

# ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

### March, 2008

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

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#### PASTOR'S CORNER

*After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, **as he said**.*

**I told you so!!!** That's what Jesus *should* have said on that first Easter morning. Why is it that we don't want to believe something until we see it for ourselves? How many people are going to wait until they are at the gates of heaven before they will believe in life after death? Does the Easter message *really* make a difference in your life?

I remember the first time I had to really wrestle with this question. I grew up going to church, attending Sunday School and singing in the Children's Choir. I had heard the Easter story since as long as I can remember. Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried and on the third day, rose from the dead. I heard it preached from the pulpit and the people said it in the creed. But I never really owned it as my own belief until I faced the death of my father.

When I was 14 years old my father died suddenly of a heart attack. I remember having a conversation with my self, during that period of wondering "what am I going to do now"? My father died early on a Saturday morning. That Sunday, more than on most Sundays, I *needed* to go to church. Up until that point in my life hearing the message of the resurrection to Eternal Life was just something we said because it was part of the worship service. But when you come face-to-face with the death of a loved one, that's when you ask yourself, "Do I *really* believe it or not?" At that point I came to an increased level of faith and I needed to be in church to have that faith reaffirmed.

So back to the question, "Does the Easter message *really* make a difference?" In my life it made it possible for me to move forward in a time of grief. It continues to make it possible for me to face the struggles of life knowing that ultimately, God has things under control. Death is not something I have to fear. It also makes it possible for me to have the strength to preach the message of salvation as I lead the funeral services of many of our faithful departed. The Easter message *does* make a difference. That's why I can sing "Alleluia!" May each one of you have a blessed Easter season. In the name of the Resurrected Lord,

## YOUNG FAMILY GROUP NEWS.

Thank you to everyone who shared God's love on Valentine's Day with the residents of Laurel House. The children made beautiful (and very glittery!) Valentine's Day cards and the adults helped put together "Kiss Mix" hot cocoa treat bags which were attached with the following poem:

*"When it's cold outside and you want to be snug  
Grab your Kiss Mix and a great big mug.  
Open the cocoa packet and pour it in slow  
Stir-in the hot water and gently blow.  
Then add some red cinnamon hearts for spice  
And a kiss or two to make it extra nice.  
Then cuddle-up and take a sip or two  
Remember how much your friends at St. Peter's love you!"*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EASTER EVENTS...

March 9<sup>th</sup>: Easter Egg Scramble Prep Party We will be stuffing eggs and getting ready for our annual party. YFG happily welcomes candy and/or small trinket donations for the hundreds of eggs that need to be stuffed. Please leave any donations in the box in the Narthex. THANK YOU!!

March 16<sup>th</sup>: St. Peter's Annual Easter Egg Scramble Please remember to bring your Easter basket to church and join us in the Fellowship Hall following the 10AM service. All ages are invited for the egg "hunt," prizes and refreshments...and perhaps even a special visitor!

♥♥We are collecting items for Silver Springs year 'round They are always in need of any new toys, new or gently used books and small trinkets like kid-friendly soap, shampoo, novelty socks, etc. Please place any donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you very much! ♥♥

### **TOYS NEEDED**

The new church nursery is looking for toys, either new or used, that are appropriate for children ages birth through three years old. We could still use some play food, play tools, blocks, cars/trucks, baby dolls, toy trains and track, and little tikes. We are also looking for low shelving or storage containers for the toys. If you have anything for the nursery, please call the church office or leave them in the new nursery on the second level.

### **2008 COUNCIL OFFICERS**

The officers elected at the last month's Council meeting are:

John Gordon - President

Meg Huber - Vice President

Vicky Hyczko - Treasurer

Claire Riggs - Secretary

The other Council members are:

Bob Blundin                      Karen Lorence

Keith Hokanson      Tom Peuser

Mark Komp              Charles Skutches

John Lewis              Charlotte Thompson

Please contact them if you have any concerns or questions. You are also reminded that you may place comments at any time in the Mutual Ministry Mailbox on the wall in the top of the stairwell to the left of the narthex. Save your stuff at home NOW!

Bring it to church April 13th - May 4th and put it in the back corner of the Fellowship Hall. Come to the Sale! Friday, May 9th and Saturday, May 10th

## **GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL**

“So could you not stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matt. 26:40b-41) This Holy Week St. Peter’s will try to “stay awake with Jesus” by holding a Prayer Vigil from noon on Good Friday until 8:00 am on Easter Sunday. (March 21-23) Will you join us by offering to pray for an hour at home? There is a sign-up poster in the Narthex of the church where individuals, couples and/or families can sign up to pray for one hour. Please prayerfully consider taking this opportunity to conclude Lent through the Prayer Vigil. Just think of this hour of prayer as another gift from God, a time to reorient our lives, even if only for one hour. Talk to Seminarian Katy for more information.

## **CHANGE-FOR-CHANGE**

You still have time to participate in the Lenten Change-for-Change program. There are change pouches available at church to put your pocket change into. We are asking that you bring these back to church on Easter. We are raising money to send children to Summer Camp from the Martin Luther/Silver Spring School. Last year’s efforts raised over \$1,000. Please donate your change so we can help make a change in the lives of these children.

## **World Day of Prayer**

This year will be held at Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church, 3050 Walton Road, Plymouth Meeting on Friday, March 7, noon.

## **THANK YOU...**

Dear Friends at St. Peter's Church,  
On behalf of Bryan D Kelley, Millie and Tom McMenamin, and Karen and Andrew Sherwood, I thank, Pastor Todd, Al Kammerle, our choir, Jean Matthews, Hal Schwartz, Wayne Goshen, the members of this congregation, and all the dear hearts who helped to celebrate the life of our mother, Jane Butler Kelley, on Saturday, February 23, 2008. As the Book of Common Prayers says, "It is meet and right and so to do." Thank you.

Faithfully,  
Bill, Karen Millie and Bryan

Dear Congregation,  
It is difficult to find the words to express my appreciation for all the concern, prayers and visits not only during the time of Al's recent death, but also during the past months of his illness. The warmth of your love and concern has been a source of strength during this difficult time. As Al joins the rest of the saints in heaven, I am comforted by the saints at St. Peter's who continue to show their support. Thank you for all you have done. Most Sincerely, Florence Sevitski

## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states that First Communion instruction is recommended for children in grade five or whenever the parent feels it is appropriate. We will be offering First Communion instruction on Saturday morning, March 15th from 9:30 - noon. Parents are asked to attend the first 30 minutes of the class with their child. First Holy Communion will take place on Maundy Thursday in Holy Week, March 20th at the 7:30 p.m. service. A Pot-Luck dinner has been a tradition among the families of the first communion students, prior to the service. IF you would like to register your child, either call the church office or fill out a registration form in the narthex.

## **St. Peter's SCRIP PROGRAM UPDATE:**

Thank you,,each and everyone of you, who have participated in the St. Peter's SCRIP PROGRAM so far. We have had a great beginning! The sales volume has generated enough revenue that has enabled repaying the \$500 seed money given to start up the program and to make a \$500 contribution to St. Peter's Building Fund. The Scrip Program is an ongoing program. Remember the Scrip Cards are more than "gift" cards. They are your funds for everyday purchases of goods and/or services, with St. Peter's receiving a percentage.

## **BUILDING DEDICATION SUNDAY - APRIL 6, 2008 - 4:00 p.m.**

It has been a long road from the Ground-breaking Ceremony in 2006 to this time of dedicating our new facility almost a year-and-a-half later. But the time has come and we want to Celebrate! You are invited to share in this Service of Dedication, Open House and celebratory dinner on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

In the meantime you can enjoy much of our new facilities. The new bathrooms on the upper level are fully operational while the Men's Room on the middle level is undergoing extensive renovations. One of the more exciting additions is our **NEW ELEVATOR** located by the new office entrance. It has now been inspected and approved for public use. Feel free to use it as needed for accessing the various levels of the building. We ask that the "recreational rides" be limited so that those who truly need the elevator have it available to them when needed. We also have an **AUTOMATIC DOOR OPENER** into the new building. Handicapped Push-Plates as located inside and out for those who are unable to open the doors manually. The skylight brightens up the new staircase which leads down to the **NEW CHURCH NURSERY** (the Purple Room) which has its very own child sized bathroom. We are almost at the point of being able to use the new Conference Room, storage areas, and janitorial closets. But this should all be ready for our April 6<sup>th</sup> Dedication.

If you would like to attend the dinner afterwards, please fill out the response form below and return it to the church (you can mail them or place them in the offering plates). We would like as many people as possible to attend but due to limited space we need to know how many to expect. Free tickets will be given out as long as seating is available, and we will be receiving a free-will offering (suggested donation of \$5 per adult) to cover the costs. Mark your calendar now to be a part of this Celebration of Thanksgiving to God!

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## DEDICATION DINNER RESERVATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Monday                                                                                        | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Friday                                                                                                                                                    | Saturday                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <h1>March 2008</h1>                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Names in <i>Italics</i> are Birthdays                                                                                                                     | 1 <i>Nikki Beerman</i><br>Austin Hokanson                                                                                                       |
| 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>8:30 & 10:00 Communion<br>10:00 Sunday School<br><br><i>Kyle Blundin</i><br><i>Finnegan McManus</i>                                                                 | 3 <i>Phyllis Kirst</i><br><i>Vicky Hyczko</i><br><i>Kate Kaufmann</i>                         | 4 7:30am Building Comm<br><br>7:30 Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Boy Scouts                                                                                             | 5 10:30 LIFE BibleStudy<br><br><i>James Miller</i><br><br>4:00 Children's Choir<br>7:30pm Cameron Pipes                                                                    | 6 <i>Judy Stotesbury</i><br><i>Matt Gilbert</i><br><br>7:00pm AI Anon<br>7:30pm Adult Choir                                                                                                                                    | 7 <i>Marie Zaleski</i><br><i>Ernest Kiefer, Jr.</i><br><i>Terri Kelly</i><br><i>Meghan Littlejohn</i><br><i>Matthew Rowland</i><br><i>Colin MdClarren</i> | 8 <i>Mary Mellor</i>                                                                                                                            |
| 9 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>8:30 - Holy Communion<br>10:00 Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br><br><i>Tom Balog</i><br><i>Jenna Smith</i><br><i>Maya Brightbill</i><br><i>Isabella Brightbill</i> | 10 <i>Rob Johnson</i><br><i>Lauren Thomas</i><br><i>Hannah Peuser</i><br><i>Rory Dunleavy</i> | 11 <i>Karen Lorence</i><br><i>Joe Fisher</i><br><br>7:30 Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Boy Scouts                                                                       | 12 10:30LIFE BibleStudy<br><i>David Wolfinger</i><br><i>Sam Brown</i><br><i>Andrew Fisher</i><br>4:00 - Children's Choir<br><br>7:30pm Cameron Pipes<br>7:30pm Bible Study | 13<br><br>7:00pm AI Anon<br>7:30pm Adult Choir                                                                                                                                                                                 | 14 <i>Carl Homan</i><br><i>Kelsey Leis</i><br><i>Samuel Cohen</i>                                                                                         | 15<br>9:30-noon 1 <sup>st</sup> Comm. Class<br><br><i>Millard Wilfong</i><br><i>Ed McGarry</i><br><i>Karen Knittel</i><br><i>Jennifer Oakes</i> |
| 16 <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>8:30 - Communion & Palms<br>10:00 - Worship & Palms<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Easter Egg Hunt<br><i>Tim Rowland</i><br>6:00pm Catechism Class<br>Funeral Home Trip       | 17 <i>Susan Sawyer</i><br><i>Sarah Cohen</i>                                                  | 18 <i>Cathy Wentz</i><br><i>Laura Gourley</i><br><br>7:30 Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Boy Scouts                                                                      | 19 10:30LIFE BibleStudy<br><br><i>Brittany Kinka</i><br><i>Zane Reichley</i><br><br>7:30pm Cameron Pipes<br>7:30pm Bible Study                                             | 20 <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>Noon - Communion<br><i>Ed Devitt</i><br><i>Barbara Balaicuis</i><br><i>Michele Devitt</i><br><i>Ian Higgins</i><br>6:00 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Dinner<br>7:00pm - AIAnon<br>7:30pm - Communion | 21 <b>Good Friday</b><br><br>Noon-Church on the Mall<br><br><i>Kirk McClarren</i><br><br>7:30pm - Tenebrae Service                                        | 22                                                                                                                                              |
| 23 <b>Easter Sunday</b><br>7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 Worship<br>with Holy Communion<br><br><i>Floss Spare</i><br><i>Florence Peterson</i><br><i>Natalie Seaner</i>                                             | 24 <i>Rachael Levins</i>                                                                      | 25 <i>Steve Thomas</i><br><i>Faith Kortrey</i><br><i>Andrew Cohen</i><br><i>Jim Rossi</i><br><i>Travis Bristow</i><br><br>7:30 Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Boy Scouts | 26 10:30LIFE BibleStudy<br><br><i>Ruth Gwin</i><br><br>4:00 - Children's Choir<br><br>7:30pm Cameron Pipes                                                                 | 27 <i>Janet Kimball</i><br><i>Liz Johnson</i><br><br>7:00pm AI Anon<br>7:30pm Adult Choir                                                                                                                                      | 28 <i>Lisa Dunleavy</i><br><i>Tom Dunleavy</i><br><i>Erika Frederick</i>                                                                                  | 29 <i>Mike Massa</i><br><i>Will Kaufmann</i><br><i>MyaJoan Ramseyer</i>                                                                         |
| 30 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>8:30 - Holy Communion<br>10:00 - Worship<br>10:00 Sunday School<br>11:00 Boar's Head Mtg<br><br><i>Margrethe Leis</i>                                            | 31 <i>Ian Bristow</i>                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                 |