

The Fishnet

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hilltown, PA
February 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 and on St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hilltown, PA YouTube page after the Service.

Ash Wednesday falls on February 14, Valentine's Day, this year. I'll say more about that in a moment. Ash Wednesday is early because Easter is early, falling on March 31. The formula for determining the date of Easter was developed by a gathering of bishops in the fourth century. That gathering was called the Council of Nicaea, which was also responsible for the Nicene Creed. (Nicaea was an ancient Greek city in what is now modern Turkey.) Because the early church was observing Easter on a variety of different days, the bishops decided to impose some uniformity on determining the date of Easter. As such, Easter is "the Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox" and may occur no sooner than March 22 and no later than April 25. This made Constantine, the Roman

emperor newly converted to Christianity, happy.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a somber season of self-reflection and repentance. In the early church, Lent was a time when converts to the Christian faith were instructed and prepared for baptism and confirmation at Easter. In the Middle Ages, the season took on a much more penitential tone. Concerned that a legalistic preoccupation with fasting and other Lenten practices would lead Christians to think that they were saved by good works, the Lutheran reformers, while retaining Lent, emphasized, as an alternative, the grace of God's Word in the suffering and death of Christ.

Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fell on the same day in 2018, and that was the first time since 1945. Both days are steeped in long-established tradition. How then do we mix the ashes and solemnity of Ash Wednesday with the hearts and romance of Valentine's Day? Here are some thoughts:

- Remember that you cannot spell Va**LENT**ine's Day without spelling Lent. (That was an easy one, but perhaps not very helpful.)
- Find out what you can about St. Valentine, reportedly a third century bishop martyred in Rome for his love and devotion to Jesus.
- Observe Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 13, and Ash Wednesday on February 14, a suggestion from some Roman Catholic sources.
- Explore how both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are linked by love. Some of our Lenten hymns highlight the centrality of God's love for all: ELW 322, *Oh, love, how deep,*

how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake; ELW 323, God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save, that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive; and ELW 343, My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

I invite you to join us this **Ash Wednesday**, February 14, for the Service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m.

Following that, I invite you to join us for our **Midweek Services** (Evening Prayer) at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays in Lent. Our preaching series focuses on *Questions We Dare to Ask*:

- February 14, "How do we know God exists?"
- February 21, "Why did God put us on earth?"
- February 28, "Why does God put us in community?"
- March 6, "Why do bad things happen?"
- March 13, "Why did Jesus have to die on a cross?"
- March 20, "What is heaven like?"

Looking ahead! We worship on **Palm Sunday**, March 24, at 9:00 a.m.; **Maundy Thursday**, March 28, at 7:00 p.m.; **Good Friday**, March 29, 7:00 p.m.; and **Easter Sunday**, at 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. Watch for more information.

May God's love and peace be yours in these closing days of Epiphany and coming days of Lent!

Pastor Raymond Miller

Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)

February 14	7:00pm - Ash Wednesday
February 19	7:00pm – Council meeting
February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20	7:00pm - Midweek Lenten Evening Prayer
March 11	7:00pm – Worship & Music meeting
March 18	7:00pm – Council meeting
March 24	9:00am – Palm Sunday
March 28	7:00pm – Maundy Thursday Service
March 29	7:00pm – Good Friday Service
March 31	7:00am – Easter Sunrise Service
March 31	10:00am - Easter Service

Inclement Weather Cancellation

If inclement weather is predicted, Pastor and the Council President will make the decision on cancellation by Saturday evening, thus allowing a DialMyCall message to go to each parishioner will before Sunday morning.

Welcome New Council members and officers

New Church Council members – Tammy Daubert, Linda Ertel, and Evelyn Miller – were installed by Pastor Miller at the January 7, 2024 Service.

At the January 15 Council meeting, new officers were elected. They are: Scott Fischer, President; Lisa Bell – Vice-President; Linda Ertel – Secretary; Karin Rebnegger – Financial Secretary.

Special thanks to Council members who served two terms and left Council this year: Rick Daubert, Diane Gall, and Ken Shanks. Ken will remain as Congregational Treasurer.

Lenten Midweek Evening Prayer Services

Beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 14), Pastor Miller will follow the theme “Questions We Dare to Ask.” Some questions will be: How do we know God exists? Why did God put us on earth? Why does God put us in community? Why do bad things happen? Why did Jesus have to die on a cross? What is heaven like?

Do you dare to listen and learn? Come out, join Wednesday evening Lenten Services, and be challenged by the daring questions Pastor will pose.

Memorial Committee

In the last quarter of 2023, the Memorial Committee began the idea of offering an area of general interest for the congregation to submit requests for the use of Saint Peter’s Memorial Funds. The first category suggested was Military and Veterans. The committee received several requests from congregants and the Committee recommended to the Council all the requests be given to the various organizations. The Council also approved all of these requests.

The Memorial Committee would like to build on this momentum and for the first quarter of 2024, we have decided on the category of Youth and Children. One of the yearly recipients of Memorial Funds is the Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center which provides a child friendly environment to assist in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and provide advocacy and counseling for child victims and witnesses of crime. Please give serious consideration and submit any requests for Memorial Funds for any Child or Youth based organization or program that you know of which can use financial support.

Thank you. Let’s keep working to make thoughtful use of our resources for the betterment of our Church, Community and World.

Canned and dry goods for FISH

Canned and dry goods donations may be placed in the marked receptacle under the mail boxes in the hallway. FISH remains in dire need of canned goods so every single can helps!

Where donations go and how they assist

On December 29, 2023, Ruby and I had the honor of joining the Warminster Veteran’s Breakfast Group, (45 Veterans and their spouses, approximately 60 folks in all, from all branches of the military and as far back as WWII to present day military) at the Eagle Diner in Warminster, PA. I was told if I would get up and say a few words about St. Peter’s and the “Hail to Our Heroes” fundraiser they would buy us breakfast. While I am not a seasoned speaker, I could not pass up the offer. My intention was to get up and present the Veteran’s each with their own Wawa gift card courtesy of St. Peter’s.

As I stood to describe our church and the fundraiser, a woman came to stand next to Ruby and I. She took the bag with the gift cards and stood to speak to the crowd.

She explained she was the wife of the leader of the group and the gift cards were going to go to Needy Veteran families. She explained that the families are vetted each year for their military service and their financial need. She told stories of a single Dad of two kids, who was diagnosed with cancer and he had to cut back his working hours due to his cancer treatments. The Warminster Veterans Breakfast Group bought Christmas gifts for him and his family. She told a story of a Mom in the Army whose husband lost his job right before Christmas, and the WVBG bought gifts and food so their family could celebrate Christmas this year. They helped 17 families which included 35 kids in all. I was so touched that these folks who selflessly served their country, would pass along our gift to others who were in "greater need" as the leader told me.

Your Wawa gift cards are going to those Needy Veteran families to start the New Year with a tank of gas or a quick meal, so they know they are not forgotten. Thank you all at St. Peter's who helped make this year's "Hail to Our Heroes" another success. Thank you for the privilege of representing St. Peter's at the event. I am so humbled and proud to be connected to both St. Peter's and the Warminster Veteran's Breakfast Group.

Sincerely,
Diane Gall

Congregational Staff

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

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

Lisa Bell, Vice-President (term ends December 2024) 1st Term

Linda Ertel, Secretary (term ends December 2026) 1st Term

Karin Rebnegger, Financial Secretary (term ends December 2024) 1st Term

Tammy Daubert (term ends December 2026) 1st Term

Lori Groves (term ends December 2025) 1st Term

Evelyn Miller (term ends December 2024) 1st Term

Dave Reice (term ends December 2025) 1st Term

Judy Smith (term ends December 2024) 1st Term

Ken Shanks, Treasurer (non-voting position)



PRAYER CONCERNS as of January 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: 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:

Rich Welsh (friend of Wally Simpkins), John Moll (friend 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 & Shirley Treichler), Diana Christianson (niece of Elaine, BBLC), Helene Bell (mother of Lou Bell), Denise Sanders (friend of Deb Detweiler), Patti Stover (coworker of Deb Detweiler), 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:

*+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), +Julia Detweiler, Mary A Reice (mother of Dave Reice), Robert Bell (father of Lou Bell), **[+indicates a member of St. Peter's. Names will stay on the printed list for 1 year]**

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9 am Worship Service	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9 am Worship Service	12	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 pm Service	15 Newsletter input due	16	17
18 9 am Worship Service	19 7 pm Council meeting	20	21 7 pm - Lent Evening Prayer Service	22 Newsletter mailed	23	24
25 9 am Worship Service	26	27	28 7 pm - Lent Evening Prayer Service	29		

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – February 2024

Date	Time	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture/ Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
Feb 4	9:00 am	J & D Snyder	J Seward	D Seward	J Smith	S Fischer	D & S Texter	J Snider & S Davenport
Feb 11	9:00 am	D & S Texter	P Dowse	L Groves	J Snider	K Shanks	R Bixler & L Lombardo	P Dowse & N Driscoll
Feb 14 Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm				T Daubert	S Fischer	E Rebnegger	
Feb 18	9:00 am	S & E Rebnegger	Lisa Bell	D Gall	Lou Bell	Lou Bell	K Park & L Ertel	D & S Texter
Feb 25	9:00 am	J & J Gerhart	E Park	F Park	L Ertel	P Tackett	P Dowse & E Rebnegger	R Bixler & J Smith
Mar 3	9:00 am	J & D Snyder	D Texter	L Lombardo	J Smith	K Shanks	P Abaza & E Rebnegger	J Snider & 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.