

*HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY*

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Buzzy Miller    | Feb. 2  |
| Krista Enoch    | Feb. 3  |
| Wendy McIntee   | Feb. 3  |
| Sherry Laatsch  | Feb. 4  |
| Penny Madson    | Feb. 7  |
| JR Peeters      | Feb. 7  |
| Dorian Hirt     | Feb. 8  |
| Jen Reinke      | Feb. 14 |
| Shawn Peebles   | Feb. 17 |
| Quinn Burghduff | Feb. 28 |
| Andrew Miller   | Feb. 28 |

THIS YEAR'S VALENTINE'S DAY

I WILL ENJOY LONG,  
ROMANTIC WALKS  
TO THE FRIDGE

*Ash Wednesday*

Wednesday, Feb. 17



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

*St. Peter's Proverbs*  
*February 2021*

<sup>16</sup> *We have come into an intimate experience with God's love, and we trust in the love he has for us. God is love! Those who are living in love are living in God, and God lives through them.*  
*1 John 4:16 (TPT)*

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**  
**"Alive in the Spirit"**

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## A Message from Pastor Janice



Dear Friends,

It's February already! 'Valentine's Day' is what many people think of when they think of February.

*What comes to my mind when I think of February, however, is LENT.*

Lent literally means *spring*, the season of new life and growth that follows winter. In the church calendar we use the word 'Lent' to

refer to a 40-day period of preparation for Easter. Easter—the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! And so also, the celebration of our own re-birth, new life—resurrection!

This year during Lent (which starts Wednesday, February 17—Ash Wednesday), we will have mid-week worship services during which we will dig deep into the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus tells this parable in Luke, Chapter 15—and it is a teaching that really declares the heart of the Christian Faith (and can also expose the ways that our hearts are not in full alignment with God's Heart).

The word *prodigal* means a) recklessly extravagant; b) having spent everything. Jesus' parable in Luke 15 in about **two** sons—the younger of whom does spend everything (and so is 'prodigal'). It is also about the elder son who is also 'lost' **AND** it is about *Our Prodigal (recklessly extravagant) God!*

I urge you to make mid-week worship and these teachings about Our Prodigal God a part of your faith life and growth this year. Growing in faith is possible! We can **define growing in faith** as increasing/ showing more of (that's 'growing') love of God and love of others (that's faith!)

Keys for growing in faith are **personal spiritual practices** like worship, prayer and Bible engagement. Our mid-week Lenten Worship and teaching on The Prodigal God will equip and enable you in all 3 of those practices!

### LENT MID-WEEK GROWING IN FAITH: THE PRODIGAL GOD

Wednesdays, 6:30-8 pm




February 17, 2021 to March 24, 2021

Live in Worship Center AND streamed on Facebook Live



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## FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|         |  |  |
|---------|--|--|
| Feb. 2  | Men's Group<br>Quilters<br>Town of Wyoming Meeting   | 8:30 am<br>9 am<br>7 pm                  |
| Feb. 3  | Confirmation   | 6:30 pm                                  |
| Feb. 7  | Sunday School<br>Worship   | 9 am<br>9 & 10:30 am                     |
| Feb. 8  | Support Group Study  | 9 am                                     |
| Feb. 9  | Men's Group<br>Quilters  | 8:30 am<br>9 am                          |
| Feb. 10 | 24/7 Small Group<br>Confirmation   | 5 pm<br>6:30 pm                          |
| Feb. 14 |  Sunday School<br>Worship | 9 am<br>9 & 10:30 am                     |
| Feb. 15 | Support Group Study       | 9 am                                     |
| Feb. 16 | Men's Group<br>Quilters  | 8:30 am<br>9 am                          |
| Feb. 17 | Worship & lunch          | 6:30 pm                                  |
| Feb. 21 | Sunday School<br>Worship<br>Trustee Meeting<br>VDC Council Meeting   | 9 am<br>9 & 10:30 am<br>11:30 am<br>2 pm |
| Feb. 22 | Support Group Study  | 9 am                                     |
| Feb. 23 | Men's Group<br>Quilters  | 8:30 am<br>9 am                          |
| Feb. 24 | 24/7 Small Group<br>Worship & lunch  | 5 pm<br>6:30 pm                          |
| Feb. 28 | Sunday School<br>Worship   | 9 am<br>9 & 10:30 am                     |

Direct your  
**Thrivent Choice  
 Dollars**  
 Today!



### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members you may have Choice Dollars to direct. Call 1-800-thrivent and say "Choice Dollars". You can direct to St. Peter's or another charity on their list or you

can go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com), click on "My Thrivent" tab and "Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars". For more information contact Lola Zaug, St. Peter's congregational advocate. Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2021. Thrivent Choice Dollars directed to St. Peter's for the general fund were \$2,963. A total of \$37,953 has been contributed to St. Peter's since 2010.

HAPPY  
 VALENTINE'S  
 DAY



### New Window Treatments Installed

Thanks to a generous memorial from the Tom Miller family new window treatments have been installed in the dining area and fellowship hall.

Thank you also to Tom Anderson and Jim Korth for taking the time to install these. This is a wonderful addition to the building.

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Worship followed by time to share food (provided by Confirmation students and families) and fellowship  
**Blessings, Pastor Janice**

### Annual Meeting Held

Thank you to all who attended the potluck and the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 31. Reports were given by Pastor Janice, Pastor Kay, Dave Schmidt, Carola Jobst, Cindy Fannin and Jackie Baldwin.

Bylaws A7.04, A7.05 and A8.05 were presented with changes and the changes were approved. The trustees will now total five (5) instead of seven (7) and the President will be a voting member.

A Constitution change to A17.02 was made that instead of a 5/7 or great affirmative vote of the trustees be made to amend the bylaws it will now be an affirmative vote of the Trustees.

Jackie Baldwin presented the 2020 year end budget and noted that we were in the black \$899.96. The 2021 budget was then presented. After reviewing the budget a motion was made to raise our First Fruits Giving to 15% and it was approved. We previously had been giving 10%. Lee Rambo motioned to split his monthly pay and give 1/2 of it to Tia as she is doing more each week. The motion carried on this also. The amended budget was approved.

Pete Fannin and Tom Anderson will be serving three year terms along with Jackie Baldwin, Sandy Krause and Jen Reinke. Baldwin and Krause terms will end in 2021 and Reinke's term will end in 2022.

If anyone would like to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees may contact one of the current members and let them know their wishes. Two people will be needed for 2021.

Thank you to Kelly Zillmer (President), Kris Zillmer (Secretary) and Brian Knight for serving their three year terms.

Church Elders will remain the same: Pastor Janice Kuder, Pastor Kay Knight, Sarah Blashe, Shawn Peebles, Lee Rambo and Dave Schmidt.

### 2020 Year to Date Budget at a Glance

| Budgeted 2020      |                 | \$139,382.57 |            |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| Budgeted Jan.-Dec. | Income Received | Expenses     | Net Income |
| \$139,382.57       | \$126,888.97    | \$120,203.78 | \$899.96   |

## A Message from Pastor Kay

January is already over, and I pray your New Year is off to a good start. My family just celebrated the birth of our youngest granddaughter, Eleona Brook and are now preparing for our daughter's surgery as the next step in her cancer journey. And yet for so many reasons, I believe this year is going to be great. Jesus is certainly the most powerful reason for that. I am confident Jesus has plans to make 2021 a life-changing year for your family and mine.



But everything happens in Jesus' time which doesn't ever figure in how we put value on our time. Parents have approx. 936 weeks from the time their child is born until he or she graduates from high school. It goes by fast. The responsibility to shape a child's faith and character can seem overwhelming. If you are a parent, you have probably realized by now that you can't make a toddler share. Can't compel a teenager to make smart decisions. And you can't force a child to have faith. But there is something parents can do. They can make this week count. And then do it again, and again.

And when there is an opportunity, what do we say?? At some point you've likely found yourself in a discussion about the evidence for God's existence or the problem of evil, and found that you've run out of good responses. You've given a few solid explanations, which have always been perfectly adequate for you. But when they aren't enough for your doubtful teenager, you may become aggravated at your limitations that he/she has made public. That's when you may pull out one of these conversation stopping gems:

You just don't have enough faith.  
Are you really seeking the truth?  
You need to accept it; it's a mystery of God.  
Maybe you're just angry at God.

It's OK to admit you've reached the end of your confident knowledge base and that you'll seek others advice to take the conversation further or send them directly to one of our dedicated teachers who can also show them that having faith in God does not mean you have all the answers. Allow your teen the comfort of knowing that none of us ever reaches a point of having all the answers. Only God gets to make that claim. Live out the truth of

PASTOR KAY continued on Page 5

PASTOR KAY continued from Page 4

that now-famous D. T. Niles quote: "Evangelism is just one beggar showing another beggar where to find the bread."

We have been there. We can remember the uncertainty and questions we had as we worked on becoming mature Christians. We can possibly even remember the fear and anger of feeling unable to understand to God and the whys and hows. When your child throws a dismissive or angry statement your way, don't take the easy route of throwing something back. Instead, lean in, ask questions and explore the new worldview that has led to such a statement. Be honest, react with grace and be patient. Always make sure there's a bridge back home where he can bring his questions.

Parents have the most important job in building the kingdom, but Christ has given us a Christian community to fall back on, so we do not have to do it alone. Please continue to bring your children to church and feel free to approach any of the leaders or Sunday school teachers with questions or concerns. Let this village help you in raising your children!

***Blessings to you this year 2021! --Pastor Kay***

### Youth Group Outreach Weekend

St. Peter's Youth grades 7-11 are planning an outreach weekend at Silver Birch Ranch, White Lake, from Friday evening, May 7, returning after brunch on Sunday, May 9. While at the camp they will be serving on the Dish Crew for Saturday and Sunday brunch. They will also have access to all camp activities as well as time for group Bible study and other group activities.

The camp is asking for 6-10 individuals from this group for the weekend. Anyone interested in knowing more about this program or to sign up your youth may contact Krista Enoch at 715-321-0764. She is also looking for one male chaperone for the male cabin.

