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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

We have all heard more than we have wanted to hear about the Coronavirus. I will not speak to you as an expert. I'm not an expert. The Bishop has sent out a letter about it and many government agencies have put out guidelines.

My thoughts are as follows:

- My theology does not accept the idea that this is some kind of punishment from God.
- Prayer is always important, now more than ever. Pray for those who are suffering. Pray for those in leadership positions. Pray for our health and medical workers and other workers who make life possible for us all.
- This is not a political issue. Please don't confuse a real medical problem with politics.
- I had planned to offer worship as scheduled, but it seems 10 people are more than should gather together, so we are streaming the service. If you want to view our worship service, you will need to go to Facebook, St Peters Lutheran Church Chester Springs PA site on Sunday at 10 am and on Thursday at 6 pm (Lenten Service). These services will also be available for your convenience at other times as a video. A few willing volunteers will participate in the services to help with singing and responses.
- It looks like Holy Week and Easter services may follow the same pattern. Livestreaming is planned for all the services. The Maundy Thursday service will be recorded by the UCC church and be offered for viewing on our Facebook page.
- A working link is <https://www.facebook.com/stpeteschestersprings/videos/>
- Remember, the church is here for you. I will continue to make myself available for visitations, but I will understand if you feel that it is not safe for me or for you and would prefer that I not visit. Nursing homes and hospitals have already restricted visitations. I am open to phone, Facetime or email conversations. Please feel free to contact me.
- Finally, remember that you are important to the church and that the church relies upon your prayers and financial support as well.



The Lord is with us, of this I am sure.
Yours in Christ,
Rev. Ron Wesemann

As a pastor, I live by the calendar. Every single day, I find myself checking for the next scheduled meeting, service or activity. When asked to do a wedding, plan a vacation or just a family event, I go right to my calendar. But only the biggest dates of the Christian holidays show up on my phone calendar. Ash Wednesday and Lent do not show up. So, without noticing that February 25 was Ash Wednesday, we scheduled our travel arrangements to leave that day for Punta Cuna where my son and (then) fiancée were married.

The season of Lent is usually one of repentance and sacrifice. Many people will sacrifice things that they enjoy during this time. In spite of acknowledging my mistake, I must admit that I very much enjoyed the trip and performing the ceremony for my son and daughter-in-law's wedding, on a beautiful, sunny, 80-degree day, on the beach with palm trees all around.

My whole calendar has changed so much since I returned from my vacation. I look at it now and see so many of the things that my family and I had planned either being postponed or cancelled. And, for the first time in a long time, I see the activities on my church calendar being pushed back. My calendar is essentially empty, except for worship, office work and an occasional meeting over the computer. All of these changes are occurring because of a virus that is too small to see with the human eye.

The world does not seem to want to make things easy on us right now. I am not complaining. I trust in the Lord and I trust in your commitment and support of the ministry here at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. We will, for right now, minister as we are able and plan for ministry when this mess finally clears up. We will pray for our leaders, medical people, the sick and all those who are financially burdened at this time and we will remain hopeful in all things.

God is good; God is with us; God will not desert us.

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Rev. Ronald Wesemann | Pastor |
| Denise Rich | Parish Administrator |
| Gabriel Rebolla | Music Director |
| Jessica August | Nursery Attendant |
| Cheryl Smola | Newsletter Editor |
| | |
| Office Hours: | T - TH, 10 am to 3 pm |
| Worship Service | Sunday, 10 am |
| | |
| Address | 1239 Clover Mill Road Chester Springs, PA 19425 |
| | |
| Phone: | 610-933-9611 |
| Fax | 610-983-0595 |

E-mail: office@stpeterschestersprings.org
Website: www.stpeterslutheranonline.org

After Hours Emergency Contact:
Pastor Wesemann: 610-933-4639

Every Thursday evening until April 2, we will provide an opportunity for mid-week Lenten worship services. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be livestreaming the service on our Facebook page. Unfortunately, you'll have to supply your own soup supper this Lenten season.



Use the link provided below which should put you straight into our Facebook video page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschestersprings/videos/>

Please note the link contains **stpetes** not **stpeters**.

PASTORAL ACTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Wedding to Be Blessed: | |
| Alexandra K. Opsal & Luke Magolda | 6-14-20 |
| Weddings Scheduled: | |
| Christine Bealer & Tyler Land | 9-12-20 |
| Charlotte Jordan & Michel Marron | 10-10-20 |
| Funeral: | |
| Virginia Jones | 3-14-20 |
| Funeral: to Be Scheduled: | |
| Esther Altmann | |



Please pray not only for your loved ones but also for the entire congregation, its leaders and those listed below as they cope with life's challenges.

Loving and caring God,

We know that you are with us in the times when we are struggling, sick on either an emotional or physical level and in our hour of need when we no longer believe in ourselves. Help us to recognize the depth of your love during those times so we do not feel alone. Open our hearts to feel the enormity of your presence, to feel your deep and unconditional love and to recognize your guidance. We ask that you might ease our burdens as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Dorothy Abrahamsen
 Glenn Allen
 Family of Esther Altmann
 Midge Bates
 Stephanie Bilash
 Al & Marilyn Burk
 Peggy Burnley
 Family of Lori Burnley
 Anthony Casperite
 Elizabeth Casperite
 Michael Cesario
 Jill Clark
 Calvin Clifford
 Harry Cornog
 Terri Crimi, Lewis Branin
 and Nicholas & Christopher
 Gary Derr
 Kenneth Dobson
 Sigi Eichinger
 Daniel Frey
 Wade Frey
 Shirley Harp
 Marjorie Kropp
 Peter & Jean Marchianco
 Atea McArel

Mike Mazoué
 Mulcahy Family
 Anthony Napolitano
 Debbie O'Hara & Rod
 O'Hara
 Linda Patton
 Sally Peirson
 Mary Beth (Skurka) Prager
 Dennis Reed
 Frank & Diann Riepen
 Schwartz family
 (Ethan, Martrese, Eric &
 Julianna)
 Lloyd & Mary Ann Seavers
 Floyd Segner
 Gary Segner
 Dorothy Schmidt
 Amanda Smith
 Mary Lou Tate
 Family of Charlotte Twaddell
 Bernd Warner
 Fred Wesemann
 Rita Wesler
 Jo Ann Willenbrock
 Irene Williams

Please keep the church informed about the continued need for prayer of those listed on the prayer list. You can submit names for the prayer list to the office. To initiate the prayer chain for immediate prayer needs, contact:

Pastor Wesemann
 (610) 933-9611

Marilyn Burk
 (610) 517-1147

GUARDING AT THE TOMB

We've been holding the Guarding at the Tomb event now for a number of years and have received feedback on how this event has positively impacted the people who have attended. Given that we are uncertain as to when our state government might lift the mandated stay-at-home quarantine for PA, we have decided to cancel any physical attendance at this Easter vigil this year.

Therefore, we are instead preparing a "virtual" vigil that we hope you will all enjoy. We are creating a Power Point document and will be emailing it out to the congregation, posting it on Facebook and also on our website, so that it will be available in various ways. Even if you don't use a computer, we can also print out the document and mail it to you upon request. Please contact Cheryl Smola at 484-363-7087 if you would like to have a copy mailed to you.

This offers an opportunity for those of you who have not attended this event in the past to experience what the vigil is all about, even if you can't physically be in the church sanctuary. It is another chance to worship and focus your attention on Jesus, even if only for a few minutes, throughout the Easter week-end. It is our hope that something within the vigil will touch your hearts.

- Cheryl & Larry Smola, Cathy Wesemann, Erin Johnson, Doris Sterner, Sarah Schreier and Shaina Hlavac.



IT SEEMS I'M ALWAYS SAYING...



Funny thing; well, actually not so funny. There is just one person who knows all the passwords and procedures for church records, the cemetery software and the web-based Sundays & Seasons worship and hymn information. In addition, we depend almost entirely on this person for preparing and printing the bulletin & Celebrate and editing and printing the Herald. This person is our office administrator, Denise Rich. We are thankful for the work that Denise does, but I want to thank now Gabriele Streit who has agreed to learn some of these things, and has already started to learn this work, as an emergency fill-in. We also appreciate Carmella Venezia stepping forward and helping out with the greeting cards folding and mailing and accounts payable filing. Thank you both!

I also want to thank those who are stepping forward to help me to "livestream on Facebook" for both our Thursday evening and our Sunday morning services. I do pray that you will all find these services on our church Facebook page and that you will follow the service, sing along with the hymns and listen to the sermon and readings. We have started emailing a large print Sunday bulletin to all of our members so that they may follow along. Thank you to those who are coming to church to make all of this happen.

Pastor Wesemann

YOUTH GROUP SPCA SERVICE PROJECT

The Youth Group recently participated in a service project for the Brandywine Valley SPCA. Founded in 1929, the Brandywine Valley SPCA is Pennsylvania's first, no-kill, open admission shelter.

Kayla Reidy helped to organize this project, which is one that the youth has been hoping to do for some time. The youth began the project by stuffing Kong toys for the dogs with kibble and peanut butter. These toys help the dogs pass the lonely hours when the SPCA is not open to prospective adoptive families.

The youth then visited the dogs in the kennel and distributed treats. They also got to pet and play with the cats and kittens. One of the benefits of this project, and a big highlight at the end of the day, was getting to play with a very energetic puppy.

This project involved Elizabeth and Mason Walter, Ethan Schreier, Anna and Ethan Eckerdt and Caden and Kayla Reidy. Several friends also participated.

The Brandywine Valley SPCA is seeking additional help in response to the pandemic. Please visit their website for more information.

- Jay Eckerdt



NEWS FROM OUR HEALTH MINISTER, DORIS STERNER



"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8: 38-39

April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day. This initiative is a collaborative effort to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. Making future healthcare decisions starts with expressing preferences, clarifying values, identifying care preferences and selecting an agent to express your healthcare decisions to if you are unable to speak for yourself.

While making healthcare decisions is often difficult in the best of circumstances, making decisions for others is even more problematic. Each of us has the ability to guide our healthcare providers and our loved ones about what we want. Advance directives give you the ability to document the types of healthcare you do and do not want, and to name an "agent" or "healthcare proxy" to speak for you if you cannot speak for yourself.

Did you know?

- 90% of people say that talking with their loved ones about end-of-life care is important *but* 27% have actually done so.
- 82% of people say it's important to put their wishes in writing *but* 23% have actually done it.
- 80% of people say that if seriously ill, they would want to talk to their doctor about end-of-life care *but* 7% report having had an end-of-life conversation with their doctor.
- 60% of people say that making sure their family is not burdened by tough decisions is "extremely important" *but* 56% have not communicated their end-of-life wishes.

Initiating conversations about health, legal, financial and end-of-life issues can be difficult but having these conversations will ensure that a plan is created that accurately reflects your wishes and prepares and engages those who you love.

Look for information on starting the conversations in April 's bulletin.

FISHING FOR GOLD

Congratulations to the recent winners in our Fishing for Gold fundraiser:

February Winners:

1. Sadie Mae Smith
2. Charlotte Luksic
3. John & Kristy Young



Membership renewal has been extended due to the quarantine. Please make sure you are paid up a week before the drawing so you will be eligible to win each month.

Speak with Joanna Sheffer or Bruce Hartman for more information or to make a payment.

THRIVENT UPDATE


In March 2020, we received from Thrivent \$1,586. Thank you to Michael and Gabriele Streit, Doug Beck, Bob Patton and Cathy Wesemann for designating their Thrivent Choice dollars for St. Peter's this month. Please remember to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars periodically. Your designations to St. Peter's through Thrivent are very much appreciated.

When you go to the Thrivent website, St. Peter's is listed as "St. Peter". If you have a hard time finding it, Al Burk or John Young are willing to help.

Thanks again for your support.

- Pastor Wesemann

April 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|--|---------------------------------|--|-----|
| | 30 | 31 | 1 All Fools' Day | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Sunday of the Passion/ Palm Sunday 10:00 am Worship—Communion Livestream on Facebook until further notice | 6 | 7 | 8 Passover Begins at Sundown | 9 Maundy Thursday | 10  Good Friday | 11 |
| 12 Resurrection of Our Lord Easter "Son" day 6:30 am Worship 10:00 am Worship—Communion Livestream on Facebook until further notice | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 2nd Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Worship Livestream on Facebook until further notice | 20 | 21 | 22 Holocaust Remembrance Day Administrative Professionals Day Earth Day | 23 Ramadan Begins at Sundown | 24 Arbor Day | 25 |
| 26 3rd Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Worship—Communion Livestream on Facebook until further notice | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Karil Abrahamsen | Arlene Reynolds | Paul Wesemann |
| Doug Beck | Carolyn Schlosser | Ron Wesemann |
| Paul Curtiss | Michael Twaddell | Donald Wesler |
| Brad Lacey | Hannah Weicheld | Nevin Woodland |
| Linda March | | |

Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Kerry & Denise Burnley | 37 |
| Thomas & Dorothy Kerrigan | 42 |
| Frank & Diann Riepen | 35 |
| Kenneth & Joanna Sheffer | 29 |



COMING UP IN MAY

| | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 5 | Cinco de Mayo |
| 7 | National Day of Prayer |
| 10 | Mother's Day |
| 16 | Armed Forces Day |
| 25 | Memorial Day (Observed) |
| 29 | Shavuot |

All meetings and activities are cancelled until further notice. Worship will be livestreamed until the "all clear" has been received.

| April 2020 | <i>Assistant Schedule</i> | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------|--------------|
| | 5 <i>Palm Sunday</i> | 10 <i>Good Friday</i> | 12 <i>Easter</i> | | 19 | 26 |
| | | | 6:30 am | 10 am | | |
| Greeters | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Ushers | Michael Derr | -- | Carm Venezia | Larry Smola | Bruce Hartman | Bob Patton |
| Lector | Elaine Stromberg | Carm Venezia | Doris Sterner | Ted Weicheld | Matt Wood | Doug Beck |
| Cantor | Hannah Weicheld | Cheryl Smola | -- | Kristy Young | Jay Eckerdt | Erin Johnson |
| Communion Assistants | Bruce Hartman | -- | -- | Kathy Hartman | Joanna Sheffer | -- |
| Acolytes | Palm Bearer: Cole Young Acolyte: Kira Young | -- | -- | Cross Bearer: Ethan Eckerdt Torch Bearers: Rodger Grant Caden Reidy Acolyte: Anna Eckerdt | Kayla Reidy | Doug Beck |
| Altar Flowers | Herling | Church Family Palms - Burk | Church Family | | Maholland | Cloeter |
| Bulletins | Wesemann | -- | Peggy Burnley | | Walter Supplee | Cloeter |
| Fellowship | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Altar Team | Carm Venezia | | | | Cathy Wesemann | |
| Counters | Erin Johnson & Tom Grant | | | | | |
| Bread/Wine | Bread & Wine: Al & Marilyn Burk | | | | | |
| Paper Goods | Beck/Venezia | | | | | |

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

*THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF FINANCES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2020:*

Total Income: \$6,748
 Total Expenses: \$15,680
 Total Surplus (Deficit): **(\$8,932)**

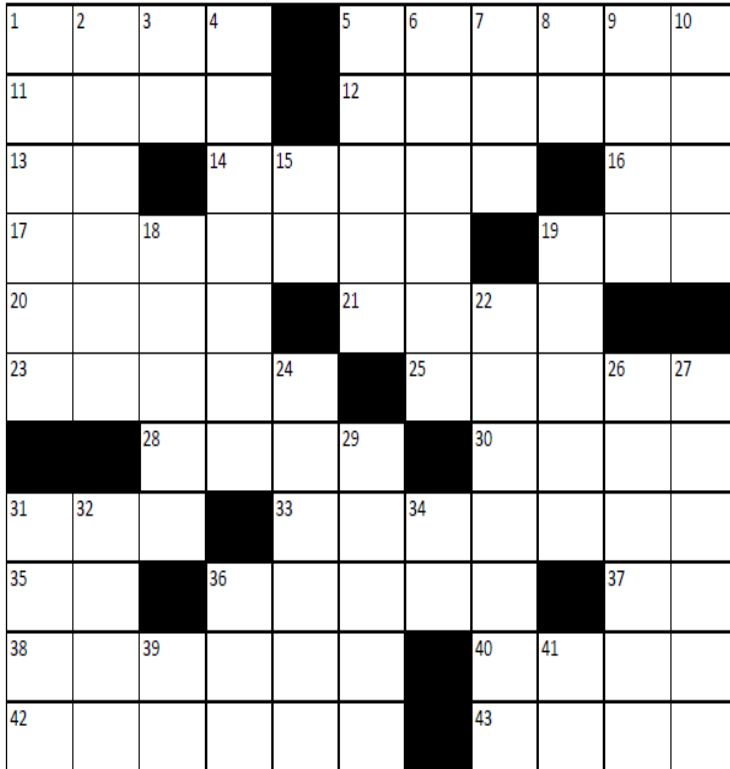
“Hope and fear cannot
 occupy the same space.
 Invite one to stay.”

- Maya Angelou

ST. PETER'S MISSION is to fulfill our calling as the Body of Christ. We will be a worship center in the community. We will learn and teach the meaning of God's Word. We will share our Christian Faith with others. And we will support individuals in their time of personal need. As we accomplish these things, we will be faithful Stewards of God's Gifts.

OUR VISION is to be a center of activity and a welcoming congregation of worshipers growing in faith, while encouraging community outreach through various ministries.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE - BY BOB PATTON



Down

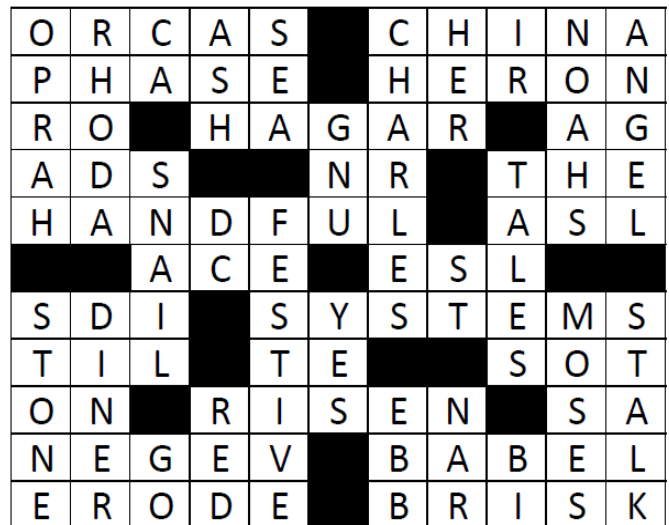
1. ___ Nevada mountains
2. Come into view
3. Gulf coast state (abbr.)
4. A food fish
5. Saint at the Pearly Gates
6. Old Testament prophet
7. ATM access code
8. Bedtime wear
9. ___ and every
10. Greek letters
15. @
18. JK followers
19. Moses' brother
22. City to which Paul wrote letters
24. Mistakes
26. Blender manufacturer and namesakes
27. Mysterious Scottish critter
29. Mattress manufacturer
31. Policeman, firefighter or soldier, in the true sense
32. Was indebted to
34. Chemical symbol for Platinum
36. Distress call letters
39. Opposite of Northwest (abbr.)
41. Chemical symbol for Sodium

Across

1. Table condiment
5. Table condiment
11. Org. for US oil producers (abbr.)
12. Old Testament prophet
13. Recording longer than SP but shorter than LP
14. Language of ancient Rome
16. Rocky Mountain State (abbr.)
17. Coincides
19. Oohs and ___
20. ADA structure
21. Large, flightless bird
23. Golfer Palmer
25. Barbecue garb
28. Paddles
30. Watering device
31. What a bunny might do
33. Shows remorse (literally, "turns back")
35. Expression of disgust
36. Kinds
37. Spanish for "is"
38. Vacation spot
40. Letters on the cross
42. A city in Ukraine
43. Enclosure when you want to get a response (abbr.)

Solution to this puzzle can be found in the next issue of The Herald.

Solution to the March puzzle below.





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St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Chester Springs, PA



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This is a handicap-accessible facility.