

News & EVENTS

at Petersburg Lutheran Church

“To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ, and to Show the Love of Christ”



January 2022



Council Happenings

The Church Council met on December 15th and discussed the following:

- Discussion about Covid Mitigation and the need to continue to require masks in the sanctuary due to the Borough's current mask mandate and to keep our vulnerable congregation members safe.
- Voted to approve the proposed 2022 Budget with one minor change.
- Discussion about liability of a proposed climbing wall at Good Beginnings/Kinder Skog, and the need for improved communication with them about their plans.
- Discussion about preparations and updates to the parsonage, including a vote to purchase insulation materials for the basement ceiling, exposed copper water supply and ducting. Will be requesting quotes from local vendors for replacement options for the heating system.
- Vote to approve the list of charities to receive our monthly benevolence - 3% of our offerings. Note that Humanity in Progress (a newer Petersburg charity) will replace Petersburg Mental Health (which no longer needs it since it's now run by SEARHC).
- Identified people to serve on the Nominating Committee to replace our outgoing Council members.
- Identified people to serve on the Audit Committee.
- Interim Pastor Zach Harris will arrive later than planned due to a change in the ferry schedule. He has provided a video recording of the Gospel and his sermon for January 9th. They should arrive on the KENNICOTT on January 10.

Council Members

Reach out to your Council if you have any questions or concerns (clicking the name will open an email to that person):

President - [Chris van Ettinger](#) (951-675-9369)

Vice President - [Desi Burrell](#) (907-772-3665)

Treasurer - [Robin Roberts](#) (907-518-0052)

[Nancy Berg](#) (907-518-1098)

[Kara Newman](#) (907-723-3255)

[Tom Parker](#) (907-772-9351)

[John Small](#) (907-772-2718)

[John Swanson](#) (907-772-3501)

[Bridgett Wittstock](#) (907-518-1413)

Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, January 19th at 6:30pm

Meetings are open to all Congregation members.



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23 at 11am, following Worship. Please plan to attend! If you can not attend in person, you can submit questions to any of your Council members ahead of time. Copies of the Annual Report should be available for pick-up in the church or to download around January 9th.

The Call Process to find a new Pastor –

Please give this prayerful thought

The process to Call a new pastor will begin when the Council assigns a committee to write/revise our Ministry Site Profile, and that will occur sometime after Pastor Harris has arrived. **If you're interested in participating in the Ministry Site Profile, please let the office know.**

When that step is complete, the Council will appoint a Call Committee to conduct the confidential process, which can take six months to a year. **If you are interested in participating in the Call Committee, please let the office know.** You can find more detailed information about the Call process at: <https://www.elca.org/call-process> - including how-to guides and short tutorial videos, and a working draft copy of the Alaska Synod's Call Process Manual for download at: https://www.elcaalaska.net/uploads/2/4/9/1/24917993/1.call_process_manual_appendix_contents.pdf



Welcome!

We are excited to welcome Pastor Zachariah ("Zach") Harris as our Interim Pastor, arriving with his wife Karen and their dog Huck on the ferry on January 10th. He is currently making his way westward, from Strausburg, VA to Petersburg.

Name Tags

Let's make Pastor Zach and Karen feel more welcome at PLC by wearing name tags for a while – to make it easier for them to get to know our names and faces (which is a hard enough, but made even more challenging with masks), and to help newer members and long-term members know each other better too. We'll provide some name tags at the back of the church – please help one another out by wearing one for a while. This is something we ought to do now and then to make our church that much more friendly and welcoming!



Recognitions

Thank you to Desi Burrell, Chris Van Ettinger, Pat Weaver, Sue Flint, Robin Roberts, Jim Roberts and others for all their hard work sprucing up the parsonage.

Special thanks to John Swanson and his team of elves for putting up the Christmas trees in the sanctuary.



Prayers for Health and Healing

Mariann Solmonson, Bryn Westre, Sean Mikkelsen

Financial Update

PLC continues to run in the “red,” spending more than we’re taking in this year. ***Please give prayerful thought to increasing your support of the Church and its missions.***

As of November 30, **Giving (Income) minus Expenses for the year so far is - \$8,835.49**

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church or mailing it in. You can also contribute electronically by giving from a checking account or a credit card. You can access the secure giving site through our web page - [PLC GIVING](#).

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Prayer: Give us grateful hearts, O God, for all your mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special Christmas Offering and January 3%

Every month, 3% of our General Giving goes to a different outreach ministry. As a congregation, we vote on the list of ministries for the upcoming year during our Annual Meeting in January. If you have suggestions for other ministries that we should consider, please give that information to a Council member.

The recipient of our 3% giving for January is the Moringe Sokoine Secondary School, Monduli, Tanzania. In addition, every year our Special Christmas Offering goes to the Moringe School. We are reminded again of our continuing commitment to the Moringe School. We have been faithful to Eden's memory and his wish that we do not forget them. This connection has changed and blessed us, too - it compels us to look outward, rather than inward. Our dollars go so much further in Africa than in more developed places on Earth. We can do God's work, using the blessings that God has given us, by showing our generosity again this Christmas.



Moringe Sokoine is a private school. In Tanzania, you must pass a test in order to go to the free public school. Many students cannot pass, but still want to go on to their equivalent of high school, so private schools have come to be. Parents have to pay a small fee each month, but that is hard in their economy. On the Trask's visit they were reminded daily how important education is to a society. They met some of the graduates of the school who had gone on to further training and were now health workers, teachers, and business people who were giving back to their communities. One of the drivers for their tour group had attended Moringe Sokoine and was able to get a good job because he was fluent in English.

This year's need is for new student cook stoves. According to Mr. Ndooki, the stove uses firewood, and is the same style as their old ones. One stove has a pot to cook 55kg of rice for the students. Currently the school has 317 out of 700 students, and they have had to cut the number of teachers, since the number of students has decreased so much. But they still have trouble paying the remaining teachers since the school has debt, primarily from teacher salaries and food for the students. Here is a photo of the student cook stoves they need – they cost about \$1,800 each. Please give prayerful thought about those with so much less than we have, and for whom education and a decent meal can make such a profound difference.



January Prayer Partner

January's Prayer Partner is St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Anchorage.



Salvation Army Needs for January

In January, the Salvation Army could use donations of: Pasta sides, like Rice-a-Roni, noodles, Ramen Noodles, canned fruit, canned meats other than tuna, small sizes of peanut butter and jelly.

News from Good Beginnings Pre-School

Good Beginnings December Highlights

Good Beginnings students created ornaments to adorn their Christmas trees and created artwork based on a Christmas Tree Blessing.

Kids enjoyed playing in the snow and snowshoeing!

We learned about the gift of Christmas through stories and songs. The PreK class recorded songs for the Church Christmas concert.

Both classes earned a "Bee Kind" parachute party after spending the semester filling their bee hives with kind words and actions

Both classes wrapped up the semester with Holiday Spirit days, ending with pajama & movie day.



ELCA and Synod News:

The Alaska Synod annual Assembly will be held April 22-24, 2022 – though it hasn't been determined whether it will be held virtually or in person yet.

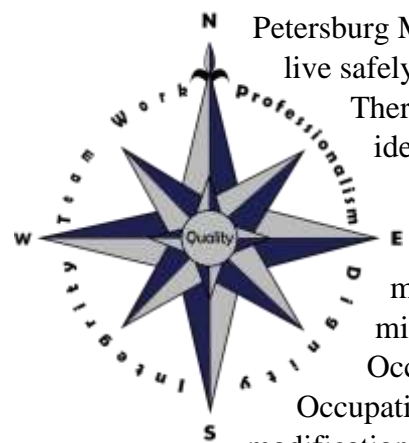
You can subscribe to the Alaska Synod email newsletter by clicking on the *Subscribe* link on the right side of the [Synod web site](#).

Resources for Lutherans -

[Living Lutheran](#) is an online monthly magazine with articles about congregational life, voices of faith, religious news, spiritual practices, children and families, and missions and ministries. You can read the magazine online, and access past issues as well. Inspirational!!

[Bold Café](#) is an online monthly magazine and podcast written by younger Lutheran women (typically in their 20s and 30s), supported by the ELCA. It contains inspirational stories and faith reflections, for all readers. It's fresh and energizing – give it a try!

NEW - Petersburg Medical Center - CAPABLE Program



Petersburg Medical Center has introduced the new CAPABLE Program to help older adults live safely in their homes. Participants receive home visits from an Occupational Therapist, Registered Nurse, and a Handyman/woman. This team works with you to identify goals to make your day-to-day activities easier.

The Occupational Therapist works on tasks like dressing, bathing, cooking, grooming and moving around your house. The Nurse works on your pain, mood, medications, fall prevention and incontinence. The Handyman/woman makes minor home modifications or installs assistive devices as recommended by the Occupational Therapist. The program includes up to 6 home visits from an Occupational Therapist, up to 4 home visits from a Registered Nurse, minor home repair, modifications and assistive devices.

Contact Julie at PMC (907-772-5552) with questions or to discuss if the CAPABLE Program would be a good fit for you.



Wishing you a Joyous, Peaceful, Happy & Healthy New Year!