St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Ander

the CROSS WORD

Volume 13 Number 5 May 2018

Inside this issue:

Celebration of First Communion for young members; Additional Hymnals ordered; Synod Assembly to elect new Bishop	2
May Calendar	3
Women of the ELCA	4
Camp Service weekend; Easter pictures; Highway clean up picture	5
Church Information and Celebrations	6
Prayers & Cares	7
May Worship Leaders	8

Coming Events

- **May 4—6**
  Synod Assembly, San Marcos
- **May 6**
  Rachel's Day observance
- **May 11—13**
  Camp Service Weekend, Camp Lutherhill in LaGrange
- **May 20**
  Reception for graduates and eighth grade
- **May 27**
  50th anniversary reception for Lyle and Wanda Schendel
- **June 10**
  Worship service at La Bahia Nursing Home in Goliad, 3pm
- **June 29—30**
  Vacation Bible School, 9am—1pm

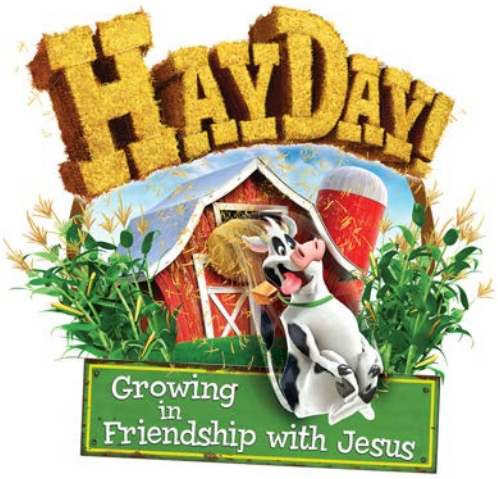
St. Peter's VBS "Hay Day: Growing in Friendship with Jesus!" to be held June 29—30, with closing on July 1

Get ready for an adventurous time at Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is Hay Day: Growing in Friendship with Jesus! Join us as we learn Key Bible Verses and Bible Points. Get ready for fun, laughter, excitement and the joy of watching children venture into solid faith.

We can't wait for you to join us at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ander on June 29 and 30 with the closing during worship time on Sunday, July 1. Two year olds will be allowed to participate but must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

We'll open the barn doors at 9a.m. then dig right into a Bible Story, Crafts and Projects, learn Music of praise, play a few Games, have a picnic lunch, followed with a sendoff at 1p.m. The kids will even have a surprise Barn Yard visitor! For the children's offering each day, we will be asking for canned foods and non-perishable food or paper products to be donated to the Berclair Ministry Organization that serves the Berclair Community. Our closing will be the worship service on July 1 at 9a.m. and we invite all to attend and see what our kids have learned and created.

A Registration Form is available on the church website and in the newsletter. You can also contact the church office or Lana Jarzombek for a registration form. Please complete one form per child and turn in to the church office by Sunday, June 24. Walk-ins are welcome but we would like to have the most accurate count we can for food and supply preparation.



Anyone that would like to volunteer to help with crafts, music, pictures or food, please contact Lana Jarzombek at your earliest convenience, lana.jarzombek@yahoo.com or 361-645-4793. Thank you!!

Looking forward to new member reception and publication of the new pictorial directory

At their regular monthly meeting, council planned a new member recognition celebration to be held July 1, following the ending festivities of Vacation Bible School. The last reception was held in 2016 and we have received 28 new members since that time. Council has also concluded their annual responsibility of reviewing the membership list and has received some address changes in response. In reviewing policies in the Policies and Procedures Manual, it was noted that some work is required in the area of records retention of St. Peter's documents. The current Archives Committee will meet and recommend appropriate steps.

In Christian Education and Youth Ministry news, Easter activities were reported on, 44 children and youth attended the Easter egg hunt on Saturday before Easter. VBS is scheduled for June 29-July 1,

—continued on page 2—

Class prepares youth to receive Holy Communion

Five of our young members, who participated in a recent class, received the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time during April worship services:
On Sunday, April 1, Easter Day —
Brady Beutnagel, son of Wade and Amanda Beutnagel.
Daxton Krueger, son of David and Tara Krueger.
Hunner Parma, son of Cody Parma and Megan and Tyler Tislow.
Zaynee Parma, daughter of Cody Parma and Megan and Tyler Tislow.

On Sunday, April 15 —
Maley Brandes, daughter of Carl and Sarah Brandes.

Five additional youth will be receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in May.
On Sunday, May 13 —
Logan Youngblood, son of Justin and Lindsey Youngblood.

On Sunday, May 20, Day of Pentecost —
Mallory Luker, daughter of Ryan and Margaret Luker.
August Ball, son of Wesley and Allison Ball.
Wyatt Ball, son of Wesley and Allison Ball.
Brayden Franke, son of Clayton and Julie Franke.

We welcome all of these youth to this fellowship and celebrate with them this step on their journey of faith.



Hymnals can be given in memory or in honor of loved ones

Additional hymnals have been ordered to ensure that we have enough for the two pews that will be added in the sanctuary, as well as for overflow. While giving thanks to God that we have enough people attending worship to make this necessary, we also want to give individual members a chance to help provide the new hymnals. If you would like to purchase a new hymnal in memory of or in honor of a loved one, or to the Glory of God, please fill out the donation form that is attached to this newsletter, and then place the form and donation in the offering plate, or mail it to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1545 E. FM 1961, Goliad, TX 77963. Additional forms may also be found on the bulletin table in the narthex.

New bishop to be elected at annual assembly on May 4-6

The Annual Assembly of the Southwestern Texas Synod will be held May 4-6 in San Marcos. Gerald and Eva Nell Griffith will attend along with Pastor Anne. We will be voting on issues having to do with the synod's ministries, electing members to synod council and churchwide council, and electing a new bishop, as well as celebrating the eighteen years Bishop Tiemann has served our synod. Please keep the entire assembly in your prayers as they meet to do God's work...our hands.

Planning meeting for Christian Education and Youth Ministry set for May 2

The Christian Education and Youth Ministry Committee will hold a meeting in the parish hall on Wednesday, May 2, beginning at 4:30p.m. We will be discussing and planning activities and dates for the next six months. Anyone and everyone who would like to contribute with ideas or suggestions is invited to attend. If you are unable to attend, but would like to have input, please contact Sarah Brandes, Lana Jarzombek, or Eva Nell Griffith. Look forward to seeing you there.

—Council meeting report continued from page 1—

and the committee will hold a meeting on May 2, inviting any members interested in the work of this committee to attend.

Council heard a report on the pictorial directory. Work is being done to complete activity pages with pictures and a picture of the church building is still needed. The goal is to get the information to the publisher in a couple of weeks.
St. Peter's continues to care for the property of the church, through maintenance of sewer sprinkler system and church cleaning day, as well as keeping our adopted highway cleaned through participation in the Texas Trash-off Day which saw about 15 members out picking up trash.

It was reported that the Worship and Music committee is purchasing additional hymnals and songbooks due to our increase in membership, and are going to only one Communion assistant for a Sunday to ease congestion in altar area. In follow-up of church security, it was noted that the committee will meet soon to address those issues. Plans are underway for Gerald and Eva Nell Griffith, delegates, and Pastor Anne to be active participants in the Synod Assembly the first weekend in May, and a 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Lyle and Wanda Schendel is scheduled on May 27. There was discussion about the viability of a church council retreat to look toward the future of St. Peter's, setting goals in accordance with the Holy Spirit's movement and action in Christ's church here in Ander.

Reception to honor St. Peter's graduates and eighth grade students to be held on May 20

A reception in recognition of college graduate, Garrett Friedrichs; high school graduates, Dalton Dornburg, Emily Klinkerman, Laren Rogers, Kaylynn Wilburn and Weston Wimberly; and eighth grade graduates, Arlis Adickes, Payge Brown, Walker Wimberly and Kaysa Wunsch, will be held following worship on Sunday, May 20. The fellowship committee requests assistance from congregation members with cookies or finger foods, that will be served at the reception. Sunday School classes will be held following this reception.

May 2018

Wed May 2, 2018
4:30pm Christian Education and Youth Ministry committee meeting
6:30pm Choir
7:30pm Bible study

Fri May 4, 2018—Sun May 6, 2018
Synod Assembly in San Marcos

Sun May 6, 2018
9am Worship service, Rachel's Day observed and Upbring Donation
10:15am Sunday school

Tue May 8, 2018
2pm Bible study for Women of the ELCA
3pm Women of the ELCA meeting

Wed May 9, 2018
6:30pm Choir
7:30pm Bible study

Fri May 11, 2018—Sun May 13 2018
Camp Service Weekend at Camp Lutherhill in LaGrange

Sun May 13, 2018
9am Communion service, Mother's Day
10:15am Sunday school

Wed May 16, 2018
9am Lutheran World Relief quilting
6:30pm Choir
7:30pm Bible study

Thu May 17, 2018
6:30pm Congregation Council meeting

Sun May 20, 2018
9am Pentecost Sunday, Communion service, followed by graduate reception
10:15am Sunday school

Mon May 21, 2018
Newsletter articles due in the office

Wed May 23, 2018
6:30pm Choir

Sun May 27, 2018
9am Trinity Sunday, Communion service, followed by reception for Lyle and Wanda Schendel, 50th Wedding Anniversary
10:15am Sunday school

Wed May 30, 2018
6:30pm Choir





Our church family is invited to a Come and Go Reception honoring Lyle and Wanda Schendel's 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 3rd from 1:00 – 4:00pm at the Goliad County Senior Citizens Center located at 601 W. Pearl Street in Goliad. Light refreshments will be served and no alcoholic beverages are allowed on the premises. The celebration is hosted by their children and grandchildren. Contact Lana Jarzombek at 645-4793 for any further information.

Heartfelt thanks to you all

Dear Followers of Christ,
It is difficult to find the words to express my complete joy and thanks for the outpouring of love and friendship for my birthday. I am so thankful to all who came to help me celebrate. I felt your love and support during the laying on of the hands blessing which was one of the most special birthday gifts that I have ever received. I am truly blessed to have all of you in my life. My wish for you is that you all enjoy good health and live to celebrate your 90th birthday and more.
Thank you and God Bless you!
Love,
Annie

ELCA

Women of the ELCA

Upbring gifts to be received

On May 6, St. Peter's Women of the ELCA invites everyone to give a gift of love to Upbring, the new Lutheran Social Services of the South, in honor of mothers and children without mothers. Every child is a gift. Every child deserves love. Every child needs a champion to keep them safe, help them grow healthy and strong and encourage their dreams. Together, we can give all Texas children a brighter future. We invite you to reflect upon how your gift might add worth and value to the life of an at-risk youth that may not have a caring parent. You may place your gift in the tea pot on the display table in the narthex. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

WELCA Bible study and meeting to be held on May 8

Bible Study for the Women of the ELCA, begins at 2p.m. on May 8. The Bible study will be from the May Gather Magazine and will be led by Pastor Anne. All are invited to join us for study, discussion and fellowship. The regular monthly meeting of St. Peter's Women of the ELCA will follow at 3p.m.

During the summer, St. Peter's Women of the ELCA will not hold a June or July meeting, but will resume with the monthly meeting in August. Summer LWR quilting and the workdays will continue during June and July.

WELCA plans for 2018 Convention

Southwestern Texas Women of the ELCA 31st Annual Synodical Convention will be held September 28—30, 2018, at the Pearl Hotel, South Padre Island. Registration forms will be available in August.

The Bible verse for the convention weekend is "Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "peace, be still" and the wind ceased and there was a great calm."—Mark 4:39.

"Pop Tops and Flip Flops"— pop tops for the Women of Faith projects care of St. Johns, San Juan; flip flops for Saturday sunrise service on the beach.

Convention offerings will include monetary offering to go to La Posada Providencia Mission. La Posada Providencia, founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence, is a ministry for people in crisis from around the world, who are seeking legal refuge in this country. The Shelter staff provides a safe and welcoming home; mentors to promote self-sufficiency and cultural integration; and imparts values which witness God's Providence in our world. The physical offering, for La Posada, is asking for Walmart, Target, HEB, gas cards, etc. The Silent Auction will be divided 50% to Costa Rican Lutheran Church and 50% to Family Crisis Center, Inc. Family Crisis Center Mission works to assist victims and children in preventing and ultimately ending domestic violence and sexual assault in Northern Cameron and Willacy Counties.

Rachel's Day to be observed on May 6

St. Peter's Women of the ELCA encourages everyone to wear blue on May 6—the color blue is a symbol of hope. Rachel's Day is a day set aside to mourn the loss of our children to violence and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. It is a time to recommit to children everywhere not only to mourn their loss, but to celebrate the vision of a better future even as we hope, plan and pray for the safety and protection of all children.

In 1996, the first Sunday in May was observed as Rachel's Day in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. The day took its name from Jeremiah 31:15–17. In those verses Rachel grieves for her children.

For over two decades, we have been observing Rachel's Day and much has been accomplished in building awareness about gun violence, drugs, abuse, neglect, poor education, health and hunger which all contribute to the death of children. Today, children are also threatened with death by suicide, often a result of being bullied. Rachel's Day and anti-violence work are not about fixing others nor are they just spectator activities. Remember that children need to know that adults care, so it is important we know what they are feeling. Ending violence seems a difficult challenge, but remember this work is a marathon and not a sprint.

LWR Workday scheduled for May 16

There will be a Lutheran World Relief workday on May 16. Everyone is invited to join in the quilting activities and share lunch together. Items for the soup, breads/crackers, or desserts are always welcomed and appreciated.

Collection of pop tops continues

Collection containers for pull tabs from soda cans have been placed on the table by the open closet in the narthex. These pull tabs (or "pop tops") are used by members of our companion synod in Costa Rica, Iglesia Luterana Costarricense, to make purses and other crafts to supplement their income. The Women of the ELCA will be taking the tabs to the Southwestern Texas Women's Convention that will be held September 28—30, 2018 at the Pearl Hotel, South Padre Island.

St. Peter's 50TH Annual Camp Service Weekend to be held May 11-13

On May 11-13, St. Peter's will be holding their 50th Annual Camp Service Weekend at Lutherhill in LaGrange.

The days are very flexible. Arrive when you can. Help out on Saturday and leave when you need. Many of "Team Ander" arrive Friday afternoon and go out for dinner that evening. We already have potential restaurants identified!! Some members arrive on Saturday morning.

Most stay in the camp bunkbed lodging while others opt to stay in motels or go home on Saturday evening. It's your choice.

Meals are provided on Saturday with breakfast on Sunday. Typically, each family gives a monetary donation to cover the cost of meals. St. Peter's holds a camp worship service including communion on Saturday after dinner. Often, the camp employees provide s'mores for those interested.

"Team Ander" will once again offer our "Gaggle of Grannies" who provide outdoor and indoor activities for young children. This will include hikes, races, arts and crafts, and story time. Naptime is worked in for those who require it (kids and adults).

This year St. Peter's will give the dining hall porch a facelift. "Team Ander" will install outdoor ceiling fans and lights along the length of the porch. The support posts will be wrapped in cedar. All exposed wood will need to be stained. Additionally, the entire exterior of the pool house will be painted. Once again Aldon Bade, Alvin DeForest, and Kirk Klinkerman have applied for three grants from Thrivent to cover some of these project expenses.

Not only do Camp Service Weekend projects help prepare the camp for the coming summer, but members of "Team Ander" bond and become FAMILY. Another important plus is children who attend with their parents become familiar with church camps making it easier for them to transition and attend as a camper.

Please join "Team Ander" on this special 50th anniversary of Camp Service Weekends! Contact Aldon Bade for additional information.

A head count is needed for Camp Lutherhill to prepare for those attending. **If you are going to attend, please contact Aldon or Brenda Bade today, at 361-564-2063.**



St. Peter's had an EGGcelent time celebrating Easter! The annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, was attended by over forty youth. The morning began with the Bible lesson and activity, led by Pastor Anne, and Easter songs. The youth then dashed outside to hunt fields full of plastic and confetti eggs — making sure the confetti eggs were properly smashed on anyone within aiming distance! The event wrapped up with goodie bags and snacks in the fellowship hall.



The Youth gathered in St. Peter's sanctuary to practice their song for the Easter morning service.



The altar was beautifully decorated with white hydrangea, as the sanctuary was prepared for the Easter Sunday morning celebration. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



On April 7, seventeen people met in St. Peter's parking lot to participate in picking up the litter on the highway as they joined in the state's single largest one-day cleanup event, the Great American Cleanup. Thank you to Monica Davidson for submitting the cleanup crew's picture.

St. Peter's Staff

The Rev. Anne Kolmeier
Pastor

Kathy Albrecht
Church Office Secretary

Dorothy Bowman
Organist and Choir Director

Congregation Council

David Bowman
Co-Chair of Stewardship and Finance
(term ends 12/31/18)

Kenneth Brand
Co-Chair of Property
(term ends 12/31/18)

Eva Nell Griffith
Vice President and Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
(term ends 12/31/19)

Sandra Post
Secretary and Chair of Worship and Music
(term ends 12/31/18)

Sherry Sanders
President
(term ends 12/31/19)

Ashford Taylor
Co-Chair of Property
(term ends 12/31/20)

Terrell Wiggins
Chair of Outreach
(term ends 12/31/19)

Trey Wimberly
Co-Chair of Stewardship and Finance
(term ends 12/31/20)

The Rev. Anne Kolmeier
Pastor (ex-officio)

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.—11:00 a.m. (Sept. - May)
Holy Communion: second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of each month, throughout the Easter season, and on all festivals



MAY BIRTHDAYS

5-01 Emily Klinkerman
5-9 Zander York
5-10 Arlene DeForest
5-14 Walker Wimberly
5-16 Wyatt Ball
5-17 Meghan Foil
5-21 Brenda Straube
5-22 Maevyn Wunsch
5-24 Mallory Luker
5-26 Jonathan Ideus
5-27 Jill Wiggins
5-30 Mollie Janota-Wallace
5-30 Tyler Tislow



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5-1-04 Ronda and Nathan Irwin
5-7-16 Erin and Nicholas Smith
5-14-16 Regina and Colby May
5-15-10 Tara and David Krueger
5-17-03 Leslie and Trace Wunsch
5-19-73 Sherry and Sandy Sanders
5-19-62 Deanna & Gary Wacker
5-27-62 Loyce & Delbert McCullough

If any listings of birthdays or anniversaries are incorrect, or if a listing is missing, please contact the church office at 645-2922 or office@stpetersander.org



St. Peter's Ander

St. Peter's Ministry Fund Update Through March 31, 2018

Ministry fund beginning balance, January 1, 2018	$67,326.56
Offerings	$47,430.28
Cost of ministries	$58,641.63
Ministry fund ending balance, March 31, 2018	$56,115.21

Note: St. Peter's Ministry Fund (previously known as the current fund and the general operating fund) includes all of St. Peter's regular, budgeted ministries, including ELCA Mission Support. It does not include designated gifts to the building fund, memorials, or other non-budgeted designated gifts.

ELCA Missionary Supported by St. Peter's

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider
#3 To Fung Shan Road
Shatin, N.T.
Hong Kong, SAR

carolyn.schneider@elca.org



Pentecost Sunday
May 20, 2018



June Bethke – member of St. Peter's
Vida Burnett – sister of Elaine Post, Dorothy Bowman and Mike Abrameit
Dawn Butler – sister of Lana Jarzombek and Ronda Irwin
Rachel Carbajal – friend of Wendi Yendrey
Denise Engle – friend of Amy Wilburn
Pamela Evans – friend of Allison Gerhardt
Joyce Foster – grandmother of Shelby Foster
Robbie Friedrichs – friend of June Bethke
Ainsley Garza – cousin of Arlene DeForest and Eva Nell Griffith
Barry Geary – member of St. Peter's
Family of Bruce Gilbert – cousin of Sandra Post
Greg Gordon – friend of Jamie Friedrichs
Rebecca Graves – infant great-niece of Joyce Franklin, friend of Alvin and Arlene DeForest
Wilma Grupe – aunt of Karie Wimberly
Milton Haas – friend of Alvin and Arlene DeForest
Stefani Hargrove – friend of Karen Klinkerman
The Rev. Bill Hassel – retired Bluebonnet Conference pastor
John Hausmann – friend of Allen and Ruby Jank, member of St. John's Lutheran, Goliad
Dale Henderson – father of Margaret Luker
Vanita Ann Hausmann Homer – friend of Brenda and Aldon Bade
Betty Jacob – friend of June Bethke
Justin Janak – nephew of Dorothy and David Bowman, deployed to Afghanistan
Ryan Janak – eight year old nephew of Leo Henke
Nora Karl – great-grandmother of Shelby Foster
Alvin Krueger – father of David Krueger
Krista Lenney – friend of Beverly Martin
Jo Nell Martin – friend of community
Herbie Maurer – brother of Brenda Bade
Michael McLead – uncle of Nathan Irwin
Family of Vernette McMullen – member of St. Peter's
Cole Ohrt – friend of community
Ruth Pieper – friend of the community
Allen Pollard – father of Karie Wimberly
Mary Poppert – sister of Ina DeForest and Alvin DeForest
Jose Reyes – friend of Shelby Foster
Marcus Rezendez – friend of Amy Wilburn
James Rung – five year old son of Greta Henke's friend
Katherine Sauer – grandmother of Jarrett Yendrey
Bonnie Staha – friend of Jamie Friedrichs
Patricia Stanley – co-worker of Gayle Albrecht
Family of Wayne Timmerman – friend of Pam and Ted Long
Gail Turley – aunt of Ashford Taylor
Victor Vargas – four year old nephew of Alyssa, Luke Abrameit's wife
Sharon Wilborn – friend of Beverly Martin
Mike Wilburn – member of St. Peter's
Zander York – member of St. Peter's, grandson of Bob and Nancy Gerhardt
Buddy Young – friend of Allen and Ruby Jank

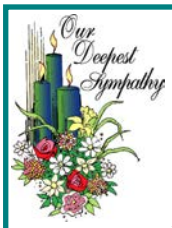
Homebound:
Barry Geary, 1403 Gohmert Rd., Cuero, TX 77954, phone 361-275-5591

Email Prayer Chain information

An email prayer chain was recently started at St. Peter's. When there is a prayer need/request, simply contact the church office by phone or email and ask to have it included on the prayer chain. How do you start receiving these prayer requests? Simply sign up on the sheet in the narthex on the table with the cross.

Thank you from Gerald

Dear family members of St. Peter's,
Thank you so much for your prayers during my back surgery. I so appreciated the cards, visits and phone calls at the time while I was at home. I am healing and getting stronger as each week goes by. I will visit Dr. Rose on April 25th, so hopefully he will allow me to start doing some minor physical work.
Thanks again,
Gerald Griffith
Have a blessed day!



Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family, of Vernette McMullen, mother of Ron (Debbie) Willms, Gaylon (Sue) Willms, and grandmother of Brian Willms, who passed away on April 1. Funeral service was held on April 6 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ander, with burial at Glendale Cemetery in Goliad.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Jarrett Yendrey and family upon the death of his grandfather, G. T. Yendrey.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Wesley Ball and family upon the death of his uncle, Herbert Ball.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Sandra Post and family upon the death of her cousin, Bruce Gilbert.

"The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deuteronomy 33:27a

Thank you to Lenten, Holy Week and Easter service participants

Thank you to those who helped with Lent, Holy Week and Easter services: Jerry Kolmeier, Kirk Klinkerman, Kathy Albrecht, Sherry Sanders, Gerald Griffith, Jackie Gardiner, Brenda Bade, and Alvin DeForest all helped to make these services meaningful for all who attended. Thanks also to the choir and Dorothy Bowman for the music added to enhance the services that were here at St. Peter's.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
1545 E. FM 1961
Goliad, TX 77963-3414

Phone/Fax: 361-645-2922
E-mail: office@stpetersander.org
www.stpetersander.org

The Rev. Anne Kolmeier, pastor
Phone: 361-676-4799
E-mail: revsplca@gmail.com

Worship Leaders for May

ALTAR GUILD
Lana Jarzombek and Wanda Schendel

GREETERS
5-6 Maley Brandes and Wyatt Ball
5-13 Kade Irwin, Harley Jarzombek and Lana Jarzombek
5-20 Harley Jarzombek and Lana Jarzombek
5-27 Harley Jarzombek and Lana Jarzombek

USHERS
Jerry Kolmeier and Fischer Saxton

OFFERING COUNTERS
5-6 Kathy Albrecht and Geraldine Sturm
5-13 Geraldine Sturm and Lindsey Youngblood
5-20 Eva Nell Griffith and Geraldine Sturm
5-27 Brenda Bade and Geraldine Sturm

FLOWERS
5-6 open
5-13 Arlene and Alvin DeForest
5-20 open
5-27 Jarzombek family

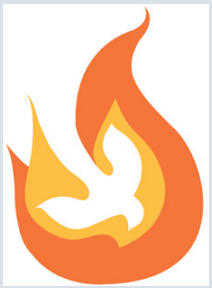
MINISTER OF HOSPITALITY
Arlene DeForest

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
Ina DeForest and Deanna Wacker





May 13, 2018



Pentecost Sunday
May 20, 2018

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends and Companions in Mission, Easter 2018

I am writing to you from Indonesia in the second week of Easter, when the living Jesus comes to us, his disciples, with words of peace, and lets us see the scars in his hands and side so that we can know how much our God loves us. Your Christian brothers and sisters in Indonesia are celebrating that love and life together with you.

I am in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, as the proud former teacher and thesis advisor of Casthelia Kartika, an Indonesian alumna of LTS (the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong, where I teach) who just completed her DTh (Doctor of Theology) program. Now she teaches Church History at Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Amanat Agung (The Great Commission Theological Seminary), a Presbyterian seminary in Jakarta, and she also serves as the seminary's new President. Casthelia invited me to come for five days to preach, teach, and lecture on the Devil in Christian tradition.



The campus of Amanat Agung from the window of my guest room

A highlight for me has been the four sessions of teaching in the seminary's Emmaus program of theological education for local pastors and congregational members. The 48 students in the class and I have spent two days tracing the history of the concept of the Devil from the Old Testament until today as I speak in English and two of the seminary's faculty members translate into Indonesian. We have been looking at how the earliest references to the Devil in the Old Testament describe the Devil as an angelic member of God's court, serving God as a tester of the quality of people's faith and as an accuser of sinners. But by the time of the New Testament, the Devil had become an enemy of God as well as of people; this view of the Devil continued in Church History, with the Devil acting either as an oppressor or as a tempter, seeking to destroy people. Bringing the topic up to the present, the class has examined how in our own time some people find it more helpful to convert the Devil from a personal character to an invisible power of evil in the world. Discussion has been lively and questions thoughtful, ranging from the practical "Is it OK to wear t-shirts depicting the Devil?" to the disquieting "Did God create the Devil to fight against God?". My bottom line for the students is that destruction never has the last word for God. As one of my seminary professors used to remind us, "God's final word to God's people is 'yes'." That is what the resurrection of Jesus is about.



The seminary's dramatic poster for the course



Dr. Casthelia Kartika and I at Amanat Agung in Jakarta, Indonesia, with Casthelia's husband Robby Indarjono at left and the two professors translating for my class at right: Johan Djuandy (Biblical Studies) and Fandy Tanujaya (Systematic Theology).

I am heading back to Hong Kong to finish the semester there, and, much as I have loved teaching the students of LTS, this will be my last semester there. After a summer break in the States I will go to San Miguel de Allende, a small town in central Mexico, to take an intensive six-month course in Spanish, which I will practice daily with a Mexican host family. This will enable me to continue my studies of the Devil in Church History as I explore Mexican church history to see if I can find out why it is that the Devil has a role in Mexican Christmas traditions, showing up to try to keep people away from the baby in Bethlehem. I enjoyed sharing my research plans with the faculty and advanced students at Amanat Agung yesterday, and engaging with them the issue of how our understanding of everything related to God is shaped by our historical realities, not only in Mexico but also in Indonesia and the U.S. and everywhere else.

I will write one more time before I go to Mexico, to tell you about LTS's graduation ceremony and to share some thoughts about how you can continue your support for the church's global ministry. In the meantime, I thank you profoundly for your prayers and companionship over my four years in Hong Kong. I look forward to seeing some of you this summer to thank you in person.

Carolyn Schneider

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P.S. Your support makes a world of difference. Here is how to give:

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Registration Form

VBS: June 29-30, 9am—12pm with closing on July 1 at 9am

(One per child)

Return to St. Peter's Lutheran Church Office
1545 E. FM 1961, Goliad, TX 77963
by June 11 or fax to 645-2922

Child's name:_____

Child's age:_____ **Date of birth:**_____ **Last school grade completed**_____

Name of parent(s):_____

Street address:_____

City:_____ **State:**_____ **ZIP:**_____

Home telephone: (_____)_____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone:(_____)_____

Home email address:_____

Home church_____

Crew number or name (for church use only):_____

Allergies or other medical conditions:_____

In case of emergency, contact:_____

Phone:_____

Relationship to child:_____

I/We _____ do consent _____ do not consent to my/our child being photographed and the pictures being posted on the church website, church Facebook page or in the church. Names of the children will not be posted.

DONATE TOWARDS NEW HYMNALS

New hymnals have been ordered to keep up with our increasing attendance and overflow. If you would like to purchase one of these in memory of/honor of someone, or to the Glory of God, please turn this form into the church office with your donation. Nameplates will be put in the hymnal(s) to reflect your donation, if you wish.

_____ Evangelical Lutheran Worship *("The cranberry hymnal")* $22.50

____ In memory of _____

____In honor of _____

____To the Glory of God

____ No nameplate

_____ The Other Songbook $11.00

____ In memory of _____

____In honor of _____

____To the Glory of God

____ No nameplate

_____ This Far By Faith (*choir and contemporary worship)* $22.50

____ In memory of _____

____In honor of _____

____To the Glory of God

____ No nameplate

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