

The Fishnet

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hilltown, PA
July/August 2025



Flowers planted by the 4H clubs that meet at St. Peter's

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 Message

In July and August we enter the peacefulness of summer. Despite the fact that, in today's world, we often find ourselves "busy" no matter what time of year it is, the church year seems to hit a certain lull in the summer months – no big holy days or liturgical festivals, just the Sundays after Pentecost, one after another. Yet, we need this "down" time as we catch our breath to ponder where our lives are headed and consider what options lie before us. No doubt, the early and medieval designers of the church year, living in the hot and humid Mediterranean world, recognized that the summer was an ideal time for a break from the normal "hustle and bustle."

During the summer months, I wish you safe traveling, pleasant sojourns, opportunities perhaps to do something different, and a chance for rest and reflection. Wherever you find yourself, remember the love of Christ that lives in us, through us, and for us. I echo for you what the Apostle Paul proclaimed to the saints at Ephesus, "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." *Ephesians 3:18-19*

May our Lord Jesus Christ watch over you and protect you this summer and always as he fills you with his love and peace!

Here Are a Few Items of Note This Summer

Join us for outdoor worship at the pavilion, weather permitting, on Sundays, July 6, August 10, and September 7, all beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Deacon Kathie Afflerbach will lead worship on Sunday, July 13, at 9:00 a.m., while Pastor Miller is away.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly gathers July 28 to August 2 in Phoenix, Arizona. On the agenda is the election of a new Presiding Bishop and a new Secretary. The proceedings are available by livestream at the ELCA website, elca.org. Reports are also available at that website. Please keep the assembly in your prayers.

Join us for the Hymn Sing on Sunday, August 3, at 9:00 a.m., while Pastor Miller is away.

The Worship and Music Committee plans to meet on Monday, August 4, at 7:00 p.m.
Pastor Raymond Miller

Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)

June 29	9:00 am	Service
July 6	10:00 am	Outdoor Service
July 13	9:00 am	Service
July 20	9:00 am	Service
July 27	9:00 am	Service
August 3	9:00 am	Hymn Sing Sunday Service
August 4	7:00 pm	Worship & Music meeting
August 10	10:00 am	Outdoor Service
August 17	9:00 am	Service
August 18	7:00 pm	Council meeting
August 24	9:00 am	Service
September 7	10:00 am	Outdoor Service

(There will be no Council meeting in July)

Outdoor Services

This summer's outdoor Services will be July 6, August 10, and September 7.

The three outdoor Services will start at 10:00 am.

Please bring your favorite lawn chair and a sun hat (if desired).

Should it rain on an outdoor Service Sunday or in the event of an excessive heat warning, we will worship indoors. The Service time remains at 10:00am.

Hymn Sing

A hymn sing will occur on Sunday, August 3.

Did you fill out the request form yet? It's not too late.

And don't worry if your favorite hymn isn't in the August 3 Service. There will be a future hymn sing and the hymns not used in the August 3 Service will be used later.

Newsletters

This newsletter combines two months: July and August.

The first fall newsletter will be sent the latter part of August for September.

The weekly announcement page in the bulletin is always your "go to" source of upcoming events. Please read the weekly announcements carefully.

Church office hours

The Parish Administrator is in the office on Monday and Wednesday from 9am to 2pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 11:30am.

However, the Parish Administrator may leave early if work is finished. But she is definitely in the office in the mornings, Monday through Thursday.

Animal Blessing photo request

Happy Summer, everyone. My girlfriend, Noelle, and I (Max) hope you are enjoying some sun. Now that you have more free time, we would like to give you just a little, but important assignment.

Many of you are aware that the first Sunday in October is our yearly time to celebrate the animals, big and small, in your lives. It is a time to reflect on the importance of God's creatures.

Now comes your assignment. For this celebration, we need as many pictures of as many different types of creatures as possible. For example, pictures of your pets, past and present, wildlife, or any other creature you can get a picture of. Please feel free to reach out to your friends and family, so that their animals may be included.

I know you're wondering, "What do I do once I get all of these fabulous pictures?" Well, I'm glad you asked. There are many different ways you give me your picture for the slide show.

1. You can email me at BlessingswithMax@gmail.com (of course I have my own email address. What cat doesn't.)
2. 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.
3. Finally, no picture, no problem. You can place a note with your animal's name in Judy Smith's mailbox.

I just ask that no matter how you turn in your pictures, if your animals have names, include them with the picture so that my people can label them correctly in the slideshow.

I also request that all pictures be turned in by September 1st in order for them to be processed by October, as there are many steps and people involved.

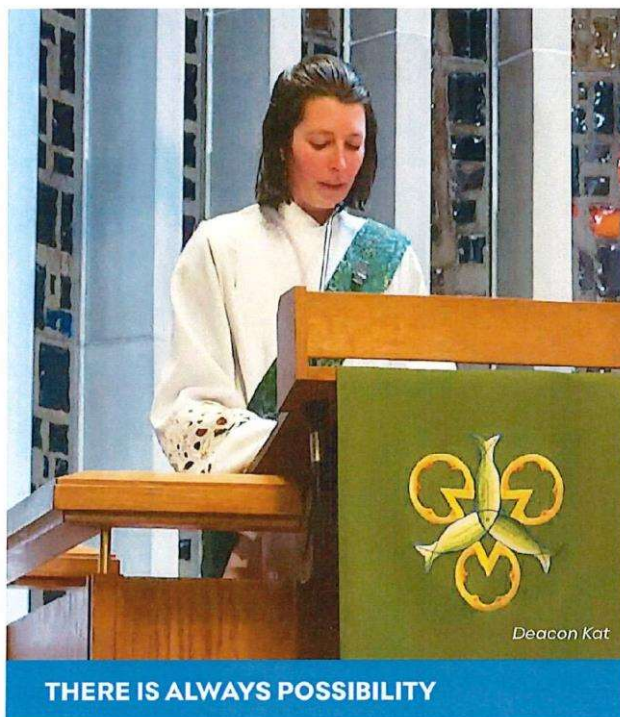
FISH continues to need canned and dry goods

Canned and dry goods donations continue to be needed by FISH. Please help our local food pantry.

More than ever, with Federal funding cut to many nonprofits and the ever-increasing rise of simple grocery items, food pantries are challenged to assist those who need additional food and dry goods items.

Please help in your own way. A can or two or three of beans (watch for those sales!); a box of pasta; a can of diced tomatoes (which can be used in a variety of ways) – think of those individuals who could really use your help.

Thank you!



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is turning the challenges of a leadership shortage and a changing religious landscape into an opportunity by launching 6261 Ministry Communities, named for six congregations coming together to share two pastors, six lay ministers and one deacon. The result is one sustainable ministry community that shares a ministry focus and is better able to serve its community. Deacon Kathleen ("Kat") Tigerman, whose position as the synod's director for evangelical mission is funded through your gifts to Where Needed Most, distills the project to hope: "We wanted our churches to thrive, not just survive."

Deacon Kat says that 6261 Ministry Communities began with a simple idea: "All of our congregations have strengths, and they can do so much more when they share their strengths with each other." She likens this approach to a shared meal: "We put everything on the table. We don't ask what's on just our plate; we look at what we all bring to share." Six churches might share not only staff and a ministry focus but also programming, worship resources, boards or even choirs.



Each ministry community hosts activities, including worship, at different times and locations throughout the week, so the Innovation team of the ELCA churchwide organization, funded by your gifts to Where Needed Most, is developing an app to help people find programs that interest them and work for their schedules. As Innovation partner Sarah Weaver remembers, "We learned about each church and their needs, then asked, 'How can we use technology to meet these needs in a way that works for these people?'"

6261 Ministry Communities is still quite new, but the synod hopes to expand the concept to connect 120 congregations across 20 ministry communities by 2029. Deacon Kat sees 6261 as a move away from scarcity to an embrace of God's abundance: "When we come together with the expectation that we can meet all of our needs, it is a very different conversation. ... **Yes, there is sacrifice, but there is always possibility.**"

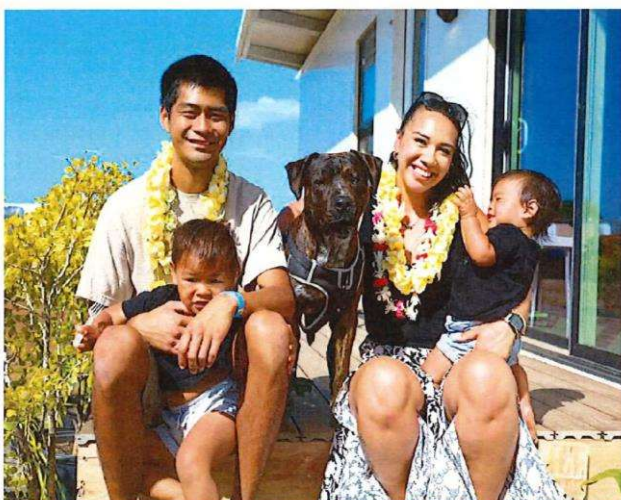
IN 2024, YOUR GIFTS TO WHERE NEEDED MOST PROVIDED:

113
seminary students
with ELCA Fund for
Leaders scholarships.

25
new-start
congregations or ministries
the ability to serve
their communities.

700
young adults
the chance to connect to the ELCA through
25 Gather small groups (and 400 to attend
the first-ever Young Adult Gathering).

340
grants
to rural and urban ministries exploring new,
innovative ways to serve their communities
through ELCA New Ministry Development
and Evangelism.



BUILDING BACK STRONGER

Before the smoke cleared from Maui's devastating wildfires, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) began planning its response in support of its community. Within four months, CNHA served almost 1 out of every 4 residents in the area. It also recognized that recovery efforts would take years because residents were without homes or even basic services, so it launched the Kāko'o Maui Relief & Aid Services Center, thanks to a grant from Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) that was funded directly by your gifts.

Your support allows CNHA to focus on providing supplies, housing and support to its community. It also ensures that this work is staffed and led entirely by Native Hawaiians and local residents, who know their community and its needs best. Community care navigator Kapili Akima says this provides a necessary sense of home: "When you get here, you're going to feel like you're at home. That's our goal: we want to make sure this is a place where locals can come to and everyone they'll see here is family."

For one local resident, the center's impact is as simple as it is profound: "I appreciate actually being treated as a person, not as someone who was displaced."

Be sure to attend the next **FIRESIDE CHAT** for more stories from around the church. Join us on **JULY 10** to hear from Global Mission!



A primary focus of the center going forward will be building homes, which were in short supply even before the wildfires. Thanks to your support of LDR, the center is not only housing more than 900 people but also building 126 modular homes and refurbishing 450 homes, ensuring that those who lost their possessions can know stability as well as comfort when they are able to move back. "These are not just homes, they are actually symbols of hope, endurance, and a testament to what's possible when we all come together," says Kūhiō Lewis, chief executive officer for CNHA.

"With a long journey ahead of us, empowering the people of Maui is the key to keeping them here," Lewis says. Your gifts to LDR allow CNHA not only to meet its community's immediate needs but also to dream about and realize its future in the years to come. One sign of hope for Maui's future came in CNHA's short-term housing solutions program: one family welcomed a healthy new baby with all needs met and a caring community all around.

THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT IN 2024

World Hunger supported programs being carried out in

62

countries and U.S. states and territories.

40

countries and U.S. states and territories.



24 

young adults served in 6 countries around the world through Young Adults in Global Mission.

Lutheran Disaster Response coordinated responses in

53

countries and U.S. states and territories.

36

countries and U.S. states and territories.



101 

missionary families accompanied our neighbors in 35 countries.

PRAYER CONCERNS as of June 22, 2025

(* = 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: *Leroy Gladfelter, Bill Gottshall, Ed Hardy, John Snyder, Sheryl Gladfelter, Spencer Butterwick, Kim Jerasa, Dave Reice, Heather Jerasa, Eleanor Peitzman, June Bair, Reed Jerasa, Don Jerasa, Jim Lynch, Mary Ettore.

God's Healing:

Friends and family:

Brendan Rush (grandson of Norm Driscoll), Vicki Matott (Deb Detweiler friend), The Rev. John Heidgerd (Emmanuel Lutheran, Souderton), Charlotte Hacker (sister-in-law of Jerry & Joan Gerhart), Franz Grove (friend of Donna Blackburn), Jean Mood (friend of Janet Owens), Robyn Gulick (granddaughter of Janet Owens), Jim Fryling (Jerry & Joan Gerhart's cousin), Tom Korbas (Jerry & Joan Gerhart's brother-in-law), Marlon Cortolean (Deb Detweiler's friend), Emily Kuykendall (Bev Gottshall's daughter), Heidi Beason, Rochelle Fly, and Ruth Miller (friends of Rita Bixler), Shirley Treichler (Hope Garrett's sister), Rich Welsh and John Moll (Wally Simpkins' friends), Keith Lewis (Lori Lombardo's brother), Tessa Bair (June Bair's granddaughter), Butch Trucksess (Donna Blackburn's brother-in-law), Bill Treichler (Hope Garrett's brother), David Hallman (Rita Bixler's friend), Judy Johnson (Marv & Betty Rohrs' daughter), Tammy Owens (Janet Owens' daughter-in-law), Rhelda Warriner (Rita Bixler's sister), Lindsey Hollingsworth (Lori Groves' niece), Caitlin (Cate) Fishman (Lori Groves' relative), Jim Trucksess (Donna Blackburn's nephew), Ann Sellers (Pastor Miller's mother-in-law), Kay Moyer (Hope Garrett's friend), Danni Tyrrel (Kim Jerasa's great-niece), Terri Lewis (Lori Lombardo cousin), Terri Jewett-Larkin (Patti Dowse's sister), Aidan Drakeley (Carol Barringer's grandson), Beverly Goheen (Maureen Simpkins' sister), George Yarns (Tammy Daubert's father), Pat Daubert (Rick Daubert's sister).

God's Comfort & Peace:

For our homebound members: **Joe Haenn** (Lutheran Community at Telford), **Esther Saylor and Tillie Murray** (Hidden Meadows on the Ridge), **Ethel Geist** (Arden Court, King of Prussia), **Catherine Truesdell** (Lansdale), **Mary Long** (Park Manor, Quakertown), **Janet Owens** (Liberty Point, Doylestown)

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

Dave Yarns (brother of Tammy Daubert), Susan Smolin (daughter of Joan Johnson), Gary Nemec (father of Kelly Florentino, Katie Poust, and Kristine Martin), Paul Hershey (Chris Fellman's father), +Marie Slack, +Lorraine Leslie, Joseph Ferry, Richard Bair (June Bair brother-in-law), +Ron Beerkircher.

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

July 2025

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

August 2025

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

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – July/August 2025

Date	Time	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture/ Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
June 29	9:00 am Service	J & J Gerhart	D Seward	J Seward	J Snider	L Groves	P Abaza & D Detweiler	D & S Texter
July 6	10:00 am Outdoor Service	D & S Texter	N Driscoll	D Gall	Lou Bell	Lou Bell	R Bixler & L Lombardo	
July 13	9:00 am Service	S & E Rebnegger	E Park	F Park	K Rebnegger	P Abaza	L Ertel & K Park	R Bixler & J Smith
July 20	9:00 am Service	D Detweiler	D Seward	J Seward	J Snider	P Tackett	P Dowse & E Rebnegger	
July 27	9:00 am Service	J & J Gerhart	D Texter	P Abaza	P Abaza	L Groves	P Abaza & D Detweiler	J Snider & S Davenport
August 3	9:00 am Hymn Sing	D & S Texter	L Groves	N Driscoll	L Ertel	P Tackett	D & S Texter	
August 10	10:00 am Outdoor Service	D Detweiler	L Lombardo	Lisa Bell	T Daubert	Lou Bell	R Bixler & L Lombardo	K Rebnegger & N Driscoll
August 17	9:00 am Service	S & E Rebnegger	E Park	F Park	J Smith	P Abaza	L Ertel & K Park	
August 24	9:00 am Service	J & J Gerhart	D Seward	J Seward	J Snider	L Groves	P Dowse & E Rebnegger	R Bixler & J Smith
August 31	9:00 am Service	D & S Texter	Lisa Bell	D Gall	Lou Bell	Lou Bell	P Abaza & D Detweiler	