



ST. PETER'S

Lutheran Church, Chester Springs, PA



The Herald

February 2021

Volume 23 Issue 2

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN SERVICES

Everything is different, it seems and that is very unsettling for the largest majority of us. But God, through these differences, is giving us a way to continue moving forward. A question was asked among our clergy Bible study group, "What we will do with Ash Wednesday? Is it safe for the imposition of ashes?" Most thought that it was safe, with care procedures taken. Then came the question of "How do we provide ashes to the virtual community following on Facebook?" In the service when we put ashes on each person's forehead, I say the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." The ashes are a reminder of this; they are a symbol. Traditionally, the leftover palms from the year before are burned to produce the ashes. A suggestion was to have those participating virtually use potting soil ("Remember you are dust..."). It was thought that each person could dip their finger in a little oil (olive oil or a cooking oil) and then in the dirt and make the sign of the cross on their foreheads; or in the case of family situations, put the sign of the cross with the oil and dirt on each other. I tried it and it won't be pretty, but we are not doing this to make a fashion statement. I will send out a Zoom invitation and a service bulletin for Ash Wednesday.



7:30 pm St. Peter's Lutheran

Virtual on Facebook

Lenten soup supper and devotionals can continue virtually. Cathy and I have occasional dinners with friends and family, virtually. There is no reason why we can't put together a soup dinner at home and participate in the devotions, just as we would do if we were meeting in church on Thursdays in Lent. Look for the service format and scheduling information after Ash Wednesday.

- Pastor Wesemann

"IN-PERSON" WORSHIP

It is very difficult for us to not be able to worship in person each and every Sunday. Council continues to struggle with the issue. As much as we do not want to be a part of the problem by becoming a place for the virus to spread, we understand the importance of worship.

Church Council continues its stand to limit the number of people worshipping but asked me to remind you that no one will be turned away from worship. Those who asked to attend have been able to participate in worship. If you are going to attend, please make sure that you are feeling well, wear a mask properly, wash your hands (or use the hand sanitizer) and that you and your family members properly quarantine if any of you have been exposed.

Pray for your church. Pray for those who are attending in person. Pray for those worshipping at home.

- Pastor Wesemann



MEALS FOR ST. MARY'S SHELTER

A reminder that we are sponsoring the meals for St. Mary's Shelter for the week of February 15. We are still in need of a few volunteers to prepare meals (or parts of a meal) as well as some drivers to deliver the meals. Please contact Denise in the church office if you are able to prepare a meal or be a driver. Check the Sunday bulletins for updates on meal preparers and drivers.

The season of Epiphany ends on February 7 and we will move on to Lent. Epiphany is the season of the church year that is probably the least understood. The word "epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning manifestation. Epiphany is very often associated with the arrival of the wise men to Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. The light of an unusual star led them to Jesus. The church understands Epiphany as God directing the wise men to Jesus by that star and so shining his light on Jesus, revealing Jesus, Israel's infant king, the Christ (God's Son), to these wise men, who are thought to have been non-Jews (Gentiles). Whether or not the wise men were really Gentiles is not as important as the understanding that Jesus came for all people. Most of us are descended from Gentiles, not Jews. Our place was set for us beginning with the visit of these wise men. Of course, there are other stories that demonstrate God's love and welcome of Gentiles in Scripture, but this takes place at the beginning of Jesus' story. Gentiles were not an add on.



CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH STAFF

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

CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

John Young	President, Fellowship
Al Burk	Vice President, Finance
Joanna Sheffer	Secretary, Finance
Doris Sterner	Treasurer
Betty Ryberg	Chris. Education/Youth
Erin Johnson	Evangelism
Tom Grant	Music & Worship
Joe Cannizzaro	Outreach
Cole Young	Outreach
Betsy Burns	Property
Doug Beck	Stewardship

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
 E-mail: office@stpeterschestersprings.org
 Website & Online Giving:
<https://www.stpeterschestersprings.org/wordpress/>

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

Lent begins this month. We understand Lent to an extent. In Lent, we know that we are expected to repent of our sins. We should always be doing that, but here it is emphasized. Some people give something up as a way of showing God the sincerity of their repentance. Others commit to doing something good for others or make a greater commitment to the church. These are symbolic acts. We understand that we are forgiven because of Jesus, not because of what we do. Still, Lent provides us with an opportunity to communicate our love and thanksgiving to God. Lent also gives us an opportunity to prepare for Good Friday and then Easter. Remember, all that God did in Jesus, he did for us; for you, for me and for others. In Lent, we acknowledge this.



PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism Scheduled:
 Emery Theresa Burnley 3/7/21

Scattering Garden Funeral:
 (To be scheduled)
 Esther Altmann

New Members to be Received
 (To be scheduled)
 Kevin Kloss
 Stuart Sullivan
 Joe and Connie Fleming



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
Karil Abrahamsen
Glenn Allen
Midge Bates
Leroy Bauman
Bernadette Bender
Peggy Burnley
Stephanie Bilash
Al & Marilyn Burk
Michael Cesario
Adalyn Chicra
Calvin Clifford
Harry Cornog
Terri Crimi, Lewis Branin,
Nicholas & Christopher
Gary Derr
Kenneth Dobson
Sigi Eichinger
Daniel Frey
Wade Frey
Erin Johnson
Laurie Leonard
Linda Lilienfeld
Family of Betty McCardell
Atea McArel
Peter & Jean Marchianco

Mike Mazoué
Mulcahy Family
Anthony Napolitano
Debbie and Rod O'Hara
Linda Patton
Sally Peirson
Mary Beth (Skurka) Prager
Kevin & Michelle Ralph
Dennis Reed
Family of Reynolds/Yeager
Schwartz family
(Ethan, Martrese, Eric & Julianna)
Lloyd & Mary Ann Seavers
Floyd Segner
Gary Segner
Dorothy Schmidt
Amanda Smith
Dorothea Streit
Mary Lou Tate
Family of Mary 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

ENTERING ST. PETER'S 250TH YEAR OF MINISTRY

I am hoping to enjoy a celebration of the ministry of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. As an offshoot of Zion Lutheran Church of Spring City, our forefathers had a hand in the establishment of Central Lutheran Church of Phoenixville (no longer active), St John's Lutheran Church of Phoenixville, Centennial Lutheran Church of Kimberton, St. Matthews Lutheran Church of Chester Springs and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Lionville. We could also add to this list St. Peter's Middle Church which split off from us, but after fire destroyed their building, they merged back with us. When we look back on our church's history, we find that, while we supported our own pastor for many years, we shared a pastor with all of these congregations at one time or another.

There is something special about seeing all of these churches as our family. We can look at the success of some of these congregations with pride, knowing that we had a hand in their establishment. And we can look upon the closing of Central Lutheran Church (many years ago) with sadness and ask the question of whether we did enough to help them minister in Phoenixville.

Ministry, when it goes right, is not about our congregation or another congregation but about the sharing of God's love as a community of congregations. I pray that our family of congregations will share our joy in this very special anniversary.

- Pastor Wesemann

BIBLE STUDY



We will meet for Bible Study via Zoom on **Tuesday, February 23 at 1:30 pm**. At that time, we will be studying the later verses of Mark, chapter 6. All are invited to participate.

The Zoom invitation will be sent out to all of our membership list, but it is not restricted to members and anyone can call in from their phone and participate.

If you do not receive an invitation and would like to attend, please email or call me and I will make sure that you get the necessary information.

- Pastor Wesemann

PASTOR'S 2020 REPORT

The year 2020 was not what we expected. Three months into the year, the pandemic hit and church life and our individual lives all changed. Here at church, we went virtual. Visiting was limited, phone calls replaced many of my visits, meetings and Bible studies were done on Zoom and our services, while live, had just 3-10 people in attendance. All were put on Facebook and then additionally on the church website. My focus was on keeping things as normal as possible while learning how to do things differently, all the while trying to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people who I could not see face-to-face and could not greet with a friendly handshake.

It felt good this summer to be able to worship (rain or shine) outside under our wonderful picnic pavilion. We worshipped outside into October and even had one of our Christmas Eve services in the pavilion, in spite of the wind, rain and cold. I must say that we, as a small church, accomplished a lot, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of some of our members: Mike Derr, Gabriel Rebolla, Kristy Young, Phil Grant, Jay Eckerdt, their families, the choir and Church Council, to highlight a few. Mike figured out what we needed to do to put our services on Facebook using a connection previously established by Rebecca. Gabriel found a way to take individual recordings of choir members and put them together so that they sounded like they had all been singing in the same room. Kristy helped with her organizational skills and creativity. Phil taught Sunday School on a Google feed and provided the foundation for our Zoom Christmas pageant and Jay kept the youth together online. So many people deserve our thanks for keeping St. Peter's moving forward. We were not able to do all the things that we had done prior to the pandemic, but we did what we could. We called for donations to PACS and Good Samaritan Services and we recommended the donation of stimulus checks (where possible) to food cupboards and shelters. We worshipped weekly and continued Sunday School and Bible study. We even had Fellowship Hour on Zoom for a while. My greatest regret is that we were not able to reach, in the same way, those members of our congregation who did not have access to computers and smart phones.

St. Peter's managed well in 2020 and even attracted four people to our worship who have requested membership. The year 2021 is our congregation's anniversary year, marking 250 years of ministry. We are hoping that we will be able to enjoy some in-person celebrations and are planning a series of activities for the year, beginning in autumn and continuing into next year. For these and for furthering the ministry of St. Peter's, we will need your continued support, your volunteer time, your contributions, your skills, your creativity, your prayers and your compassion. I look forward to another year of ministry with you working beside me!

GOVERNMENT STIMULUS PROGRAM

Generosity! As the people of God and Jesus' faithful, we have a special calling. We are called to feed the hungry, visit the sick, provide shelter for the homeless, share the love of Jesus Christ, support the ministry of Jesus Christ and be good neighbors.

Some of us may not really need the stimulus checks that we are receiving. If you do need it, please use it well. If you do not need your stimulus checks, please use them to express the love of Jesus by helping out those who are truly struggling to survive. My check went to PACS. Thank you for your sincere consideration of this.

- Pastor Wesemann

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

In January 2021, we received \$115 from Thrivent. This is our first deposit for 2021. Thank you to Doug Beck, Bruce Hartman and Robert Patton who designated their Thrivent Choice dollars for St. Peter's in January.

Please remember to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars periodically. Your designations to St. Peter's 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!

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

We met as a congregation via Zoom on Sunday, January 17. The purpose of the meeting was to review the reports of the Pastor, Council officers and committee chairpersons. There were 17 people in attendance. The meeting was quiet. The reports were presented and approved, with only a little discussion. Thank you to everyone who participated.

- Pastor Wesemann

NEWS FROM OUR HEALTH MINISTER, DORIS STERNER



“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, . . .’”
- Hebrews 3:7-8

February is Heart Month. NIH's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's tip sheet offers 28 Days Toward a Healthy Heart and suggests you try one of these tips each day for a month, then keep up the momentum and make your favorites part of your regular routine.

- Day 01: Call a friend and join the #OurHearts movement.
- Day 02: Make a heart healthy snack.
- Day 03: Schedule your annual physical. Discuss your heart health goals with your doctor.
- Day 04: Squat it out. Do 1 minute of squats.
- Day 05: Sport red today for National Wear Red Day.
- Day 06: Make today a salt-free day. Use herbs for flavor instead of salt.
- Day 07: Visit Smokefree.gov to take the first step to quitting smoking.
- Day 08: Get your blood pressure checked.
- Day 09: Walk an extra 15 minutes today.
- Day 10: Aim for 30 minutes of physical activity today.
- Day 11: Plan your menu for the week with heart-healthy recipes.
- Day 12: Reduce stress using relaxation techniques.
- Day 13: Give the elevator a day off and take the stairs.
- Day 14: Protect your sweetheart's heart. Plan a heart-healthy date.
- Day 15: Swap the sweets for a piece of fruit for dessert.
- Day 16: Stress less. Practice mindful meditation for 10 minutes.
- Day 17: Head to bed with enough time to get a full 7-8 hours of sleep.
- Day 18: Add a stretch break to your calendar to increase your flexibility.
- Day 19: Eat vegetarian for a day.
- Day 20: Share a funny video or joke that makes you laugh.
- Day 21: Dance for 15 minutes to your favorite music.
- Day 22: Call a relative and ask about your family health history.
- Day 23: March in place during commercial breaks to get your heart going.
- Day 24: Get a tape measure and find out the size of your waist.
- Day 25: Ask a family member or neighbor to join you for a walk.
- Day 26: Fill half of your lunch and dinner plates with vegetables.
- Day 27: See how many push-ups you can do in 1 minute
- Day 28: Pay it forward and tell a friend about The Heart Truth (a national education program aimed at preventing heart disease in women and other vulnerable populations).



IT SEEMS I'M ALWAYS SAYING ...



So many people put in a lot of work to help bring about a different but wonderful Christmas season. We had people lifting picnic tables, putting up wreaths and swags, making luminaries, decorating the church, the courtyard, the gazebo and the pavilion, preparing music and the virtual pageant and generously supporting the church financially. Thank you, all of you.

I also want to thank all of you who spoke your minds and voted, either for or against, having our worship services going fully virtual at the end of December. You had an opportunity to stand up for what you believed was best and you did.

I look forward to returning to in-person and virtual worship in the near future, but that will again be a Council and/or congregational decision. Again, thank you for speaking out and for voting.



- Pastor Wesemann

<i>February 2021</i>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 	3	4	5	6
7 5th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship – Communion Livestream on Facebook	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 Transfiguration of our Lord 10:00 am Worship Livestream on Facebook 	15 President's Day	16 6:00 pm Executive Committee Mtg	17 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Virtual Worship via Facebook Random Acts of Kindness Day	18	19	20
Meals for St. Mary's Shelter - Monday through Friday						
21 1st Sunday of Lent 10:00 am Worship – Communion Livestream on Facebook	22 Washington's Birthday	23 1:30 pm Virtual Bible Study 6:30 pm Council Mtg	24	25 6:00 pm Virtual Soup Supper & Lenten Devotions	26	27
28 2nd Sunday of Lent 10:00 am Worship Livestream on Facebook	1	2	3	4	5	6

February Celebrations

Birthdays

Hunter Beidler	Christine Linderman
Sara Beidler	Carol Maholland
Hannah Buckwalter	Carrie Sposetti
Rebecca Cannizzaro	Julia Weicheld Tu
Jay Eckerdt	James Twaddell
Andrew Frey	Kensey Wise
Sarah Groff	Jill Witt
Kathy Hartman	Steven Wright

Anniversary

Robert & Lynn Hartman



Coming Up in March

14	Daylight Saving Time Begins
16 6:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
17	St. Patrick's Day
20	Spring Begins
23 1:30 pm	Virtual Bible Study
6:30 pm	Council Meeting
28	Palm Sunday Passover Begins

<i>Feb</i> 2021	<i>Assistant Schedule</i>			
	7	14	21	28
Greeters	--	--	--	--
Ushers	--	--	--	--
Lector	--	--	--	--
Cantor	--	--	--	--
Communion Assistants	--	--	--	--
Acolytes	--	--	--	--
Altar Flowers	Un-sponsored	Un-sponsored	Carol Maholland	Un-sponsored
Bulletins	Un-sponsored	Un-sponsored	Walter Supplee	Un-sponsored
Altar Team				
Fellowship				
Counters	Betty Ryberg & John Young			
Bread/Wine	Un-sponsored			
Paper Goods	Un-sponsored			

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

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

Total Income: \$142,348
 Total Expenses: \$153,339
 Total Surplus (Deficit): **(\$10,991)**

“A meaningful life is not about being rich, being popular, being highly educated or perfect ... it’s about being real, being humble, and being kind.”

- Source Unknown

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

ACROSS

1. He led his people out of 12-Across
6. Cleans up leaves
11. Modern-day Persian
12. See 1-Across
13. Computer Generated (abbr.)
14. What 1-Across was, for a while
16. Overall (abbr.)
17. Rodent
19. Get by
20. Do
21. You cry when cutting one
23. Woodworking tool
25. Obtain
26. Painting, sculpture, etc.
27. Back of the boat
29. Voyages
32. Miles ___ hour
33. The Third
35. Average grade
36. Infrared
37. The _____ Reason (two words)
39. Start of many Triumph designations
40. Accident
42. Desert in Israel
44. Seven plus one
45. Trap

DOWN

1. Tiny prefix
2. It provides much church music
3. Bolivia's continent (abbr.)
4. Navy rank (abbr.)
5. Hymn usually sung at Christmas Eve service
6. Last book of the Bible
7. Number of years old
8. State where the Derby is held (abbr.)
9. Notable time period
10. One of fifty
15. Juneau is its capital (abbr.)
18. Largest cat
20. Top floor in many homes
22. "___ the ramparts we watch..."
24. Arrangement (abbr.)
27. Parsley, sage, rosemary or thyme
28. Actress Garr
30. Considered to be the first Pope
31. "To ___ and Protect" (police motto)
34. Latin abbr. for "that is"
37. Fireplace residue
38. Bog
41. Chemical symbol for Silver
43. Its capital is Atlanta (abbr.)

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

Solution to the January puzzle shown below

I	R	K		E	S	S		K	E	G
N	I	L		N	I	H		I	M	A
S	A	M	S	O	N		S	A	U	L
			I	S	A	A	C			
P	I	L	L		I	S	R	A	E	L
O	L	I	V	E		K	O	R	E	A
E	L	L	E	N	S		O	K	A	Y
			R	E	T	A	G			
A	C	T	S		A	L	E	M	A	N
D	A	S		E	G	G		E	N	O
E	T	A		D	E	I		T	D	S

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13			14		15				16	
17		18		19				20		
21			22			23	24			
			25			26				
27	28					29			30	31
32				33	34			35		
36			37				38		39	
40		41				42		43		
44						45				





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STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2020-2021

Jessica Craver's feet felt frozen. Recently deployed by ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) to the Lutheran Church in Australia, she'd failed to pack adequate footwear to withstand the continent's harsh winter. Her host mother had noticed. "She set out a basin and washed my feet," Craver said. "What a beautiful sign ... that we are called to serve each other in ways that are uncomfortable." That was four years ago, but Craver, now a nurse in Seattle, said the moment continues to influence her approach to hospitality when she cares for the city's most vulnerable.

Such stories are common among the more than 1,100 YAGM alumni. The program, which recently celebrated 20 years, originated from a partnership with the U.K. volunteer organization Time for God. Since then, it has evolved to include collaborations with ELCA companion churches or organizations in Argentina/Uruguay, Australia, Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal and the United Kingdom. And it has a history of influencing future ELCA leaders.

YAGM volunteers are formed by our companion churches and the ELCA during their time in service; they come back to the United States ready to effect positive change within our congregations and U.S. society," said Michael Busbey, Acting Director for Mission Personnel and Leadership Formation. This rings true for Jill Rode, who taught in Thailand through YAGM more than 15

years ago. After her YAGM year, she returned to teach there for 3 1/2 more years. "[During] that YAGM year ... my faith was broken open and put together again. All those years formed the foundation for me to think about seminary," said Rode, now a pastor at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota.


Although YAGM will pause in sending out young adults during the 2020-21 year due to COVID-19, staff say the future of this program is "very bright." Funded in part by Mission Support, YAGM continues to affect the church through its rich cohort of alumni who are pursuing callings as rostered leaders, educators, farmers, medical professionals, lawyers, camp directors, filmmakers, politicians, social workers, human rights activists and more.

"It really acts as confirmation and affirmation of an individual's call to serve God and welcome our neighbors," Rode said. "YAGM takes this really big world and shrinks it down. People who were once strangers become neighbors and friends."

Thank you for your generous gifts of Mission Support, which made this story of faith in action possible. Mission Support is the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod, and your synod shares with the churchwide organization. To learn more, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
(Submitted by Doris Sterner)



 This is a handicap-accessible facility.