



Volume 91 October-November 2022

Steeple Views

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WAGNER

Dear Church,

This is a treasured Biblical metaphor that has always spoken to me, even though I've never taken care of a vineyard. I only have two modest grapevines in my garden that climb up our deck. The clusters look fabulous in late June and early July when the grapes are small and green; but before they turn to a mature, ripe red (what you see in this picture), the birds have already feasted on them. The winged creatures are relentless in their pursuit of my grape juice - or maybe they were this year because it was so dry for so long. Still, it's impressive how far those branches go, trained around the trellises, filling out a whole



“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

side of our deck, two single vines producing a thick carpet of greenery. They go deep down into the ground and find nutrients that they pass on to their branches: the juice of life.

Modern culture has us believe that we are self-made people. Independence is the ideal. “I want to preserve my independence,” people say when they age, holding on to their car keys as long as possible, which is understandable. Contrary to the individualist ideal, this biblical metaphor argues that we all are dependent, drawing from a source that sustains us, allowing us to flourish and bear fruit. We are dependent on the life giver. The more we are in touch with the one who said, “I am the way and the truth and the life,” the more spiritual fruit we will bear. The more we go our separate ways, the more sapped we will be. How is your connection to the vine? Do you get the nutrients you need? Is your church a place where you connect with the life giver? Is your home such a place? Do you feel at least sometimes the flow of divine energy in your soul, in your body? I pray with Paul that “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people...” - Ephesians 1:18

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sanctuary:
8:30 am & 10:00 am
with Livestreaming
Sunday School

ST. PETER'S CHURCH COUNCIL

Suzanne Shaffer, President
Vacant, Vice President
Maryann Gerhart, Secretary
Dave Kinka, Treasurer
Brooke Alderfer
Nicole Alunni
Diana Blum
Steve Frescatore
John Ledder
Doug Mahan
Diana Sundar
Maureen Tang
Steve Wright
Diane Zenker

CORE VALUES

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value and embrace service driven ministry and being "other-oriented" serving God by serving people both locally and globally.

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value and strive for meaningful vibrant worship, enhanced with purposeful liturgy, powerful relevant messages, devout prayer, glorious music and participation by both clergy and lay "ministers".

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church we value spiritual growth for all generations defined by well thought out programs available for all ages and strong support for families of all types.

As members of St. Peter's we value and commit to being an inclusive community promoting authentic caring relationships with each other and our partners in ministry, always treating each other with respect.

As members of St. Peter's we value and commit to community hospitality, placing importance on being an integral part of our community by using both our building facility and our ac-

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St. Peter's Lutheran Church
211 S. Main St.,
North Wales, PA 19454
215-699-4604
www.stpetersnorthwales.org

Office E-mail:
secretary.
stpetersnorthwales@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Andreas Wagner
pastor.stpetersnorthwales@gmail.com

Director of Christian Family
Ministry:
Jennifer Bodolus
DFM@stpetersnorthwales.org

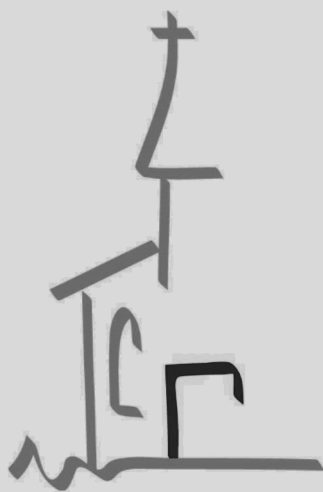
Music Minister/Organist:
Sam Tarasenko
samtarasenko@gmail.com

Director of Handbell Bells:
Liz Allen redbetsey@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Miller

Articles for *Steeple Views* should be
submitted to the office or
secretary@stpetersnorthwales.org

*It is the Mission of
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
to invite all people to
know, live, and share
Jesus Christ*



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

We came about this grapevine metaphor in our stewardship group as we pondered the theme for this year's stewardship campaign. Some felt that we should emphasize the branching out of our ministries at church. Some felt we ought to highlight the need to rebuild community after two tough pandemic years. Both is important. When I look at these clusters of grapes, I notice how close the grapes are to each other (community) and yet how much room there is for other clusters to develop and feed from the same vine, how much possibility there is to branch out further. That ought to teach us something about the generosity of the life giver. It ought to free us from the constraints of either-or thinking. For example, sometimes people oppose global ministry projects because they want to serve their own community first. There is nothing wrong with serving your own community of course, but would the life-giving vine supply only the grapes closest to him? I don't think so. Believing in God means learning to think and live generously. "You will bear MUCH fruit," Jesus said.

As your church we sincerely appreciate your support. We are not the vine; we just want to help you to stay connected with the vine, the source of all life, Christ. I hope we are doing a good job with that. Please support us as we approach another year. Make a pledge of support for 2023 in the form of a weekly or monthly financial gift. We can only be church and branch out into this world together. "If you abide in me, you will bear MUCH fruit," Christ said.

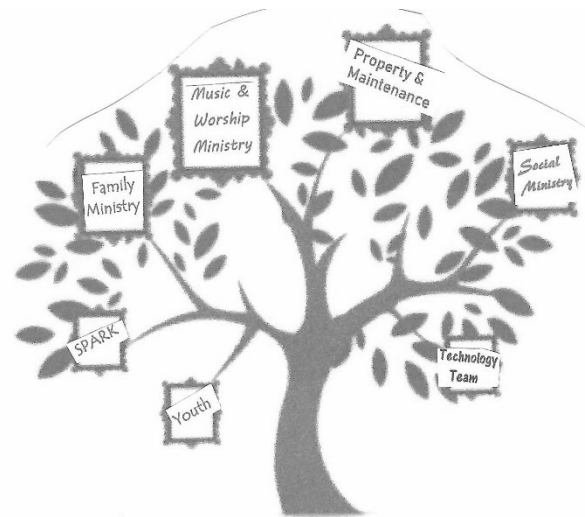
Pastor Andreas Wagner

Stewardship Wisdom from Trees

Dear congregation,

The imagery of a tree is mentioned in many places in Scripture, such as in the creation story in Genesis, "let there be trees" (of the seed-bearing fruit kind), a gift from God for the flourishing of life on His newly made earth. Trees are represented as signs and symbols of life. They provide nourishment, shelter, and comfort in its shade. Trees end up being the barometer of the blessings of the covenant bond between Israel and God. When Israel celebrates how God rescued them, the festival begins with the people taking "branches of luxuriant trees—from palms, willows, and other leafy trees" to build temporary shelters as they remember the Exodus and rejoice before the Lord for seven days.

And yes, trees impact our climate in lowering temperatures, filtering water, sequestering carbon dioxide, and continually pumping out the very oxygen the rest of us breathe. There is a word in the gospel of John in which Jesus compares himself to a vine that supports its branches. We are the branches in that metaphor. As a church, we can't thrive without the connection to our Lord. But we are also mindful of the role we are all playing in sup-



porting our community.

St. Peter's branches reach far and wide in our "zoom" and "live streaming" world, dare I say a silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic. An opportunity for us as a Little Church That Does Big Things to grow and expand our branches to include loved ones throughout the world in our worship services.

Your gracious contributions water and fertilize our tree's roots and strengthen our branches which include Stephen Ministry (reaching people at difficult times in their lives), Family Faith Ministry, Music & Worship Ministry (producing wonderful recordings), Global Ministry, Property & Maintenance of our beautiful church, Social Ministry, Spark program & Youth Group, our Thrift Store, Adult Christian Education, community events, our Technology team, and of course our Prayer Ministry.

God has been good to us. Your gracious contributions in all seasons that we have weathered, have sustained us. As we enter our stewardship season, please review the information for 2023 and make a pledge of support for 2023, either on the enclosed card or online and return it as soon as you can, no later than Reformation Sunday, October 30. We are hoping to receive 100 pledges during our stewardship season (in the month of October) and 10 new pledges from people who haven't pledged this past year. It will all be tallied up by the time of Stewardship Celebration Sunday, November 13. May God allow us to grow ministries of hope and healing that branch out from our church! Dare I remind you that we need your help?

For the Stewardship Team

The Story of the Bible, Told by Trees

September 26, 2019/by [Glenn Paauw](#)

<https://instituteofbiblereading.org/story-of-the-bible-told-by-trees/>

The stuff of earth is the stuff of life—and also the stuff of the biblical story. Trees, mountains, water, and food all figure prominently in the slowly unfolding drama of the Holy Scriptures.

Now the fact is, there are lots of prisms for viewing the storyline of the Bible, many built from big theological concepts like covenant and kingdom. But it's also possible to over-theorize the Bible, turning it into a collection of abstractions. But the Bible itself doesn't do this. The Bible keeps its story close to the ground, making sure we remember it's fundamentally a down-to-earth saga. So, following the lead of the Scriptures themselves, we want to give you some takes on the big story from the perspective of four earthly elements of redemption. These windows into the Bible's narrative of renewal are all the stuff of life. First up, those uniquely shaped, taken for granted, yet completely necessary partners in the creation, the trees. Next, we'll explore how high places and mountains, free-flowing water, and moveable feasts each play their own part.



The Bible: A Story in Trees From Dying Branches to Leaves of Healing

Humanities professor Alan Jacobs, who's written a bit about the gospel of trees, says "If you understand the trees, you understand the story." And it's true, the trees are there from start to finish, and one tree in particular is at the very center of the entire narrative. Trees can be both strange and beautiful, common and magnificent. Trees, apparently, are aptly made for playing key roles in the performance.

In the beginning, God said let there be a world filled with light and dark, turning from day to night and back again. Let there be earth and sky and land. And right in the midst of it all, let there be trees—of the seed-bearing fruit kind in particular. God then gave the trees to all the beasts, and all the birds, and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that had the breath of life in it. The trees were a gift from the Creator for the flourishing of life on his newly-made earth.

From Dying Branches to Leaves of Healing, continued

And it was so. And it was good.



Therefore, there are trees everywhere in the story. They are sign and symbol of the existence of life itself, which

should be unsurprising since they are the longest living organisms on earth. Methuselah, a Great Basin bristlecone pine in California's White Mountains, comes in at over 4,800 years old. The longevity of trees gives us a picture of the endurance of life.

But trees, of course, do much more. They provide food and shelter and shade. They lower temperatures, filter water, sequester carbon dioxide, and continually pump out the very oxygen the rest of us breathe.

In the Bible trees are often signposts and gathering places, and they provide images of both the blessing and the judgment of God. You can tell how the story is going based on what's happening with the trees.

In the time of Noah, still early in the narrative, the fate of the whole earth was itself already in jeopardy, and all the trees were flooded. But God was not quite done with this whole shebang, and Noah sent out a dove to search for some sign of life in the aftermath of deluge. When it came back with the leaf from an olive tree in its beak, Noah knew there was a chance. A chance for the story to move forward, however tentatively, toward some kind of better resolution.

Then Abraham, chosen as God's answer to Adam's failure, was brought to a new land to help the story get a new start. After surveying the length and breadth of this unfamiliar place, he decided to settle in the vicinity of the great trees of Mamre, a place he did not own. He was a sojourner at this point, someone living off a promise-not-yet-turned-reality.

The Bible's story is always a story of promises. It does get to some "Already's", but there are always more "Not Yets." Abraham was staking his future on that place of great trees, believing against the evidence that great things would be done by his own as-yet-non-existent family. And it would all be for the sake of the life of the world.

When Abraham's family turns into a nation of slaves, God

sends a man with a wooden staff to rescue them. God's power flares from that staff, and the road to freedom is opened. When the liberated people are stuck in a mostly lifeless desert, God leads them to camping places like Elim, home to twelve springs and seventy palm trees. Islands of trees, proof of water nearby, are lifelines to a new land.

Trees end up being the barometer of the blessings of the covenant bond between Israel and God. When Israel celebrates how God rescued them, the festival begins with the people taking "branches of luxuriant trees—from palms, willows, and other leafy trees" to build temporary shelters as they remember the Exodus and rejoice before the Lord for seven days.

Covenant faithfulness means that Israel's good life in a good land will be marked by thriving crops and trees, with the harvest of produce and fruit lasting all the way through to the next growing season. And around the edges of the orchard there is enough for the poor to be fed too.

Powerful empires are characterized as trees—large and strong, with their tops touching the sky (as Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon is described). But sometimes empires must be brought low and proud kings humbled, so a mere shepherd and keeper of sycamore-fig trees, like Amos, might be brought in to deliver the unpopular word of the Lord. It is the Maker of trees who can cut down the tall tree and replant the low one to make it grow. With a God like this, trees are not always what they seem.

God's people are like a tree and they are therefore judged and pruned, sometimes severely, but never outright destroyed. Cut back and even burned, there is a life within them that persists. And it is onto this besieged and wavering remnant that God will graft a new people, fulfilling that old oath to Abraham. His family will be what it was meant to be after all. The forests will be filled and the earth will find its own exodus story. The story of trees is inexorably tied to our story.

One thing about this story of trees in the Bible is that it is inevitably a story for the long term. Trees are mostly slow-growers, but are all the more enduring for their deliberate pace. And this is exactly how God's plans for his world also go. Slow, but steadily onward and upward. Trees sometimes turn into weapons and siege ramps, or are fashioned into tools for idolatry. But out of the cut stumps and smoldering ashes, God patiently nurtures life. The trees live on, and from the trees new growth will emerge. Hope, symbolized by the trees, does not die.

So it is that we find the heart of God's drama with the world

in the story about the Messiah. He himself was like his people, at first sight a man of no apparent consequence. Merely a branch coming up out of the old stump of Jesse. But the Lord's Spirit rested on him and he did what he had come to do. He eventually used a tree to rescue the story of trees. And the story of us.

It is a strange story indeed, this tale of the Tree of the Curse that must be faced in order for the long-lost Tree of Life to reappear. This Branch of David came and did much good, healing and feeding and teaching the people. So when he entered Jerusalem as king, they cut branches from the trees and lay them out to honor and celebrate him. They thought they knew what victory looked like. But Jesus said this is a hard time, a time you neither expect nor understand. And the decisive deed was done not with a waving of branches but with a hanging upon a tree.

No doubt it looked like merely another dead man upon some dead pieces of wood. This happened plenty enough with the Romans. But this time was different, because all along Israel's warrior had been fighting a different kind of battle. The spiritual forces of evil cannot be fought by killing Roman soldiers.

When the Creator vindicated his work and raised him from the dead, this unusual Messiah was mistaken for a garden-

er, which was just right since he really is the crafter of Life. Indeed, he is a New Temple, the place where God dwells with us, except now it isn't just carvings of trees and fruit upon doors and walls, but rather life itself brought back to earth. That ancient Life Tree had been found, tended, and strengthened, so it can now restore everything. It is right there, in the middle of the city which is to come.

The Scriptures tell us that to walk with Jesus is to walk back into God's garden. It is to be with God in the cool of the day. And the leaves there are for the healing of the nations—their trees, their people, everything. From Genesis to Revelation, to understand the trees is surely to understand the story. It is perfectly appropriate that in the end, it is the trees themselves that will sing the true song of this story:

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"
Let the sea resound, and all that is in it;
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!
Let the trees of the forest sing,
let them sing for joy before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.*

2023 PLEDGE CARD

I am the vine; You are the branches...

- \$10 per week seed
- \$25 per week sprout
- \$50 per week seedling
- \$100 per week full grown
- _____ per week/ _____ per month "special branch size"

Simply giving: Yes No Interested in the program

Name: _____

Envelope # (if known) _____

Non-Members, please provide Email and/or a Phone #:



***"I am the vine;
you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit; apart
from me you can do nothing."***

John 15:5

Pledge cards can be found in the lobby at church, online at www.stpetersnorthwales.org,

or you may mail this coupon to:

Pledge Card
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
211 S. Main Street
North Wales, PA 19454

Sacred Celebrations: Life and Death

Baptisms

- On Sunday, September 18, **Daniel and Caroline Mc Glynn** were baptized after the second church service in our Baptismal Garden, surrounded by parents, godparents and family members.
- On Sunday, October 9, **Sidney Kratz** will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. She is the daughter of Katie and Brett Kratz.



Funerals

On Sunday, September 25, **Oswilla Mc Govern** was called home to our Lord after a period of suffering and battling an aggressive form of cancer. She is much missed in our church, in our choir and as the matriarch of her family. A service will be held in October. Please follow our announcements.

Cemetery Updates



Our cemetery committee is working diligently on a few major upgrades for our historic cemetery. We are planting several smaller shade trees this fall and are soliciting work proposals and estimates for the establishment of a walking path from the Prospect Street Entrance to the Columbarium. We would like the work to get done next spring, as soon as the weather permits. Additional historical markers are also planned to be installed in the spring of 2023. Work on the crumbling side wall will be done this winter.

During our day of service we also to replace the wooden caps along the walls, a project that will continue until it's finished over the next few years. Finally, we are also looking into security measures (camera?) near the Columbarium to deter vandalism after a bad experience last fall. On Saturday, October 8, a small group will meet with Barry Rauhauser from the Montgomery County Historical Society in Norristown to learn about Cemetery and Gravestone Preservation.

Steeple Project

Our steeple will receive a much needed facelift in the month of October. So far, we have received donations in the amount of 14,725. The total project costs upwards of \$ 22,000. Thank you to our donors and feel free to include a gift earmarked for our "Steeple Project." Thanks!

Ukraine Aid

Our gift of \$ 5,000 was received via secure international wire transfer by the House of Mercy Ministry and Pastor Ihor Shemigan in Ukraine. This gift will help them continue ministry under difficult circumstances, within an eye toward rebuilding a structure in the vicinity of Kyiv after the end of the war. They also received a significant gift from Lutheran Church in the Czech Republic toward the rebuild, and they already have the property for it. We send our prayers and blessings to them!



You are never too young or too old to Worship with us!

Adult Faith Formation

Weekly Bible Studies on the Book of Genesis, Mondays at noon via zoom

You can easily find the Bible Study zoom link in our daily messages. There are usually 8-10 participants. It's an easy time for retirees and it is a time and setting that makes it possible for some others to join us even on a workday. The study material is shared via the Sunday or Monday morning email.

October 6, 7:00 p.m.: Talking about Ukraine

We have invited Father Mykola from the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Lansdale for this Thursday night conversation. Come and join us at the home of Scott and Diane Zenker on 223 Old Church Road in North Wales. The evening will begin with light refreshments. Father Mykola will talk about the situation in his native country, as well as relief efforts that churches are involved in, both here and abroad. We will close the night in prayer for the people of the Blue and Yellow.

November 5 : Exploring Shamanic Practices (9:00 a.m. – noon)

There have always been nativist healing practitioners in our world, in all corners of the world. For the longest time, Western culture and the church looked upon it with an air of superiority. But that is changing. We are learning to re-evaluate the wisdom gleaned and preserved in some of these traditions. Our friends Linda and Bill O'Brien received training in Shamanic practices. Linda comes from an Episcopalian background and Bill was a Jesuit brother earlier in his life. They both worship at St. Peter's since moving here last year from their former home in Shepherdstown, WV. They will give us a peek into the Shamanic world during this Saturday workshop at the church.

November 11: Readings and Discussion with Richard Rohr, 7:00 p.m.

On this Friday night we will gather at the home of Keitha and Charlene Bance on 420 Carmichael Street in North Wales. Pastor Wagner will present some short texts from his favorite contemporary spiritual writer, Father Richard Rohr. Rohr is a Franciscan and one of the Founders of the Center for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico. He has written numerous books and sends daily emails with meditations and reflections. The night will begin with light refreshments.

ZOOM Bible Study: The Book of Genesis,

Mondays noon – 1:00 pm

See the link in the daily emails

Presentation about Ukraine with Father Mykola:

October 6, 7 pm - at the home of Scott & Diane Zenker

Exp-loring Shamanic Practice - In the context of Christian Spirituality

November 5: Parlor, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Follow up on Sunday after the 10 am service

Richard Rohr Readings and Discussion:

Friday November 11th - 7 pm at Keith & Charlene Bance.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

- ⇒ We will be back to in person **SPARK Sunday School** on Sundays, worshipping together at first then leaving after the children's blessing for classes.
- ⇒ The first Sunday of each month (beginning in November) will be **Family Sundays** at the 10 am service. There will be no SPARK classes so that families may worship together. Activity sheets will be available on the table as you enter church.
- ⇒ **First Holy Communion Classes** will be after church on October 23rd and 30th.
- ⇒ **First Holy Communion** will be held on **November 6th** at the **10 am** service.
- ⇒ **Confirmation Classes** are Sundays, **11:30 am -12:30**, after the 10 am worship services.



Rally Day! Children's Sermon, Backpack Blessing, & Picnic.



CONFIRMATION PRESENTATION

Women in the Bible

Written by Bree Bodolus & Erica Worman

Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be witnesses of Jesus in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. Through Confirmation, our personal relationship with Christ is strengthened. We learned more about our faith in a deeper way as we studied the bible. For our project we decided to focus on the Women in the Bible, being that we are young women.



I should start by answering the question “*Why Should We Study the Great Women of the Bible?*” This is a great question because sometimes it can feel like the men and women of faith in the Bible lived in a time so different from ours that we have little in common and little to learn. And yet, when we learn to study the Bible for ourselves, we quickly see that while the women in the Bible did live in a very different time and culture than our own, they still have so much to teach us about what it means to be a woman of faith today.

- We can learn from and be inspired by their positive example
- We can learn from their mistakes so we don't make them ourselves
- We can see that they weren't perfect and God used them anyways, so it's okay that we're not perfect either
- We can be encouraged by watching how God takes care of them, knowing He'll take care of us too

Did you know that total of 1700 distinct personal names in the Bible with 137 of them being women? That is amazing! While I would like to tell you about each one

and these wonderful lives, I don't think we would have time for that today! So we wanted to talk about just a few.

The biblical narrative makes it clear that God does not call all women to the same choices or life paths; however, he does call us all to follow him. He does call us all to a united Christian community.

Our spiritual journeys are really about serving a God who is good, and about knowing without a shadow of a doubt that through Christ's finished work on the cross, we are made righteous before that same God. Through salvation, God himself has done a great work in us. Our faith tells us he has great plans for us. Because of our faith and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to persevere and to work. In spite of our challenges and our suffering, we can live with power, hope, and joy as he intends.

Erica

Miriam: Miriam - Moses' Sister and Prophetess at the Red Sea Miriam was the first woman in the bible to be given the title prophetess. Miriam first appears in the Bible in Exodus 2:4, but then not mentioned again until after the Hebrews had crossed the Red Sea. Miriam was very jealous/had a jealousy problem God struck her with leprosy for not trusting in god. After Moses pleading god decided to spare her life, but still has to be confined. Miriam was known for helping deliver Moses down the Nile and leading the Hebrew women through singing and dancing.

Esther: Esther became queen, the king divorced and held a nationwide beauty pageant to find a new queen. “A Jewish woman named Esther was taken with other young women to a citadel. “ Esther soon became favored by a man named Hagoi who was in charge of preparing the women to meet the king. “When it was Esther's turn to go before the king, he immediately found her the most attractive and beautiful of all women and placed the royal crown on her head. “ Esther had to hide her Jewish background Esther and her cousin Mordecai worked together though he refused to bow down to haman When the haman found out about Mordecai and that he was a Jew he wanted to eliminate all of the Jewish nation Esther feared for herself and her people,

CONFIRMATION PRESENTATION CONTINUED...

so she decided to instruct all Jews to fast with her for 3 days and 3 nights.

Mary Magdalene: Mary became the embodiment of Christian devotion, which was defined as repentance. She was present during the crucifixion and was present at the tomb. "She was also the first person to whom Jesus appeared after his resurrection and the first to preach the "Good News" of that miracle." was a leading figure among those attracted to Jesus.

Bree

Mary and Martha

Mary and Martha in the Bible were friends of Jesus. They welcomed Jesus and his followers into their home.

Mary and Martha had two completely different approaches to worship. Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening to Him, while Martha was worried and distracted by the preparations for their guests. Martha felt all alone in her serving so she asked Jesus to tell her sister to lend a hand. Whether you are more introverted or extroverted, more reserved or more expressive, worshipping God is an important part of our faith.

What if Jesus wasn't even asking Martha to sit down physically, but was inviting her to choose to worship Him, even while she served? Jesus showed Martha the importance of making His Presence a priority, like Mary was doing, even in the midst of the busyness of life.

Phoebe was a trailblazer, paving the way for female ministerial work, an inspiration to those who want to go against societal oppressive constraints. To those who believe that women cannot be ministers, her work is proof that God uses women in all church positions. Phoebe is portrayed as a leader, a deaconess in the church of Cenchreae. He carried, delivered, and read Paul's letter to the Romans, something that was crucial for the formation of Christian Theology.

Deborah emerged as an exceptional military leader. Fearless and obedient to God, She led the Israelites to victory and out of bondage. The only other person referred to as both a prophet and a judge in the Bible is Samuel. That places Deborah amongst the great people mentioned in the Bible.

In a male-dominated Roman empire, Lydia had a successful business selling purple cloth. Purple fabric was associated with affluence, royalty, and authority. Lydia must have been well connected for her to be successful

in this trade. She is the first documented convert to Christianity in Europe. The Bible records that Lydia led her entire household to Christianity. She hosted Paul and his company in her home which made it easy for them to spread the gospel.

God is the creator of all things, and his creative vision is big enough to include women from all walks and stages of life, from different backgrounds and cultures. His kingdom purposes transcend generations. His will is big enough to include young girls like Rhoda, who commit themselves to prayer, Mary mother of Jesus who was a virgin. His plans are big enough for women like Elizabeth, Rachel, and Hannah—all of whom experienced heart-breaking infertility. His purposes include women with pasts like Ruth, Rahab, and rejected, widowed, adulterous women like the Samaritan woman at the well. He sees marginalized and enslaved women like Hagar, and old women like the prophetess Anna. We compassionately embrace women like these because God's purpose and plans include all of them. God's purpose includes you as well!

We would like to end in saying that we are all disciples of God woman or men, all of us together can do great things, the things that God has planned for us.

In Proverbs 31 it says "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

What does that mean? To me it means that strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come" She is looking to the future with plans, goals, and hope. All our hard work has a purpose here on earth and in heaven. We should be setting goals for ourselves and looking to the future. We can live a more purposefully life with God in it.

Thank you
Bree & Erica



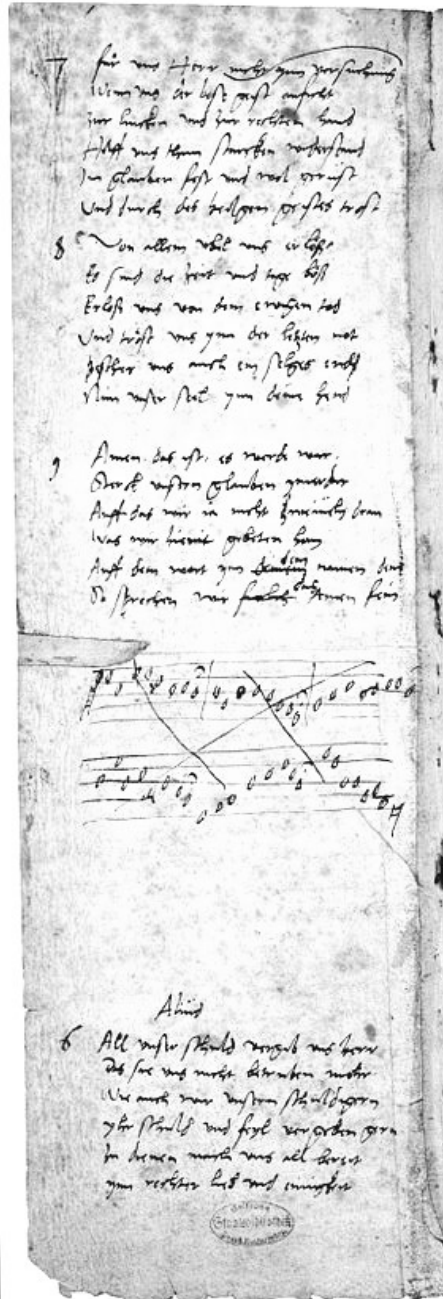
A MESSAGE FROM SAM TARASENKO MUSIC MINISTER

Dear Friends,

It has now been two months since I began serving your congregation as the organist and music director. I couldn't be happier with my experience. Everyone has been supportive, kind, and eager to get the music ministry back up and running since the doldrums of the pandemic. For this series of Steeple Views, I'd like to update you on our choirs, bring you up to speed on the liturgy changes, and introduce you to the seasonal hymn.

Our regular choir started up at the beginning of September and sang its first service at 8:30am on Sunday, September 25th. Additionally, the men came together on Wednesday, September 28th for the inaugural rehearsal of the men's choir. I also hear children may be making an entrance into the choir! A Common Thread, our resident band, led worship on Rally Day, provided awesome music for Oktoberfest, and will continue leading contemporary worship every six weeks starting in Advent. Finally, a huge shoutout to Liz Allen who commands the formidable Belles. They smashed it on Sunday, September 18th!

You will see gradual changes to the liturgy as Pastor Wagner and I introduce new musical elements to the Sunday services. If you are not familiar with liturgical based worship, it is essentially hymns sung by the Christian church for the last few millennia that have become ossified into the skeleton of prescribed worship under the Catholic Church. Those hymns include the Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy), Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Glory be to God in the Highest), Credo in Unum Deum (I believe in One God, or, the Creed), Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), and Sanctus (Holy, Holy). The Lutheran church never abandoned the Catholic format; it in fact preserved it with a robust and vibrant musical tradition exceeding the Catho-



lic church's (think Bach). In our discussions, Pastor Wagner and I plan to gradually introduce Schubert's *Deutsche Messe (German Mass)* in our weekly worship, truly one of his most ethereal and understated compositions befitting regular usage in worship.

Finally, our seasonal hymn is the old German chorale *Vater unser im Himmelreich*, "Our Father, God in Heaven Above," found in our red Evangelical Lutheran Worship as 746 (abbreviated) and 747 (full nine verses). This didactic hymn educates catechetical principles through music and poetry. It is the Lord's Prayer, but Martin Luther's paraphrase of it with explanations divided into nine verses, which he wrote in 1539. For example, verse 1 begins like this, "Our Father, God in heaven above, pour out on us the Spirit's love that we unite in word and deed..." Verse 2 begins with the next words of the Lord's Prayer with poetic additions added: "Your name be hallowed. Help us, Lord, in faithfulness to keep your word..." Verse 3 does the same: "Your kingdom come: yours will it be in time and in eternity." The melody "Vater unser" was adopted by Martin Luther from materials around him with theorists speculating he personally wrote the notes to the last phrase. To our excitement, the original manuscript of this hymn

is still preserved with Luther's handwriting, which you can see in the image below!

As we exit out of the pandemic, there is much excitement in the air. Good things are happening and our church is constantly growing in alignment with the Holy Spirit's promptings. The music ministry is welcome to all! Please reach out if you would like to join any of our growing groups. Let's continue making St. Peter's a diverse and vibrant setting for authentic worship.

With great enthusiasm,
Sam Tarasenko

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

So proud of this group and community!!

We've already collected 96 units so far in 2022 – so that's saved 288 lives and we are at 101% of our goal YTD.

Thank you to all who are willing and able to support the blood drives!!!

Monday

**October 3
October 31**

2 pm - 7pm

**For appointments
please go to:**

www.redcross.org

**Enter sponsor code:
St. Peters North Wales**



ST. PETER'S SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATES

Thank you thank you thank you to all who participated in our God's Work Day of Service. We has about 20 people work at 3 locations. Clean up went well at the cemetery. Some of the chores done were weeding, trimming and work on the wall. At New Creation Pastor Rios and another group cleaned, did dry wall and ceiling repair, and demolition on a bathroom. Lastly we worked on one of our members homes.

Good Gifts collection will be held October 17th - November 17th. The collection is a coin drive to raise funds for the ELCA Good Gifts program. The funds collected will purchase livestock such as cows, chicks, and goats to help impoverished families start small, sustainable, businesses selling eggs, meat, and dairy products. Remember, our small gifts make a BIG difference to families around the globe.

Laurel House 5K October 22nd

Are you a runner? Maybe you enjoy long walks? The Social Ministry team is assembling a St Peter's team to support Laurel House's 5K DASH Against Domestic Violence. The event is just around the corner on Sunday October 16th at 8:30 at Parkside Place, Upper Gwynedd Township. Our goal is to raise \$500 for Laurel House. To join the team or make a donation to support the team's efforts click here: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/5kdash/team/908132/>

Mia Woods and Karin Clark are our race day captains. Any questions about the 5K DASH Against Domestic Violence, please contact Brian Brenfleck at 267-664-2530 or brian@brenfleck.com

If you have any questions on any of our projects or would like to help with any of them please contact Robin 610-277-8378



St. Peter's Runners

To Join the Our Team or Donate



Race Team Captains
Karin Clark & Mia Woods

Volunteer Coordinators
Robin Alderfer & Brian Brenfleck

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/5kdash/team/908132/>

Thrift Shop News

The Thrift Shop continues to be a popular shop in the North Wales community. It made \$519 on Oktoberfest Saturday and we are happily accepting donations of clothing and household items on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 and Wednesday and Saturday when the shop is open.



The Thrift Shop

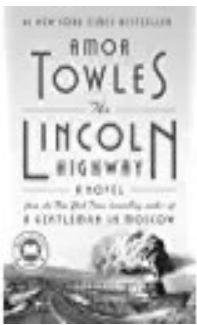
Wednesdays
9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Saturdays
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

St. Peter's Readers

In October, St. Peter's Readers will start our 15th year reading together. Our next book - our 92nd !! - will be **The Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles. We will meet at 11:30am on October 11th in the church parlor.

The Lincoln Highway - might just be one of the best novels of this decade, which is a feat considering *A Gentleman in Moscow*, also holds that distinction (in this reviewer's mind, anyway). Set in the 1950s, *The Lincoln Highway* is filled with nostalgia as well as the gentle naïveté and hijinks of those who are young, optimistic, and on a mission. The story follows four boys who set out to travel the country in search of a fresh start. There's train hopping and car stealing, and with that comes the inevitability of trouble sparked from both good and bad intentions. Each of these young men is chasing his dreams, but their pasts—whether violent or sad—are never far behind. A remarkable work of storytelling that is a 2021 favorite.



- Al Woodworth, Amazon

If you would like to join us or would like more information contact Charlene Bance: cmbance@gmail.com



St. Peter's Green Team

Caring for Creation - Green Team Update

Green Team Updates: Be sure to look for the weekly Green Team tip and local recycle opportunities in the announcements section of Pastor's email.

- ◇ We have provided the Synod with all the required info for their energy audit requirement and are waiting to hear back from them.
- ◇ We celebrate the US new climate initiatives and are looking at ways we can provide you all information on how they impact not only our earth's future but our own lives with some great incentives.
- ◇ Continue to use the **bins** near the bathroom hall entrance to recycle your phones, glasses and pop tops. Also, check out the bulletin board in that hallway.

Garden Update: Demolition of the shrubbery in front of the Ed building will take place mid-September and garden planting in early October. If you are can help with the planting please contact Cathy at: cathysimcox@gmail.com

Caring for God's Creation



Rally Day picnic smiles.

St. Peter's Happenings



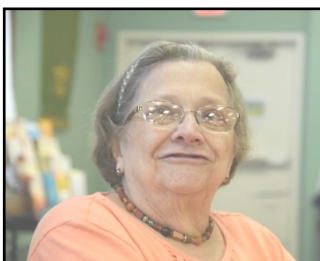
Day of Service crew at New Creation Lutheran Church in Philadelphia and St. Peter's Cemetery.



Linda & Bill Hubler
Oktoberfest,
Day of Service &
caring friends
volunteers.



Rain can't stop a Rally Day picnic!



Oktoberfest 2022





Bryan Auxier
 Tom Brauman
 Jenn Bodolus
 Joyce Chaffee
 Vickie Concepcion
 Elin Detweiler
 Tim Ebner
 Marion Feathers
 Jim Friling
 John Foster
 Grace Furey
 Joan Gauker
 Jenny George
 Barbara Glover
 Pat Hagy
 Renae Hayden

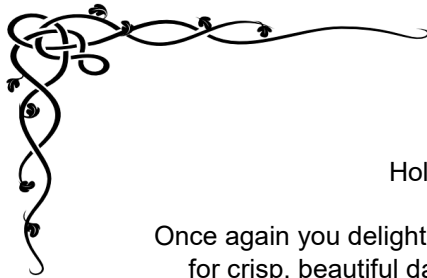
Ruth Herbert
 Janet Hoffman
 Billy Kane
 Herb Kavash
 Pastor Sandra Ellis Kilian
 Leo Kirschner
 RJ Krieswicki
 Lenihan Family
 John Lopresti
 Lyman Lundeen
 Cindy Mancuso
 Tony Manus
 Leona Marchakitus
 Michael Mattar
 Carlos Malave
 Makenzie May
 Richard McCune
 Lilia McGovern
 Jan Miller
 Jon Miller
 Joe Mitterhur

Bill Myers
 Sally Neiderhiser
 Arlene Novak
 Mike O'Hanlon
 Kirk Olson
 Kirsten Olson
 Eve & Bryn Phelps
 Yolanda Romero
 Kurt Schwarz
 Rev. Ihor & Olga
 Shemihon
 Bruce Simons
 Paul Smith
 Colleen Stirling
 Florence Ulrich
 Dale Underwood
 Sam Wagner
 Brenda Weir
 Larry Whittiker
 Barbara Wiedman
 Charles Zajatz

AA members

People suffering from natural disaster, military conflict, and uncertainty in their lives, especially the people of the Ukraine and Florida.

For families who lives have been tragically torn apart by gun violence.

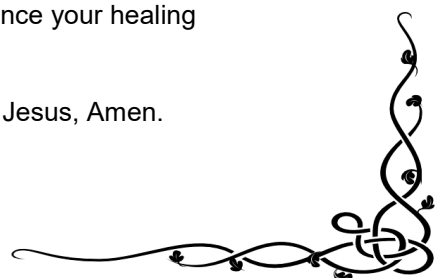
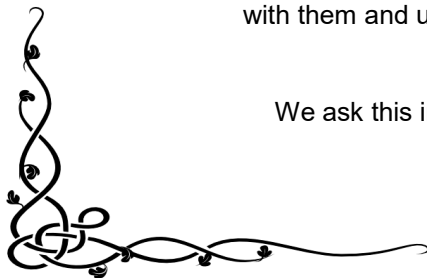


Holy God, Creator of all that is,

Once again you delight us with fall colors and smells and we thank you for crisp, beautiful days. Yet many near and far, are experiencing extreme weather conditions that have brought destruction, loss, and death. On perfect days it is easy to forget the suffering of others. Lord, help us to be present for them; to be a source of help and hope as they seek to rebuild their lives.

Lord, we continue to pray for peace in our country and our world and for wisdom among the world's leaders as they guide us through difficult times. Hear our prayers also for all on our prayer lists and those who care for them; those who are ill, those struggling with chronic conditions, and every person who feels diminished and bereft of hope. God, abide with them and us, and let us all experience your healing presence every day.

We ask this in the name of your son Jesus, Amen.



We invite you to join us in prayer St. Peter's Prayer Ministry each month.
 For information contact Anita Bailey at 610-836-2210

wishing you a
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October

Ben Graham	Oct 1
Carl Kolb	Oct 1
Bill Hubler	Oct 2
Joan Schiele	Oct 2
Brooke Alderfer	Oct 3
Tannis Gallagher	Oct 4
Kelly Lauro	Oct 4
Charles Destefano	Oct 6
Catherine Wunder	Oct 6
Megan Albert	Oct 7
Mackenzie Lauro	Oct 7
Arianna Greyson	Oct 8
Shirley Whitner	Oct 8
Troy Bodolus	Oct 9
Emily Baker	Oct 10
James Chaffee	Oct 11
Penny Maurer	Oct 11
Cindy MacInnes	Oct 12
Howard Edson	Oct 13
Wendy Skrzat	Oct 13
Nancy Zeigler	Oct 13
Helen Dallas	Oct 14
Joseph Duffy	Oct 14
Sarah Homan	Oct 14
Ananda Jones	Oct 16
George Detweiler	Oct 17
Jeremy Heilman	Oct 17
Helen Adams	Oct 19
Gail Buehler	Oct 20
Jim Kelch	Oct 20
Jessica Brenfleck	Oct 21
Stella Murray	Oct 22
Gavin Alunni	Oct 27
Ray Whitner	Oct 27
Katie Baker	Oct 28
Steven Baker	Oct 28
Christine Hussey	Oct 28
Heather Alderfer	Oct 29
Scott Hoagey	Oct 29
Carol Lee O'Brien	Oct 29
Kalean Duffy	Oct 30
Bill Kesack	Oct 30
Liz Allen	Oct 31
Jan Miller	Oct 31

November

Nathaniel Erwin	Nov 3
Ryan Walter	Nov 4
Debra Detweiler	Nov 5
Kathy Anglim	Nov 6
Tim Beckham	Nov 7
Colton Cooper	Nov 8
Gretchen Flanagan	Nov 8
Yvonne Garrity	Nov 9
Pam Paraskewik	Nov 9
Debbie Honeywell	Nov 11
Anna Urban	Nov 11
Stephen Staudt	Nov 12
Dan Clark	Nov 13
David Seo	Nov 14
Scott Zenker	Nov 14
John Landmesser	Nov 15
George Uhl	Nov 15
Gwendalyn Mannon	Nov 16
Madalyn Mannon	Nov 16
Herbert Kavash	Nov 17
John Ledder	Nov 20
Tom Anglim	Nov 22
Jane Doherty	Nov 23
Abigail Clark	Nov 25
Marie Conver	Nov 25
Daren Gross	Nov 26
Linda Hubler	Nov 29
Linda Sausser	Nov 29
David Rodgers	Nov 30

Ddecember

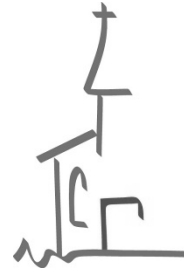
Lucas Morrow	Dec 02
Jeffrey Streckfus	Dec 03
Melanie Lauro	Dec 05
Christine Troxel	Dec 05
Jean Prindle	Dec 06
Joan Gauker	Dec 08
George Gross	Dec 09
Leland Honeywell	Dec 09
Bethany Coover	Dec 10
Lauren Hain	Dec 11
Allison Hannigan	Dec 11
Leo Arena	Dec 14
David Sausser	Dec 15
Francisco Worman	Dec 15
Meg Matlack	Dec 16
Karen Shuster	Dec 16
Cindy LeBlanc	Dec 17
Remington Charles	Dec 19
Adam Meyer	Dec 19
Tricia Riordan	Dec 20
Isabelle Michaud	Dec 22
Ellie Spaid	Dec 22
Sarah Wagner	Dec 23
Susan Darrow	Dec 25
Judy Jones	Dec 25
Karl Walter	Dec 25
Ryder Charles	Dec 26
Michael O'Brien	Dec 27
Doug Mahan	Dec 29
Olivia Greco	Dec 31
Beth Watts	Dec 31



Rally Day picnic.

Saint Peter's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

211 South Main Street
North Wales, PA 19454



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It is the Mission of St. Peter's Lutheran Church
to invite all people to

Know, Live, and Share

JESUS CHRIST