



The Fishnet - February 2018

**Sunday Worship Services
February 4, 18 and 25: 8:00 am and 10:00 am**

**February 11
One Service: 9:00 am, followed by yearly Congregational Meeting**



Gathered to watch Martin Luther documentary



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you today, an unusually warm winter day. It feels good to be out of the deep freeze and into a time of warmth and light.

This small respite from bitter winter reminds us that difficult times come and go. We may feel great one moment and in the next, be devastated by unforeseen trouble. Often, we may feel blindsided by the rush of an emotion at the word or action of another, a memory from the past or worry about the future. Surprised, we can feel not only unsure of the world, but of ourselves and even God's powerful grace.

As Lou Bell so aptly wrote last month in his Fishnet Article, we would do well to consider our patron "Saint," Peter. Peter was no stranger to fear, anger, judgement and worry. He not only doubted, but denied Christ three times in the passion story. Yet, Jesus chose to rename him The Rock, because Jesus knew how he would use Peter and the other church leaders, to build the church and make it grow.

We at St. Peter's need to habitually return to "The Rock" who is Christ Jesus. For our church. For our lives. For our world. This world is uncertain, and we would do well to keep that in mind. We will do better to ask: Upon what will I rest my faith, my trust, my hope? And, with aspects of life resting in the hands of God, what is God asking us to do in the world, for God's glory and the good of our neighbors?

We have elected a wonderful Church Council. We believe these are the people whom God has chosen to walk with God and with us this year, in servant leadership. The Council list which is found later in this newsletter can serve as a prayer list for your private devotions. And just as often, speak directly to them about your concerns, your hopes and dreams. When we do this, we build up the church, which is the body of Christ. We need one another to fulfill our various responsibilities, matching our gifts with our ministries. Your leaders and pastor are depending on your prayers and counsel.

What will 2018 bring us? No one but God could say. And for now, God is not telling us. But God is promising us that we will not take this journey alone and that the Lord will be next to us, each step of the way. Let's journey on together in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Joe

Council President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am humbled and honored to serve as your new Council President and want to wish you all a Happy New Year! We have many things to be thankful for with hope for a bright future in 2018. Last year, each and every one of you showcased unique gifts and talents that were used to make our community a better place.

As we move into 2018, I'd like us to focus on continuing to foster the unique gifts we each have to help each other and our community. We all do so much giving throughout the year. This is what makes our community great. We spend countless hours running committees, planning events, and serving others, but before we do anymore, let's take time to pause and reflect on making sure we are taking care of ourselves. For as they say, "be there for others but never leave yourself behind".

How many of you have New Year resolutions? I have the same one each year, and I never achieve it! Ok, another question: How many of you achieve your New Year resolution year after year? Whatever your individual goals are in 2018, let's make sure we all keep these few tips in mind before getting started:

- Make sure your goals are realistic. Last I checked losing 50 pounds in a week is not realistic! ☺
- Ensure you are prepared. Sure you have a general idea of what you want, but you most likely do not have a specific plan on how to get there.
- Your goals should be clear and specific. We all say things like "I want to be healthier, or I want to lose weight", but being specific like "I want to lose 10 pounds by June 2018" is much better.
- Make sure you have strong support from family, co-workers, and friends'. Because the going WILL GET TOUGH and our support system is what will see us through to goals.

Whatever your goals are in 2018, St. Peter's is here so we can help each other. Please share your goals with me and others. I am happy to help in any way I can. I believe if we each strive to be the best we can be, Saint Peter's will be the best it can be to each other and to the community.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pam Abaza
Congregational Council President

One Service and Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 11 at 9:00 am

The annual Congregational Meeting, to review 2017, will be held on Sunday, February 11 after the one Service at 9:00 am. Copies of the Meeting booklet will be available in the Narthex the Sunday before the meeting.

Lenten Services Wednesdays through Lent

Lenten Services will begin Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 pm and continue through Lent each Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation class continues every other Sunday evening. Keep these young men and women in your prayers as they progress on their journey to full communion in the Church.

The February Confirmation classes are February 4 and February 18.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet February 27 at 12:00 noon at Zoto's in Line Lexington (1100 Bethlehem Pike, Line Lexington, PA). All are welcome to enjoy this Dutch treat fellowship.

We continue to build Faith and Friendships!

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the 10:00 am Sunday Worship (except Feb 11th, when we will all be together at one Service at 9:00 am, followed by the yearly congregational meeting). Susan Scherffel and other assistants continue to put together meaningful opportunities for our children and youth to spend special time together in Dorcas Hall during the regular Liturgy. They return to share Holy Communion with their families and our church family. Pray for this on-going ministry. "Encourage the children to come to me," says Jesus, "for to them belongs the Kingdom of God."



Lenten Food Drive

The youth of St. Peter's are sponsoring food collections for FISH throughout the Lenten Season. Last year St. Peter's donated over 500 pounds of food during Lent!

Each week, starting on February 18, we will concentrate on certain types of items, though any and all food pantry donations are appreciated. Please place your items in the collection box in the Narthex. The Lenten food drive collection will wrap up on Sunday, April 8th, though food donations for FISH can be brought to St. Peter's all year. Thank you for your support!

The weekly list is at the end of this newsletter so you may print and save it on your bulletin board or refrigerator.

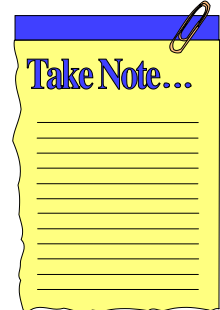
Memorial Committee

Members of the congregation have been very generous through bequests to St. Peters to be used to help others locally, nationally and world-wide. The Memorial Committee encourages committees to consider where these funds could be used to help and to request funds for specific purposes.

The Memorial Committee will be meeting February 16. If you have any requests for the committee to consider, please have the request to one of the members of the committee (Bob Bair, Charlie Gehman or Judy Smith) before the meeting. Forms are located in a folder outside of the church office door.

Save the Dates

Feb. 4 – 6:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Feb. 6 - 11:30 am	Worship & Music meeting
Feb. 6 & 20 - 8am-2 pm	Quilting
Feb. 10 – 10 am	Synod Bible Study
Feb. 11 – 9:00 am	One Service followed by annual Congregational Meeting
Feb. 14 – 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Feb. 16 – 7:00 pm	Memorial Committee meeting
Feb. 19 – 7:00 pm	Council meeting
Feb. 27 – 12:00 noon	Lunch Bunch



Noah's Ark

Thank you to everyone who Helped Us Help Them through contributions of money or items to Stray Cat Blues, Inc. Significant progress has been made helping God's Creatures but we still have a long way to go to Save Them All and get to No-Kill Nationwide. Remember to adopt, not buy when you are looking for a companion animal.

Stray Cat Blues, Inc. (SCBI) will soon have a facility for the intake of stray cats. The foster network will continue but the facility will provide temporary housing for 35 cats at one time. The goal is to get those cats adopted out quickly and to find homes for more than 1,000 cats in 2018. In 2017, SCBI took in 950 cats and found homes for 869.

If you would like to help contribute toward the renovations to the facility, cages and other items that need to be purchased, SCBI would be very appreciative. For more information see Judy Smith or go to www.straycatblues.org ; Housewarming donations



Thank You

Joan Johnson and her family thank you for the cards, prayers, and sympathy at Ernie's passing. Special thanks to Pastor, the kitchen staff, and the Assisting Ministers.

Church Chat



- Thank you for placing only paper in the blue recycle bin.
- St. John's Lutheran, Richlandtown (4 S. Main Street, Richlandtown 18955) will have a Family Movie Night on Saturday, February 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Music will be provided by the New Life Band, and there will be pizza and an inspirational animated movie on their new big screens.
- St. Stephen's UCC (6th & Arch Streets, Perkasio 18944) has a ham dinner, bake sale, and raffle on Saturday, February 17 from 4 pm to 7pm. Adults are \$10; children 6-12 are \$5; under 6 free. Take outs available. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Pennridge FISH.
- Good Shepherd church will have their 2nd Annual Art Show February 23 through 24. If you missed last year's show, place the 2018 dates on your calendar (see the ad at the end of this newsletter). If you wish to participate, the artist's application is in the Parish Administrator's office.
- Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in 2018 are: March 16-18 at the Heritage Hotel Lancaster and September 14-16 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis (Poconos). \$100/couple includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals for each person, and all supplies. For additional information, go to www.GodLovesMarriage.org.

Congregational Staff

- **The Rev. Joseph Varsanyi, Sr. Pastor**, MDiv, BCC
215-822-9075 (office) joevasl@aol.com
For Pastoral emergencies: 215-850-6635
To arrange to visit Pastor or be visited by the pastor, email or call the church office.
- **Sue Fellman Jacob, Parish Administrator** 215-822-9108
Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 2:30pm stpeterslc@comcast.net
- **Norman Geist, Organist**
- **Bill Gottshall, Worship Ensemble Leader**
- **Susan Scherffel, Worship Ensemble Leader**
- **Jeff Thompson, Sexton**

St. Peter's Congregational Council

- Pam Abaza, President** (term ends: December 2018) 1st Term
plabaza@msn.com 215-996-9029
- Diane Gall, Vice-President** (terms ends: December 2020) 1st Term
alottagall@verizon.net 215-348-8666
- Linda Ertel, Secretary** (term ends: December 2018) 1st Term
lmertel@verizon.net 215-712-9820
- Ken Shanks, Treasurer** (completed two terms on council as of December 2015)
Kshanks6@gmail.com 215-997-2060
- Skip Davenport** (term ends: December 2018) 1st Term
Cdavenport312@comcast.net 215-257-8577
- Rick Daubert** (term ends: December 2020) 1st Term
Rdoubled1@verizon.net 215-830-1270
- Debra Detweiler** (term ends: December 2020) 1st Term
215-766-8640
- Patti Dowse** (term ends: December 2019) 1st Term
215-738-2781
- Joan Gerhart** (term ends: December 2019) 1st Term
jjcid@yahoo.com 215-822-9186
- Phil Tackett** (term ends: December 2019) 2nd Term
Lpt2829@gmail.com 215-257-7894

PRAYER CONCERNS – as of January 28, 2017



God's Protection and Safety:

On all who drive buses, trains & planes. For all the service men & women especially:

Seaman Abigail Gall, US Coast Guard, daughter of Diane & Chris Gall

CPL Griffin Parker, US Marine Corps, grandson of Doris Hardy

Private Nicholas Bukavich, US Marine Corps, son of JoAnn Bukavich (Activities Ass't at the Laurels, Sellersville)

God's Healing:

Parishioners: Bob Snider, Ray Johnson, Bob Bergey, Mary VanThyne, Bob Bair, Jim Ertel, Sharon Senigo, June Bair, Mary Ettore, Jeff Flagler, Sandie Driscoll, Betty Rohrs.

* - *new addition*

God's Healing:

Friends and family:

Arlene Leonard (Gene Gugger's sister), Steve Traynor (friend of Sandie Driscoll), Cheri McFarland (niece of John Snyder), Lena (friend of Pastor Joe), Kristy Simcox (friend of Deb Detweiler), Jim Hardy (son of Peg & Ed Hardy), Barbara Jones (Danielle Simpkins' mother), Helen VanArtsdalen (Sara Barton's aunt), Wanda Goins (friend of Sara Barton), Rev. June Bair, Rev. Dee Littleton, Billy Fullop (cousin of Pastor Joe), Rev. Paul Napier (friend of Pastor Joe), Al Palmer (friend of Dean Jerasa), Dave Lewis (Lori Lombardo's uncle), Frank Kern (friend of Pastor Joe), Noam (friend of Kim Jerasa), Mark Newbold (friend of Charles Rizzo), Rhelda Warriner (sister of Rita Bixler), Donna Cross (friend of Jim & Linda Ertel), Debbie Breithaupt (sister-in-law of June Bair), Mason Long and Randy (grandsons of Peg & Ed Hardy), Brandon Latham (friend of Scherffel family), Joe Lutz (coworker of Sharon Senigo), Ted and Jackie Frey (friends of Eleanor Peitzman), Chase Yarns (nephew of Tammy Daubert), Lori Groves (niece of Joan & Bob Snider), George Yarns (father of Tammy Daubert), Patricia Deitz (sister of Bob Bair), Harry Kieffer (Deb Detweiler's brother-in-law), Debra Scott (Sue Scherffel's cousin), Butch Trucksess (brother-in-law of Donna and Brian Blackburn), Jim Trucksess (nephew of Donna and Brian Blackburn), Michael Burgess (brother of Kim Jerasa), Joseph Hartner (brother-in-law of Michael Ettore, Sr.).

[Names for healing will stay on the printed list for 1 month]

God's Comfort & Peace:

For our homebound members: **Ted Fickert** (Dock Woods), **Bonnie Lesh** (Souderton Mennonite Home), **Glenn Kramer** (LifeQuest, Q'town), **Joe Haenn**, **Blanche Wimmer** (Lutheran Community at Telford), **Ilse Mondry** (Rockhill Community), **Esther Saylor and Tillie Murray** (Hidden Meadows on the Ridge), **Edna Ney** (Phoebe Meadow Glen), **Doris Landis**, **Ted Hilmer** (Home).

God's Grace for the Family & Friends who mourn the death of:

+Ernie Johnson, Julia Smith (niece of Julie Detweiler), Robert Meier (grandson of Ray Johnson & Monika Meier), Elsie Maynard (cousin of Eleanor Pietzman), Fred Warriner (brother-in-law of Rita Bixler), Eliot Pagan (father of Donna Blackburn), +Bob Constanzer, Pam Fullop (cousin of Pastor Joe), David Glick (grandson of Monika Meier), +Bill Gartner, Dorothy Ertel (aunt of Jim & Linda Ertel), +Cliff Nebelong, Robert Kerns (brother of Betty Jean Nemec), +Dorothy Barnhart, Ray Heffentrager (Lisa Bell's grandfather), Ruth Brenner (sister of Laurel Tackett), +Ruth Rodgers, +Florence Haenn, +Lil Hilmer, Dan Traynor,

[+indicates a member of St. Peter's. Names will stay on the printed list for 1 year]

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 12n – AA	3
4 8 am & 10:00 am Worship Services 6pm-Confirmation class	5	6 8am – 2 pm Quilters 11:30 am – Worship & Music Meeting	7 12n – AA	8	9 12n – AA	10 10-11:30 am – Synod Bible Study for Discernment
11 9 am One Service 10 am - Congregational Mtg	12	13	14 12n – AA 7:00 pm - ASH WEDNESDAY Service	15	16 12n – AA	17
18 8 am & 10:00 am Worship Services 6pm-Confirmation Class	19 7:00 pm – Council mtg	20 8am – 2 pm Quilters Newsletter input due	21 12n – AA 7:00 pm – Lent Service	22	23 12n – AA	24
25 8 am & 10:00 am Worship Services	26 Newsletter will be emailed	27 12:00 noon – Lunch Bunch at Zoto’s, Line Lexington	28 12n – AA 7:00 pm – Lent Service			

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – February 2018

Date	Time	Ushers	Greeters	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture	Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
2/4/18	8:00 TEAM D	J & B Snider	J & D Snyder	A Lee	S Lee	H Garrett	**H Garrett	E. Rebnegger	K Park & L Ertel	B & J Bair
	10:00 TEAM D	R Johnson & G Gerhart	P Dowse & C Rizzo	**N Driscoll	S Butterwick	S Driscoll	S Driscoll	L Lombardo		
2/11/18 Single Service	9:00 TEAM E	S & E Rebnegger	W & C Fellman	D Bell	J Bell	**P Tackett	D Gall	D Hardy	D Detweiler & P Abaza	D & S Texter
2/14-Ash Wed	7:00 pm	VOLUNTEERS	NEEDED			VOLUNTEERS	NEEDED			
2/18/18	8:00 TEAM F	J & D Snyder	B & J Detweiler	E Rebnegger	K Shanks	J Snider	J Smith	**D Gall	P Dowse & C Rizzo	K Jerasa & N Driscoll
	10:00 TEAM F	** D & S Texter	N & S Driscoll	C Rizzo	P Dowse	S Driscoll	S Driscoll	K Jerasa		
2/25/18	8:00 TEAM A	D Detweiler & D Hardy	P Hardy & S Davenport	J Bell	D Bell	S & A Lee	**H Lee	K Shanks	R Bixler & L Lombardo	C Rizzo & P Dowse
	10:00 TEAM A	** S Texter & A Scherffel	R Johnson & L Lombardo	C Rizzo	A Reice	K Ballard	R Daubert	P Dowse		
3/4/18	8:00 TEAM B	J & D Bell	B & J Detweiler	E Rebnegger	K Shanks	**L Bell	D Gall	L Bell	D :& S Texter	B & J Bair
	10:00 TEAM B	R Johnson & G Gerhart	D & D Fell	B Flagler	K Flagler	T Daubert	**T Daubert	L Lombardo		

YOU STILL NEED TO CONTACT YOUR TEAM LEADER WITH CHANGES.
The yellow, highlighted names with double stars are team leaders.

2018

ART, CRAFT AND PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW



**SPONSORED BY
GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
1634 HILLTOWN PIKE
HILLTOWN, PA, 18927**

FEBRUARY 23, 5:30pm to 7pm

**PUBLIC OPENING RECEPTION
TO MEET THE ARTISTS.**

FEBRUARY 24, 11am—3pm VIEWING HOURS

FEBRUARY 25, 11am-1pm VIEWING HOURS

**ALL EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IN BUCKS COUNTY
ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING TO THE
PUBLIC A SPECIAL ART SHOW.**

MANY OF THE ITEMS WILL BE FOR SALE.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
CONTACT BARBARA AT 928-587-7881.**



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Office of the Bishop

January 29, 2018

The Rev. Joseph Varsanyi, Pastor
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1530 Augsburg Drive
Hilltown, PA 18927

Dear Pastor Varsanyi:

"...let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." – 1 John 3:18

On behalf of the officers, members of Synod Council and Synod staff let me express our deep gratitude and appreciation to you, your staff and volunteers for the warm welcome and hospitality we received December 7th during our time at St. Peter's. We were able to conduct synod business in a large comfortable area. The setting was perfect.

What could possibly top the setting? The food! Delicious cuisine, and all in attendance remarked how they enjoyed the food along with the outstanding service. Kudos to your wonderful team of staff and volunteers: Jean Gugger, Joan Gerhart, Lori Lombardo, Marilou Mayerzak, Jessica Thomas, Sarrah Thomas, Gene Gugger, and Norm Driscoll.

Parish Administrator, Suzanne Fellman Jacob's coordination and organization left no stone unturned. Much appreciation to Phil Tackett for the many ways he supported this meeting.

The hospitality was evident – such attention to detail! Our hats are off to you, St. Peter's, we can do more together than we can alone! Heartfelt appreciation to all for their labor of love. *The love and care put into this effort – showed up in every way.*

Again, thank you Pastor Varsanyi for your warm welcome, kind greetings, your continued leadership and partnership. Dean Hopcke, we appreciate the thoughtful devotion you lead us in.

May God's blessings continue with you and the saints at St. Peter's as you demonstrate your love through *truth and action* to those who come to, and through the doors of St. Peter's.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Curtis, M.S. Director of Operations
and Executive Assistant to the Bishop

c: Vice President Tracey A. Beasley
Mr. Phil Tackett
Dean Carolann Hopcke, Upper Bucks Conference

FISH Food Pantry Themes For Lenten Food Drive

Week #	Date	Theme	Items
1	2/18	Canned goods	Soups, fruits and vegetables, meats, beans, fish and tuna
2	2/25	Carbs	Spaghetti or other pasta, spaghetti sauce, pasta sides, rice and mixes, gluten free and diabetic foods
3	3/4	Basics	Flour, sugar, cooking oil, peanut butter, jelly, condiments
4	3/11	Beverages	Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, 100% fruit or vegetable juice
5	3/18	Paper products	Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, diapers in size 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6
6	3/25	Personal Care	Shampoo, bath soap, laundry detergent, deodorant
7	4/1	Breakfast	Cold and hot cereals, pancake mix, pancake syrup