



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

# Spring Newsletter

St Peter's Lutheran Church  
121 N Spring St  
Middletown PA 17057  
(717) 944-4651

parishsecretary@stpetersmiddletown.org



## Women of the ELCA Spring Retreat

### God in Us; Broken and Beautiful Mosaic of Faith

**Who:** Women of St Peter's & Renewed in Grace Friends are welcome too!

**Dates:** Friday, March 8 starting at 6 pm through Saturday, March 9, 2024, until 4 pm

**Where:** Kentland Retreat Center  
1024 E Winding Hill Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA

**Cost:** \$40 per person (scholarships available on request)

The women of St Peter's and their friends are invited to join us on a retreat through the Camping Corporation (location to be confirmed). Through art, music, nature walks, Bible study and worship we will look at how we God is mirrored in each one of us. Please look for the registration at the church office.

The Women of the ELCA is a nation-wide ministry for all women attending an ELCA congregation. St Peter's has had an active chapter in the past and we would like to bring this back to our area.

Contact Pr Molly with any questions  
(717)321-4877 or [pastormolly.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:pastormolly.outreach@gmail.com)

### Photos From our Fall 2023 Woman's Retreat: *Friendship Through Faith*



## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year! The St Peter's community has accomplished so much in 2023 and we look forward to seeing where God is leading us as a church. We are thankful for the children and families of Hope Academy PA preschool as join us in chapel, sing in Spanish and play in the gym. Our new Parent Pod meets regularly and invites new parents and children into our many play spaces and strengthen their relationships. Penn State Harrisburg held a class on aging with us along with THON to raise money for childhood cancer. The TOGETHER YOUTH Afterschool program continue to learn leadership and learn about many aspects of our community. Each day, our hallways are filled with laughter, creativity, and caring conversations. Thank you to all of you who are apart of these ministries whether they are big or small.

In addition to our regular ministries, we are preparing for the season of Lent which begins on February 14th with Ash Wednesday. During lent, we will continue our weekly Wednesday Bible Study and chapel services with a Lenten theme. We will also be holding Wednesday Night Lenten Series which will focus on The Chosen series on Netflix. We will gather for dinner, prayer, a Bible study based on a portion of The Chosen. We are hoping to form small groups after lent to continue with The Chosen series. We will also have the daily reflection booklets to be able to read at home. Please consider joining us for one of these times to help us reflect on the 40 days journeying with Jesus as he was tempted in the dessert. As we know, Jesus always turns us to God and the truth in God's Word. Thank you for being an important part of our community and for all you do for others. It is a blessing to be a part of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the TOGETHER programs. May 2024 bring us together to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Peace and joy,

Pr Molly





## High School Helpers

This Fall we have had the pleasure of Mrs. Morter's life skill's class from the high school joining us during the week as part of their vocational training. As a free service to our church, her students help clean and maintain St. Peter's High traffic spaces like the offices, bathrooms, and community spaces like the art café or Luther Hall. Andrew does general maintenance and loves being Sharon's right-hand man when it comes to working around the church.

Cameron enjoys vacuuming and cleaning the bathrooms. Dany is a vacuum perfectionist when he has his vacuum backpack and takes special pride in making sure the sanctuary has clean lines and no crumbs. Leah can be seen helping in the office with clerical work by organizing and shredding documents.

Aaron Devoe, St. Peter's facility manager, advises them and works closely with the school to ensure we have a positive learning environment while at our church. Although Aaron oversees the work, the staff and volunteers at St Peter's have deep relationships with these students. We enjoy the smiles and the pride they have in "working" here. This is just a perfect example of community

PSU Harrisburg Class on Aging  
Lunch & Learning  
11 am – 12:30 pm  
Luther Hall



- March 13 - Living Environments**
- March 20 - Support systems / Caregiving**
- March 27 - Economics of Aging**
- April 3 - Death and Bereavement**
- April 10 - Celebration**

St Peter's members who are 55+ are invited to join the college students for a class on aging. There is a short program led by one of our members and then we join young adults at a table to help them learn how to support and understand retirement years. Dr. Patty Aguilara does amazing work helping young adults change their perceptions of aging and healthy lifestyles. We need you to make this class happen!

**A new class is forming!** We are looking for 5 wisdom people to work with students in their master's counseling program. It is a class on holding conversations. They will call for 30 minutes once a week for 8 weeks.

**Please contact Pr Molly if you are interested in either class.**

## OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY

**The Parent Pod**  
in the cafe 9am-10:30am

1ST THURSDAY: COFFEE & TEA  
3RD THURSDAY: ADULT & CHILD HANDS-ON PLAY

121 N SPRING ST.  
MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

**FAMILY PROMISE**  
[familypromise.org](http://familypromise.org)

**ay 5- Sun May 12**  
Family Promise from 6:30 pm – 6:00 am  
St Peter's in Luther Hall and classrooms

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
**AM drivers:** 5:30 – 6:30 am *(15 passenger van pick up at St Peter's -drive families to Family Promise Day Center, Camp Hill - drive van back to church)*  
**PM Drivers:** 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
**Meals:** 6:30 pm *provide a meal for 15 people*  
**Meal Hosts:** 6:30 - 9 pm *enjoy time with the families and help them with any needs*

**Contact Vicki Harris, Site Coordinator**  
(717) 554-4299

Come join Team Avocado today!



Fun Fact: Our sister school in Guatemala is located on an avocado farm!

# Hope Academy PA

Central PA's only Bilingual S.T.E.A.M. Preschool

**Now Registering Explorers for the 24/25 school year!**



**What do we offer?**

- Bilingual preschool education--Spanish and English instruction
- S.T.E.A.M. infused curriculum
- Fantastic facilities, including a new playground (check us out at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Spring Street, Middletown)
- Cross-cultural connection with our sister school, Hope Academy in Guatemala (weekly zoom meetings to practice our languages!)
- Experienced teachers ready to help your child grow!

**BOOK A TOUR!**      [jen@tree4hope.org](mailto:jen@tree4hope.org)  
717-944-0963

Anyone interested can email School Director **Jennifer Graf** at [jen@tree4hope.org](mailto:jen@tree4hope.org) and/or call **717-944-0963** to book a tour.

As always, we welcome all. members of the community to stop by anytime to see our classroom and learn more about what we offer.

## HOPE ACADEMY PA

Hope Academy PA has had a great start to the school year and wants to thank the congregation of St. Peter's and the Middletown community for welcoming us! We love our school mascot, Cate the Avocado, and we have 9 eager Avocados learning each week with us! Our most recent additions to our class are Spanish speaking twin girls and our 'veteran' students have loved having new friends and are eagerly helping each other and expanding their vocabularies. Our bilingual learning has been taken to the next level and we are having so much fun!

*We welcomed more than 50 friends and family in December at our Christmas program where we celebrated Christmas and our new Spanish skills with 3 songs in Spanish! Thanks to our Wednesday chapel friends who attended, as well!*

Registration for the 24/25 school year is now open and we would so appreciate you helping us spread the word so that we can continue to grow! Our goal is to have two classes next year!

## St. Peter's SUNDAY SCHOOL

Contact Alex Mabee with questions 717-944-4651

# WEE Worship

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
9AM  
COME AND JOIN US!

WORSHIP WILL BE A TIME LEARN THE STORY DIFFERENTLY THROUGH MOVEMENT, PLAY AND ART.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL



1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays

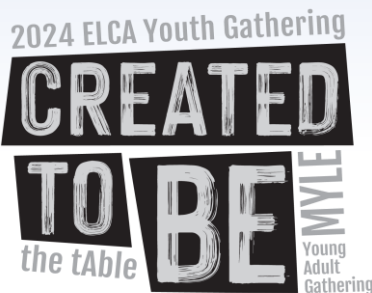
9am in the Café

Come join us as we explore different Bible stories in fun ways. All are Welcome!

# YOUTH NEWS & FUNDRAISING

## 2024 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Every three years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) holds their annual youth gathering. In the summer of 2024, the gathering will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana or as it is often affectionately called NOLA. It will be held from **July 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>**. We are sending **three youth and two adults** to the gathering! Participants will join in times of service, fellowship, and worship throughout the four days we are in NOLA. Contact Alex Mabee for more information 717-944-4651 or [amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org](mailto:amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org)



Together YOUTH spent the Fall learning leadership and their own leadership styles. This Spring we will be working on diversity and inclusion. We will be hosting several events though the semester that the kids will plan and help run. It is being held **5 days per week** and open to **4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders**. The youth focus on leadership, diversity, and inclusion along with community care. **Contact Alex Mabee, TOGETHER Coordinator**, for more information [amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org](mailto:amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org) (717)944-4651





### Spring GARAGE SALE

April 12th 4pm to 7pm  
April 13th 8am to 1pm

121 N SPRING ST.  
MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057

Together, St. Peters Youth and Hope Academy PA Preschool are hosting a garage sale fundraiser.

Donations in good condition accepted from now to April 1st. Drop off at St. Peters office Mon- Thurs 9am to 12pm or by appointment. Contact [Jen@tree4hope.org](mailto:Jen@tree4hope.org) or [amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org](mailto:amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org)

Have you cleaned out the house for the new year? We are accepting donations of clothing, household items, games, and other things.



### National Youth Gathering Soup Sale

#### Month of February

Come support the youth attending by buying some soup to take home on **Sundays after church or Wednesdays after Chapel!**



**All soup will be frozen and made by the youth and their families.**



## EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION

St Peter's chosen for  
research project



### LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Theme: The Healing of the Nations: Christ's healing for a broken world

The business sessions of the thirty-seventh Annual Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, gathering under the theme "For the Healing of the Nations: Christ's Healing in a Broken World," will be held the evening of Friday, **May 31, 2024**, by Zoom, and Saturday, **June 1, 2024**, in person at St Matthew's Lutheran Church in York, PA

Our Day of Edification will be held on Saturday, **May 18, 2024**, by Zoom.

Our voting members are Sharon Beard, John Ponnett and Adam Evans.



St Peter's has been selected to be a part of an ELCA churchwide research into finding ways to engage children, youth, and family ministry. Alex and Pr Molly are spending a week of training in New Orleans January 15-21. During this time of learning and sharing our ministries with the 10 congregations from across the US, we will develop a plan for St Peter's and our TOGETHER ministries and how we can listen to youth in our community and discover ways to encourage and engage faith formation. Our St Peter's/TOGETHER team is led by Alex and the members are Bennett Williams, Stephanie Ponnett, Tiara Taylor (young adult), Jen Joyce Kemper, Pr Molly and Ambriana Guzman (youth). We meet monthly with our Co-Op coach, Andrea Fluegel. At the end of the two years, we hope to share what we have learned with churches within our synod. The information will be used in a churchwide resource guide. Here is more about the Formation Co-Op:

### CONSCIOUS AND UNCONSCIOUS ATTITUDES SEMINAR

**Thursday, February 8, 2024**

*(choose one session)*

**First Session: 3:30PM – 5:00PM**

**Second Session: 6:00PM – 7:30PM**

Our brains are wired to take shortcuts to make decisions. This seminar will provide information and strategies on how to identify conscious and unconscious attitudes that can affect judgments, decisions, and behaviors. Please join us at St. Peter's Lutheran Church Middletown located at 121 N. Spring St. to participate in a seminar with Stacey Waters, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Harrisburg discussing how bias influences our relationships with others

**Registration** can be completed by emailing or calling the Church Office **(717-944-4651)** or email

[parishmail@stpetersmiddletown.org](mailto:parishmail@stpetersmiddletown.org)

*Please provide your name, email or phone number, and the number attending. You can also register at the door. Pre-registration will allow you to be notified if the program is postponed due to inclement weather.*

THE FORMATION CO-OP roots young people in a lifelong and transformative faith in Jesus that is experienced through life-giving communities. We do this through an ever-expanding community of co-learners and co-creators made up of Guides who model and teach deep listening practices to congregation teams, and Congregation Teams themselves, who use these skills to listen to and learn from their context and that of others. Through this listening and learning process, Congregation Teams will identify and articulate new ways of doing youth ministry suited to their context and relevant to 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. In partnership with their assigned Guide – and strengthened through intentional training – Congregation Teams will draw from their 1) stories about youth ministry; 2) current realities facing youth and congregations; 3) congregational assets; and 4) congregational partnerships in order to develop a ministry plan from which they will experiment, learn, and share with the wider community over the course of two years.

## NEW COMMUNITY MINISTRIES!

Be a part of making a difference in the lives of our community.



# OFF THE STREETS

Help get our homeless off the streets

Off the Streets assists families and individuals in Middletown and neighboring communities, facilitating their transition from the streets into stable housing. They have 5 moves coming up and their supplies are running low. They need kitchen supplies: pots/pans, dishes, glassware, utensils, towels, blankets, and bedsheets. You can contact them at 717-460-2137 or email them at [Info@offthestreetsmiddletownpa.org](mailto:Info@offthestreetsmiddletownpa.org).



**St Peter's Bazaar OPEN HOUSE!**  
@ 717 Vintage in Middletown

**Saturday, January 27, 2024**

**11 am – 1 pm**

**Stop by the booth and look around!**



## 717 Vintage

A Marketplace for  
Handmade, Upcycled,  
Antiques & Retro Furniture

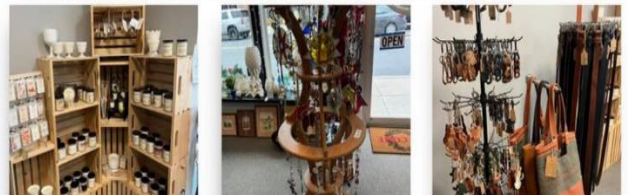
## St. Peter's Bazaar at 717 Vintage

Beginning February 1st we will have a room at the 717 Vintage Shop. For sale will be the type of items we had on our Silent Auction and special table of unique pieces at our annual Christmas Bazaar. All proceeds from the sale of these items will go to church ministries.

If you would like to donate items please contact Sharon at 717-991-0901 or [sbeard712@gmail.com](mailto:sbeard712@gmail.com)

## 717 VINTAGE SHOPPE

A MARKETPLACE FOR HANDMADE, UPCYCLED, ANTIQUES & RETRO FURNITURE



2 S. UNION STREET MIDDLETOWN

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 11AM - 6PM

SATURDAY 10AM - 5PM AND SUNDAY 1PM - 5PM

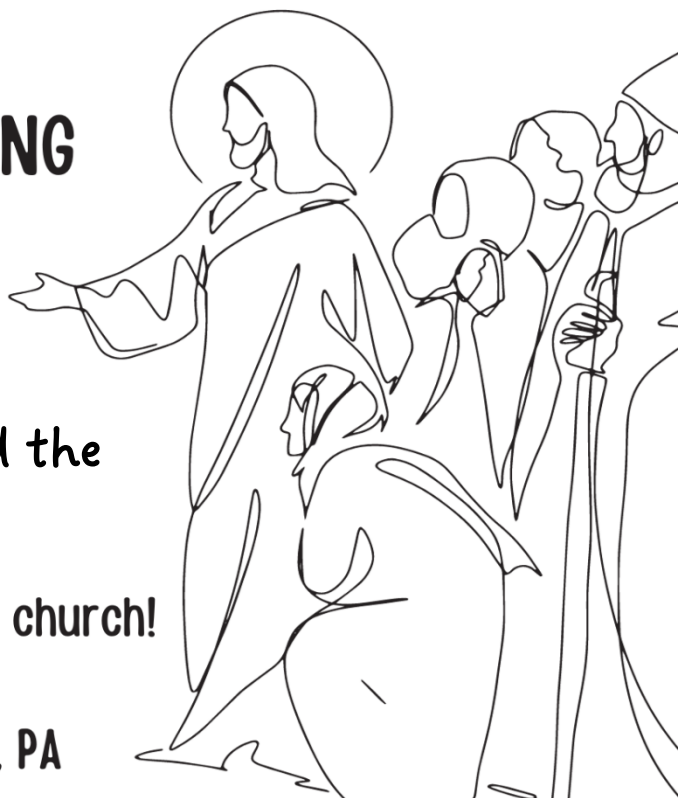
# APRIL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The April Congregational Meeting  
will be held on April 28th, 2024.

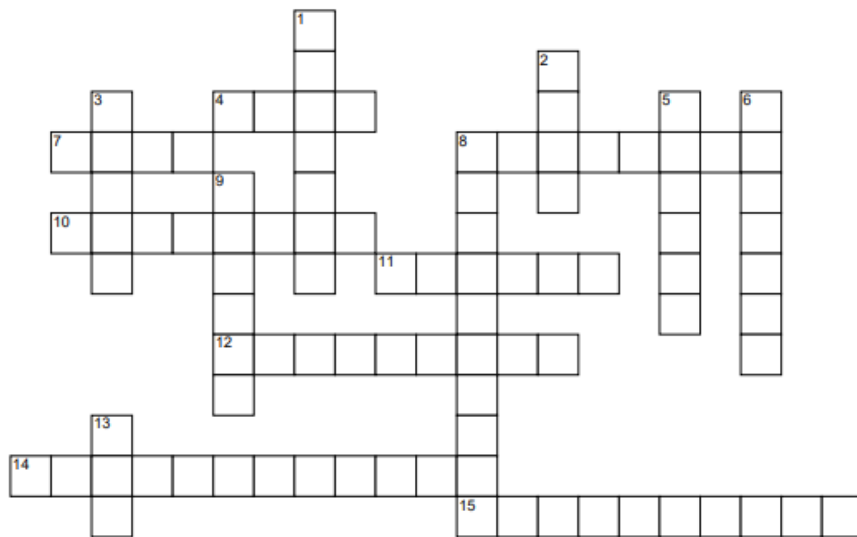
Worship at 10 am with breakfast and the  
meeting to follow at 11 am

Please join us to discuss the future of the church!

121 North Spring St. Middletown, PA



## Lenten Crossword



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### ACROSS

- 4 Catholics don't eat this on Fridays during Lent.
- 7 The Last Supper was on \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday
- 8 We don't say or sing this during Lent in the church.
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ of the Cross
- 11 Jesus prayed for 40 days here
- 12 This sacrament started during the Last Supper
- 14 We spend Lent preparing for Jesus' death and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15 The day Jesus died (two words)

### DOWN

- 1 During Lent, we should spend more time doing this.
- 2 A week before Easter is \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday.
- 3 There are \_\_\_\_\_ days in Lent.
- 5 Palm \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 When you go without food
- 8 During Lent, we give to the poor.
- 9 The Liturgical color of Lent
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday

## LENTEN SEASON SCHEDULE

As we enter the Lenten season, we embark on a 40-day journey of reflection, prayer, and commemorating Jesus' sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert. This is a time for spiritual renewal and personal growth. Let us embrace this sacred period to grow closer to God and strengthen our community of faith.

### **February:**

**Sun Feb 4** - 10 am Gospel Worship

**Wed Feb 7** -

10 am Lenten Worship Chapel  
11 am Bible study. Cafe

**Sun Feb 11** -

9 am Wee Worship in Chapel  
10 am Traditional Worship

**Wed Feb 14** - Ash Wednesday

10 am Chapel  
7 pm Sanctuary

**Sun Feb 18** Lent - Temptation 10 am Worship

**Wed Feb 21** -

10 am Lenten Worship Chapel  
11 am Bible study. Cafe  
6:30 pm You Are Called: The Chosen. Café

**Sun Feb 25** Lent - The Passion Prediction 10 am Worship

**Wed Feb 28** -

10 am Lenten Worship Chapel  
11 am Bible study. Cafe

### **March:**

**Sun Mar 3** Lent - Cleansing of the Temple. 10 am worship

**Wed Mar 6** -

10 am Lenten Worship Chapel  
11 am Bible study. Cafe  
6:30 pm You Are Cherished: The Chosen. Café

**Sun Mar 10** -

9 am Wee Worship in Chapel  
10 am Lent: Lifting Up the Son of Man. Traditional Worship

**Wed Mar 13** -

10 am Lenten Worship Chapel  
11 am Bible study. Cafe  
6:30 pm You Change Course: The Chosen. Café

**Sun Mar 17** -

10 am Lent: The new covenant written on my heart Worship

**Wed Mar 20** -

10 am Lenten Worship Chapel  
11 am Bible study. Cafe  
6:30 pm You Are A Witness: The Chosen. Café

**Sun Mar 24** -

10 am Palm Sunday  
Thurs March 28  
6:00 pm Seder Meal with B'nai Jacob Synagogue

**Fri March 29** - Good Friday

10 am Chapel  
7 pm Sanctuary

**Sun March 31** - EASTER

10 am worship



## **Join us for Bible Study!**



Wednesdays

10 am WORSHIP in the CHAPEL

11 am BIBLE STUDY in the Café

Each week we look at the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. Come with ideas, questions or just listen to the conversation as we dig deeper into the readings and help Pr Molly prepare for her Sunday sermons. Just bring a bible and a smile!