

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

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit
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
January, 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 Netzband	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
Diane Potts	315-337-4816
Howard Regner	315-762-8353
Sandy Spies	315-363-4523
Jeff White	315-363-3749



THE CHURCH CHATTER

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Pastor Katie Yahns

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

From the Pastor: It's All About the Presence

Dear friends in Christ,

About a month ago, at the end of November and beginning of December, one side of our church sign read “Christmas: It’s All About the Presence.” As Cheri Schmalz and I thought and planned, we decided it would fit well for Black Friday and the height of the Christmas shopping season, for a couple of reasons. First, we thought of it as a tongue-in-cheek reminder that presents from family members are no substitute for presence with family—being truly present with people, rather than having one’s mind or heart somewhere else. And second, of course, we wanted to remind people that Christmas is all about God coming to earth as Jesus, God with us, Emmanuel. The very reason the birth of Jesus happened was so that God could be fully, completely present with us on earth.

These gifts of presence—both God with us in Jesus, and us with each other—are just as important once Christmas Day has concluded. We continue to celebrate the season of Christmas through January 5, but of course, our entire faith is based on that presence, that Jesus came to be present in every aspect of human life, all the way to the cross. I frequently hear from our Confirmation students how this tenet of our faith, out of all that we claim is important, holds the greatest meaning for them.

Presence with each other, however, does not always come easily. Our modern world, with more and more demands on our time, makes it difficult to be present with everyone who wants some of that time. Technology provides some work-arounds, but no magic solutions. At St. Peter’s, it is exciting to see how things like Facebook are reaching those who cannot be present with us for worship. At the same time, there is no substitute for being present with each other in person, taking precious time to gather together as the body of Christ. Maybe that’s because our faith is based on that physical presence of God with us, embodied in human flesh!

Being present is also about being authentic in relationship, about being thoughtful and truthful and nurturing real connections. It includes being vulnerable, and sharing convictions and emotions. It has the threads of confession and forgiveness woven throughout. It requires real dialogue, where people connect and speak and listen even if they are very different. There is no substitute for being fully present with another person, not money, not possessions, not words, nothing. People searching for a church today are looking for the presence of God, but also the real, authentic presence of people with each other. St. Peter’s has both! (Although, we can always improve at how we live that out!)

As a new year dawns and we take stock of where we have been and what the future holds, I suggest you consider the role of presence in your life. Whom are you truly present with and why? Is there someone new or

some new group that you feel called to be present with this year? What patterns or habits prevent you from being fully present with others, with yourself, or with God? These are questions I'm also asking myself as we prepare for a new year.

While these questions are far bigger than church attendance, I of course hope you'll be present with your church family at St. Peter's in the New Year and beyond. If you haven't been able to do that recently, is there another way that might be possible? Or is there something else keeping you from being fully present? I ask this not as a way of "checking up on you" but simply as a reminder of what we need for spiritual health. We (and you!) all benefit from the presence of our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Sometimes I will say on a Sunday morning how "it's always a good day when God's people are together in God's house." Even Jesus said he would be present whenever two or three believers were gathered together. It is good to be together with your church family just because it really is "all about the presence!"

Together in Christ,
Pastor Katie Yahns



Dear St. Peter's,

Thank you so much for the generous gift you shared with me in worship on the morning of December 24th. I always get so wrapped up in the busy-ness of Christmas that your gift completely blows me away. Thank you for your generosity, your thoughtfulness, and for the real gift and privilege of being your pastor. I am proud to serve at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Peace,

Pastor Katie

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 decided how to distribute the Lenten offering funds for 2017 (these are designated for mission). Half will go to Lutheran World Relief to assist with hurricane recovery efforts, and half will go to the Neighborhood Center in Rome to assist with their work treating the opioid epidemic.
- ⤴ We adopted a plan for the 2018 Missions of the Month. We chose one new mission, Liberty Resources, a domestic violence facility in Oneida. We will also have our Vacation Bible School as one of the missions.
- ⤴ Jerry Burke submitted a report with information about Paid Family Leave in 2018 and which employees can or cannot opt out. We will ask Jerry to brief all employees ASAP before the end of the year.
- ⤴ The cash balance of the operating fund is still well below the treasurer's comfort level at \$7,138.68. We continue to carefully monitor expenditures and reduce spending when possible.
- ⤴ After much discussion, we voted to recommend a 2018 budget to the congregation at the annual meeting. This budget, at a total cost of \$183,377 (\$13,272 less than 2017) trims many costs and does not give raises or cost of living increases for any staff. It will be included in full in the annual report packet.
- ⤴ We voted to recommend updates to the St. Peter's Constitution to bring it up to date with the model constitution for congregations. A summary of the changes will be included in the annual report packet (and copies of the entire constitution will be available on request).

- ⤴ We discussed the current key list and decided to purchase five additional keys to replace those that have been lost. If anybody has a church key that they are no longer using, we would appreciate it being returned to Kathy.
- ⤴ Howard is tentatively planning to paint the bathroom wing of the building this winter. Keep your eyes out for a call for volunteers to help.
- ⤴ The church directory layout has been completed and the final touches are being applied!

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.

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.

Also—we do not yet have a catchy NAME for this new communication vehicle. If you have a creative and memorable name idea, please let us know!

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!

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.

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. 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.”

Right now we need volunteers to sign up 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.

Meet the Samaritan Counseling Center

The Samaritan Counseling Center of the Mohawk Valley, Inc. is an interfaith organization committed to a unique concern for the spiritual dimension of human life. Therapists at Samaritan offer experienced guidance for those difficult first steps on the path toward personal growth. Their services include psychotherapy for individuals, couples, children and families, a Clergy and Congregational Care program, group seminars, supervision and professional development, counseling for spiritual growth, and psychological evaluations.

Samaritan strives to keep its fees affordable, and many insurance companies cover outpatient psychotherapy. If you do not have health insurance, your fees at SCC will be calculated based on your total household income.

The first step may be the hardest—but it can signal the first day of a different life for you or someone for whom you care. Call 315-724-5173 or visit samaritancentermv.com to find out how to begin therapy at the Samaritan Counseling Center. Pastor Katie also has intake forms and can talk with you more.



Hearts of Fire

Review written by Kathy Haldenwang

Hearts of Fire is a VOM book, published in 2003. The Voice of the Martyrs is a not for profit, interdenominational organization. It was founded in 1967 by the pastor husband of one of the women this book is about. The organization's purpose is to support and assist Christians (in any country) facing persecution because of their faith. There are 8 stories making up this book. Each is about a woman who faced radical persecution because of her Christianity. Some of these stories are disturbing and while I know that such things do happen around the world I also know that these terrible things do not happen only to Christians. I would urge anyone who reads this to read these stories as crimes against humanity. I would also remind the reader that sometimes it has been and still is the Christians who are the perpetrators. If you read this book I would ask you to not only pray for Christians who are being horribly treated, but any minority or powerless group who is treated badly. There is a copy in our church library.

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!

January Mission of the Month: LutheranCare's Chapel Fund

LutheranCare is our ministry, with the other Lutheran churches in central New York, to the elderly and infirm. It has been around as The Lutheran Home since 1919 and some of our own members remember supporting it in its earliest days, whether with money or with practical items like a truckload of potatoes!

Today support for LutheranCare comes from many sources. In 2016, LutheranCare affiliated with the Presbyterian Homes to form a coalition to continue providing health care services and spiritual care as a non-profit organization in our region. Medical care is its own world to be navigated and the funds come from many types of insurances, including Medicare. However, one ministry of LutheranCare that cannot be funded by the government or by insurance is spiritual care. LutheranCare is committed to offering a full-time chaplain on site and regular Lutheran and Christian worship services. Those ministries require funds from other sources.

The Chapel Fund is one way we can continue to offer quality spiritual care to those who need it. Pastor Janet Griffiths serves as the full-time chaplain at LutheranCare. Your help allows her to care for all the people at LutheranCare who need to know that God is present with them. Please remember to support this as the January Mission of the Month. Thank you!

WANTED: Volunteers for Funeral Dinners

The power of “comfort food” is important when you are grieving the loss of a loved one. One of the important ministries we do as St. Peter's is provide a dinner or luncheon for the families of St. Peter's members after their funeral or memorial service. This allows the families to simply be with each other and spend time together without having to make a restaurant reservation or order from a caterer. We get many, many thanks from families all year long for providing this ministry for them in their hour of need.

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!

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 fall and winter.

Going into 2018, we will continue with **Setting 10** with some appropriate seasonal hymn texts substituted for the ones that are printed in the hymnal. This will allow us to shift the feeling of the service based on it being the season after Epiphany.

We would still like to begin learning **Setting 9**, but we are now planning to do this in Lent of 2018. We will only tackle a portion of the setting to start, so it isn't quite so overwhelming.

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.

Thank you to everyone who turned out for the Christmas Hymn Sing and decorating on December 6, and at our first Christmas Coffeehouse on December 9! We appreciate your help and your contributions. We had a lot of fun! Please join us to help break down and store the Christmas decorations between services on **Sunday, January 7**, when we observe the Epiphany of Our Lord.

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)

Worship and Facebook Update

from the Worship and Music Team

Starting in October, we asked our sound guy, Russ Brookins, to see if it might be possible for us to broadcast portions of our 9:00 worship service on Facebook. We thought of it in connection to the celebration of the Reformation—just as Martin Luther thought people should be able to experience worship in their own language, we sought to speak the "language" of where people are today, and for many, that's Facebook.

As you may have heard, thanks to Russ, we have been successful at streaming portions of worship on a number of Sundays. The feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive. However, 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 permissions for copyrighted 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 (this cuts down on distractions from other cameras). 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

Sunday, December 31	Lessons and Carols—hymn sing style 9:00 am and 11:15 am
Sunday, January 21 & 28	Presentation of Bibles to 3 rd and 4 th Graders 9:00 am and 11:15 am
Thursday, January 25	Stone Soup Supper—St. Peter's is cooking! 4:30 pm
Friday, January 26	Red Cross Blood Drive, 2:00-7:00 pm
Fri. Feb 2-Sat. Feb 3	Conference Women's Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center
Sunday, February 11	Annual Congregational Meeting 10:00 am
Saturday, March 10	Bishop's Convocation

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.

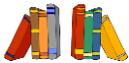
Youth Corner—Ongoing Can and Bottle Drive

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!

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.



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



Wanted: A few good men or women to volunteer to provide Sunday nursery care for the 9:00 am service. We need to have two people in the room with the children and one must be an adult. The other can be a teen. You may not be needed for the entire service or possibly not at all. But we need to have people available every Sunday. If we have enough people sign up, you will not have to do it often. If you feel called to this valuable ministry please call the church office and leave your information with our secretary or let a deacon Thank you in advance for helping to make St. Peter's a welcoming place for young families.



Online Giving in the New Year!

Submitted by: Patrick Gerwig

With the new year here and making resolutions why not start by signing up for online giving. Also Electronic giving is a great way to support the work of the church. Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and securely - you'll never have to remember your checkbook again and you can choose where to give!

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

Simply Log onto stpetersverona.org

Click on the *Give Online* button

You can create a profile and follow the simple prompts

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

Financial Secretary's Report

Income for current expenses through		Budget Giving During November		
	November, 2017	November 5	4,579.00	
2017	126,558.14	November 12	3,671.19	
2016	<u>131,098.82</u>	November 19	2,878.61	
	4,540.68	November 26	2,446.00	
	Decrease	On line	<u>625.00</u>	
Benevolence Income			14,199.80	Income
2017	6,732.50		<u>14,987.66</u>	Expenses
2016	<u>7,657.00</u>		748.86	Under
	917.50			
	Decrease	Year to Date	144,773.13	Income
Special Mission Giving in 2017	3,823.05		<u>153,526.24</u>	Expenses
Lent & Self Denial Mission Giving	912.00		8,753.11	Under
Capital Fund (plus fund raisers)	2,364.00			
Sunday School	0.00			
Patio Bricks – year to date	450.00	Other Income	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Sound System	300.00	Online giving	625.00	4,505.00
Raise the Roof	00.00	Thrivent	305.00	551.00
Verizon Match	1,400.00			



PRAYER VENTURES
JANUARY 2018

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

- 1** *Name of Jesus* Baptized into Christ, we bear the name of Jesus and are prepared for serving our neighbor and spreading the good news of what God has done. Give thanks for the gift of new life we have in Jesus Christ, and pray that we are bold, eager witnesses in the world – never shrinking from the work to which God calls us.
- 2** A new year often brings new hopes, resolutions, goals and beginnings. Ask God for strength and perseverance to meet the challenges of new and unfamiliar endeavors, and shout praise for God's forgiveness and love that renews us and frees us to get up, learn and begin again when we stumble or fail.
- 3** Give thanks for the bishops of the ELCA, and pray they find mutual support, grow in wisdom and skill for their ministry, and that their faith is strengthened through time together at the Bishops' Academy.
- 4** Seasonal workers in our communities often go unnoticed during the busyness of the holidays. Pray that workers now searching for new jobs find steady, fair employment to sustain their families and that our faith communities embrace them with support, concern and welcome.
- 5** During Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we lift up prayers for victims and survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation around the world and ask God to stir our resolve and actions to care for survivors, end these crimes and address the causes of trafficking, such as poverty, hunger and sexism.
- 6** *Epiphany of Our Lord* God's purpose and redemptive work are revealed in the light of Jesus Christ to all humankind. Pray our hearts and minds are receptive to better understanding – through faith in Christ – the mystery of God's boundless grace, wisdom and power.
- 7** *Baptism of our Lord* We remember our baptism and pray for the Spirit to remind us daily that we are children of God, forgiven and called to lives of service and witness in the world.

8 Ask God to help us recognize, confess, confront and correct sexist attitudes, behaviors and systems in ourselves, our workplaces, the church and society, knowing that the injustice and pain inflicted on women and girls hurts everyone. Pray that our Christian witness in the world is marked by respect for all people and the courage to learn and change as the spirit of God works in us.

9 We remember in our prayers those who continue to recover and rebuild after the devastation left in the wake of storms and fires, that individuals, families and communities will find new ways forward with the support and encouragement of the church, relief agencies and one another.

10 Sometimes God's word and voice can be loud and majestic and shake all of creation. Pray we recognize God's voice in daily life and give thanks for how it strengthens us and gives us peace.

11 We remember in our prayers companion-synod relationships with global-church partners, and ask God to bless and nourish these partnerships for mutual learning and encouragement, sharing our gifts and resources, building up the church and serving our neighbor.

12 Give thanks and praise to God for the comfort, order and hope God brings to our lives, especially in times of uncertainty, conflict, discouragement and what may seem like chaos.

13 Pray for those who have responded to God's call to serve as ELCA Missionaries and in the Young Adults in Global Mission program that their faith and service are a bright and lively witness to the good news of Jesus Christ and to God's presence and work in the world.

14 We pray that when Jesus invites us to "Come and see," we are moved by faith to follow and invite our neighbors – friends and strangers alike – to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, believe and also follow.

15 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* We remember in our prayers saints who have gone before us, like Martin Luther King Jr., and courageous people in our midst today who endure criticism and suffering for the sake of standing with, advocating for and serving God's children who suffer injustice, neglect or oppression.

16 Recalling how God spoke through the boy Samuel, we pray we are attentive to the presence of God's spirit and word in children and youth and that we help young people grow as faithful followers, leaders and servants in the body of Christ.

17 Give thanks to God for people who mentor us in our faith, daily life and work and have helped us grow and mature through the sharing of their gifts, wisdom, life experiences and faith.

18 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* We are one in the body of Christ. Pray for our ecumenical partners, global church partners and our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere, that God will bless and further our work together for the purpose of building up Christ's church in the world.

19 The spirit of God is always at work in the church. We pray God will renew the church and our faith communities, especially when we grow weary, have questions about serving in changing communities, find ourselves in conflict or need to refresh our sense of mission.

20 We remember in prayer people of all ages and stages of life who are discovering and preparing for new vocations or studying for new professions and pray they and their families find the faith, strength and encouragement needed to move through times of anticipation, uncertainty and personal change.

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

22 We ask God to bless the ongoing work of reconciliation and healing among Christians and other faiths and to stay focused in our striving for unity for the sake of the world.

23 With humility and awe, we praise God for knowing our innermost thoughts and ways and for always seeking us out and embracing us like a loving parent.

24 We pray that everyone in need of warmth and shelter through the winter months has safe, dependable housing, especially elders and those who are homeless, and that we are unceasing in our work to care for and respect the dignity of people in need.

25 *Conversion of Paul* Praise God for the miraculous ways our faith and lives are changed as the Spirit works in us and among us.

26 Just as the disciples put down their fishing nets in response to Jesus' invitation to follow, we pray we are alert and receptive to God's calling us to service and witness in the world and that we are willing to reorder our priorities, tasks and lives to follow Jesus.

27 We remember in our prayers pastors and seminary students serving in Federal Chaplaincy Ministries in unique settings of the U.S. military, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions.

28 Ask God to open our eyes to the ways – intentional and unintentional – in which we isolate our neighbor, cause others to stumble in their faith or stir division and conflict; ask for forgiveness and for the Spirit to redirect and inform our thoughts, words and actions for the well-being of our neighbor and the church.

29 Give thanks for the impact of the International Women Leaders initiative in partnership between ELCA Global Mission, global companion churches and the colleges and universities of the ELCA, launched as part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*.

30 Pray God continues to influence our lives and guide us through the teaching and example of prophets, teachers, leaders and Scripture and that we have the wisdom to discern what is true and flows from the word of God.

31 Give thanks for leaders who help us understand stewardship and how to use what God has entrusted to each of us and our communities – gifts from God to be used with generosity, compassion and responsibility in service to our neighbor and for the growth of the church.

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!

January

- 3 Justin Grimm
- 4 Diana Perkins
- 4 Susan Regner
- 5 Bob Bibik
- 6 Michele Fleming
- 6 Beverly Noble
- 6 Alexandra Netzband
- 7 Lorraine Hogan
- 8 Lisa Sandefer
- 10 Gage Patry
- 11 Dawn Larsen
- 11 Michael Ross
- 11 Anna Rossi
- 12 Ken Regner
- 14 Vicki Novak
- 19 Chawn O'Dell
- 20 Samantha Netzband
- 21 Diane Angell
- 21 Dacoda Clance
- 23 Philip Netzband, Jr.
- 29 Mona Olejniuk

February*

- 1 Bob Benzing
- 6 Keith Herzog
- 7 Mike Clancy
- 9 Ken Jackson
- 10 Henry Gerwig, Sr.

(*This is just a partial list of February)

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January

- 1 Tony & Carol Ross
- 10 Michael & Pat McElhiney
- 17 John & Wendy Mierek

February*

- 2 Tom & Tara Thurston

(*This is just a partial list of February)

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



St. Peter's Members,

Thank you so much for the fruit basket. I enjoyed the fruit. Thank you for thinking of me.
Wesley Trunko



Dear St. Peter's,

We would like to thank you all for all the cards we have received, all the prayers said on our behalf, and all the help that has been shared with us during our health challenges this past year. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

--Doris & Jerry Althouse

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, info@thegoodnewscenter.org, or visit us online at www.thegoodnewscenter.org.

Retrouvaille - Does your marriage need a tune up? Or even a major overhaul? Sometimes a marriage can run along fine and then things change. They may need your time and attention.

Sometimes lines of communication break down and they need repair. Sometimes our focus moves away from our marriage and family and needs a little redirection. Sometimes a fair or average marriage is just not enough. Have you ever thought to yourself, "How can I make my marriage better?" If so, Retrouvaille can help. Retrouvaille is a marriage program for couples whose marriage has become off course. It begins with a weekend program that can help get your relationship back on track. It is an effective program that has worked for thousands of couples and it can work for your marriage. **For information on the Retrouvaille marriage-help program beginning with a weekend on January 26-28, 2018 at The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Road, Utica, call 315-735-6210, email: info@thegoodnewscenter.org or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.**

The Good News Center's 12th Annual

"Dance the Night Away"

Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 6:30pm – 11:00pm, Hart's Hill Inn, 135 Clinton St., Whitesboro - \$60 per ticket to benefit programs at The Good News Center.

This will be an evening to remember! Features an exciting dance contest with local celebrities, hot dinner buffet, desserts, door prizes, and a fabulous sweetheart raffle! Contact Michelle Holliday to reserve your seats at 315-735-6210, email michelle@thegoodnewscenter.org or visit us at www.thegoodnewscenter.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Grief Survivors

Meets every other Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 pm at The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica. Upcoming meetings will be January 9th and January 23rd. Drop-ins welcome. This is a non-denominational support group for those suffering the loss of a loved one. Meets weekly to help you face the difficulty associated with losing a loved one. For more information contact The Good News Center at 315-735-6210, melissa@thegoodnewscenter.org, or visit us online 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



Just this. Just now.

I was driving to work one day thinking about my schedule – the meetings I needed to attend, reports I needed to finish, preparations for upcoming travel, email, phone calls, and making a grocery list in my head so that I could pick up what I needed for supper on the way home from work. All of a sudden, I found myself pulling into the parking garage at the Lutheran Center. I had driven the 9 miles to work and had no idea how I got there. I didn't remember the traffic lights, the turns, the scenery – nothing. I had been so absorbed in what was coming up that I was completely oblivious to the present.

I think this experience is not unique to me. We set part of our lives on autopilot and set the planning, list-making, what-if scheduling part on overdrive. Now, planning is a good and necessary thing. One ought to be aware of what is coming up and what needs to be done, but I found that I was so driven by the contingencies and possibilities that I was everywhere all of the time, and, therefore, not anywhere at all.

I asked my spiritual director about this, and she recommended that I meditate on these four words: "Just this. Just now." It's a simple discipline but not an easy one. It can alleviate all that anticipatory stress but only if we are willing to be still.

Here we are in Advent. This season doesn't exist in secular culture where everything is barreling toward Christmas. No time to wait, no time to notice, no time to be present. Not this. Not now. All of a sudden, we will find ourselves on the day after Christmas not knowing how we got there.

Advent is a holy season, a season that bids us to be present, to be still. So much is evoked in this season – hope, longing, and the bittersweet awareness that the world is beautiful and broken. Consider all of these things. Sit with them. Pray with them. Be aware of this time of great promise that comes, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, when night is longest. Come, Lord Jesus.

Wait for the Lord. Disengage the autopilot. Notice. Just this. Just now.

Blessed Advent and merry Christmas, dear church!

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

Christmas Greetings from Bishop John S. Macholz Upstate New York Synod-ELCA

As Christmas approached in my senior year of high school and college was next up on the list, all I wanted for Christmas was a stereo system; two big speakers, a tuner, amplifier and turn table. Today were I to ask for the same I would probably ask for a good Bluetooth speaker to go with my iPhone. In any event, that's all I asked for that year. I loved music, went to all the high school dances and sang in three different choruses as well as acted in the spring musical. Music was very much a part of my life!

Anyway, the day of Christmas rolled around and early that morning as I came downstairs to the living room I noted that under the tree was a huge box with my name on it. I was ecstatic as it appeared that my 'wish' was coming true. I couldn't wait to sit down after Church on Christmas morning and open all the gifts that 'Santa' had brought to our house.

The time arrived and wrapping paper began to fly around the room with my two brothers and sister and me frantically ripping paper off of boxes to see what was inside. And, of course, the biggest gifts were saved until the end so I sat and waited patiently and hopefully. Finally the time arrived and my dad went over, picked up the box and placed it in front of me. I stared at it for a moment and then tore into it. Then what to my wondering eyes should appear? Not a stereo system, but a suitcase! A gray Samsonite suitcase! A big gray, hard-sided Samsonite suitcase! I should have known.

My parents were quite practical and they explained as I pulled the suitcase out of the box that they knew I was going to college in the fall and had made some trips out of town with friends so a suitcase would come in very handy in the coming years. It was that simple. I will admit, there was great truth to that and yet, there was also deep disappointment. I didn't receive what I wanted but I did get what I needed. And thereby hangs the tale.

Christmas, in all its majesty and mystery, is about what we need and not what we want. It's not about brown paper packages tied up in strings, rather it focuses on a child placed in a manger in the cold, dark of the night surrounded by first time parents and some random animals as well as, eventually, some filthy shepherds and probably a sheep or two. This was not what the nation of Israel necessarily wanted when they prayed for a Messiah but they and we did receive what we need, one who can save us from ourselves and our sins.

This Child of Bethlehem comes to the world as God incarnate, the Word made flesh to dwell among us full of grace and truth. This Child comes to live our lives, to know our pain and suffering, to share in our joys and sorrows and ultimately to die our death and be raised from the power of death so that we might live a new life. Could we ask for anything more or be in need of anything more important or essential?

As you celebrate this holy event and recall the old, old story may your eyes be opened to see more clearly that this baby is for you and for all the world. There are no exceptions, God does not play favorites. He comes to make his blessings known and, in living among us, to remind us of how much he loves us and to what lengths he was willing to go to save us from ourselves.

This is the story of Christmas, a story to tell from the mountains, in the coffee shops and at the street corners of our lives. May his coming again and our celebration of it be filled with unbounded hope and the knowledge that nothing can separate us from God's love. Nothing!!!!

In Christmas Hope,
John S. Macholz, Bishop

THE RUSSIA CONNECTION

Think you've heard just about enough about Russia lately? Well, here's some good news:

After many years of repression and abandonment during the communist era, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia is now publicly re-engaging in its ministry and mission activities. The ELCA has been invited to support the church in Siberia in developing new learning opportunities for pastors and lay leaders, including online curriculum, workshops and scholarships to further develop leaders of this newly public church. Who would think that our mission dollars here in New York State are reaching to Siberia? That is just one example of the global nature of Christ's Church, and thanks be to God for the ELCA being active in spreading the good news!

Your mission support helps the church in Siberia! **Thank you!** For more information visit the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/siberianelc/photos/?ref=page_internal

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 now open!

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](https://twitter.com/ELCA); [@ELCA on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ELCA) and [YouTube.com/ELCA](https://www.youtube.com/ELCA). Also, the Upstate New York Synod is on Facebook at [facebook.com/upstatensynod](https://www.facebook.com/upstatensynod) and sends out a bi-weekly email newsletter called the Upstate Update (visit upstatensynod.org to sign up). Join the online community of Lutherans!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual High School Youth Leadership Forum

sponsored by the



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

SAVE THE DATE!

15TH Annual Central Crossroads Conference
7th-12th Graders Luther Bowl
Co-hosted by
King of Kings Youth & Central Crossroads



Date: Monday, January 15, 2017

Time: 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: Registration begins promptly @ 12:00 at King of Kings Church
8278 Oswego Road/ Route 57
Liverpool, NY 13090

Schedule: 12 - 12:15 registration
12:15 - 1:00 worship
1:00 - 1:30 lunch
1:30 - 2:00 travel to Flamingo bowl, sign in and shoe sizing
2:00 - 4:00 bowling

4:00 P.M. pick up:
Flamingo Bowl
7239 Oswego Road/ Route 57
Liverpool, NY 13090

Cost: Bowling & Lunch: \$15 Per Person
Non-Bowlers Lunch: \$5 Per Person

Requests:

- Complete the registration form for your group and submit with payment day of event.
- Designate one adult to submit registration forms and payment for your group upon your arrival at King of Kings.
- Please bring your donations for dedication during the worship service, or a brief presentation about your service project for a mission moment to share with the group.

RSVP: by January 7 to King of Kings at kingofkingsny@gmail.com or (315)622-2077

*"Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude."
Martin Luther King, Jr.*



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.



Prayer:

Dear Lord, I want to suggest a new Beatitude: "Blessed are the sincere who pay compliments." For I have just received a compliment and it has changed my day. I was irritated, tired, discouraged. Nothing seemed of much use. Now, suddenly, all this has changed. I feel a spirit of enthusiasm, of energy and joy. I am filled with hope. I like the whole world better, and myself, and even you.

Lord, bless the person who did this for me. He probably hasn't the faintest idea how his few words affected me. But wherever he is, whatever he's doing, bless him. Let him too feel this sense of fulfillment, this recharge of fire and faith and joy.

Thank you, God, for this simple miracle so available to all of us. And thank you that we don't have to be saints to employ its power. Remind me to use it more often to heal and lift and fortify other lives: a compliment!

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.



At the Computer/Tablet/Smartphone

If you are a Facebook user and you haven't already "liked" our page, please do so! We currently have 254 likes and 237 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 315-280-4100

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.

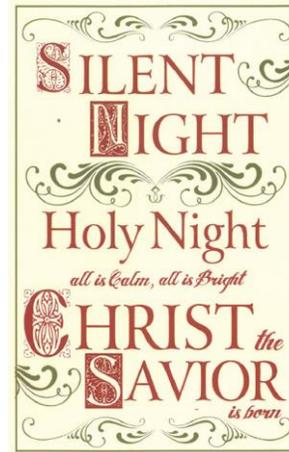
Steps to be taken when there is a concern:

- 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)



To: Pastor Katie
From: Christopher

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



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.

MISCELLANEOUS 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.™

TAKING WISE STEPS TOWARD REDUCING DEBT

Think about how important it is to make wise decisions about your God-given resources. Now think about your debt in the same way.

The choices you make today can help you live more generously tomorrow and feel confident about your future.

Take control of your debt.

- Make a list of your values and goals. Does your spending align with your priorities?
- Debt and credit are often used interchangeably, but they're very different concepts. Learn the difference.
- Find out how much debt is too much debt for your individual situation.

Contact your Thrivent Financial representative to talk about which options can help you take control of your debt.

Kyle F. Mumpton, CFP®

kyle.mumpton@thrivent.com

(315) 451-0252

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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

25463BA R9-14

~Workshop~ Healthy Congregations Creating Healthy Congregations



This workshop focuses on the congregation's ability to accept differences and to lead based on strength and mission.

First workshop in a series of four to be offered in central Upstate NY Synod

**Saturday, January 20, 2018
9:00 am – 3 pm**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
210 Hazel Street
Liverpool, NY 13088**

Cost \$20 / person

*[includes workshop materials,
snacks & lunch]*

For pastors and laity both - Send a group for maximal benefit!

To Register: call: St. Paul's Lutheran Church: 315.457.3210

or email: stpaulslivoffice@gmail.com

Or mail to: St. Paul's, 210 Hazel St., Liverpool, NY 13212

Register: by Monday, January 8th to reserve your spot.

Workshop Leader

Pastor Greg Tennermann

Pr. Tennermann is an assistant to the bishop, Upstate NY Synod, who supports Intentional Interim Pastors and the Conflict and Healing Team members to facilitate their important ministries. Pr. Tennermann has been trained as an Intentional Interim Pastor by the Interim Ministry Network and as a Bridgebuilder Consultant and Healthy Congregations Workshop leader by Peter Steinke.



Healthy Congregations is a series of six workshops:

*Creating Healthy Congregations
Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety & Change
Leadership in Healthy Congregations
Relationships in a Healthy Congregation
Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People
The Spiritual Care of Healthy Congregations*

The workshops are designed precisely for a time of rapid changes. They offer a new way of thinking about both the congregation and its leadership. Participants will have an opportunity to view the congregation as a whole, as an organism, as a system. They will learn about how all the components of the system work together to promote health, accomplish needed changes and respond more fully to the new challenges that God gives to God's people in times of change.

The workshops will enable participants to:

- Gain a renewed sense of purpose and mission
- Cultivate strong leadership capacities to challenge the congregation
- Learn how to develop healthy patterns of living together in community
- Learn to focus on strengths, resources, and options for the future
- Boost confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities
- Learn how to lead with calm and thoughtfulness
- Reflect theologically about relationships
- Move the congregation toward healthy functioning

The first of these workshops, *Creating Healthy Congregations*, is foundational for this new way of thinking about congregations as living systems. It will focus on how healthy congregations accept differences rather than deny them. We will also see how healthy congregations build on strengths and gifts and tend to focus on mission rather than issues. It is planned that future workshops will be offered to focus on other important health promoting responses that help create and maintain health in congregations.

For More Information: contact Pr. Greg Tennermann, 518.567.8124, or

gtennermann@upstatenysynod.org

To Register: call St. Paul's at 315.457.3210, or email stpaulslivoffice@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: Monday, January 8, 2018

Make check payable to: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

MORE THANK YOU'S



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



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

*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

January 2018						
9:00 am						
DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES
1/7/2018* Epiphany of Our Lord	Julie Netzband, Heather Pritchard, Jeanette Burke, Caleb Decker	Deb Rafte	Betty Browell Kaylee Ann Zimmerman	Julie Netzband	Jerry Burke Bob Bibik	Mikayla Coston Kelsey Richmond
1/14/2018* Baptism of Our Lord	Marie Sayles, Dave Hyatt, Peter Makarchuk, Meghan O'Dell	Janet Fiacco	MaryAnn Hilts Marie Sayles	Heather Pritchard	Tom Thurston Konrad Thurston	Caleb Decker Kaitlyn O'Dell
1/21/2018* 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Carol Noble, Julie Steele, Wayne Wood, Deb Rafte	Nan Richard	Susan Regner Dave Hyatt	Ellyn Bibik	Ken Regner Aaron Dust	Carter DePasquale Dylan DePasquale
1/28/2018 4 th Sunday after Epiphany			Kathy <u>Haldenwang</u> Marie Sayles	Sheila Hoffman	Bob Fish Marge VanSlyke	Matt Rossi Konrad Thurston
11:15 am						
DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHER	ACOLYTE
1/7/2018* Epiphany of Our Lord	Ellen Masi Terry Fike			Terry Fike	Marvin Perkosky	Grace Candee
1/14/2018* Baptism of Our Lord	Chris Crill Linda Rogowski			Chris Crill	Lance Comfort	Carissa Klepadlo
1/21/2018 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany				Ellen Masi	Terry Fike	Liesl Froschauer
1/28/2018* 4 th Sunday after Epiphany	Lisa Sandefer Terry Fike			Karry Comfort	Lance Comfort	Camryn Klepadlo

* 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!

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed for New Year's Day 	2 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School	3 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School	4 9:15 am Nursery School 6:00 pm Sisters of the Faith ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE	5	6
7 Epiphany of Our Lord 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship with Communion 1:30 pm Confirmation Class	8 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	9 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study	10 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School 6:30 pm Youth Fundraising Meeting	11 9:15 am Nursery School 7:00 pm Church Council	12	13 9:30 am – 2:00 pm Fellowship Hall in Use
14 Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship with Communion 1:00 pm Hymn Selection Meeting	15 Church Office Closed for Martin Luther King Day 	16 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study	17 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School 1:00 pm Deacons' Meeting 4:00 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	18 9:15 am Nursery School 6:00 pm Sisters of the Faith	19	20
21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship 1:30 pm Confirmation Class	22 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	23 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study 6:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting	24 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School	25 9:15 am Nursery School 4:30 pm Stone Soup at Verona First Presbyterian – St. Peter's is cooking!	26 2:00 – 7:00 am American Red Cross Blood Drive	27
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship with Communion	29 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	30 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study	31 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School			