

The

Fisherman

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

3751 Estero Blvd.

E.L.C.A.

Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Phone: 239-463-4251



January 2022



St. Peter Lutheran Church ELCA

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Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

239-463-4251



Office Hours

Mon – Wed – Fri

8 am – Noon

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WEBSITE: www.stpeterfmb.com

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STAFF

Pastor – Rev. Sharon Taylor

Office Administrator – Trudy Archer

Organist/Choir Director – Jim Kreger

Artist in Residence/Pianist – Shirley Roe

Digital Ministry Coordinator – Deacon Lisa Miller



HERE ARE THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE QUOTES FROM MARTIN LUTHER:

"There never have yet been, nor are there too many good books."

"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me."

Pastor Sharon's Sharings



Now I am going to use a word that we hear and use in church circles that often makes people uncomfortable, so please promise me that you will continue reading until the very end. Are you ready? The word is **EVANGELISM**. Many of us have heard the word, but most of us don't really know what it means. All we know is that it stirs up uncomfortable, and sometimes, negative, feelings within us. We begin picturing teams of witnesses coming to our doors uninvited or loud street-corner preachers grabbing us by the collar and hitting us over the head with the Bible. We have images of strong-arm tactics to fill church pews and meet church budgets.

Now these images may have been true in your experience, but I ask you to suspend your preconceived notions for a few minutes so that we can take a look at how these images have obscured the meaning and beauty of evangelizing as it was embraced in the early followers of Jesus. The word Evangelism comes to us from the greek noun *euangelion* which means *good news or gospel* and the Greek verb *euangelizo* which means *to announce or share the good news*. In the New Testament, this meant sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. It meant sharing the life-giving and life-saving acts of God through Jesus. The earliest apostles shared the good news freely with all those around them because they understood several things about themselves and about Jesus. *The apostles recognized:*

- *That the Gospel has the power of salvation and can change lives in this world and in the next.*
- *That Jesus called them, individually and corporately, to spread the good news and make disciples of all nations.*
- *That the Holy Spirit was leading and guiding them in this mission.*
- *That Jesus did not push his message on people by force, but instead offered himself and his message through developing loving and trusting relationships.*
- *That Jesus did not use complicated theological treatises, but instead used language which the people could understand and find relevant to their everyday lives.*
- *That Jesus met people “where they were”. He knew how to listen and assess people’s needs and then respond to them with compassion, comfort, healing, and love.*
- *That Jesus was driven not by numbers or dollars, but instead by his passion to reach lost people.*

Because the early apostles knew Jesus and had experienced his loving presence in their lives, they wanted to share that love with others. It was their passion, as well as their mission. Even though our church systems have become more complicated, our purpose as the church of Christ is still the same. We are called by Christ to be “in mission”. We are called to share the good news

that God's love and grace is for everyone. Yet, in order to do that authentically, we need to receive and be changed by this grace first. Martin Luther said that sharing the good news is like one beggar telling another beggar where to find food. When we truly experience the loving presence of Christ in our own lives, we, like the early apostles, will want to share that love with others.

The most uninhibited evangelists that I have experienced are children. They do not have the same hang-ups that we adults have learned. Children just simply invite their friends to know Jesus as if it were the most natural thing in the world. Perhaps adults can learn a thing or two from our children!

As we move into a new calendar year, let's reconnect with our call to INVITE others to worship, grow, and serve with us on this journey of faith.

Happy evangelizing,
Pastor Sharon



Dec. 5 Bruce & Diane Allen In memory of our parents

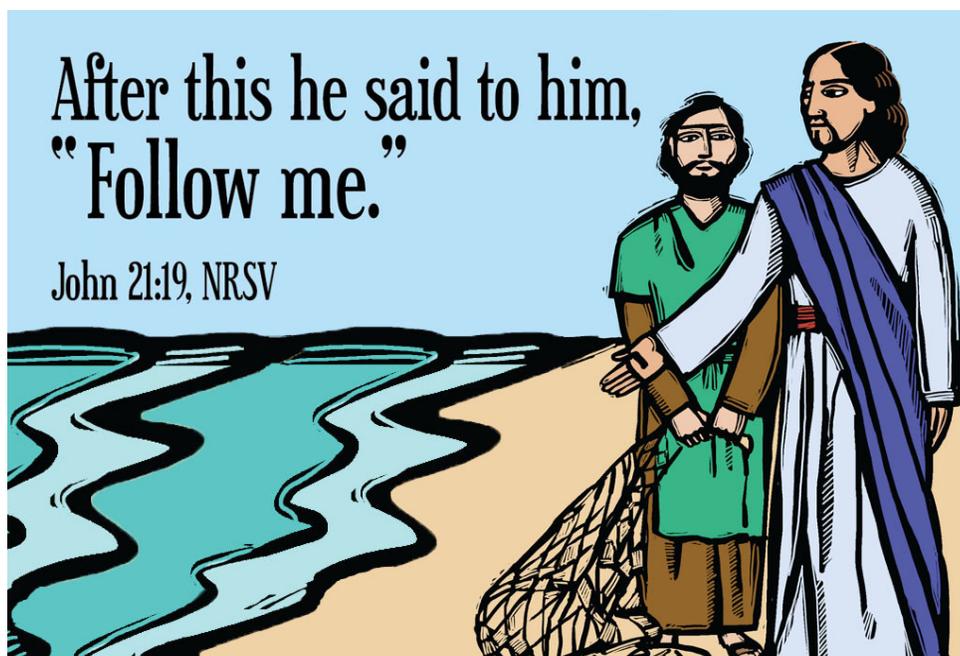
Dec. 25 George & Donna Albert In honor of our anniversary

You can sponsor flowers for any Sunday by signing up in the narthex. Cost is \$40 for both or you can sponsor 1 for \$20. See Diane Allen if you need any assistance.

Congratulations to our new officers and council members!

If you haven't met them or want to find out more about them, go to the website, www.stpeterfmb.com and read the information next to their names. We are glad to have you and blessed that you have taken on these leadership roles!

WELCOME ABOARD



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### **St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes November 19, 2021, at 9:22 am**

The Church Council meeting was called to order by President Donna Albert at 9:22 am. The council members present were Donna Albert, George Albert, Bill Beaulieu, Marilyn Housemeyer, Marlene McComas, Rhona Diamond, and John Torstveit, also in attendance was Pastor Sharon Taylor.

To open Pastor Sharon Taylor led us in prayer and devotions.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from Friday, October 22, 2021, was made by John Torstveit and seconded by George Albert. Motion carried. 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

The treasurer's report for October 2021 was given by John Torstveit and is attached to these minutes. The report was approved on a motion by George Albert and seconded by Marilyn Housemeyer. Motion carried. 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

A motion was made by Marlene McComas to pay for the two air conditioning units, the fire alarm repairs, and the \$1000 deductible from the camera repairs from the capital improvement/reserve fund. Seconded by Marilyn Housemeyer. Motion carried. 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

#### Committee Reports:

**Audit Committee:** The 2020/2021 St Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church audit was completed on Thursday, November 18, 2021.

**Maintenance/Property Committee:** The installation of the power surge protectors and repairs to the sanctuary fire alarm are scheduled to be completed the week of December 6, 2021.

**Stewardship Committee:** The committee will be meeting on Friday, November 19, 2021, at 1:00 pm to continue planning the 2022 stewardship campaign.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Pastor Sharon and Jim Kreger purchased a used Yamaha keyboard, seat, and stand.

**Old Business:** Church council members agreed to continue wearing masks for worship services at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 5, 2021, in the church sanctuary after the 9:30 am worship service.

**New Business:** Marlene McComas will contact Jana Clevenger to discuss the employees' Christmas bonuses.

Pastor Sharon Taylor's report is attached to these meeting minutes.

The church council meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Marlene McComas and seconded by Marilyn Housemeyer. Motion carried. 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

We closed the meeting with "The Lord's Prayer."

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021, after the Anniversary Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene McComas, Vice President

#### **NOTE:**

In the past a brief summary of key bullets from council meeting minutes were included in this publication. In the interest of transparency we recently passed a resolution to instead include the unabridged minutes. As you read the minutes you may see references to treasurer's reports or written reports from various committees. If you desire a copy of any of these documents please contact the church office.

Please continue to pray for St Peter and our leadership team to carry out God's will.



**WELCA**



January 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

*"For I know the plans I have for you", says the LORD. They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*

*(Jeremiah 29:11)*

2021 was a successful year because of your support for the WELCA Projects.  
We Thank You!

WELCA SUNDAY will be January 30th. Love(Thank offering) donations will be accepted.

We had a request from Beach Elementary and made a donation for items they need.

Blanket Sunday will be coming up in March.

The church was beautiful with your donations for Poinsettias at Christmas.

Blessings,  
Diane Allen



*Our Prayer List*

- |                                               |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Adler Biddle</i>                           | <i>Family of April Meyer</i>     |
| <i>Laura Bond</i>                             | <i>Julie Chaffin</i>             |
| <i>Joy Booth</i>                              | <i>Larry Nelson</i>              |
| <i>Sally Malcom-Bethea</i>                    | <i>Mary Harrington</i>           |
| <i>Karen Carpenter</i>                        | <i>Shirley &amp; Sheldon Roe</i> |
| <i>Church in Haiti</i>                        | <i>Jim Fogdall</i>               |
| <i>John Hyssong, Jr.</i>                      | <i>Sandi Cottingham</i>          |
| <i>Barbara Deming</i>                         | <i>Scott Seeman</i>              |
| <i>Ernest H. Garbade (son)</i>                | <i>Debbie Smalley</i>            |
| <i>Lynda Butler</i>                           | <i>Ryan Smith</i>                |
| <i>Jack &amp; Shirley Hyssong</i>             | <i>Mara Coleman</i>              |
| <i>Bill Figgins</i>                           | <i>Alexis Tuminello</i>          |
| <i>Connor Hart, nephew of Lynn Larson</i>     | <i>Liz &amp; Mark Venturin</i>   |
| <i>Michelle Taylor</i>                        | <i>Jim &amp; Carol Look</i>      |
| <i>Tim Taylor</i>                             | <i>Eleanor Paulsen</i>           |
| <i>Ida Syvertson, mother of Deb &amp; Tim</i> | <i>Monna Weiler</i>              |
| <i>Lisa, friend of the Johnsons</i>           | <i>Brooker Simms</i>             |
| <i>Joe Walker</i>                             | <i>Jim Wall</i>                  |

*Our family serving in the Armed Forces*

- Col. Kevin Groth (nephew of Bob Stenerson)*
- Marshall (son of Paul & Mark)*
- Robert McGuire (grandson of Arlene Burm)*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*It is our privilege to lift up your prayer concerns to the Throne Room of our God! If you have a prayer concern to add or remove from this list, **please e-mail, or call the office or send us a note.***

*Names will be listed for one month, after which they will be removed unless we hear from you to keep them active. If you want them to be permanently on the list, please let the office know.*



We received this very special thank you note –

*Thank you all:*

*Adler Biddle, my grandson in Indiana, has had five eye surgeries over the past 2 1/2 years and has now been released to the care of a regular eye doctor for periodic pressure checks. Thank you prayer warriors. All your prayers were very much appreciated. God is good; all the time!*

*Grandma Jana Clevenger*



**ROMEO's** meet Jan. 20 at noon – Matanzas Inn under the bridge Contact Bruce Allen for reservations (239) 272-0896

**Ladies Lunch Bunch** will meet Wednesday, January 26, 11:30 am at Deep Lagoon on McGregor. Reserve with Jana 317-753-1510.



## HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

Luke 1:45-56

In this world of appointments, wireless phones, monthly planners, Facebook, Twitter, deadlines and even play dates for our puppies, we seem to have lost our sense of spontaneity. Even in worship, we tend to plan how we will respond to God. We sit quietly and do not speak until the **bold face type** let's us know that it is our assigned time to speak.

Yet in this text from Luke, we see the pure spontaneity and unbridled joy that bursts forth in Mary's song. Mary has recently been visited by the angel Gabriel and informed that she is going to bear Jesus into the world. She, an ordinary teenager, has been chosen by God to bear the Son of the Most High. She is so overwhelmed and filled with wonder by God's act that she bursts into song; praising God from every corner of her being. She says:

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God,  
my Savior; For he has been mindful of the humble state of  
his servant From now on all generations will call me  
blessed, For the Mighty One has done great things for me.

Can you imagine what it must have felt like for her to just let herself go in song and praise?

We have a ministry here at St. Peter that is alive and vibrant and growing. We have seen a lot of positive changes and improvements to our worship, our fellowship, our stewardship. God has blessed us with exciting vision here and people are not only talking about the ministry at St. Peter with friends and neighbors, but they are inviting them to come and see. I get excited just thinking about all that is going on here, so how can we keep from singing?

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

As we start a new year, it is my hope that you too can become excited about all that God is doing in your life, and that songs well-up in your heart and words burst from your mouth as you experience the joy and hope given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let's rethink our giving of time, talent and treasure, and let the joy that is Jesus Burst forth from us and fill Ft. Myers Beach with unbridled Joy.

Peace,

Tim Taylor

**"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."** "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan 1

*Candy Palmer*

Jan 4

Debbie Gresham

Jan 5

Gwen Patchin

Carol Schiesing

Jan 8

Dorothy Louth

Bruce Kullberg

Jan 13

Ginny Keeton

Shirley Roe

Jan 14

Jack Bunton

Paul Gresham

Jan 15

Betty Horvatich

Jan 24

Jim Wall

Jan 28

Dorothy Zehner

There are no January Anniversaries!



## 2021 – CHURCH OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT..... Dave Mickley**

**VICE PRESIDENT..... Donna Albert**

**SECRETARY .....Arlene Burm**

**TREASURER ..... John Torstveit**

### **MEMBERS:**

**Jana Clevenger**

**Rhona Diamond**

**Lynn Larson**

### **CURRENT OFFICE INFORMATION**

Please note that the office is currently being staffed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - usually from 8am – noon. If you leave a message, we will get back to you the next workday. If you plan on stopping in, please call so that we can make sure someone is here to assist you.

**Please keep us informed** if you move, change your phone number or email address! We want to let you know what's going on here, so being able to reach you is important!