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

Monthly Newsletter --- September 2021

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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 Church Council President:**

**Built on the Rock Capital Campaign**

Now that our capital campaign has begun, Church leadership will be providing newsletter articles to spotlight the projects that are in the campaign. This is meant to help inform congregation members of the benefits and necessity of the various projects which have been selected to be part of the campaign. After discussion at the July Voters’ Assembly, the first article will focus not on a project but on the capital campaign loan and how it is a vital tool for the church to use during the campaign.

**Capital Campaign Loan Purpose**

*Why has Saints Peter and Paul taken out a Loan as part of our Capital Campaign? How will it be used and repaid?*

Even though the Voters’ Assembly approved a $100,000 loan as part of our capital campaign, you might be asking why we have taken out a loan instead of waiting for our campaign to bring in enough funds to begin projects or using our reserves. Three main

reasons the Church has chosen to use a loan as part of the capital campaign are to address pressing projects immediately, maintain the church financial resources, and allow the campaign to achieve the stated goals while providing financial stability.

First, the loan enables the most pressing projects to be completed sooner than our congregation donations would allow. The first four projects of our capital campaign focus on correcting water issues which have been causing damage to the church for years, and have been getting noticeably worse over the last several years which has made these items urgent.  Please see the next section titled “Our Immediate Projects” for more detail on why these urgent items are needed.

Second, the loan allows the church to maintain its financial resources while conducting the capital campaign. These first four projects are estimated to cost approximately $100,000 and will consume the LCEF loan. At a Voters’ Assembly, some previously voiced the desire to use the church savings – that is approximately $50,000 we have in the LCEF account – for projects instead of taking out as large a loan. I applaud an attitude that abhors debt, especially if that debt is unnecessary, however, we as a church must also consider being prepared for the unexpected and understand the cost of the funds we are using. Regarding the first point, the unexpected, the church leadership had to consider that we might have unexpected issues during our capital campaign. These could take a variety of forms ranging from a project exposing an unexpected problem to an equipment failure which results in an emergency to something such as COVID last year which had a noticeable impact on our member giving in 2020. For the second point, we must consider how much it costs us to use the LCEF’s money and what that money gains us. LCEF is currently charging us 1.875% which comes out to about $155 / month. We pay $155 / month to use $100,000 of other people’s money! These interest rates are literally the lowest interest rates the USA has ever seen. While none of the church want to pay interest, this is a time when it makes sense to do so. We will repay that loan within 3 years as long as we meet our campaign goal. Achieving this goal will only be possible because of the support of you, the members. This will allow our projects to be completed while also paying very little out of pocket. The capital campaign planning has built in repayment of the loan over the course of the campaign. For example, by the time we begin the project to repair the masonry work, we will have enough money to repay approximately 1/4 to 1/3 of the loan. By the end of 3 years, we will have spent less than $5,000 on interest for the loan (if it takes us that long). This is only 2.5% of our capital campaign or less than 4% of our annual church budget.

Third, the LCEF loan allows the church to achieve our stated campaign goals while providing financial stability. The church leadership has had to consider the need for each project and also the impact of the campaign on the congregation finances and contingencies. The Voters’ Assembly agreed with leadership and approved the campaign projects.  Should we fall short of some of the project goals, the loan allows us flexibility and time to reconsider our plans and make adjustments. We can repay the loan as fast or as slowly, not exceeding 10 years, as we are able while also completing the repair and renovation needed to keep our church a beautiful place to receive God’s gifts. Again, the Church does not desire in any way to extend the loan more than is necessary to complete the work.

The Church Voters’ Assembly approved specific campaign goals to perform specific projects, and this was to allow the projects to be paced with the campaign so that work is done in a timely fashion and we all see the results of the sacrifice we are making to fund this campaign. If members give, as the new motion in the last Voters’ Assembly allowed, to the principal of the loan only, this will rob our campaign of the necessary capital to perform projects at the milestones the Voters’ Assembly approved.  This targeted giving robs the campaign because the church will be required to repay the loan at a faster rate than was planned and the church will not have the capital on hand to complete the next scheduled project. If enough money is given to the principal only, it will directly undermine the will of the Voters’ Assembly to complete the capital campaign projects.   Please trust your elected leaders to continue to work through our campaign following the timetable laid out. I encourage any member to please come talk to me about any of the above issues.

As a final note, when Vice-President Riffle and I provided the financial planning to LCEF we provided several years’ worth of estimated church budgets which had to include servicing the loan. The church does not intend to do that, but if this campaign has setbacks or issues, it is within the church’s ability to work through a loan which can be repaid at a slower pace. What we as a church cannot work through or handle is repaying the loan rapidly at the expense of the campaign.

**Our Immediate Projects**

The first project being completed is the re-shingling of the entire roof and installing new fascia. Over the last two years the Nave and Chancel have had multiple leaks, requiring the church to place buckets and garbage cans throughout the church to catch water and limit damage. Damage, of course, still occurs as the ceiling and structural members were not designed to be exposed to water. The old fascia has similarly been in bad shape for years and has been on the list of projects to complete since I joined this church 5 years ago. I have included a picture below of the old and new fascia for comparison. What a difference this will make in the appearance of the church!



The second project is to replace the gutters and is being completed at the same time as the roof. The existing gutters have had leaks and holes, and are not placed properly to capture all the water running off the roof. Water that overflows or misses the gutters is not directed away from the church foundations and contributes to water damage in the fellowship hall, youth room, and the rest of the basement.

The third project focuses on repairing the church drainage that moves water away from the foundation and transports the water from the gutters and downspouts. Currently the church has some drainage issues in the courtyard facing Stambaugh Avenue. This issue contributed to the mold that we mitigated in the Fellowship Hall last year. This water issue is ongoing and is damaging some of the work we have done in the Fellowship Hall. The church must correct this water issue now before it undoes the wonderful work we have done. Another drainage issue in the basement is when we have moderate to substantial rain, the kitchen floods. Those who came to Community Day this year, can attest that we had ¼ - ½” of standing water during the storms! This water cannot be benefiting our foundations or our efforts to combat mold.

The last immediate project is to bring in a mold mitigation service to remove the remaining large areas of mold from the church. The upstairs of the old church in particular has very high mold concentrations. The church has been waiting to fix this because our mold specialist warned us that until the leaks and water damage in the roof were addressed, we would not be able to remove and prevent mold reoccurrence. The trustees will be completing some smaller mold remediation projects to complement the professional services. Hopefully this provides a better understanding of why these projects are of the highest priority.

VDMA!

Jonathan Baisch, President  
Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church LC-MS

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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

**Goal: $200,000**

**Amount pledged as of 08.15.21: $100,820**

**Goal: $200,000**

**Contributions as of**

**08.15.21: $8920**

**Homebound Member & Friend**

***Please keep the following in your prayers:***

Marion Roberts

287 East 2nd St. Apt. #103

Hummelstown, PA 17036

724-893-4570

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**SCRIP Program:**

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

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**CELEBRATING IN SEPTEMBER!**

**Birthdays**

Christine Hamilton 9- 4

Michael A. Petro 9- 5

Max Jelinek 9- 7

Susan Daris 9- 9

Ruth Meszaros 9- 9

Dolores Fee 9-14

Austin Hamilton 9-20

Cathy Smith 9-20

Matt Berent 9-22

Karen Psznick 9-24

**Anniversaries:**

Ernest & Ruth Meszaros 9-3

Shawn & Staci Taylor 9-28

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

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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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**TRUSTEES’ UPDATE**

**By Mike Flaugher, Chairman**

First of all, a big thank you to all who helped with the cleaning and tidying of the church and grounds in July and August.  From top to bottom, inside and out, the church and grounds received much attention and care. Included in the work were the following projects:

* Lights replaced in sanctuary.
* Hallways cleaned and vacuumed.
* Fellowship hall cleaned.
* Handrails wiped down.
* Steps and sidewalks pressure washed.
* Main entry steps painted.
* Doorbell repaired.
* Yellow safety strip painted on steps.
* Exit door fixed.
* Shrubbery trimmed.
* Weeds in the flower beds removed.
* Gardens mulched.

Everything looks nice!  The Trustees are grateful for all those who pitched in to get projects completed.

  Our new roof is done! Now, the fascia and gutters are being replaced. Unfortunately, the weather continues to play havoc with the completion of the work.   The contractor wants to time the removal of the old gutters with good weather so as to avoid potential flooding of the Fellowship Hall should it rain. The new target date for the completion of this part of the project is the end of August.

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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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**STS. PETER & PAUL’S**

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

***A Note of Appreciation*** In the August issue, there was a note concerning donating skeins of yarn that will be turned into warm, children’s sweaters for Food Pantry families. In response to a financial donation, our “mystery” knitter writes…

*Many thanks for the generous donation for yarn to be used for knitting children's sweaters to be distributed by our Sts. Peter and Paul Food Pantry. It will provide for a number of sweaters to keep those little ones warm in our Pennsylvania winters! Also, thanks for the kind note; it will be a joy to create more colorful sweaters!*

If interested in donating to this project or helping create sweaters to be given away, please speak with Barry Nelson or put a note in his mailbox in our library.

***Food Warehouse Shows Appreciation*** Did you remember to sign up for a monthly box of fresh produce? The Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County is donating boxes of fresh produce to our Food Pantry clients and interested church members in September and October. If you wish to sign up, please speak with Barry Nelson or Bob Sulek.

Boxes of fresh produce will be available for pickup from 8:30 – 9:30 am September 9 and October 14. August boxes included peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, and potatoes. September and October boxes may vary.

If unable to pick up your box on the dates listed, you may get it the following Sunday after worship.

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**Thank You for Serving in September:**

**Head Elder:** Bob Sulek

**Assisting Elder:** Jonathan Baisch

**Ushers:** To be determined.

**Altarware:** (Before service) Marie Flaugher & Diane Riefstahl; (After service) Anne Colt & Viola Sakony

**Finance Committee:** Catherine Carr & Nancy Robertson

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**SEPTEMBER BRINGS CHANGES!**

* **Sunday morning worship services** will once again begin at 10 am starting September 5th.
* **Sunday morning Bible Study** will continue on hiatus until further notice.
* **Pastor Deal** will be serving as **Vacancy Pastor for All Saints Lutheran Church** in Slippery Rock, PA until further notice.
* It’s back! **Coffee & Donuts Monthly Fellowship** will resume Sunday, September 12th. If interested in sponsoring for October, November, or December, please sign the sheet posted in the narthex. Fellowships will take place the second Sunday of each month when possible. Sponsors need to bring 2-3 dozen donuts/muffins and 1 qt. orange juice on the day they 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, creamers, sugar, and miscellaneous supplies.
* **Monthly audits of deposits and the Food Pantry account** will move to the third Sunday of each month.

**ATTENTION AUDITORS!**

The next audit of deposits and the Food Pantry Account will be following worship Sunday, September 19th in the library.

If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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**September 5th** has been designated as **“FIRST GIFTS SUNDAY”**. Members, who are able, are asked to help jump start our **Capital Campaign** with an initial, large donation. These gifts will help accelerate completion of outlined projects and demonstrate our dedication to this campaign.

Please prayerfully consider your donation.

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**Betty Petro Hardell** was called to the arms of our Lord August 16, 2021, in her home in Tavares, FL while under hospice care.  Betty was the sister of Paul and Michael Petro and Patty Petro Parker.

Condolences may be sent to the following addresses

*Paul (Joyce) Petro*:  2716 Albert St.,

New Castle, PA  16105

*Michael A. Petro*:  4305 Ben Gunn Rd.,

Virginia Beach, VA  23455

*Patty Parker*:  163 Azalea Trail,

Leesburg, FL  34748

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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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FROM YOUR ALTAR GUILD:

**Did You Know** that the average age of a Sts. Peter & Paul’s Altar Guild member is 75 years young?! That number represents a lot of years of service to this congregation combined with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Why is this number significant? Many of our Altar Guild members have served this church for decades. The truth is, many of them wish to pass on some of the responsibility for what they do to someone younger. Can you blame them? In spite of aching joints and easily-fatigued bodies, they continue to step up to perform their duties and their love for the church sustains them. It is time to allow them to share their knowledge and to let them know that their work will continue in the loving, capable hands of others.

The next meeting of the Altar Guild is scheduled for Saturday, September 18th at 10 am. **New members are welcome!** Officer elections for the next year will be held.

The tasks performed by members of the Altar Guild are numerous. It is not expected that each member be involved with each task. That’s the beauty of it! What binds us is our love for our church and desire to serve our Lord.

Possible tasks include the following:

* Maintaining/repairing clerical vestments and linens
* Changing altar paraments in accordance with the church calendar
* Cleaning/polishing altar ware as needed
* Filling candles with oil
* Setting up for Holy Communion
* Cleaning vessels used with Holy Communion
* Baking desserts for conferences/funeral dinners
* Setting up/serving/cleaning up from funeral dinners
* Tidying the sanctuary and reporting issues which need attention
* Cleaning/maintaining/replacing artificial flower arrangements as needed

The Altar Guild meets monthly September through May. Meeting days and times are flexible and will be determined by when the majority of members are able to attend. Meetings will include brief devotions, a business meeting, and (starting this September) fellowship. Members can be as involved as their time and talents allow.

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**ALTAR GUILD “YEAR IN REVIEW”**

-*Marie Flaugher*

What a year!

What were you doing last year at this time? While the world was navigating the “new normal” of the Covid pandemic, Sts. Peter & Paul’s was re-activating its Altar Guild! Our membership has expanded and we are an active group of ladies. Over the past year, we have

* Learned the proper names of many of the vessels and cloths used during the Divine Service and displayed on the altar
* Gained knowledge of the Church Year and the colors representing each period
* Learned to set up for Holy Communion to allow Elders to concentrate on other duties
* Attended a lesson of the Church windows, led by Pastor Deal
* Met several times to polish altar ware and other items of precious metals
* Cleaned, repaired, and created new fair linens for the altar
* Created several new purificators
* Purchased a new paten in honor of past Altar Guild members
* Cleaned and refreshed artificial flowers for use each season
* Established a relationship with a new florist for live flowers
* Cleaned and organized the Fellowship Hall kitchen

As we forge our way into our next year of service, many more activities are being planned including adding social activities to our schedule.

Please consider joining us in helping make our Church “shine” a little brighter!

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Check it out!

One of our recent Altar Guild projects was to go through the Fellowship Hall kitchen drawers and cabinets and sort through everything. Items which were no longer in good condition have been tossed and other items have been cleaned and arranged in an orderly fashion.

There are a few items which were not kept which are in good condition and may be of use to someone. These items have been displayed on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Please take a look at them. They are yours if you want them! Items will be displayed through the week of September 12th. Remaining items will be donated to Goodwill.

Remember the

following in Prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *The friends and family of Betty Petro Hardell, who passed away August 16th; Ellen BaronCA, Lois BortnerCA, Richard Brandes, John Burdette, Kim, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, Joseph Fleet, Eddy Furey, Judith Furey, Marie Haenftling, Neale & Melissa Huston, Michelle KellyCA, Donna Kennedy, Jess Lavoie, Paul LucasCA, Sandy Marshall, Ernie Meszaros, David Nelson, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Marty Scott, Angela WeserCA, Betty Wolf, and Millie Zachar.*

**~The Homebound:**  *Marion Roberts.*

**~Serving in the Military:**  *Curtis Sinewe and Joshua Solyan.*

**~Community & World Needs:**  *Those suffering from or affected by the coronavirus; 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 Third Quarter Local Mission: Meals on Wheels of the Shenango Valley.*

*\*CA represents cancer*

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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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**A note from Pastor Deal:** *Please let me know if you or a loved one are in the hospital or have a special need. Also, please ask the hospital or family members to phone me or the church office as I wish to visit those who may be hurting.*

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

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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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**SHENANGO VALLEY MEALS ON WHEELS** has been selected as our **Third Quarter** **Local Mission**. Donations may be placed in a pew envelope labeled with your name and envelope number. Be sure to indicate “Local Mission” on the envelope.

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

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Please help us **RECYCLE!** A bin has been placed next to the parking lot doors for used bulletins. Please help us keep our sanctuary neat by either taking home your service bulletins or disposing of them here.

Additionally, there is a basket by the secretary’s office for donations of already-read Christian materials. They will be sorted and donated to ICLD periodically.

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**BIBLE MEMORY VERSES FROM AUGUST**

**For Adults**

August 1: *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* Colossians 1:13-14

August 8: *All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

2 Timothy 3:12

August 15: *Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* Matthew 10:28

August 22: *You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Matthew 16:18

August 29: *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?* Roman 8:32

**For Children**

August 1: *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.*

Ephesians 5:15

August 8: *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*

Proverbs 14:34

August 15: *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

1 Peter 5:5

August 22: *A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench.*

Matthew 12:20

August 29: *As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.* Matthew 25:40

**September Feast Days**

Please join us to celebrate the following Feast Days this September!

**6 pm Tuesday, Sept. 21:**

**Festival of St. Matthew,**

**Apostle and Evangelist**

**Who was St. Matthew?**

(Source: SunSigns.org)

## *Early Years and Education*

Levi, son of Alphaeus, was born in the 1st century AD. He was born in Capernaum, a small fishing village. The town sat on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee.

## *Career*

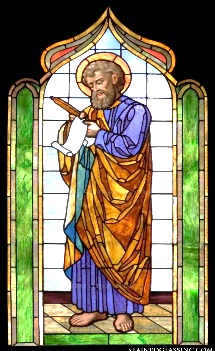
**Levi** started his career as a tax collector. As a result of his work, Levi would have been proficient in the Aramaic and Greek languages. He worked with the Romans in his role, and due to this, the other Jews disliked him immensely.

## *Call to Ministry*

Jesus called Levi to the Ministry, and Levi followed him. He became known as Matthew.

**Matthew** followed Jesus as one of his four disciples. He saw both the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and he preached the gospel in Jerusalem.

After preaching in Judea, scholars believe he traveled to other countries to continue his preaching.



**6 pm Wednesday, Sept. 29:**

**Festival of St. Michael**

**and All Angels**

**Who was St. Michael?**

(Source: Planning the Service ~ A Workbook for Pastors, Organists, and Choirmasters)

The Festival of the Archangel Michael is celebrated at that time of the year of nature when, in their seasonal struggle, night and day are at a deadlock. In the embattled figure of St. Michael, we see epitomized the great struggle that is going on in the world: the conflict between God’s kingdom and the kingdom of darkness.

St. Michael’s battle against the Dragon is therefore a battle for God’s rulership. Michael and his angels are the mighty spirits and powers which are now subject unto Christ, whom God raised from the dead and set at His own right hand in the heavenly places “far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come.” (Eph. 1:20, 21)

St. Michael’s victory over Satan is none other than Christ’s Easter victory, a victory heralded with the words: “Now is come salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down! Therefore rejoice, ye heavens and ye that dwell in them!” (Rev. 12:10, 12a)