

NEWS & EVENTS

at Petersburg Lutheran Church

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



♥ February 2022

Council Highlights

The Church Council met on January 19th and discussed the following:

- Thanks to our outgoing Council members: John Swanson, Tom Parker, and Kara Newman for their service!
- Voted to continue to require masks in the church *out of Christian love and generosity towards others, especially to protect our most vulnerable people.*
- Received a presentation by Good Beginnings Director Katie Holmlund about plans for an outdoor “traversing wall.” Council voted to approve this grant-funded project as long as our insurance carrier has no objections.
- Pastor Zach shared an example of a new bulletin style that will make weekly updates easier, and is more explanatory for the congregation.
- The carillon (bell tower music) computer died after 20 years of service. Council approved purchase of a new one.
- Heavy snow collapsed the small roof over the parsonage back basement door. Repairs will wait until snow melt makes access easier.
- The Holy Cross Hall lower level has problems with the heating system that require some repairs to both hydronic and backup oil heat.
- Council approved a project to create a picture directory and “photo wall” of church members. We need to find someone willing to take the photos.
- Council approved a ¼ page advertisement in the 2022 Petersburg Visitor Guide, given new discounted rates for churches.

Council Members

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

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)

Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 16th at 6:30pm. Meetings are open to all Congregation members.

Petersburg Lutheran Church
406 Excel Street, PO Box 709, Petersburg, AK 99833
Pastor Zachariah Harris III, 540-288-4337 plcakpastor@gmail.com
www.petersburglutheran.com
Office: 907-772-3114 plcakoffice@gmail.com

How to Contact Pastor Zach

Please make a note of the contact information for Pastor Zach above. He has several email addresses and phone numbers, but the email address and phone number above are the ones he prefers that you use to contact him regarding church business. He requests that you call (or text) him on 540-288-4337 and not the parsonage number. Please update your address books!

Pastor's Message – *Through a Lutheran Lens*

Pastor Zach will be writing a regular series of articles on topics of relevance and interest to our congregation, that will be sent out by email. *Watch your inbox* for his insights into this year-long journey of discernment and Call that we have embarked upon with him.

Email Problems

Joy Warnke (our church secretary) has noticed that often messages such as the bulletin and the monthly newsletter sent to “gci.net” email addresses are rejected. This problem seems to be limited to GCI. If you have an alternate email address, please share it with the [office](#). If you don't have an alternate address, you might consider setting up a (free) Gmail account to make it easier to receive the church's emails.



Annual Meeting

The PLC Annual Meeting was held in the Holy Cross Hall and via Zoom on Sunday, January 23 at 11am. The budget for 2022 was approved and two new Council members were elected by the congregation: Bill Moulton and Bev Siercks. We did not have a qualified youth member available this year (someone who is confirmed, and in the 11th or 12th grade), so we asked for an adult to serve in that position for a one-year term. After the meeting concluded, Ginger Evens volunteered to serve the one-year term, and to be the Council Secretary. Her position will be ratified by the Council at the February meeting. Thanks to these three excellent people for not only serving on the Council, but for taking officer positions. Bev Siercks is our new President, Bill Moulton is Vice President, and Ginger Evens will be Secretary. Robin Roberts will continue as Treasurer. The new Council will meet for a Retreat to plan for the upcoming year and the Call process on Friday, February 11.



Ushers are needed to greet people, assist with candles and hymn board, etc. We will train you – it’s easy, and it’s a great way to meet people and to serve your church – please help! Contact Shannon Peeler: 907-772-3981 or shannonp@gci.net

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9

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.

Covid-19 Safety

The Apostle Paul reminds us to look to the needs of others (Philippians 2:4).

Here are a few things you can do:

+ Please practice COVID-19 safety protocols as best as you can. If you feel sick, please remain home and join worship through the radio (88.5) or our [Facebook Live stream](#). Council reviews our Covid mitigation plan monthly, and is aware of the feelings many have towards masking. However, wearing a mask is a way to show kindness and love towards others, helping to keep them safe. Out of Christian love and generosity towards others, especially to protect our most vulnerable people, Council has voted to continue to require masks in the church.

+ Continue to reach out to each other with phone calls, texts, and emails. This can be a stressful time for everyone, but the gift of community is that we can help take care of each other.

+ Pray for and support those who work in the medical field. They are tired in more ways than one. Let them know you care.

Working together, we can keep each other healthy – physically, mentally, and spiritually. If you or someone you know needs support, please don’t hesitate to reach out. We are here for you - you are not alone.



Financial Health

PLC finished the year “in the black,” thanks to generous contributions from our congregation, though we were in the “red,” (spending more than we’re receiving) for much of the year. *Please give prayerful thought to increasing your support of the Church and its missions.*



As of December 31, **Giving (Income) minus Expenses for the year were: \$2,387.05**

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](#).

February 3% - Dillingham Trinity Lutheran Church

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.



Dillingham Trinity Lutheran Church was organized as an association in 1974 when a few families held small services in homes until the first pastor, Shelley Wickstrom (now the Alaska Synod Bishop) was called in 1987. In 1988 the congregation officially became part of the ELCA. The church building was dedicated in 1999, and Pastor Luisa Hanson has been there since the year 2000, living in a small parsonage, which is an older house that was already on the church property.

The population of Dillingham is about 60% Native Alaskan, so there are very few long time Lutherans there, which means we welcome people from all or no religious backgrounds - a small but interesting group. Our card reads: Centered in the Grace and Love of Christ we strive to be a Caring and Welcoming community for all people.

Aside from the last two challenging years, in more usual times we often hosted groups and community meetings here. We’re still having Sunday worship with Zoom, and hope to continue that when we resume in-person worship, as some out-of-town former members often join us. Even though I “retired” a few years ago, I have remained here to allow the congregation to build up funds enough to be ready for a new pastor. Also, even though many improvements in the parsonage have been done mostly by volunteer work through the years I’ve been here, lately an effort has been made to take care of some very needed work.

When we were able to meet together, we had a regular meditation time for a number of years and look forward to continuing when it’s safer to be together. Also, often times instead of traditional Bible studies we may read and have discussion on books that present God, Christ and the Holy Spirit in ways that are new for many, and hopefully most are becoming familiar with the practice of Lectio Divina. At present we don’t have many children, but that always changes through the years. Almost everyone within our gathering volunteer in the community in some way.

Thank you very much for including us in your prayer and gifts - Pastor Luisa Hanson

Prayer Partner

February's Prayer Partner is Sitka Lutheran Church in Sitka, AK.

What is a "Prayer Partner" and what should we be doing? Alaska Synod congregations intentionally pray for each other each month - every congregation is prayed for, and is praying for another. Congregations use prayer partners in different ways. Some simply print the name of the congregation in their bulletin, some say the name aloud during worship prayer time. In some congregations, the pastor or a church member will call up their prayer partner to ask for what they can specifically be praying for or to learn more about the congregation. Congregations can also put a link to their prayer partner's website or social media page in their own communications. There are many good ways to be a prayer partner! One more thing of note: not everyone in the prayer partner list is a full congregation. Some are new starts or emerging ministries in the Synod. Pastors in specialized ministries are also listed as a prayer partner, such as pastors of the synod who serve in hospitals, military or other non-congregational settings.



Prayers for Health and Healing

Mariann Solmonson, Bryn Westre, Mike Boggs, Char Hoiosen

News from Good Beginnings Pre-School & Kinder Skog Nature Program

In January the children at Good Beginnings learned the story of Noah's Ark, and thought about all the ways animals are special and deserve to be protected. This will lead them into the February lessons on what makes each of US unique and special.

Peacemaker Affirmation:

"I am one of a kind and made out of Love. I am love."

The Good Beginnings staff uses Peacemaker cards with positive affirmations daily, and have wonderful conversations with the children about them.



Kinder Skog has been making the news with its community service project funded by the Alaska Community Foundation, HiP (Humanity in Progress) Kids. In January, kids filled 163 bags with snacks and food items for community members in need. As one of the kids said while filling bags, "look at us change the world!" They certainly are changing it for the better and we are thankful the kids have taken this project to heart, to learn what basic needs are, and how to be involved members of the community.



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 (the Synod will let us know in March).

You can subscribe to the Alaska Synod email newsletter by clicking on the *Subscribe* link on the right side of the [Synod web site](#). **We need one male and one female congregation member to volunteer to be PLC's delegates for this event. Please give this prayerful thought, and if you are interested, please contact the [office](#).**

Resources for Lutherans

The latest issue of [Living Lutheran](#) has an terrific article titled: "[Contemplating the New Year - Lutherans explore Meditation, Mindfulness and Contemplative Practices](#)" that discusses ideas and techniques to deal with the toll that these turbulent times have placed upon us, and to help you meet God in new ways.

You can subscribe to Living Lutheran in monthly print issues, or weekly, bi-weekly or monthly customized electronic delivery by clicking [HERE](#).



Did you know that ELCA's Presiding Bishop Eaton posts a short (1-2 minute) video message every week or two on her YouTube channel? Check them out (and subscribe) by clicking [HERE](#)



**TRUST
IN THE
LORD
WITH ALL
YOUR ♥**
{proverbs 3:5}