**Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church LC-MS**

Monthly Newsletter --- August 2022

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“THE ROCK and THE SWORD”

“Built upon the Rock of Christ and wielding the

Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.”

**From the Pastor:**

**Sponsors**

From ancient times it has been a custom of the Church to appoint sponsors for Baptismal candidates and catechumens. Most people know about those for Baptism, but few remember a time when someone received a sponsor for catechumens. What is a sponsor supposed to do? They are to confess the one true faith drawn from the Scriptures, expressed in the Apostle’s Creed, and taught in the Small Catechism. They are to pray for those whom they sponsor and encourage them in their instruction and nurture in the Christian faith. Additionally, they are to encourage the catechumen(s) toward the faithful reception of the Lord’s supper. They are also to be an example of the holy life of faith and service to their neighbor.
 It may not be common to receive another sponsor when one begins catechesis in the church, but would it be so bad? Often times those sponsors who were given at baptism are not present as the child grows up in the church. It isn’t that these cease to be the

sponsors, but they are no longer visibly present to be an example of holy living and Christian love and mercy.

 While teaching the faith in word is important and cannot be diminished, we rightly note that sponsorship adds an additional component to Christian catechesis. Now, the catechumen has someone in addition to his/her mother and father to look toward as a right example of the faith.

 Have you considered offering to be a sponsor while these children and adults go through catechesis? You should! Your prayers and example of holy living do make a difference not only to the catechumen you may sponsor, but help encourage your own continued study of the Word as you grow with them and watch them develop questions around the faith.

 We will begin classes starting this fall and spring. Please consider this month of August how you might serve this family of Christ as a sponsor

In Christ,

Pastor Deal

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 07.24.2022 $169,320 (84.66%)

Orange: Remaining

$30,680(15.34%)

**Total Contributions**

**as of 07.24.2022: $117,634**

**(58.81%)**

**Previous: $117,634 (58.81%)**

**New: $10,836 (5.42%)**

**Remaining: $71,530 (35.76%)**

**It’s not too late to submit a Capital Campaign pledge card!** Pledge cards are available on the table outside Pastor’s office. If circumstances have changed and you need to update your pledge card, please see Nancy Robertson. Updated pledges help our Trustees plan more effectively and efficiently.

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Submissions for the September issue of **“The Rock and the Sword”** newsletter are due to the secretary’s office Monday, August 22nd at noon. This includes meeting dates and times for the church calendar.

**TRUSTEES’ UPDATE**

 **By Mike Flaugher, Chairman**

Progress continues on many of the Capital Campaign projects as well as with general maintenance of the church property. Most notably, the following have been completed, are scheduled, or are in progress.

* Mold remediation in attic. A company from Pittsburgh was in to assess the mold issue in the upper areas of the old church. We await their quote.
* Fellowship Hall floor stripping and waxing was scheduled for 7/26 & 7/27/22. It is estimated this process would take two or three days.
* Parking lot asphalt sealing will be scheduled for August if the weather cooperates.
* Penn Ohio Singers have signed off on the Facilities Usage agreement. They will be practicing Tuesdays at 7 pm weekly in the Fellowship Hall area.
* Water pressure issues: Michael Laird has a potential solution and will be working on this problem.
* Courtyard Landscaping: Quote is out to a landscape company to address the lawn in courtyard and to add some topsoil to the north wall of the church to level the north side yard out.
* Fellowship Hall Kitchen Dishwasher has been removed.
* The flowers and bushes around the church have been well taken care of this past month. Thanks to those who worked to make it look good.

The Trustees will next meet Tuesday, August 9th at 6 pm in the Library. Please notify me if unable to be in attendance.

**CELEBRATING IN AUGUST!**

**Birthdays**

Anthony Bale 8 – 6

Brooke Psznick 8 – 6

Diane Riefstahl 8 – 6

Mildred Elavsky 8 – 8

Anson Holcroft 8 – 20

Alex (Sasha) Carr 8 – 28

Elizabeth Loughan 8 – 30

**Anniversaries**

 Mike & Marie Flaugher 8 – 6

 Jesse & Alyxis Riffle 8 – 7

 Rev. Jacob & Ana Deal 8 – 10

 Rev. Arthur & Evelyn Baisch 8 – 17

 David & Debbie Zurawsky 8 – 18

 Rudy & Jean Tomko 8 – 20

\*If birthdays or anniversaries have been omitted, please let the church office know. Thank You!

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**Pastor Deal** continues to serve as **Vacancy Pastor for All Saints Lutheran Church** in Slippery Rock, PA until further notice. As he must leave shortly following our worship service in order to travel safely to Slippery Rock, Pastor is generally available one hour prior to our Divine Service for those wishing to speak with him.

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**August Secretary’s Office Hours:** During the month of August, the secretary’s office will be open Mondays (8:30-4:30) and Thursdays (8:30-as needed), unless otherwise announced.

Please phone ahead if needing to gain entry to the church to make certain someone is able to let you in.

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**Homebound Members & Friends**

***Please keep the following in your prayers:***

Rudy & Jean Tomko

2629 Romar Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-979-4360

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Betty Ann Wolf

7777 Arthur St., SC

Masury, OH 44438

330-448-1080

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Ed & Millie Zachar

1320 Old Forge Rd.

Niles, OH 44446

330-652-9316

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**LIKE & FOLLOW our Church’s Facebook page (Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church)!**

Remember to like, comment, and share to help us reach as many people as possible.

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**Thank You for Serving in August:**

**Head Elder:** Jonathan Baisch

**Assisting Elder:** Barry Nelson

**Altarware:** (Before service) Diane Riefstahl & Marie Flaugher (08.28); (After service) Evelyn Baisch & Kati Laird

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**Special “thanks”** are extended to Chris Nelson for substituting as our organist when Catherine Carr is not available. We are doubly blessed to have two such talented women in our congregation!

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**Word of Hope: 1-888-217-8679**

The only 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL Hotline that is distinctly Lutheran, bringing healing found in Christ, to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion.

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**ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM (ADF)**

At a previous Voters’ Assembly, voters agreed to continue our membership with the Alliance Defending Freedom Church Alliance (ADF). As part of this alliance, we have access to their lawyers in matters of religious liberty, procedures, and guidelines.

The following case is one in which the ADF was involved. It is cited simply as an educational tool and to let you know the type of work the ADF does.

**Brush & Nib Studio vs City of Phoenix**

Joanna Duka and Breanna Koski co-own Brush & Nib Studio, an upscale hand-painting, hand-lettering, and calligraphy company. They create and sell custom artwork—paintings, prints, business logos, wedding invitations, and more—for clients and their special events.

Soon after they launched Brush & Nib, Joanna and Breanna learned about Phoenix City Code Section 18.4(B).

According to city officials, this law required them to create artwork promoting events and messages that go against their faith, including same-sex marriages. But it doesn’t stop there. The law even prohibited them from explaining that they can only create artwork consistent with their artistic and religious beliefs.

Joanna and Breanna faced up to six months in jail, $2,500 in fines, and three years of probation for each day that they violated this law.

Brush & Nib gladly serves everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, and they create art for many different occasions. But Joanna & Breanna cannot in good conscience promote an event that violates their beliefs.

And they shouldn’t have to. The First Amendment protects everyone’s right to freely to live out their beliefs without government hostility or punishment. There are countless people of goodwill, from faith traditions as diverse as Islam and Christianity, who share Joanna and Breanna’s beliefs about marriage—that it is the union of a man and a woman. No one should be bullied or banished from the marketplace for peacefully living out that belief.

Thankfully, we as Americans don’t have to wait for an unjust and unconstitutional law to be used against us in order to seek relief. Alliance Defending Freedom filed a “pre-enforcement challenge” (a challenge to a law before it is enforced) on Brush & Nib’s behalf, asking the courts to invalidate this unconstitutional application of Phoenix’s law.

Brush & Nib Studio is located in Phoenix, and it challenged Phoenix’s attempt to use its ordinance to compel Joanna and Breanna to create art expressing messages that violate their religious beliefs. But this is not the only law of its kind. ADF has defended creative professionals against similar laws in Colorado, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Washington.

**WHERE DOES THE CASE STAND NOW?**

In 2019 The Arizona Supreme Court Ruled in favor of Brush and Nib recognizing that Phoenix cannot force artist to express messages that violate their religious beliefs.

SOURCE: <https://adflegal.org/blog/5-ws-explaining-brush-nib-studio-case>

**SCRIP Program:**

The next date for **SCRIP orders and payments** is Sunday, August 7th. Checks should be made out to Sts. Peter & Paul’s and are to be given to Matt Berent or placed in the offering plate. You should receive your gift cards the following week.

 Unfamiliar with the SCRIP program? This is a wonderful way to financially donate to our church indirectly! Simply fill out a SCRIP order form (listing dozens of possible gift cards to purchase) and turn it in with payment. You will receive the full value of the gift cards you have ordered with the gift card company paying a percentage of your gift card amount to our church. It’s as simple as that! SCRIP orders are placed once monthly, so plan ahead!

If you should be absent the Sunday on which cards are ready, please see either Jonathan Baisch or Delores Fee after church the following week to get your cards from the church safe

Forms for ordering gift cards are available in both the narthex and on the parking lot entrance sign-in table.

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**REMINDER:** Please let the church office know of any changes to your address, phone, cell phone or your e-mail address!

**TIME TO RELAX AND RECHARGE!**

Pastor Deal and his family will be on vacation August 8 through August 27.

 Please contact Elders Chairman Barry Nelson (724-866-7417) during this time if in need of pastoral care.

 We are grateful to Pastor Baisch, who will be leading our worship in his absence.

**Community Day 2022 Postponed until September**

As announced last month, Community Day 2022 has been postponed until Saturday, September 17th.

 It takes a lot of “hands” to prepare for, operate, and clean up from Community Day. This year’s plans are bigger than ever with the renting of a large tent for our parking lot area and an expansion of our food offerings (roasted chicken on a spit, parslied potatoes, baked beans, hot dogs, and chips).

 If you are able to lend a hand to this community outreach event or would like to donate a basket to be “raffled” off (at no cost!), please speak with Pastor Deal, Jesse Riffle, or Diane Riefstahl.

 Your help will make all the difference!

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**Bible Studies**

The monthly Women’s and Men’s Bible Studies will *not* take place this month due to Pastor Deal’s vacation. As the song says, we’ll “see you in September”.

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Congratulations and Best Wishes go out to **Kati Laird** and **Linda Tomko**, both who have recently retired.

May you have many years of stress-free living ahead of you!

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**Penn-Ohio Singers to use facilities**

Permission was granted by the Trustees to allow the Penn-Ohio Singers to use our Fellowship Hall Tuesdays at 7 pm for practice and to store equipment on site. Following a tour of the lower level, the organization agreed to and signed our Facilities Use form and were officially granted access.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSES FROM JULY**

**FOR ADULTS**

***July 3:*** Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. *Matthew 28:20*

***July 10:*** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  *John 5:8*

**July 17:** For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. *1 Corinthians 1:18*

**July 24:** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. *Mark 13:31*

**July 31:** But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

*2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

**FOR CHILDREN**

**July 3:** The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. *Luke 19:10*

**July 10:** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. *Galatians 6:2*

**July 17:** No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. *Luke 9:62*

**July 24:** Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. *Isaiah 43:1*

**July 31:** Present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. *Romans 6:19*

**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** An **Audit of Deposits** will take place following worship, Sunday, August 21st in the library. If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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Remember the

following in Prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Gerald Arthur, Ellen BaronCA, Lois BortnerCA, Richard Brandes, John Burdette, Catherine Carr, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Kathleen Coughenour, Kim, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, Joseph Fleet, Eddy & Judith Furey, Tim Haenftling, Dale HesseCA, Neil Huston, Barbara Kreske, Michelle KellyCA, Donna Kennedy, Gerald Krivosh, Rev. Ed & Irene Kucera, Jess Lavoie, Paul LucasCA, Sandy Marshall, Ernie Meszaros, David Nelson, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Nancy RobertsonCA, Viola Sakony, Marty Scott, Fred Tonty, and Angela WeserCA.*

**~The Homebound:**  *Rudy & Jean Tomko, Betty Wolf, and Ed & Millie Zachar.*

**~Serving in the Military:**  *Curtis Sinewe and Joshua Solyan.*

**~Community & World Needs:**  *Those suffering from or affected by the coronavirus; those suffering due to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia; those suffering from loss and dislocation because weather disasters; those suffering from addiction and their families; Local, State, and National Government Leaders; safety for all Police Officers, Firefighters, & First Responders; the unemployed; our Third Quarter Local Mission: Support of a Missionary.*

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**REMINDER:** If you would like someone’s name to be added to or deleted from our prayer list, please put a written note in the secretary’s mail slot by the office door.

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Sincere sympathy is extended to the friends and family of **Anthony (Ed) Colt**, husband of the late Anne Colt, who passed away June 30th.

**Our Third Quarter Local Mission is**

**Support of a Missionary.**

Voters will be selecting a Missionary to support at the scheduled Voters’ Assembly, August 14th.

 Let’s help spread the Good News!

 Cards and notes of condolences may be directed to Ms. Sandy Colt, 133 Westminster Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15229.

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**AED UPDATE**

This past spring, Sts. Peter & Paul’s applied to be included in a grant sponsored by the Buhl Regional Foundation to provide free AED devices to non-profit organizations.

 Due to difficulties with supply-chain issues, the AEDs, which were to have arrived in June, are back ordered.

 Training for the use of the device will be scheduled once received.

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**Mission Outreach Project…**

**International Christian Literature Distributors, Inc.** focuses on getting the Bible and study materials to learn the Bible into the hands of Christian leaders in the least-fortunate places of the world. They supply churches and schools of Bible learning throughout the English-speaking world. Copies of old Portals of Prayer are greatly appreciated *(Please note that weekly service bulletins and Advent / Lenten devotions are not accepted).* **Please recycle items by dropping them in the basket in the hallway by the offices. Thank you!**

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Join us following worship, Sunday, August 7th for **Coffee Fellowship**! This month’s sponsors are Jeff & Arlene Sutton.

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If you do not have an email account or do not receive emails from the church but wish to be notified of significant information concerning your fellow church members (such as births or deaths), please put a note in the Secretary’s mail slot asking to receive a phone call. Every attempt will be made to phone you within 24 hours of an email being sent out.

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**We were chosen!** By directing designated Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible Thrivent members choose where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating Lutheran nonprofit organizations and congregations.

 **Many thanks** to Thrivent Financial member **David Williams** who recently directed Choice dollars to our church!

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**Don’t forget!**

* Bylaws & Constitution Committee meeting Monday, August 8th at 7 pm.
* Next Voters’ Assembly: Sunday, August 14th following worship.

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**To listen to Pastor Deal’s sermons, phone 724-347-3620 and press Opt. 6.**

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

The Altar Guild is not holding business meetings during the summer months, but that does not mean that work is not being done!

 During the summer, the polishing committee has met to touch up communion ware. This is done quarterly to keep items in pristine condition.

 A new “easy-care” fair linen covering the parament laying on top of the mensa (table) of our altar was purchased and donated by Judith Furey. Labeled “easy-care”, the fair linen will be easier to maintain than those made from pure linen. The style of the fair linen differs also slightly as it hangs down the sides of the mensa meeting the edge of parament frontal. The beauty of the fair linen was further enhanced by the embroidery of Marie Flaugher with five crosses—one on each top corner and one in the center—representing the five wounds of Christ as he hanged on the cross.

 Further work is in progress creating a burse and veil in the Trinity green color to be used during this season. The burse is the “purse” in which items are placed when communion is prepared during the service. The veil covers the communion items when they are not in use during the Divine Service.

 The next business meeting for the Altar Guild will be Saturday, September 10th. Bible Study will begin at 11 am with the business meeting following. Election of officers will also be held. All women are welcome to attend!



***“REFLECTIONS”*** *by Marie Flaugher*

I keep a lot of quotes and sayings that I see, and after the sermon on July 24, I feel this is so timely!  So humbling.

**A Little Walk Around Yourself**

When you’re criticizing others
And are finding here and there
A fault or two to speak of
Or a weakness you can’t bear.

When you’re blaming someone’s weakness
Or accusing one of pelf
It’s time that you went out
To take a walk around yourself.

There are lots of human failures
In the average of us all,
And lots of grave shortcomings
In the short ones and the tall.

But when we think of evils
Men should lay upon the shelves,
It’s time we all went out
To take a walk around ourselves.

We need so often in this life
This balancing of scales,
This seeing how much in us wins,
And how much in us fails;

But before you judge another
Just to lay him on the shelf–
It would be a splendid plan
To take a walk around yourself.