

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
4897 Old Oneida Road
Verona, NY 13478

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Permit #2
Verona, NY 13478

Worship Services:

Sunday 9 & 11:15 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

"Forward Service Requested"

Time Dated Material



**THE CHURCH
CHATTER**
February, 2018

St. Peter's Lutheran
Church, Verona, NY

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
4897 Old Oneida Road
Verona, NY 13478 315-363-5211

Pastor Katie Yahns

www.stpetersverona.org

pastor@stpetersverona.org office@stpetersverona.org

*(Our Mission is to provide spiritual growth through
worship, learning, fellowship and service in the name of the Lord.)*

Worship Services

Sunday 9:00 and 11:15 am, Sunday School 10:15 am

Hymn Sing the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Staff

Rev. Katie Yahns, Pastor (716-785-4632)
Kathy Piemonte, Church Administrator
Marie Sayles, Sexton
Anthony Dangler and Scott Stewart, Musicians
Anthony Dangler, Choir Director
Betty Browell, Christian Education Coordinator
Linda Hartman, Nursery School Director

Deacons

Janet Fiacco	315-361-4443	Deacon for Worship, Youth, and Visitation
Kathy Haldenwang	315-336-4698	Deacon for Worship, Visitation, and Education
Shirley Netzbund	315-334-2279	Deacon for Prayer, Caring Outreach, and Mission Outreach
Deb Rafte	315-264-3589	Deacon for Mission Outreach, Worship, and Youth
Nan Richard	315-337-7230	Deacon for Worship, Mission Outreach, and Visitation

St. Peter's deacons are people who have completed a course of theological training and are commissioned to perform specific tasks within our congregation's pastoral ministry. If you feel God is calling you to this type of service, please see Pastor Katie or any one of the deacons.

Church Council Officers

President:	Jeff White	315-363-3749
Vice President:	Patrick Gerwig	315-271-9478
Secretary:	Ellen Masi	315-256-5024
Treasurer:	Sherri Brown	315-363-4552
Financial Secretary:	Paula Bishop	315-363-8016

Church Council Members

Sherri Brown	315-363-4552
Jeanette Burke	315-361-1134
Lance Comfort	315-225-2338
Patrick Gerwig	315-271-9478
MaryAnn Hilts	315-336-9174
Ellen Masi	315-256-5024



THE CHURCH CHATTER

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
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315-363-5211

Our Mission is to provide spiritual growth through worship, learning, fellowship and service in the name of the Lord

From the Pastor: Bind Us Together, Lord

Dear friends in Christ,

Where did we get the word “religion”?

Some experts say it comes from the Latin word *religare*, which means “to bind.” Supposedly this word led to the word *religio* meaning “obligation, bond, reverence,” referring to monastic vows but also to the concept of worship as what we owe God. On the other hand, it is also related to the word *ligare*, which means “to join or link” referring to the connection of earth and heaven, human and divine. It's the same root as the English word “ligament,” the short bands of tissue that connect bones and cartilage and hold our joints together.

However, you can see in our own congregation that religion does not only bind and join believers with Christ, but with each other as well. Religion gives us a way to frame and hold important moments in our life, but also sustains us through the day to day rhythms that also reveal glimpses of the divine. The shared practices of religion bind together a body of believers, no matter what faith they profess. And the bonds of religion help sustain both our faith and our practices, because they create the kind of shared community that can help us work through our doubt and our dry spells. This is why the fact that we gather every week to practice our religion together is so important!

These are some of thoughts floating around in my head as we prepare for the season of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14. It's a season with many layers of history and religious practice built up over hundreds of years—giving up things, taking on new spiritual practices, examining your relationships, prayer, fasting (from meat or from other things), giving to those in need. And yet Lent is also a call to simplify our practices, to remember that religion is not ceremony for ceremony's sake, but above all, is meant to bind us together with God and with each other...and through service, with the world.

We'll be sending out a letter soon inviting you to observe Lent at St. Peter's, and more information will be in there about our plans for this season, as well as some materials for your own devotion. If you don't get it, please let Kathy know in the office so she can put you on the list. And of course we'll have some more specific devotions available on the Welcome Table, and midweek Lenten services at noon. If none of those strike your fancy, I invite you to consider simplifying your life for Lent. (After all, that's really what “giving something up” should be about.) What is getting in the way of your religion—your bond with Jesus? What might be getting in the way of experiencing space and grace and love in your life? Is there a way you can set it aside for this season?

Together in Christ,
Pastor Katie Yahns

Council Corner

Here we share with you a simple list of the business conducted at the last Council meeting and notable things accomplished or adopted. **If you ever have questions about something noted here, feel free to ask any member of Council or request a copy of the minutes from the office.**

- * We discussed some upcoming mission possibilities, including providing lunch for work teams for Habitat for Humanity in the spring and the Verona Blessing Box, which will be dedicated on Saturday, February 10 at 9:00 am (weather permitting). We are still seeking an update from Pastor Grecious on the well in Zimbabwe, so we can decide whether that project still needs our support in 2018.
- * Deb Rafté conveyed to us that she was on board for coordinating a Pancake Dinner on Tuesday February 13, but that she needs our help to pull everything together. We decided to put mission first and dedicate all the proceeds to Lutheran Disaster Response through the ELCA, with last year's hurricanes and this year's floods and mudslides in mind.
- * We discussed the state's need for guidelines for spending of restricted funds. We already have guidelines in place for our investments, but are checking to make sure we have all the required pieces. Jerry Burke and Jeff White continue to work on this project.
- * We confirmed proposed constitution updates in preparation for the annual meeting on February 11. We will need to request congregational approval to consider these updates at the annual meeting, since the packets were mailed just shy of the 30-day deadline for constitutional changes.
- * We checked in with our Nominating Committee (Jeff White and Sherri Brown) about their progress finding members to serve on Council. We will also need to secure two people to serve as voting members to Synod Assembly (June 3-5 in Rochester). If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, please contact Jeff. If you are approached about serving in any capacity, please consider it carefully and prayerfully!

“Brinner” Dinner—Tuesday February 13, 4:00—7:00 pm

It's time for pancakes again! The sign up sheet is in the narthex for another wonderful dinner here at St. Peter's. Family, friends and community members will be gathering together to have a delicious meal and celebrate Fat Tuesday. The next day is Ash Wednesday and also Valentine's Day. Please check out the sign up and see if you are able to make this another great experience here at St. Peter's. The meal will consist of homemade pancakes with or without blueberries (all you can eat by the way), sausage, bacon, homemade applesauce by our own Kathy Haldenwang, scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, coffee and juices. Adults are \$8, kids 6-10 are \$4, and kids 5 and under are free. Mark your calendars and come have some fun!

Refugee ESL Classes Returning

Inter-generational English classes for refugees will begin again on Friday February 23 and run every Friday morning until April 6. If anyone would be interested in volunteering at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Syracuse, either by attending the session, making snack, or making contributions of clothing for children or adults, please contact Deb Rafté at 315-264-3589. Any and all help would be appreciated. This ministry of the STEP Center connects SU students and volunteers from local congregations with need in the community to make a real difference.

Update from Vanderkamp—we have received the latest Vanderkamp newsletter in the office, but at ten pages it is too long to reproduce for you in the Chatter. If you are interested in reading more about this outdoor ministry in our backyard, please contact Pastor Katie or Kathy in the office and we will send it to you.

Skiing and Snowshoeing—Sunday Feb. 18

Join a group from St. Peter's for some all-ages fun in the snow before it goes away! We'll gather at Verona Beach State Park on Sunday afternoon, February 18 at 2:00 pm to ski or snowshoe the trails there. It's a perfect way to get out and get some fresh air with others. Contact Anthony Dangler (315-790-2807) for more details.

GRACE NOTES: OUR MUSIC COLUMN

By Scott Stewart



The purpose of the "Grace Notes" column is to increase and deepen the congregation's participation in music, especially in worship. This month Scott Stewart has some "Books of the Bible" trivia along with some of the hymns that correspond.

Books Of the Bible

1. Which book of the New Testament is called the Gospel of the Kingdom?
2. Give number of the chapters to the longest book in the Bible.
3. What two books begin with, "In the beginning."
4. Which books of the Bible begins with the name, "God"?
5. Which book contains the thrilling story of the early Christians?
6. What are the four longest books of the Bible?
7. In what book in the New Testament will you find future events?

1. *Matthew*
2. *Psalms, 150 Chapters*
3. *Genesis, John*
4. *Hebrews*
5. *Acts*
6. *Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Genesis*
7. *Revelations*

Books Of the Bible..... Answers

Some of the related Hymns to the Books Of the Bible:

1. "Freely, Freely" (Matthew 10:8)
2. "As The Deer" (Psalm 42:1)
3. "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (Genesis 1:31) "Morning Has Broken" (John)
4. "Be Bold, Be Strong" (Hebrews 13:6)
5. "In Him We Live" (Acts 17:28)
6. "Majesty" (Isaiah 24:14)
7. Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty" (Revelations 4:8b)

And like Bach who was to sign off his compositions with the notation: "All music is to the Glory Of God", please engage fully in your participation of our wonderful music ministries here at St. Peter's.

In Faith,
Scott Stewart
11:15 am Musician
Keyboard331@yahoo.com]



To the Church Family—

Wishing you all the joys of a wonderful holiday season can bring.

Just wanted to take time to say Thank you all—for the visits, cards, fruit basket & prayers sent Mom’s way. Margaret says God Bless to All.

Joan Law

To: Donna Tuthill, Ann Welker, Shirley Netzband, Betty Browell, Janet Zimmerman, Paula Bishop, Gerry Brown, Marie Sayles, Bonnie O’Dell, Diane Angell, Carol Noble, Barb Gorsch, Jen Rossi

Thank you for the wonderful meal that you prepared for us. It was delicious and was so kind. My family appreciates your thoughtfulness more than we can ever express in words.

Love and God Bless—The Crystal Christman Medlin Family

Thanks to all for their calls, cards and prayers this past year. May the Blessings and Joy of this Christmas Season be with You throughout the Coming Year.

Peter and Connie Froschauer

P.S. We are “in” the yellow house on the corner of Lamphear Road and Lawrence Rd, one mile from the prison Stop In!

I would like to thank the entire congregation for all the cards, all the prayers said on my daughter’s behalf, the fruit basket, and the funeral memorial dinner. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful group of people.

Emma Rena

To the Funeral Dinner Committee,

The Family of Phyllis Hartwell want to thank you for the very nice Dinner provided to all who wished to come. You folks did an outstanding job for as long as people wished to stay.

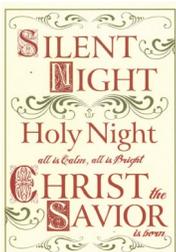
You are truly the Lord’s servants doing all that is needed. Thank you so much and God Bless you all.

With love of Jesus in our Hearts,

M. David Hartwell

To: Pastor Katie

From: Christopher Burke



Merry Christmas Pastor and congregation! I pray for and think of you every day and hope this Christmas is merry and wonderful for all of you. I am now closer to home and this Christmas will be extra special to me! I have so much to be thankful for and to look forward to. I pray that St. Peter’s flourishes and stays open forever. I can’t wait to attend church there again and give everyone a big hug. Katie, you are more than welcome to come see me on Saturdays or Sundays. I can’t wait to see you again. St. Peter’s has made my prison bid so much easier. Thanks for all the Love! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Peace, Blessings, and Love, *Christopher Burke*

Blessing Box About to Debut

The Boy Scouts have constructed a Blessing Box (also known as a “Little Free Pantry”) for installation at the Verona Fire Department. **Weather permitting, we are planning to hold a public dedication ceremony for the Blessing Box on Saturday, February 10 at 9:00 am.** Everyone is invited to celebrate this new way of serving the Verona community.

What is a Blessing Box? It's a small box on a post with a door and shelves. The idea is that members of the community can leave something for someone in need—food items, toiletries, even school supplies. Anybody who needs it can come and take it. It can be summed up with the phrase “Leave what you can—take what you need.” In freezing temperatures, the contents could include ramen noodles, granola bars, paper products, hygiene products, and similar items (please no cans or liquids in the winter).

Right now we have a handful of volunteers checking on the box, but we could use a few more to check the box on a regular basis. This is to ensure that nothing dangerous, expired or inappropriate is left there. You can sign up to check it once a month or once a week or whatever schedule works best for you. To sign up, please contact Pastor Katie or any member of the Community Relations Team (Paula Bishop, Marie Sayles, Linda Rogowski, or Deb Rafte). For more information about the box itself, visit littlefreepantry.org.

Official Meeting Notice

Let this serve as official notice that the annual congregational meeting of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Verona will be held on Sunday, February 11, at approximately 10:00 am between services. All baptized and confirmed members (including members who joined by affirmation of faith), age 16 or older, who have received Communion at St. Peter's or made a contribution of record to St. Peter's during the current or preceding calendar year are eligible to vote at the meeting. Come help us prepare and plan for the future of God's work done here with our hands.

Snow Cancellation Policy

REMEMBER! The St. Peter's weather cancellation policy is thus:

- * If VVS schools are cancelled, the church office is closed and all activities and classes at St. Peter's are cancelled.
- * If VVS schools are delayed in the morning, the church office will open later and all morning activities are cancelled (including nursery school)
- * If VVS after-school activities are cancelled, all afternoon and evening activities and classes at St. Peter's are cancelled

As for Sundays—if we decide to cancel worship services due to weather concerns, we will do the following:

- * Email to the whole congregation announcing the cancellation (if we don't have your email, please submit it to Kathy in the office at office@stpetersverona.org)
- * Posts on the church Facebook page (we may also post material from worship on Facebook for those who wish to have private or family devotions that day)
- * Cancellation announcements on the local TV news
- * We may also do limited calling of folks who do not have computers.

Remember, if it is not safe for you to be out, don't risk your life to come to church!



Just Mercy By Bryan Stevenson

Book review written by Kathy Haldenwang

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson has been on the New York Times best sellers list. It was published in 2014 by Spiegel & Grau, a division of Random House. This is a good book to follow up on the theme of over incarceration of people (especially minorities) in the United States. While The New Jim Crow had many statistics and studies to point this out, *Just Mercy* approaches the topic in a different way. This is a more personal look at the problem. Though large numbers and important studies can be compelling, they are not very personal. This book tells us about real people in real situations with whom the author has dealt. We can feel indignant and work up some good old fashioned righteous indignation when we hear the numbers. But when you read stories about fellow human beings with names and families being treated unjustly, it becomes heartbreaking. Even if you only read one of the chapters I'm hoping you will at least begin to question how our legal and penal systems work. As Christians we have a lot to answer for if we continue to support or even just look the other way. And if that doesn't move you then check how much it is costing you. Maybe that will raise some concern!

Techies Welcome

Do you enjoy fiddling with technology and gadgets? Are you looking for a new way to give back to the church and help out in worship? Do you prefer serving behind the scenes?

If any of these are true, you might be interested in learning how to run the sound system at church for either the 9:00 or 11:15 worship services. The upgrades to our system are being installed (new speakers and a new processor). Once everything is installed and calibrated, we could really use a few more people to help out with running the sound system during worship. John Puleo of Professional Technologies will be holding an orientation to the new system. This is a great opportunity to learn how to do this job. (Previously we have not had someone running sound at 11:15—but if we did, that would be wonderful!)

If you are interested, please let Pastor Katie know so she can set up a date and time with John that works. This might be just right for you!

February Mission of the Month: VANDERKAMP

Vanderkamp is a combined Lutheran-Presbyterian outdoor ministry site, and a beautiful spot for spending time in the presence of God. Their 2018 capital project is renovating and updating the Fellowship Hall (in need of some TLC after part of the ceiling fell down during 2017 Confirmation camp!). Outdoor ministry provides formation for youth as well as future leaders of the church. Please support Vanderkamp's Fellowship Hall renovation project as our Mission of the Month for February.

Thank you!

Do you have experience with WordPress? Russ Brookins is putting together a new website for St. Peter's using this online platform. He is searching for someone to consult with him on WordPress and its plugins. You would not have to do any of the work—just talk with Russ and share your knowledge. This would help make sure we get the right website template and features for us, at the lowest possible price. Contact Russ at webmaster@stpetersverona.org or 315-600-8363.

WANTED: Volunteers for Funeral Dinners

Our coordinator is Betty Browell, ably assisted by Sandy Spies. Janet Zimmerman makes the calls to request dishes when they are needed. We could really use a few more volunteers both to cook or bake something and to work in the kitchen. Janet tries to rotate her requests so that nobody is asked over and over again. This ministry only works when we take turns and help each other out.

If you would like to add your name to the list of volunteers, please contact Betty Browell at (315) 420-1657. Thank you!

Weekly Email Newsletter Now in Business!

We hope that you love the Chatter. But let's face it...sometimes it's easy to lose your copy of the Chatter, or misplace it during the month. Sometimes it's daunting to read everything and you get behind. Well, we now have a weekly mini-newsletter that is sent out only by email, reminding you of what's coming up this week, who's serving at church the following Sunday, any major news, and any other tidbits about happenings at church.

If you are not already receiving this email weekly and would like to, please contact Pastor Katie (pastor@stpetersverona.org) to be put on the list.

What's On Tap for Worship

from the Worship and Music Team

To mark the different seasons of the church year, we have made plans to use some of the liturgical settings we already know this winter and spring, in addition to learning a new one.

Our use of **Setting 10** comes to a close on February 11 as we wrap up the season after Epiphany. However, the 9:00 service that day will have a number of worship elements omitted to make time for the annual meeting between services.

At 9:00, we will begin learning parts of **Setting 9** starting on Sunday, February 18 with the beginning of Lent. We will use a simple Lenten hymn in place of the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise, then shift to Setting 9 for the rest of the service. We have been playing Setting 9 in the fellowship hall during coffee hour to help get the music into your head—so if you haven't already heard it, give it a listen.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, we will mark the change of season by changing to **Setting 4** and returning to “This is the feast” for the Hymn of Praise. This was Setting 2 in the “old green book” and will be a familiar tune and words for many.

After the season of Easter concludes, we'll shift on Sunday, May 27 to use **Setting 3** for the first portion of the Season after Pentecost. This was Setting 1 in the green book and will also be familiar to many. More favorite settings will be returning during the summer months.

While 11:15 doesn't have a liturgical “setting” so to speak, the Scripture Song and prayer texts will continue shifting to mark the various seasons.

Remember—in an attempt to improve the flow of the worship service and retention of information, we are experimenting with moving the announcements to near the end of the 9:00 service and reframing them as “Mission Opportunities.” We also encourage everyone to submit their church-related announcements to Kathy in the office to be printed in the bulletin.

Please note these upcoming opportunities to worship with our brothers and sisters from both services at a blended 10:00 am service:

- * **Sunday, March 25, 2018** (Palm Sunday)
- * **Sunday, July 1, 2018** (Sunday nearest Fourth of July)
- * **Sunday, September 2, 2018** (Sunday before Labor Day)
- * **Sunday, October 28, 2018** (Reformation Sunday)
- * **Sunday, December 16, 2018 ???**
(Children's Christmas Pageant)
- * **Sunday, December 30, 2018 (Sunday**
after Christmas Day)

Reminder about Worship on Facebook Live

from the Worship and Music Team

A number of you have already discovered that when weather or sickness keep you from getting to church, you can tune into our Facebook page at approximately 9:30-9:40 and hear that morning's sermon. Thank you for listening! The feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

Remember, in recognition of privacy concerns, we have decided to limit the streaming of worship to the sermon only. This way we do not need to worry about copyright permissions for music or for showing children during the children's sermon.

The camera (Russ' phone) is mounted on the pole that you see in the sound booth. Russ zooms in from that location on the pulpit for the sermon. So while there is a tiny chance that the back of your head may be shown briefly on Facebook, we will not be broadcasting anybody's face.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to know more, please speak to Julie Steele, chair of Worship and Music, Russ Brookins, Pastor Katie, or anybody on the team.

Save the Date—Coming this Winter and Beyond

Fri. Feb 2-Sat. Feb 3	Conference Women's Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center
Sunday, February 4	Souper Bowl of Caring 10:15 am
Saturday, February 10	Blessing Box Dedication, 9:00 am at Verona Fire Department
Sunday, February 11	Annual Congregational Meeting 10:00 am
Tuesday, February 13	Pancake Dinner for Lutheran Disaster Response, 4:00-7:00 pm
Wednesday, February 14	Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru Ashes 6:30-9 am, Worship 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Sunday, February 18	Skiing & Snowshoeing Outing 2:00 pm at Verona Beach State Park
Wednesday, February 21	Youth Outing—call or text Janet (315-527-4800 for details)
Saturday, March 10	Bishop's Convocation at Zion, New Hartford on Faith Formation
Sunday, March 25	Palm / Passion Sunday: Breakfast 9:00 am, Worship 10:00 am VACC Community Worship in the evening (time TBA)
Thursday, March 29	Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm
Friday, March 30	Good Friday Worship 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 31	Easter Vigil Worship 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 1	Easter Sunday Worship 9:00 & 11:15 am

Memorial Bricks—They Are Here!

Stop by the bell tower sometime when you're at church and see the newly engraved bricks in memory and in honor of people. It's a beautiful reminder of all the people who have held the light for us at St. Peter's through the years.

Are you looking to sell some real estate? We have become aware of a woman originally from this area who is looking to move back after a brief retirement in North Carolina. Her children live in this area and her husband passed away suddenly after they moved there for retirement a few years ago. She is searching for a small home on an acre of land (or perhaps land where she could put a home). If you know of anyone who might be a good connection for this person, please let Pastor Katie know and she will pass the information along.

SISTERS OF THE FAITH

Please note that Sisters of the Faith generally meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. However, the group is checking in to decide if they are meeting. So before venturing out, please call or text either Sherri Brown at 315-264-6042 or Linda Rogowski at 315-796-5152 to see if they are meeting.

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Altar Guild needs a few more volunteers for altar preparation. Man or Woman! Please call or talk to Sandy Spies or Marie Sayles as soon as possible.

Thank you and God Bless.

Verona Food Bank

Submitted by Arnold Hogan

For some time now after “Breakfast with the Bible”, I have made it a practice of transporting the contents of the food bank box to the food bank. At times, I have wondered as some others I suppose: “Does the food get to the neediest people?” I have heard stories of people misusing the facility. I need to relate an experience I had a short time ago. I had just unloaded a large quantity of canned goods. Two or three people including myself had taken advantage of the 10 for 10 or 20 for 10 deals at the local super markets. As I was leaving, a frail lady waiting her turn, with a soft and sincere voice said to me “thank you for the food”. I have to tell you that made my day. It made it all worth while. I am proud to say that we, the St. Peter’s congregation, have always been known to be very generous when help is needed.

Skiing and Snowshoeing—Sunday Feb. 18



Join a group from St. Peter's for some all-ages fun in the snow before it goes away! We'll gather at Verona Beach State Park on Sunday afternoon, February 18 at 2:00 pm to ski or snowshoe the trails there. It's a perfect way to get out and get some fresh air with others. Contact Anthony Dangler (315-790-2807) for more details.



Volunteers Needed to mow the lawn and trim at church this summer, either on a weekly basis or monthly basis. If questions, please contact Howard Regner on his cell phone at 315-763-8353.



Volunteers Needed for painting of the Choir Room and hallway to the choir room during the month of February. Please contact Howard Regner at 315-763-8353 if you can lend a hand!



CHURCH FAITH LIBRARY

The church Faith Library is good to go! If you have a book that you feel would be a benefit to our faith journey and would like to donate it there is a basket for that. When you borrow a book and then return it, there is a basket for that, too. Here is just a sampling of what is available: *Christ the Lord, All of the Women of the Bible, Fire Gospel, Great Lion of God, Sarah, Martha, Delilah, My Heart for His Glory, Cup of Comfort for Christmas, The Beginner's Guide to Intercession, The Desire of Ages, God's Solutions for Your Life* and many books by Max Lucado. There are also quite a few DVDs which will soon be organized and shelved.

Youth Corner

Winter Events

We are inviting the congregation to participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** on Sunday, February 4 between services. Bring a can of soup or other non-perishable food item and “vote” for your Super Bowl team—the New England Patriots, the Philadelphia Eagles, or “entertainment” which includes halftime, commercials, etc. (More than one food item is acceptable.) We will be serving up hot soup during coffee hour to thank you for your donations, which will go to the Verona Food Pantry. Youth, please contact Janet Fiacco (315-527-4800) to participate.

We are also planning one more attempt at a **winter outing** during February break (weather tanked all our other plans). We're looking at Wednesday, February 21 in the afternoon, heading to Rockin' Jump in New Hartford. Contact Janet Fiacco for more information.

Volleyball Marathon

The 39th annual Central Crossroads Conference Volleyball Marathon will be held Friday March 9 to Saturday March 10, 2018 at the Syracuse University gym. Registration is at 6:30 pm and this event is open to all youth and their guests in the Central Crossroads Conference. Youth must be in grades 7 through 12—college students can volunteer as team coaches. There is a small registration fee and then you will be asked to gather pledges for your time playing volleyball. All funds raised will go to important ministries (food pantries, camping ministry, etc.) around the conference. Please contact Janet Fiacco (315-527-4800 or icalum81@msn.com) if you are interested.

2018 Youth Gathering

As the time nears for the Youth Gathering in Houston this summer, it's also time to prepare for the youth gathering's special offering to benefit the people of Houston. The offering is called “Blast Off For Books” to lift up the need for greater literacy among kids in Houston schools.

3 in 5 Houston children lack reading readiness skills when entering kindergarten

1 in 4 Houston children do not meet minimum literacy standards at grade 3

2 in 5 Houston youth fail reading and writing exams required for graduation on their first try

1 in 5 Houston adults are functionally illiterate

Kids whose parents cannot or will not provide books in their home are at a huge disadvantage when it comes to learning reading skills. So the Youth Gathering folks will be providing a list of suggested books to bring to Houston. As part of the service component of the gathering, teens will be sorting books, taking them to book fairs throughout Houston, interacting with young kids in Houston with games to teach them reading skills, and sending them home with books.

Watch for the book list in a future issue of the Chatter! We can send books with our youth who are attending the gathering, Kaylee-Ann Zimmerman and Meghan O'Dell.

Ongoing Can and Bottle Drive

Thank you to a handful of devoted volunteers, the cans and bottles left in our shed are redeemed on a regular basis and the proceeds go into the youth account. These funds go to help our youth attend Youth Gatherings as well as give seed money for fundraisers and funds for fun activities.

However! In order to redeem your cans and bottles, we need YOU to separate them from your other recycling and your garbage. We cannot continue to separate the redeemable items from your garbage. If we continue to receive bags with both garbage and recycling, we will be forced to put them in the trash collection.

Thank you for your understanding and your support!

Financial Secretary's Report

Income for current expenses through	December, 2017	
2017	142,568.21	53 weeks
2016	<u>145,348.82</u>	53 weeks
	2,780.61	Decrease

Benevolence Income		
2017	6,929.00	
2016	<u>8,307.00</u>	
	1,378.00	Decrease

Special Mission Giving in 2017	4,215.77
Lent & Self Denial Mission Giving	912.00
Capital Fund (plus fund raisers)	2,364.00
Sunday School	0.00
Patio Bricks – year to date	570.00
Sound System	300.00
Raise the Roof	00.00
Verizon Match	1,400.00
Parking Lot from Dillman Fund	4,500.00

Budget Giving During December		
December 3	5,253.09	
December 10	3,332.10	
December 17	6,137.00	
December 24	6,981.38	
December 31	2,209.85	
On line	<u>902.07</u>	
	24,815.49	Income
	<u>23,139.89</u>	Expenses
	1,675.60	Over

Year to Date	169,588.62	Income
	<u>176,666.13</u>	Expenses
	7,077.51	Under

Other Income	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Online giving	902.07	5,407.07
Thrivent		551.00



Lent: Online Giving

Submitted by: Patrick Gerwig

Lent is approaching just as fast as the Holiday Season and now is a great time to carry out your annual pledge by signing up for online giving, and it is a great way to support the work of the church. Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from you checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and securely - you can choose when and how to give and a bonus is you can leave that checkbook at home!

Also it can keep you on track for your annual pledge.

Simply Log onto stpetersverona.org

Click on the *Give Online* button

Create a profile and follow the simple prompts

Any questions, feel free to see Pastor Katie, Sherri Brown or Patrick Gerwig

Correction to the 2017 Annual Report

Please note that Page 25 of the 2017 Annual Report has an error in it for the 2018 Projected Income (Estimated Giving Cards). The information that follows is the corrected version. Copies are available on the Welcome table. Please note that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 11 at 10 a.m.

PROJECTED INCOME FOR 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 COMPARED

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Estimated Giving Cards	119,569	104,672	103,482	102,270
Other Member Giving	37,489	55,395	55,929	43,787
Loose Offerings	2,500	2,000	2,200	2,600
Designated Gifts from Thrivent	856	700	800	600
Special Offerings	16,500	15,600	15,700	14,800
Other Income	<u>4,000</u>	<u>2,700</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total Projected Income	181,114	181,067	181,011	167,557
Proposed Budget	<u>197,003</u>	<u>196,316</u>	<u>196,649</u>	<u>183,377</u>
Shortage	15,889	15,249	15,638	15,820
Please see note.				
Returned Commitment Cards	2015	2016	2017	2018
Increased Their Estimate	25	13	16	11
Remained the Same	27	34	30	29
Decreased	4	5	4	8
Did Not Commit	2	2	2	10
Total Adult Cards Returned	58	54	52	58
Adult Cards Not Returned	65	64	64	52
Total Adult Cards	123	118	116	110

Note:

2018 increased estimates totaled 2750. Decreased estimates totaled 4330 for a net decrease of 1580. Decrease in projected income also includes over 12,000 due to deaths in the past year. We also have members with life changes that result in decreased support.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

FEBRUARY 2018

1 Give thanks, especially during Black History Month, for our sisters and brothers of African descent participating in God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world; ask God to bless the work of the African Descent Lutheran Association in developing networks, advocating for congregations, and providing fellowship, learning and sharing opportunities for lay members and rostered ministers of the ELCA.

2 This is the time of year when ELCA outdoor ministry leaders are recruiting young adults for a summer of service at our 128 outdoor ministry sites. Pray young adults across the country are moved by the Spirit to serve in this vibrant, diverse ministry and are inspired to share their faith, leadership, skills and enthusiasm with the 175,000 campers of all ages participating in summer programs.

3 Pray for the young adults applying for the 2018-19 ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, a year of service, faith formation, walking alongside global companions and relationship building in 11 programs in 14 countries around the world.

4 The world cries out for healing, peace, freedom from oppression and hope. Praise God for the new life, renewal of spirit and relief we have through Jesus Christ, and pray we are humble servants and bold disciples eager to share this good news with everyone.

5 We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries serving in Japan alongside our global church partners that they are sustained by their faith and our encouragement and support for their work of teaching, music, theological education, parish ministry and sharing the gospel.

6 We remember, and strive to not forget, in our prayers the many situations, people and places in our nation and the world where suffering, conflict, poverty and hunger, long-term recovery from disasters and injustice persist.

7 Pray that, for the sake of the gospel, we are faithful in serving our neighbor, spreading the good news and sharing our blessings with all people in every context and situation of life without expectation of reward, praise or recognition.

8 As seasonal jobs and employment wane, we remember in our prayers those in our communities who are unemployed and underemployed, and we pray we are supportive in ways that recognize and value their gifts, help network and connect people, attend to daily needs and respect the dignity of individuals.

9 Pray the spirit of God at work in us will motivate us to say "yes" daily to the covenant made in baptism to live among God's faithful people, hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serve all people following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

10 "Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God" (Psalm 147:1). Give thanks to God for caring for those who live in sadness, suffer injustice, feel powerless or are treated as outcasts; ask God to remind us of our call to be God's caring hands, voice and presence in the world.

11 *Transfiguration of Our Lord* When confused about God's purpose for us and the future of the church, we pray God will stir our faith and enlighten our vision, reminding us to not seek refuge in what is familiar and safe but instead venture into our communities, uncomfortable situations and the world to share the good news and serve our neighbor.

12 Pray for the ELCA Youth Gathering staff, volunteers, youth and adult participants, congregations and synods preparing for the Youth Gathering, Multicultural Youth Leadership Event and The tAble pre-event for "definitely-abled" youth in Houston this summer.

13 Pray that our work, service and ministries are not for our own satisfaction, recognition or legacy but for the proclaiming of the good news of Jesus Christ and the benefit of our neighbor.

14 *Ash Wednesday* We pray with humility and repentance as we begin our journey through Lent that, even in our imperfection and weakness, we never lose sight of the good news that God's love and mercy are unwavering and that our lives are made new and whole through our baptism into Christ's life, death and resurrection.

15 Give thanks for those who have been called to vocations of writing and editing books for children, youth and adults, theological publications, worship resources, curricula for faith formation, devotional and prayer guides, and resources for congregational leaders.

16 God shines brightly in the world and universe and is not silent. Give thanks and praise to God, and ask that our witness be bold and bright in declaring God's boundless power, righteousness and love.

17 As our Lenten journey continues, we reflect on our lives and faith with humility and honesty, immersing ourselves in prayers for God's mercy and rejoicing in the gifts of love, forgiveness and salvation we have through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

18 Give thanks to God that the Spirit that sustained and protected Jesus in the wilderness against Satan and temptation is the same Spirit with us today, strengthening our faith and courage in the face of difficulties, guiding our daily lives, and inspiring us to act boldly with justice, compassion, mercy and peace.

19 Not a day goes by when the life, work and teachings of Martin Luther don't influence the church and our faith journey. We remember in prayer lay leaders and rostered ministers, theologians, teachers and people of faith throughout the history who have challenged, taught and encouraged us that we might mature in faith and be more fully equipped to do God's work in the world.

20 We pray to know and trust God's ways and paths, truth and word, mercy and steadfast love, and that we will treasure and demonstrate in our daily life these truths and qualities for the sake of the world.

21 The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy that addresses cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 Pray for seafarers and fishermen of all nationalities and faiths who often spend months at sea, isolated from family, friends and home communities. Pray for their safety and care and that the Spirit of God will stir in them faith that gives hope, strength, peace and the knowledge that they are part of the body of Christ – a global community of faith that bridges all oceans, nations, distances and time.

23 We ask God to keep us focused on the cross, not as a religious object, work of art or cultural symbol but as a clear reminder of what God has done for us through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of God's son, Jesus Christ – our very real hope and salvation, God's gracious gift for humanity.

24 Give thanks for the impact of the 13 Global Mission Projects undertaken at the invitation of our companion churches and supported through *The Campaign for the ELCA*. Pray these projects and partner relationships will flourish as they help build new congregations, reach out to young people, train pastors and evangelists, strengthen existing ministries and grow the church.

25 *Bold Women's Day* Today – and every day – we recognize and celebrate Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ in diverse contexts everywhere in the world.

26 The ELCA Leadership Initiative encourages us to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations and communities to consider a call to the ministry of the gospel as pastors, deacons and lay leaders. Ask God to help us be perceptive and assertive in identifying, inviting, encouraging and supporting potential leaders in responding to God's call to ministry.

27 We pray that in our Lenten reflections and conversations we are truthful with ourselves and each other, trust in God's love and mercy that frees us to move forward grounded in the gospel to serve our neighbor without bias, encourage and care for one another as sisters and brothers in Christ, and move beyond any hesitations or fears we may have about participating in God's work in the world.

28 Thank God for the work of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network as it strives with its ministry partners to renew, educate, support and strengthen leaders – lay and rostered, paid and volunteer – serving in children, youth and family ministry in congregations, synods and outdoor ministries.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

February

- 1 Bob Benzing
- 6 Keith Herzog
- 7 Mike Clancy
- 9 Ken Jackson
- 10 Henry Gerwig, Sr.
- 11 Philip White
- 12 Betty Browell
- 12 Pat Lewis
- 13 Ryan Rossi
- 13 Jenna White
- 15 Bonnie Smith
- 18 Terry Hartman, Jr.
- 19 Jenna Fiacco
- 21 Melissa Piersall
- 22 Austin Drake
- 23 Meghan O'Dell
- 24 Fritz Fowler
- 24 Riley Mae Godkin
- 24 MaryAnn Hilts
- 25 Bonnie Gerwig
- 26 Ken Carver
- 27 Karen Gregory
- 27 Sheldon Tiedt
- 28 Karen Austin
- 28 A.J. Rogowski

March*

- 1 Wanda Murling
- 2 Wendy Myers
- 3 Carl Finch
- 3 Megan Hornyak
- 4 Jimmy Candee
- 5 Laura Godkin
- 6 Dawn Jaeger

(*This is just a partial list of March)

If you want to be included or removed from the Birthday/Anniversary List - please contact Kathy Piemonte at (315) 363-5211 or email office@stpetersverona.org

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February

- 2 Tom & Tara Thurston
- 11 Jeff & Patty Kahler
- 14 Thomas & Terry DePasquale
- 20 Tom & Bonnie Croft

March*

- 5 Dennis & Mona Olejniuk

(*This is just a partial list of March)

If you want to be included or removed from the Birthday/Anniversary List - please contact Kathy Piemonte at (315) 363-5211 or email office@stpetersverona.org



Prayer:

I've got to talk to somebody, God. I'm worried. I'm unhappy. I feel inadequate so often -- hopeless, defeated, afraid.

Or else I am so filled with delight I want to run into the street and shout, "Stop, world! Listen! Hear this wonderful thing!"

But nobody pauses to listen out there or here -- here in my own home, my own church. Even those closest to me are so busy, so absorbed in their own concerns.

But with you, Lord, there are no walls. You, who made me, know my deepest emotions, my most secret thoughts. You know the good of me and the bad of me. You already understand.

I turn to you because as I talk to you my disappointments are eased and my joys are enhanced. I find solutions to my problems or the strength to endure what I must. From your perfect understanding I receive understanding for my own life's needs.

Thank you, God. for being there always ready to listen and always ready to love me.

Happenings Around the Area....

Helping Families
Touching Lives



The
Good News Center

Announcing a New Support Group

The Good News Center is sponsoring a new support group: **PAL – Parents of Addicted Loved Ones**. The primary goal is to provide hope through education and support for parents dealing with addicted loved ones by offering confidential peer support. Other family members of addicted loved ones are also welcome to attend. Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) is a national organization founded in Arizona by a Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor. The group will be led by Michelle Holliday, who has been trained by PAL. **Meetings are 6:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M. every other Monday here at The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Road, Utica.** For more information contact The Good News Center at 315-735-6210, e-mail info@thegoodnewscenter.org, or visit us online at www.thegoodnewscenter.org.

Luncheon Series: “Why the Good News Matters”

The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica invites you to join us on **Monday, March 5th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm** as we welcome Mary Hallman back to help you understand “Why the Good News Matters”. Mary will prepare our hearts for the Resurrection of the Lord. We are bombarded by bad news, and yet we have Good News! Jesus changed the entire course of history with His Resurrection on Easter Morning. Help make your Easter even more special this year and gather with us to prepare with Mary Hallman. Cost is **\$12.00 per person or \$10.00 per person for 1992 Club Members– open to all. For details/to register: call The Good News Center at 735-6210. Must register before February 26th.**

Separated & Divorced Support Group

Meets every other Sunday, 5:00-6:30 pm; upcoming meetings February 4th and February 18th at The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica. The group meets in a warm, caring, **confidential** environment designed to help you learn skills and practical information that will guide you in rebuilding your life after your separation or divorce. Free and open to all. For more information contact Judy at 315-735-6210, judy@thegoodnewscenter.org, or visit us at www.thegoodnewscenter.org.

Bible Study: Wisdom – God’s Vision for Life In this eight part series, Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith examine biblical wisdom as it relates to daily life. Drawing on the wisdom literature of the Bible; Proverbs, Wisdom, Sirach and Ecclesiastes, Wisdom will teach you how to actively seek out sound guidance and increase your sense of peace in navigating life. Please join us at **The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Road, Utica, Wednesdays, January 3rd through February 28th, from 10:00 am-12:00 or 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. \$20.00 per person. To register call 315-735-6210 or email mjones@thegoodnewscenter.org**

News Around the ELCA / Upstate New York Synod

Staffing Changes at Synod Office

Deacon Patsy Glista has retired as of January 31, 2018 after many years of faithful service as the Assistant to the Bishop for Operations. Patsy is from this part of the synod and was part of Ascension, Rome and knows St. Peter's quite well. She is a member of Our Saviour, Utica. Congratulations Patsy! The new Assistant to the Bishop for Operations is Ms. Michelle Josephson of Rochester. She began January 12 to ensure a smooth transition. Please welcome Michelle!

New bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Please keep the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) in your prayers as it installs the Rev. Sani Ibrahim Azar as the ELCJHL's fourth bishop. The Rev. Munib Younan concludes his 20-year service as bishop and becomes bishop emeritus. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is in the Holy Land leading an ELCA delegation attending the installation. For more information about the ELCJHL, visit elcjh.org.

Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice available for review

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice has released a draft of a social statement that examines the big picture of sexism and patriarchy in church and society. The task force invites you to study the document and provide feedback. Hearing your input is an essential part of the process to ensure that the draft speaks for and to ELCA members. The comment period for the draft is open until Sept. 30, 2018. The social statement is available as a download (at www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice/Draft) or you may order a print copy.

2018/19 YAGM applications—only a few weeks left!

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program invites young adults ages 21-29 into a year of service, faith formation and relationship building in 11 programs in 14 countries around the world. Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. As they offer themselves in service, young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. Check out ELCA.org/yagm for more information and apply now! Applications are due Feb. 15 for service beginning in August.

ELCA Publications Available at Church

Curious about what churches across the ELCA are up to? The complimentary publications Living Lutheran and Stories of Faith in Action are available in the narthex, in the wall-mounted document rack. Other publications are there for the taking as well. Browse for a few minutes and see what you find. Exciting things are happening all across the church!

Follow us!

Do you follow the ELCA on social media? Keep informed with church news, events, pictures and video across many platforms. We're on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans); @ELCA on Twitter; @ELCA on Instagram and [YouTube.com/ELCA](https://www.youtube.com/ELCA). Also, the Upstate New York Synod is on Facebook at [facebook.com/upstatenysynod](https://www.facebook.com/upstatenysynod) and sends out a bi-weekly email newsletter called the Upstate Update (visit upstatenysynod.org to sign up). Join the online community of Lutherans!



Don't forget the Verona Food Pantry!

Open Tuesdays from 1 to 2:30 pm and
Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 pm
Located at the Verona Town Hall (water dept.
building), 6600 Germany Road

**Donations especially needed: pasta, peanut butter,
canned tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, soup, and
canned pasta**

To volunteer, call Linda Finnerty at 315-813-3477
Please put donations in the box in the narthex at
St. Peter's

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN:

- You or a family member is sick or in the hospital.
- You are planning a meeting or scheduling an event—to place it on the church calendar.
- A baby is expected in your family.
- You want to arrange for a baptism or wedding.
- A family member has passed away.
- Your telephone number or address has changed.
- You are planning to move, locally or out of town.
- You feel the church can help you in any way.

Church Chatter via Email



Go Green: If you prefer to receive the church chatter via email, please email Kathy Piemonte at **office@stpetersverona.org** and she will email you the Chatter.



Attention Married Couples:

Time is running out to sign up for your spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend. Please consider taking a weekend to learn how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union.

Following are the scheduled Northeast US spring Weekends:

* March 16-18, 2018 at Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA. A newly-renovated hotel, home of the unique treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."

* April 6-8, 2018 at Toftrees Golf Resort in State College PA. A peaceful resort surrounded by a golf course and nestled in the woods in the center of PA.

Registrations are also being accepted for the fall Weekends: September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA; October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA; and November 9-11 at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish to help cover expenses and ensure the continuation of the program.

To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up TODAY. Simply go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, choose the Weekend desired, and pay the \$100 registration fee with your credit card, or mark the option to mail a check. For questions, please contact Northeast US Contacts for Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

Leave a Legacy

Nobody likes to think about what will happen when they die, but one of the ways you can make an impact on generations to come and share the light of Christ with future generations is to make a legacy gift to the church.

There are several ways to do this. The ELCA church-wide organization has a campaign called "Always Being Made New" that supports efforts to fight malaria and hunger, launches new congregations, provides seminary scholarships, and reaches out to youth and people with disabilities. You can choose to make a one-time gift to that campaign or to any entity you want to support (i.e. the Upstate New York Synod, Vanderkamp, one or more of our seminaries, etc.). You also have the option of setting up a fund at St. Peter's to support future ministry in whatever capacity you desire.

Please speak with Pastor Katie or someone on the Investment Committee (Jeff White, Jeanette Burke, Kevin Angell) to find out more.



If you are a Facebook user and you haven't already "liked" our page, please do so! We currently have 258 likes and 271 people have checked in at St. Peter's (checking in on Sunday is an easy way to share your faith with others). Search for "St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Verona N.Y." and click on "like" to add us to your news feed. We are now also on Twitter and you can follow us at @StPetersVerona. Remember, even if we don't show up in your news feed, we may be posting important information, so the best way to see what we're up to is to go directly to our Facebook page. Thank you to everyone who has RSVPed to an event, liked a post, or shared a post with your friends—you are helping make St. Peter's a wonderful and welcoming place!



KEEP IN TOUCH!

Help us keep our mailing and phone contacts up to date.

**MOVED? CHANGED A PHONE NUMBER?
GONE OFF TO SCHOOL?**

Call, write, or email us your changes so we can keep the office records up to date.

315-363-5211

4897 Old Oneida Road, Verona, NY 13440
office@stpetersverona.org



HOW DO I ASK FOR PRAYER?

We have several ways to request prayer:

For emergencies: Contact Marie Sayles (msayles2@twc.com, 315-337-8758) to begin the Prayer Chain

For ongoing prayer done privately: Fill out a green form from the pew racks and put in the offering plate OR leave a note in the Prayer Ministry mailbox in the entryway

For prayer in Sunday worship: Write it on the clipboard in the narthex

For a prayer shawl: Contact Leigh Ann Gilladette at

ALTAR GUILD

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar or have the sanctuary candle lit on a particular Sunday in memory or honor of someone, please sign up for your desired Sunday on the bulletin board outside the sacristy and choir room (*same hallway as the restrooms*). For flowers, you are free to shop for flower arrangements or plants and bring them to the altar before 8:30 on Sunday morning. After the 11:15 service concludes, you may take them home or leave them to brighten the church space.

For the candle, please speak to Diane Angell, Phone 315- 363-6249, to make arrangements.



MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

The purpose of the Mutual Ministry Team is to support the ministry of St. Peter's and deal with any concerns which may arise among the partners in ministry, i.e. the congregation, pastor, and staff. The team will meet quarterly or more often as the need arises.

Steps to be taken when there is a concern:

- A concern is brought to the attention of a team member.
- Discussion takes place within the team on how best to address the concern.
- The team will offer guidance and support to all parties involved in addressing the concern.

Note: While all concerns will be shared with the entire team (including the pastor), confidentiality will be maintained within the team as appropriate.

MMT Members:

Jerry Burke	361-1134(h); 339-2954(c)
Kathy Haldenwang	336-4698(h); 264-3419(c)

*In everything
both great and small
We see the hand of God in all,
And every day
somewhere, someplace,
We see the likeness of His face.*

HELEN STEINER RICE



May the beauty and peace
of this blessed season
be with you always.

Merry Christmas. Happy New Year and thank you for having Scott be a part of your music family!

Penny Stewart



Just a reminder! We collect can tabs YEAR ROUND! That includes tabs on soup cans, pet food cans, and tuna fish cans in addition to your standard soda can tabs. Place them in the plastic jar on the Welcome Table and we will bring them to Synod Assembly in the spring for that year's ministry opportunity.

MISCELLANOUS COMMUNITY INFORMATION...

You are invited.....

Lutheran Adult Mission Trip



May 7 - 11, 2018

to

Mar-Lu-Ridge

Conference & Retreat Center

3200 Mar-Lu-Ridge Road
Jefferson, Maryland

COST: \$325 per person

Cost includes, 4 nights lodging, 7 meals
and a day trip to Gettysburg led by Tom Henry

Possible Mission Sites:

Lutheran World Relief
Windsor, Maryland

Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp
Jefferson, Maryland

Martha's Table
Washington DC

If you would like more information, please call
Bonny McCabe (Good Shepherd, Fayetteville) 315-877-3945
or
Tom Henry (St. Mark's, Baldwinsville) 315-706-6393

**A maximum of just 20 people can be accommodated
at Mar-Lu-Ridge, so to hold your spot
please send your \$100 deposit by 1/31/18
(Checks payable to *Central Crossroads Conference*)
to Bonny McCabe
14 Shriver Drive, Baldwinsville, NY 13027**

Hope you will join us!!



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL***

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

BEING FINANCIALLY PREPARED AND LIVING GENEROUSLY GO HAND IN HAND

At Thrivent Financial, we guide people to be wise with money and live generously. We help our members support the causes they care about by putting their faith into action.

How would you like to share your:



Time and talents? We offer many opportunities to help your church, your community and the causes you care about.



Treasures? We can help you make smart choices about charitable giving options so your contributions go farther and you can enjoy potential tax benefits.

You can live a balanced and generous life by giving of your time, talents and treasures. And we're here to help.

Kyle F Mumpton, CFP®, FIC
Wealth Advisor
7897 Oswego Rd
Liverpool, NY 13090
315-451-0252
kyle.mumpton@thrivent.com

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Thrivent Financial and its representatives and employees cannot provide legal, accounting, or tax advice or services. Work with your Thrivent Financial representative and, as appropriate, your attorney and tax professional for additional information.

Thrivent Financial representatives are licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. They are also registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55415. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota • Thrivent.com • 800-847-4836 25062B R4-17

*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner*



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH

PANCAKE DINNER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018
FROM 4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM
(OR UNTIL SOLD OUT)

4897 OLD ONEIDA ROAD
VERONA, NY
315-363-5211

(Off Route 365 at either Tilden Hill Road or Blackmans Corner Road)

Adults : \$8.00
Kids from age 6-10: \$4.00
Kids 5 and Under: Free
Take Out Available

**Menu: Homemade pancakes and blueberry pancakes,
sausage, bacon, fried potatoes, scrambled eggs, homemade
applesauce, coffee/tea/beverages.**



Proceeds for this event will go to Lutheran Disaster Response to assist with recovery from wildfires in the West, hurricanes in the Caribbean, and wherever the need is greatest.

We're
Searching for
Volunteers

Oneida Healthcare

**is looking for Volunteers with a Heart for Service
and the Desire to provide Exceptional Care!**

Join our Team as we provide volunteers for Patient/Family support, Office/Clerical assistance, ECF activities, Cancer Center support and much more.

We have Monday- Friday opportunities that are perfect for a Retiree and Sat & Sun options as well.

To learn more about the many volunteer opportunities available and how you can join our team:

**Contact Terri Welcher at 315-361-2049 or
e-mail: twelcher@oneidahealthcare.org**



Vanderkamp
Dinner Dance Fundraiser
Saturday, February 10, 2018
6—11 pm
\$30.00 per person

Live Music with David Liddy and Steve Quenneville (of Mossback Mule Band)

Formal Dinner with choice of entrée:

Menu

Entrée Choices: Port Tenderloin Medallions with Chimichurri Sauce, Chicken Marsala or Vegetarian Marsala
Served with: Caesar Salad, Dinner Rolls, Roasted Red Potatoes with Garlic & Rosemary, Green Beans Almondine and Cheesecake with choice of Raspberry or Blueberry Sauce. A complimentary bottle of wine provided at each table.
Middle Ages Brewing Company: Craft Beer and Ale Tastng
Cash Bar with Domestic and Craft Beers, Ales, Wine, Soda
Door Prizes

Call (315) 675-3651 or visit www.vk.org today for **Advanced Sale Tickets** (Last Dat to Purchase Tickets: Saturday, January 27)



Dear Friends at St. Peter's,

As a new year begins, we want to thank you for supporting the Your Neighbors out reach in this past year. During 2017, we sent out 3683 meals and 1215 soups to our homebound friends in the Greater Utica Area. St. Peter's Verona provided 86 of those meals, and they were greatly appreciated. We know that you do a great deal of outreach in your own area, so the fact that your generosity extends over to us in Utica is a special blessing. We wish we could take you into the homes of our special friends, so that you could see their smiles and receive their thanks. May God bless all your efforts in the coming year.

On behalf of the Board and everyone at Your Neighbors, many thanks for all you do.

Carol Grove,
Food Coordinator
Your Neighbors, Inc.

VANDERKAMP

Dear Rev. Katie Yahns,

Thank you for your tax-deductible donation of \$94.42 to Vanderkamp. No goods or services were received in exchange for your donation to Vanderkamp Center, a 501(c)3, religious organization.

As a Christian non-profit organization, donor support is vital to helping us fulfill our mission, "We seek to serve God by providing facilities and opportunities for people to relate to God, renew their faith, and respond in service." We are continually inspired by the generosity and grace of Vanderkamp supporters like you.

Donations account for about 1/3 of Vanderkamp's annual operating budget of approximately \$250,000. Your generosity touches and enriches the lives of the many kampers, guests and day visitors who benefit from their experiences at Vanderkamp. We are honored and humbled by your kindness and generosity.

Peace,
Bill and Penny James
Executive Directors

Applications on the bulletin board or available from the Church Office.



Oneida County Habitat for Humanity is excited to promote our *A Brush with Kindness* home repair program. Through this program, local low-income, disabled and senior homeowners are able to apply for assistance with necessary home repairs.

Qualified applicants must:

- **Own** and **reside** in a home in need of repairs (no rental properties).
- Have homeowner's insurance coverage
- Reside within the service area of Oneida County Habitat for Humanity
- Fall below **60% of the combined median household income** for Oneida County
- Be up to date on mortgage and property tax payments
- Agree to partner with Habitat in all aspects of the repair project

Project requests may include:

- Grading/landscaping to improve drainage or accessibility
- Exterior repairs to roofs, doors, windows, porches etc
- Painting and/or siding repair
- Minor structural repairs
- Installation of handicap accessible ramps and railings
- Other necessary home repairs

Project requests may not involve:

- Elective reconstruction or remodeling projects
- Redecorating projects or un-necessary aesthetic changes
- We do not do critical repairs such as roof repairs or replacement, foundation repair, mold removal, and other extensive work.

If you qualify for this program and have a need for home repairs, please complete the attached application. Note that applications must include all required attachments listed below. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Required Attachments:

- Most recent property tax bill & mortgage statement
- Documentation of all salary/income for all residents in the home
- Documentation of any other supplemental income or financial assistance received by all members of the household (child support, social security, etc..)

Annual High School Youth Leadership Forum

sponsored by the



New York State
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Visit the United Nations

"Reclaiming the Voice of Resistance"



Reclaiming the Voice of Resistance is a full-day learning experience exploring the relationship to cultural identity, spiritual formation, and institutionalized oppression in the context of urban planning. Here students engage in a series of multi-sensory learning modules intended to challenge traditional industrial understandings of global city planning and missionary activity.

Tuesday-Thursday, February 20-22, 2018

Cost \$400

(Limited Scholarship Assistance is Available.)

Transportation to & from NYC

Lodging for 2 nights

Two Breakfasts & Two Lunches included

Optional: Broadway Show & Dinner in Times Square

For more information, contact Christy D'Ambrosio,
Youth Director, First Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY
christy@firstpresalbany.org or 518-423-4763



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

December 21, 2017

St Peter Lutheran Church
4897 Old Oneida Rd
Verona, NY 13478-2111

Dear St Peter Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$500.00 in support of the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts.

With generosity and imagination, you have made a gift that will change a life. Through the programs supported by your "Good Gifts," you are reaching out with a tangible symbol of Christ's love – a Bible for a young disciple or a textbook for an emerging leader, cleaning supplies for a family affected by a disaster, a warm meal at a local soup kitchen, a goat or pig to help a family become self-sufficient, a brick that will help build a house of worship.

Thank you for equipping others to live lives of abundance and witnessing to the healing and hope we share in Christ Jesus. Your generosity is making a difference!

In God's grace,

Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your official receipt.

Always
New.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

8765 West Higgins Road · Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 · 773-380-2700 or 800-638-3522 · ELCA.org



Dear St. Peter's Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your generous support of ELCA World Hunger. Your leadership in this work of our church makes a difference for families and communities in need. Blessings to you as you continue to live out God's call to love our neighbors.

The ELCA World Hunger Team



THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC.

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

January 24, 2018

Sandra L. Soroka
Executive Director

Administrative Office
624 Elizabeth Street
Utica NY 13501

Phone: 315-272-2600
Fax: 315-732-0353

www.neighborhoodctr.org

National Mission
Institute of
United Methodist Women

Licensed by:

New York State
Office of Children
And Family Services

Office of Mental Health



United Way of
the Valley and
Greater Utica Area

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
4897 Old Oneida Road
Verona, New York 13478

Dear Friends:

I want to express my appreciation for the monetary donation of \$526.00 which was received on January 10th. Your gift helps us continue to carry out the mission of The Neighborhood Center which is *To enrich the lives of individuals and families through cooperative opportunities, resources and advocacy which embrace diversity, promote empowerment, and foster responsible citizenship.* The services we provide at the Center are made possible through donations of individuals and community leaders like you.

Your gift will go toward the services we provide out of our Rome Office. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Because we are a registered 501(c)3 organization, your donation is completely tax deductible. Please keep this for your tax records to claim your deduction. Again, thank you for helping us to build a stronger community. You make all the difference!

Warmly,

Sandra L. Soroka,
Executive Director

The Lutheran Homes Foundation

December 8, 2017

The Reverend Katie Yahns
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
4897 Old Oneida Road
Verona, NY 13478-2111

Dear Pastor:

On behalf of The Lutheran Homes Foundation, please allow me to express our most heartfelt thanks for St. Peter's very generous contribution of \$142 designated to the Chapel Fund. Your gift means so much and will assist us substantially in our efforts to provide for the individuals we care for and care deeply about here at LutheranCare.

Since 1919, LutheranCare has been making a positive difference in the lives of the people of our community in need of compassionate care and has relied on the generosity of our staunchest supporters to enable us to do so. With the continued compassion and encouragement of caring people like you, together we can make the lives of the people who rely on us that much brighter; and, because they are not able to do so themselves, please allow me to thank you for your kindness on their behalf.

Once again, our sincerest appreciation for St. Peter's very kind and generous donation to The Foundation and may you enjoy a blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!!

Warmest regards and Best wishes,

Karen Anne Ostinett
Director of Funds & Volunteer Development
315.235.7104
kostinett@lutherancare.org

*For Federal Income Tax purposes, LutheranCare has not provided any goods or services, in whole or in part, in consideration for your thoughtful contribution.

108 Utica Road, Clinton, NY 13323 • 315.853.5515 • Fax 315.853.4025 • www.lutherancare.org

Rome Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 337
Rome, New York 13442



St Peter's Lutheran Church
Attn: Reverend Katie Yahns
4897 Old Oneida Rd
Verona, NY 13478-2111

12/6/2017

Dear Reverend Yahns,

Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$724.97 to help the less fortunate in our community.

Christmas can be a very stressful time of year for many people. But more so for those who feel defeated because they cannot provide food or gifts for their families. Your donation will provide a Merrier Christmas for many children and their families.

The Rome Rescue Mission and the people we serve are blessed to have you as a friend.

Sincerely,

Matt Miller
Executive Director

Please keep this letter for your income tax records.

Rome Rescue Mission gratefully acknowledges a donation from: St Peter's Lutheran Church
Attn: Reverend Katie Yahns \$724.97

Rome Rescue Mission, Inc.
413 East Dominick Street - P.O. Box 337 Rome, NY 13440
mail@romemission.org
Phone 315-337-2516 fax 315-339-6439

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:15 am Nursery School 6:00 pm Sisters of the Faith	2 6:00 pm Women's Retreat at Christ the King, Syracuse	3 10:00 am Youth Making Soup 4:00 pm Women's Retreat Concludes
4 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 am Souper Bowl of Caring 11:15 am Worship 1:30 pm Confirmation Class	5 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	6 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study	7 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School	8 9:15 am Nursery School	9	10 9:00 am Dedication of Blessing Box at Verona Fire Department 9:30 am – 2 pm Fellowship Hall in Use
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:00 am Annual Meeting 11:15 am Worship with Communion 1:30 pm Confirmation Class	12 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	13 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study 4:00 – 7:00 pm Pancake Dinner	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 6:30-8:30 am Drive-Thru Ashes 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School 12:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship	15 9:15 am Nursery School 6:00 pm Sisters of the Faith 7:00 pm Church Council	16	17
18 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship with Communion 2:00 pm Skiing & Snowshoeing Outing at Verona Beach State Park	19 President's Day Church Office Closed Pastor's Day Off	20 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study 6:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting	21 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 12:00 pm Worship 1:00 pm Deacons Meeting	22	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship with Communion	26 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm VACC Meeting at Beacon Light Baptist	27 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study 6:30 pm Youth Fundraising Meeting	28 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School 12:00 pm Worship	Nursery School is on winter break February 20-22		

February 2018

9:00 am

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES
2/4/2018* 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Cheri Schmalz, Marie Sayles, Anna Rossi, Volunteer Needed	Kathy Haldenwang	Susan Regner Betty Browell	Ken Regner	Ken Regner Tom Thurston	Logan Sherwood Matt Rossi
2/11/2018* Transfiguration of Our Lord	Shirley Netzband, Beverly Noble, Wayne Wood, Peter Makarchuk	Deb Rafte	Kathy Haldenwang Marie Sayles	Sandy Spies	Dean Hilts William Hilts	Violetta Hilts Konrad Thurston
2/18/2018* 1 st Sunday in Lent	David Hyatt, Heather Pritchard, Jack Makarchuk, Lilly White	Janet Fiacco	David Hyatt Volunteer Needed	Sherri Brown	Howard Regner Aaron Dust	Jordyn Steele Kaitlyn O'Dell
2/25/2018* 2 nd Sunday in Lent	Carol Noble, Meghan O'Dell, Sheila Hoffman, Julie Netzband	Nan Richard	Marie Sayles Betty Browell	Julie Steele	Bob Fish Marge VanSlyke	Jack Makarchuk Peter Makarchuk

Ash Wednesday – 12 noon and 7 pm

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES
2/14/2018* 12:00 noon	Carol Noble Marie Sayles	Nan Richard		Sandy Spies	Bob Fish	
2/14/2018* 7 pm	Lisa Sandefer Volunteer Needed	Kathy Haldenwang		Sherri Brown	Ken Regner	Dylan DePasquale

11:15 am

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHER	ACOLYTE
2/4/2018 5 th Sunday after Epiphany				Terry Fike	Marvin Perkosky	Ashley Rogowski
2/11/2018* Transfiguration of Our Lord	Chris Crill Ellen Masi			Lance Comfort	Terry Fike	Grace Candee
2/18/2018* 1 st Sunday in Lent	Linda Rogowski Ashley Rogowski			Linda Rogowski	Lance Comfort	Carissa Klepadlo

(February continued) 11:15 am

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHER	ACOLYTE
2/25/2018* 2 nd Sunday in Lent	Lisa Sandefer Terry Fike			Karry Comfort	Marvin Perkosky	Liesl Froschauer

* Communion

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please make attempts to find a replacement.

If you are unsuccessful, please call or email the office. Thank you!