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

Monthly Newsletter --- June 2022

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Phone: 724.347.3620 (Opt. 2, Pastor Deal; Opt. 3, Office)

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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:**

**Four Questions to Guide Your Prayers**

On Rogate (“to ask”) Sunday, I gave a sermon about prayer. People have come up and asked me more about “praying on an empty stomach”. It seemed to make sense and hit home with a lot of folks. The idea for this came truly from Martin Luther, who one day, the story goes, was having his hair cut by his barber, Peter Beskendorf. Peter asked him, “Dr. Luther, how do you pray?” Luther replied, like any pastor might do, with a 40-page letter! Rather than have you read this letter (though it is worthwhile), here is a takeaway from Luther’s Bible Study on prayer.

 For an easy way to formulate prayer, Luther suggested that one should consider a bible passage to meditate on, ask four questions of the text, and weave these answers into the prayer. Here are the four questions:

* What does this Bible lesson teach me to do?  (Main Theme)
* What does it teach me to be thankful for? (Specific Gospel)
* What does it teach me to confess? (Specific Sin)
* What does it teach me to ask for? (Sanctification)

 Not only do these questions help us with developing a wonderful life of prayer, but they are also a great way to study the Bible.

 Let’s very briefly take an example of a text to work through. Let’s look at the text from Rogate: John 16:23-30.

*23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. 25 “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” 29 His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.”*

**What does this Bible lesson teach me to do?  (Main Theme)**

This lesson teaches us that those who love Christ also love the Father, and the Father himself loves them and will give to them those things which they ask for in His name. We may confidently pray, saying, “Our Father,” because we have become the children of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**What does it teach me to be thankful for? (Specific Gospel)**

We should be thankful that we have access to the Father through Jesus Christ and can be confident that the Father will hear our prayers for the sake of Jesus, who has merited for us our salvation. By Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, we have been reconciled (brought back together) to the Father, for our sins had separated us from Him and had turned us away from petitioning God for needs of body and soul.

**What does it teach me to confess? (Specific Sin)**

We should confess that we are often quick to ask for physical things like what we should eat, what we should wear, and the like (Luke 12), but slow to consider what God has promised us according to His Word (First Commandment). We also should confess that we do not use God’s name rightly all the time to pray, praise, and give thanks (Second Commandment). When we pray, God desires us to have confidence in Him so that we also believe that He will hear our prayers and grant them all according to His will.

**What does it teach me to ask for? (Sanctification)**

This teaches us to seek our joy from God and not from what we have before us. Every good gift and every perfect gift are from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. God is the one who makes us holy, by daily and richly forgiving all our sins and keeping us together with the whole church on earth in Jesus Christ. Whenever we consider how we might be filled with true joy, we should ask of God to purify our hearts and our desires.

In Christ,

Pastor Deal

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**SCRIP Program:**

The next date for **SCRIP orders and payments** is Sunday, June 5th. 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.

 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 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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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 05.22.2022 $169,320 (84.66%)

Orange: Remaining

$30,680(15.34%)

**Total Contributions**

**as of 05.22.2022: $116,283**

**(58.14%)**

**Previous: $109,658 (54.83%)**

**New: $6,625.00 (3.31%)**

**Remaining: $83,717.00 (41.86%)**

**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 July issue of **“The Rock and the Sword”** newsletter are due to the secretary’s office Monday, June 20th at noon. This includes meeting dates and times for the church calendar.

**CELEBRATING IN JUNE!**

**Birthdays**

Gerald Krivosh, Jr. 6 – 1

Ana Deal 6 – 2

June Thomas 6 – 2

Ryan Goda 6 – 4

Jonathan Baisch 6 – 9

Lisa Jelinek 6 – 9

Isaiah Deal 6 – 11

Connor Russell 6 – 15

Rudy Tomko 6 – 20

Sue Bender 6 – 21

Chris Nelson 6 – 28

Mark Gabriel 6 – 30

**Anniversaries**

Tony & Tiffany Bale 6 – 2

Rev. Ed & Irene Kucera 6 – 9

Ed & Millie Zachar 6 – 12

Matt & Cathy Berent 6 – 23

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

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Please see Diane if you have not yet picked up your new **Active Member Phone Directory!**

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

**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 June:**

**Head Elder:** Jonathan Baisch

**Assisting Elder:** Barry Nelson

**Altarware:** (Before service) Diane Riefstahl; (After service) Elizabeth Haenftling & Traudi Sulek

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**Sunday, June 19th**

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**Summer Office Hours:** The Secretary’s office will be open Mondays (8:30-4:30) and Thursdays (9-1) during June, July, and August unless otherwise needed.

 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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**STS. PETER & PAUL’S**

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

At this time, our Food Pantry is not in need of additional donations. Please consider re-directing money which you might typically give to other funds in our church which have need.

 *We are in need, however, of manpower.* If able and available to assist us packing/distributing goods Thursday mornings, please contact Barry Nelson at 724-866-7417.

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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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**JOIN US FOR COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**JUNE 12TH**

So far, no one has signed up to sponsor June’s Coffee Fellowship, but don’t despair! Monies collected from previous fellowships will be used, so we thank those who have given in the past!

Several of the remaining months of 2022 are available for sponsorship.

To sponsor, bring 2-3 dozen donuts/muffins (or other treats!) and 1 qt. juice on the day you are scheduled and place them in the Fellowship Hall prior to the worship service. Set up and clean-up will be done for you. Freewill donations will help cover the cost of coffee, tea, and other supplies.

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FROM YOUR ALTAR GUILD:

 By Marie Flaugher

Summer seems a perfect time for a bit of “lighter” fare! These quips, seen on church signs, are meant to give you a chuckle *and* make you think! Happy Summer!

* God has not gone on vacation and left you in charge.
* God hears what you say at the gas pump!
* Tough week? We are open on Sundays.
* Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.
* Get rich quick! Count your blessings!
* God wants full custody, not just weekend visitation.
* Jesus said “I'll be back” long before Arnold Schwarzenegger.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

The May 21st Altar Guild Meeting began with Pastor Deal continuing our study on women in the Bible focusing on Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi. The ladies and other church member guests were then treated to a surprise birthday luncheon in appreciation of Catherine Carr, sponsored by her daughter, Ana Deal. The Altar Guild gifted Catherine with a seasonal flower arrangement in appreciation of her services to our church.

 Some highlights from the business meeting which followed:

* Evelyn Baisch agreed to prepare a slate of candidates for next September’s election of officers.
* Judith Furey talked about her and Marie Flaugher’s visit to All Saints to meet with those who care for their altar paraments.
* The group discussed possible uses for monies gifted in memory of past Altar Guild members. No decisions were made at this time.
* The Altar Guild agreed to cover the cost of an entrée for the church’s 105th Anniversary celebration Saturday, June 18th and some of the ladies volunteered to assist with setting up before /cleaning up after the event.
* The next meeting for the Altar Guild will be Saturday, September 10th at 11 am and will be led by Vice President Marie Flaugher.

**Attention Altar Guild Members**

**and Other Women at Sts. Peter & Paul’s:**

Pastor Deal is willing to continue our study of women in the Bible during the summer months if enough women are interested in attending.

 If interested, please let Diane know by Sunday June 12th. The next session is tentatively planned for **Saturday, June 25th at 11 am.**

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**June 5, 2022**

**thru**

**August 28, 2022**

**Sunday Morning**

**Divine Services**

**will begin at**

**9 am.**

(as agreed upon at the 5/22/2022

Voters’ Assembly)

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSES FROM MAY**

**FOR ADULTS**

**May 1:** *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

 *Acts 4:12*

**May 8:** *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

**May 15:** *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
 Romans 12:2*

**May 22:** *But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.
 1 Timothy 6:6-8*

**May 29:** *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
 John 15:12*

**FOR CHILDREN**

**May 1:** *I am the Good Shepherd…My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life. John 10:11, 27-28*

**May 8:** *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17*

**May 15:** *Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! Psalm 98:1*

**May 22:** *I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.
 John 12:32*

**May 29:** *I will pour out a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy. Zechariah 12:10*

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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).* For more information about ICLD, check out their website: [www.icld.org](http://www.icld.org/). **Please recycle items by dropping them in the basket in the hallway by the offices. Thank you!**

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**Sunday Morning Bible Study**

The Sunday morning Bible Study class completed its study of Revelation 1-12 before deciding to take a break for the summer months.

 If you have not taken part in this Bible Study, but would like the materials in order to get caught up before next fall, please speak with Pastor Deal.

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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** The **June monthly audit of deposits** will take place following worship, Sunday, June 19th in the library. If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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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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**New Version of Service Bulletin Available**

A condensed version of our weekly service bulletin is now available. This version is intended for those who are well-acquainted with the Divine Service liturgy and/or those who wish to return to using the “Lutheran Service Book”. The condensed version contains the same bulletin information as the regular bulletin, along with a listing of hymns and readings. Only those propers in which the congregation participates (i.e. Introit) are listed in their entirety.

 This bulletin is labeled “Condensed Version” and is available both in the narthex and on the table next to Pastor Deal’s office.

 Regular and large-print bulletins will still be available.

 Please be patient as this format is fine tuned.

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Free-will offerings will be accepted through June 12th to help with the replacement of Deal family’s air conditioning unit. If wishing to donate to this cause, please place your donation in a pew envelope and place it in the offering plate. Be certain to label the envelope “Deal family” and indicate your name and envelope number. Please make any checks out to Sts. Peter & Paul’s.

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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!

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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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Remember the

following in Prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Ellen BaronCA, Lois BortnerCA, Richard Brandes, John Burdette, Mark Chirdon, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Kathleen Coughenour, Kim, Susan Davies, Loretta Deal, Tim Dudash, Joseph Fleet, Eddy Furey, Dale HesseCA, Neil & Melissa Huston, Barbara Kreske, Michelle KellyCA, Donna Kennedy, Gerald Krivosh, Jess Lavoie, Paul Lucas****CA****, Sandy Marshall, Ernie Meszaros, David Nelson, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, 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 Second Quarter Local Mission: Support of a Concordia, Fort Wayne seminarian. \*CA represents cancer.*

At the December 5, 2021 Voters’ Assembly, members selected the support of a Concordia, Fort Wayne seminarian as our 2022 Second Quarter Local Mission.

**Our Second Quarter Local Mission is**

**Support of a Concordia,**

**Fort Wayne Seminarian**

 Monies which are collected during this time will be sent to a randomly-assigned seminarian. These monies may be used in any way needed (books, tuition, living expenses, etc.). It is hoped that this gift will bring some joy and relief into the life of one dedicated to the study of the Word of God in preparation for the ministry.

 Donations may be placed in a pew envelope and put in the offering plate. Please be certain to specify 2nd Quarter Local Mission and note your name and envelope number.

 Thank you for helping to brighten the day of a servant of God!

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**COMMUNITY DAY 2022**

**SATURDAY, JULY 16**

**2-7 PM**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

Sts. Peter & Paul’s will be sponsoring its annual **Community Day** celebration Saturday, July 16 from 2-7 pm. Your help is needed to make this event a success!

 For those not acquainted with **Community Day**, this event began in 2017 as a way to show our appreciation for our neighbors by providing a free, family-friendly event. Since then, it has grown in scope and, with your help, this summer’s looks to be bigger and better than ever!

 So, how can you help? There’s a way for everyone to get involved! We are looking specifically for volunteers to help with the following the day of the event:

* Children’s game coordinator and helpers. *We do not need numerous children’s games, but we need those which kids can enjoy and which can be moved inside if weather dictates. We have numerous items from the past which can be re-used. See Pastor Deal if interested in working on this.*
* Face-painting. *When this was done in the past, it was a big success with the kids. Looking for someone to come up with 4-6 designs for kids to choose from and the talent to paint them! We will provide materials.*
* Children’s crafts assistants. *Ana Deal has volunteered to direct the children’s crafts and we are looking for one or two others to assist her.*
* Set-up and clean-up crews. *This year, Community Day weather promises to be warm (not hot) and dry (unlike last summer’s deluge)…at least we hope so! Plans are to erect a large tent in our parking lot and bring out tables and chairs. If weather permits, only limited activities will take place in the Fellowship Hall.*

 *This means we needs a lot of help setting up and cleaning up. Set-up will be in the morning (time yet to be determined) with clean-up immediately following the event.*

* Food servers. *Plans are to focus on our food offerings this year with adding roasted chicken and pulled pork sliders to our menu! We will need a couple of people to work in the Fellowship Hall kitchen and two or three others to serve food. Food will be served between 4-6 pm.*
* Snow cone machine operator(s). *One or two people are needed to run the snow cone machine. This includes preparing the shaved ice and flavoring it for the kids. This will run from 2 pm until supplies run out.*

So, what else is needed?

* Shopper(s)! *Most of our needed items can be purchased at Sam’s Club.* *A shopping list of needed items will be prepared for you.*
* Donations of raffle baskets*. The last event of the day is the awarding of (free) raffle baskets to our guests. Baskets should be valued between $20-$25. A list of suggested basket themes follows and is also posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway across from the Sonshine Room.*
	+ *Infant*
	+ *Child, age 2-5 (male/female)*
	+ *Elementary student (male/female)*
	+ *Food themes*
		- *Snack attack*
		- *Italian*
		- *Cookout*
		- *Sweet tooth*
		- *Baking*
	+ *Teen fun*
	+ *Pets*
	+ *Date Night*
	+ *Basic Needs*
	+ *Books! Books! Books!*
	+ *School supplies*
	+ *Gardening basket*
	+ *Car care*

*If possible, baskets should be placed in the library by Sunday before the event (July 10th). Please attach a list of items in your basket so that a description can be typed up.*

* Corn hole boards/bags. *We are hoping to foster a friendly competition that day.*

The biggest thing we need is people to commit! Although we love when members just show up and support the event, we really need you to commit to helping so that we know we have things covered. We ask that you prayerfully consider doing so! Please indicate your willingness to help by signing the paper on the bulletin board.

 Questions? Please feel free to speak with Pastor Deal, Jesse Riffle, or Diane Riefstahl.

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There’s a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for those planning to attend our church’s **105TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** Saturday, June 18th. Beginning at 4 pm, we will have a Vespers Service followed by a pot-luck dinner and hymn sing. All events will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

 The Altar Guild will be covering the cost of the pot-luck’s entrée and dessert is also covered. Families / individuals attending are asked to bring a side dish to share.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

* Sunday, June 5th at 10 am: **Concordia Ev. Lutheran Church’s 100th Anniversary Celebration**
* Saturday, June 18th at 4 pm: Vespers Service, Dinner, and Hymn Sing-a-long in celebration of our 105th Anniversary (Please sign up no later than June 12th if planning to attend.)
* Saturday, June 25th at 11 am: Women’s Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall (tentative)
* Saturday, June 25th at 4 pm: Men’s Bible Study. Location to be announced.
* Wednesday, June 29th at 6 pm: Divine Service celebrating the Festival of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

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**Congratulations to Rev. Kucera and Rev. Baisch who were named as Pastors Emeriti at the May 22nd Voters’ Assembly!**

 **We are so blessed to count them as part of our church family!**

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AED Awarded

In May, we applied to the Buhl Regional Health Foundation for a free AED (automated external defibrillator) to be kept on our church premises. Our request was approved and we should receive the device in June.

 The foundation will also provide on-site training for using the device which will occur on a Thursday in June around 11 am. (The exact date is not yet known.) If interested in participating in this training, please speak with Diane and you will be notified once it has been scheduled.

Parking Lot to be sealed

At the May 22nd Voters’ Assembly, voters authorized the Trustees to spend up to $2500 from the general fund to seal, repaint lines, and mark handicap spots in the church parking lot. This work will tentatively be completed once heavy equipment is no longer needed to be parked in the lot for other scheduled work.

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Luther Classical College Seeks Support

Fall 2025 is the prospective opening of the Luther Classical College in Casper, Wyoming. The college will provide a conservative, classical Lutheran education to Lutheran students. The college will promote a Christian culture, stressing the priority of Christian marriage, family, and piety, and cultivate confessional Lutheran theology, liturgy, hymnody, and identy.

 The college is seeking accredidation and will offer an A.A. and B.A. degrees in Classical Liberal Arts. Tuition will be set at $8500/year and the undergraduate student enrollment will not exceed 300 students.

 For more information about the Luther Classical College or to see how you can support its efforts, check out lutherclassical.org or speak with Pastor Deal.

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**Divine Service**

**Celebrating the Festival of Saint Peter and Saint Paul**

**Wednesday, June 29th**

**at 6 pm**