

FROM THE PASTOR ...

This year February 17th is Ash Wednesday and with this day, the Season of Lent will begin once again. While we travel through this season of the Church year every year, you may be wondering just what is Lent. Well, the word "Lent" comes from the old Middle English word "Lente" which means "springtime". In the Church, "Lent" refers to the 40-day period of repentance and renewal that precedes Easter. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes with Easter services. The services throughout Holy Week (the time between Palm or Passion Sunday and Easter) commemorate the last week of our Lord's life here on earth. This week is the final and most important part of Lent.

Throughout Lent we are called to remember the Easter story and absorb its meaning for our lives. It is a time to reflect upon the fact that Christ lived and died to save us from our sin, and that through Christ's death and resurrection our lives can be renewed and we can know the promise of Easter for ourselves. Thus, Lent is when special time for prayer, meditation and other penitential practices often become part of Christian lives.

Our focus during Lent this year will be the Sign of Jonah. "Jonah ... for Lent," you may ask. Indeed. it may very well sound rather fishy, but it is a natural fit. When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, he said, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah." After three days in the belly of the earth, Jesus rose with news of God's prodigal grace. During our mid-week Lenten services and the services in Holy Week we will explore the meaning of "The Sign of Jonah" as we follow Jonah on his journey ... and Jesus on his way to the cross.

Thus, as we look toward the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection, and as each of our worship services aids in increasing our understanding of Christ's life, death and resurrection, I invite you to prepare for that celebration throughout the whole season of Lent.

Continued on next page ...

FROM THE PASTOR (Continued from page 3)

Come, and be a part of our **worship each Wednesday evening** beginning with **Ash Wednesday** as we begin our exploration of The Sign of Jonah. Plan to also be here during **Holy Week** as we mark the last days of our Lord's life on earth by gathering to remember the meal Christ shared with his disciples on **Maundy Thursday**, return once again to the foot of the Cross on **Good Friday**, gather on Saturday for the **Easter Vigil**, and then, return once again on **Easter morning** to celebrate with joy that indeed Christ is Risen!

May God richly bless you during this Lenten season.

Pastor Betty

Lenten Suppers
6:00 p.m. Wednesdays
during Lent beginning February 24

... For worshipers attending the 7 p.m. Lent Service ...
~ Free will offering accepted ~

ST. PETER'S KITCHEN MINISTRY

St. Peter's Kitchen Ministry is gearing up for another busy season of food preparation.

The following is a list of upcoming events that are scheduled ...

HELP is needed and all are welcome! If you have the time ... we'll find a job for you

FEBRUARY:

Feb. 10 – Egg peelers/graters. Clean-up -9 a.m.

Feb. 11 - Crab Patty Assembly Line – 9 a.m.

Feb. 14 – (Sunday) Spring Fling Event
(Help needed to set-up/clean-up)

Feb. 24 – (Wednesday), Lenten Meal

Feb. 25 – NARFE Luncheon/Meeting – Noon
(Set-up, serve, and clean-up)

MARCH:

March 3-10-17-24 – Lenten Meals

March 12 – (Friday) Cub Scout Banquet

March 19 – Friday – Annual Spaghetti Supper

March 22 – (Monday) Boy Scout Banquet

March 25 - N.A.R.F.E. Luncheon - (Set-up, serve, and clean-up)

March 31 – Holy Wednesday – Luncheon following worship

**Please see Sally Davis or Sandy Mason –
Volunteers always welcome and needed!**



A SHAWL OF LOVE

(Barbara Cagle Ray)

Be not dismayed, for God is near
When life's problems come your way.
He'll change your skies to azure blue
And chase the storm of clouds all away.

He'll take the dark that fills your soul
And turn it into balmy clouds of light;
Soothing breezes and sun-kissed skies
Will soon replace the dark of night.

You see, He's just a prayer away;
Look upward, place your trust above –
The darkness 'round you will soon lift;
He'll drape you with a shawl of love.

PARISH VISITOR

P.

FEBRUARY 2010

NEED HELP?

NEED HELP TO PAY YOUR MORTGAGE?

If you or someone that you know is struggling to make monthly mortgage payments, Pennsylvania may be able to help.

The Pennsylvania House Finance Agency (PHFA) offers three programs to aid mortgage holders:

- 1.** The Homeowner's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (**HEMAP**) – These loans have a term limit of 24 months from the date of the mortgage delinquency, or a value cap of \$60,000, whichever comes first. Recipients are required to pay up to 40% of their net monthly income toward their total housing expense. There is a minimum monthly payment of \$25.
- 2.** Refinance to an Affordable Loan Program (**REAL**) – These loans are meant for individuals who have

contracted bad loans or owe more than their residence is worth. It provides affordable 30 year fixed rate mortgages to individuals who could not otherwise qualify for typical mortgage refinance programs. There are certain income and other criteria that must be met.

3. Homeowners Equity Recovery Opportunity Loan Program (HERO) – These loans are meant also for individuals who have contracted bad loans or owe more than their residence is worth. It provides fixed rates for up to a 30-year mortgage and 100% financing. The PHFA buys the loan from the bank and negotiates affordable terms with the consumer and services the loan. Certain eligibility requirements must be met.

Pennsylvania residents should contact their state representative for more details regarding any of these three options.

NEED HELP WITH HEATING COSTS?

The Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low income people pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants and crisis grants. You need not have an unpaid bill to receive home heating energy assistance. You can receive this money without being in the Cash Assistance program – a family of four with an annual income of up to \$33,075 can qualify for assistance. No lien is placed on your property if you receive this help. The program started November 2. Crises grants will be available on January 4, 2010. Call the LIHEAP toll free number (866)215-3911.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

'Souper Bowl of Caring' February 7

The 'Souper Bowl of Caring' will be held on Sunday, February 7, joint effort of the Social Ministry and Youth Committees. Monetary donations, as well as non-perishable food donations will go to our local, (Allentown Ecumenical) Food Bank.

Famine Sleepover Event..... February 26-27

The youth of St. Peter's are invited to this year's annual **Famine Sleepover Event** where they'll fast for 30 hours as they raise money to send to **Haiti** through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Each youth attending is asked to raise at least \$20 in sponsors. During the famine they will go to moonlight bowling, do a service project, and lots more, ending the event with a pig-out of favorite dishes from home. Sign-up sheet and sponsor sheets will be in the east narthex. Anyone available to help chaperone, please speak with either Doug or Deb Sarbaugh.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner March 19

**New Night, same great food ...
See page 10 for more details ...**

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YOU'RE INVITED TO A ...

Birthday Celebration

**Sunday, February 28,
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

BY: The Christian Ed Committee.

All are welcome!

Sunday school classes will attend
and families are invited as well
as anyone from the congregation.

Come see who shares your birthday month with you.

Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins.

CANCELLATION - Worship & Sunday School

In case of inclement weather and
either worship services or Sunday
school are cancelled, please
**tune in to WFMZ-TV - Channel 69
or visit www.wfmz.com.**

ATTENTION ... SENIOR CITIZENS

You are invited to attend St. Peter's Senior Citizen's Group ... meetings are held every Wednesday (beginning September 3)

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. - Old Fellowship Hall

The agenda includes a short business meeting, refreshments, games of bingo or cards,

with special holiday events and an annual banquet prepared by our Kitchen Ministry.

(This group was established on October 1, 1975)

“BEST”

CRAB PATTIES

AROUND!

⇒ Thursday, February 11, 2010

Cost: \$2 per patty (Breaded or Unbreaded)

Prepared by St. Peter's Kitchen Ministry Team

St. Peter's Evan. Lutheran Church

1933 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, PA 18109

Our **famous Crab Patties** are made **FRESH**,
all ready to prepare your favorite way.

You will be called as soon as your order is ready.

(Pick up orders using the Office Entrance on Tacoma Street)

Absolute final DEADLINE: February 7, 2010

Three ways to order:

- 1.** Fill out order form and place in Crab Patty Can (cans are located in the east narthex or at the kitchen window).
- 2.** Fill out an order form and return to the church office.
- 3.** Call the church office to place your order.
610-432-8762 - Voice mail activated.

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CRAB PATTY SALE

February 11, 2010

Name _____

Phone Number _____
(ALL orders MUST include a phone number)

_____ **Crab Patties (BREADED) @ \$2.00 = \$** _____

_____ **Crab Patties (UNbreaded) @ \$2.00= \$** _____

_____ **Total Ordered..... \$** _____

Thank you for your order!

St. Peter's NURSERY SCHOOL:

We are still collecting **Campbell's labels**. A list of products include; Select Harvest and Healthy Request soups, Soup at Hand, Supper Bakes, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, Prego, Franco American, V8 Soup and V8 Splash, and Spaghettios. Don't forget to include all of the UPC code and points when cutting out your labels. So far the total points collected have passed 3000 and our first addition will be balls for gym play; we never have enough. Our wish list includes a laminator, so keep those labels coming.

I hope everyone realizes how much our program means to our families. For most, it is the first time away from the familiarity of home and family. Two new students in March have brought the 3 year old class up to ten! We help with almost everything – including toileting and washing hands, academics, and social skills. Families are informed about church events; Live Nativity, VBS, Sunday school, Spaghetti Supper, etc. It was nice to see some Nursery School families attending the youth sponsored Family Nite at McDonald's on March 12.

We had a huge attendance drop-off in our Drop-In play group due to bad weather, illness, and economic problems this winter, after having a much improved fall attendance. Attendance increased in March as the weather and flu season improved. Families that were behind in tuition payments are getting caught

up. Attendance for Stay and Play has been about 90% in both classes; sometimes the whole class and some Drop-In students stay for lunch and play.

Maryanne Fullman presented Dental Care bags, coloring books, and dental information to both classes. The dentist she works with was able to join in one of the sessions. Some of our children have never been to a dentist and eat high sugar/junk food diets, so this is very important. They love her BIG TEETH!

Our **Ss** activities include Star Wars, Space, SpongeBob, and Spring. **Tt** includes tools, Thomas the Tank Engine, and our Rainbow Tea Party. Thanks to Jen Matos for baking a beautiful rainbow cake. **Uu** brings Unicorns and our Umbrella Parade, even a book about Underwear. Thanks to Sally and Jack Davis, we're re-planting coleus rootings to take home in May.

Continued on next page

PARISH VISITOR P.
APRIL 2009

Nursery School (Continued):

You can buy paperback children's books through our book club orders. They make great gifts for the young ones in your life, while encouraging them to read. We get bonus points for books for our library and for the children's graduation and holiday gift books. Check our bulletin board across from the kitchen for extra brochures and the book order due date; please note that the money must accompany the book orders. The Nursery School staff plans on donating two baskets to St. Peter's Annual Basket Social. The baskets will be filled with children's books for younger and older children. We hope to see everyone there supporting the Basket Social.

**Thanks again for your continued support.
Peggy Fuller, Nursery School Director - 610-432-3409**

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Pennsilfaanisch Dutch

18th Annual Fersommling

Church St. Peter's Lutheran

Allentown PA 18109 1933 Hanover Ave.,

Friday, May 8, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

... Menu ...

Fruit Cup , Lettuce with Bacon Dressing,
Cottage Cheese and Apple Butter, Pickled Beets
Smoked Sausage with Horseradish, Chicken
Homemade Filling, Dried Corn
Apricot Pie with Ice Cream

Cost: \$18.00

Speaker: Donald Breininger

For Reservations, call **Shirley Conner – 610-264-
2979**

(Reservation Deadline: April 24)

Parish Nurse:

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

I'm thinking about taking dietary supplements to stay healthy. The label says they're all natural and have a lot of benefits. You don't need a prescription to buy them, so they must be safe, right?

Dietary supplements are products that contain "dietary ingredients" like vitamins, minerals, herbs or other botanicals, amino acids, and enzymes. They range from beneficial to bogus, and you may take them for a host of reasons – to feel healthy, to feel younger, to prevent disease, or just to get more nutrients. Many claim to be "natural".

But, just because a supplement is "natural" doesn't mean it's harmless or safe. Some supplements, including herbal products, can be dangerous. For example, there are "natural" supplements linked to serious liver damage and even cancer. And although you can buy dietary supplements off the shelf without a doctor's prescription, some can affect how well your prescription drugs work. Some supplements **DO** have proven health benefits: for example calcium supplements can reduce the risk of osteoporosis. The key is to talk to your doctor – especially if you have a medical condition, take other drugs, or plan to have surgery – before you add supplements to the mix.

(Note: On the internet, look up specific herbs and supplements on the Drugs and Supplements page at MedlinePlus.gov)



W. E. L. C. A.

(Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

All women of St. Peter's (Confirmed and older) are invited to attend the monthly meeting of WELCA. The meeting is held the second Tuesday of each month (September through June) at 7:30 p.m. in room #106 (unless otherwise noted).

Join us on February 9 at 7:30 p.m. when our topic will be "The Gift of the Sabbath". We'll discuss the topic and enjoy fellowship and refreshments afterwards.

If you have any questions about WELCA, speak to either Peggy Wessner or Ruth Stump.

FREE Income Tax Preparation

**Every Thursday, beginning February 4
through Thursday, April 15, 2010
8:30 a.m. – Noon
here at St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Room #106**

**Prepared by AARP Tax Aides
This service is available to anyone.**

YOU WON'T WANT TO
MISS THIS ...

SPRING FLING ...

Sunday, February 14

**Everyone is welcome to
come and help us celebrate
the coming of
SPRING.**

Enjoy an afternoon at St. Peter's filled with great food, fun, fellowship and special entertainment.

This fun-filled 'covered dish' event will begin immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service on **Sunday, February 14**. Our Kitchen Ministry Team will supply the cooked ham and we're asking members to supply a salad, soup, a hot side dish or a dessert.

**We suggest that if your last name begins
with the letter ... you bring**

A – F - Please bring a 'SOUP'

G - K – Please bring a 'HOT SIDE'

(Vegetable dish, Mac & Cheese, Scalloped Potatoes, etc.)

L- P – Please bring a 'DESSERT'

(Cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, anything 'yummie'.)

R - Z - Please bring a 'SALAD'

(Mixed greens, Jell-O Salad, Pasta, Potato, etc.)

If you plan to come, **please sign-up in the east
narthex or call the church office at 610-432-8762.**

Deadline for reservations is February 7.

Lutheran Congregational Services, Inc.

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 9, 2010

Lutheran Congregational Services' **37th**

Annual

Dinner to be held at Moyer Hall

(Muhlenberg

College) – 7:00 p.m. (More information

to

follow in the Sunday bulletin)

Journeys Through Grief:

Grief Support seminar. The Spring "**Journey Through Grief**" Seminars will run for six weeks in April and May, 2010. Registration brochures will be available in February.

Lutheran Congregational Services is grateful for the continuing leadership of Ms. Sylvia Havlish and the Rev. MaryAnn Hamm. They also welcome to their grief team, the Rev. Elaine Quincey and the Rev. Paulette Obrecht.

If you would like to attend this support group, please contact Pastor Kerry Smart, Coordinator of Congregational Services at 610-770-9205.

Quilts for Camp Noah –

Warm Hearts in Many Ways ...

Making quilts has always been a special project, warming not only bodies, but also the spirits of those who make them and those who receive them. LCS is encouraging individuals as well as congregational groups to join in the 'warming' process.

Here are the guidelines for quilts:

1. "Quilts" can be pieced, crocheted or knit.
2. Each item should be:

... light weight, washable and between 4' x 3' and twin size

3. Be sure to record and send with the quilts:

... the name(s) of the contributors,

... the number of hours put into the project including time spent purchasing the material, transporting finished quilts, etc. and which contributors are Thrivent members.

4. Get them to our office by **May 13, 2010** so we can ship them out in time.

5. Your help to defray the cost of shipping the quilts to a camp is greatly appreciated but not necessary.

In 2009, we spent about \$2.50 per quilt.

HELP SUPPORT

L. C. S.

(Lutheran Congregational Services)

by using

GoodSearch.com

Lutheran Congregational Services is now a listed charity on **GoodSearch.com!**

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-

Powered search engine with a unique social mission. It gives 50% of its advertising revenue to the not-for-profits and schools that its users choose. Each time you surf the net and use **GoodSearch.com**, you can support our ministries by designating Lutheran Congregational Services as the recipient agency, money will be contributed to LCS's account. For example:

❖ 100 supports search the internet twice a day = \$730/yr. for LCS.

Invite your friends to join you and the dollars will quickly add up at no cost to you.

NEWS FROM BEAR CREEK CAMP

The staff at Bear Creek Camp believe that a week at camp makes a world of difference in the life of a child. Parents are encouraged to send their young people to camp where they will connect with God through daily Bible study, themselves while learning and sharing in a caring and supportive environment, creation while learning about nature and environmental stewardship, and others through living in a small community of 6 – 18 people.

For those interested, the following **scholarships are available** for our **Try Camp, Classic Camp, and Nature Day Camp programs:**

... **First Time Camper** – any child who has never been to Bear Creek Camp.

... **Sibling Scholarship** – for additional children from the same family.

(These rates are not applicable for our Adventure Programs, Adirondack Expedition, Disciples, River Runners, or Float Trip weeks.)

If you families do not fall into one of these categories or need additional assistance, we have additional scholarship funds available. Please contact the Bear Creek Camp Office at 570-472-3741 regarding any family that needs even further financial help.

Note: St. Peter’s has \$100 scholarship available for any member interested in sending their child to Bear Camp for the first time. Contact the church office for more information.

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2010 WOMEN'S RETREAT

"Forgiveness: Seeing through new eyes" –

Although all the major religious traditions clearly extol the value of forgiveness, little practical help is provided. Without tools and practices that allow us to align with the Spirit, to "see with new eyes," we often remain entrenched in our resentment and condemnation. This retreat is an opportunity to explore where healing is needed within us and to learn and practice concrete tools to move us forward in our lives whether we need to forgive others, ourselves, or God. Led by a licensed clinical social worker and ordained minister, Joanne Weiss, the retreat will be held **April 23-25, at Mariawald Renewal Center, Shillington.** Deadline for registration is April 1. For more information/registration materials, contact **Diakon Family Life Services at 1-888-499-2699.**

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

'FRIDAY' – March 19

Serving 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for the Annual Spaghetti Supper featuring our own famous Skelly's Secret Sauce.

Enjoy this all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner which includes salad, bread and butter, spaghetti, beverage and dessert. **COST:** \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 5-12 and **FREE** for children age 4 and under. **Tickets** may be purchased on a Sunday morning or in the church office. Proceeds will benefit St. Peter's Youth activities. **Youth volunteers will be needed** to serve and clean off tables.



***MARK YOUR CALENDAR &
SAVE THE DATE!***

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010

17th Annual

SPRING BASKET SOCIAL

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

1933 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, PA

**A fellowship event for the entire family,
BASKETS, GIFTS, DOOR PRIZES,
AND GREAT FOOD!**

- STATEMENT OF MISSION -

Christ is the rock on which St. Peters is built.

**We are strengthened through caring and grow
through sharing the grace and love of God.**

- Adopted by the congregation, April 13, 2003 -