

11th 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, REFRESHMENTS.**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010**

- ... Browse between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. ...
- ... Drawing begins at 7:00 p.m. *[Must be present to win.]*
- ... Food served between 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. ...
- ... Nursery provided from 6:45 p.m. thru Drawing ...

## **TICKETS**

**Tickets will go on sale four weeks prior to the event.**

... **Advance tickets - \$5.00**

[25 chances **plus** a door prize ticket]

... **Tickets at the door:**

... Initial ticket/\$5.00 plus a door prize ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$3.00 (door prize ticket not included).

***[Limit of 10 ticket sheets per person.]***

## **BASKETS WANTED!**

In order to make this **Basket Social** as successful as our last ten, we need donations of filled containers (baskets, buckets, coolers, whatever you can fill.) Please fill out the chit below if you would like to either fill a basket or donate either items or money towards a basket.

.....  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will donate a filled basket (container) **(Basket Deadline March 28)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Basket Theme (Optional)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will donate ITEMS for a basket.

\_\_\_\_\_ My donation towards the creation of a basket/ \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Return chit in the 'BASKET' on the table in the east narthex or return to the church office.**

## **BASKETS WANTED!**

In order to make our **Ninth Annual Basket Social** as successful as our last eight, we need donations of filled containers (baskets, buckets, coolers, whatever you can fill.) A sample of basket themes can be found on the next page. The ideas are unlimited ... use your imagination and creativity! If you would like to participate but don't feel creative, the Evangelism Committee is accepting monetary donations so that they can go out and purchase items to make up baskets. **Sample baskets will be on display** in the east narthex as they are donated.

### **Basket Donation Deadline is March 16.**

Drop your filled container(s) off in the church office, Monday thru Friday between 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or on a Sunday morning.

**Thank you for your support -  
Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee.**

**PARISH VISITOR                      P.                      MARCH/APRIL  
2008**

### ... Basket Theme Suggestions ...

Teddy Bears	Gardening	Candies
Stationery	Mystery Stories	Cake Mixes
Hair Supplies	Dolls	Popcorn/Movies
Story Books	Car Wash Items	Spaghetti Dinner
Assorted Teas	Health Aides	Mugs/Towels
Cook Books	Stickers	Wine/Glasses
Kitchen Theme	Snacks	Cooler/Kool Aid
Race Cars	Games	Laundry Stuff
Bath Products	Avon Products	Swimming
Party Supplies	Pet Treats	Pie Maker
Coloring Books	Angels	Breakfast Basket
School Supplies	Fishing Items	Sandbox Fun
Tupperware	Baked Goods	Crackers/Cheese
Golf Items	Coffees	Kitchen Tools
Baking Items	James & Jellies	Office Basket
Picnic Supplies	Baby Items	Kids Bath Time



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Ninth Annual Spring Basket Social

Theme Basket Donation Sheet  
(Baskets due by March 16)

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **I will donate a filled basket (container)**

<b>Basket</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>(Optional)</b>
_____		

\_\_\_ **I will donate ITEMS to make up a basket.**

\_\_\_ **I will make a monetary donation to create a basket.**

**Enclosed is \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place chit in the 'BASKET' located on the table in the east narthex or return to the church office.**

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I will donate a filled basket (container)

Basket Theme (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I will donate ITEMS for a basket.

\_\_\_ My donation towards the creation of a basket.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Place chit in the 'BASKET' located on the table in the east narthex or return to the church office.**

# EASTER FUN FOR EVERYONE ... APRIL 3, 2010 ...

## Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Cost: \$6.00/Person

Includes Pancake & Sausage  
breakfast with a picture with  
the Easter Bunny.

(Last picture taken at 10:45 a.m.)

(Tickets on Sale now!)

## Easter Egg Hunt - 11:00 a.m.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will  
begin immediately following the  
'Breakfast with the Easter Bunny'.

Rain or Shine! The Egg Hunt is  
for children up to age 10. Egg  
Hunts will be held for each age  
group. Games and activities  
are planned along with a visit by  
the Easter Bunny.

Donations of individually wrapped Easter Candy is  
needed, as well as the donation of colored, hard-  
boiled eggs. Egg Donation Slips are available in the  
east narthex.

## **From the Pastor ...**

### **A DISTURBING DECLARATION**

During the very snowy week of February 7<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Gary and I joined about 90 other colleagues at the annual "Bishop's Conference" of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at Skytop Lodge in the Poconos. The subject matter for the conference was "Lutheran Spirituality." Two very informative speakers, one Lutheran and the other Episcopalian, spent two days (Tuesday noon to Thursday noon) enlightening us about the work of the Holy Spirit that most of us never considered to be the work of the Spirit at all! It was informative and it was very helpful. It was also very nice to be able to spend time with some of my colleagues that I don't see nearly enough.

To make the conference experience even better, while at this beautiful old "vintage resort" in the Poconos, the Lord was nice enough (I guess that assessment depends upon your perception of the "blizzard of 2010!") to give us over 24 uninterrupted hours of snow to enjoy. Many of us at the conference thought, *"Well, if you have to be stranded somewhere in a blizzard, certainly the Skytop Lodge is a great place to be!"* Alas, the roads were clear by the time we left on Thursday, and so we didn't get to enjoy any "extra days" at Skytop.

Sadly, however, not everything at the conference was comforting. You see, in addition to the fellowship, the beautiful snow, the informed speakers, and the enlightening presentations, there were also some troubling and challenging comments about the future of the Church in America – and its member congregations – shared during the conference. The declaration that troubled (and still troubles me) the most was this one: *"If you are busy working at providing a church for your church members to attend, in ten years you most likely won't have a church for your church members to attend!"*

The presenter (an Episcopal priest with a Ph.D. in spirituality) went on to explain that the congregation of the past is just that – a relic of the past and soon it will have very little relevance. He warned us all that we would have to discover a new model for the future (the immediate future!) to entice a populace that no longer views "conventional American Christianity" in the same "sacred posture" that you and I might. I remember an old TV advertisement for Oldsmobile that aired a number of years ago. It used to declare, *"This is not your*

*father's Oldsmobile!"* Well, folks, it is apparent to all informed observers that this isn't our parents' church nor Christianity any longer.

The speaker went on to clarify that every congregation will have to undergo drastic changes if it hopes to survive in the next few decades. And, as though reading our minds, he clarified what he means by "drastic changes," when he stated, *"And when I say changes, I don't mean just singing 'modern' Christian music or projecting words on a screen in the front of the nave during worship services! I mean REAL changes."* He told us essentially to not expect current and future generations to see a "building" as the center of their faith life, especially not with television, computers and the internet increasingly playing large and more important roles as communication tools in American society. Interestingly, the Wednesday, February 17, 2010 edition of the USA Today featured an article entitled Young adults today are a 'less religious' bunch. In this article it states that "Young adults today are less church-connected than prior generations were when they were in their 20's. But a new study finds they're just about as spiritual as their parents and grandparents were at those ages. They may be less religious, but they're not necessarily more secular than the Generation Xers or Baby Boomers who preceded them." The article continues by saying that 40% of those ages 18-29 (the Millennial generation) say religion is very important in their lives, 41% report praying daily, and 53% are certain that God exists.

And so, without giving us many answers at all, the presenter left us all with a kind of nervous feeling in the pit of our collective stomachs. And, quite honestly, so does the recent article from USA Today. What does the future hold for local congregations? Will the young generation look to the Church as a means for enhancing their spiritual lives as they age? Are we willing to accept the drastic changes we will need to undergo to effectively deliver the Good News of Christ to the present and future generations? Or, will we simply decide we can't accept such changes – that they are too alien to us – and simply allow our congregations to die. As we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and what that means to us both as individuals and as a congregation, these seem like critical questions that should occupy our hearts and minds. May God bless us and guide us by the Holy Spirit as we move forward together in ministry. In Christ's love and service, **Pastor Betty**

Spring Pie sale  
Saturday, April 10

**The Kitchen Ministry Team** is taking orders for **WHOLE PIES** to be picked up the day of our **Spring Basket Social, Saturday, April 10**. Pies should be picked up **between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.** No whole pies will be sold at the Basket Social unless previously ordered.

**Deadline for orders will be April 4.**

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S P R I N G  
**PIE SALE - APRIL 10, 2010**

_____	<b>PUMPKIN PIE @ \$7</b>	\$_____
_____	<b>RHUBARB CUSTARD @ \$7</b>	\$_____
_____	<b>SHOO FLY PIE @ \$7</b>	\$_____
_____	<b>CHERRY CRUMB @ \$8</b>	\$_____

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place order in the container on the table in the east narthex or on the cart by the kitchen.**

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

### **“DRIVE THRU HISTORY”**

#### **Full throttle in reverse!**

Tired of getting history from a dusty old book? The next few weeks our Adult Sunday School Class will use **“Drive thru History”** presented by *Focus on the Family*.

In a fast fun style drive through Italy, Spain, England and Holland we track down the story of Christopher Columbus and America’s Pilgrims. Then it’s on to Boston, Lexington and Concord to see the historic beginnings of the Revolutionary War. We explore the rich history of Boston, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. This exciting series includes stories about the Boston Freedom Trail, John Adams, Paul Revere, Bunker Hill, the Liberty Bell, and Betsy Ross, the Declaration of Independence, the U. S. Constitution and more! Also, we will explore the rich history of New York and New Jersey. We learn about New York’s “Freedom Trail” the place of George Washington’s inauguration and much more! This jam-packed series also includes stories on Saratoga, West Point and the Revolutionary War battles of Trenton and Princeton.

**As always we include the Christian influences that have shaped history.**

**Looking Ahead ..... Save the Date ~  
May 13 ~**

#### **Ascension Day Worship Service**

The Lehigh Mission District Annual Ascension Day Worship Service is planned for Thursday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. at The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (822 N. 19 Street, Allentown).

The preacher for the event will be Bishop Sam Zeiser, a mass choir from LMD congregations is invited to participate; a reception will follow the service.

## 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**

### **MARCH:**

**March 3-10-17-24 – Lenten Meals (HELP needed for set-up/clean-up)**

**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/Meeting (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!**



**'FREE'**

### **TAX PREPARATION**

**AARP will again be preparing 'FREE' federal, state, and local taxes and rent rebate forms here at St. Peter's**

**THURSDAYS –  
through APRIL 15  
8:30 a.m. – Noon  
Room #106**

**AARP Tax-Aide is administered through the AARP foundation in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service.**

## **SAVE THE DATES – JULY 12-16 Vacation Bible School-“BAOBAB BLAST!”**

**VBS 2010 will again be held from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. with lunch provided.** Installation of VBS Staff will be held on Sunday, July 11 at 9:15 a.m. with VBS Closing Program on Sunday, July 18. **Please check your schedules** and let Sally Davis know if you will be able to help (as soon as possible). She would like to have most of the planning completed before Easter and Centers staffed.

### **NEEDED:**

... Scenery creators, designers, and painters.  
... Leaders in all areas and all levels of children.  
... Helpers – adult and teenagers (who have completed 7<sup>th</sup> Grade) Confirmations can use for student credit.  
... Kitchen will need helpers to prepare lunch and snacks and serves and clean up volunteers. **Call Sally Davis 610-837-2413** or the church office 610-432-8762.

## **St. Peter's PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

**Apologies to you** in case our snow dancing has had anything to do with this winter's snow. In January, while talking about winter, seasons, and snow, I found out that many of our children have never had the chance to build a snow fort or snowperson. While planning for February, I was thinking about ways get more children involved and participating during our Circle Time. A couple children sit mutely during songs and finger plays, but ALL of them want to put the date and weather word on the calendar and bring something in for Show and Tell. For fairness, each child has a name stick which another child randomly pulls out of a container. To get more children involved, and since this year's groups enjoy *Farmer in the Dell* – type activities, we learned our Snow Dance song, a circle version of "*The weather outside is frightful, but here it's so delightful! When there's no place to go, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!*" Sorry if we brought on so much snow! We also sign-ed up to host two Coffee Hours in January to try to help out.

**Both classes** had a short winter walk, talked about seasons and signs of winter, and had snow people as January room decorations and activities. The three-year old class visited Mrs. Stump's home to see her Snow Babies collection. Thank you to Mr. Wessner for helping us cross the street.

**As if by magic**, the four-year old Pre-K children, with a folded white paper, cut out their own snow person to decorate. We are learning safe use of scissors and it's more fun to practice cutting something real. Of course, our rooms were decorated with hearts in February, and plan cutting out a few bunnies in March! The adults cut out the figures for the three-year old class to decorate.

**We follow a modified Allentown School District** calendar with start and ending time changes and with snow cancellations and holidays. February is over-loaded with Groundhog Day, Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year, Valentine's, President's and Pajama Days, and Dental Health Month! More cancellations will mean make-up days on Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

**Our new policy** for one and two hour delays has worked well so far, opening at 9:30 a.m. and closing at 12 noon.

**Our numbers in the Drop-In Center** (Playroom) are still down after a larger fall attendance, perhaps because of the flu-scare, job-loss, illness and/or weather and I have had to send Cathy Woolley home several days. I appreciate her flexibility and wish we had more children for that program! There is a new boy this month. Where can parents get such reasonably priced, high-quality child care? At only \$10 per day now, it will be going up a bit next fall. There is a multiple-day discount, with financial aid for families with economic difficulties. Our monthly Stay and Play continued to be well-attended; parents would love to have it every week, as we do in December. Would anyone in the congregation be able to assist with the Stay and Play on a Monday and Tuesday from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. (State clearance must be obtained, if interested.)

**Registration is now open for 2010-11.** Here's to an early spring. I'll have to find or design a Spring Dance! Let me know if you know one.

Peggy Fuller, Director 610-432-3409

