



Networks

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Elementary School
7910 Belair Road ~ Baltimore, MD 21236 ~ 410-665-7300 ~ st-peterslutheran.com

St. Peter's Elementary School & PACE News

Monday, January 5th - SPES school will reopen from Christmas break, and open enrollment for 2026-27 school year begins

Friday, January 9th – PACE Movie Night at 6 pm.

Tuesday, January 13th - PACE meeting at 6:30 pm.

Friday, January 16th – Muffins with Mom

Monday, January 19th – SPES school will be closed for MLK, Jr. Day

Friday, January 23rd – SPES school will close at noon for Professional Development

PACE Movie Night



Friday, January 9th at 6 pm.
in the Fellowship Hall
All are welcome!

Our Mission:

Learning God's Truth



Sharing the Spirit's Healing



Following the Way of Jesus



Thank You ...

To Jule and Bev Zuke for their continued dedication to brightening up our birthdays with the card ministry!

February Annual Meeting to discuss the missions and life of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 22nd between services (9:30-10:30 am.). Please plan to attend to find out about exciting upcoming events and plans for St. Peter's church and school!

St. Peter's WELCA News

Quilting Group - No experience is necessary to help with quilt making—if you can use scissors, we can use you! Contact Janice Frederick for more information (410-665-1868).

Baltimore Cancer Support Group

Weekly Meetings: We meet at St. Peter's on Thursday evenings beginning at 7 pm. All who are/have been touched by cancer are welcome to join us for conversation and support. For more information, contact us at 410-668-1762. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Thursday, January 8th!



BODY of CHRIST

Sometimes when we put away the calendar for a particular year, we may be tempted to say, *good riddance!* Years ago, when the British monarchy was mired in ‘soap opera’ scandals involving her children’s marriages, Queen Elizabeth declared 1992 an *annus horribilis*, a horrible year! How do we assess this year we’ve been through? As with any situation our community or nation finds itself in, some will be happy, some will not. We may be angry or discouraged at what we see going on around us, while some may choose to see what’s good for them, and that’s good enough. Money will insulate the well-to-do from feeling any financial discomforts, but how many of us feel that our paycheck can’t be stretched far enough to handle our mounting bills? Better days ahead? That’s what we’re hoping.

When there’s trouble in our population, if we’re not experiencing it directly, often we’ll hear the story of some individual or family that brings home the depths of pain this world is feeling. As Christmas rolls around year after year, we’re urged to gather coats, scarves, and gloves, contribute toys for tots, or take a group to help at a local soup kitchen. We’re certainly not hard-hearted like Scrooge, and we know the value of helping our neighbor. Paul shared this observation in 1st Corinthians 12:26: “If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering. If one part is praised, all the others share in its happiness.” Next, he says, “Together you are the body of Christ.” He had told the Corinthians how they must rely on each other; the eyes need the hands, the head, the feet. In the musical “Sarafina”, this became a call to action as the schoolchildren of Soweto, South Africa, stood together to denounce apartheid: ‘An injury to one is an injury to all!’

We host a national ministry center in Baltimore for Global Refuge, a Lutheran organization that has served immigrants and refugees since World War II. In their gathering space, they have posted two important quotes about how we do God’s work for the sake of the world. Martin Luther asked, “What is it to serve God and to do his will? Nothing else than to show mercy to our neighbor.” The theologian and martyr of WW2, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, declared, “The Church is her true self only when she exists for humanity.” In other words, we’re not the church if we’re not a church *for others*. We’ll give people fish, and also teach them how to fish. We will denounce greed, corruption, and all manner of sins, and we’ll stand with those oppressed by such forces of evil, giving voice to those who have been silenced, and seeking justice for those who have been abused.

Paul warned the church at Corinth that it cannot act as the people of this world do, living as if there’s no tomorrow. 1st Cor. 15:34 says, “Be sensible and stop sinning. You should be embarrassed that some people still don’t know about God.” When we see our neighbor suffering, we can be what Luther called a ‘little Christ’ to them. Or, as we sang at church camp bonfires long ago, ‘Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.’

Pax, Pastor Lans

Pastoral Acts
NEW MEMBER: *Donna Metzger*,
December 7th



A NOTE from YOUR CHOIR DIRECTOR

On Sunday morning I was awakened by a scratchy noise. When I looked out the window there was beauty that took my breath away: a white winter wonderland with glistening snow on bushes and trees. Then I looked down on our driveway and there was the reason for the scratchy noise: my neighbor shoveling snow! "I know you had to get out," she said when I passed her on my way to church. The drive was magical; very seldom do you see undisturbed beauty when you drive through the streets of our neighborhood.

It is with this picture in mind that I sit down to write. "Do you write for Christmas?" my husband asks. "No," I answer, "the writing is meant for the new year." "The new year comes right after Christmas, when God did something new by coming into this world as a vulnerable baby," he continues our conversation, "he is reversing the curse that drove humans out of paradise - to now labor for food at great cost and bear children with great pain - by submitting himself to the care of his own creatures."

I think of the angels appearing to the shepherds in the field, a moment of heavenly glory. And I am reminded again of the Sunday morning landscape covered in snow, pristine and undisturbed. That picture did not last, and with the next rain will turn muddy. The shepherds did return to their tough life. Will our Christmas songs also disappear along with all the wrapping paper around our gifts? What will stay with us as we face the new year not knowing what it will bring?

"Lord, send us what you may, be it love or be it sorrow, I am content that both comes

out of your loving hand..." I remember this poem from my school days which Hugo Wolf turned into an art song. But even more strongly rings the poetry of Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was imprisoned and finally executed by the Nazis, and who wrote this hymn awaiting the new year:

1. "By gracious pow'r so wonderfully sheltered, and confidently waiting come what may, we know that God is with us night and morning, and never fails to greet us each new day.
2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented, still evil days bring burdens hard to bear; oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation, for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.
3. And when this cup you give is filled to brimming with bitter suff'ring, hard to understand, we take it thankfully and without trembling out of so good and so beloved a hand.
4. Yet when again in this same world you give us the joy we had, the brightness of your sun, we shall remember all the days we lived through and our whole life shall then be yours alone.
5. By gracious pow'r so faithfully protected, so quietly, so wonderfully near, we live each day in hope, with you beside us, and go with you through every coming year.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, ELW 626

Bärbel Otto

January Happy Birthday!

4 Lyle Shull	23 Joe Mills (son)
4 Marlee Duru	25 Peggy Bayne
13 Irma Stockdale	26 Doris Alkire
17 Marcia Darney	28 Michael Barnes
17 Linda Gasiorowski	28 Bruce Bayne
17 Cynthia Kahl	29 James Lawrence
17 Linda Heinbaugh	29 Gavin Lynch
20 Betty Harry	30 Lucas Barnes
22 Lynn Eschenbach	

HaPpY
BiRtHdAY

January Happy Re-Birthday!

5 James Frederick, V	12 Vivian Fargus
10 Tabitha Baron	12 Frederick Fargus
10 Hollie Harlow	12 Harold Fargus
10 Alex Harlow	14 Steven Gladstone
11 Brayden Hausmann	16 Branson Finnegan
12 Watson Fargus	20 Kaitlin Golabiewski

Happy Birthday and Happy RE-birthday to those of you who were born or “born into” God’s family through baptism in January! If your Birthday or RE-birthday is not listed, contact the church office.

Great Possibilities

“Happily for us, the fundamental Christian message concerns not what we ought to do but what God has done and what God is willing to do. In fellowship with him and with others who are likewise trying to be like him, we can be lifted up above our native possibilities.”

--Hugh Martin

January 2011 issue of The Newsletter Newsletter

January Worship Service Assistants Schedule (8:45 am.)

January 4: Epiphany Sunday

Worship Assistant: Heather Frederick

Ushers: *Jerry Dohmeier and Joe Mills

January 11: Baptism of Our Lord

Worship Assistant: Rich Murphy

Usher: *Don Bayne

January 18: Confession of Peter

Worship Assistant: Holly Vogt

Usher: *Rich Murphy

January 25: Conversion of Paul

Worship Assistant: Don Bayne

Usher: Kathy Shull

*Opener

Waiting to Blossom

A song called “The Rose” (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn’t visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth “with the sun’s love” into springtime flowers.

When you’re in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God’s love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

January 2012 issue of
The Newsletter Newsletter

January Altar Flower Sponsors

1/4 Open for 8:45 and 10:15 am.

1/11 In Loving Memory of Janice Webb.
Given by Terri, Rich, Richie, Casey, and John Patrick.

1/11 In Memory of parents, Katherine's and Anna's birthdays. Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

1/11 Rose Vase: In Honor of **Everett Hohl Read** for his 11th birthday, January 16th. With love from his grandmother Patty Read.

1/18 In Honor of Joey Mills on his January 23rd birthday. Given with love by Mom and Dad.

1/18 Open for 10:15 am.

1/25 In Honor of Ashley Heinbaugh's and Alexander Smith's January birthdays. Given by the Heinbaugh family.

1/25 In Celebration of Michael and Lucas Barnes' birthdays. Given by Nancy Barnes.



January Bulletin Sponsors

1/4 In Loving Memory of parents, Rev. and Mrs. Alvin Matz and Rev. and Mrs. Henry Dohmeier. Given by Jerry Dohmeier.

1/11 Open.

1/18 In Honor of the 10th birthday of Chelsey Marie Volz, on January 19th. Given by her grandparents, Lois and Fred Volz.

1/18 In Honor of Joey Mills' January 23rd birthday. Given by the Sykes family.

1/25 In Loving Memory of the January birthdays of Genevieve Sacker (15), Phillip Sacker (27), and Catherine Haug (24). Given by Mr. & Mrs. James Lynch, and family.

1/25 In Honor of Jennie on her February 1st birthday. Given with love by Mom and Dad.

Beginning January, 2026:

To Sponsor bulletins or flowers contact the church office. Payment for sponsorships should be included with your offering (not a separate payment), and put in the offering plate or mailed to the church, Attn: Finance.

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**Altar flowers** (2 bouquets) - \$30

**Altar piece** - \$45

**Bulletin sponsorship** - \$10

**Rose Vase** - \$10

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Need a floral arrangement for an upcoming holiday event or special celebration? Consider using our Sunday bouquet florist, Drayer's Florist/The Flower Bucket! Call them for pricing and design information at 410-335-6286.

Church & School Staff

Church:

Pastor: Lans Alexis 443-388-1828
pastor@st-peterslutheran.com

Organist/Choir Director:

Bärbel Otto 410-665-7300

Contemporary Music/Praise Team

Director: Richard Stone

Secretary: Joy Mayne 410-665-7300
splcoffice7910@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45 & 10:15 am. Worship
10:00 am. Coffee & Conversation
10:00 am. Sunday school

School:

Principal: April Blahut 410-665-4521
ablahut@spesmd.org

Administrative Assistant:

Karen Yelovich 410-665-4521
kyelovich@spesmd.org

Parents Association for Christian Education (PACE):

stpeterspace@gmail.com

Church Web Address:

www.st-peterslutheran.com

School Web Address:

www.spesmd.org

School Inquiries Email:

info@spesmd.org

You can now make donations on-line through PayPal! Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367 or St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School.

Church Council Officers

President: Mark McQuade

Vice President: Karen Yelovich

Recording Secretary: Lena Frankenfeld

Treasurer: Kathy Sykes

Financial Secretary: William Lauer

Church Mission & Planning Team Members

Faith Formation: Karen Yelovich

Fellowship: Lena Frankenfeld

Investment: Rich Murphy

Nominating: Mark McQuade

Prayer Chain: Ruth Diepold

Property: Don Bayne

School Board: Lena Frankenfeld

WELCA: Heather Frederick

Annual Meetings

4th Sunday in February: Missions and Life of the Church (*committee reports are due to the church office 3 weeks prior to the meeting*).

2nd Sunday in November: Vote on budget and council and Investment Committee members

Articles for Networks are due to the church office by the 15th of each month. For the June/July issue, they are due by May 15th.

January 2026

January 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 Epiphany Sunday 10a (H) EGW	5 Church Office & SPES reopen SPES Open Enrollment for 2026-27 begins 4p (4 th) MM	6 Epiphany Day 3:30p (4th gr) MM 7p (GC) CR	7 9a Chapel (w/ Personal Care collection) 3:30p (4th gr) MM	8 7p (S/SL) BCSG	9 3:30p (4th gr) MM 6p (H) PACE Movie Night	10
11 10a (H) EGW	12 4p (4 th) MM	13 3:30p (4th gr) MM 6:30p (V) PACE mtg. 7p (GC) CR	14 9a Chapel 3:30p (4th gr) MM 7p (V) Council mtg.	15 7p (S/SL) BCSG	16 SPES Muffins with Mom 3:30p (4th gr) MM	17
18 10a (H) EGW	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office & SPES Closed	20 3:30p (4th gr) MM 7p (GC) CR	21 9a Chapel 3:30p (4th gr) MM 7p (V) Sch. Brd. Mtg.	22 7p (S/SL) BCSG	23 SPES ½ day for Professional Development	24
25 10a (H) EGW	26 4p (4 th) MM	27 3:30p (4th gr) MM 7p (GC) CR	28 9a Chapel 3:30p (4th gr) MM	29 7p (S/SL) BCSG	30 3:30p (4th gr) MM	31



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*Belonging to Jesus, We are
Feeding & Healing,
Teaching & Praying
—Together*

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY ~ GOD BLESS THIS MAIL CARRIER