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

Monthly Newsletter --- June 2023

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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.”

**Prayer Concerning Holy Baptism**

O Lord Jesus Christ, the beginning, middle, and end of our salvation, who have instituted the Holy Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and testified to it in the work of redemption when blood and water flowed forth from Your opened side, wherefore St. John says, “Three are they on earth which testify: The Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are together”; and further confirmed and sanctified it by Your own Baptism in the Jordan, as through Your own example: I heartily thank You that You have incorporated me by this Sacrament into Your holy Christian Church and thereby place me in the communion of all Your heavenly and eternal goods, which You obtained by Your bitter sufferings and death; thereby purified and washed me of the horrible poison and leprosy of original sin; in Your grace forgave all my sins, trespasses, and iniquity; and purified me by the washing of water in the Word, blotting out all my transgressions so that nothing is left to condemn me, even as there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Having forgiven my sins, You redeemed me from eternal death and from the anguish, fear, and terror of temporal death, and from the power of the devil. At the same time, You have incorporated me into Yourself, made me a member of Your spiritual body, transferred me into Your kingdom of grace, and espoused and pledged me to Yourself in eternity. And since through Baptism I have put You on, I am clothed with all Your holy obedience, merit, righteousness, holiness, and innocence as with the garment of salvation and the robe of righteousness. By the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit You have given me new birth, and of a sinner made a righteous man. I have been baptized into Your death, become a partaker of the fruit of Your death, and incorporated into Your obedience and merit. Thus I, a child of wrath, have become a child of grace. I was a poor, miserable, lost child of man, and You made me a child of God. You gave me the Holy Spirit and the adoption of sons, by which we cry out, “Abba, dear Father!” Thus You received me into Your eternal covenant of grace, and by Your promise bound Yourself to me to be my Father forever, and gave me the right of sons, which is the eternal, heavenly inheritance and salvation. Briefly, in Baptism You have given me the highest good – Your dear Son with all His benefits. Christ is mine, along with all that He is and has; what can sin do to me? Christ is my righteousness; what can death do to me? Christ is my life; what can the devil do to me? Christ is my strength and victory; what can the world do to me? Christ has overcome it. Indeed, my Lord Christ has saved me and given me all blessedness in Holy Baptism. Therefore I await in patience the glory to come. What harm can poverty, misery, cross, persecution, and contempt do to me? I am saved. I have received all the goods of grace in and with Christ, and only await the goods of glory. But because I, O my Lord Jesus Christ, by Baptism have died and been buried with You, help me as long as I live in the flesh not to live according to the flesh. Let my Baptism bear fruit in me each day and work the mortification of the flesh, that I may daily die with You through heartfelt remorse and contrition; for he who dies to himself daily always has a new beginning of his life in You. And since I have been incorporated into You, my Lord and God, as a graft upon the tree of life, let me bring forth fruit as a branch on the living vine – not fruit of the old man, but of the new man, the new creature, the fruit of the Spirit. And let me remember daily that I am baptized into a new life, that I have put You on as a gift of eternal righteousness and blessedness, and as a new life by which You may live and abide in me forever, and I in You. Indeed, let me never forget the covenant which You have made with me, nor break it, nor renounce it with heart or mouth or ungodly life; but rather let me rejoice and take comfort in it at all times, and depend on it safely against all tribulation, and abide in this covenant, which is eternal and certain, and have eternal salvation. Amen.

*Lutheran Prayer Companion, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, 2018.*

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**WILLOW WOMEN’S CENTER** will be dedicating its new center Sunday, June 4th at 2 pm. There is also an open house Wednesday, June 7th from 11 am-2 pm. All are invited to join them at one or both occasions at their new location, 245 N. Kerrwood Dr., Suite 106, Hermitage, PA to celebrate and “see what God has done!” For more information, visit [www.teamwillow.org](http://www.teamwillow.org)

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All are invited to celebrate **Alex (Sasha) Carr’s Graduation and Army Reception** at an Open House, Sunday, June 4 from 2-5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we give thanks for Alex’s service to our church and wish him success in his future.

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**Women’s Bible Study Continues on First and Third Thursdays**

 Join us in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Thursdays of June at 10 am as we delved further into the book of Philippians. If you have yet to join us, acquaint yourselves with the first two chapters. Speak with Pastor Deal if you would like copies of the study guides used to date.

Come, join, and learn with us

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 05.21.2023 $184,320 (92.16%)

Orange: Remaining

$15,680 (7.84%)

Total Contributions

as of 05.21.2023:

$171,152 (85.58%)

Previous: $166,982 (83.49%)

New: $4,170 (2.09%)

Remaining: $28,848 (14.42%)

*Amounts used are based on*

*weekly deposits reported.*

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.

**TRUSTEES’ UPDATE**

Among the issues/projects addressed by the Trustees in May were the following:

* Rick Swope will continue to mow the church property.
* Bookshelves were removed from Pastor Deal’s old office and relocated to his new office.
* Storm windows were removed from the main hallway windows.
* Weeds in the sidewalk cracks were sprayed.
* American Plumbing was on site May 11th to inspect the water back-flow as required by the Sharon Water Department. The system passed and a report will be filed with the water department by American Plumbing.
* Hartford Steam Boiler Company was on site on May 11th to inspect both boiler systems. The steam boiler needs an extra flow-off added and the water boiler system needs the two flow-off pipes shortened to 3” to “6” from the floor. Flow-off pipes were fixed on the water boiler system. Extra flow-off on steam boiler was corrected. Hartford Steam was contacted to confirm corrections were made.
* Trustees will meet to discuss quotes for air conditioning systems.
* The next Trustees’ meeting will be 7 pm, Monday, June 12th.

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



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**CELEBRATING IN JUNE!**

**Birthdays:**

Gerald Krivosh, Jr. 6 – 1

Ana Deal 6 – 2

June Thomas 6 – 2

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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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** A **Monthly Audit** will take place following worship, Sunday, June 18th in the library. If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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

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**Thank You for Serving in June:**

**Elder:** Jonathan Baisch; **Ushers:** Cheryl Fedele, Mike Flaugher, & Jesse Riffle; **Altarware:** prior~Diane Riefstahl & Marie Flaugher (06.11); after~Elizabeth Haenftling & Traudi Sulek.

**Church Office Hours**

The secretary’s office will be open Mondays and Thursdays during the month of June. The first & third weeks of the month, the office will be open from 8:30-5 (closed from 10-11 am Thursdays for Bible Study); other weeks, it will be open from 8:30-4:30.

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***Please keep the following***

***in your prayers:***

Millie Elavsky

1209 Maple Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-342-0345

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Elizabeth Loughan

742 Salem Rd.

Hadley, PA 16130

724-253-2137

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Nancy Robertson

P.O. Box 1358

6 Stone Ridge Blvd.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-977-0107

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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

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Ed & Millie Zachar

1320 Old Forge Rd.

Niles, OH 44446

330-652-9316

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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 19th at noon. This includes meeting dates and times for the church calendar.

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 **FOOD PANTRY**

**UP-DATE**

We are very grateful to Ana Deal who has stepped in to assist with the running of our Food Pantry. The number of regular food pantry clients is now exceeding thirty with multiple “emergency” food boxes being supplied.

The second Sunday of each month continues to be designated as “Stock the Food Pantry Sunday”. Your financial contributions will be greatly appreciated! Donations may be placed in a pew envelope and placed in the offering plate. Please be sure to indicate your envelope number and designate the donation to the Food Pantry.

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**OUR 2nd QUARTER MISSION:**

***Support of a Concordia,***

***Fort Wayne Seminarian***

Our annual 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 His word 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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ALTAR GUILD NEWS

The Altar Guild met May 20th for a regular business meeting.

 Pastor Deal began the meeting with devotions and a review of Communion ware set-up.

 Judith Furey led the group in a new hymn study. Those in attendance enjoyed her presentation and expressed a desire for Judith to continue such lessons at future meetings.

 The next polishing session for the Altar Guild will take place Thursday, June 8th at 11 am. Judith stressed to those in attendance that only pure linen or cotton cloths should be used for final buffing of items. Microfiber cloths should only be used for polish application. New buffing, touch-up cloths have been purchased to be used following communion ware weekly cleaning.

 Marie has made contact with a local woodworker and is in discussions with him about constructing our memorial book display case.

The next **Altar Guild** meeting will be **September 16th** at 1 pm. All women in the church are invited to attend!

**New members are always welcome!!!!**

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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.

**Bible Memory Verses for May**

**For Adults:**

May 7: *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 14: *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 21: *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

*John 15:12*

May 28: *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

**For Children:**

May 7: *Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!*

*Psalm 98:1*

May 14: *I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*

*John 12:32*

May 21: *I will pour out a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy. Zechariah 12:10*

May 28: *Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4:6*

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We welcome to our church family **Mark & Bess Kleindienst** and **Gordon & Rebecca Marquette** who officially became members on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th.

We are thrilled that they have chosen to join us as we grow together in knowledge and love of our Lord and Savior.



(L to R: Rebecca & Gordon Marquette, Pastor Deal, Mark & Bess Kleindienst)

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Pastor Deal will be attending the **SELC Summer Conference** Tuesday and Wednesday, June 27-28, 2023. Please contact Pastor Baisch (501-253-9202) if in need of pastoral care during this time.

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**Happy Father’s Day**

**June 18th!**

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Remember thefollowing in prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Amy, Gerald Arthur, Ellen BaronCA, Lois BortnerCA, John Burdette, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Kathleen Coughenour, Kim, Anna Mae Daris, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, Millie Elavsky, Joseph Fleet, Judith & Eddy Furey, Tim Haenftling, Austin Hamilton, Joan, Darla Krajci, Barbara Kreske, Donna Kennedy, Jess Lavoie, Elizabeth Loughan, Joanne Lozier, Paul LucasCA, Sandy Marshall, Frank NiemeyerCA, Linda Parkany, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Nancy RobertsonCA, 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; safety for all Police Officers, Firefighters, & First Responders; the unemployed; our Second Quarter Local Mission: The Support of a Concordia, Fort Wayne Seminarian.*

*\*CA represents cancer.*

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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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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

* **Women’s Bible Study** will take place Thursdays, June 1st and 15th this month at 10 am.
* The next **Voters’ Assembly** will take place Sunday, June 4th following worship.
* **Altar Guild polishing** will take place Thursday, June 8th beginning at 11 am.
* **Trustees** will meet Monday, June 12th at 7 pm.
* **Men’s Monthly Bible Study** continues Saturday, June 17th at 4 pm. All men of the congregation are welcome to attend.
* Thursday, June 29th, at 7 pm will be a special **Divine Service** celebrating the **Festival of Saints Peter and Paul.** Please join us!

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**Congratulations to Our Graduates!**

Congratulations are extended to high school graduates, Connor Russell and Alex (Sasha) Carr!

 Connor, the son of Jennifer & Josh Russell, graduated May 24th from Hubbard High School. Connor plans to continue his education studying finance at Kent State University.

 Alex, the son of Catherine and the late Rev. Timothy Carr, graduated June 2nd from Kennedy Catholic High School. Alex has enlisted in the US Army and reports for training camp June 11th.

 We wish both of these young men much success and happiness. God speed!

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**Save the Date: Community Day 2023** has been scheduled for September 30th! More information will be available in July’s newsletter.

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And baby makes three!

Congratulations to Jesse and Alyxis Riffle on the birth of their daughter, Gwendolynne Maree, May 26th. Gwendolynne weighed in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 21 inches in length.

 Gwendolynne will be baptized Sunday, June 4th. Her sponsors will be Traudi Sulek and Ana Deal.

 Cards/congratulary notes may be mailed to the Riffles at 15 Clark St., Jackson Center, PA 16133.

 If interested in providing a meal for the family, please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex. Meals which can be frozen or gift cards to restaurants for take-out would be greatly appreciated!

 Let’s show the Riffles some Christian love!

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***Reflections***

*~by Diane Riefstahl*

As I turned my calendar to June, I was reminded of our church’s anniversary. One hundred six years ago on June 3, 1917, a group of men made the daring move to establish their own church. These men (and their families) were willing to break with those with whom they had been associated in order to re-focus their worship solely on the Word of God. It was a gutsy move; one which required strong faith, financial sacrifice, and dedication.

 Today, our church congregation is made up of two different groups. First, there are those who grew up in this congregation. To them, the names of the founding families are familiar. They can envision the church as it used to be, remembering those with whom they had shared pews for so many years.

 Then, there are those, like myself, who have chosen to join this congregation. For us, this church fills a void which resulted from a life-changing event such as the closing of another church, a move, or marriage. We found a place where we have been made to feel welcome…a new church to call “home”.

 No matter to which group you belong, we share a common thread with the founding fathers of this congregation. In a time where church-going is no longer the norm, we are drawn to be here to be filled with the Word of God. At a time when we are faced with an unsteady economy, we are willing to financially support the church and its missions. At a time when so much is demanded of smaller numbers of members, we step up to do our part.

 So, whether from a long line of worshippers at Sts. Peter & Paul or a new-comer, let us reflect the moxie of our church’s forefathers. Let’s keep our focus on the issues which are of true importance and keep welcoming those who are looking for the same.

 Happy anniversary, Sts. Peter & Paul!

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**Coffee Fellowship**

**is June 11th!**

Join us following worship, Sunday, June 11th for **Coffee Fellowship.** This month’s sponsor is Diane Riefstahl.

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