

A COVID NEWSLETTER!

CAMP WORK WEEKEND

POSTPONED: Because the camp is currently closed to guests through April 30, and even if restrictions are lifted, they won't be ready for us to come on May 1. Cross Trails really appreciates our help, and hopes that we will reschedule, which Aldon will investigate once we know for sure when restrictions will be lifted.

In this time of sheltering at home, the ministry of our congregation continues!

THANK YOU:

...to Jerry Kolmeier for recording and downloading our worship services
...to Dorothy Bowman for providing music for our worship recordings
...to Sarah Brandes and Lana Jarzombek for coordinating our "Sunday School in your PJS" every Sunday on Zoom
...to Aldon and Brenda Bade for raking the cemetery, and for getting the church mail in regularly
...to Jackie Gardiner and Lindsey Youngblood for counting and depositing the offerings sent in
...to Lana, Harley and Garrison Jarzombek for delivering the Easter goodie bags
...to our church council members for making some hard decisions to meet our expenses
...to Paul and Sandra Post for providing special music for the April 19 service
....from Laura, Laren and Don Rogers:
We so appreciate the kindness and generosity of your thoughtful contribution (after we lost everything in a tornado). It means more to us than you know.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL met in a Zoom meeting on April 18. Highlights of that meeting:

- Both Cross Trails and Lutherhill are still planning on running summer camping programs as of this date. The health department will make a ruling on this in May. If they cancelled we will ask for a refund. If they are approved to have camp, it will be up to parents if they still want their child to attend on the scheduled dates.
- The theme, and perhaps the date for VBS will be changing – the committee hopes to meet this week.
- Before the congregation meets all together again, a cleaning day will be held to "deep clean" the church.
- Nursing Home worship for May 3 will most likely be cancelled
- Worship and Music Committee was asked to start plans for when we can gather for worship again. As we return to worship, it probably will not be the whole congregation meeting at once to start with.
- As a temporary solution to address the financial shortfall felt by St. Peter's this year, St. Peter's will cease all discretionary spending, including ELCA Mission support and all benevolence donations, with exception of funds specifically designated to such, until the next meeting of council. At that time, and most likely on a monthly basis, this will be re-evaluated.

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Emily Klinkerman
- 7 Bryce Odem
- 9 Zander York
- 10 Arlene DeForest
- 14 Walker Wimberly
- 15 Landon Post
- 16 Wyatt Ball
- 17 Meghan Foil
- 21 Brenda Straube
- 22 Maevyn Wunsch
- 24 Shane Davis
Mallory Luker
- 27 Jill Wiggins
- 30 Molly Janota-Wallace
Tyler Tislow
- 31 Travis Post

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Nathan and Ronda Irwin
- 7 Nicholas and Erin Smith
- 14 Colby and Regina May
- 15 David and Tara Krueger
- 17 Trace and Leslie Wunsch
- 19 Sandy and Sherry Sanders
Gary and Deanna Wacker
- 27 Delbert and Loyce McCullough

OFFICE HOURS during quarantine:

While Pastor and/or Kathy are occasionally in the office during this time, no regular hours are set. In person visits are not encouraged. Be assured that the prayer chain is being updated, offerings are being collected, the answering machine and emails are checked at least twice a day, and the mail is being taken in daily.

*Give, and it will be given to you,
running over*

For with the measure you use,

it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

DID YOU KNOW that you can watch weekly worship services and/or announcements, as well as receive daily Bible Study and/or devotions online? If you want to receive these, and are not already getting them, contact Pastor Anne by email at revsplca@gmail.com, or by texting/calling her at 361-676-4799.

ST. PETER'S PRAYER LIST:

O blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with love upon all who are sick or in pain, the lonely and grieving —

Troy Allen, Mia Balko, Troy Berthold, June Bethke, Vergie Bitterly, Cecil Boyd, Paula Calhoun, Kim Curlee, David Dohmann, Wilburn Eckhardt, Denise Engle, Kurt Flower and family, Joyce Foster, Robbie Friedrichs, Ainsley Garza, Barry Geary, Harold Gleinser, Rebecca Graves, John Hausmann, Healthcare workers, Don Hedgpeth, Dale Henderson, J.J. and Jackie, Betty Jacob, Kenneth Jacob, Donna Justice, Melita Keith, Cullen Kickendahl, Joe Ladeairus, Jo Nell Martin, Michael McLead, Doris Moore, Marilyn and Tom Morris, Carolyn Nunley, Cole Ohrt, Mary Poppert, Marcus Rezendez, Laura Sue (Adickes) and Don Rogers, Susan Calhoun Rosello, James Rung, Sara, Nicholas Smith and family, Stefani Soper, Bonnie Staha, Bobbie Stiles, Geraldine Sturm, Kathy Sullins, Mary Sullivan, Jay Thigpen, Victor Vargas, Rob Wall, Mike Wilburn, Mary Nell Young

Note from Congregation Council President, Linda Koehler:

I hope this letter finds you all healthy during the pandemic. I wanted to give a few updates during this time of social distancing. The council has been diligently working to ensure that St. Peter's remains a vital part of our community even though traditional Sunday activities have been put on hold. I want to thank them for their time and dedication, and for thinking outside of the box. We truly have become a church without walls during this pandemic.

I know many of you have been able to enjoy the Sunday services that Pastor Anne has made available on YouTube and Facebook. The incorporation of music by Dorothy Bowman and Paul and Sandra Post into these services has been wonderful. Daily email devotions and weekly Bible study lessons have been available to adults; meanwhile, youth Sunday School sessions are being held live each Sunday at 9:30am using Zoom. The Jarzombek family also delivered 50 Easter goodie bags to the mailboxes of our families, so youth could have an extra Easter treat from St. Peter's. These are only a few highlights of the wonderful things going on beyond the walls of our sanctuary, and I thank each and every one of you that are keeping the fellowship and service that St. Peter's is known for alive and well during this historical time. We hope to bring you a sort of drive-up service in the near future — stay tuned for details on that!

While evaluating the budget, council had to make decisions concerning the financial stability of St. Peter's. It is not a surprise that in a time of economic uncertainty, contributions to the church have been on the decline. We appreciate all of those that are still able to give to St. Peter's (whether electronically, mailing funds, or dropping off at the church) but we still found ourselves facing deficits that needed to be addressed. It was the decision of the council to hold all benevolence giving at this time. The council will meet monthly to evaluate the financial status of the congregation, and benevolence giving will resume as soon as our financial situation allows.

I know that St. Peter's will continue to make the best of the situation at hand, and will continue to excel at ministering beyond the walls of our sanctuary. If you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any member of the church council. We are here for you and for St. Peter's. We pray for your health and happiness, and we look forward to the day when we can all worship together again.



MINISTRY FUND UPDATE through March 31, 2020:

Ministry fund beginning balance January 1, 2020	\$58,080.63
Offerings	\$42,219.55
Cost of ministries	\$51,216.52
Ministry fund ending balance, March 31, 2020	\$49,083.66

Note: St. Peter's Ministry Fund (previously known as the current fund and/or 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.

There are several ways to make your offering: (1) put it in the mail. (2) drop it by the church and slide it under the office door. (3) go to www.stpetersander.org/give and scroll down to the GIVE NOW button. (4) download the mobile app for TITHE.LY and pay from there. Contact Jackie Gardiner with any questions. Thank you for remembering your church, which continues to have expenses even when we don't gather in person! **NOTE: Offerings are deposited every two weeks.**

ENJOY THESE PICTURES FROM EASTER BUNNY DELIVERIES...see more on our Facebook page, or posted on the board in the narthex!

