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

Monthly Newsletter --- May 2022

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.”

**ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!**

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*“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” Luke 24:5a-6a*

There’s something about Easter morning that bolsters the spirit and brings a new sense of hope. Smiles appear on our faces as we hear the choir sing, see families gathered in the pews, and shout back to the pastor, “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” Our hearts feel lighter, no longer burdened with the heaviness of our sins.

 Let us remember to greet each day as if it were Easter morning: *Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!*

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**EASTER FLOWERING PLANTS**

Sincere thanks go out to the following families and individuals who donated money towards the purchase of flowering plants for Easter Sunday 2022. A total of $355.00 was collected.

* Rev. Arthur & Evelyn Baisch: *In Loving Memory of Bob Sulek*
* Sue Bender: *In Loving Memory of Mother, Helen Bender*
* Judith Furey: *In Loving Memory of Judith E. Boal and Dorothy Shoenberger*
* Mark Gabriel: *In Loving Memory of Peter & Anne Gabriel and Denny Gabriel*
* Anson & Hank Holcroft: *In Memory of All Loved Ones*
* Kati & Michael Laird: *To the Glory of God*
* Elizabeth Loughan: *In Loving Memory of Bill Loughan and Iris & Jim Reigelman*
* Ruth Meszaros: *In Honor of Great Grandsons Dawson John & Isaac James Meszaros*
* Barry & Chris Nelson, Bill Nelson, and Brittany & Ian Forbis: *In Loving Memory of our Parents, Bill & Margie Nelson, John & Mary Ann Krajci; Brother, John G. Krajci; Niece, Olivia Lynn Sovesky; and All Loved Ones*
* Patty Parker: *In Loving Memory of Parents, Paul & Betty Petro, and sister, Betty Hardell*
* Diane Riefstahl: *In Loving Memory of Parents, Donald L. and Lucile M. Riefstahl*
* Viola Sakony: *In Loving Memory Altar Guild Members who have gone to their Glory*
* Traudi Sulek: *In Loving Memory of Husband, Bob Sulek*

 As we anticipate our courtyard landscaping to be torn out this spring, we didn’t want to over-purchase plants which would possibly be ruined if planted or perish. Money which was not spent will be put towards summer flowers.

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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 04.17.2022 $169,320 (84.66%)

Orange: Remaining

$30,680(15.34%)

**Total Contributions**

**as of 04.17.2022: $109,658.00**

**(54.83%)**

**Previous: $107,173.00 (53.59%)**

**New\*: $2,485.00 (1.24%)**

**Remaining: $90,342.00 (45.17%)**

**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.

 **Pastor Deal’s** newsletter article will be available later in May. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**There will be an Altar Guild Bible Study and Meeting**

**Saturday, May 21st beginning at 11 am. All are welcome!**

**The next Voters’ Assembly**

**Meeting will be following worship, Sunday, May 22nd.**

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**CELEBRATING IN MAY!**

**Birthdays**

Arlene Sutton 5 – 14

Anna Mae Daris 5 – 15

Catherine Carr 5 – 21

Ralph Dorman 5 – 21

Joe Chlpka 5 – 21

Kati Laird 5 – 31

**Anniversaries**

Lennie & Kim Revale 5 – 16

Michael & Kati Laird 5 – 21

\*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 the 9 am Bible Study class for those wishing to speak with him.

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

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**SCRIP Program:**

The next date for **SCRIP orders and payments** is Sunday, May 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.

 Participation in the SCRIP program is a wonderful way to help out our church. Participants receive the full value of gift cards purchased with the church receiving a percentage of the amount spent from the gift card providers. The amount varies based upon the gift card purchased.

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

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

**TRUSTEES’ UPDATE**

 **By Mike Flaugher, Chairman**

The Trustees met April 5, 2022. The following items were discussed:

* The water pressure issue was investigated by Mike Laird and he found that the circulating pump will need replaced. He is researching the proper make.  Once replaced, the water pressure throughout the church building will be improved.
* Greenwalt Construction, who will be working on the outside drainage issues and shrub removal, has been rescheduled for when the ground dries out. We are now looking at a May start date. There were concerns that, if they started now, their equipment would get stuck and do more damage to the grounds.
* The lift was state inspected in March and passed. However, it was recommended that we have the backup battery looked at.  This has been scheduled to be done in May.
* The electrical outlet in the narthex was repaired.
* Mold Medic was in to quote the upper area in the “old church” part of the building.  They said the mold there is dead and that we should look for a contractor to remove and/or repaint the panels and beams.
* A new home for the kitchen dishwasher has been found and it will be removed in the near future.
* The Fellowship Hall floor will be stripped and rewaxed.  This is now planned for May.
* Pastor Deal found a contractor (Stone Brothers) who was in to quote the repair of the interior and exterior masonry at the east and north ends of the church.   Quote to be submitted for review.
* Lawn mowing will be covered again this year by Rick Swope, a neighbor of the church.

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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 May:**

**Head Elder:** Barry Nelson

**Assisting Elder:** Jonathan Baisch

**Altarware:** (Before service) Diane Riefstahl; (After service) Marie Flaugher

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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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**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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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Community Day 2022: Saturday, July 16**

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSES FROM APRIL**

**FOR ADULTS**

**April 3:** *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.* Ephesians 4:26-27

**April 10:** *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* Hebrews 13:5

**April 17:** *I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.*

John 11: 25-26a

**April 24:** *And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”* John 20:22-23

**FOR CHILDREN**

**April 3:** *Christ says: “For their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”* John 17:19

**April 10:** *He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and…bore the sin of many.* Isaiah 53:12

**April 17:** *I am the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.* Revelation 1:18

**April 24:** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.* 1 Peter 1:3

**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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**Don’t forget!**

Mother’s Day

is Sunday,

May 8th!

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**Sunday Morning Bible Study**

The Sunday morning Bible Study class is continuing its study of the book of *Revelation*. After having examined John’s prologue in Revelation 1-3, the class learned of the view of heaven as revealed to him in chapters 4 and 5 and was able to compare his account with those described in the Old Testament.

Please consider joining this weekly study of *Revelation* and find the comforting message and promise it holds for the repentant sinner.

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FROM YOUR ALTAR GUILD:

 By Marie Flaugher

 2022 brings two important celebrations for our Church! First, the LCMS is celebrating its 175th Anniversary. The following information concerning this is taken from the LCMS.org website.

 *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod celebrates its birthday on April 26. Initial members, which included 12 pastors representing 14 congregations from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York and Ohio, signed the church body’s constitution on April 26, 1847, at First Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago, Ill.*

 *Originally named The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, the name was shortened to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1947 on the occasion of our 100th anniversary.*

 *The roots of the LCMS run deep, tracing back to Saxon and other German immigrants establishing a new church body in America, seeking the freedom to practice and follow confessional Lutheranism.*

 *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) believes, teaches and confesses faith in Jesus Christ as taught in the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions. For 175 years, the Holy Spirit has kept us in the one true faith and still continues to gather sinners into the Holy Christian Church by grace through faith — all on account of Christ. As we give thanks for our Synod’s founding on April 26, 1847, we rejoice in the 175th-anniversary theme, “Only Jesus: No Other Name,” based on Acts 4:12. Until Jesus comes, the LCMS will continue to trust in, teach and preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

 Another significant event this year is the 105th Anniversary of our own congregation, Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church! As a rather new member of the congregation, I can understand the significance of this date just by viewing the church pictures hanging in the Fellowship Hall and noting the many names of our founding members and the generations of faithful family members which have remained here. Watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for celebration information, and how you can participate and contribute to keep Sts. Peter and Paul’s celebrating for many years to come!

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Eleven women were present at the April 9th Altar Guild meeting. The meeting began with devotions and a Bible Study focusing on Hannah led by Pastor Deal.

 Additionally, the following topics were discussed:

* *Midweek Communion Ware clean-up:* Those responsible for cleaning communion ware during the month are reminded that they are also to do so if a midweek Divine Service is held during that time. If unable to complete this task, please arrange for a substitute ahead of time.
* *105th Anniversary of Sts.* *Peter & Paul’s:* A celebration of our congregation’s 105th anniversary has been scheduled for Saturday, June 18th. Tentatively, a Vespers service, pot-luck dinner, and hymn sing will be held. The Altar Guild will provide special altar flowers for that weekend and will assist with the planning of the pot-luck dinner.
* *Altar flowers purchased through Cottage Gardens Designs:* After speaking with the florists at Cottage Gardens Designs, Diane recommended to the group that we purchase glass vases to be used with their designs. These vases will make designing and transporting these cut arrangements much easier. Additionally, fewer flowers will be loss once the purchaser has taken them home as they will not need to be transferred from florists’ foam to a vase. Purchasers will, however, need to return the vases to the church or assume their cost.
* *Holy Week volunteers:* Cheryl, Marie, Elizabeth H., and Evelyn volunteered to assist during Holy Week services as needed.
* *Memorial donations:* Recently, the Altar Guild received $900 in memorial donations. Members are asked to think of special uses for these funds so as to properly memorialize those for whom the money was given. This will be further discussed at our May 21st meeting.
* *Memorial book:* The memorial book purchased by the Altar Guild is nearing completion. It is hoped that a special location for the book, where it will be accessible and able to be kept damage-free, will be found.
* *Appreciation:* Earlier this year, the Altar Guild forwarded a list of concerns to the Trustees. This list included several “water” issues throughout the building as well as the removal of the Fellowship Hall kitchen’s dishwasher. These items have been receiving attention from the Trustees and, in some cases, have been resolved. We are grateful for their attention to these matters.

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**JOIN US FOR COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**MAY 8TH (Mother’s Day!)**

This month’s sponsors will be

**Jennifer Russell and Connor**!

Many 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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**Please join us Thursday, May 26th at 6 pm**

**for a special**

**Divine Service**

**celebrating the Ascension of our Lord**

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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** The **May monthly audit of deposits** will take place following worship, Sunday, May 15th 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.

**ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM (ADF)**

The following is the third in our series of cases handled by the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF). For the last year, Sts. Peter & Paul’s has been part of the ADF which has allowed us access to their lawyers in matters of religious liberty, procedures, and guidelines.

 The case cited is simply done as an educational tool:

**Fort Des Moines Church of Christ**

 Fort Des Moines Church of Christ’s motto is to love God, love people, and serve everyone. This Iowa church is active in its community and welcomes everyone to learn more about the good news of God’s forgiving love and compassion.
 But because the church welcomes nonmembers to attend its worship services and other activities, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission takes the position that state law requires Fort Des Moines to censor its speech about human sexuality and make its showers and restrooms accessible to the opposite biological sex.

 The state law at issue prohibits “public accommodations” from “indicating” that a person is “unwelcome” based on his or her “gender identity.”  Fort Des Moines welcomes everyone; but the speech ban is so broadly written as to prohibit a pastor’s sermon about God’s design in creating each person as either male or female. The law also includes a facility use mandate that compels public accommodations to open their restrooms, locker rooms, and showers to persons based on gender identity, rather than biological sex. Even asking about a person’s gender identity in conjunction with using sex-specific facilities violates the law.
 In July 2016, Alliance Defending Freedom filed a lawsuit on behalf of Fort Des Moines Church of Christ against this unprecedented overreach by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. Thankfully, in October 2016, a federal district court held that churches are not public accommodations subject to government control and that state officials have no business determining which church activities are “religious enough” and which aren’t.

 ADF will continue to defend the right of all churches to communicate their beliefs about human sexuality without government censorship and operate their facilities consistently with their faith

Alliance Defending Freedom served as lead counsel for Fort Des Moines Church of Christ free of charge.

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**New Version of Service Bulletin to be Available**

Beginning in May, a condensed version of the weekly service bulletin will become 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 will contain the same bulletin information as the regular bulletin, but will list only an outline of the service along with a listing of hymns and readings. Only those propers in which the congregation participates (i.e. Introit) will be listed in their entirety.

 Regular and large-print bulletins will still be available.

 Please be patient as this format is fine tuned.

Remember the

**Our Second Quarter Local Mission is**

**Support of a Concordia,**

**Fort Wayne Seminarian**

following in Prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Kristine Altenor, Joseph Altenor, Ellen BaronCA, Lois BortnerCA, Richard Brandes, John Burdette, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Kathleen Coughenour, Kim, Susan Davies, Sophia Dean, Tim Dudash, Joseph Fleet, Eddy Furey, Neil & Melissa Huston, Barbara Kreske, Michelle KellyCA, Donna Kennedy, Gerald Krivosh, Jess Lavoie, CJ Loughan, Paul LucasCA, 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.*

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**In observation of Memorial Day,**

**church offices will be closed**

**Monday, May 30th.**

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

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

**llllllllllllllllllllllllllll**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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