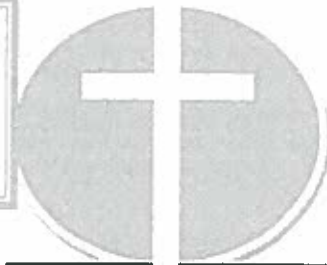


St. Peter Lutheran Church

February Monthly Newsletter



Martin Luther –

“Christ says: Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks... The bird is known by its song, for it sings according to its nature. Therefore, all the world knows that nothing represents the condition of the heart so perfectly and so positively as the words of the mouth, just as though the heart were in the word.”

I can remember as young man hearing the words of my parents echoing through my head, “If you can’t say something nice about someone, don’t speak at all.” In Jr. and Senior High School, it seemed the only real conversations that happened were concerning what this guy did or who that girl dated. The focus of the conversation was to put yourself in the best light possible in the eyes of those around you and if that meant dragging someone through the mud, well that’s just the way it was. I remember struggling with this situation, knowing it wasn’t right, but all too willing to let it go, if I thought it might cause me to be “outside” the approval of the rest of my class. The truth is, those words and the way people treated one another were hurtful and imprinted each one with an idea of their value and worth as a person. I can tell you that there were some who never recovered from those comments and instead lived their life to fulfill that view.

There are those who will shrug their shoulders and say, well that’s just the way it is and leave others to drown in the lies that have been told to them about themselves. This is the reason that we, as Christians, are called to live differently. Not just the manner in which we live, but the way we speak and convey appreciation for every person we meet. God’s Word tells us that “All have fallen short of the glory of God.” Yet, we allow ourselves to see those who dress differently, have shabby clothes, stand on corners begging for money, listen to loud music, ride your bumper, or swear endlessly, as somehow less than we are. We either ignore them and pass by, or exchange words and gestures to display our displeasure. In God’s Word, He tells us that He does not want even one these to be lost. So, do we toss them a life line or an anchor?

Worship Service

9:30am Traditional
Worship Service-S

Prayer Meeting

Saturday @ 9am-O

Bible Study

6:30PM Thursday in
the CR the Book of
Revelation

10:00AM Bible Study
Wednesday by Pastor
Rich-CR

10:00AM Book of
Revelation Thursday
in the GH by Jan
Schleier

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Rich Schleier

Associate Pastor

Andre Miller

Office Manager

Jean Kennedy

Custodian

Lidell Marshall
Anthony Montford

**Worship
Assistants**

Ushers

2/3

Bill & Sharon
Nelson

John & Stacy
Meyer

2/10

John & Stacy
Meyer

Dean & Sally
Rogers

2/17

Dean & Sally
Rogers

Bill & Sharon
Nelson

2/24

Jan & Jim
McDaniel

John & Stacy
Meyer

Greeters

2/3

Jim & Jan
McDaniel

2/10

Bill & Sharon
Nelson

2/17

John & Stacy
Meyer

2/24

Dean & Sally
Rogers

Communion

Assistant

February

Jane Hunkins

Reflections From Pastor Rich (continued)

We can choose who we will be in the world around us. We have chosen to be called a Christian and demonstrate that to others by our actions and our words. We need to pause and ask ourselves, "Am I living my life in a way that people who see me, know what I believe? Are the words I use inviting them to enter into conversation with me or turn away? Would they be surprised to find out that I believe in Jesus Christ and want them to join me in church?"

Surrender your life, your will, and your words to the Lord Jesus Christ today and forever!

Maranatha!

*Blessings,
Pastor Rich*

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me and
Where the Spirit is, there is freedom!**



Church Council
Tuesday
February 12th
Conference Room

Committee
Meetings

**Outreach and
Christian Ed
Board Meeting**
Sunday
2/3

**Worship
Committee
Meeting**
Monday
2/11

**Finance
Committee &
Property
Committee
Meeting**
Monday
2/11

**Partners in
Ministries**

Prayer Chain Chair
Office

St. Peter Women
President
Waneta Housh

Altar Guild Chair
Sally Rogers

A Message From Ray...

SO!!! The new year is underway, and (as you are reading this) we will have had our annual meeting (Jan 27) which is our forecasting and planning session for 2019. Many changes have been made in our accounting system to provide a more accurate report of the financial condition of St. Peter.


Our thanks to the departing members of the church council whose terms have ended. We say "thank you" to Jan Schleier (Outreach), Jim Fiedler (Finance) and Jean Kennedy (who represented the Education Committee for the past year). We have filled the open positions on the council, and they will be installed following the annual meeting. We welcome and say thanks for their willingness to step up for this important function.

Our thanks to Kathy H for her service to St. Peter for oh so many years. Kathy resigned Jan 17 and we do wish her the best for any avenue that she may desire to pursue.

Our thanks (in advance) for all the great help at our Lutefisk outing. This event is one of the largest fund raisers that we have. In addition to that, everyone has a lot of fun and we keep seeing the same crowd faces each year. We have also started a Shrimp and Corn Boil which seems to be a huge crowd pleaser. We currently have planned another one for April 12 (Friday evening) at 6 pm. We are selling tickets at the Lutefisk outing and will have tickets available in the church office during open hours or you can purchase them from me starting Feb 2nd. Come and join us on the 12th of April. All you can eat and only \$20.00 per person. SUCH A GREAT DEAL!

Ray Housh

In service to Christ,
Ray Housh


Valentine's Day

Pastor Andre's Korner

Pleasing God and My Momma's Porch!

Growing up I had no idea about pleasing God, and that being a goal of humanity due to His sacrificial heart toward us. I never realized the extent of God's love for humanity, until I realized my many flaws and that God still loves me. Growing up, we had a 5-bedroom house with a porch, the porch was a place of constant activity from BBQ grills, to impromptu photo shoots with family. The porch was a social spot for the family, I remember homemade ice cream being hand cranked, and jumping off the banister into the grass. I never really knew how important Momma's porch was until my parents no longer had one. I found out my father's goal before death was to get my mom another porch. I say all this to say, my father loved my mom so much that he was willing to sacrifice and plan to get my mom another porch, ill and in his late 70's all he wanted to do was make Momma happy and provide a space. My Momma's porch was space sacrificed for the good of the family, and my father was willing to sacrifice as he did for many years to give that back to her and us. So now what! My father, he's gone! with his heart being stopped by a Dr's scalpel but I remain. I desire to please God, and my prayer is that I can give momma a porch!

Pastor Andre

*Valentine's
Day*



**St. Peter Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
January 8, 2019**

The council meeting was called to order at 1800 hours by President Ray Housh. Devotions and prayer was conducted by Pastor Schleier. Debbie Lawrence will do devotions in Feb.

President's report: Ray introduced and motioned (second by Marcy) that continuing resolution 002 be approved by the council. (002 reads: Therefore, be it resolved that no member of the Pastor's family may be elected or appointed to serve on the church council.) Motion failed. We currently have two (2) council positions that need to be filled – Finance chair and Secretary.

Vice President's report: A 30-day termination of the contractual custodian's agreement has been issued and the services of Lidell Marshall shall end February 2nd, 2019. A replacement is currently being advanced.

Secretary's report (Ray): Motion made by Jim Fiedler and second by Debbie to approve the December minutes of the council. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: The year ending income and expense report indicates income of \$141,389.25 and expenses of \$147,420.57 for a \$6,040.32 loss on the income and expense report. Total loss for the year 2018 was **\$44,296.31**. The total loss included \$16,400.00 for sewer repair and parking lot coating and overlay on the west side of the church. The newly revamped accounting system is installed and will be used starting the first accounting month of 2019. A much more accurate and understandable accounting system will provide an all-inclusive format that will be easier to follow and understand. All payroll functions have been brought in house to eliminate the cost for using outside vendors.

Pastor Schleier: St. Peter received 11 new members on January 9th. Thanks to the Altar Guild and Ray for getting all the Christmas decorations up in the Sanctuary. Thanks to all who were involved with the advent suppers. The Angel Tree was a huge success this year. Thanks to all.

Pastor Miller: Currently overseeing the repair of the water leak in the wall between the men's and ladies' restrooms in the church building. At this juncture the extent of the damage is unknown. St. Peter's deductible is \$2500.00, and it is expected the cost will exceed that amount, so the claim has been filed with the insurance carrier.

**Congregational
Leadership**

**Council President
Ray Housh**

**Council Vice
President
Marcy Perry**

**Council Secretary
Lynnette De Los
Rios**

**Council Treasurer
Debbie Lawrence**

**Education/Youth &
Family Ministries
Christina Lobosco**

**Finance &
Stewardship
Louise Behnke**

**Outreach,
Fellowship, &
Christian Service
Mary Hayes &
Amanda Jensen**

**Property Chair
Rodrick Mitchell**

**Worship Chair
Jim and Jan
McDaniel**

Education report: (Jean Kennedy for the committee) The program for VBS will be a tropical theme this year. A waterfall backdrop will be used to take photos of the children and will be given as part of a gift at the conclusion of the VBS.

Worship report: Everything is going along quite well. Ushers, acolytes, lectors and communion assistants all seem to be doing a great job. A meeting is being scheduled with the acolytes and their parents to go over the duties and the need for adhering to the schedule. Altar Guild is doing a great job and the new banners and paraments provide for beautiful setting for all the worship services.

Outreach report: Movie night has been moved back until January 18th. Dining Out is the 19th and will be hosted by Jim and Peggy Cutler and Bill and Sharon Nelson. It will be at Rudy's BBQ located on the east side of Higley Road between Baseline and the US 60 in Gilbert. Contributions for the food pantry are needed and an application for endowment funding has been applied for. A birthday party for those who will be turning 90, or those that have already turned 90, will be held on February 17th in the great hall after worship.

Finance report: December minutes were approved. Financial statements for December were reviewed.

Property report: Major water break in a water line in the wall between the restrooms in the church building. Currently being check for damage and needed repair. No estimate on cost so far. Will be insurance claim and SPLC has \$2500.00 deductible. Lidell's contract has been terminated with Feb 2nd being his last day. A replacement is currently being interviewed.

A special thanks to those whose council terms will end. Jan Schleier (Outreach), Jim Fiedler (Finance) and Jean Kennedy (who while not officially a council member) has guided the Education Committee for past two years.

For the council:
Ray Housh



Bible Studies Available

Wednesday mornings with Pastor Rich at 10:00am in the Conference Room.
The topic is Joy.

The Sisterhood of St. Peter meets the Monday after communion Sunday of each month off campus at the IHOP at Val Vista and Baseline at 6:15pm. We have a meal together before our bible study. We have the book *Fervent* by Priscilla Schirer that we are studying.

The Martha Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30am in the Great Hall. Bring a snack to share.

We have a new study with Beth Moore on the Book of Revelation! We learned so much about prophesy from Daniel and now we will be expanding on it in Revelation. We meet in the conference room at 6:30pm on Tuesday and in the Great Hall at 10am on Thursday. Contact Jan Schleier for more information.

Men's Bible Study Group

Men of St. Peter – The Fellowship of the Way.

We meet once a month to learn discipleship and to unite in following our Lord. All things are possible when we follow Him. Our meeting this month will be Sunday February 17th at 6:00PM in the Comfy Couch Room which is in the Office.

Come see what the Lord can do!



Sunday School Schedule

Forgiveness: Joseph Forgives (Children 3 thru 12 years old)

2/3 Food

2/10 Valentine Party

2/17 Drama

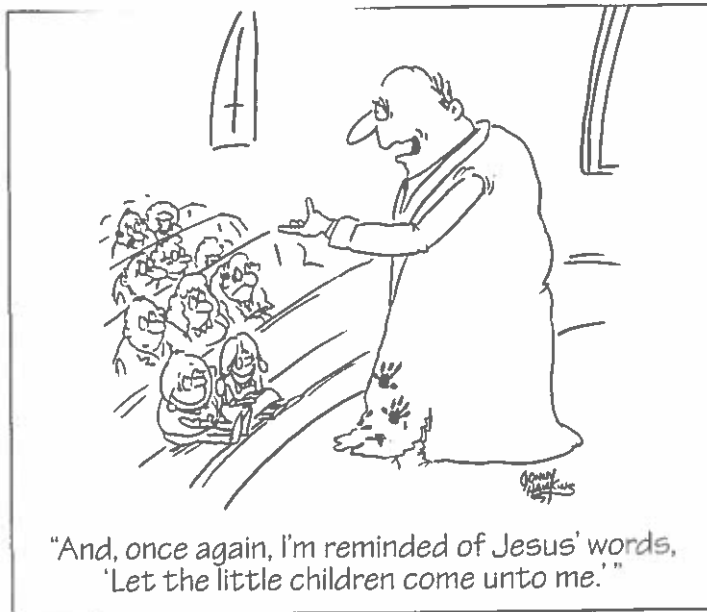
2/24 Games

This group meets in the Learning Center.

Youth Group (7th thru 12 grade and older)

This group meets in the Youth Room of the Learning Center.

Adult Sunday School (18 years old to 100) meets each Sunday at 11:00am in the Conference Room.



Billy Graham's Prayer For Our Nation

This Man Sure Has A Good View of What's Happening To Our Country!

'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from sin and set us free.
Amen!'



Great Lesson on Stress

A young lady confidently walked around the room with a raised glass of water while leading a seminar and explaining stress management to her audience. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'Half empty or half full?' She fooled them all: "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. To 20 oz.

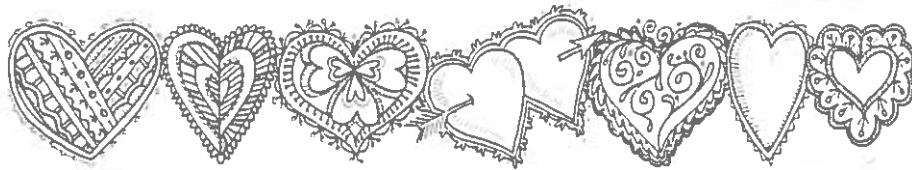
She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter, it depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced. So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up again tomorrow if you must.

1. Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
3. Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
4. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
5. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
6. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
7. Never buy a car you can't push.
8. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
9. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
10. Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
11. The second mouse gets the cheese.
12. When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

13. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
14. Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
15. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
16. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
17. Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY 18. Save the earth.... It's the only planet with chocolate!



Annual Church Picnic:

March 3 from 11:00 until 2:30 is the date for the family picnic at the Falcon Ramada, Red Mountain Park. There will be a signup two weeks before the event to give you the exact location and what food to bring and to let me know how many are coming.

Annual Rummage Sale:

Also, if you're contributing items for the March 15-16 rummage sale, you may bring them anytime and put them in the box in the narthex or on a table in the stewardship room. My wonderful helpers and I are already doing early pricing for items already received. We will be able to accept large items (like furniture) closer to sale time. Thank you. Waneta Housh

Come Celebrate!

Join us on Sunday, February 24th at 11:30am in the Great Hall! On this day we will once again celebrate the birthdays of everyone in the church family who were born in February. We'll provide the cake, the rest of you bring everything else, and we will have a jolly good time!

And if you would like, bring a birthday card for each of the folks who are celebrating their special day in January. See the list on the last page of the newsletter for names. We will have a gift bag with their name on it to drop the card into.

This will give us an opportunity to celebrate with them and meet as a family of God.



Pineapple Pecan Cheese Ball

2 - 8 oz packages cream cheese
1 - 8 ½ oz can crushed pineapple
2 cups pecans, chopped
¼ cup green pepper, chopped
2 Tablespoons onion, chopped
1 Tablespoon seasoned salt



Directions:

Soften cream cheese, stir in drained pineapple, 1 Cup of the pecans, green pepper, onion and salt. Form into 2 balls by wrapping in foil. Chill well in refrigerator. Take out at serving time and roll in remaining 1 cup of pecans.



Food Boxes:

We are seeing an increase in the requests for food boxes. Please consider purchasing some of the items below so that we can meet the needs of our community.

Canned fruits & vegetables	Ramen soup
Canned meats	Instant potatoes
Peanut butter	Canned soup
Spaghetti noodles & sauce	Cereal
Corn muffin mix	Toilet paper
Sugar	Bar soap
Macaroni & cheese	Snack items
Rice	Crackers
Beans	Bottled water
Gift cards	Animal Crackers



Thank you to those who have brought in a donation.

Get Ready For Movie Night!

On Friday night, February 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. The movie will be "Amazing Grace". Don't forget to bring a snack to share!

Please sign up on the sheets on the tables in the Great Hall or on the Information Desk in the Narthex.





St. Peter Lutheran Church Announcements

February Events

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23
Prayer Gathering
9:00am-Office

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27
Bible Study by
Pastor Rich-10AM-
CR

Feb.7, 14, 21, 28
Bible Study Beth
Moore 10AM-GH

Feb.7, 14, 21, 28
Bible Study Beth
Moore 6:30PM-CR

February 12:
Martha Circle-GH

Feb. 4 & 18:
Sisterhood of St.
Peter - 7pm IHOP:
Val Vista &
Baseline

February 19th:
Women's General
Meeting with Dr.
Jamie Kuppermann
as the speaker

February 24th:
Birthday Pot Luck

February 25th:
Newsletter Deadline

Prayer Gathering

Every Saturday morning at 9:00 in the Pastor's office, we gather to pray for God's perfect Will to be done in the life of St. Peter. God revealed that this is an important part of the resurrection He is doing in our midst. Please come along side us and add your voice to ours as we seek His promised blessing, a Resurrection Church!

Learn to play bells. Sunday's at 8:15am in the Bell Choir room. South side of the Great Hall.

DINING OUT

February 16th at 6:00PM
MVPita Mediterranean Grill
1066 N. Power Rd., Mesa 85212

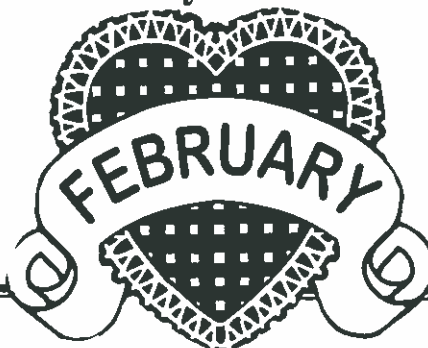
Psalm 92:4-5

For you make me glad by your deed, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. How great are your works, O Lord, how profound your thoughts!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bob Becker 2/18
Dean Rogers 2/19
Louis Jensen 2/25

Bill & Sharon Nelson 2/9
John & Stacy Meyer 2/13



Did you know that you can pay your tithes and offerings on-line? You can go to www.stpetermesa.org and select "Giving" from the menu bar.