



Networks

Our Mission:

Learning God's Truth



Sharing the Spirit's Healing



Following the Way of Jesus



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

Open House Dates

Tuesday, January 27th from 5-6 pm.

Sunday, February 8th from 1:30-2:30 pm.

Sunday, March 8th from 12:30-1:30 pm.

Monday, February 2nd – PACE's World
Finest Chocolate bar sale begins

Tuesday, February 10th - PACE meeting
(virtual)

Friday, February 13th – PACE Parents'
Night Out (6-9 pm.)

Saturday, February 14th – PACE Valentine's
Day Dance (3-6 pm.)

Friday, February 20th – SPES Family Night
– Makers Space (time TBD)

Monday, February 23rd – Presidents' Day –
SPES closed

Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, February 1, 2026 to be held between service for the purpose of approving a proposal for the installation of a stairlift from the school lobby to the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Boxes

While the prayer group will not continue to meet (at this time), we will continue to collect prayers for Sunday worship, and to pray for our school families and staff. If you would like to submit a prayer request, please use the prayer jar in the school lobby or the basket in the church lobby.

February 2026

St. Peter's Annual Meeting

The church council voted to postpone the Annual Meeting, scheduled for February 22nd, to Sunday, March 15th between services. The meeting was postponed because of the possibility of a bad weather winter, and not all financial information and audits will be available in time for a 2/22 meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the missions and life of the church.

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!

Lent at St. Peter's **Ash Wednesday Worship**

Wednesday, February 18th
7 pm. in the church

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During Lent, Pr. Lans will be presenting *The Small Catechism* via Zoom on Thursdays, beginning March 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact the church office for the link.

## REFORMATION & LEARNING

Among the many wonderful, challenging things I experienced at our Church-wide Assembly this past summer, I took seriously the charge that our retiring Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, gave to all our congregations. So as Lent begins again this year, I am answering her urgent request that we study the Small Catechism of Martin Luther, who knew a thing or two about teaching! Years ago I found this article intended for a confirmation teacher that I think bears repeating for all of us who name ourselves *Lutherans*.

I hope when you finish reading this, you'll say, 'This is theology? I thought it was more complicated.' And I hope you'll be grateful that it all starts with God's love; that even a grumpy German (Martin, not me!) could discover that life is good because God makes it so.

So I am in the planning stage for our midweek study time. As coming together at church is not as easy for our group, I'm going to offer a zoom meeting on Wednesdays that you can watch live or view later as time allows. Please check emails for further details as Ash Wednesday approaches.

### **Some Central Theological Points of the Reformation**

1. God's love is unconditional. Luther taught that God loves and forgives us because of Jesus Christ, NOT because of anything we do. The righteousness of God is what God gives to us for the sake of Christ, not something that we do in order to be right with God. The Roman Catholic Church had many teachings about what people needed to DO in order for their sins to be forgiven and for them to be right with God—the purchasing of indulgences was the most notorious of those teachings.

2. Sin is VERY real. Luther taught that we are simultaneously saint and sinner (*simul iustus et peccator*). Our sinful self needs daily drowning, in the context of God's love and forgiveness given through our baptism. There is not an

immediate and total transformation of a person from sinful to sinless, godless to godly, etc. Luther spoke about "both/and" situations. We are both forgiven by God, made right in God's eyes, totally saints—AND sinners, to be judged by God, worthy only of condemnation. It is a paradox, and we struggle against the power of sin in our lives every day. It is only through God's grace that we can trust in God's promise that we have been saved.

3. The three solas—*sola scriptura* (scripture alone), *sola fidei* (faith alone), *sola gratia* (grace alone)—are central to Luther's teaching and the Reformation. These are often quoted as "the key" to Luther's teaching. Scripture alone and the plain meaning of scripture attained through clear reasoning constitute the only base that is acceptable for creating doctrine and other teachings of the church. Faith alone, and not works, is what is needed to be forgiven and to receive eternal life. Grace alone is how God gives the gift of faith that results in forgiveness and eternal life.

4. We are saved by grace through faith. Faith means "trust"—that we trust what Jesus said, that we trust God's love, that we trust God's grace, etc. Faith is not something we "do"; it is something we act upon. Luther taught that good works do not bring us into favor with God, nor do they bring us into eternal life. God gives eternal life as a gift because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. God gives people the Holy Spirit through baptism and the Holy Spirit brings people to have faith in God—to trust God and the promises God has made. Faith is not something we DO. Faith is a gift.

5. We are saved by grace, not works. No amount of good works will earn someone a place in God's house for eternity. That place is a gift. Good works are the result of being saved by grace. Once God has given the gift of eternal life, we respond by doing good

works, because we desire to please God, who has been so generous and loving and merciful toward us.

6. All people have the duty to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, not just pastors. This is called the "priesthood of all believers." All useful work serves God, not just what pastors do. All vocations are honored by God. A vocation is a "calling" or something that God has called a believer to do. Luther taught that a person did not need to become a priest in order to do God's work. All believers in all walks of life can, and should, tell others about God's grace. And all believers in all walks of life are serving God with the work they do. Being a priest or a monk does not make a person more blessed than other people in other vocations.



## ***A NOTE from YOUR CHOIR DIRECTOR***

*Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice* – so starts one of Martin Luther's hymns, #594 in our hymnal. It immediately came to my mind after reading Pastor's plan about studying Luther's catechism and "Some Central Points of the Reformation".

Luther, the great theologian and teacher – his house was a hospitable place for students who were taught and fed at the same time – is also remembered for not only translating the Bible into German for the ordinary lay person, he also gave the nation a language that became the universal High German which everyone could understand beyond the many regional different dialects that were spoken in Germany. With the help of the just discovered printing press, his message went out to thousands of people. However, many simple folks could not read, so he turned to music to spread the gospel. Singing the good news made it stick in their mind! And so, he wrote songs and hymns which presented the gospel in a nutshell for people to remember and sing.

So, look at the hymn, which has eight verses (my German hymnal has 10), and a catchy

7. The imperfect church continues to be imperfect. Luther taught that the church is a human institution. It makes mistakes and it needs to be continually learning and reforming. When the Christian church is faithful to God, it is continually changing—evaluating what has been done in the past and learning to adapt to new times and cultures.

Martin Luther and the Reformation. Here We Stand  
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Pax, *Pastor Lans*, reformer  
(with a very little r)

### **Pastoral Acts**

**FUNERAL: *Ruth Diepold*, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

tune, and don't be surprised to hear this song in future occasions by your organist or choir.

Bärbel Otto

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
with exultation springing,  
and, with united heart and voice  
and holy rapture singing,  
proclaim the wonders God has done,  
proclaim the vict'ry God has won,  
how precious was our ransom!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay,  
death brooded fiercely o'er me,  
sin was my torment night and day;  
in sin my mother bore me.  
My own good works all came to naught,  
free will against God's judgment fought,  
so firmly sin possessed me.

*(hymn continues on next page)*

- 3 O God, you saw my deep distress  
before the world's foundation,  
and, with your mercy measureless,  
you planned for my salvation.  
You turned to me a father's heart;  
you did not choose the easy part,  
but gave your dearest treasure.
- 4 You said to your beloved Son:  
"Tis time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of my crown,  
and bring to all salvation;  
from sin and sorrow set them free;  
slay bitter death for them that they  
may live with you forever."
- 5 The Son obeyed your gracious will,  
was born of virgin mother;  
and, your good pleasure to fulfill,  
he came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised he bore,  
a servant's form, like mine, he wore,  
to lead the devil captive.

- 6 To me he said: "Stay close to me,  
I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I myself will be;  
for you I strive and wrestle.  
The foe will shed my precious blood;  
all this I suffer for your good;  
my life o'er death will triumph.
- 7 "Now to my Father I depart,  
from earth to heav'n ascending,  
and, gracious wisdom to impart,  
the Holy Spirit sending,  
who will in trouble comfort you,  
will teach you well, your faith renew,  
and in all truth will guide you.
- 8 "What I on earth have done and taught  
guide all your life and teaching;  
so shall the glorious reign of God  
increase, the whole world reaching.  
Let none the gospel gift impede;  
I make you free; be free indeed!  
This final word I leave you."

### ***February Happy Birthday!***

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 6 Don Bayne            | 19 Kamryn Whitlock   |
| 7 James Williams       | 22 Justin Beecher    |
| 8 Oliver Thompson      | 24 JoAnn Ely         |
| 10 Stephanie Yelovich  | 25 Hailey Sacker     |
| 17 Carter Williams     | 26 Heather Frederick |
| 19 James Frederick, IV | 27 Alan Sacker       |



### ***February Happy Re-Birthday!***

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 3 James Lawrence | 26 Laura Gasiorowski |
|------------------|----------------------|

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

### ***February Worship Service Assistants Schedule (8:45 am.)***

**February 1st:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
Worship Assistant: Don Bayne  
Ushers: \*Jerry Dohmeier & Joe Mills

**February 8<sup>th</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
Worship Assistant: Heather Frederick  
Usher: \*Don Bayne

**February 15<sup>th</sup>:** Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Worship Assistant: Rich Murphy  
Usher: Open

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Worship Assistant: Erik Alexis  
Usher: Kathy Shull

\*Opener

## February Altar Flower Sponsors

*2/1 Sponsorships from 1/25/26 were carried over because of inclement weather and the church didn't have service that day.*

**2/8** In Honor of my daughter, **Carol Rook's** February 12th birthday. Given by Linda Heinbaugh.

**2/8** In Celebration of **Jeff's and Michelle's** February 8th and 15th birthdays. Given by Doris Alkire.

### 2/15 Open

**2/22** In Honor of the birthdays of **Jimmy** (February 19th), **Heather** (February 26th), and **Holly** (March 4th). Given with love by their mother, Janice Frederick.

**2/22** In Honor of our grandson, **Theo's** 1st birthday. Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.



## February Bulletin Sponsors

**2/1** In Honor of **Jennie** on her February 1st birthday. Given with love by Mom and Dad.

**2/8** In Loving Memory of my father, **Henry Milke**, and my brother, **Charles Milke**. Given by Arlene Roth.

**2/15** In Loving Memory of my brother, **Dave's** birthday on February 13th, and In Honor of my brother, **Don's** birthday on February 18th. Given by their sister, Ruth May.

**2/22** In Loving Memory of **Betty Weinreich** on the anniversary of her passing, February 29, 2024. Given by Nolan Weinreich and family.

**2/22** In Loving Memory of **Aunt Betty Weinreich**. Given with love by the Mills family.

### 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 410-665-7300

### **Administrative Assistant:**

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 & Bible Study

### **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

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**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

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## ***Church Mission & Planning Team Members***

**Faith Formation:** Karen Yelovich

**Fellowship:** Lena Frankenfeld

**Investment:** Rich Murphy

**Nominating:** Mark McQuade

**Property:** Don Bayne

**School Board:** Lena Frankenfeld

**WELCA:** Heather Frederick

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## ***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

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**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.**

*February 2026*

| <i><b>Sunday</b></i>                                                                               | <i><b>Monday</b></i>                                                                                                            | <i><b>Tuesday</b></i>                                                     | <i><b>Wednesday</b></i>                                                                                        | <i><b>Thursday</b></i>      | <i><b>Friday</b></i>                                                                           | <i><b>Saturday</b></i>                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:30a (CH)<br><b>Special</b><br><b>Congregational</b><br><b>Meeting</b><br>10a (H) EGW | <b>2</b><br>PACE World's<br><b>Finest</b><br><b>Chocolate</b><br><b>Fundraiser</b><br><b>begins</b><br>4p (4 <sup>th</sup> ) MM | <b>3</b><br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM<br>7p (GC) CR                            | <b>4</b><br>9a Chapel (w/<br>Personal Care<br>collection)<br>11a (GC) Prayers<br>Group<br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM | <b>5</b><br>7p (S/SL) BCSG  | <b>6</b><br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM                                                               | <b>7</b>                                                                                                      |
| <b>8</b><br>10a (H) EGW<br><b>1:30p SPES</b><br><b>Open House</b>                                  | <b>9</b><br>4p (4 <sup>th</sup> ) MM                                                                                            | <b>10</b><br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM<br>6:30p (V) PACE<br>mtg.<br>7p (GC) CR | <b>11</b><br>9a Chapel<br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM<br>7p (V) Council<br>Mtg.                                       | <b>12</b><br>7p (S/SL) BCSG | <b>13</b><br><b>SPES</b><br><b>Valentine's</b><br><b>Class Parties</b><br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM | <b>14</b><br><b>Valentine's</b><br><b>Day</b><br><b>3p (H) PACE</b><br><b>Valentine's</b><br><b>Day Dance</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>10a (H) EGW                                                                           | <b>16</b><br><b>President's</b><br><b>Day</b><br><b>Church Office</b><br><b>&amp; SPES Closed</b>                               | <b>17</b><br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM<br>7p (GC) CR                           | <b>18</b><br><b>Ash Wednesday</b><br>9a Chapel<br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM                                         | <b>19</b><br>7p (S/SL) BCSG | <b>20</b><br><b>SPES Family</b><br><b>Night Makers</b><br><b>Space</b><br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM | <b>21</b>                                                                                                     |
| <b>22</b><br>10a (H) EGW                                                                           | <b>23</b><br>4p (4 <sup>th</sup> ) MM                                                                                           | <b>24</b><br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM<br>7p (GC) CR                           | <b>25</b><br>9a Chapel<br>3:30p (4th gr)<br>MM<br>7p (V) Sch. Brd.<br>Mtg.                                     | <b>26</b><br>7p (S/SL) BCSG | <b>27</b><br><b>SPES ½ Day</b><br><b>for</b><br><b>Professional</b><br><b>Development</b>      | <b>28</b>                                                                                                     |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <p>Key:</p> <p>(CH) Church; (GC) Grace Chapel; (H) Hall; (LL) Church Lower Level;</p> <p>(S) South Conf. Room; (SL) School Library; (V) Virtual Meeting</p> <p>BCSG=Baltimore Cancer Support Group; CR=Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>EGW=Ebenezer Grace Worship; MM=Mini Maestros</p> |
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SCHOOL

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[www.spesmd.org](http://www.spesmd.org)

**PRE-K 3 THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADE**

# OPEN HOUSE

*We are a small school with  
big faith helping to shape  
bright futures!*

**St. Peter's  
Elementary School**



**Tuesday, January 27  
from 5-6 pm**

**Sunday, February 8  
from 1:30-2:30 pm**

**Sunday, March 8  
from 12:30-1:30 pm**



Tour the school



Meet staff



Review curriculum



Ask questions

7910 Belair Road  
Nottingham, MD 21237



For more info:

**4106654521**



Visit us:

**[www.spesmd.org](http://www.spesmd.org)**



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***St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church***

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

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