

PROCLAIMER

March 2024

St. Peter's By the Numbers

St. Peter's Lutheran

1130 St. Peters Road
Lexington SC 29072
803-359-2470

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9 am-6 pm

Friday 9 am—Noon

www.StPetersLexSC.org

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Judson F. Merrell, STS

"Pastor Judson" Senior Pastor
JudsonMerrell@bellsouth.net
704-798-4280

The Rev. Cassandra L. Boehringer

"Pastor Cassie" Associate Pastor
pastorcassieb@gmail.com
678-492-3956

Craig Davis

Matins Choir & Instrumental Director

Kayla Ellingson

Angel Choir Director

Lauren Henry

Penni Henry

Nursery Attendants

Barry Moore

Chancel Choir & Handbells Director

Valerie Porth

Bookkeeper

Molly Teem

SonShine Choir Director

Open Position

Youth & Young Adult Director

Carol Wyndham

Administrative Coordinator

Organist/Accompanist

office@stpeterslexsc.org

803-360-7137

It's that time of year again where Pr. Cassie & I have to compile the parochial information of the parish & send it to the Bishop's office. I look at this time as a perfect time to also see where we have been, and to see if any trends are visible within our ministries. I was pleasantly surprised this year, and although I know I have shared this with some of you, here are the trends that I found to be the most pertinent as we move through 2024.

Attendance (includes Ash Wednesday & Holy Week Services):

2022 Average: 200 / Sunday

2023 Average: 224 / Sunday

2024 Average: 238 / Sunday (251 without Ash Wed.)

Giving (All Funds, not just General Fund):

2022: \$571,043.50 (January only \$39,320.18)

2023: \$791,947.58 (January only \$57,697.57)

2024: January = \$58,870.85

Some specific 2024 items so far:

- ★ **Soup Supper:** 250+ in attendance. We ran out of soup, sandwiches, and many side dishes.
- ★ **Shrove Tuesday:** We prepared for 275 & ran out of food! We counted approximately 290 plates served.

As I look at these numbers, they are an indication of 1) a healthy congregation and 2) a ministry-driven congregation (both inside & outside of the church). That is a blessing & we all should celebrate what the Spirit is doing in this place! Furthermore, we have several things upcoming that will continue this momentum.

March 31: Easter Sunday (Sunrise, Breakfast, Divine Service)*

Mini-Music Camp: April 13 (10 am—Noon)

New Member Lunch & Learn: April 21

Music Camp: May 4-5 (more info soon!)

St. Peter's Night at Blowfish Game: May 31 (more info soon)

Thanks for all you do to keep our ministry going!

Blessings!

Pastor Judson

***details pg. 4**

Church Business

St. Peter's By the Numbers	
January 1—January 30, 2024*	
Actual Received YTD	\$ 54,343.85
Actual Spent YTD	\$ 50,350.72
Difference YTD	+ \$ 3,993.13
<i>*Because our newsletter is published before the end of the month, the numbers here & for the month, will always be a month behind.</i>	

PUBLISHING DEADLINES:

Bulletin—Noon on Wednesdays
 Proclaimer—15th of every month
 Prayer List—5 pm on Wednesdays

REMINDER FROM THRIVENT

2023 Thrivent Choice Dollars remaining must be directed by March 31, 2024.

I'M NEW HERE. WHAT ARE ALL OF THESE INITIALS?

CR=Conference Room in office building
 FH=Fellowship Hall downstairs
 GR=Gathering Room behind PLC
 PLC=Parish Life Center (big windows)
 SH=Scout Hut in back of cemetery
 YR=Youth Room upstairs

Ministry Highlights

by Rachel Price

Church Council met February 11th @ 4 pm.

Attendance: All members were present.

- **Homecoming:** Sunday, April 28th this year.
- **Education:** New SS class will begin in August. Chip Rhoads will teach the book *Hallmarks of Lutheran Identity* by Alvin Schmidt.
- **Evangelism:** sponsoring St. Peter's night at the Blowfish baseball game on May 31st.
- **Property:** Arborist West Swygart looked at the White Oak tree & determined it to be healthy & recommended cutting the big limb hanging over the office building & trimming a few dead limbs. His quote for this work is \$1,200. New flooring was installed connecting the elevator lobby to the nursery hall. Crosses up for Lent.
- **Safety** is evaluating additional parking spaces for seniors & handicapped. Reviewing locking & unlocking procedures. New cameras added.
- **Scouts** will hold Pinewood Derby March 10th along with a spaghetti fundraiser. Lots of camping trips planned in coming months.
- **Service:** Blood Connection bus will be here March 14th from 2-6 pm. Relay for Life is set for Friday, May 3rd at LHS with Olympic theme. Cards mailed to shut-ins. Suggested moving Noisy Offering to Palm Sunday instead of 5th Sunday which is Easter.
- **Staff Support:** added Maternity/Paternity plan for part-time employees.
- **Technology:** getting quotes on sound system.
- **Worship & Music:** Soup Supper was a great success with over 250 in attendance. Helping with new sound system research. Discussed ways to get more Ushers to serve.
- **Youth:** Nerf war this afternoon. Continuing weekly meetings. Interviewing candidate soon.
- **Pictorial Directory:** Final draft is being passed around for final proofing (harder than it sounds). Should be at printer by end of month. Thanks to all who have stepped up to help.

Next meeting is March 10th @ 4 pm



Church Business

Funds	January Fund Totals
General	\$53,500.85
Bereavement Meals	\$25.00
Boy Scouts	\$80.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$150.00
David Davis	\$340.00
Endowment	\$1,125.00
Maintenance	\$1,990.00
Sanctuary Sound	\$115.00
Snack Sacks	\$425.00
Women's Retreat	\$940.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$100.00
Russel Bickley Mem.	\$40.00
Clayton Rawl Mem.	\$40.00
TOTAL GIVING for January	\$58,870.85

LUTHERAN MEN

Monday, March 4th

6:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Dinner is served.

Please RSVP to Bill Jennings

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank everyone who prayed, sent cards, called or emailed me during my recent knee surgery. The gift of some of my favorite foods really lifted my spirits and energy level. It is truly a blessing to have so much encouragement as I am recovering. Brenda and I have been blessed to have been led to the wonderful people at St. Peter's Lutheran.

In Christ's Love,
Ed Hedgecock

When you put it on social media, in the bulletin, shared it during service, and a church member says they never heard about it:

Therefore I told you
these things long ago;
before they happened
I announced them
to you...
Isaiah 48:5



Are you good at riddles? Can you solve mysteries? In your Bibles, read Matthew 27:32. If you can tell Ms. Kelly Rhoads what Simon did, you might be a super sleuth. You may even get a prize! Then come to Mini Rally Day on Sunday, April 14th. We will be looking for all Super Sleuths.



Lenten Schedule

Join us as we observe the somber sounds of the Lenten Season. We cannot fully appreciate the glory of Easter without first going to the cross of Calvary.



**Palm
Sunday**
March

24

8:30 & 11 am



**Maundy
Thursday**
March

28

11:15 am & 6:15 pm



**Good
Friday**
March

29

11:15 am & 6:15 pm



**Easter
Sunday**
March

31

7:30 & 11 am

MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP will be held March 6, 13, & 20 at 11:15 am and 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary.



**Easter
Lilies**

\$15 each

Deadline Wed., March 13th

**Yellow order forms in
Narthex & PLC**



Ms. Betty Lou's

Bunny Bash

(egg hunt)

Saturday, March 23

9:30-11 am

Bring your
Basket & get your
picture made with the
Easter Bunny.

Odds & Ends

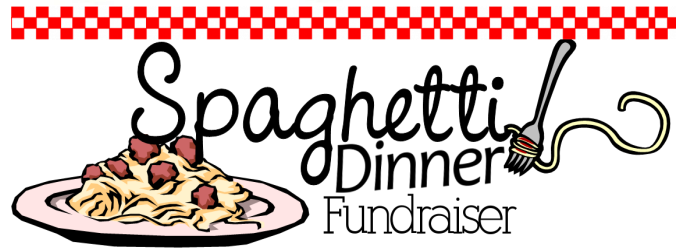


Sunday, March 10

After morning Worship

You are invited to join Pack 309 for our Annual Pinewood Derby. You can build a car & compete or come for lunch and watch the Scouts have fun.

To build a car & participate in the Derby, contact Jason Williams.



Sunday, March 10

After morning Worship

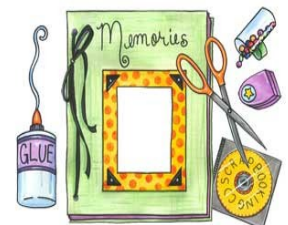
Dinners can be eaten while we run the Pinewood Derby or taken home. All proceeds will go to support Pack & Troop 309.



Snack Sack Ministry needs your plastic bags! We use 65 each week! Don't worry, if we get too many we'll take the extras to Mission Lexington since they need them as well.

CALLING ALL SCRAPBOOKERS

If you enjoy working on scrapbooks & would be interested in gathering with other like-minded folks to "scrap" & share ideas, please contact Debbie Marcolini to join this group. No experience required. The next meeting is Saturday, March 16th from 10 am—4 pm in the PLC.





1000 Thank Yous

This year in our ministry we are placing a special emphasis on expressing our thankfulness to others. All are invited to take part in our congregation's challenge to write "One Thousand Thank Yous" this year. Take a card from this table or use your own, jot down a simple thank you note, and give it to someone you want to thank!

Do you think we can send "One Thousand Thank Yous?"

You can help us track our progress by adding to our display board. When you write a card, please take a mini Post-it note, write the name of the person you are thanking, and stick the Post-it note on the display board.

There are several ways to send your thank you notes:

Drop your card for a church member right in our mail shelf created by Brenda Hedgecock near the Fellowship Hall .

(Thank you, Brenda! There, only 999 more to go!)

Hand deliver your card! You could brighten someone's day.

Send your card in the mail. Yay, something other than a bill!

Who will you thank?

A committee member for all their hard work.

Our choirs for their musical offerings during our worship.

A coworker for helping you with a big project.

A classmate or neighbor for their friendship.

A young family for bringing their baby to worship with them. +

The clerk at Publix that is always smiling & helpful!

And anyone else you can think of!

The people we cherish and the reasons for giving thanks are endless! Donations are welcome for thank you cards (blank inside). If you have any questions or you'd like to share a God moment, contact the Pastors!

Women's Ministry

Lighthouse for Life

Lighthouse for Life is an organization in Columbia, SC fighting to eradicate human trafficking. Human Trafficking is defined as the force, fraud, or coercion of an individual for commercial sex or forced labor in exchange for something of value.

Women's Ministry has undertaken to supply Lighthouse for Life with 5 Freedom Bags. These bags are given to the rescued victims of trafficking and provide basic necessities for personal care; and as a way to show Christian love and kindness.

We would very much appreciate any financial support you could provide to assist us with these bags. Your donations should be marked "Freedom Bags" and may be placed in the offering plate.



MORE WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS FOR 2024

(Mark your calendars so you don't miss anything)

- **Friday, March 15 @ 6:30 pm** in FH – Movie Night ***The Sound of Freedom***
(bring your own drink & we will provide the popcorn.)
This movie is based on the story of Tim Ballard's career, his rescues, and what led him to start Operation Underground Railroad. This special agent from the Dept. of Homeland Security, leaves his job to rescue trafficked and exploited children worldwide. The movie highlights one of his first missions to free dozens of children. It is a story of the fight for freedom and hope, even in the darkest of places.
- **Friday, May 17 @ 6:30 pm** in PLC – BINGO night
- **Saturday, June 22 @ 10 am** in FH – Repair Chrismon Ornaments in FH (all welcome)
- **Friday, July 19 @ 6:30 pm** in PLC – Ice Cream Social
- **Friday, August 16 @ 6:30 pm** in FH – Movie Night (TBA)
- **Sunday, September 22 @ 3:00 pm** in FH – Taste Test (bring goodies & recipe for same)

*October and November events are still in the planning stage.
Watch here for more details.*



Educational Ministry

Promises

We make promises all the time. As a child I would promise my parents if they let me do something, I would never complain about chores again. Somehow, I would complain again. We promise to keep a secret, yet somehow, we take another into our confidence—broken promises.

In the Lutheran Book of Worship¹, the rite of Holy Baptism asks parents and the church body to make promises. We promise to “faithfully bring children to the services of God’s House, to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.” We also promise to “Faithfully care for them and help in every way, as God gives you opportunity, that they may bear witness to the faith we profess, living in the covenant of their baptism and in communion with the Church.”

How well do we keep these promises? More importantly, how can we keep these promises? Can anything really be more important than our children’s lives?

God never breaks his promises. Romans 4:13² tells us, “For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.”

Hebrews 6:13² reminds us “So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath.”

God is faithful to us, let us be faithful to Him.

Our Sunday School is ready with open arms to continue to help you instruct your children in the Christian Faith.

Join us Sunday, April 14th for a Mini Rally Day. Lots of surprises coming...

1. America, L.C. I., & Synod, L.C. (1978) *Lutheran Book of Worship*

2. The Holy Bible, English Standard Version ©2001, 2007, 2011, 2016 by Crossway Books & Bibles, a Publishing Ministry of Good News Publishers



Sunday **SCHOOL**
ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together



Our Prayer List

Member Needs

Landis Ballington

Mike Bickley

Olin Chassereau

Terry Coker

Charlie Eargle

Summer Eargle

Kathy Fornal

Ed Hedgecock

Bob Hundley

Michelle L. Jones

Connie Lindler

Kim Massey

Jennifer O'Neill

John Oxner

Marvin Parson

Robert Prielipp

Diane Robison

Sam Shannon

Rich Smith

Dick Sullivan

James Thompson

Homebound

Betty Amick (Wellmore)

Meredith Arnold

Wanda Arnold

Grace Harmon

Frank & Peggy Howard (Wellmore)

Lonna Paul

Oddie & Joyce Porth

Ann Rowell (Lakeside)

Jake Rush (Wellmore)

Barbara Whiteside (Carroll Campbell)

Rita Wingard (Deepwoods)

Missionaries & Ministry Partners

David Davis in Brazil

Pastor Siimon Haamer in Estonia

N&N-World Mission Prayer League

NALC Mission Congregations:

Immanuel, Sumter, SC

Reformation, New Bern, NC

Trinity, Flat Rock, NC

The NALC

Family & Friends of the St. Peter's Congregation

Lanier Amick (father of LeAnne Ballentine)

Jerry & Ashley Anderson (niece & nephew of Cynthia Johnson)

Paul Aull (brother-in-law of Wayne O'Neill)

Rhonda Branham (family of Steve & Donna Alford)

Morgan Brown (granddaughter of Oddie & Joyce Porth)

Leanne Buckner (friend of Natalie Carter)

Lauren Buie & Kids (daughter of David Spence)

Family of Melanie Caldwell (friend of Diane Robison)

Kathie Cashion (mother of Hillarie Vaughan)

Danny Covington (uncle of Elizabeth & Michael Covington)

Keagan Cox (granddaughter of Claude & Elizabeth Lindler)

Hewitt Dickerson (family of Charlie & Marie Eargle)

Family of Dr. William Dunovant (friend of Donna Alford)

Gil Ferro (husband of Barbara Ferro)

The Ingham Family (friend of Debbie Marcolini)

James (family friend of the Weidners)

Baby Eloise Lance (cousin of Karen Cook)

Gil Leader (grandfather of Kayla Spangler)

Gerry Lee (brother of Joyce Shealy)

Emily Lyles (family of Ginny Bruce)

Family Beth McMillan (sister-in-law of Keith McMillan)

Millie McMillan (mother of Keith McMillan)

Jeff Morris (family of Mike & Christen Weidner)

Baby Eme Viola Okam (friend of Julie Werner)

Jim Orth (nephew of Doreen Edmondson)

Ronnie Palm (uncle of Julie Werner)

Diana Phillips (friend of Adam & Vickie Davis)

Christine Poole & 3 sons (friends of Julie & James Watkins)

Ronda Porth (daughter of Joyce H. & Oddie Porth)

Tracy Pound (friend of Catherine Oxner)

Gene Schofield (friend of Patti Switter)

Tammy Seal (Debbie Dent's sister)

Jason Sharpe (nephew of Oddie & Joyce H Porth)

Brandon Shealy (grandson of Fulmer & Joyce Shealy)

George & Jackie Shull (parents of Kim Massey)

Kim Sims (daughter of Joyce M. Porth)

Fred Smith (great uncle of Rylee Smith)

Nancy Senn Smith (cousin of Wayne O'Neill)

Kitty Spence (family of Zack & Julynn Spence)

Lauren, Adam, Langsta (family of David Spence)

Billy Switter (family of Bob & Patti Switter)

Catherine Taylor (daughter of Dick & Patricia Derrick)

*Fern Ulmer (aunt of Keith McMillan)

Doug Wells (friend of Paul & Diane Robison)

Garrett Wright (friend of Wilson Oxner)

Military

David Ballington (Army)

Michael Edmondson (Army)

Alex Schneider (Marines)

Matthew Teeter (Marines-deployed)

Kyle Weed (Navy-deployed)

Kyle Williams (Navy)

Please update
family
members.
THANK YOU!



Updated 2-27-2024

Serving in March

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Acolyte Early	VOLUNTEER	Anna Kate Davis	Jacob Johnson	Wilson Oxner	Wilson Oxner
Late	Porth Kid	Scarlett Ellingson	Adam Ellisor	Porth Kid	Gospel Procession
Altar Flowers	<i>Lent—No Flowers</i>	<i>Lent—No Flowers</i>	<i>Lent—No Flowers</i>	<i>Lent—No Flowers</i>	Fulmer Family & Cynthia Johnson
Altar Guild	Debbie Dent & Doreen Edmondson				
Bulletins	Debbie Arnold and Sandy Coleman				
Camera	Crystal Dennison	Debbie Arnold	Crystal Dennison	Debbie Arnold	Crystal Dennison
Coffee Time	Lydia Circle	Paul & Susan Schreiber	Stewardship/Finance	Evangelism	EASTER BREAKFAST
Communion Servers Early	Bread: Pastor Cassie Wine: Pastor Judson	Bread: Pastor Judson Pastor Cassie Wine: Paul Robison Diane Robison	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Brenda Hedgecock Dot Rish	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Leeann Crapps Steve Wyndham	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Kelly Rhoads Chip Rhoads
Late	Bread: Pastor Cassie Wine: Pastor Judson	Bread: Pastor Judson Pastor Cassie Wine: Catherine Porth Barbara Weed	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Marie Eargle Doreen Edmondson	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Marie Eargle Debbie Marcolini	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Catherine Porth Anna Stiglbauer
Greeters Early	Volunteer	Paul & Diane Robison	Ed & Brenda Hedgecock	Jean Hundley	Carol Arnold
Late	Volunteers	Volunteers	Elizabeth Lindler	Marie Eargle	Volunteers
Lectors Early	Judy Nichols	Paul Robison	Dot Rish	Kelly Rhoads	Chip Rhoads
Late	Tommy Stone	Marie Eargle	Debbie Marcolini	Marie Eargle	Anna Stiglbauer
Pew Crew	Russell & Robin Rawl				
Ushers Early & Late	Dory Arnold & Bobby Harmon—Co-Chairs 8:30—Meagan Schneider / 11:00—Stephen Kupchinsky				



March Birthdays

1st	Kylie Craps JoAnn Harmon Kyle Williams
2nd	Darla Jennings Kay Kitchen
3rd	Morgan Davis Travis Schneider
4th	LeAnne Ballentine Meredith Cook Tommy Shealy Beverly Smith
5th	Henry Hoyle Debbie Marcolini Jerry Richey Paul Schreiber Becky Shealy
6th	Kristen Lunsford Sarah Richey

7th	Tyler Dennison
8th	Hannah Jones Barry Moore Rylee Smith Lynda Whiteside
10th	Fran Brune Ray Jones
11th	Edwin Farr
13th	Myrna O’Gorman Landis Sandel
15th	Brandon Kitchen
16th	Christy Harmon Catherine Shirer
17th	Ray Carr
18th	Susan Bailey Ashley Ray

19th	Donna White
20th	Michele Zee
21st	Richard Connor
22nd	Andrew Riley
23rd	Rusty Massey Brett Porth
24th	Carolyn Watkins
25th	Leeann Boehringer Wayne O’Neill
27th	Jacob Johnson
29th	Roy Parker
30th	Travis Beaver
31st	Jackson Cooper

March Anniversaries

4th	John & Anna Stiglbauer	24 years
7th	Tommy & Jenny Stone	43 years
8th	Brady & Becky Porth, Jr.	60 years
10th	Michael & Crystal Frisina	12 years
16th	Alex & Kayla Spangler	5 years
24th	Don & Judy Nichols	45 years
25th	Greg & Melanie Webb	36 years
31st	Julie & Robert Pell	40 years



**MARCH
WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:30 am Coffee Time
- 9:45 am SonShine Choir
- 10:00 am Angel Choir
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 10:15 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:30 pm Confirmation Class
- 4:00 pm Cub Scouts / SH
- 4:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm Jr & Sr. Youth/YR

MONDAY

- 6:30 pm Matins Choir
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts/SH

TUESDAY

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting/CR

WEDNESDAY

- 10:00 am Bible Study / FH
- 11:15 am Lenten Worship
- 6:15 pm Lenten Worship
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir

THURSDAY

- 6:30 pm Mustard Seeds/ FH

CR=Conference Room

FH=Fellowship Hall

GR=Gathering Room behind PLC

PLC=Parish Life Center

SH=Scout Hut

YR=Youth Room



March 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4 Lutheran Men 6:30pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 Pinewood Derby & Spaghetti Lunch	11	12	13 Lydia Circle 1 pm/FH	14  2-6 pm	15 Family Movie Night 6:30 pm	16
17	18	19 Finance 7 pm/CR	20	21	22	23  Bunny Bash 9:30-11 am
24	25	26 Safety 7 pm/CR Loving Group 10:30 am	27 No Bible Study Easter Joint Musical Rehearsal	28 Maundy Thursday 11:15 am & 6:15 pm	29 Good Friday 11:15 am & 6:15 pm	30
31  Sunrise Service 7:30 am Breakfast 8:30 am Divine Service 11 am						

**Office Closed
Monday, April 1st**
(yes, really)

ST. PETER'S

March 2024



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
LEXINGTON, SC



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