

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH
COMMUNITY GARDEN
Gather & Grow



“For everything there is a
season ... a time to
plant...” Ecclesiastes 3

Dear Church,

On Sunday, July 5, we gather for worship one day after the United States marks its 250th anniversary. It is a milestone worth pausing to notice, even as we do what we always do and center ourselves on the living God whose reign outlasts every earthly nation.

This occasion is an invitation for both celebration and lament, honesty and hope. Through the prayers and liturgy on July 5, we'll name our nation's story, its real aspirations toward freedom and justice alongside its deep failures to live up to them. But our worship begins and ends not with America, but with the God who made us, redeems us, and calls us to love our neighbors without exception.

The readings appointed for the day couldn't be more fitting. From Zechariah's vision of a humble king who sets prisoners free, to Paul's honest wrestling with the gap between what we know is right and what we actually do, to Jesus' open invitation, Come to me, all you who are weary, the scriptures draw us toward a Lord whose kingdom looks nothing like the kingdoms of this world.

Our hymns carry that same thread. How Firm a Foundation, written in the early years of this nation's life, is a reminder that Christians have been anchoring themselves in God's faithfulness through uncertain times since the very beginning of the American story. This Is My Song lets us love our own land while affirming the dignity of every nation's people. Build a Longer Table reflects Jesus' own practice of welcome. And Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty extends his invitation to all who hunger for something more than what the world offers.

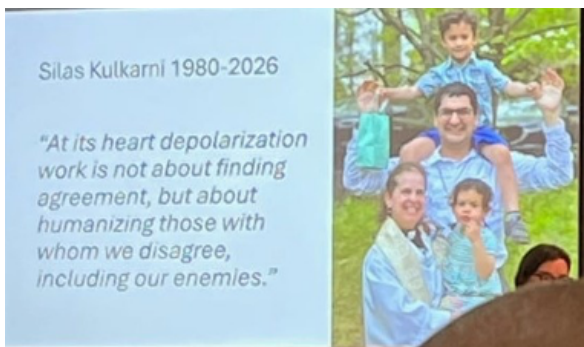
As the service that day ends and we prepare to go back into the world, we'll close with an Affirmation of Christian Vocation in Civic Life, a moment to recommit ourselves to the call that baptism places on all of us: to pursue the common good, bear witness to what is true and just, and serve our neighbors as disciples of Christ rather than merely as citizens of a nation.

Come, weary and hopeful, grateful and honest. The table is set. The welcome is wide. There is rest for our souls here.

In Christ,
Pastor Alex



A group of six members of the St Peter Lutheran Church participated in the annual commonwealth-wide LAMPa event on April 20, 2026. LAMPa stands for the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania. The theme of this year’s event was “Citizens with the Saints”, which the key note speaker, the Rev. Amy Reumann, Senior Director of the ELCA Witness in Society program, explained originating from Ephesians 2: “So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.” Her truly inspiring talk invited participants to consider how Christian discipleship shapes our civic life through grounding public witness in love of neighbor and solidarity, through a faithful, hope-filled presence in the public square.



A slide from the talk by the Rev. Amy Reumann showing a quote by Silas Sulkarni, who was the Director of Strategy & Advocacy at ELCA. Silas died in April 2026.



Pam Ringhoffer & Carol Forbes



Rosalie Brunner & Carol Forbes. Rosalie was an associate member of St. Peter and is now associate pastor at Evangelical Lutheran in Waynesboro, PA

The full-day event contained workshops on 16 different topics exploring opportunities for us Lutherans to work together to make the country a better place for all to live. We heard about the increasing need for food and difficulties in the access to healthcare in our own communities when the federal programs are being diminished. We also heard about the ELCA work among immigrants, and how to make them feel welcome in PA. In addition, there were workshops on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and the challenges that the huge data centers bring with their large electricity and water demands, which put communities at risk. Other workshop topics included e.g., elections, LGBTQ+ discrimination, climate advocacy, peace, and gun violence.

The program also included a joyous worship service presided by The Rev Brenda Martin. The thought-provoking sermon was given by the Southeastern Minnesota Bishop Regina Hassanally, who had experienced first-hand the actions of the ICE agents of the Department of Homeland Security in her community.

President's Corner



For many activities in the church, summer provides a time to slow down. The choirs take some time off, some committees forgo meetings, and Sunday school classes are on hold as members of the congregation travel for vacations.

The Council typically takes a break from one meeting during the summer. Still, June is when the 2026-27 GLEE budget is prepared. In July, we start working on the 2027 Church Budget. This is also when the Audit Committee meets to review last year's finances. The work of the church slows down but does not stop.

Summer is also when we begin to think about who might be called to serve on council. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of people who work well together to see that the mission of our congregation is carried out. We are currently looking for someone to chair the Finance Committee and someone to chair the Stewardship Committee. And we will need three council members to be elected to take the place of three members who have served on the council for 6 years each and are required to take a break.

As you take a little time to relax this summer, please consider what you might do in the fall to be a part of what our congregation council does. If you have questions about being on the council, please ask any member; they all have great stories to tell of the good times we have working together.

Yours in Christ,
Priss Bashore

Worship & Music

As summer approaches and we get ready for new activities and adventures, let's also remember our long-standing traditions like Summer Sunday Services. When you join us, you'll notice some familiar Liturgy settings, enjoy special music, and hear favorite hymns. We will also continue following the Revised Common Lectionary.

So, while you plan your summer activities, plan to join us. Summer services start June 7th. That means there will be only one service at 9:30 am. Enjoy your summer and come enjoy seeing your early or late service friends as we all worship our Lord together.

Yours in Christ,
Susan Hensel

Hope Academy

At St. Peter, we partner with Hope Academy in Guatemala as part of our Global Ministry. The school offers a bilingual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) program for students from pre-K to grade 6.

In Guatemala, girls are often unable to continue their education past the early grades. Hope Academy changes this by offering a strong education and internships in 5th and 6th grade, helping girls learn how to run a business. The Creciendo Juntas (Growing Together) coffee we sell on Fair Trade Sundays comes from the current 6th-grade girls' internship project. All proceeds support Hope Academy.

Some St. Peter members have chosen to sponsor a girl themselves. You can learn more about them on the “Meet Our Girls” board in the hallway. As a church family, we support Anahi (Ah-nah-e) by helping with her education and therapy expenses. She faces some learning challenges and is grieving the loss of her twin brother. Her school costs \$1800 each year, and her therapy sessions are \$160 per month. We have already raised more than half of that amount! You can check our progress on the green thermometer posted in the hallway outside the Boardroom.

We invite you to donate and support Anahi as she works toward her goals. If you are writing a check, please write Anahi's name on the memo line or use the envelopes found in the pew racks.



Mission Central Volunteer Days



St Peter is excited to partner with Mission Central in Mechanicsburg to help “Connect God’s Resources to Human Need”, which is Mission Central’s slogan. The next volunteer day is Monday, **August 24**, from 12:15 - 2:45 PM. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up!

[SIGN UP HERE FOR AUGUST 24](#)

Thank You

A special **THANK YOU** to everyone who made, bought, sold, and/or enjoyed eating St Peter's delicious Easter eggs! Your support and hard work made this year a success. We made 12,576 eggs! The ELCW (Evangelical Lutheran Church Women) leads the egg-making fundraiser to help support many projects at St Peter.

The ELCW extends its thanks to the following businesses for their support of the fundraiser.

A & B Automotive
Edwin L. Heim Company
Hairapy Barbering Beauty & Spa
Lincolnway Fire Company
Mechanicsburg Eye Associates
On Stage
Sounds of Shears by Margo
Studio7
Wegmans

The ELCW thanks **Sondra Bowen** for selling the most Easter eggs.
Sondra sold an impressive **1,259** eggs!

Thank you

Thank you to my St. Peter family for your kindness, including cards, phone calls, food, hugs, flowers, and memorial gifts after the passing of my husband, Rich Lepley, last October.

Marsha Lepley



Gather Around God's Campfire!

Join us for VBS

Monday, July 13 - Thursday, July 16

9:00-11:30 AM

For children ages 4 through entering 6th grade

Register here: →



On a cold, misty Friday morning, April 3, and chilly, Saturday morning, April 4, Bill handled a table at the Sheepford Crossing neighborhood yard sale at 145 Ewe Rd, Mechanicsburg. On the table were toys from St. Peter's old nursery, and assorted items from the Klemick's (Audrey donated an athletic bag filled with softball equipment), and the Laubenheimer's households. Bill did all the work. I was inside baking bread and making sauce for the lasagna I was making for our family Easter dinner. Occasionally, I would peek out the window or walk to the end of the driveway and see Bill talking to the bargain hunters. One little boy gave Bill a dime for an action figure. It was so cute. A father of seven children, ranging from one to eighteen, paid fifteen dollars for a bin full of train tracks and toys. A gentleman from a religious organization (He left us a pamphlet, but it did not say what the organization was.) bought toys for the Shoe Box Ministry. A lovely lady from Trinity Camp Hill did not purchase anything, but she gave us a \$2.00 donation. I filled a basket with items leftover from VBS, Zumba, and stuff that my grandchildren have outgrown with a sign that read, "Everything in this basket is 25 cents each". That was extremely popular. I filled the basket twice. All the proceeds from the sale went to St. Peter's Vacation Bible School Program. The total was \$128.00.



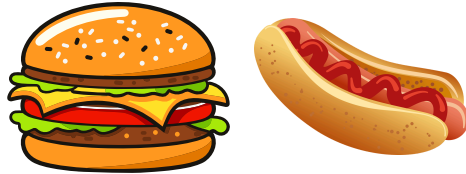
Thanks be to God!

Clare Laubenheimer

Life Together

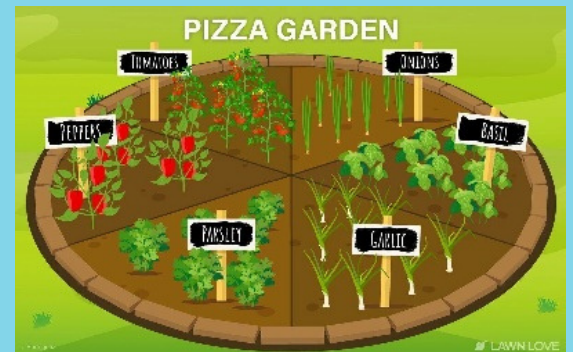
Annual Church Picnic

The Fellowship Committee welcomes you to join us for the Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, **June 14**, after the 9:30 AM worship service. We'll have hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and drinks ready for everyone. Feel free to bring your favorite picnic dish to share. You can sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.



Let's Plant a Pizza Garden

Join us on **June 27** for Planting with Pizza! We'll start working around 9 AM and finish up with pizza for lunch. Along with planting, we will create the pizza garden, slice by slice, in one of the extra plots, and harvest lavender. Come, be part of the fun as we help provide food for families in need.



Sunday Fellowship

There will be no 2nd Sunday Fellowship in June, so everyone can attend the Church Picnic on June 14. We hope you'll join us for Fellowship Sundays on **July 19** (3rd Sunday) and **August 9** (2nd Sunday), right after the 9:30 AM worship service. Enjoy some refreshments and good company—drinks will be provided, and we invite you to bring a snack to share. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dottie Shultz at dshultz627@gmail.com.

Senators Faith Night

Join your St Peter friends for fellowship, fun & baseball at the Senators Faith Night on Friday, **July 24** at 7 PM! The fun continues after the game, against the Fightin Phils, with fireworks! Reserved second-level box seats are \$15 each. Ticket orders and payments are due by July 8. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.



Life Together

Game Night

The Fellowship Committee is hosting a “*Back to School*” Game Night on Saturday, **August 29th** at 4:00 PM. Bring your Family, friends, favorite games, and a snack to share! Donations will be accepted for a pizza dinner! All ages and game skill levels are welcome!



Financial Snapshot

	April '26		YTD
Income	21,176.76	Income	102,116.58
Expenses	25,540.94	Expenses	99,138.39
Net Income	-4364.18	Net Income	2,978.19

June 3 - Ted & Donna Christiansen
 June 9 - Mark & Renee Bogdan
 June 15 - Chris & Leisa Barry
 June 15 - Matt & Stacie Witmer
 June 16 - George & Penny Bedorf
 June 18 - Larry & Priss Bashore
 June 19 - Devin & Katie Manzullo- Thomas
 June 21 - Clay & Beth Pepper
 June 27 - Paul & Sarah Bowers
 June 30 - Rex & Molly Carmichael
 June 30 - Clyde & Carol Forbes

Happy Anniversary

July 18 - Jason & Lora Sisock
 July 31 - Larry & Gloria Moyer
 August 2 - Wes & Jess Morret
 August 4 - Frank & Darlene Fawber
 August 16 - Phil & Faith Klemick
 August 20 - Brian & Shannon Pennington
 August 21 - Zach & Sara Weiss
 August 22 - Alex & Beth Martini
 August 25 - Bob & Brenda Long



Birthday Blessings!



June 3 - Sondra Bowen
 June 3 - Jess Morret
 June 4 - Matthew Pepper
 June 6 - Kim Draude
 June 6 - Mark Podvia
 June 7 - Wendy Mundorf
 June 10 - Jackie Quatrini
 June 15 - Larry Moyer
 June 15 - Sara Weiss
 June 16 - David Hamilton
 June 16 - Sidney Shuey
 June 18 - Megan Zagoric
 June 19 - Peter Slack
 June 20 - Kim Eichinger
 June 20 - Judy Trissler
 June 21 - Zach Weiss
 June 22 - Beth Martini
 June 24 - Larry Bashore
 June 24 - Bob Eichinger
 June 24 - Katie Manzullo-Thomas
 June 25 - Ryan Klemick
 June 25 - Joe Pironti
 June 27 - Jonathan Ernst
 June 27 - Dottie Shultz
 June 28 - Jack Barry
 June 28 - Jean Wiltrout

July 5 - Kenneth Bailey
 July 5 - Penny Bedorf
 July 6 - Paul Bowers
 July 7 - Betty Ann Harris
 July 8 - Rio Weiss
 July 9 - Devin Manzullo-Thomas
 July 15 - Clare Laubenheimer
 July 15 - Alex Martini
 July 18 - Fred Marlowe
 July 18 - Mary Ann Prior
 July 20 - Molly Carmichael
 July 22 - Janet Alexander
 July 24 - Cleo Ritchey
 July 25 - Margaret Fratus
 July 26 - Joyce Bowers
 July 27 - Connie Kishbaugh
 July 27 - Derek Stitt
 July 28 - Sue Potter
 July 29 - Deb Dunn
 July 30 - Ashleigh Bailey
 July 30 - Fred Hait
 July 31 - Shanna Terry

August 2 - Jessica Morret
 August 4 - Shirley Buckbee
 August 4 - Cheryl Paull
 August 5 - Ed Zagoric
 August 7 - Esther Gregg
 August 9 - Bob Long
 August 9 - Pat Plummer
 August 12 - Judy Wiley
 August 14 - Renee Bogdan
 August 16 - Cindy Barger
 August 18 - Marsha Lepley
 August 19 - Gerard Tromp
 August 20 - Sandy Stevenson
 August 21 - Irv Gers
 August 22 - Vivian Stitt
 August 22 - Brian Zagoric
 August 24 - Lora Sisock
 August 27 - Steve Kessler
 August 29 - Peter Martini



**130 Nittany Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

St. Peter Lutheran Church

(717) 766-2701

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9 AM-12 PM

www.stpetermechanicsburg.com

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SUMMER WORSHIP

9:30 AM