



The

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EASTER 2020

As we are all adjusting to the new “normal” of late, we have had to also alter the way we “visit” with family and friends, conduct business meetings and even teach our children. In some ways, this quarantine has made us appreciate the simpler things in life. During this time, it has taught us to become more focused on the basics and not be so busy with the world’s distractions. Most likely, there have been a lot more sit-down dinners around the family table where good conversations and laughter have been shared.

Easter came regardless of the virus and the restrictions in place. Easter was celebrated, albeit not what we’ve grown accustomed to over the years with our normal traditions of going to church and having family and friends over, but it was celebrated. Our Easter Vigil is another tradition that our congregation has come to enjoy and, while it wasn’t the same as physically being in the church sanctuary, it was made available for people to read through at home. The important thing to remember through all of this is that Easter isn’t just one day; it is for a lifetime. It is a belief and a faith that our Lord died, was buried and then rose again; all for the sake of our sins.

Cathy and Pastor Wesemann both shared the following message they had received from family members and it is powerful to contemplate:

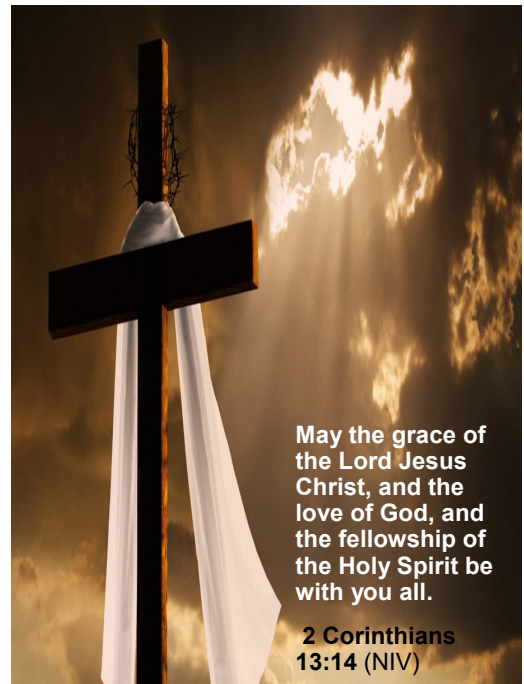
“The very first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. On the very first Easter, the disciples were locked in their house. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid. They were living in a time of such despair and such fear. If they left their homes, their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk. Could a miracle really have happened? Could life really had won out over death? Could this time of terror and fear really be coming to an end?

Alone in their homes they dared to believe that hope was possible, that the long night was over and morning had broken, that God’s love was the most powerful of all, even though it didn’t seem quite real yet. Eventually, they were able to leave their homes, when the fear and danger had subsided, they went around celebrating and spreading the good news that Jesus was risen and love was the most powerful force on the earth. This year, we might get to experience a taste of what that first Easter was like, still in our homes daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then, after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out, gathering together, singing and shouting the good news that God brings life even out of death, that love always has the final say! This year we might get the closest taste we have had yet to appreciate what that first Easter was like.” (*Author unknown*).

The theme for the vigil this year was “Being in Close Relationship with God” and tearing down the walls that we build throughout our lives. It seems so appropriate now that while we are in quarantine, we can build closer relationships during a time when things are a little less hectic in our lives and we can allow ample time for our relationship with God.

And finally, my heartfelt thanks to Jay Eckerdt, Shaina Hlavac, Doris Sterner, Cathy Wesemann and Erin Johnson for helping to provide the content for the Easter Vigil this year. Your intentions and words are inspiring.

- Cheryl Smola



May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Rev. Ronald Wesemann | Pastor |
| Denise Rich | Parish Administrator |
| Gabriel Rebolla | Music Director |
| Jessica August | Nursery Attendant |
| Cheryl Smola | Newsletter Editor |

CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| David Schreier | President |
| Doris Sterner | Vice President, Stewardship |
| Joanna Sheffer | Secretary, Finance |
| Al Burk | Treasurer |
| Jay Eckerdt | Chris. Education/Youth |
| Erin Johnson | Evangelism |
| Doug Beck | Fellowship |
| Tom Grant | Music & Worship |
| Joe Cannizzaro | Outreach |
| Christine Reidy | Property |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 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.stpeterschestersprings.org

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It is a strange thing to look at the current Coronavirus situation and how it has affected our congregation and the life of my family. To my knowledge, no one from our congregation has become ill from the virus. Although the illness has touched two of my family members (that I know of), they were very ill but not hospitalized or incapacitated by the virus. I honestly feel that we, as a congregation, as well as me and my family, have been blessed to be able to function well in the midst of this pandemic. In truth, I am not one to blame God for bad things and I will not blame God for this virus, but I do think that God has given us the ability to make the best of such situations. As a church, while we have had to readjust our worship procedures because of the pandemic, we have made worship still possible. And I have been amazed by the number of people who have watched in real time and later watched each Sunday service as a video (572 and 319 and 333 and 568 and 418) since we started. We could not fit that number of people into our church. It is great to see so many people willing to gather for worship and to listen to God's Word and the message of Jesus Christ, even if they are in their homes.

Members of St. Peter's, we should remember that our church survived and served our community during the Revolutionary war, the Civil war, the Spanish flu, the First and Second World wars, the Korean war, the Vietnam war with its anti-war protests, the upheaval around the Civil Rights movement, 911 and numerous other traumatic and life-changing events. Our ministry continues to move forward using the things that we have learned all along the way. It seems that we still have much to learn and much to do. I am happy to say that we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

A number of people have asked how they may get their offerings to the church during the pandemic. My best answer is to write a check made out to St. Peter's Lutheran and put it in the mail. There is also a mail slot in the office door if you want to bring it here in person. On Page 5, there is an article on new ways you can also donate digitally. Thank you for asking.

PASTORAL ACTS

Wedding to Be Blessed:

Alexandra K. Opsal & Luke Magolda 6-13-20

Weddings Scheduled:

Christine Bealer & Tyler Land 9-12-20
 Charlotte Jordan & Michel Marron 10-10-20

Scattering Garden Funeral:

Esther Altmann To be scheduled



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
 Dorothy Schmidt
 Schwartz family
 (Ethan, Martrese, Eric &
 Julianna)
 Lloyd & Mary Ann Seavers
 Floyd Segner
 Gary Segner
 Amanda Smith
 Walter Supplee
 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

CHANGES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

Because of the Covid-19 virus, many events we typically hold have been cancelled until further notice. For some events, however, we are finding ways to improvise.

- The 2020 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly of the ELCA has been cancelled.
- All worship services are being livestreamed on Facebook. We held our first Zoom Fellowship Hour with 26 members in attendance.
- Bible study has been temporarily cancelled until we can find a way for all of our members to participate.
- Attending the Sight & Sound theatre in Lancaster to see Esther has been cancelled.
- The majority of our church meetings have been cancelled. The Executive Committee and Church Council have met through an internet program that allows those involved to interact with each other from their own homes.
- Movies & Faith has become a Zoom meeting.
- Sunday School was cancelled pending the pandemic restrictions lifting but is now on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons.
- The Youth Group has reconnected virtually and is holding "hangouts" with each other online.

One thing that has not changed is the love and commitment of our membership and friends to St. Peter's, each other and the community.

- Pastor Wesemann

THRIVENT CHOICE

In April 2020, we received from Thrivent \$727 for a total of \$2,313 for the year. Thank you to Denise and Kerry Burnley, John Young and Carm Venezia 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

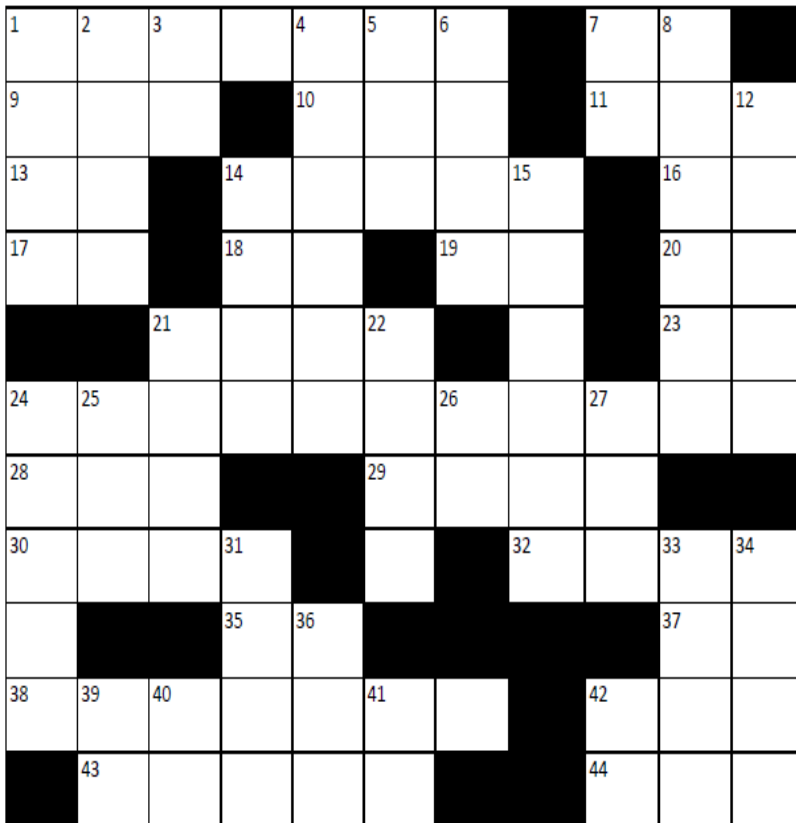
CROSSWORD PUZZLE - BY BOB PATTON

ACROSS

1. Stores to whose workers we owe our thanks
7. Blood type
9. Charged particle
10. *Much ___ About Nothing*
11. La ___, Bolivia
13. European car maker
14. Talks with God
16. 33 1/3 album
17. Degree for appliance designers
18. DC alternative
19. Small odometer setting
20. Largest city in Calif. (abbr.)
21. Promise
23. All right
24. Theme of this puzzle
28. Lowest number
29. "___ home – don't travel"
30. Medicine container
32. More or ___
35. St. Francis ___ Assisi
37. Seventh note on the diatonic scale
38. Truck and delivery people to whom we owe our thanks
42. Paddle locked to a boat
43. Makes tea, coffee or beer
44. Highway (abbr.)

DOWN

1. We should ___ thanks to our healthcare workers
2. Mike ___, host of History Channel's *Dirty Jobs*
3. Light switch alternative
4. Computer sound, as a beep
5. Abbr. on nutritional labels
6. String toy
7. News service
8. *Cat ___* (1965 Western comedy)
12. Medicine that may prove promising for 24-Across
14. Spanish for turkey
15. "Practice ___ distancing"
21. Length times width
22. "___ your hands for 20 seconds"
24. "___-19" (another name for 24-Across)
25. Troll in Japanese folklore
26. A New England state (abbr.)
27. Type of bread
31. We need to ___ one another
33. "Now" in the OR
34. Horse's father
36. "The ___, the Proud, the Marines"
39. Chemical symbol for Rubidium
40. Invisible light with wavelength longer than visible light (abbr.)
41. Designation for many German and American high performance cars
42. Either's partner



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

Solution to the April puzzle below.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | L | T | | P | E | P | P | E | R |
| I | P | A | A | | E | L | I | J | A | H |
| E | P | | L | A | T | I | N | | C | O |
| R | E | L | A | T | E | S | | A | H | S |
| R | A | M | P | | R | H | E | A | | |
| A | R | N | I | E | | A | P | R | O | N |
| | | O | A | R | S | | H | O | S | E |
| H | O | P | | R | E | P | E | N | T | S |
| E | W | | S | O | R | T | S | | E | S |
| R | E | S | O | R | T | | I | N | R | I |
| O | D | E | S | S | A | | S | A | S | E |

IT SEEMS I'M ALWAYS SAYING...

In difficult times there are always a few who step up to help with the needs of the times. For St. Peter's, a lot of our members have not sent in their offerings. I assume they will have a pile of filled envelopes to bring with them when the church is able to offer in-person worship. In contrast to this, some of our members and friends have gone above and beyond, making it possible for us to continue paying our bills and our employees without further depleting the endowment funds. I will not list names, but thank you so very much. St. Peter's thanks you.



In the midst of social distancing, I also want to thank those who did some needed jobs around the church. A thank you to Bill Smith for taking plastic bags to PACS for us; to Doris Sterner for cleaning up around the Scattering Garden; to Gabriel Rebolla and his choir members (Adult and Bell) for practicing together from their homes over the internet and recording music for our services; to Denise Rich for continuing to put together the bulletins and being a substitute counter; to Elaine Stromberg for proofreading the bulletins from home; to Rebecca Cannizzaro for managing our Facebook page and to Michael Derr for continuing to livestream and record the worship services for you at home.

There is something reassuring to just seeing the inside of the church and being able to participate live in the service, even from home.

- Pastor Wesemann

ST. PETER'S OFFERS NEW GIVING OPTIONS

There are a number of ways you can give to St. Peter's financially. Until we are physically back in church, you can mail a check to the church at 1239 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425. Please make it out to St. Peter's **Lutheran**.

You can also use your bank's online bill paying program, using your envelope number as your account. Typically, banks will mail your bank check to St. Peter's.

Finally, we have joined the Tithe.ly church giving program which provides secure online giving. You will find the link on St. Peter's website at the top menu line under "Give" as well as on the "Support Our Mission" page, a drop-down under "Welcome".

Tithe.ly's link can also be found on our Facebook page:

<https://www.stpeterschestersprings.org/wordpress/>

You can set up an account with Tithe.ly and make gifts/donations via your bank, credit or debit card. There is a giving app for your mobile device which you can get here:

<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>

If you prefer, you can set up recurring gifts and you will receive an immediate email receipt.

Call Doris Sterner with any questions or problems you encounter with Tithe.ly.

- Doris Sterner

STIMULUS GENEROSITY

Some of you may have already received your stimulus checks. Do not feel guilty about using this help if you have the need. However, some of you may be in a position to see it as a bonus. If so, I encourage you to consider donating some or all of the money to help local care institutions. Food distribution charities like PACS (Phoenixville Area Community Services) are struggling to keep up with increased demands and food shortages. I would encourage all of you to engage in some plain old generosity to help those who are in great need.

Thank you, stay well and please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

- Pastor Wesemann

FISHING FOR GOLD

We have been pushing back the opening of our Fishing for Gold fundraiser and we will continue to do so until circumstances change. Some of the fun of this event is the calling out of the winners so that we can all hear it at Fellowship Hour. We plan to restart the Fishing for Gold fundraiser the month after we are able to worship in person. In the meantime, if you are interested in participating, please contact Joanna Sheffer or the Church Office.



For those who have already signed up, your numbers are secure.

- Joanna Sheffer

May 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 6:00 pm Movies & Faith thru Zoom "Hitch" |
| 3 4th Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Worship - Communion 11:30 am Zoom Fellowship Livestream on Facebook until further notice | 4 | 5 Cinco de Mayo National Teacher Day | 6 4:00 pm Virtual Sunday School | 7 National Day of Prayer | 8 | 9 |
| 10 5th Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Worship Livestream on Facebook until further notice Mother's Day | 11 | 12 6:00 pm Virtual Executive Committee | 13 4:00 pm Virtual Sunday School | 14 | 15 | 16 Armed Forces Day |
| 17 6th Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Worship - Communion Livestream on Facebook until further notice | 18 | 19 6:30 pm Virtual Council | 20 4:00 pm Virtual Sunday School | 21 Ascension of Our Lord | 22 | 23 |
| 24 7th Sunday of Easter 10:00 am Worship Livestream on Facebook until further notice | 25 Memorial Day Office is Closed | 26 | 27 4:00 pm Virtual Sunday School | 28 | 29 Shavuot | 30 |
| 31 Day of Pentecost 10:00 am Worship - Communion Livestream on Facebook until further notice | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

MAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Donald Burk | Sara Maholland | Dalton Steel |
| Kerry Burnley | Orville March | Eric Twaddell |
| Nancy Cloeter | Frank Riepen | Douglas Vaughen |
| Piper Daniel | Matthew Sharpless | Lisa Wesler |
| MaryAnn Ford | Mason Sharpless | Kailyn Wood |
| Erin Johnson | Jaxson Sharpless | Alexandra Wood |
| Tallulah Jones | Danella Sposetti | Kristen Wright |
| William LaCoff | Alexander Steel | John Young |

Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Doug Beck & Carm Venezia | Phil Grant & Betty Ryberg |
| Eric & Melissa Burnley | Robert & Donna-Lee Morrison |
| Cam & Nancy Cloeter | Kevin Shaw & Jacqui deNight |
| Jim & Linda Devereaux | Ted & Sue Weicheld |
| Tom & Ginny Grant | |

COMING UP IN JUNE

| | | |
|----|---------|-----------------------------|
| 9 | 6:00 pm | Virtual Executive Committee |
| 14 | | Flag Day |
| 16 | 6:30 pm | Virtual Council |
| 20 | | Summer Begins |
| 21 | | Father's Day |

All in-person meetings and activities are cancelled until further notice.

Worship will be livestreamed until the "all clear" has been received.

| May 2020 | Assistant Schedule | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Greeters | | | | | |
| Ushers | | | | | |
| Lector | | | | | |
| Cantor | | | | | |
| Communion Assistants | | | | | |
| Acolytes | | | | | |
| Altar Flowers | Maholland | Cannizzaro | Beck | Sheffer | Anna Jordan |
| Bulletins | Walter | Supplee | Beck | Rich | Walter |
| Fellowship | | | | | |
| Altar Team | | | | | |
| Counters | Erin Johnson & Tom Grant | | | | |
| Bread/Wine | Bread: Young | | Wine: Young | | |
| Paper Goods | | | | | |



“Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.”

Luke 18:1

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.

NEWS FROM OUR HEALTH MINISTER, DORIS STERNER

“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

May is Mental Health Month. Mental Health America and their affiliates have led the observance of May as Mental Health month since 1949. This year’s focus is on resilience—something we all need to successfully move through this difficult time because of the coronavirus and what it has brought. All of us are now dealing with some associated worry, isolation, perhaps loneliness and anxiety. COVID-19 is new and presents a situation that none of us could have imagined a few short months ago. It is extremely contagious and has resulted in business closures, social distancing and quarantine measures which disrupt our daily lives. There are many reasons that you might be worried: afraid of getting sick or passing the virus onto others, financial stress, not being able to connect with friends and family, shortages among others. So many things that are out of our control.



Focusing on the things that we can control can provide some comfort and a path to reducing anxiety. We can control our minds and bodies by keeping a healthy diet, exercising at home, getting enough sleep and taking care of our mental health. We can control our immediate environment by limiting the number of people we come into contact with, washing hands often and using a hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. Furthermore, we can reach out to friends via phone calls, video chats or text; use a meditation or mindfulness app; set a timer for every hour to get up and stretch or take a walk; read the Bible and pray; take 10 deep breaths when we feel stressed. There is help if you are experiencing emotional distress related to the COVID-19 pandemic—you can call or text a crisis counselor 24/7 at 1-800-985-5990 or text “TalkWithUs” to 66746.

MOTHER’S DAY

The modern holiday of Mother’s Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St. Andrew’s Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Her campaign to make Mother’s Day a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War and created Mother’s Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor all mothers because she believed a mother is “the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world”.

In 1908, the U.S. Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother’s Day an official holiday. By 1911, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, all U.S. states observed the holiday with some of them officially recognizing Mother’s Day as a local holiday (the first being West Virginia, Jarvis’ home state, in 1910). In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother’s Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.





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MOVIES & FAITH

All are welcome so please invite Family & Friends!

For those who may not have attended a prior Movies & Faith event, please view the movie before our meeting and then come prepared to listen, ask questions & share your thoughts!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92936823486>

Meeting ID: 929 3682 3486

PRESENTS:



Saturday

May 2, 2020 06:00 PM EST


St. Peter's Lutheran Church
 Chester Springs, PA



1239 Clover-Mill Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425



This is a handicap-accessible facility.