

The Fishnet

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hilltown, PA
August 2024**



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, at St. Peter's website and on St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hilltown, PA YouTube page after the Service.

Pastor's Article

"May you live in interesting times" is an English expression that some claim originated as a traditional Chinese curse. The expression is ironic; the phrase "interesting times" implies "times of trouble."

We clearly live in interesting times as recent events suggest: the withdrawal of an incumbent president from consideration for re-election; an assassination attempt on a presidential candidate who happens to be a former president; a restless, anxious, and unpredictable electorate; unrelenting summer heat wave indicative of the adverse effects of climate change; and so on. Are we facing times of trouble? Are we under a curse?

South African archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu once described Christians as "prisoners of hope." Isn't that who we are? "What could have looked more hopeless than Good Friday?" asked Bishop Tutu. "There is no situation from which God cannot extract good."

As we try to make sense of the world in which we live, remember who our God is. Our God "deposes kings and sets up kings ... for dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations" (Daniel 2:21; Psalm 22:28). God ultimately rules over world events. As such, "we need to put our faith where our fear is and exercise a faith that works through love." Pray for our leaders as we pray for peace, prosperity, justice, and freedom. May we live in hope as we boldly proclaim in word and action that Jesus is Lord!

Reference: N. T. Wright & Michael F. Bird, Jesus and the Powers, pp. 6-7

A Few Additional Thoughts

This month **Bishop Patricia Davenport** concludes her ministry as bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. She began her term as bishop in 2018. All are welcome to attend a worship celebration for Bishop Davenport on Friday, August 9, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the United Lutheran Seminary Chapel, 7301 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia. The celebration continues with a free BBQ and Fellowship on Saturday, August 10, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the seminary campus.

Bishop-elect Bryan Penman assumes office on September 1. His installation is Saturday, September 14. Details will follow when they become available.

Our beloved **Ethel Geist** celebrates her 80th birthday on Monday, August 19. Join the celebration by sending a card to Ethel at Lutheran Community at Telford, Shepherd's Way Room 104, 12 Lutheran Home Drive, Telford, PA 18969.

Leading us in worship on Sunday, August 11, while Pastor Miller is away, is **Pastor Leslie Richard**, who serves as a Spiritual Director for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

May God surround us with his love and peace in these closing weeks of summer!

Pastor Raymond Miller

Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)

July 28	9:00 am	Service
July 30 through August 2	Church office closed	
August 4 <i>note the time change</i>	10:00 am	Outdoor Service
August 11	9:00 am	Service
August 13 through August 16	Church office closed	
August 18	9:00 am	Service
August 19	7:00 pm	Council meeting
August 25	9:00 am	Service
September 1	9:00 am	Service
September 8 <i>note the time change</i>	10:00 am	Service followed by picnic

Outdoor Services

Outdoor Services begin at 10:00am and will be held on August 4 and September 8. The Services are held in the pavilion (unless inclement weather prevails). There are sufficient chairs for all attendees.

Only outdoor Services will be held at 10:00am. The weeks following the outdoor Services will return to a 9:00am start in the sanctuary.

Church Office closures in August

The Parish Administrator will be out of the office July 30 through August 2 and August 13 through August 16 due to cataract surgery. Sue will work from home those days.

"Garden abundance – Give & Take"

The Fellowship Committee announces a new program for the Summer

Are you a gardener with an abundance of produce? Let's share it!

Every Sunday from July thru September, bring in your excess garden delights to the dedicated table in Dorcus Hall and exchange with others - Give & Take.

Any unwanted leftovers will be dropped off at a local food bank.

An Alternate volunteer will be needed who can drop off the excess bounty when I am not there.

Fellowship Committee: Please let us know if you wish to join the committee. Lori Groves 215-361-9340 lagroves2340@gmail.com

Congregational Picnic

Planning is currently under way for our Sunday, September 8th **Annual Congregational Picnic!** Please see the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board.

Blessing of the Animals update from Max



Hello everyone,

My assistant/girlfriend, Noelle, and I have been hard at work getting things in order for the Blessing of the Animals. There has been so much to do, such as, picking out our pictures, napping, overseeing the typing of this article, napping, getting the slide show started, napping, etc.

I know you are wondering how you can participate. Well...there are several ways. You could email me the picture of your beloved animal to be blessed (Yes, I have my own email address. What spokescat doesn't) at BlessingswithMax@gmail.com. Please be sure to include the name of the animal(s) in the picture(s). If you do not have email or are not able to email pictures, feel free to give a picture to Judy Smith with your animal's name and your name so that it can be returned to you. Finally, no picture, no problem. You can place a note with your animal's name in Judy Smith's mailbox. Please have your pictures in by August 30th so that my human assistants can organize them into a slideshow for the blessing.

I am excited to see all of your pictures.

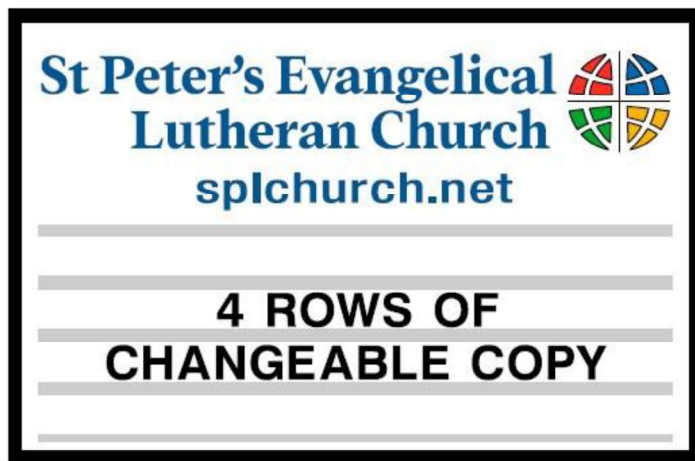
Love, Max and Noelle 🐾

"When I look into the eyes of an animal, I do not see an animal. I see a living being. I see a friend. I feel a soul." ~AD Williams

Church Sign Update Fund

A fundraiser to update the Hilltown Pike church sign is beginning. The update will replace the LCA logo with the ELCA logo and add a fourth line for letters (see photo below).

Please use one of the envelopes marked for this fund and place your donation in the offering plate. Let's try to complete this by November so Advent and Christmas Services can be displayed.



New church sign



Current church sign

Christmas Putz

For this year's Christmas season, we plan to begin a new tradition--a Moravian Christmas Putz (pronounced "poots") display.

A Moravian Christmas putz is more than a nativity scene. It is a depiction of the whole story of Jesus' birth.

Donated supplies needed:

- 2 bags craft moss
- 2 pounds sand
- 2 strings of white indoor Christmas lights (50 & 75 bulbs)
- Extension cord - 20'

Please see Lori Groves if you wish to help donate supplies or help set up this project in late November.

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee has been designating a suggested area of interest or recipients for each quarter of the year to try to inspire ideas for Request for Memorial Funds. For this quarter of 2024, we have decided to focus on animals, shelters and rescue organizations. Many of these groups operate on shoestring budgets based largely on donations and we have the ability to help these stewards of God's creatures. As always, we look at each request for Memorial Funds and appropriately vet (no pun intended) the organization who will receive the funds to determine if their funds go to the work of the organization or to salaries of executives or advertising campaigns. Please forward any request for these groups or any other request for Memorial Funds to Judy Smith, Linda Ertel or Lou Bell..

Bishop-elect for Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

The Rev. Bryan Penman was elected in May as the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's next bishop.

Bishop-elect Penman will assume office on September 1, succeeding The Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Davenport. He will be installed on Saturday, Sept. 14 (time and place to be determined).

(information courtesy of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod email, May 7, 2024)



PRAYER CONCERNS as of July 2024

(* = new addition to list)

God's Protection and Safety:

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

Petty Officer First Class Abigail L. Gall, US Coast Guard, daughter of Diane & Chris Gall

CAPT. Walker Gall, US Air Force, son of Diane & Chris Gall

God's Healing:

Parishioners: Mary Long, Norm Driscoll, Dave Reice, Heather Jerasa, Eleanor Peitzman, Dave Leslie, Ron Beerkircher, June Bair, Sheryl Gladfelter, Reed Jerasa, Janet Owens, Don Jerasa, Kim Jerasa, Jim Lynch, Mary Ettore.

God's Healing:

Friends and family:

*Marlon Cortolean (friend of Deb Detweiler), Emily Kuykendall (daughter of Bev Gottshall), Joseph Ferry, Heidi Beason and Ruth Miller (friends of Rita Bixler), Shirley Treichler (sister of Hope Garrett), Edward McCormick (cousin of Pastor Miller), The Rev. Erika Wesch (Conference Dean), Rich Welsh and John Moll (friends of Wally Simpkins), Keith Lewis (brother of Lori Lombardo), Tessa Bair (granddaughter of June Bair), Butch Trucksess (brother-in-law of Donna Blackburn), Bill Treichler (brother of Hope Garrett), David Hallman (friend of Rita Bixler), Judy Johnson (daughter of Marv & Betty Rohrs), Tammy Owens (daughter-in-law of Janet Owens), Adele Hodgman (cousin of Pastor Miller), Rhelda Warriner (sister of Rita Bixler), 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 mother-in-law), Jane Hastings (friend of Deb Detweiler), Jim Trucksess (nephew 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), 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 and Ethel Geist** (Lutheran Community at Telford), **Esther Saylor and Tillie Murray** (Hidden Meadows on the Ridge).

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

Chase Yarns (nephew of Tammy Miskowski), Amos Good (nephew of Joan & Jerry Gerhart); Helene Bell (mother of Lou Bell), Denise J. Spier (daughter of Leroy & Shirley Gladfelter), Sara Beaumont Barton, +Kerry Keel Furiga, +Sandie Driscoll, Sue Warfield (friend of Donna Blackburn), Holly Seward (Jim Seward's sister-in-law), Larry Donis (uncle of Lori Lombardo), +Janet Nebhut, Elsie Stoud (Deb Detweiler's sister), +Norman Geist, Herb Brenner (brother -in-law of Laurel Tackett), Melanie Lewis (sister-in-law of Lori Lombardo).

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

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Church office closed	2 Church office closed	3
4 10 am outdoor Worship Service	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9 am Worship Service	12	13 Church office closed	14 Church office closed	15 Church office closed	16 Church office closed	17
18 9 am Worship Service	19 7 pm Council meeting	20 Newsletter input due	21	22	23	24
25 9 am Worship Service	26 Newsletter mailed	27	28	29	30	31

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – August 2024

Date	Time	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture/ Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
Aug 4	10:00 am Outdoor Service	E & S Rebnegger	N/A	N/A	P Abaza	P Abaza	R Bixler & L Lombardo	J Snider & S Davenport
Aug 11	9:00 am Service	J & J Gerhart	Lisa Bell	P Dowse	K Rebnegger	Lou Bell	K Park & L Ertel	P Dowse & N Driscoll
Aug 18	9:00 am Service	D & S Texter	J Seward	D Seward	J Smith	P Tackett	P Dowse & E Rebnegger	D & S Texter
Aug 25	9:00 am Service	G & E Miller	E Park	F Park	T Daubert	L Groves	P Abaza & E Rebnegger	R Bixler & J Smith
Sept 1	9:00 am Service	E & S Rebnegger	D Texter	N Driscoll	L Ertel	P Tackett	D & S Texter	J Snider & S Davenport
Sept 8	10:00 am Outdoor Service & picnic	D & S Texter	N/A	N/A	S Fischer	S Fischer	R Bixler & L Lombardo	P Dowse & N Driscoll

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.