

NEWS & EVENTS

at Petersburg Lutheran Church

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



April 2022



Council Highlights

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

- Extended a big Thank You to Bev Siercks for arranging to fix the parsonage hot water heater, Nancy Berg for printing up the new name tags, and the Membership Task Force for their hard work to update the church membership roll.
- There will be a Communion class taught by Pastor Zach and Susan Holmes.
- Pastor Zach has prepared a Transition Team letter to the congregation to solicit nominations for the Transition Team, which is a vital step leading into the Call Process.
- Voted to update our Covid Mitigation Plan based on the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) status of our Borough/County. Masks are now optional in the sanctuary unless the community risk level goes high, which would indicate that masks would be required.
- Discussed possibly holding the annual Birthday Dinner sometime after Easter.
- Formed an initial committee to begin planning a 25th Anniversary celebration of Good Beginnings Pre-School: Desi Burrell, Ginger Evens, Sally Riemer, Bridey Short.
- The Basement Sale will be held on April 23rd.
- PLC will be advertising our services at the Northern Nights Theater, and in the 2022 Petersburg Visitor Guide.
- Bridget Wittstock and Susan Holmes will work on organizing Easter baskets with middle and high school students.
- Reviewing liability issues with new activities proposed for Kinder Skog.
- **Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, May 18th at 6:30pm. (No April meeting due to member’s travels.) Meetings are open to all Congregation members.**

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)



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!

Worship Opportunities Coming up: Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Beyond

Lenten Series Finale: April 7th will be the last of our Thursday night Lenten Services for this year. The theme has been “Refining Our Focus: A Lenten Journey Forward.” Though this is the last week you can attend the service in-person, all the services for the series have been recorded and can be seen online. In fact, each week’s message, along with the Pastor’s Weekly Message published on Fridays (sent out along with the weekly Bulletin), are intended to be taken together as a whole. That means that there are five sermons and the connected five articles that, together, represent the full message for our Lenten Journey, and in fact are intended to prepare the whole congregation for the Transition work we will be engaged in during the coming months, led by our soon-to-be-formed Transition Team.

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)
April 7th — “Why are we going in the first place?”**



Palm Sunday (April 10th, @ 10:00 am) We will start with the opening Palm Sunday Gospel and Litany with “All Glory Laud and Honor” played after the Palm Gospel. We will also express our “Hosannas!” with the Palm Processional Parade. And we will hear from the Synoptics, Luke’s full Passion account as our Gospel reading with the help of readers from the congregation. This service starts our “real time” telling of the last week of Jesus’s life and the events of his Passion.

Maundy Thursday (April 14th, @ 7 pm) This service has traditionally been celebrated with an Agape Meal, Washing of Feet, Communion, and notably ending with the stripping of the altar and leaving in silence as the start of the Great Three Days. Because “this night is not like all others” remembering the Passover and its connection to the Institution of the Last Supper is a major theme. This is the perfect time for those new to Communion, and indeed everyone to take stock of the reason for the Sacrament of the Altar.

Good Friday (April 15th, @ 7 pm) This service is one of the Community Services that we are in charge of hosting, by inviting all the local clergy and congregations to participate. We will share in the traditional Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) which has no music, but is a liturgical combination of primarily the dramatic retelling of John’s Passion Account, interspersed with responsive Psalm readings, and the whispered words of the Lord’s prayer as the candles of the Tenebrae are extinguished one by one until the Christ candle alone leaves us in utter darkness... only to return as we leave again in silence. Its return is a sign of hope that as we move from the Second of those Three Days, the Third Day may yet give us light.

Easter Sunday (April 17th, Community Sunrise @ 7:00 am) A second Community service is held near sunrise at Sandy Beach to bring the same community together again from Good Friday’s service to proclaim the resurrection together: all the local clergy and congregations as one in claim the triumph of our Lord over death!

Easter Sunday (April 17th, Petersburg Lutheran’s Holy Easter Service @ 10:00 am) The 10 o’clock Easter Service is the regular full communion service made



prominent mainly by the message and the music. Easter is also the traditional time for Baptisms, remembering that our entrance into the faith is made full by the promises of the Sacrament of the Bath.

Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday: Everyone is invited to bring your Easter Lilies for our 10 am Easter Sunday Service. There is a long-standing tradition among churches that live Easter Lilies are placed around the sanctuary on Easter to remind us of the new life that comes with the Resurrection. So, if you have them to share, bring your Lily before worship begins on Easter Sunday morning!

Children's Sermon Change-Up!—Stump the Pastor: For the season of Easter, from Sundays April 24th to 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 which will act as the object for 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 the thing you want turned into a children's sermon. And if it's too strange, you might just stump the Pastor!



Blessing of the Fleet (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.

Communion Instruction

We would like to invite all school age children and anyone interested to an introduction to Communion Class, April 3rd and April 10th after church around 11:30am. After a snack in the Holy Cross Hall, Pastor Zach will teach us about Holy Communion. What it is, why and how we celebrate this sacrament in the Lutheran Church. If you are interested or have any questions call Susan Holmes at 907-518-0289.



Double Your Impact in Ukraine!

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on Feb. 24, nearly 3 million people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries, including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Moldova. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is accompanying companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Your gifts to LDR will be used in full (100%) to accompany people impacted by the humanitarian crisis. And if you act now, your gift will go twice as far. Thanks to generous donors, every gift to Eastern Europe Crisis Response will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$422,000, to support people in Ukraine.

We do not see faith as a spectator sport. Everyone brings gifts to the community and we are expected to share them in ministry.

- *Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Juneau*

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.

Three Important Correspondence Letters to Help PLC Move Forward

In short order, everyone in the congregation has received or will receive three requests from the congregational leadership intended to move us forward in this year of Transition.

Membership Update—This information was mailed out recently and is intended for EVERYONE’s response. It is important for us to keep accurate church records to know who our active members are and then to verify CURRENT correct information. Instructions are included in that mailing, and everyone is encouraged to respond as quickly as possible as we make plans for gathering data to move the future call process forward.

Time, Talents, and Treasures—Another mailing (mainly by email) asks everyone to look at the “Time and Talents” sheet and explanations so we can learn who wants to serve in what capacities at PLC. This information is very helpful in verifying who is interested in what ministries at church in the forms of volunteering and serving on ministry teams.

Transition Team Nominees—This correspondence is specifically related to the Transitional Process that Pastor Zach is here to lead us through. Please read this information carefully and prayerfully as we take the next steps in discerning the next called Pastor to Petersburg Lutheran!



A Call to Action!

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, *Someone Else*. For many, many years as a part of this church *Someone Else* did far more than a normal person’s share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, everybody said, “Let *Someone Else* do it.” Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; “*Someone Else* can work with that group.” It was common knowledge that *Someone Else* was among the most generous givers.

Whenever there was a financial need, everyone assumed *Someone Else* would make up the difference. Now *Someone Else* is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. *Someone Else* left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things *Someone Else* did?



Our Parsonage: Just one example of an area around our church that needs attention is our Parsonage. The exterior desperately needs to be repainted (or possibly covered with siding along with some insulation underneath), the upstairs bathroom faucets need attention, the toilets don't flush well, the furnace cycles frequently and is inefficient (making it expensive to run), various windows don't open well and there's a big gap in another. Snow weight collapsed the small roof over the old garage, and the debris in the yard is sharp and dangerous. It needs to be cleaned up and a new roof constructed. These are just a few of the things that need attention in our Parsonage now!



One thing to remember about the Parsonage is that it's basically *a valuable asset for the congregation as well as* a rental property and we are the landlords. Are we good landlords? Are we offering a place that makes a Pastoral family feel welcome and comfortable?

A Parsonage should be one of the things that helps us attract a new Pastor, and to keep that Pastor and their family with us for a long time! We really need more volunteers to help out with the Property Management Committee - to oversee a painting/siding project or other specific projects, to work with a local contractor

to supervise a repair, or to make a particular repair or improvement themselves. There are SO many needs on PLC's Property Management "To Do" list! Even if we pay outside contractors to make these repairs, we still need people to pitch in and help arrange those things.

Please give prayerful thought when you fill out your Time, Talents and Treasures sheets. 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 around the Parsonage or elsewhere in the church. We each have ways to contribute to making our Petersburg Lutheran Church stronger – reaching out to those in need, turning a wrench, or any other of the many needs on the Time and Talents survey.



April 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 April is [Pacific Lutheran University](#) (PLU). PLU is a small, private university with a commitment to expanding well-being, opportunity, and justice. This commitment derives from its Lutheran heritage, and it defines its faculty and staff who work to create an environment where learners feel heard, and valued. It characterizes its student body, who aren't afraid to do things differently to leave the world better than they found it. PLU is more than a campus full of individuals pursuing their dreams — it's a community of seekers, trailblazers, creators, and reformers who know we can accomplish more together than apart.

Prayer Partner

April's Prayer Partner is [Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church](#) in Juneau, AK. Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey asks for our prayers for camp and summer lunch programs. Those are our big upcoming projects. She says "Lots of prayers needed!"

Shepherd of the Valley is a very active congregation, and you can read more about them on their [web site](#), or their [monthly newsletter](#). They are truly inspiring!



Financial Health

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

As of February 28, **Giving (Income) minus Expenses for February were: *-\$8,271.04, and the total for the year so far is *-\$12,549.12.****

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](#).**

News from Good Beginnings Pre-School

November 8, 2022 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the Good Beginnings Pre-School! Sally Riemer graciously submitted this bit of history about how things got started.

More than 25 years ago when Petersburg Lutheran Church members were having a brain storming session about our hopes and dreams for the future, the idea was put forward to establish a preschool that would give students a good beginning of life in the Christian faith. At that time, we were also in need of more rooms for the Sunday School program and a place for large group activities.



We formed committees and decided to make an addition to the existing building that would provide for these needs. During the months that followed, the property across the street from the sanctuary came up for sale – it had a house on it that needed to be torn down.

One thing led to another and soon we had a new place where we could put a preschool! All we had to do was take the education and fellowship wing off the back of the administration building and move it up the hill and across the street!!!

As plans for the new Holy Cross Hall building were in the works, the first year of Good Beginnings Preschool was conducted in the old education wing. We have many stories to tell and people to celebrate for all these dreams come true.



ELCA and Synod News:

The Alaska Synod Annual Assembly will be held April 22-24, 2022 on-line (virtually).

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](#).

*Christ
is
Risen!*

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