

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hilltown, PA
May 2023**

Although masks are not required, the use of masks during Services is up to the attendee.

In addition to "in-person" worship, Services are viewable live each Sunday morning on St. Peter's Facebook page and on St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hilltown, PA YouTube page after the Service.



Christ is risen. Alleluia!

This year the Easter season continues through most of May. Ascension Day, the 40th day after Easter, is Thursday, May 18, and Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter, is Sunday, May 28. Ascension Day marks

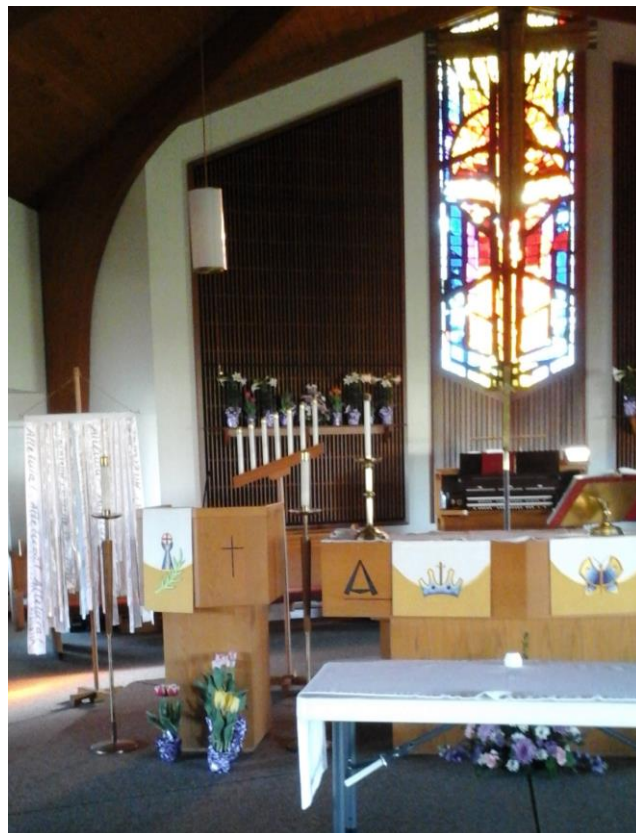
the day that the Risen Christ ascended into heaven. Commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples and the birth of the church, Pentecost brings an end to the Easter season.

By ascending into heaven, Lutherans believe that the Risen Christ is not merely in heaven, "seated at the right hand of the Father," as attested by the Nicene Creed, but present in all times and all places. More specifically, Christ ascended "in order to rule and reign forever over all creatures, so that through the Holy Spirit he may make holy, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in him, also distribute to them life and various gifts and benefits, and shield and protect them against the devil and sin" [*Augsburg Confession, Article Three, German Text*].

Pentecost was a spring harvest festival which brought many to Jerusalem for the holiday. (Because of the moderate climate and the length of the growing season, people in the ancient Middle East observed two harvest festivals annually.) On this auspicious occasion, according to Luke, God sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples, enabling them to miraculously proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection in the native languages of the multicultural multitude of people gathered in the marketplace [*Acts 2:1-13*].

John's version of the coming of the Holy Spirit, in contrast, differs remarkably from Luke's. On the evening of Easter Sunday, as the eleven disciples, except for Thomas, were gathered behind locked doors, fearful of their opponents, the Risen Christ came and stood among them. After greeting them, Christ "breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" [*John 20:19-23*].

Though Luke and John differ on the time frame for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples just as Jesus promised. And that same gift comes to us through the water and the Word at Holy Baptism. I have often found great comfort in Martin Luther's description of the Holy Spirit in the *Small Catechism*:



I believe that, by my own understanding or strength, I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith.

What these words say to me is that I am not responsible for my own salvation. Through the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God has done everything necessary to save us! Yes, God has graciously done it all, giving me, and all of us, the precious gift of salvation. All that there is for us to do is to trust God and to believe, by faith, that what God has done is true. Because God has given us this gift, we have the reassurance that there is nothing that we can do to mess it up and that no one can take it away from us. What great joy that brings! With the church in all times and all places, we say,

Come, Holy Spirit!

+

Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)

May 5 & 6	Synod Assembly
May 7	10:30 am - Confirmation Class after Service
May 8	7:00 pm – Worship & Music meeting
May 13	3:00 pm - Bill Gottshall concert at St. Peter's
May 15	7:00 pm - Council Meeting
May 16	Election Day – Dorcas Hall in use all day
May 21	10:30 am - Confirmation Class after Service
May 28	Pentecost Sunday (and Memorial Day, too)

Concert at St. Peter's

Bill Gottshall and his students will provide a concert at St. Peter's at 3:00pm on Saturday, May 13. The music will cover a wide range of styles from Beethoven to Miles Davis to Sam & Dave and will be performed by Bill's private piano students and his student Jazz Ensemble.

The congregation is encouraged to attend. There's no charge but a free-will offering will be taken, which will go to St. Peter's.

This will be a wonderful way to spend a May spring evening and will provide a great start to the coming week.

New Banners

You (and the hundreds of drivers along Hilltown Pike) can't miss these colorful, welcoming banners. Great addition for the new year!

Thrivent News

In 2022, St. Peter's received \$1,222 in Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funding. Yeah!! Thrivent Choice encourages Choice Dollars be directed to St. Peter's.

Donations can be made using the Thrivent online giving platform. Thrivent pays the donation processing fees, which means St. Peter's receives 100% of the donation.

For more information on Thrivent, please access their website at www.thrivent.com.



Congregational Staff

- **Rev. Raymond Miller, Sr. Pastor** 215-822-9108
stpeterslc@comcast.net
 - **Sue Fellman Jacob, Parish Administrator** 215-822-9108
stpeterslc@comcast.net
 - **Norman Geist, Organist**
 - **Bill Gottshall, Keyboard**
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St. Peter's Congregational Council

Rick Daubert, President (term ends: December 2023) 2nd Term

Diane Gall, Vice-President (term ends: December 2023) 2nd Term

Scott Fischer, Secretary (term ends: December 2025) 2nd Term

Ken Shanks, Church Financial Officer

Lisa Bell (term ends: December 2024) 1st Term

Lori Groves (term ends: December 2025) 1st Term

Karin Rebnegger (term ends: December 2024) 1st Term

Dave Reice (term ends: December 2025) 1st Term

Judy Smith (term ends: December 2024) 1st Term



3-24-2023

To all my friends at
"St. Peter's Hilltown Church"

Thank you very much for
thinking of me with many get
well wishing cards - while
I was healing and recovering
from my injury.

I miss you all and soon as I
can, I will be back.

with Love, Luise

Thank you from Luise Scherrfel



HARLEYSVILLE FC

February 15, 2023

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
c/o Memorial Fund Committee
1530 Augsburg Drive
Hilltown, PA 18927

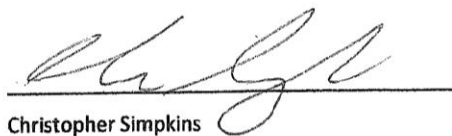
Dear Valued Members of St. Peters,

We received the generous donation of \$3,000.00 to Harleysville Soccer Association on behalf of the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Fund Committee. Your support means so much to the kids you are helping participate in the beautiful game of soccer.

Here at the Harleysville Soccer Association, our goal is to make sure we provide all children of our community the opportunity to enjoy and learn the game of soccer. HSA has over 800 children participating in our many programs this year. Thanks to contributions like yours, we can continue to meet our goal of providing the game of soccer in a safe manner to our communities.

Thank you! You truly have made a difference.

With gratitude,



Christopher Simpkins
President of the Harleysville Soccer Association

Phone: 215-273-3559

Website: <https://www.harleysvillefc.org/>
Email: Info@HarleysvilleSoccer.Org



PRAYER CONCERNS as of April 23, 2023

God's Protection and Safety:

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

Petty Officer Second Class Abigail Gall, US Coast Guard, daughter of Diane & Chris Gall

1st LT. Walker Gall, US Air Force, son of Diane & Chris Gall

God's Healing:

Parishioners: *Eleanor Peitzman, *Dave Leslie, Ron Beerkircher, Brian Blackburn, Luise Scherffel, Joan Gerhart, Ethel Geist, June Bair, Sheryl Gladfelter, Reed Jerasa, Janet Owens, Don Jerasa, Kim Jerasa, Eleanor Peitzman, Jim Lynch, Sharon Senigo, Mary Ettore, Sandie Driscoll.

God's Healing:

Friends and family:

*Rev. Erika Wesch, Adele Hodgman (cousin of Pastor Miller), Rhelda Warriner (sister of Rita Bixler), Sue Warfield (friend of Donna Blackburn), Elsie Stoud (Deb Detweiler's sister), Lindsey Hollingswoth (niece of Lori Groves), Rochelle Fly (friend of Rita Bixler), Caitlin(Cate) Fishman (relative of Lori Groves), Jean Scull (Rev. June Bair's future mother-in-law), Jane Hastings (friend of Deb Detweiler), Jim Trucksess (nephew of Donna Blackburn), Sue McPherson (friend of Donna Blackburn), Ann Sellers (Pastor Miller's mother-in-law), David Yarns (brother of Tammy Daubert), Kay Moyer (friend of Hope Garrett), Danni Tyrrel (great-niece of Kim Jerasa), Terri Lewis (cousin of Lori Lewis), Terri Jewett-Larkin (sister of Patti Dowse), Sutton family (friends of Donna Blackburn), Aidan Drakeley (Carol Barringer's grandson), Beverly Goheen (sister of Maureen Simpkins), George Yarns (father of Tammy Daubert), Pat Daubert (sister of Rick Daubert).

God's Comfort & Peace:

For our homebound members: **Joe Haenn** (Lutheran Community at Telford), **Esther Saylor and Tillie Murray** (Hidden Meadows on the Ridge); and **Julie Detweiler** (at home in Weatherly).

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

Robert Bell (father of Lou Bell), William Hetherington (nephew of Julie Detweiler), Cathleen Truesdell (daughter-in-law of Catherine Truesdell), Mary Palko (sister of John Snyder), +Ted Fickert, +Marv Rohrs, +Bill Detweiler.

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

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9 am Worship Service 10:30am Confirmation class	8 7pm – Worship & Music mtg	9	10	11	12	13 Bill Gottshall concert at church
14 9 am Worship service	15 7pm Council mtg	16 Election Day – 7am – 8pm at church	17 Newsletter input due	18	19	20
21 9 am Worship Service 10:30am Confirmation class	22	23	24	25 Newsletter mailed	26	27
28 – Memorial Day Pentecost 9 am Worship Service	29	30	31			

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – May 2023

Date	Time	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture/ Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
May 7	9:00 am	D & S Texter	L Lombardo	N Driscoll	J Smith	Lou Bell	P Abaza & D Detweiler (Elsie)	J Johnson & S Davenport
May 14	9:00 am	J & J Gerhart	S Florentino	M Poust	J Snider	D Gall	D & S Texter	P Dowse & N Driscoll
May 21	9:00 am	S & E Rebnegger	P Dowse	C Rizzo	J Smith	S Fischer	R Bixler & L Lombardo	D & S Texter
May 28 Pentecost	9:00 am	D & S Texter	Lisa Bell	L Groves	P Abaza	Lou Bell	K Park & L Ertel	R Bixler & J Smith
June 4 Trinity	9:00 am	J & J Gerhart	E Park	F Park	L Ertel	P Tackett	P Dowse & E Rebnegger	J Johnson & S Davenport

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you are unable to participate on your scheduled Sunday, please call one of the other individuals on the list and arrange to switch dates.