

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

October 2008

Our mission is to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others

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PASTOR'S CORNER

In the 20th Chapter of the Gospel of John you will read: "*Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*" *When he had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."* This is the lesson that is read at the Service of Ordination. It was an awesome realization that through Ordination I had been given the power to forgive or retain Sins.

On the other hand, I always grin when people ask me to use my power to provide good weather for a wedding or another specific day. Then there are the times when someone says, "Well Pastor, just tell them to do it!" If I only had the power people THINK I have, I might be able to get a lot more done.

But apparently I *do* have more power than I realized. One of our members shared an insight with me. They said, "Pastor, you probably don't realize it, but when you walk up the aisle during the last hymn, people start singing louder when you get near them." Hmm... it would be nice if everyone sang out God's praises in full voice even when I'm *not* next to them. Then I began to think, if they sing louder when I'm near them, what would happen if I walked down the aisle with the ushers as they were receiving the offering. Would people give more if I was standing next to them? It might be interesting to see just how much power a pastor does have.

POWER!! It can be a good thing or a bad thing depending on how it is used, or abused. We have been hearing about the power of Hurricanes and the damage they can wreak along the coastline. But we also witness the hydraulic power as water flows through dams and produce electric power. Then there is the power of the waters of Baptism that give us eternal life. We also have the power of the Holy Spirit. Every Christian person has power through the Holy Spirit, if we choose to call on that power. Too often we struggle through challenges of life wondering where we will get the power to continue. The power we need is often only a prayer away.

There was a story of a dad watching his son struggle to move a huge rock. He asked his son if he was using all of the power he had. The son insisted he was. The father said, "No you're not. You haven't asked me to help you." St. Peter's Lutheran Church has done some remarkable things over its past 256 years. Sometimes we attribute it to the congregations of the past. The congregations of the past are responsible for what has been accomplish – because they were wise enough to ask for the power from the Holy Spirit to accomplish the ministries God set before them. Let us continue to use our power – the power we have through Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. R. Bruce Todd

From Vicar Jim Goodyear



October is month when changes are noticeable; the weather becomes cooler, the leaves turn a myriad of colors, the days become shorter, the calendar always seems to get busier. The changes from summer to fall are more noticeable than the changes from spring to summer. As the world around us changes; the church makes changes too.

By October, we are back in full swing doing ministry in our community and this year is no different. Social ministry seeks to support those who may go without coats or need other necessities for living. Evangelism is working to welcome new members into our congregation. Stewardship is working to help the congregation use their talents for ministry. And these are only a sampling of the work of God's people in this congregation!

Imagine what God does with people when they see others who need care. Many times the care is as simple as a "hello" or a phone call or a visit. Letting others know you care is the presence of God shining through in all you do. The work in God's kingdom is never ending, but when we realize that what we do is share God's love, all that seems overwhelming is made simple. Invite a friend or neighbor to church, share with them what God is doing in your life.

To learn more about our congregation and the greater church, check out these web sites.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church www.stpeterslh.org
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod www.ministrylink.org
Southeastern PA Synod Youth www.sepayouth.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America www.elca.org

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUP

Noon and 7:30 pm

October 29 – November 19

"More than Just a Job"

God's work is more than just a job—it's a new way of living together in mission. Together we are the church, and through us God is at work. During this time of study we will look at the Book of Acts and the stories about Pentecost that show us what it means to live our mission together; what it means to be the church, led by the Holy Spirit. This study will be led by Vicar, Jim. We will meet in the Muhlenberg Chapel to discuss how we are the church.

If you join us at noon, feel free to bring your lunch and enjoy it during our discussion. The noon and evening sessions will be identical in format. The book for this session costs \$9. Please let Vicar Jim know before October 15 if you are planning to attend so that we have the resource at our first meeting.



Will meet regularly on the second and fourth Sunday evenings from 6-8 in the 'soon to be named' area for youth fellowship. Our meetings will include time for fellowship, plan activities for the coming months, and to grow in faith together as children of God. All youth in grades 7-12 are invited. Bring along a friend too!

YOUTH SUNDAY is planned for Sunday October 12. The Youth will lead both worship services. ALL youth will have an opportunity to participate.

HELP!!!! SPY is in need of additional adult leadership. If you enjoy working with young folk in grades 7-12, sharing your faith and encouraging others to grow in faith and understanding, you are invited to support this ministry of St. Peter's. Interested adults should contact Vicar, Jim – 610-828-3098 ext. 11 or jgoodyear@stpeterslh.org.

UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Friday, September 26, 5-10 pm
 Sunday, September 28, 6-8 pm
 Sunday, October 5, 2-4 pm

Kid Sitting Contact Debbie Graham to register
 SPY MEETS at church, set-up/decorate meeting space
 National Youth Gathering Pre-event meeting at Trinity-
 In Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

Saturday, October 11, 2 pm
 Sunday, October 12

Program at Silver Springs School
 Youth Sunday at St. Peters – both worship services
 SPY MEETS at church

Saturday, October 18, 9am – noon
 Sunday, October 26, 6-8 pm
 Sunday, November 2, 2 pm
 Sunday, November 9, 6-8 pm

St. Peters Service Day
 SPY MEETS at church
 Program at Silver Spring School
 SPY MEETS at church



Organ Dedication of the Enhancements and Antiphonal Division Sunday - Oct.19, 2008 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Al Kammerle and Pastor Bruce Todd will join forces to highlight the new features installed on our Pipe Organ. Thanks to the Memorial Gifts of Marian Graham, a member who served on the Organ Committee when the present instrument was installed, the uncompleted stop list of the instrument is now complete. To help balance the sound more evenly throughout the church, a digital Antiphonal Division was installed in the rear of the church.

The program will include hymn singing, duets, antiphonal pieces and a varied repertoire. Thanks to the volunteer services of our musicians, the offering from this concert will go toward the Organ Enrichment

Fund. A complete releathering project is anticipated within the next year or two with a cost of quite a few thousand dollars. Please come, enjoy the concert, and support our efforts.

PRESCHOOL PAGES

St. Peter's Nursery School is pleased to announce a new addition to its school "family." The Toddler Program for two year olds started on September 18th with many smiles and only a couple of tears (*those were from the parents*).

In addition to the Toddler Program, the Nursery School rang the school bell and welcomed the 2 Day Three's, Three Day Three's, 3 Day Four's, 5 Day Four's and Pre-K students to the new school year. Whew! Needless to say, the classrooms are filled with the big, beautiful sound of many happy little voices. Returning students were excited to see familiar faces and new students were busy getting to know one another.

To celebrate the start of fall the children learned about apples, colors and shapes. A is for Apple but even better, A is for Applesauce which the 4 year olds made and ate. The three's looked like apples on "Red Day" when they all wore something red. And Mrs. Graham's Pre-K class even had a very special visitor to their class...Johnny Appleseed!

October is always a very fun month for the Nursery School. We take our annual field trip to Freddie Hill Farms. For many children this is especially exciting as it is the first time they get to ride a big yellow school bus! The children (and parents!) will go on a hayride, learn how pumpkins grow and then get to pick the perfect pumpkin to take home. Of course, the day would not be quite so special without a yummy ice cream cone, fresh from the dairy.

If you are interested in being a chaperone on a field trip, please contact Mrs. Graham. She can always use an extra pair of eyes to watch the children and extra pair of hands to hold onto the kids.

Our annual Halloween parade is always special. The children enjoy marching around the gym to show-off their costumes. But the kids get most excited about carrying their Unicef boxes and collecting money for Unicef. Parents, Grandparents, Family and Friends come ready with bags of quarters to show their support. Every year the school raises about \$500.00. The children learn that no matter how young they are they can help others...even other children.

Coming up in November is one of the school's favorite events...our Thanksgiving Feast!

And have you heard the news...? St. Peter's Nursery School is Going Green! Details coming up next month.

Trick or Treat

If you are ever available to donate your time and/or talent to the Nursery School, Mrs. Graham would love to hear from you! Even just an hour a week prepping crafts or cutting out paper is a huge help. Please email her at djik0099@aol.com or grab her attention in church.

TREATS FROM THE TRUNK Sunday, October 26th – 11:00 a.m.

It's time once again for our annual Halloween observance of Treats from the Trunk. To participate is simple. Park your car in the rear section of the parking lot. Feel free to decorate it, and bring treats for the children. Following the 10:00 service (to which kids are welcome to wear their costumes) the children will go trick-or-treating from car to car. This provides a safe, fun alternative for this old tradition. Since we are secure in our faith in Jesus Christ, we can scoff at the legends of witchcraft and goblins. Adults are welcome to dress up too.



SPY HELPS SILVER SPRINGS...

Every month SPY will be helping Silver Springs/Martin Luther School by hosting monthly parties for the children who reside at the school. The Silver Springs administration has been holding these parties as a time for the children time to have fun, relax, socialize and create.

The parties will include a story time, craft and snack. Upcoming parties include:

- October 11th: Halloween/Fall party featuring The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything!
- November 2nd: Thanksgiving Theme featuring Sarah Josepha Hale, the 1st Woman of Thanksgiving

Because we will be providing the craft materials and snacks we would be very appreciative of any donations. Snacks include juice boxes, individually packaged snacks such as pretzels, popcorn, crackers and cookies. Craft materials include plain white t-shirts in a variety of sizes, fabric paint, markers, construction paper and Elmer's glue.

**THANK
YOU**

Please leave all materials in the Chapel. Thank you.

To the members of St. Peter's Church,

Thank you to the "Prayer Circle" and members of St. Peter's for their prayers and beautiful flowers which adorned the altar. I also thank Vicar Jim for his support and cheerful visits.

Sincerely,
Joan Howie

Thank you to all who helped to support our troops through the AT&T cards. We collected 116 cards, providing many "phone home" minutes for those serving our country. Your efforts also helped St. Peter's as we received 20% of the sales through the SCRIP program.



YOUNG FAMILY GROUP NEWS.

On October 12th the Young Family Group will once again enjoy the Fall Harvest Festival at Merrymeade Farm. We will meet at the hayrides at noon.

You Are Cordially Invited to Adopt-A-Grandfamily!

Would you like to be “adopted” as a grand-member of a church family?

The Young Family Group invites all mature members (60+) of the congregation to join us for lunch on November 16th, after the 10am worship service.

During the lunch we will pick names out of a hat to decide which grandparent(s) join which family. Throughout the year our newly extended families will get together for special activities.

Please sign-up in the Chapel or email Sarah Cohen (sarahcohen@comcast.net) if you would like to participate.

SOCIAL MINISTRY...

SIXTY SIX BACKPACKS!



St Peter's and Quaker Chemical pulled their resources together and made the Backpack program a huge success. Colonial Neighborhood Council was thrilled to receive a total of 66 backpacks filled with school supplies. In addition to the backpacks, there were 4 boxes of extra supplies such as spiral notebooks, loose leaf paper and pens.

Thank you to everyone for making this effort a huge success!

STEWARDSHIP...

ST. PETER'S SERVICE DAY

On **Saturday October 18**, we will have the first annual St. Peter's Service Day! Each committee will use the hours of 9 a.m. to 12 noon (or parts of that time) to meet, work, and generally serve our church. For example, if you can help the Property Committee with a hands-on project or otherwise meet with your committee and work on a project or discuss plans for activities this year—anything will work, and we would be grateful for your help! Plan to come to the church ready to be of service. Check with a committee chair for a meeting or be ready to help with some clean-up and fix-up jobs; we will have a “job jar” for your choice. Hope to see you then--of course we will have snacks to keep you fueled for service!



Getting Ready for a Legacy Seminar on November 2—SAVE THE DATE!

So, what's a “Legacy Seminar?” Pr. Gregory Kramer, Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation will present his *Leave a Legacy for Ministry Seminar* to provide all of us with accurate information about the advantages of having a will, and how many Lutherans give to the church through their wills. This “free to us” seminar is provided by the national church at no cost so that we all may think about what may be contained in our legacy.

All of us know that our wills are personal statements about our lives and possessions. Through them we can create a measure of comfort and security for others, honor a friendship, support our favorite causes and, of course, remember our church. Whatever we choose to do now or later on, this seminar will help to focus our thinking. The Stewardship Committee would enjoy sharing what Pastor Greg has to offer, and will welcome everyone who can join us. We will have some light lunch fare at the seminar at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday the 2nd of November; we get fed and get some free advice as well! Mark your calendars now to make sure you can be with us.

October 2008 Schedule

Altar Guild for October
Betty Rotenbury, Elsa Hadik, Sandy Leonardo

October 5th

Greeters: Tom & Sue Walton

Reader: Elsie Kortrey

Acolyte: Alex Gera

Crucifer: Kimberly Dutil

Communion Assistants: Betty Rotenbury, Allen Mowery

Ushers: Jim Komp, John O'Brien, Joan Matis, Rich McMahon, Karen McMahon, Georgia

Elwell Snell, Byron Snell, Nolan McMahon

Counting Team: October 6th Peg Wendler, Ruth Mucha, Erna McKeivitt

October 12th

Greeters: Bob & Karen Lorence

Reader: Gary Rotenbury

Acolyte: Amanda Huber

Crucifer: Emily Gordon

Ushers: Claire Riggs, Betty Komp, Susan Speers, Joyce Dutil

Counting Team: October 13th Claire Riggs, Hildegard, Bashley, Betty Komp

October 19th

Greeters: Gordon & Jan Gera

Reader: Sue Medicus

Acolyte: Jamie Griffin

Crucifer: Maddy Griffin

Ushers: Carl Wendler, Peg Wendler, Bob Huber, Janet Cohen

Counting Team : October 20th George Neborak, Ursula Schwartz, Charlotte Thompson

October 26th

Greeters: John & Libby Griffin

Reader: Jen Peters

Acolyte: Kyle MvGarry

Crucifer: Colleen Huber

Ushers: Hank Guldner, Marge Guldner, Cheryl Kiefer, Sandra Molotsky

Counting Team: October 27th Mike Matthews, Joan Howie, Bill Raupp