

NEWS & EVENTS

at Petersburg Lutheran Church

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



 **March 2022**

Council Highlights

The Church Council met on February 16th and discussed the following:

- Appointed Ginger Evens to a one-year term on the Council, and to serve as Council Secretary. Thank you, Ginger!
- Need to form a committee to update the church membership roll as a first step in our Transition planning and Call process.
- Voted to continue to require masks in the church *out of Christian love and generosity towards others, especially to protect our most vulnerable people*. The Council will continue to re-visit our mitigation plan monthly, and will seek additional input from Petersburg Medical Center.
- Reviewed the Parsonage walk-through and identified a number of maintenance items to address. The Property Management Committee needs more volunteers to help with the Parsonage and other tasks.
- The Holy Cross Hall lower-level heating problems have been repaired, thanks to Dave Berg for overseeing it. Roof leaks have been identified, and a big THANK YOU goes to Dave Berg and Steve Lombard for climbing up on the roof and for removing and drying out the ceiling insulation.
- Approved trying a more “permanent” style of name tags for congregation members, and temporary ones for visitors.
- Formed an initial committee to begin planning a 25th Anniversary celebration of Good Beginnings Pre-School.
- Approved holding the Basement Sale. Stacey Madsen will begin planning for it to be held on April 23rd.

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, March 16th at 6:30pm.

Meetings are open to all Congregation members.

Petersburg Lutheran Church
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Look for Pastor Zach's weekly articles every Friday (attached to the same email as the Bulletin) for more in-depth insights into our Transition and Call process!



March 2nd—Ash Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Thursday night Lenten Services: Soup & Bread at 5:45 pm, Service at 6:30 pm
"Refining Our Focus: A Lenten Journey Forward" (Holy Cross Hall)

March 10th —"Where are we going?"

March 17th —"Who are we taking?"

March 24th—"What are we going to do?"

March 31st —"How are we going to get it done?"

April 17th —"Why are we going in the first place?"



Holy Week Services:

April 10th —Palm Sunday, 10:00 am
April 14th—Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm
April 15th—Community Good Friday, 7:00 pm
April 17th—Community Easter Sunrise, 7:00 am
Easter Service of Resurrection, 10:00 am



What Does it Mean to be Welcoming?

We are a community of believers and seekers who love God by caring for one another. The center and foundation of our community is the Word and the Sacraments, at which all are welcome! We worship together to share the Good News together.

So how do we make one another *feel* welcome? On our island community, many people know one another, or maybe someone only by name, or only to recognize a face. But we also have guests and newcomers visiting Petersburg Lutheran at any time.

We should remember that not everyone who walks through our doors each Sunday knows whether they can partake of communion, or where the “Fellowship Hall” or the “Holy Cross Hall” or the office is, and that they’re INVITED and encouraged to join us in worship and for coffee and fellowship afterwards. They don’t know who “Joe” is, or any of the other short-hand nicknames we often use for people and places.

We’ve visited other congregations in our travels and have remembered (and made a point to return to!) the ones that made us feel particularly welcome. People spotted our unfamiliar faces in church and made a point to greet us and introduce themselves, and they all made sure to encourage us to join their fellowship time afterwards, even showing us where to go. As we shyly ventured a look into their fellowship hall, we were (again) warmly welcomed, introduced around, and were *included*. Those churches made us feel like rock stars just for sharing worship and a cup of coffee with them!

Let each of us think about ways we can look for new or not-so-familiar faces and make a point to get to know them, or get to know them better. Look around for people who may be alone or lurking around the edge of groups, and invite them into your circle. Let’s make everyone feel the warmth of companionship in God’s house.



"There is only one rule of God... love. Just do love in your life -- by your words, by your feelings, by your eyes, by your hearts."

- Gopesh Goswami

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.

Grow 
in Christ

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. Out of Christian love and generosity towards others, especially to protect our most vulnerable people, they have voted to continue to require masks in the church. Our worship includes singing, which can disburse droplets much farther than just breathing.

+ *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.

March 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 March is [Glacier Bible Camp](#) in Juneau, AK. Glacier Bible Camp is sponsored by Lutheran Southeast Alaska Camping Association and is held at the Eagle Valley Boy Scout Camp in Juneau. As of this newsletter, we don't have the dates for the 2022 camp, but you can click on the camp's link above for updated information.

Those entering 5th-9th grades will participate in the traditional in-camp experience. There will be crafts, games, gifts of the spirit, Bible studies, campfire and all your favorite activities. This camp is not exclusively for Lutherans, so feel free to invite friends.

Those entering 10th-12th grade may participate as Counselors in Training (CITs) or come as campers. CITs will work with the primary counselors to help with a cabin of campers, and will also assist with leading different activities. CITs receive a 50% discount on registration if they are accepted in the program.



Prayer Partner



March's Prayer Partner is Shishmaref Lutheran Church, Shishmaref, AK (an island of about 600 people). Pastor Anna and her husband Aaron Silco are the new pastors splitting this call, and have been there for about five months. Pastor Anna writes: "In the last month, we have not had church because we have had so many Covid cases. We are the only church on the island, and we were able to gather together for Christmas and have a Christmas program where every kid had a part (about 200 kids!) which is a big deal and tradition in this community. The majority are Alaska Native and singing is very important to the congregation, with some certain songs in Inupiaq that are always sung at funerals and for times of comfort. The congregation has changed in that there were many deaths since last regularly gathering, and we have had a display for all saints Sunday that has stayed up throughout the rest of the year to spend time recognizing the loss.

People here really look out and care for each other – it's very tight knit community who is always praying for each other and supporting each other, which is especially seen on Facebook. Also, the regional high school basketball tournament is in Shishmaref during the first weekend in March - which is a big deal, as people love basketball here and it brings people together. You can check out our Facebook page and scroll back through the last few months - I know I have some nice northern lights pictures with the church and some from the Christmas program."



Prayers for Health and Healing

Char Hoiosen, Lloyd Thynes

Financial Health

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

As of January 31, **Giving (Income) minus Expenses for the month were: ~~-\$4,278.08~~**

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](#).**

On a brighter note, the final tally for the Special Christmas Offering and January 3% that was sent to the Monduli School in Tanzania was \$11,373.15. These funds will make a tremendous difference in the lives of those students!



News from Good Beginnings Pre-School

November 8, 2022 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the Good Beginnings Pre-School! Sally Reimer brought this to the attention of the Council and will help with a committee to plan the celebration of this significant milestone. Stay tuned!



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 later 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

Evangelical or evangelical?

Have you ever wondered about the E for “evangelical” in the name ELCA? Many people associate “evangelical” with a certain type of Christian, but that’s not what it means in our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America name. Our name is pronounced with a soft “e” – *eh-vangelical*, rather than a hard “e” – *ee-vangelical*.

“Evangelical” comes from the Greek word *evangelion*, meaning simply “good news” or “gospel.”

Check out this [article](#) in *Living Lutheran* to learn more about what it means to be “evangelical” the way we Lutherans are.

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