

NEWS & EVENTS

at Petersburg Lutheran Church

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

 **May 2022**



Council Highlights

The Church Council did not meet in April due to travel by many of the Council members. Instead, we'll highlight the **VERY IMPORTANT Congregation Meeting and Potluck Dinner on May 11th at 5 pm to move us forward into our Transition Process, leading to the Call Process. We need everyone's input!**

- **Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, May 18th at 6:30pm.**
Meetings are open to all Congregation members.

May 11th Congregational Gathering: Destiny Stands at the Door

The Pastor's article for the last week in April ended with the following: “On **Wednesday, May 11th, at 5 pm** we will gather for a pot luck meal followed by some time to start to discern where the priorities are in our ministry, what gifts we have to offer, and what types of gifts do we need in a leader to take full advantage of the opportunities to which God is calling us. It will only cost us a couple of hours, but the benefits could last a lifetime!” *Please note that we will have a Zoom option for those who may be traveling or unable to attend in person, though we urge you to attend in person if possible.*

As you might guess, that article which was sent out to everyone, gives some build up to this event. But that article is more big-picture in scope—putting this gathering in the context of the whole year of transition. Still, some of you may be wondering more specifically what that event is about.

First of all, it's on a Wednesday evening so it won't interfere with weekend plans and is slated to start at 5 pm so folks can get to the church after work. We're going to gather as a church community for a pot luck meal to get us fueled up for the next hour and a half or so. We'll have our newly designated Transition Team with us to add some wisdom to the discussion.

Content-wise, all you need to bring is your imagination! As a congregation, our goal for this evening is to start to set the agenda for the search for a new Pastor. That process begins with a very simple task: to assess what assets Petersburg Lutheran Church possesses and what priorities the congregation has, looking toward the future of ministry in the here and now. There is a deliberate exercise for helping us gather and to discuss how those opportunities will impact the search for a new Pastor as well as our immediate agenda. We NEED your participation!

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President – [Bev Siercks](#)
(907-772-4330)

Vice President – [Bill Moulton](#) (907-518-1485)

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

Secretary – [Ginger Evens](#) (907-772-4392)
[Nancy Berg](#) (907-518-1098)

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

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

[Chris van Ettinger](#)
[Bridgett Wittstock](#)
(907-518-1413)

The important thing for everyone to know is that, as active participants of Petersburg Lutheran Church, helping forge a congregational profile is not only a privilege but a responsibility as part of the Body of Christ. Not only is it important for you to give your input for yourself, but as part of whole! It is ultimately important for you to do your part on behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Please mark your calendars and make this evening an event to remember!

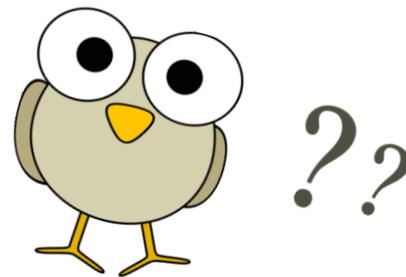


Look for Pastor Zach's weekly articles "Through a Lutheran Lens" every Friday (attached to the same email as the Bulletin) for insights into our Transition and Call process!

Worship Opportunities Coming up

Children's Sermon Change-Up! - Stump the Pastor

For the season of Easter, from Sundays May 1st through May 29th, Pastor Zach is inviting the children who attend our weekly worship service to take a more pro-active role in the weekly Children's Message. Each week, Pastor Zach will choose an item brought by the children for that day's Children's Sermon. He will have a box for kids to drop items into, and those will inspire the day's message. What it is and how it goes will be discovered on the spot! So, kids - help the Pastor out and bring something you want to be turned into a children's sermon. And if it's too strange, you might just Stump the Pastor!





Blessing of the Fleet on Sunday, May 1st

This Community Service will follow past traditions, celebrating our fishing heritage in Petersburg with memorials for the past and blessings for the coming year. Pastor Zach and the Petersburg Ministerium will act as leaders for this year's event. We will gather at the Fisherman's Memorial outside of the Sons of Norway at 2 pm. Please plan to be there for this very special community event!

Other Events in May

The **National Day of Prayer** is Thursday, May 5th this year, sponsored by the Petersburg Ministerial Association. Please gather at the Forest Service flag pole at 7 am, and the service will last about 20-30 minutes.



At the start of the **Little Norway Festival**, Pastor Zach from Petersburg Lutheran and Pastor Nathan from the Lighthouse Church are working on a memorial to primarily honor all those who died since the Covid pandemic began. Many people were unable to be honored by services of any kind, so the hope is to have a cross with greenery available for folks to place a flower on in memory of loved ones.

Vacation: Pastor Zach and Karen will be attending their son, Ryan's Graduation in Boston from May 23-28 (Monday through Saturday). They are also going on a 10-day excursion to see a little more of Alaska starting June 6 through June 17. Mark Kubo will be the guest preacher on June 12th while Pastor Zach is away.



**Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around,
Faith looks up.**

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.



May 11 Congregational Meeting - A Key Transition Event

Have you even been in an amusement park Fun House, with all the wacky mirrors – the ones that make us look short and fat (I hate that one!) or the ones that make us look long and lean (my favorite!), or the ones that make us look all wavy? Do you ever see yourself in a mirror someplace with very bright lighting, and see things that you don't notice in your mirror at home? A big part of Pastor Zach's role in this Transition process is to hold a mirror up to us and to help us see ourselves as we really are, rather than the version of ourselves that we imagine. Honest self-examination is crucial to accurately describe who we are as a church, and what our goals are (for the Mission Site Profile paperwork), which will become the basis for Calling our new Pastor.

For this Transition period, the Interim Pastor that Bishop Shelley recommended to us was someone with specific training and experience as an Intentional Interim and Mission Developer, which may be a new experience for us. Petersburg Lutheran knows how to move through the phases of a Transition and Call, but perhaps Pastor Zach has some unique perspectives and insights to help us approach the process a little differently than we have in the past. Change is uncomfortable and disruptive, and we're all anxious to put this period behind us, but I urge us all to be patient with Pastor Zach's approach and to embrace it. We all hope and pray that this Transition and Call process will help us find a Pastor that will be with us for a very long time, but right now, we have to roll up our sleeves and think and pray and come together to work with one another.

We must gather, as a congregation, and talk about what's important to us, and where we currently are – that's what's going to happen on May 11th. How do we see ourselves, and how do others see us? What role do we play in the community? How do we want to proceed in the future? Pastor Zach is here to help guide us in those discussions. His weekly "Through a Lutheran Lens" articles, sermons, and Lenten talks have all been laying the groundwork for where we are at this point in the Transition process. All those words are intended to get us thinking deeply about what Transition means and where it can lead us. I urge you to go back and read them and/or watch the videos.

While Pastor Zach's methods seem different and more ponderous than past Transitions, I hope we will put our trust in him to guide us, and that we will participate with enthusiasm. It's crucial that members of our congregation get INVOLVED so that when we are ready to Call a new Pastor, we will find an excellent match between Petersburg Lutheran's needs that align with the insights and skills of the new Pastor.

Time, Talents, and Treasures

The church sent out an email in March asking everyone to look at the attached "Time and Talents" sheet and explanations, so we can learn who can serve in what capacities at PLC. This information is vital to find out who is interested in what ministries at church in the form of volunteering. To date, the response has been underwhelming, so PLEASE give this request prayerful thought and send in your response. Our church can not survive without *involvement* by our members! Everyone has something they can contribute – skills, knowledge, energy, or experience, or ???. Even if you can only help out a little bit, or make phone calls, or write to shut-ins, or don't have many skills but are willing to learn – your church needs YOU! Ask questions of your Council members... ask our Pastor... ask the volunteers who always seem to be involved - to learn more about how you can help your church.



May we all give to God's work as generously as God has given to us.

May 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 each year. 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 May is the Special Fund for Local Needs here in Petersburg.

Prayer Partner

May's Prayer Partner is [River of Life Lutheran Church](#) in Chugiak, AK. Pastor Bill Ottum is the part-time Pastor for this community of about 85 people. Their church building burned down in September, 2020, and they have started reconstruction of their new building. In the meantime, they are meeting in Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Chugiak.



Financial Report

PLC has started the new year “in the red,” – spending more than we received in the first Quarter of the year. *Please give prayerful thought to increasing your support of the Church and its missions.*

As of March 31, **Giving (Income) minus Expenses for March were: -\$12,992, and the total for the year so far is -\$18,621.**

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.](#)**

BASEMENT SALE: The annual Church Basement sale was held on April 23, and the total sales were: \$5,665.85. Council voted to distribute the proceeds in our community as follows:
50%: \$2,832 set aside for Salvation Army turkeys at Thanksgiving and Christmas
25%: \$1416.46 for Monday Night Meals
25%: \$1416.46 to Humanity in Progress

Worship Bulletins

If anyone needs large print Bulletins on Sundays, please let the church office know by Thursday each week so we know how many to print.

Lutheran Disaster Response

You can make donations to help the refugees from the war in Ukraine directly to Lutheran Disaster Response, online at: <https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response>



ELCA and Synod News:

The ELCA website has some excellent resources for [Faith Practices](#), with downloadable articles on topics such as:

- [Resiliency: Faith Practices in Tough Times](#)
- [Resiliency: Setting Free our Lament](#)
- [Resiliency: Parent's Guide](#)

Newsletter Feedback

We would like to receive some feedback and suggestions for improving the Church Newsletter. You can share your thoughts with the office, and Joy will pass them along without attribution – so they will be anonymous. What would you like to see included? What do you like and don't like about it? How can we make it better?



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