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

Monthly Newsletter --- November 2023

699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

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:**

**The Day of Judgement**

At the end of my feast day sermon for Saint Luke, I asked a couple of questions, “Do you care about the body only now? Or, do you care about the body that is going to be raised from the dead?” We know that we are to live godly lives here in view of our deaths; but, above all, our Christian life is oriented toward the day of Christ’s Second Advent, when the body is raised to immortality and salvation brought to its fulfillment. The glorious eternal salvation that is prepared for us in the return of our Lord ought to motivate our Christian lives entirely.

It ought to make us diligent in all good works, eager for the preaching of Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins, cautious of our living, sober-minded in respect to our bodily security, and at peace with our journeys through life. We should be careful in our use of mammon, kind and merciful in our dealings with others, at all times ready to give a reason for our hope within us, ready at all times to receive the

Lord when He comes, unmindful of the trials and tribulations of our brief lives, joyful and willing to bear the cross to follow Jesus, and victorious in death.

I do not say that these things will be easy nor will we always get it right. But, when we have eternity in perspective, with the glory of Christ’s Second Advent, we will find a great and inspiring hope which builds up in our hearts and is expressed in our lives of virtue. As Saint Paul writes in Colossians 1, “…For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

Luther writes, “If the heart does not direct and prepare itself for that imperishable life, but cleaves to this temporal, perishable life, it does not understand what Baptism, the Gospel, Christ, and faith really mean. We have not been baptized unto this life; we are not called Christians because we are citizens, peasants, lords, servants, maids, rulers, or ruled, laborers, and housekeepers, but we are baptized unto this, and for this purpose we hear the Gospel and believe in Christ, that we may set aside all these vocations… and turn from this world to another existence and life, where there is neither lord nor servant, maid nor mistress, woman, nor man, but where we are altogether equal and one in Christ Jesus, *Gal. 3:28*, which equality begins in this life through faith, but is made perfect in vision in the life to come…Unto this eternal life we are baptized, unto this Christ has purchased us by His death and blood, and for this purpose we have received the Gospel. The Christian life is lived in joyous expectation of the life that is to come.”

In Christ,

Pastor Deal

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**Thank You for Serving in November:**

**Elder:** Jonathan Baisch; **Ushers:** Mark Kleindienst, Jerry Krivosh, & Gordon Marquette; **Altarware:** *Sundays* (prior) Marie Flaugher (11.12) & Diane Riefstahl; (after) Evelyn Baisch & Arlene Sutton; *Special Divine Services ~* Marie Flaugher (11.01) & Elizabeth Haenftling (11.30).

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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!

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 10.22.2023 $184,320 (92.16%)

Orange: Remaining

$15,680 (7.84%)

Total Contributions

as of 10.22.2023:

$181,702 (90.85%)

Previous: $180,247 (90.12%)

New: $1,455.00 (0.73%)

Remaining: $18,298 (9.15%)

*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.

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**UP-COMING TRUSTEES’ MEETING**

The next Trustees’ meeting will take place Wednesday, November 8th at 7 pm in the library*. Trustees who are unable to make the meeting are asked to contact Mike Flaugher (724-301-8277) ahead of this date.*

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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**From Vicar Wessel**

**“The Aim of Christian Charity Towards Physical Needs”**

As Christians, we are called to live lives of charity and generosity, supporting our neighbors in their bodily needs, even as Jesus gave Himself to redeem not just our souls, but also our bodies for the resurrection on the last day. But how is Christian charity different from that of unbelievers? Of course, it is different in that our faith renders our deeds good and pleasing in the sight of God, since apart from faith it is impossible to please God. But our charity also has a different aim and goal.

When unbelievers do outwardly charitable things, it is coming from a desire to stave off death and preserve the health and comfort of this life, nothing more. But as Christians, we must recognize that temporal death is not the only or the greatest danger that people face when they are afflicted by hunger, poverty, homelessness, or the like. Sin is a much greater danger and evil. While Christians can long for death in a very limited sense (Php. 1:23), there is no sense in which a Christian can ever long for sin or see it as a means to something good. Furthermore, while not even death can separate us from God (Rom. 8:38), sin can and does. So, while our charity most certainly does aim to preserve temporal life from death, it even more so aims to keep people from falling into sin. In Proverbs 30:9, the wise Agur asks to avoid poverty, not because he wants to avoid risk of death or shortened and miserable life, but “lest I … steal and profane the name of my God.” The primary reason for helping people avoid poverty, hunger, homelessness, etc. is so that they do not sin or curse God in their affliction. Christian charity aims to support people’s bodily needs by keeping them not just from death, but also sin.

Of course, there is no way in which anyone can really be delivered from sin except the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. So Christian charity also has the aim of bringing people to faith in Jesus. That does not mean that every gift or donation must be accompanied by a sermon, but it does mean that we show charity at the very least so that the needy do not have any reason to curse or avoid the Church for being loveless and uncaring. With that barrier removed, there can be room for those to whom we show charity to consider the more important gifts we Christians have to offer: the good news of Jesus Christ.

Bringing people the forgiveness of sins is not at all irrelevant to caring for people’s bodily needs. When you show charity, it must always be done with an eye to the resurrection of the body. When you care for someone’s body, you are caring for their resurrected body – which is the same body that they have now, of course, though glorified. But the most important way of caring for someone’s bodily needs is to bring them the deliverance from sin, death, and Satan in Christ Jesus, so that their body will be hale and strong not just in time, but also in eternity. For as much as we can and should do for people’s bodily needs here in time, the surest way to care for them is to use our earthly charity to bring them into the care of God Himself, who will give them more than we ever could, even as He has to us in sending His Son to work salvation for us.

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**LIKE & FOLLOW our Church’s Facebook page**

**(Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church)!**

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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** A **Monthly Audit** will take place following worship, Sunday, November 26th in the library. If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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**CELEBRATING IN NOVEMBER!**

**Birthdays**

Maria Marks 11- 2

Jerome Thomas 11- 3

Rev. Arthur Baisch 11-10

Judith Furey 11-10

Jeffrey Sutton 11-12

Edward Zachar 11-25

Elizabeth Shreffler 11-26

Paul Andolina 11-29

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

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

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**Important Meetings in November**

Monday, November 6

7 pm

*Church Council Meeting*

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Wednesday, November 8

7 pm

*Trustees’ Meeting*

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Sunday, November 19

After the Divine Service

*Voters’ Assembly*

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Sunday, November 29

After the Divine Service

*Monthly Audit of Deposits*

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Dear Members of Sts. Peter and Paul,

When I think back to the time of Barry’s passing, I will always remember the overwhelming amount of love and support that you provided for me and my family.

We appreciate all that you did including sending cards, providing meals, preparing and helping with the service and the luncheon that followed, and donating to the food pantry in his memory. His legacy of serving people lives on through Nelson’s Nook, the food pantry, and the memories we hold so dear.

We are very thankful for our church family and for your continued support through your thoughts and prayers as we continue to work through this difficult time. God bless you.

With much love,

*Chris, Bill, Desarae, Liam, Brittany and Ian*

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

**Bible Study Classes**

* The **Sunday Morning Bible Study** (8 am)

group is continuing its study of the writings of the minor prophets.

* The **Women’s Bible Study** group is currently studying the book of Romans. Sessions are held at 10 AM the first and third Thursdays of the month.
* The **Men’s Bible Study** is temporarily suspended until a new meeting day/time is determined.

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**Coffee Fellowship**

**is November 12th!**

Join us following worship, Sunday, November 12th for **Coffee Fellowship.** November’s sponsors are Gordon & Rebecca Marquette.

The 2024 Fellowship sponsorship sheet will be posted in the narthex mid-month. If interested in being a sponsor, please sign your name on the sheet. Sponsors are asked to drop off 2-1/2—3 dozen “treats” and a quart of juice in the Fellowship Hall kitchen prior to church on their given Sunday. Coffee preparation, set-up, and clean-up will be done for you.

Please speak with Diane Riefstahl if you should have any questions.

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Collected pop tabs can be left for Marie Flaugher in the library.

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**Thanksgiving**

**Eve**

**Vesper Service**

Wednesday,

November 22nd

at 7 pm

**Please keep the following**

**in your prayers**

PVT Alexander Carr

7009 Quartermaster Rd.

F Co 16th OD BN 4th PLT

Fort Gregg-Adams, VA 23801

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Anna Mae Daris

1865 Hofius Lane

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-962-5079

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Millie Elavsky

1209 Maple Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-342-0345

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Rudy Tomko

Rm. 8

Nugent Convalescent Home

500 Clarksville Rd.

Hermitage, PA 16148

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Jean Tomko

2629 Romar Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-979-4360

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Betty Ann Wolf

Rm. 28

Jameson Care Center

3349 Wilmington Rd.

New Castle, PA 16105

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Ed & Millie Zachar

1320 Old Forge Rd.

Niles, OH 44446

330-652-9316

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We give thanks to those amongst us who served in the Armed Forces in the past and offer prayers for the safety of those who serve today: *Alex Carr, Duncan Vaupel, Curtis Sinewe, and Joshua Solyan.*



**OUR 4th QUARTER MISSION:**

**Willow Women’s Center**

*Call/text 724.854.9455*

*to learn more.*

Your support of this Quarterly Mission will be greatly appreciated. Donations may be placed in a pew envelope and put in the offering plate.

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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, 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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**November Church Office Hours**

The secretary’s office will be open as follows in November:

* Week of October 29: Monday (8:30-5) and Thursday (8:30-10; 11-5).
* Week of November 5: Monday (8:30-4:30), Thursday (11:30-4:30), and Friday (as needed).
* Week of November 12: Monday (8:30-5) and Thursday (8:30-10; 11-5).
* Week of November 19: Monday & Wednesday (8:30-4:30).
* Week of November 26: Monday and Thursday (8:30-4:30).

If needing to enter the building, please phone first to make certain someone is there to let you in.

Remember thefollowing in prayer…

*****~The Hurting and Healing:*** *Amy, Steve Antolovich, Ellen BaronCA, Amy Blomenberg, Lois BortnerCA, Sara Brubaker, Dee Bullock, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Susan Davies, Loretta Deal, Tim Dudash, Judith & Eddy Furey, Griffin, Austin Hamilton, Pastor Charles Henrickson, Joan, Keith Jozwiakowski, Darla Krajci, Barbara Kreske, Jess Lavoie, Paul LucasCA, Sandy Marshall, Frank NiemeyerCA, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Nancy RobertsonCA, Kriss SvidroCA, Rudy Tomko, Joel & Peggy Wasson, Angela WeserCA, Betty Wolf, and Ruth Wolf.*

***~The Homebound:***  *Anna Mae Daris, Millie Elavsky, Jean Tomko, and Ed & Millie Zachar.*

**~Serving in the Military:**  *Alex (Sasha) Carr, Duncan Vaupel, Curtis Sinewe, and Joshua Solyan.*

**~Community & World Needs:**  *Those suffering from or affected by the coronavirus; those suffering due to the conflicts in the Middle East and 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 Fourth Quarter Local Mission: Willow Women’s Center.*

*\*CA represents cancer.*

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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.

**SCRIP Program:**

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

Forms for ordering gift cards are available on tables in the narthex and next to the nursery.

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**Altar Guild News**

The case in which the Memorial Book will be displayed has been finished and delivered to the church. We are extremely grateful to Altar Guild member Traudi Sulek who covered the cost of the handcrafted case in memory of past Altar Guild members. The case will be dedicated Sunday, November 5th and will be put on display. A plan for its permanent location was discussed with Pastor Deal who shared it with the Interior Renovation Committee. Altar Guild members are asked to attend the November 5th service and sit together for the dedication.

The next Altar Guild meeting has been moved to Saturday, November 11th at 1 pm. Members are asked to bring ideas for using the memorial monies which have been given to our group. November’s hostess will be Marie Flaugher.

All women are welcome to join us!

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Don’t forget to turn your clocks

***back***one hour Sunday, November 5th!

**November Special Services**

Please join us to celebrate the following special services this November!

**7 pm Wednesday, November 1st:**

**All Saints’ Day Divine Service**

*Remembering those members*

*of our congregation who died this past year:*

Anson Holcroft

Viola Sakony

Barry Nelson

*and those we hold dear in our hearts.*

**7 pm Wednesday, November 22th:**

**Thanksgiving Eve**

**Vespers Service**

**7 pm Thursday, November 30th:**

**Festival of Saint Andrew, Apostle**

**Divine Service**

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**Sincere “thanks”** are extended to those who planned, assisted with, and attended October’s *Appreciation Dinner* for Pastor Deal and his family. It is always wonderful to share fellowship with one another and to express our heartfelt gratitude. We are especially grateful to the core committee members: Mark & Bess Kleindienst, Mike & Marie Flaugher, Catherine Carr, Arlene Sutton, and Linda Tomko!

Currently, this congregation is uniquely blessed with multiple families who have dedicated their lives to sharing the ministry of our Lord and Savior: the Baisches, Kuceras, and Carrs. We give thanks and praise to our Lord for their service.

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Our first mid-week **Advent services** will take place Wednesday, December 6th.

**Memory Verses for October:**

**For Adults:**

Oct. 1: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. *Colossians 3:12-13*

Oct. 8: For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. *Romans 8:13*

Oct 15: You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. *Matthew 10:22*

Oct. 22: Let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. *1 Corinthians 7:17*

Oct. 29: Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

*Matthew 7:21*

**For Children:**

Oct. 1: He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*Micah 6:8*

Oct. 8: This commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. *1 John 4:21*

Oct. 15: Know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

*Matthew 9:6*

Oct. 22: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

*2 Timothy 2:19*

Oct. 29: An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

*2 Timothy 2:5*

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It’s time to renew subscriptions for the **“Lutheran Witness” magazine** for 2024. The price has increased to $19.25. If wishing to renew, place a check made out to Sts. Peter & Paul’s in a pew envelope and label the envelope with your name and that it is for the **LW**. Please make sure to note any change in address with your renewal. Renewals are due on or before Sunday, November 19, 2023.

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The second Sunday of each month is designated as **“Food Pantry Sunday”.** Your financial support of this community outreach is greatly appreciated.

Did you know that our Food Pantry is currently serving over 30 families? If you know of anyone experiencing a hardship, please have them contact [foodpantry@saintspeterandpaul.net](mailto:foodpantry@saintspeterandpaul.net).

A special breakfast will be offered to our clients and their families Thurs., Nov. 9th from 9-11 am. If wishing to help out that morning, please speak with Pastor Deal.

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