. Peter's member who is graduating from high school, technical school, or a college or university, please give your name, date of graduation, and school to the Church Office by May 11. The names will be included in the June Courier.

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Former Intern to  
Graduate

St. Peter's 2006-2007 Horizon Intern Jonathan Niketh will graduate from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Jon is seeking a call in the New England Synod following graduation.

You may send your greetings and congratulation cards / notes to him at:

Jon Niketh  
7301 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19119



## Sunday Church School Concludes Another Good Year

Sunday, May 18, concludes another year of SCS for the children, young people, and adults of St. Peter's, who continue to learn and grow on their faith journeys.

It has been a year of learning Bible stories and what they mean in our daily lives, singing songs of praise, hiding the "Alleluias" for Lent and being excited to sing them again at Easter, praying for each other, and caring and sharing together, as we grow together in faith.

*EVERYONE* is encouraged to participate in Vacation Bible School, which begins on Sunday, June 22 at 11 AM.

SCS will resume on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at 9:30 AM!



## Mardi Gras Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who helped make Mardi Gras 2008 such a success! The International Food and Dessert Buffet included many delicious choices.

Thank you to those who participated in the Show by singing, performing, or applauding. This contributed to a wonderful time of sharing. It is a blessing to gather

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together to have fun and to celebrate being the family of God.

The Youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2009 thank you for all of your wonderful support and look forward to Mardi Gras 2009 on February 22, 2009, which will definitely have a New Orleans flavor.

## Jr. & Middler LYO

On Friday evening, May 16, youth in grades 1 through 6 are invited to come ready to dig in the dirt and plant flowers at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and at St. Peter's. Come at 6 PM for a light supper. Then we'll go planting! Please bring along a friend to enjoy our time together. We'll be good and dirty and ready to go home at 8:30 PM!

## Ready for a Rainforest Adventure?

This year's theme for St. Peter's Vacation Bible School is: "*Rainforest Adventure: a Tree Top Bible Blast!*"

We will go deep into the Rainforest to learn about some of God's critters who call the Rainforest home -- Shari the Butterfly, Bill the Toucan, Tad the Frog, Esme the Macaw, and Cleo the Monkey. We will also learn some Bible stories -- Boaz, Elisha, The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Jesus the Vine, and Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Our time together will include the sharing of a meal, songs, Bible stories told in fun ways, crafts, science-related activities, and snacks!

VBS will begin on Sunday, June 22, at 11 AM in the Social Room, which will be transformed into a rainforest for the week! On Sunday we will share brunch, celebrate the theme for the week, learn new songs, and hear some stories. We will finish by 1:30 PM.

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### Ready for a Rainforest Adventure? (continued)

Monday through Thursday – June 23-26 – we will begin at 6:00 PM with a light supper. After the meal we'll be busy singing songs, hearing Bible stories, doing "stuff," and sharing in closing devotions!

Put the dates on your calendar now! Registration forms will be handed out to all SCS students on May 4 and should be returned by May 18. Invite friends and family to come along to the "Rainforest Adventure." All ages are invited to participate because there is also an adult component to VBS.

### How You Can Help VBS!

The following items will be needed for some of the VBS craft activities. If you can provide any of these items, please bring them to the containers found in the Reception Area. Thanks for helping in this way.

#### Needed items are:

- Round oatmeal container boxes;
- Square tissue boxes;
- Brown paper grocery bags;
- Egg cartons -- paper or plastic.

We also need help providing the food for the brunch and suppers. If you could help with that, please check the menu board on the Bulletin Board outside the office and sign up for whatever you can provide. Thanks for helping in this way.

Another great way to help is to invite someone to come with you to VBS. The more who are here, the more fun we will have.

Thanks to all those who get involved in the Rainforest Adventure!



## May 2008 Campus Ministry

Another year of Campus Ministry is winding down. Moravian students begin exams on April 28. Lehigh students begin exams on April 29. During the exam time there will be several study breaks provided here at church or at some local eatery. Watch your email for the specific times and locations.

Our thoughts and prayers go with all students who will be graduating and moving on to new places and new adventures. St. Peter's Campus Ministry Coordinator Maggie Berndt is part of the Class of 2008.

When Maggie leaves Lehigh she will be traveling to Germany to work, using both her Chemistry major and German minor. Maggie has worked faithfully as a Coordinator, a member of the Senior Choir, a flutist, and a supporter of St. Peter's Senior High Youth.

We wish Maggie all of God's richest blessings as she continues on her faith journey in the coming year.

### *Youth Off to Germany*

Kelly Fackenthall and Adam Kolman are preparing to be part of our Companion Synod Youth Trip to Saxony, Germany this coming June. They have begun group-building meetings with the other students and adults who will go on this faith adventure. This includes learning a little German and studying the culture of Saxony.

Please support Kelly and Adam with your prayers as they spend the next few weeks preparing for this special trip.

### *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

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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!



### From the Parish Record

#### BAPTISMS:

Riley Avril Musselman – March 22, 2008

Elizabeth Raquel Albors – March 30, 2008

### *Look Who's Having a Birthday*

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

Margaret Lucas - May 7  
Moravian House II  
Apt. 501 - 701 Main Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Sigfredo Diaz – May 21  
706 William Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18015

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## 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 dates were planned for May, but the dates have been changed. Our build day is now 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!

## Website Photos

St. Peter's website provides information on events in the congregation.

Pictures of people and events at St. Peter's are occasionally posted on the Church website. If you do not want your picture used, please notify the Church Office in writing.

## June Courier Deadline

The deadline for the June Courier is Sunday, May 11. Please place your articles in the editor's mailbox or email them to her at [courier\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:courier_editor@yahoo.com).



## Turning Point

Mother's Day is an opportunity for us to honor our mothers and grandmothers and other important women in our lives, as we reflect on the many ways they shaped our lives. It is also fitting to remember the mothers who are making new lives for themselves and their children after leaving abusive homes. These are the women who look to Turning Point for assistance. You may help make a difference for these mothers by purchasing items currently needed:

- facial tissues
- hair conditioner
- socks for women, teens, and children of all ages
- food storage bags and wraps
- household cleaning, laundry, and paper products.

Items may be brought to the Coffee Corner during the month of May. As you have been blest so let us be a blessing in this way.



### Can You Help Mow St. Peter's Lawn?

If you are able to give some time to mow St. Peter's lawn, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.



## Called to Be a Public Church: Voting on the Issues

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?*

(Micah 6:8)

When we go to vote in the fall presidential election, we will do so as Lutherans called to preserve God's creation, influence political and economic decision-making, and to strive for justice and peace. St. Peter's Advocacy Committee looked to the ELCA for the most important issues impacting our country: housing, hunger, healthcare, global warming, immigration, and peace. Each month, until the election, one of those topics will be presented so that all voters from St. Peter's can place their votes educated on these issues. As you read and hear from the candidates over the next several months, please keep these issues in mind so you can evaluate them on the important issues over which they will create policies and laws.

### Topic 1: Housing

As Election Day approaches, what are the questions we should be asking our candidates running for public office? One very important question is about homelessness and housing in the United States. According to the ELCA Issue Brief, housing is a fundamental right, and affordable housing should be available in all areas of the United States: urban, suburban and rural areas.

What if housing is unavailable? There should be shelters or transitional housing available to people who cannot find housing. One-third of the U.S. population is experiencing housing problems such as high housing costs, especially when compared to income, overcrowded living situations, inadequate living conditions, and

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homelessness. The result of rising housing prices and rental costs is that some families do not have enough income for food and healthcare after the mortgage/rent has been paid. These problems are compounded by the current situation of sub prime mortgages and foreclosures in the housing market.

Members of St. Peter's prepare meals at the New Bethany Meal Center on a monthly basis, recently prepared and served a meal at Victory House, and regularly make donations to the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center Food Bank. We are now preparing to help Habitat for Humanity build homes in our Southside neighborhood. These commitments help us remember that there are real housing problems in our community. We continue to do God's work by asking our candidates the question of how they will address the housing situation. The ELCA suggests we ask candidates other questions, such as:

- What are your plans to deal with the crisis produced for low-income families because of rising housing costs, gentrification of neighborhoods that once offered affordable housing, and drastically reduced government subsidies and incentives to help low-income people with housing costs?

- What can be done to help families who are squeezed between inflation, static wages, and mortgage interest rates? (Foreclosures for May 2007 were up nearly 90% from May 2006.)

- What do you propose to do about the growing need for rental assistance among those who work but still pay disproportionate amounts for housing -- especially since the cost of rental housing has gone up, while many workers' incomes have been flat-lined?

For more information on this issue you may go to [www.ecla.org/advocacy/publicchurch/index.html](http://www.ecla.org/advocacy/publicchurch/index.html).



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### St. Peter's Designated Gifts List

50 <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
200 folding chairs	each \$50.00
ADF	\$1,000.00

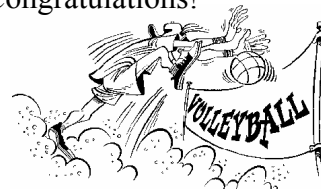
#### Additional Designated Giving Opportunities:

21 <sup>st</sup> 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.

## Congratulations!

St. Peter's Volleyball Team won third place in the March 15<sup>th</sup> Church League Volleyball Tournament played at First Baptist Church in Bethlehem. This year's Volleyball Team included: Richard Elterich, Tony Johnson, Kyle Kichline, John Roberts, Jarrod Roberts, Andrew Taylor, and Michael Taylor. Congratulations!



## SSM Thrift Shop: Spring Selections

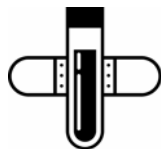
The Southside Ministries Better Buy Thrift Shop is open and filled with exciting new clothing for spring and summer. The shop is now open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10 AM to 3 PM. Friday hours are from 10:30 AM to 1 PM. Stop by soon for a great selection for men, women, and children.

## Save Some Lives Today!

*Did you know...*

- ... that someone needs blood every two-to-three seconds?
- ... that one unit of blood can be separated into several components?
- ... that one pint of donated blood can help as many as three or four people?
- ... that if you are 17 years of age or older, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are feeling healthy, that you are most likely eligible to donate blood?
- ... that you can safely donate whole blood every 56 days, and platelets more frequently?
- ... that you can double the impact of your blood donation through automated collections?
- ... that there is no chance of contracting any disease from donating blood?
- ... that the number of blood donors is declining? One-half of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, but less than 5% actually do.

Give the Gift of Life. Call the Miller Keystone Blood Center at 610-691-5850 to make an appointment.



## Great Southside Sale

The annual "Great Southside Sale" is scheduled for Saturday, June 7. The "stuff" that Lehigh students leave behind when they move out is collected and sold, with the profits benefiting the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center.

Volunteers are needed between May 1 and June 6 to help sort and price items for the sale. Call 610-758-6674 or email [inmove@Lehigh.edu](mailto:inmove@Lehigh.edu) to find out how you can help!

If you would like more information, please contact Sharon Wiles-Young at (610) 882-2119. It's great to see the university students, the SBNC, and area residents and congregations working together!

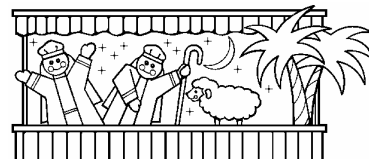
## SSM "KIDS"

Come join the fun on a "Rainforest Adventure" at Southside Ministries "KIDS - 2008." Please spread the work to friends and neighbors with elementary school-aged children, and mark your calendar, too.

The Vacation Bible School program will meet at Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the weeks of July 1 through 24. The closing program is scheduled for 7 PM on Friday, July 25.

Each evening session will feature music, a Bible Story, crafts, games, snacks, and devotions, as we learn about the beautiful Rainforest God has created.

There are groups available for children age 4 through those in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration forms are available from the Church Office. Sign up to be part of the fun!



## Hold This Date

The Jerusalem Singers will be returning to St. Peter's on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The choir is directed by Peter Deshler, husband of St. Peter's Organist, Marisa Deshler. This popular group will share a selection of sacred music during the sermon times at both the 8:15 AM and 9:30 AM worship services. As you plan your summer schedule, be sure to invite family and friends to worship with you that day.



A Symbol of the  
Trinity

We often see three interwoven circles used to symbolize the Trinity. Each circle in this symbol represents one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The circles, having no beginning and no end, signify the Trinity’s eternal nature. The circles’ interlacing symbolizes unity. In the center is a triangle, an ancient symbol of the Trinity.

Holy, Holy, Holy

As we prepare for our Ministry of Hospitality with the Bach Festival, we are reminded of the important connection between music and church.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826), a vicar and hymn-writer in England, was the first person to compile a hymnal based around the church calendar. He composed the beloved hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy” specifically for Trinity Sunday, with lyrics based on Revelation 4:8-11.

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to  
Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

The joyful song celebrates the eternal, omnipotent Triune God. Throughout the verses, Heber used units of three to symbolize the Trinity – God is “perfect in power, in love and purity;” God is worshiped by saints, cherubim and seraphim; and He’s praised “in earth and sky and sea.”

Heber, who witnessed much idol worship while serving as Bishop of Calcutta, often reaffirmed God’s holiness in his hymns.



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](mailto:church@stpetersbethlehem.org)  
[www.stpetersbethlehem.org](http://www.stpetersbethlehem.org)

STAFF

- The Rev. Edith B. Roberts - Senior Pastor
- The Rev. George F. Spieker - Visitation Pastor
- Elizabeth McKee Elterich - AIM for  
Education/Youth/Outreach
- Barbara-Anne G. Taylor - AIM for Parish Administration
- 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 & 11:00 AM Worship in Nave  
9:30 AM Sunday Church School  
6:30 PM Holy Communion in Chapel
  - Beginning May 25: 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

