



Volume 108 **Fall 2026**

Steeple Views

A MESSAGE FROM MARTHA HEINZE, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I feel like this is my reoccurring September theme: it's a New Year!
As many of you can appreciate, September has always been the beginning of school, the beginning of the holidays, the realization that we are done with what I hope was a good summer. And like December 31, it's also time for a look back at the previous year and a look forward to what is to come.

It has been a year of tremendous highs and the lowest of lows. We have celebrated our 250th Anniversary of St. Peter's in amazing fashion! From our "lighting the Church" kickoff, to our family movie night, our Colonial Service, the Founder's Day Service with the Bishop, yarn "bombing," 4th of July...and so many more activities. Your Church Council was able to sit back and watch the volunteers suggest ideas and run with them. I'm not even going to begin to name everyone or every activity, because I will be sure to leave someone or some event out. But I was so proud of our "little church" this year!

I stood in the Sanctuary on the 4th of July during our Open House and a little girl of maybe 7 or 8 years old came in with her mom to get out of the heat and get a popsicle. They "ooh-ed" and "ahh-ed" inside the church and the little girl looked up at her mom and said "why can't we go here? Why can't we come to church here?" The mom looked down and said that she thought it was a good idea and that they would talk it over with dad. That's why we do what we do. I'm hopeful to see them on Rally Day.

But we also experienced the lowest of lows. We lost our heartbeat. The one who pushed the blood through our church veins. Laurie gave us life each Sunday and made our congregation sing as one body. She brought the color to our cheeks and gave lightness to our steps. Laurie Mueller was more to us than just our Director of Music Ministry. She connected all of us. Touched all of us. Young and old. And without her, taking that step forward is just a bit harder.

So, like December 31st, let's all look back on this past "year" with pride. We did it and we aren't done! We have our 1st Annual (!) Golf Tournament and our Gala to look forward to. But, also looking forward, let's carry those we lost with us. Keep Laurie in your heart and those who we lost that made St. Peter's what it is today. *OUR* little church that does big things.

Fondly,
Martha Heinze
St. Peter's Church Council President

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am & 10:00 am
with Live Streaming
at 10:00 am starting
September 20th

ST. PETER'S CHURCH COUNCIL

Martha Heinze, President
Maureen Tang, Vice President
Dave Kinka, Treasurer
Diana Sundar, Secretary
Brooke Alderfer
Brian Brenfleck
Joe Browne
Lisa Rau Corr
Kelley Gaffney
Bill O'Brien
Sherri Retif
Ronnie Sensinger
Lily Shaffer
Sharon Skrzat
Lily S.

CORE VALUES

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value and embrace service driven ministry and being "other-oriented" serving God by serving people both locally and globally.

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value and strive for meaningful vibrant worship, enhanced with purposeful liturgy, powerful relevant messages, devout prayer, glorious music and participation by both clergy and lay "ministers".

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value spiritual growth for all generations defined by well thought out programs available for all ages and strong support for families of all types.

As members of St. Peter's we value and commit to being an inclusive community promoting authentic caring relationships with each other and our partners in ministry, always treating each other with respect.

As members of St. Peter's we value and commit to community hospitality, placing importance on being an integral part of our community by using both our building facility and our actions.

STEEPLE VIEWS

is published quarterly by

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Director of Music Ministries
Position Open

**Director For
Family Faith Formation**
Tricia Riordan
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Administrative Assistant
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Sexton
Bill Johnson
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Articles for *Steeple Views* should be
submitted to the office or
ginny@stpetersnorthwales.org

*It is the Mission of
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
to invite all people to
know, live, and share Jesus*



Information Request



Fourth of July Weekend on the 250th Birthday of Church and Country

It was a scorchingly hot weekend with temperatures reaching three digits. We cancelled the Friday night pre-birthday party, which was to be held outdoors on our lawn with 'A Common Thread.' Sunday worship was moved indoors for the same reason. But on Saturday, July 4th, our people came out and created a wonderfully welcoming atmosphere with a bike decorating station, open doors, cooling drinks and popsicles, friendly people and air conditioning. We received lots of approving feedback. Our St. Peter's Colonials were a big part of the parade. Pastor Wagner offered a prayer for the community and Bernie Heinze read the Declaration of Independence. It was a good and positive outing for our church.

Submitted by
Pastor Andreas Wagner



Thank you St Peter's!

Another great month of hosting for the InterFaith Hospitality Network



On behalf of the Social Ministry Team, I'd like to thank you all for a successful month of hosting for the InterFaith Hospitality Network. During June, we hosted three families. You offered over 140 hours of volunteer support by preparing 34 meals, providing 60 rides and making over 30 visits to our guests! 38 volunteers contributed to this effort.

The Thrift Shop opened its doors to share resources with our guests and we even had a volunteer do some babysitting! It's awesome how our congregation has embraced this ministry in so many ways and a great way to utilize the space we have in the Education Building to serve the community. We look forward to serving again next year!

With Gratitude,
Brian Brenfleck

Moving Day, July 1st



Devoted Humble Involved
Vibrant Selfless Generous
Charitable Thanks
Passionate Loving Friendly Fun
Volunteers Caring
UNSELFISH HELPFUL PROSPEROUS
Amazing THOUGHTFUL GREAT
Respectable

Family Ministry

Service Days Recap!

What wonderful and successful three days of service at St. Peter's last June! Every task, large and small, was completed with generous hearts and joyful spirits. Together we prepared meals for Family Promise, cared for our cemetery grounds, cleaned and organized the Thrift Shop for the summer season, assembled lunches for E-Meals Ministry, and tackled our biggest project—transforming the Education Building hallway with a fresh coat of paint.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talents, energy, and fellowship to make Service Days such a productive and joy filled event!

Service Week Volunteers

Charlene Bance, Scott Bickel, Juliane Bickel, Diana Blum, Chris Gaffey, Owen Gaffney, Rory Gaffney, Lee Honeywell, Joy Jacobson, Ananda Jones, Bill Kintigh. Carole Lukens, Carol O'Brien, Karl Smith, Diana Sundar, Jack Ochab, Klara Ochab, Mark Ouellette, Nora Ouellette, Patrick Ouellette, Ronnie Sensinger



Upcoming Events

Family Ministry is gearing up for a fun filled fall here at St. Peter's. Be sure to check out all the upcoming events and programs!

Rally Day

Rally Day will kick off the year on September 13th, 2026. Festivities begin at the 9:30 am service with music by A Common Thread, followed by food, fellowship and a community project.

As St. Peter's celebrates 250 years, we are mindful of our many blessings and continue to explore ways we can share the spirit of St. Peter's with the community. This Rally Day, we will be painting rocks of gratitude and kindness to place throughout the St. Peter's baptismal and butterfly gardens, and in the local community. We hope you can join us for this community wide event that honors the spirit of St. Peter's Church through creativity and thoughtfulness. At Oktoberfest, we will invite the community to paint rocks and place them in their neighborhoods and communities as well.

SPARK

SPARK is back! Traditional SPARK Sundays begin Sunday, October 11th.

We will continue the same format as last year with:

SPARK 1: Kindergarten - 2nd grade

SPARK 2: 3rd - 5th grade

Robin Alderfer will continue to work with the SPARK 2 class one Sunday each month to engage them in the projects of Social Ministry. Thanks, Robin!

SPARK Teacher Sign Up!

Here is the link: [SPARK Fall 2026 Teacher sign-ups](#)

SPARK teachers make this program possible. We have a committed group of parents who teach, but we are always looking for more to help fill the schedule. Lessons are provided and are very easy to follow. If you are interested and have questions, please contact Tricia Riordan: tricia@stpeternorthwales.org for more info.

SPARK Acts of Love and Kindness

This year we will be launching a special program for all the SPARK kids to inspire them to connect the message of the Gospel to their everyday lives. Kids will be encouraged to do acts of kindness and love at home, in school, in the community, and in nature. Each act they complete will be documented and posted in the SPARK Room and in the Sunday Bulletin. This is a targeted program for the kids, but we hope their actions will ignite a SPARK in all of us to spread kindness and love everywhere!

September SPARK Days

Once again, we will have some special SPARK Days before starting the typical SPARK classes in October.

SPARK Service Day - September 20th:

SPARK kids will assemble 200 bag lunches for the E-meals Ministry program.
Church members can contribute by donating 4 or 5 oz cans of tuna to be placed in each bag. Donate in the Narthex August 10th - 31st.

SPARK Laid Back Sunday - September 27th

This is the Sunday after Oktoberfest. We know that many are tired and energy is low, so we decided to keep it low key. Kids are welcome to come to the SPARK Room to eat snacks, watch some Bible Stories on video, and engage in some creative activities. It's all low key and laid back!

Ohana Sunday

Ohana Sunday takes place the first Sunday of each month, October - May, at the 10:00 am service. Following the service we will gather for Coffee Hour and some simple community fun in Fellowship Hall. Each month will be hosted by a different ministry/committee. Check the daily email for more details on the events for that month.

Nursery

The Nursery Program returns this fall. It will begin on Rally Day, September 13th, at the 9:30 am service. Please note that the following Sunday, September 20th, is the return to 2 services at 8:30 am and 10:00 am. The Nursery program is available at the 10:00 am service. Bree Thompson will return as the lead caregiver and Phoebe Benner will return as the assistant caregiver. All children aged 1 - 4 years are welcome in the nursery. Any new attendees must be registered before attending. You can [register here](#), or use the QR code posted outside the nursery room.

Submitted by
Tricia Riordan

Fall 2026 Family Ministry Calendar			
All Events at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted			
SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
13	Rally Day (9:30 am)	4	Ohana Sunday
20	SPARK Service Day	11	SPARK
27	SPARK Laid Back Sunday	18	SPARK
		25	SPARK
NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
1	Ohana Sunday	6	Ohana Sunday
8	SPARK	13	SPARK
15	SPARK Art Day	20	SPARK
22	SPARK	27	No events
29	No events		

Worship & Music Update by Diana Sundar

Where to begin.....

First, the Celebration of Life that was held for our dear Laurie Mueller on July 11th at Trinity Lutheran Church was beautiful and very well attended. The speakers and the choir (over 100 strong) were amazing. We heard lots of stories of the many people that she had touched with her talents. We all are missing her dearly. St. Peter's gave a donation in her memory to her college, Lebanon Valley College for a scholarship fund.

Now the search for a new Director of Music Ministry (DMM) is in place. We have published the job description and opening in several key places such as on our website, the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod Website, American Guild of Organist (AG) in Philadelphia, and the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM). All of these organizations have publications that go out quarterly as well and our opening will be included there too. Please feel free to share this information with others as you never know where our next candidate will come from!

The process of finding a new DMM may take some time. We ask that you pray with us for patience as we seek the right person for St. Peter's, trusting the process and God's grace to sustain us in worship, music, and love during this time.

In the meantime, our church has indeed been blessed with many volunteers and musicians that have kept our music alive, interesting and diverse this summer and it will continue into the 2nd half of this year. I want to give a **BIG SHOUT OUT of Thanks** to all our volunteers who make this possible! Please be sure to thank them too next time you hear and see them! It is wonderful of them to continue to share their time and talents with all of us!

Finally, we had an end of season get-together where we got to spend some time talking and sharing stories over Pizzas, Salads and beverages! Choirs, Bands and Bell Volunteers and their families were all invited and some even enjoyed the pool!!

As September comes around and our programs kick off again, we hope that you'll come join us, ask questions and make music with us - all to the Glory of God!



In Memory of Laurie Mueller

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." — Thomas Campbell



Build-A-Bag



Thank you, St. Peter's, for your wonderful generosity in the Build-A-Bag program to help supply students living in the North Penn School District with needed school supplies.

36 backpacks filled with donations were delivered to the ESC. On August 18th, Joy, along with other volunteers, helped fill hundreds of backpacks before they were sent to the 18 North Penn Schools for distribution. Thanks again to the members of St. Peter's and AA members for your support of this wonderful North Penn Education Foundation initiative.

Submitted by
Joy Jacobson

Backpack Assembly



GOOD GIFTS

We can make a difference!



Time to start saving those pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters!

Good Gifts coin collection starts
October 11 to November 15.

The ELCA Good Gifts program turns your change into life changing support for communities world wide.

What will we collect enough to buy?
Chicks, goats, cows or maybe a whole farm?

Look for the piggies in early October
and fill them up with coins and bring them
back by November 15.



Our small gifts make a BIG difference around the globe.

Stephen Ministry Update: Continuing Christ-Centered Care

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer filled with moments of rest, renewal, and time with family and friends. As summer comes to a close and we look ahead to the fall season, it is a good time to share an update on the Stephen Ministry here at St. Peter's.

Our Stephen Ministry continues to live out its mission of providing Christ-centered care for people who are struggling with life's challenges. Whether someone is experiencing grief, illness, loneliness, transition, or another difficult season, Stephen Ministers are trained to walk alongside others with compassion, confidentiality, prayerful support, and a listening heart. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please reach out to me or Pastor Wagner.



Many of you may know that Bill Johnson, our church Sexton, was recently commissioned as our newest Stephen Minister. We are grateful for Bill's willingness to serve in this meaningful way and for the care and commitment he brings to this ministry.

We are also thankful for the dedication of the rest of our current Stephen Ministers: Robin Alderfer, Diana Blum, Steven Moyer (not pictured), Nancy Simon, and Sharon Skrzat. Each of them gives generously of their time and talents to support others in our church family and community.

Looking ahead to the coming months, our focus is on sustaining and strengthening this small but important ministry. As part of that effort, we are beginning to consider the possibility of offering training for new Stephen Ministers in the new year and would love to hear from those who may feel called to serve.

If you have a heart for caring, listening, and walking alongside others during difficult times, I invite you to prayerfully consider whether Stephen Ministry may be a place for you to serve. If you would like to learn more, please reach out to me, Pastor Wagner, or any of our Stephen Ministers. We would be happy to talk with you about this meaningful ministry and what is involved in becoming a Stephen Minister.

In Christ,
Yvonne Garrity

Undy Sundays are back.



Collecting Undies & Socks
for the children at Gemma Services
August 31 - October 4

Boxer Briefs & Panties:
Child: L & XL and Adult Sizes

White Undershirts:
Child: L & XL and Adult S & M

Sports Bras: S, M, & L

Socks: Adult sizes



From August 31 through October 4th we will be collecting new underwear and socks for the children at Gemma (Silver Springs Martin Lutheran School). The most needed sizes are Youth sizes 12, 14 and 16 and adult small and medium. Drop off location will be a box in the Narthex of the church. Any questions contact Robin Alderfer. Thanks for your support.

The Welcome Church: Being Church Without Walls in Philadelphia

The Welcome Church began as The Welcome Center, a ministry of healing and hospitality founded by the Rev. Violet Cucciniello Little in 2007. In 2012, the ministry was officially recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) as a congregation under development serving people experiencing poverty. Today, The Welcome Church describes itself as “a church without walls.”

Its ministry challenges the traditional idea that church happens primarily inside a sanctuary. The Welcome Church gathers for worship, prayer, Bible study, conversation, meals, and fellowship in different locations throughout Philadelphia. Its twice-monthly outdoor worship, known as Church on Logan, takes place in Aviator Park along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The service of Word and Sacrament is followed by coffee and conversation, creating another opportunity for people to share their lives around a common table.

Conversation is central to this ministry. Weekly gatherings such as Tea and Talk provide a simple setting for people to sit together, share stories, listen, laugh, and build relationships. Other gatherings, including Bible study and women’s groups, grow from the interests and gifts of the people who participate.

Perhaps most importantly, The Welcome Church reminds the wider church that hospitality is more than saying, “All are welcome.” It is about creating spaces where people are known, valued, and invited to contribute their own gifts. An ELCA worship resource highlights The Welcome Church as an example of radical hospitality—hospitality that crosses social boundaries and recognizes Christ in unexpected places.

The Welcome Church invites us to consider a simple but profound question: **What might happen if we stopped waiting for people to come to church and instead became the church that goes to them?**

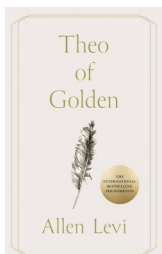
Submitted by
Robin Alderfer



St. Peter's Readers

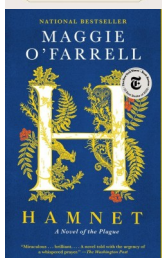
We are now starting our 19th year reading together and have read 120 books.

Our next books are :



September 15: *Theo of Golden*, Allen Levi

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.



October 27: *Hamnet*, Maggie O'Farrell

A deeply moving novel about the death of Shakespeare’s eleven-year-old son, Hamnet, and the years leading up to the production of his great play Hamlet.

We meet at 11:30am in the church parlor.
Contact Charlene Bance if you have any questions.



Thrift Shop

You might want to sit down before you read the next sentence. St. Peter's Thrift Shop's 2025-26 selling season generated **\$35,026** in sales!! This number is absolutely amazing given the fact that we were closed both Saturdays over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and our selling days were affected by bad weather over the winter. Our charities (Laurel House (Nehemiah's Way), Gemma, Ken Crest and Manna) tell us over and over how thankful they are for our donations and we are thankful that we can continue to support them. On June 2, 2026, The Today Show did a segment called "Thrift Shopping on the Rise". The report said that thrift shopping has shown a 25% increase over the last year. Statistics also show that consumer costs are up 25% so thrift shopping offers affordability for many families trying to make ends meet. Shoppers said that you can find things at a thrift shop that you can't find at the mall and that so many items offer character and happy memories. The closing statement of the segment was...Thrift shopping offers VALUE, VARIETY, and SUSTAINABILITY! That's the perfect mantra for our little shop.

****Saturday September 12th**** is the opening day for the 2026-27 selling season. We have all new inventory...lots of fall clothing, shoes, boots—fall décor—household items—and just like the big box store we will have our Halloween items ready to go!

****Donations will be accepted on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 12:00 and during the hours we are open on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Members may leave donations at the top of the steps in the Ed building. Please make sure clothes are clean and the boxes and bags are not too heavy for us to carry down the steps.**

Since 1993, St. Peter's Thrift Shop has been a beacon in the North Wales community providing financial support to our charities and an affordable shopping experience for many. Thank you to all for your continued support!

Submitted by
Peg McConnell



Going Green

It's a matter of habit!

Eco Quote: *It's just one plastic bottle, said 8 billion people.* Plastic Crisis

Giving up plastic water bottles reduces environmental pollution and minimizes ingestion of microplastics, which have been linked to health issues.

Microplastics break off from the interior of the bottle itself, especially when the plastic flexes or heats up. By switching from bottled water to tap or filtered tap water, exposure was a reduction of more than 90%. New York Post

Single-use plastic water bottles devastate wildlife through **ingestion, entanglement, and habitat toxicity.** Greenpeace

Resource Extraction & Manufacturing: Producing single-use PET plastic bottles relies heavily on fossil fuels. In the U.S. alone, it takes over 17 million barrels of oil annually to meet bottled water demand. Up to three liters of water are required to manufacture the packaging for just one liter of drinking water. Milkyplant

Carbon Emissions & Transport: Transporting heavy, bottled water across vast distances—whether by truck, rail, or ship—makes it one of the fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions. The Water Project



Waste & Pollution: Plastic water bottles can take over 1,000 years to biodegrade in landfills. Globally, millions end up in oceans and ecosystems annually, where they degrade into microplastics and nanoplastics or release toxic fumes if incinerated. The Water Project

Local Water Depletion: Commercial water extraction often strains local aquifers and watersheds, sometimes depleting resources in surrounding communities. Augsburg University

Transition to using a durable stainless steel or glass bottle. Use tap water and if you feel it needs filtering use a water pitcher with a filter, use your filtered refrigerator dispenser if you have one, or install a filter to your kitchen water faucet.

Submitted by
Charlene Bance



Women's Sharing Circle

Organized by Stephanie Freidly, Linda O'Brien and Sherri Retif, the Women's Sharing Circle continues to gather for contemplative listening and sharing reflection on God's presence in our everyday lives.

Our group meets to support one another, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, from 7:00-8:15 pm in the Narthex.

All are welcome to join the sacred space of listening, reflection, and community.

All are welcome to join this sacred space of listening, reflection, and community.
Warmly,
Sherri

National Youth Gathering, June 27 - July 2, 2027 in Minneapolis



Every three years our national church organizes a nation-wide gathering for high school youth. Next year that will be in Minneapolis. The theme is "Imagine," encouraging young people to imagine a world shaped by the Holy Spirit. Eligible students must be in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (Fall of 2026). They will be accompanied by several adults (ratio 1:3). The gathering offers high energy worship, concerts, small groups, service opportunities, high profile speakers and more. We would like to send a group from St. Peter's and ask all eligible students and their parents to join us for an information meeting following the Rally Day activities on September 13.

For rising 8th to 12th graders

Information Meeting on September 13 after Rally Day Activities

Submitted by
Pastor Wagner

St. Peter's Art Wall

The art wall is still currently displaying the pictures and drawing from the art camp children who helped us celebrate St. Peter's 250th birthday with their renderings. Be sure to check it out. You will find some very detailed drawings of the church, creative depictions of the symbols displayed on our banners in the sanctuary and lots of Milo, because the church dog greeted the campers on several days and was a children's favorite. A recognition for the art was held after the church service on August 9, with several of the campers and their parents in attendance.



Submitted by
Pastor Wagner

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. Romans 10:15

"Give a girl the right shoes, and she can conquer the world." ~ *Marilyn Monroe*

Women of St. Peter's - you are all invited to join us for our Women's Retreat at St. Peter's on Saturday, October 17 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. This will be a day filled with devotion, games (with prizes!), crafts, food, music, and of course fun fellowship. Our theme is Beautiful Feet. Come and find out what makes truly beautiful feet. And what has the Lord called these beautiful feet to do?

The cost is \$30 (cash, check, or Venmo – to Diana Sundar) and you can either sign up using the sign-up sheet in the narthex or the link in Pastor's daily email message. We only have 40 spots available, so sign up today. The reservation deadline for St. Peter's is Sunday, September 20. If at that point we still have spots available, we will open up registration to friends of St. Peter's.

To help us be green, we are looking for 40 pint sized mason jars (or similar) with lids for a fun craft that we have planned. If you have any, please drop them off at the church office now until the end of September.

If you have any questions, contact Jen Gutsche jgutsche66@gmail.com, Diana Sundar sundard@comcast.net, or Joan Anton firefighterjoan77@gmail.com. We hope to see you on October 17!!

Submitted by
Jen Gutsche





RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Mondays
2:00-7:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall



Upcoming Dates:

October 26, 2026

February 22, 2027

For appointments
www.redcross.org
Enter sponsor code:
St. Peters North Wales

Red Cross Blood Drive

In 2025 St. Peter's helped the American Red Cross with 150 blood donations! That impacts 450 lives!! This year because of a bad winter storm, we've only been able to do 50 blood donations! Please help us at our next Blood drive, which is scheduled for Monday, October 26th in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up now: [Click here to make an appointment](#)

Our first blood drive for 2027 will be on Monday, February 22nd

Submitted by Diana Sundar

St. Peter's 250th Anniversary Gala

Join us on **October 9, 2026** at **Pine Crest Country Club** to celebrate St. Peter's 250th Anniversary! **Whether you are a current member of St. Peter's, a past member, a friend or occasional visitor... WE WANT YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH US!**

Enjoy a complimentary **open bar cocktail hour**, a **plated, sit-down dinner and dessert**. Dance the night away with a **DJ who will accommodate all ages and dance moves!** (*cash bar after dinner*).

Our night starts at 6:00 pm with the cocktail hour followed by a sit-down dinner and a DJ to dance the night away!

This is a **FAMILY event** and we would love to see our younger members join us! We even have a Children's Menu entrée!

Adults: \$80 Children: \$20

Everyone is invited and if you have financial considerations, we do not want you to be left out. We have a "Pay What You Can" option and yes, \$1 will do it! Please check the box below and we will reach out to you confidentially for your meal selection(s). ***There is a place for everyone at our table.***

If you would like to sponsor a dinner(s) for one of our church family members, that would be wonderful!

Click the link below or use your phone to access the QR code. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

[St. Peter's 250th Anniversary Gala](#)



Submitted by
Martha Heinze

**FAITH, HOPE
& COMMUNITY**

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
North Wales, PA

250 YEARS | 1776-2026



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
— CELEBRATE THE —**

250th
Anniversary
OF
**ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1776-2026

*Join us for an unforgettable evening
as we honor our past and celebrate our future!*

Gala **DINNER
& DANCING PARTY**



DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2026



TIME: 6:00 PM



VENUE: PINE CREST
COUNTRY CLUB

101 Country Club Drive
Lansdale, PA 19446



*250 YEARS OF FAITH.
A FUTURE OF HOPE.*

St. Peter's Europe Trip 2027

It's been a while since our last trip to Europe in 2018, when we visited Luther Land and stayed with people in Wittenberg, traveled to the north Italian wine region, Venice, Verona and the picturesque Alsace region in eastern France. We brought along a travel choir that grounded us in music and ministry. Before the wonderful 2018 trip we traveled in 2012 with our bell choir to Germany and Switzerland. Well, it's time again for St. Peter's travel adventures. Next September (Sept 9-20, 2027), we are going to Holland, Belgium and northern Germany. The itinerary is set, registration material is ready and members of St. Peter's can sign up for it **NOW**. We will see the beautiful canal cities of the lower lying regions of Western Europe, including Amsterdam, Delft, Ghent and Bruges. We will stay in a water castle in Western Germany and visit the high north where we will be hosted by several Lutheran congregations in the northernmost part of Germany, near the Danish border. Earlier this summer, I conferred with Pastor Jurgen Kaphengst and a member of their church council there via zoom. They are excited to host us, show us the region and engage in conversation with us.

You may wonder, why travel in a big group? Well, in my experience it has always been so much fun and beneficial to our relationships and our faith. Some folks have formed bonds with people overseas and are still exchanging cards or emails. I enjoy the role of travel guide to introduce you to some special places on the continent where I grew up. The trips are not overly "churchy" but we will have devotions and inspirational moments on a daily basis, mostly when we travel in the bus. There will also be musical components on this trip. We will collaborate with our former Music Director Sam Tarasenko in Amsterdam for a special organ concert and also when we travel to northern Germany. Some more musical components may evolve.

Of course, an undertaking like this is expensive but less expensive than commercial trips because we are not interested in making a profit. I hope many of you can join us and enjoy this time together and abroad. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. The maximum number of travelers is 35, including the tour leaders. Dayle Malloy is my co-organizer of this trip and in charge of bookkeeping and money. All payments will be made to a special St. Peter's Travel bank account at Harleysville bank. By September 1, we will open registration to non-St. Peter's members. And by the end of this year registration officially closes. Needless to say, I look forward to this trip!

Pastor Andreas Wagner

Pictures from previous Europe trips



"I always just thought if you see somebody without a smile, give'em yours!"

~ Dolly Parton

St. Peter's Europe 2027 Trip

BELGIUM, HOLLAND & NORTHERN GERMANY

September 9–20, 2027 (12 Days)

Explore historic cities, beautiful landscapes,
rich cultures and our shared faith.



COMFORTABLE SIGHTS

Visit stunning cities,
iconic landmarks
and charming towns.



COMFORTABLE TRAVEL

Enjoy deluxe motorcoach
transportation
throughout Europe.



EXPERT GUIDES

Learn from professional
guides passionate
about history
and faith.



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Deepen your faith and
create lasting friendships
along the way.

ITINERARY

Day 1 | Thursday, September 9:
Depart the USA

Day 2 | Friday, September 10:
Arrive in Amsterdam and stay in beautiful Delft

Day 3 | Saturday, September 11:
Amsterdam Canal and City Tour, Organ Concert.

Day 4 | Sunday, September 12:
Kinderdijk windmills and travel to Bruges.
Evening Worship.

Day 5 | Monday, September 13:
Morning Bruges Tour and afternoon excursion
to WWI sites in Ypres.

Day 6 | Tuesday, September 14:
Tour of Ghent, WWI American Cemetery in
Waregem and travel to Water Castle
Anholt/Germany

Day 7 | Wednesday, September 15:
Day of Rest, worship and local excursions
from Water Castle Anholt. Evening Dinner
in the castle.

Day 8 | Thursday, September 16:
Hanseatic Day. Travel to northern Germany
with stop in Bremen and/or Lübeck and
stay in Hamburg

Day 9 | Friday, September 17:
Port of Hamburg Tour and travel to our
host families near Husum

Day 10 | Saturday, September 18:
Program with our hosts in northern Germany
and evening get-together

Day 11 | Sunday, September 19:
Morning worship with our hosts.
Afternoon: Return to Amsterdam.

Day 12 | Monday, September 20:
Return trip



DELFT, HOLLAND



KINDERDIJK, HOLLAND



BRUGES, BELGIUM



GHENT, BELGIUM



WATER CASTLE ANHOLT, GERMANY



HAMBURG, GERMANY



HUSUM, GERMANY

TRIP INCLUDES

- ✓ Hotel accommodations (double occupancy)
- ✓ Deluxe motorcoach transportation in Europe
- ✓ Breakfast daily
- ✓ One group dinner
- ✓ Several guided tours with professional guides
- ✓ All entry fees

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Other meals and incidental expenses not included.
- Airfare, medical expenses and travel/medical insurance are not included. (We highly recommend travel insurance.)
- Single room upcharge will be communicated and due by May 1, 2027.
- We are not interested in making a profit from this trip. Any surplus after the trip will be shared equally with the trip organizers (up to 50% of costs before airfare).

TOTAL TRIP COST BEFORE AIRFARE

\$2,900 (pay in installments)
\$2,750 (if paid up front by December 31, 2026)

REGISTRATION FORM

St. Peter's 2027 Trip to Europe
September 9–20, 2027 (12 Days)

I hereby register (please print your name) _____

for the 2027 St. Peter's trip to Belgium, Holland and Northern Germany. Please check the following boxes:

- ☐ I understand that (at this point) the exact time of travel could vary by a few days, depending on available airfare and airfare prices.
- ☐ I have read the registration and cancellation policies and accept them.
- ☐ I understand that pictures will be taken and may appear in church publications and on social media. (We will use common sense and only share nice ones.)
- ☐ I understand that in case of an emergency abroad or at home, the group leaders cannot be responsible for your return. At the same time, you can count on our help.
- ☐ I understand that the airfare is subject to price fluctuations and comes as an additional cost to the aforementioned price of \$2,900 (\$2,750). The definitive cost of air travel will not be known until at least the end of 2026. (We recommend budgeting \$1,000.)

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Cancellation before December 31, 2026:
You will get back all but \$ 200.
- Cancellation between January 1 and June 30, 2027:
you will get back all but the \$500 registration fee.
- Cancellation after June 30, 2027:
We will see what we can do, but can't guarantee a specific amount. (Please make sure you have travel insurance.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND WAIVER FORM

Do you have any allergies? _____

Do you have any major health or mobility concerns? _____

What important medications do you take on a regular basis? _____

Who can we contact in case of an emergency? Please provide the name, phone number and email. Please also provide a secondary emergency contact.

Primary Emergency Contact: _____

Secondary Emergency Contact: _____

I hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to forever hold harmless St. Peter's Lutheran Church employees and the trip organizers from any and all liability, claims and demands for personal injury, sickness and death, as well as property damage and expenses of any nature whatsoever which may be incurred by me as part of this trip to Europe, including travel, recreation and all associated activities.

Further, I hereby assume all risk of said personal injury, sickness, death, damage and expenses as a result of participation as above set forth. I also understand that staff and volunteers are not responsible for the administration of prescribed medications.

This registration is valid with the participant's signature and the required registration fee of \$500, made out to St. Peter's Travel Group.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

MAIL REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT TO:

St. Peter's Travel Group
c/o St. Peter's Lutheran Church
211 South Main Street
North Wales, PA 19454
215-699-4604

Thank you!
We look forward to
traveling with you!

QUESTIONS? Contact Pastor Wagner: pastor@stpetersnorthwales.org.
St. Peter's Lutheran Church | 211 South Main Street, North Wales, PA 19454 | 215-699-4604

Around Church

Founder's Day, June 14th



Choir



Bishop Bryan Penman



New Members



North Carolina Team



A Common Thread





Lisa Short and Renee Erwin, as well as Nancy Moldofsky contributed this beautiful sign, which was installed above the old church entrance doors



Baptism of Klelani Leiby on May 31st



St. Peter's Youth getting ready to go whitewater rafting



Joe Browne planting our "Freedom Tree" donated by the Rhodes Garden Nursery



Barbara Walker was performing on Gospel Sunday.

FALL ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE



SEPT. 20

The Neuroscience of Spirituality

A lot has been researched and written about what's going on in our bodies while we pray or engage in other spiritual practices. In the past, sometimes those scientific findings have been played against religion (it's not God, it's just neurons firing), but we can really see this as an organic whole and be curious about the neuroscience aspect of spirituality.

Presented by: Maureen Tang

OCT. 11

Dalai Lama!

Ben Carlson will be our presenter for this session. He is the Senior Director of Strategic Communication for the John Templeton Foundation. Ben is Pastor Carlson's son, grew up at Christ Lutheran in Oreland and has visited the Dalai Lama twice as part of his role. He will share insights about these visits and more generally introduce us to the work of the Templeton Foundation which explores the intersections between religion/spirituality and science.

OCT. 18

Hildegard!

Hildegard von Bingen almost needs no introduction. In a world dominated by men, she was known as the Sibyl of the Rhine. She was a German Benedictine abbess and polymath during the High Middle Ages. Hildegard left a significant mark in this world as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic and visionary, a medical writer and practitioner. **Sherri Retif and Stephanie Freidley** will introduce us to her life and work.

NOV. 8

Voices for the Planet: ELCA Ecological Teachings

Charlene Bance and Linda Hubler (along with other Green Team members) will share the ELCA ecological teachings relative to: Participation, Solidarity, Sufficiency and Sustainability. We will then explore how we can advocate for these at our various governmental levels. We will also share information about our Synod ministry advocacy organization (LAMP). Attending does not require a commitment to advocate but will give each of us the various means if we so choose.

NOV. 15

"Who is this God anyway?"

Rob Strauss is one of the deep thinkers in our congregation. In this session, he will pose a question that is at once the most basic in terms of religion and the most comprehensive. It is probably an unanswerable question, yet we are encouraged to ask and get closer to the mystery of God.

NOV. 22

AI and Magnifica Humanitas

AI is fast changing our world. It's a new technology that can't be ignored, already having a huge impact on human identity and life. Earlier this year, Pope Leo XIV, the first North American Pope, published an encyclical pondering the implications and dangers of Artificial Intelligence. **Pastor Wagner** will introduce us to the spiritual implications of AI as laid out in the encyclical and in other literature.

wishing you a
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

Karin ClarkSept 02
Holden BrowneSept 04
Sidnie HarrisSept 04
Carol Dougherty.....Sept 05
Lee Heist.....Sept 10
Doug LongwillSept 11
Michael CarlsonSept 13
Laurie Kane.....Sept 13
Bill Johnson.....Sept 15
Robert Hain.....Sept 16
Kyra Lynn DeStefano.....Sept 17
Carol SeippSept 22
Daniel McGlynn.....Sept 24
William HusseySept 27
Anthony Pavia.....Sept 27
Barbara Heimerdinger ...Sept 28
Bill O'BrienSept 28
Boris BorichevskySept 29
Lisa Short.....Sept 29
Colleen ArenaSept 30
Steven Fitzgerald.....Sept 30

October

Bill Hubler.....Oct 02
Joan Schiele.....Oct 02
Brooke AlderferOct 03
Rory Gaffney.....Oct 05
Charles DeStefano.....Oct 06
Catherine WunderOct 06
Scott BickelOct 07
Mackenzie Lauro.....Oct 07
Shirley WhitnerOct 08
Penelope DeStefanoOct 10
Wendy Skrzat.....Oct 13
Nancy ZeiglerOct 13
Patricia Clarke.....Oct 15
Ananda JonesOct 16
Peggy Ann MatweyOct 20
Stella Murray.....Oct 22
Larry Richmond.....Oct 22
Piper Lahiff.....Oct 24
Raymond WhitnerOct 27
Christine Hussey.....Oct 28
Heather AlderferOct 29
Carol O'Brien.....Oct 29
Bill Kesack.....Oct 30
Liz Allen.....Oct 31

November

Nathaniel ErwinNov 03
JoAnn RittenhouseNov 03
Anne Robinett.....Nov 03
Katherine AnglimNov 06
Colton CooperNov 08
Gretchen Flanagan.....Nov 08
Yvonne Garrity.....Nov 09
Pam Paraskewik.....Nov 09
Deborah HoneywellNov 11
Daniel ClarkNov 13
Scott ZenkerNov 14
Thomas BennerNov 15
George UhlNov 15
Janine MartinNov 17
Elizabeth FitzgeraldNov 20
Thomas Anglim.....Nov 22
Benjamin Edwards.....Nov 22
Jane DohertyNov 23
Abigail ClarkNov 25
Daren GrossNov 26
Linda HublerNov 29
Linda Sausser.....Nov 29

PRAYER LIST

Basem Bayoumy
Kareen Bayoumy
Zachary Bickle
Sylvia Bingham
Carol Blythe
Demetra Camara
Ryan Cassel
Lynda Cipriano
Claudia Coley
Deborah Coley
Dolphin Coley
Michele Coley-Turner
The Crosson Family
Luke Dallas
Dagmar Diehl
Pam DuRand
Jayson Fetterman
Nancy Weidamoyer
Fetterman
Charlie Fuqua
Ursula Garden
Ronald Gindhart
Terry Hammond
William Haas, Sr.

Laura Heebner
Lee Heist
Erik Johnsson
Bill Kesack
Alicia Krakau
Denise L.
Pastor Burl Latshaw
Corey Leibowitz
George Long
Rhea Macasieb
Matthew MacInnes
Don McClung
Bob McGilloway
Don Meadows
Rosemary Mellema
Jan Miller
Keith Morrissey
Shane Morrissey
The Mueller Family
Richard Myers
Larry O'Malley
Edith Neil
Cindy Osborne
Edith Marie Parrish
(age 105)
Kim Pavia

Ivy Lin Ramey
Denice Robinson
Doug Rogers
Dave Sausser
Kile Smith
Roberta Smith family
Lindsay Spear
Pam Strain
Rob Strauss
Robert Storck
George Uhl
Lou Wade
Sam Wagner
Earl & Matthew
Wampole
Jami Woodson
Carol Wynne
Fred Wynne

AA members

People suffering from illness, depression, anxiety, natural disaster, violence, or uncertainty in their lives. People suffering in wars and political conflicts especially in the Ukraine and the Gaza.

As a faith community, we're here to share in each others' experiences and lift each other in prayer. If there is someone you would like to add, or remove, please use the prayer sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office.

Saint Peter's

Evangelical Lutheran Church

211 South Main Street

North Wales, PA 19454



It is the Mission of St. Peter's Lutheran Church
to invite all people to

Know, Live, and Share

JESUS CHRIST