



the CROSSWORD

Volume 12 Number 9

September 2017

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Coming Events

- **September 6**
Choir practice and Bible study
- **September 10**
"God's work. Our hands."
dedicated day of service
- **September 17**
Bishop Ray Tiemann to conduct
9a.m. communion service and
Sunday school, followed by meal
- **September 24**
Rev. Anne Kolmeier installation,
3pm, followed by reception
- **October 1**
Confirmation planning meeting
with Pastor Anne
- **October 22**
2017 Oktoberfest, funds to benefit
Cross Trails Ministry, 4pm
- **October 29**
500th Anniversary of the
Reformation Celebration, at
Schroeder Hall

Rev. Anne J. Kolmeier called as pastor for St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ander

Reverend Anne J. Kolmeier received a bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Toledo and then continued on to Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, where she received her Master of Divinity degree in Parish Ministry.

While originally from Ohio, Pastor Anne met her husband, Jerry, while completing an internship at Zion Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg and has called Texas home ever since. Together they have one son, Stephen, who resides in San Antonio.

Pastor Anne has served congregations in Dime Box, Woodsboro, Castroville, and Seguin. Pastor Anne explains, "I feel a strong call to rural ministry, where the unique gifts and experiences of farming, ranching, and rural life seem closer to God, more in tune with and open to God's world and his people. In this setting, life doesn't feel so hectic and 'closed in', and I can get to know people on a more personal basis in the congregation as well as in the community. It is in these settings that I have felt more a part of the 'family'."

Installation, Moving Day, Oktoberfest, Reformation Celebration

By Sherry Sanders

At their regular August meeting, council set details for Bishop Tiemann's visit on September 17 to include worship with Holy Communion and a Sunday school hour geared toward the children but with participation of whole congregation, followed by a traditional Pot Luck meal. The transfer in of Jackie Gardiner and Amanda Beutnagel from other Lutheran churches were both approved.

Council received the Reverend Anne Kolmeier's letter of acceptance of call



Helping others learn what it means to be a child of God and how to live out their baptism in daily life is what Pastor Anne believes to be her calling. Three prominent themes that she feels are evident through her ministry are: God loves us through anything; God calls us to respect and accept all people equally, no matter how different they are from us; and, every one of God's people has gifts with which to serve him in ways large and small in the church, community, and beyond.

Pastor Anne also enjoys being an active participant in the Women of the ELCA, quilting group, and choir. She says, "I enjoy being an active part of the congregation, as well as of the community in which the congregation is located, not just as the pastor, but as a person sharing my gifts with others."

and set her first Sunday at St. Peter's to be September 24, which will also be her installation service at 3p.m. There will be a reception following the service and there will be no worship service in the morning so all can attend the afternoon event. After much discussion, council set the date to move Pr. Anne and Jerry for September 23, with St. Peter's helping with the move.

In discussion of columbarium guidelines, Billy Dornburg suggested the

—continued on page 2—

— congregation council meeting report continued from page 1—

Cemetery Committee, along with co-chairs of Property Committee, Kenneth Brand and Terrell Wiggins, and himself, meet prior to next council meeting to discuss all policies relating to the cemetery and present recommendations to the council. All agreed to this plan.

President Sherry Sanders then presented information about the celebration for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that our neighbor rural churches are planning to take place at Schroeder Hall on October 29 with possibilities of meal and dance and rededication of Schroeder Hall by the present owners. She shared previous conversations with Pastor Paul Kirchner of Coletoville and Pastor Barbara Beale of Arneckeville and Schroeder with many different options of including St. Peter's in the celebration keeping in mind that October 29 is also the traditional date of our Oktoberfest. After much discussion and due to the probable involvement of the local community in the Reformation celebration, thus taking away from participation in St. Peter's Oktoberfest, it was decided to move the date of Oktoberfest to the previous Sunday, October 22. There was discussion of how to publicize this change so the community will know.

Eva Nell Griffith, chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, reported more details on God's Work Our Hands activities to begin on September 9 at 9a.m. in Parish Hall to begin making lap robes for La Bahia nursing home. Collections are already underway for school supplies for Goliad schools as part of that day. She stated that details for the new Confirmation class are being worked out in anticipation of Pastor Anne being here soon to take on that responsibility. Sunday school materials have been ordered for the first Sunday of the new year, August 27, and the Christmas Program has been set for December 10.

In the Outreach Committee Report, Billy shared that the worship service at La Bahia on August 6 had the largest attendance of both congregation members and residents than ever before. He reported he will now reschedule the worship at La Bahia that he previously scheduled for October 22 to an earlier Sunday in October due to the change in date of Oktoberfest. Sandra Post, co-chair of Stewardship and Finance announced the Budget Workshop will be held September 28.

Kenneth reported that the sandblasting and painting of the picnic

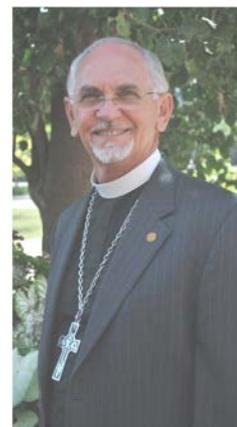
area is almost complete, Grunewald is doing a good job. He thanked Terrell and Jill Wiggins and Justin Youngblood for helping him to take down wiring, etc. in preparation for the work to be done. He added there are some other small jobs to be done to get the area in good shape for Oktoberfest including some lighting and electrical work, painting and basic clean up that he will schedule for a workday. He reported he will firm up the tentative date for Deanna Christensen to present information about current needs in preparation for Cross Trails being the recipient of the Oktoberfest funds.

Changed Date for Oktoberfest

Council has decided to move the date of Oktoberfest from the traditional last Sunday in October, to the fourth Sunday, October 22. This has been done only for this year due to other events which conflict with the last Sunday. A group of local churches have decided to hold a 500th Anniversary of the Reformation celebration on Reformation Sunday which is the last Sunday in October. Due to the probability of community participation in that event causing a decrease in attendance for St. Peter's annual fundraiser, council felt this is the best solution. All other times and activities for Oktoberfest will remain the same, only the date will change. Jamie Friedrichs and Jill Wiggins are co-chairs for the annual event.

New Bible Study to begin on September 6

"Romans: A Letter for Today" is the title of the new Wednesday evening Bible study that will begin on September 6. This is a special edition celebrating the Reformation. The historical importance of Paul's letter to the Romans cannot be overestimated, particularly as the 500th anniversary of the Reformation occurs in our time. This special edition opens the study of Paul's letter with a new chapter acknowledging the inspiration Luther gained from Romans 1:17, as well as the impact of Luther's study of the Scriptures on his life, his work, and ultimately on Western history. The Bible study will begin at 7:30p.m. following choir practice. Resource books are available for all who wish to participate.



Bishop Tiemann to visit St. Peter's on Sept. 17

On Sunday, September 17, 2017, Bishop Ray Tiemann will visit St. Peter's and conduct the 9a.m. communion service and a Sunday school hour. Following Sunday school, a congregational pot-luck meal will be served.

Plans in Progress for Reformation Sunday

Area rural churches, Zion Lutheran, Arneckeville; St. Luke's Lutheran, Schroeder; and Martin Luther, Coletoville, are gathering to plan a celebration for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on Reformation Sunday, October 29. They have asked St. Peter's to be involved in this celebration which will be held at Schroeder Hall. Details are pending for the celebration but a rededication of the dance hall will be held also on that day as part of the celebration, and St. Peter's new pastor, Pastor Anne, will be preaching at the worship service. Watch for more information as it becomes available.

Moving Day

Moving Day for Pastor Anne and Jerry has been scheduled for September 23. Gerald Griffith and Alvin DeForest have graciously agreed to coordinate this day. St. Peter's will be helping them move both their home from LaVernia to Cuero and Pastor Anne's office from her current congregation to her new office here at St. Peter's. We will need all able-bodied members to accomplish this move efficiently, so mark your calendars.

September

2017

Sun Sep 3, 2017

9am Contemporary worship service
10:15am Sunday School

Wed Sep 6, 2017

6:30pm Choir practice
7:30pm Bible Study, Romans: Session 1, "Celebrating Luther's Reading of Romans"

Sat Sep 9, 2017

9am "God's work. Our hands."
LaBahia Nursing Home project

Sun Sep 10, 2017

9am Communion service; "God's work. Our hands." dedicated day of service
10:15am Sunday School

Tue Sep 12, 2017

2pm Women of the ELCA Bible study
3pm Women of the ELCA meeting

Wed Sep 13, 2017

6:30pm Choir practice
7:30pm Bible Study, Romans: Session 2, "Who Was Paul"

Sun Sep 17, 2017

9am Communion service; led by Bishop Ray Tiemann
10:15am Sunday School; led by Bishop Ray Tiemann
11:30am Meal

Wed Sep 20, 2017

9am Lutheran World Relief workday
6:30pm Choir practice
7:30pm Bible Study, Romans: Session 3, "Trouble, Trouble, Trouble—But Help is on the Way"

Thu Sep 21, 2017

6:30pm Congregation Council Meeting

Sat Sep 23, 2017

Moving day for Pastor Anne and Jerry Kolmeier from LaVernia to Cuero

Sun Sep 24, 2017

3pm Communion and installation of Rev. Anne Kolmeier, followed by reception

Wed Sep 27, 2017

6:30pm Choir practice
7:30pm Bible Study, Romans: Session 4, "The Big Bang"

Thu Sep 28, 2017

6:30pm Stewardship and Finance Budget Workshop

Sun Oct 1, 2017

9am Worship service
10:15am Sunday School
10:15am Meeting of Pastor Anne with confirmation students and confirmation student's parent/guardian

Youth volunteer for recycling project

St. Peter's members, Garrison Jarzombek and Addison Yendrey, have volunteered to take the responsibility of being in charge of recycling the bulletins and paper items for St. Peter's. Please remember if you do not want to take your Sunday bulletin or children's bulletin home with you, place them in the recycle container found under the table by the open closet between the narthex and parish hall. A big "Thank You!" to Garrison and Addison for their leadership in assisting in this eco friendly endeavor to show that we care about our earth.

Help from all members

A couple of things have come to the attention of council that require the help of the congregation. In order to secure our property, we are asking that the last person leaving the building make sure the office doors and the sacristy room are locked and all outer doors are completely closed. Also, anyone needing to update the prayer list, please write it on the list provided for this purpose on the table in the narthex. Thanks to all for their help!



Triennial report given, voting delegate for Synodical Convention appointed, and November 19 Thankoffering Sunday discussed

On August 8, St. Peter's Women of the ELCA held their monthly meeting with 13 members and guest, Alice Schneider, attending. Highlights from the tenth Triennial Gathering, that was held July 13-16, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, were given by Alice. The theme for the Gathering, *All Anew*, called for everyone to look at life in a new way. She told the group about speakers, activities, and in-kind-gifts which included the assembling of the "Days for Girls Kits." St. Peter's had participated by sending materials for assembling 15 of the "Days for Girls Kits." Phoenix, Arizona will be the location of the 2020 Triennial Gathering.

Dorothy Bowman read thank-you cards from some of the youth that attended summer camps.

The Southwestern Texas Women of the ELCA 30th Annual Synodical Convention will be held September 29 through October 1 at the YO Ranch Hotel in Kerrville. Kathy Albrecht was appointed as the voting member from St. Peter's and instructed to fill out the

registration form and submit request for registration fee.

Guest speaker for St. Peter's Thankoffering service, that will be held November 19, will be Ella Goebel, Board Member for the Bluebonnet Conference.

Ruby Jank and Jackie Gardiner have made several Lutheran World Relief quilt tops and backs. The next LWR workday will be held on September 20 at 9a.m.

Kathy and Dorothy will submit the information to complete the \$500 donation for the LWR quilt and kit ministry and information to be engraved on the brick at the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza at the Lutheran Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

A meeting to begin plans for the 2018 Bluebonnet Spring Gathering, that will be held at St. Peter's, will be held in the parish hall on Monday, August 21.

St. Peter's Women of the ELCA will hold their next regular meeting at 3p.m. on September 12. Bible study, from the September *Gather* Magazine, will be led by Linda Dornburg at 2p.m., prior to the meeting.

Commissioning of teachers and Rally Day kicked-off a new fall Sunday school year

Rally Day and commissioning of teachers were held on August 20. Sunday school classes for children and adults resume on August 27. The fall calendars have been made and posted on the church website and also on the Sunday School Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

This year we will incorporate music on Sundays before classes begin. Christmas Program practice will be set at a later date, as will confirmation classes. Pastor Anne will be meeting with parents and grandparents of confirmation students on October 1 during the Sunday school hour.

The Wednesday evening Bible study will resume on September 6.

Classes

This year's youth classes are divided as follows:

Little Lights – Toddler/Pre-K/Kindergarten

Awesome Adventurers – Lower Elementary (1st – 3rd grade)

Courageous Challengers – Upper Elementary/Middle School (5th – 8th grade)

Faithful Followers – High School (9th – 12th)

Leaders

Teachers are as follows:

Little Lights: Jill Wiggins and Gerald Griffith, assistant

Awesome Adventurers: Wendi Yendrey and Linda Koehler

Courageous Challengers: Sarah Brandes

Substitutes: Lana Jarzombek, Eva Nell Griffith, and Brenda Bade

Music Directors: Dorothy Bowman and Sandra Post

Adult Sunday Class: Alvin DeForest and Allen Jank

Wednesday Bible Study: Sherry Sanders and Deanna Wacker

Lana Jarzombek serves as Sunday school superintendent.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

St. Peter's participates in "God's Work. Our Hands." dedicated day of service on September 10

St. Peter's joins thousands of other congregations across the country on September 10 by participating in the fifth-annual "God's Work. Our Hands." dedicated day of service. Items made and donated will be dedicated and blessed during the 9a.m. communion service.

Youth and adults will gather to assemble lap robes for the Goliad LaBahia Nursing Home on Saturday, September 9, at 9a.m. Anyone wishing to contribute to LaBahia Nursing Home, but unable to attend the workday on September 9, is welcome to bring toiletries and place them in the box that is located by the open closet between the narthex and parish hall. Needed toiletries for the Nursing Home include such items as lotions, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shower wash and bath soap, deodorant, Kleenex, combs, or any other hygiene items. Items that should not be given are razors, sharp pointed items, items containing alcohol and aerosol cans.

Collection of school supplies for Goliad School has begun. Donations may be placed in the box located by the open

closet between the narthex and parish hall, anytime and up until September 10. A list of items follows this article.

Join in, as we gather to serve the community in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people.

Goliad School Supplies List

Crayons (box of 24)
Colored Pencils
Wide ruled notebook paper
2 pencil packages
Boxes of Kleenex
Glue (Sticks and Liquid)
Scissors (blunt tip or pointed)
Gallon or quart size Ziploc bags
Large Beveled Erasers
3x5 lined index cards
Handheld pencil sharpener
Dry Erase Markers
Composition Notebooks
Clorox Wipes
Washable Markers
Pencil top erasers
Blue, Black, & Red Pens
3x3 Post-It Notes
Package of Dividers
Highlighters

St. Peter's Oktoberfest scheduled for October 22

It is time again to start preparing for Oktoberfest. This year Oktoberfest will be held on October 22, 2017. Start thinking about what items you would like to make for the silent auction. While it's so hot outside, stay inside and create something. Homemade craft items, quilts, seasonal items, plants and food are just some of the items we have sold in past years at Oktoberfest. We welcome all your creative ideas.

We will need many hands to make this year's Oktoberfest a success. Volunteers will be needed for set up; organizing the silent auction; buying, preparing, and serving the food; and clean up. If you wish to help, mark the area you are interested in serving on the flyer that is included in this newsletter. The flyer will also be placed in your church bulletins during September or just let Jill Wiggins or myself know. We would love to have our new members join in the fun too. No special skills are required. The Oktoberfest is a wonderful experience of everyone working together to raise money for a great cause outside of our congregation. This year's recipient is Cross Trails Ministry.

Jamie Friedrichs
Oktoberfest Co-Chairman

SparkHouse Family Summer Study and Rally Day activities make a big splash!



The craft activity at the SparkHouse family summer study was a fun way to be creative and have a lot of fun!



At the final SparkHouse summer study, youth were told the stories of "Jesus turns Water to Wine" and "Jesus Calms the Storm."



Justin Youngblood splashes his way to the end of the slip-n-slide at the cool Rally Day activities to kick off the fall Sunday school year!

St. Peter's Staff

The Rev. Joseph Wold
Transitional Minister

Kathy Albrecht
Church Office Secretary

Dorothy Bowman
Organist and Choir
Director

Congregation Council

David Bowman
Co-Chair of Stewardship
and Finance
(term ends 12/31/18)

Kenneth Brand
Co-Chair of Property
(term ends 12/31/18)

Billy Dornburg
Chair of Outreach
(term ends 12/31/17)

Dalton Dornburg
Vice Chair of Christian
Education and Youth Ministry
(term ends 12/31/17)

Eva Nell Griffith
Vice President and Chair of
Christian Education
and Youth Ministry
(term ends 12/31/19)

Beverly Martin
Chair of Worship and Music
(term ends 12/31/17)

Sandra Post
Secretary and Co-Chair of
Stewardship
and Finance
(term ends 12/31/18)

Sherry Sanders
President
(term ends 12/31/19)

Terrell Wiggins
Co-Chair of Property
(term ends 12/31/19)

The Rev. Joe Wold
Transitional Pastor (ex-officio)

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.—
11:00 a.m. (Sept. - May)
Holy Communion: second,
fourth, and fifth Sundays of
each month, throughout the
Easter season, and on all
festivals



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

9-03 Duke Goehring
9-04 Greta Henke
9-04 Gaylon Willms
9-07 Kade Irwin
9-08 Freddy Seiler
9-11 Gayle Baecker
9-14 Ruby Jank
9-15 Ina DeForest
9-18 Alvin DeForest
9-23 Carolyn Wells
9-25 Paul Post
9-27 Linda Dornburg
9-27 Rhonda Ideus



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

9-04-2004 Linnea & Eric Griffith
9-05-1998 Melissa & Brian Bade
9-06-1980 Sue & Gaylon Willms
9-20-1953 Geraldine & Fritz Sturm
9-21-1963 Arlene & Alvin DeForest
9-28-1996 Linda & Billy Dornburg

*If any listings of birthdays or
anniversaries are incorrect, or if a listing is
missing, please contact the church office at
645-2922 or office@stpetersander.org*

Membership Updates: New Members—

Amanda and (Wade) Beutnagel
Brady and Amaly
23114 Blackwater Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78258-2560

Jaclynn "Jackie" and (Tom) Gardiner
718 Lemke Rd.
Goliad, TX 77963-3239

Oktoberfest

October 22, 2017

St. Peter's 2017 Oktoberfest
activities begin at 4p.m.

Funds to support
Cross Trails Ministry

St. Peter's Ministry Fund Update Through July 31, 2017

Ministry fund beginning balance, January 1, 2017	\$24,057.45
Offerings	\$125,647.00
Cost of ministries	\$78,661.48
Ministry fund ending balance, July 31, 2017	\$71,042.97

*Note: St. Peter's Ministry Fund (previously known
as the current fund and the general operating fund)
includes all of St. Peter's regular, budgeted ministries,
including ELCA Mission Support. It does not include
designated gifts to the building fund, memorials, or other
non-budgeted designated gifts.*

ELCA Missionary Supported by St. Peter's

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider
#3 To Fung Shan Road
Shatin, N.T.
Hong Kong, SAR
carolyn.schneider@elca.org



St. Peter's Ander



Joan Albrecht – wife of Wayne Albrecht
Allene Bethke – mother-in-law of June Bethke
Vergie Bitterly – sister of Deanna Wacker
Dawn Butler – sister of Lana Jarzombek and Ronda Irwin
Denise Engle – friend of Amy Wilburn
Joyce Foster – grandmother of Shelby Foster
Robbie Friedrichs – friend of June Bethke
Janie Garcia – co-worker of Jamie Friedrichs
Ainsley Garza – cousin of Arlene DeForest and Eva Nell Griffith
Barry Geary – member of St. Peter's
Kerry Giles – son-in-law of Sherry and Sandy Sanders
Rebecca Graves – infant great-niece of Joyce Franklin, friend of Alvin and Arlene DeForest
Kyndal Gruetzmacher – student at Goliad High School
Milton Haas – friend of Alvin and Arlene DeForest
The Rev. Bill Hassel – retired Bluebonnet Conference pastor
Dale Henderson – father of Margaret Luker

Vanita Ann Hausmann Homer – friend of Brenda and Aldon Bade
Betty Jacob – friend of June Bethke
Ryan Janak – eight year old nephew of Leo Henke
Nora Karl – great-grandmother of Shelby Foster
Athalee Koehler – mother of Randy Koehler
Joe Ladeairous – father of Regina Calhoun
Herbie Maurer – brother of Brenda Bade
Vernette McMullen – member of St. Peter's
Bryce Ousley – student at Goliad High School, friend of Wendi Yendrey
Jordan Peterson – husband to be of Carolyn Well's step-granddaughter
Ruth Pieper – friend of the community and member of St. Luke's, Schroeder
Allen Pollard – father of Karie Wimberly
Marcus Rezendez – friend of Amy Wilburn
Jack Robinson – grandfather of Fischer Saxton
James Rung – five year old son of friend of Greta Henke

Katherine Sauer – grandmother of Jarrett Yendrey
Stefani Soper – friend of Karen Klinkerman
Bonnie Staha – friend of Jamie Friedrichs
Barbara Stall – cousin of Arlene DeForest and Eva Nell Griffith
Patricia Stanley – co-worker of Gayle Albrecht
Chuck Taylor – father of Ashford Taylor
Wayne Timmerman – friend of Pam and Ted Long
Glenn Lane Towery and family – friends of the community
Victor Vargas – four year old nephew of Alyssa, Luke Abrameit's wife
James White – friend of Allen and Ruby Jank
Sharon Wilborn – friend of Beverly Martin
Mike Wilburn – member of St. Peter's
G.T. Yendrey – grandfather of Jarrett Yendrey
Zander York – member of St. Peter's grandson of Bob and Nancy Gerhardt
Buddy Young – friend of Allen and Ruby Jank
Sieneh & Taizu – daughters of Pastor Joe and Arlene Wold, as they return to school in Djebouti

Blessing of backpacks was part of the August 13 worship service



Youth were given "This is a blessed Backpack—Jesus is with me" tags for their backpacks as they return to their fall schedules and classes.

Camp Thank you notes —

Dear St. Peter's,

I'd like to thank the congregation for helping make it possible for me to go to church camp at Lutherhill this summer. I had so much fun there. I am definitely going to remember it and plan to go again next year. I especially enjoyed meeting and playing with new friends when we were in the cabin and during worship time.

Love,
 Jillian Griffith

Dear St. Peter's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for paying for me to go to church camp this summer. My favorite things to do were the water slide and archery. I had fun learning new songs about Jesus and reading stories out of the Bible. I hope I get to go again next summer.

Thank you,
 Arlen Henke

Choir practice resumes on September 6

Dorothy Bowman, choir director, would like to extend a personal invitation to anyone who is interested in participating to join us for choir practice on Wednesday nights. We begin promptly at 6:30p.m. and end at 7:30p.m. No musical knowledge is required, just a willingness to sing God's praises and make a joyful noise! Come by and give us a try!

Have a safe Labor Day





St. Peter's Lutheran Church
1545 E. FM 1961
Goliad, TX 77963-3414

Phone/Fax: 361-645-2922
E-mail: office@stpetersander.org
www.stpetersander.org

The Rev. Joseph Wold, transitional minister
Phone: 830-632-5471 or 248-330-4274
E-mail: joearlywold@yahoo.com

Worship Leaders for September

ALTAR GUILD

Brenda Foil and Meghan Foil

GREETERS

Regina Calhoun and Nancy Gerhardt

USHERS

Cody Foil and Jamie Friedrichs

OFFERING COUNTERS

David Bowman and Kenneth Brand

MINISTER OF HOSPITALITY

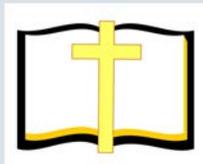
Alvin DeForest

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Sandra Post and Nancy Gerhardt

FLOWERS

9-3 open
9-10 Ruby and Allen Jank
9-17 Geraldine and Fritz Sturm
9-24 Arlene and Alvin DeForest



Oktoberfest 2017

St. Peter's will celebrate its annual Oktoberfest beginning at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 22.

Mark your calendar for an afternoon and evening of good food and drink, entertainment, and opportunities to bid on many items through the silent auction.

Oktoberfest proceeds will support the Cross Trails Ministries.

In order to make this year's Oktoberfest a success, several service groups are needed. St. Peter's members, associate members and friends are invited to use this page to express their interest in helping with the Oktoberfest.

Name(s): _____

Please check which group(s) you would like to serve with:

- Food:** cooking the sausage; working with other members to ensure sufficient food; staffing the serving line.
- Facility set-up:** cleaning the picnic area, including mowing.
- Silent Auction:** encouraging donations of items for the silent auction; coordinating silent auction during the event.
- Entertainment:** securing entertainment for the event.
- Clean-up:** cleaning the picnic area following the event; this includes putting up tables and chairs and sweeping.

Please place this form in the offering plate or leave in the church office. For questions, contact Jamie Friedrichs at (361) 550-2090 or Jill Wiggins at (361) 645-8332, 2017 Oktoberfest co-chairs.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends and companions in the church's mission,

August 2017

In this newsletter I welcome you to Fujian Province, China!



This photo of Wuyi Shan national park in Fujian was taken by my colleague, Dr. Wong Pui Fong, who teaches spirituality at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Our faculty took a trip together to Fujian to connect with alumni in churches and seminaries there and to enjoy the natural beauty of that region.

Our first stop was in Fuzhou, the provincial capital and a historic port city. We were hosted by Fujian Theological Seminary (FTS), the only seminary in Fujian, where several of our alumni work. They showed us not only the seminary but the city of Fuzhou itself and its surroundings. I thought you might enjoy this photo of McDonald's, Fuzhou-style.



FTS is a very large seminary serving Protestant churches associated with the "Three-Self Movement" (self-leading, self-funding, self-propagating) and registered with the China Christian Council. Many of these churches were founded in the nineteenth century through the work of international missionaries and Chinese evangelists. In the summer, when the lowlands were steaming and there were no air conditioners, these workers headed to the mountains to rest at the resort of Guling, just outside of Fuzhou. In the tumultuous years of the early twentieth century, Guling became a medical center and headquarters for organizing

Christian mission further inland. If you are a reader of classic literature, you may know that Pearl Buck, the author of *The Good Earth*, spent her summers in Guling as a missionary kid in the early 20th century. This historical site has been restored, and we went to see it. Being a missionary kid myself (I was born and grew up in the Philippines), I was drawn to this old photo on display of missionary kids enjoying their vacation together in Guling. Our faculty went further inland the next day and enjoyed our vacation, too, climbing mountains and drifting down the river at the lovely national park of Wuyi Shan, pictured above.



Our last stop was the town of Jianyang, where we worshiped with the local congregation at the largest church in Fujian Province. Here are my faculty colleagues, seated in the front pews just before worship began.



In order to make our flight home to Hong Kong, we took one of China's famous fast trains back to Fuzhou. Here it is entering the station.



Reflecting on our trip, it was good to see how the work we do at our seminary ripples out into China. It's actually your work rippling out, too, because of your church's involvement with the church in Hong Kong through the Lutheran Theological Seminary. I think the Holy Spirit enjoys making such ripples and waves, don't you?

Carolyn Schneider

Associate Professor of Church History
The Lutheran Theological Seminary
50 To Fung Shan Road
Shatin, N.T.
Hong Kong SAR

Your support makes a world of difference. Here is how to give:

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