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

Monthly Newsletter --- January 2023

699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

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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.”

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECTS:**

**A Year of Accomplishments and Planning for the Future**

It is hard to believe that we are already one and a half years into our Capital Campaign fund-raising and corresponding projects! The good news is that we are significantly ahead financially of our intended target at this point as we are approaching hitting 80% of our 3-year fundraising goal of $200,000. This is largely due to individuals fulfilling their pledged obligations and the receipt of unpledged amounts as well.

 Two major projects which had been planned came to fruition in 2022. The first project was the correction of drainage issues around the church. Greenwalt Construction removed the large shrubs in the courtyard and installed and/or repaired drainage lines to move water away from the base of the church building. Greenie Green’s Landscape & Lawncare will be coming in during 2023 to backfill and grade dirt, seed, and fertilize.

 The second, large project which was completed involved treating the older part of the building for mold. This project, completed by Mold Men of Pittsburgh, involved the removal of drop ceilings, building of necessary scaffolding, tearing out of interior roof panels, spraying to kill the mold, and restoration of the drop ceilings. The project was completed over a course of three weeks in December 2023.

 2023 will see the completion of our final, major exterior project which will involve fixing all cracked mortar joints and broken stone on the exterior of the church and sealing the entire outside of the building. This work is scheduled for completion by Anything Masonry and will be completed prior to the work being done by Greenie Green’s Landscape.

 A committee studying possible repairs, replacements, and upgrades to the interior of the church has had its initial meeting. If you should have any items for this committee to consider, please speak with Church Council President, Jonathan Baisch.

 As our campaign continues to progress, please keep the campaign and church leadership in prayer for God’s favor and guidance.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 12.30.2022 $184,320 (92.16%)

Orange: Remaining

$15,680(7.84%)

**Total Contributions**

**as of 12.25.2022:**

**$158,923 (79.46%)**

**Previous: $154,548 (77.27%)**

**New: $4,375 (2.19%)**

**Remaining: $41,077 (22.73%)**

**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 Jonathan Baisch. Updated pledges help our Trustees plan more effectively and efficiently.

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**TRUSTEES** will meet Tuesday, January 10th at 7 pm in the library.

Please let Mike Flaugher know if unable to be in attendance.

**TRUSTEES’ UPDATE**

 **By Mike Flaugher, Chairman**

First of all, A BIG “thank you” to all who helped with decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Regarding the radiators and boiler system: Trustees will have a boiler contractor in to assess the systems and address the inconsistent heating in areas of the church.

The Clover street ramp and steps that were painted with non- slip paint seem to be working out. Feedback of any concerns would be appreciated.

Greenie Greens Landscape and Lawncare has been scheduled for spring of 2023 and will lock in the pricing at the 2022 quoted rate.

Trustees will discuss the replacement / repair of the exit door on the north side of fellowship hall. The bottom is rotted off. A quote is in and will need to be addressed.

Finally, Trustees will be taking down Christmas decorations Saturday, January 14 at 10 am. If able to lend us a hand, it will be greatly appreciated.

 As always, please feel free to speak with a Trustee with any concerns or place a note in my library mailbox.

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Submissions for the February issue of **“The Rock and the Sword”** newsletter are due to the secretary’s office Monday, January 23rd at noon. This includes meeting dates and times for the church calendar.

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Items for the **2022 Annual Report** should be emailed to the secretary’s office (church@saintspeterandpaul.com) no later than Monday, January 9th.

***Please keep the following***

***in your prayers:***

Evelyn Baisch

128 Wilcox Rd.

Austintown, OH 44515

501-253-8292

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Millie Elavsky

1209 Maple Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-342-0345

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Anson & Hank Holcroft

7129 East State St Apt. A

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-342-3077

lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll

Diane Riefstahl

740 Tamplin St.

Sharon, PA 16146

724-456-2081

lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll

Nancy Robertson

P.O. Box 1358

6 Stone Ridge Blvd.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-977-0107

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Viola Sakony

616 Smith Ave.

Sharon, PA 16146

724-272-1905

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Rudy & Jean Tomko

2629 Romar Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-979-4360

lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll

Betty Ann Wolf

7777 Arthur St., SC

Masury, OH 44438

330-448-1080

lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll

Ed & Millie Zachar

1320 Old Forge Rd.

Niles, OH 44446

330-652-9316

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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!

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

Our Food Pantry continues to grow and increase its impact on the economically challenged families of the Shenango Valley. We now provide food boxes to as many as 32 families on a regular basis. We generally are asked to provide emergency boxes to needy families each week, as well.

We pick up food from the Community Food Warehouse in downtown Sharon on the first and third Thursdays of each month. We distribute the food on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Special thanks to Mike Flaugher, Jeff Sutton, Anson Holcroft, Chris Nelson, Pastor Deal, and John Chavara for ‘stepping up’ to help us move forward over the last couple of years as we went through some unexpected changes and challenges. Jerry Krivosh has also recently provided some very valuable assistance, as well.

Extra special thanks to Mike, Jeff and Pastor related to renovating the Food Pantry area with funds provided through a Community Action Program grant. Stop by to see the impressive work these committed volunteers accomplished! Also, a special thank you is extended to the Voters’ Assembly for approving new flooring which was installed by PebbleStone.

As stated in last month’s newsletter, we now ask our members, friends, and supporters to resume Food Pantry contributions to help fund our efforts. Anyone having questions or comments can direct them to Barry Nelson.

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**Church Council** will meet Monday, January 30th at 7 pm. Please email copies of reports to Diane by noon that day.

**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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**CELEBRATING IN JANUARY!**

**Birthdays:**

Mike Flaugher 1 - 4

Gerald Arthur 1- 12

Evelyn Baisch 1 - 15

Rachal Myers 1- 22

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

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**Thank You for Serving in January:**

**Elder:** Jonathan Baisch; **Altarware:** Marie Flaugher and Altar Guild volunteers.

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**Please continue to save pop tabs!**

Collected tabs may be given to Marie Flaugher or left on the table in the library. To date, $18.00 worth of tabs have been cashed in!

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**2023 Church Officers and Boards**

will be installed during the Divine Service Sunday, January 8th.

At this time, we will also be recognizing past church servants including Barry Nelson (Elder), Anson Holcroft (Trustee), Henrietta (Hank) Holcroft (Trustee), and Joani Rice (Finance Staff).

*If anyone’s name has been omitted, please contact Pastor Deal ASAP.*

**BIBLE STUDY TO FOCUS ON**

**MINOR PROPHETS**

The next Sunday morning Bible Study will begin January 15th. Join us at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall as we learn about the 14 Minor Prophets of the Old Testament.

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**OUR 1st QUARTER MISSION:**

**Sts. Peter & Paul’s Annual Community Day**

Our First Quarter Local Mission this year will once again be **Sts. Peter & Paul’s Annual Community Day.** Started in 2017, the purpose of our Community Day has been to provide a safe, family-friendly community gathering for our church members, friends, and neighbors.

 Over the years the event has evolved with our 2022 celebration including chickens roasted over a spit along with several different side dishes, a bounce house for children, crafts for all ages, musical entertainment, and Bingo for adults. Church members have graciously provided raffle baskets for our guests to win.

 If you would like to be involved with this year’s planning, please speak with Pastor Deal, Jesse Riffle, or Diane Riefstahl.

 A date for this year’s event has yet to be set.

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2022 Fourth Quarter Local Mission Dollars Surpass Matching Goal!

Thanks to your generosity, we exceeded our goal of raising $2500 to be matched by an LC—MS Life Grant by raising a total of $2984! This amount, totaling $5484, will be given to Willow Women’s Center allowing them to continue their important mission of protecting the most innocent among us.

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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 recycle items by dropping them in the basket in the hallway by the offices. Thank you!**

**LCEF PROVIDES INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

* One-Year Term Note: With a low $500 minimum to open, you can earn 4% on any investment amount without limit.
* ConnectPLUS: Open to new investors only, this two-year term note earns 4.25% on balances up to $50,000.
* PartnerPLUS: For current LCEF investors, the PartnerPLUS term note offers 4% for two years and 3.75% for four.
* Church Worker Steward Account: An exclusive investment for Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) rostered and lay church workers. Earn 3% on balances up to $50,000.

For more information about the **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**, contact Church Council President, Jonathan Baisch.

**SCRIP Program:**

The next date for **SCRIP orders and payments** is Sunday, January 1st. 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.

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

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**NOTES OF APPRECIATION**

**Hank & Anson Holcroft** wish to sincerely thankall those who have visited, phoned, or sent cards during Anson’s recent illness. Your thoughtfulness has been greatly appreciated!

**Diane Riefstahl** thanks everyone for all their support and prayers during her recent injury and upon the sudden passing of her brother, Don.

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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** A **Quarterly and Monthly Audit** will take place following worship, Sunday, January 22nd in the library. take If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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The **Trustees** have scheduled Saturday, January 14th at 10 am for the un-decorating of the church. Please stop by and lend a hand if able to help!

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**Sincere thanks go out to all those who helped prepare the building for and clean up from the work done by Mold Men of Pittsburgh. It was a herculean undertaking!**

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

2023 Altar Guild meetings will be held the third Saturday of each month unless otherwise announced. Bible Study with Pastor Deal will begin at 1 pm with a business meeting to follow at 2:15 pm. Our first meeting of the new year will be Saturday, January 21.

Many dates are still open for hostessing, which involves supplying a light treat during the meeting.  Coffee and table service is supplied.  Please use sign-up sheet on the AG bulletin board by the library if willing to serve as a hostess.

Altar Guild President Marie Flaugher is still working on scheduling altar ware take down and clean-up after Communion.  You need not be an AG member to help!  Duties consist of washing individual cups, wiping down brassware, and storing the wine and host.  No washing/ironing of linens is involved. Our greatest need is on Audit Sundays (generally the third Sunday of the month).  Please consider helping and contact Marie at 724-301-8278.

Payment of 2023 AG dues ($25/member) is due in January. Half of the dues collected will be given to a chosen charity in October.  Please turn your dues in to AG Treasurer Evelyn Baisch.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!!!!!!

***The following are pictures from the annual ladies’ luncheon sponsored by the altar guild December 3rd.***

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Marie Flaugher puts finishing touches on her veggie kabobs.

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Dolores Fee helps herself to some festive holiday punch.

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Marie leads the gathering in a “left/right” gift exchange.



Plenty of food was enjoyed by all!

**Coffee Fellowship is January 8th!**

Join us following worship, Sunday, January 8th for **Coffee Fellowship.** This month’s sponsor is the Deal family.

 If you would like to be a 2023 Fellowship sponsor, please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Sponsors are asked to bring 2-3 dozen donuts/muffins/treats along with 1-quart juice to the Fellowship Hall kitchen prior to worship. Set-up, clean-up, and the making of coffee will be done for you.

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Remember thefollowing in prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Amy, Gerald Arthur, Evelyn Baisch, Ellen BaronCA, Lois BortnerCA, John Burdette, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Kathleen Coughenour, Kim, Anna Mae Daris, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, Millie Elavsky, Joseph Fleet, Eddy Furey, Tim Haenftling, Austin Hamilton, Anson Holcroft, Neil Huston, Darla Krajci, Barbara Kreske, Michelle KellyCA, Donna Kennedy, Gerald Krivosh, Jess Lavoie, Paul LucasCA, Sandy Marshall, Ernie Meszaros, David Nelson, Linda Parkany, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Nancy RobertsonCA, Viola Sakony, Marty Scott, Kara, Fred Tonty, Angela WeserCA, and Ruth Wolf.*

**~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; the unemployed; our First Quarter Local Mission: Sts. Peter & Paul’s Community Day 2023.*

**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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**DECEMBER BIBLE MEMORY VERSES**

**FOR ADULTS**

**December 4:***If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

**December 11:***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

**December 18:** *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

**December 25:** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

**FOR CHILDREN**

**December 4:***Raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*

*Luke 21:28*

**December 11:***My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

*Luke 1:46-47*

**December 18:** *Prepare the way of the Lord; behold, the Lord God comes with might.  Isaiah 40:3, 10*

**December 25:** *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:14*

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

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**2023 OFFICERS and BOARDS**

Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected by acclamation at the November 20th Voters’ Assembly.

* President: Jonathan Baisch
* Vice President: Matt Berent
* Secretary: Diane Riefstahl
* Treasurer: Rebekah Baisch
* Financial Secretary: Dolores Fee

Trustees: Cheryl Fedele, Mike Flaugher, Michael Laird, Jesse Riffle, and Jeff Sutton

Auditors: Bev Chlpka, Marie Flaugher, Elizabeth Haenftling, Kati Laird, Jerome Thomas

Financial Staff: Rev. Art Baisch, Susan Bender, Nancy Robertson, and Linda Tomko

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**REMINDER:** 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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**Church Office Hours for January** will be flexible and depending on the secretary’s availability.

 Please call ahead if needing someone to let you in to the church to make certain someone is here to let you in.

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**2023 MEETINGS**

**(Subject to Change)**

**Quarterly Treasurer’s Audits**

**(following worship)**

January 22, 2023

April 23, 2023

July 16, 2023

October 22, 2023

**Monthly Audits of Deposits**

**(following worship)**

January 22, 2023

February 19, 2023

March 19, 2023

April 23, 2023

May 21, 2023

June 18, 2023

July 16, 2023

August 27, 2023

September 17, 2023

October 22, 2023

November 26, 2023

December 17, 2023

**Trustees’ Meetings~7 pm**

January 10, 2023

April 11, 2023

June 13, 2023

August 15, 2023

**Council Meetings~7 pm**

January 30, 2023

May 5, 2023

July 24, 2023

October 23, 2023

**Voters’ Assemblies~10 min. after service**

March 5, 2023

June 4, 2023

August 20, 2023

November 19, 2023