



# the CROSSWORD

Volume 12 Number 5

May 2017

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## Coming Events

- **May 5—7**  
Synod Assembly, San Antonio
- **May 7**  
Graduate Reception
- **May 19—21**  
Camp Service Weekend, Camp Chrysalis
- **May 21 and 28**  
Blessing of Bicycles and Other Wheeled Things
- **May 28**  
Dedication of Memorials
- **June 4**  
Affirmation of Baptism
- **June 16—17**  
Vacation Bible School, 9am—12pm
- **June 18**  
Vacation Bible School Closing Service, 9am



## Youth groups celebrate and host Easter activities

The youth groups of St. Peter's had an EGGcellent time celebrating Easter! We kicked off the weekend with the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15. Over forty youth began the morning with Easter songs led by Dorothy Bowman and Sandra Post. Following the songs, youth 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 fun continued bright and early the following morning, Easter Sunday, as youth hosted the Easter breakfast. Families outdid themselves as they provided nearly every breakfast item imaginable for congregation members to enjoy. It is safe to say that no one left church hungry that morning! A total of \$283 was graciously given as free-will

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## New Opportunities for Youth

St. Peter's Congregation Council set the date for viewing the Martin Luther Documentary film immediately following worship on July 16 in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. They decided to ask Fellowship Committee members assigned for the month to plan the meal on September 17 when Bishop Tiemann visits.

Eva Nell Griffith reported on the various activities the youth have been engaged in such as the Spark Book Fair, the Easter Egg Hunt, and sponsoring the Easter breakfast. She stated that 7 children attended First Communion instruction with Pastor Mike Robinson, who did a fantastic job making the

education both interesting and fun. Six of the group will receive first communion on May 14. She added that one youth is receiving First Communion instruction from Pastor Wold. We will be noticing some new youth serving as acolytes, she reported, following instruction and practice led by herself and Lana Jarzombek with Harley Jarzombek demonstrating proper procedures. Vacation Bible School will be held June 16 and 17, with the closing on Sunday, June 18.

Kenneth Brand reported that general

—continued on page 5—

## Call Committee Report

By Sarah Brandes

The call committee has begun receiving names of potential candidates to interview. While much information has to remain highly confidential at this time, we encourage members to help us identify questions that could be used during the interview process. What items would you like us to address? How can we ensure that your voice is represented during the interviews? Your input is key to our success and we welcome you to share any ideas that you may have.

In the meantime, please remain persistent in prayer — God, keep us mindful of your presence among us as we seek to discern your will for us. We pray that you will help us see beyond our own needs to the needs of your Church. We pray that you will open our eyes to new possibilities and opportunities of being your people. Guide us and lead us, O Lord. Amen.

## Parish Ministry Training needing support

Saturday, April 22, was the final day of the first unit of Parish Ministry Training in which Sherry Sanders participated in classes of Christian Spirituality, Old Testament, and Christian Education. Again, she thanks the congregation for allowing her this opportunity to strengthen her faith and increase her knowledge and skills. The information and resources gained from this program are invaluable both to her personally and potentially for the congregation of St. Peter's as well. After a break for the summer, Unit 2 will begin in September.

Pastor Sam Radamon, who directs the program, spoke Saturday on the financial difficulties the program is currently facing. There are not enough students to keep it financially viable at this time, however the synod does not want to discontinue the program that has proven important to the synod in keeping some smaller rural churches operating. They are exploring ways to cut costs and increase participation and funding. If you feel this is an important program and would like to support it monetarily, or you feel you would like to stretch and grow your own God-given talents, feel free to contact Sherry for more information.

## Blessing of Bicycles and Other Wheeled Things

One of the seasonal worship rites for summer is a Blessing of Bicycles and Other Wheeled Things. A blessing and prayer for youth as they enjoy their bikes and "other wheeled things" during the summer months will be a part of worship on May 21 and May 28. Youth are encouraged to bring their bikes, scooters, tricycles and other wheeled things with them to church on either of these two Sundays.

## Reception to honor St. Peter's graduate and eighth grade students to be held on May 7

A reception in recognition of high school graduate, JR Pruski, and eighth grade graduates, Ryan Klinkerman, Fischer Saxton, and Zander York, will be held following worship on Sunday, May 7. The fellowship committee requests assistance from congregation members with cookies or finger foods, that will be served at the reception. Sunday School classes will not be held on this day. The confirmation class will begin at 11 a.m.

## Bishop Tiemann to visit St. Peter's

Bishop Tiemann will visit St. Peter's on Sunday, September 17, 2017. He is visiting selected congregations this year and will be available to preach in worship, teach a class, lead a Bible Study, meet with youth, lead a question and answer time, or lead a mission conversation. There will be more information on his visit as plans are made, but mark your calendar to be here for his visit.

## Volunteer needed

We are looking for a volunteer to help in the office learning about the duties of the office secretary. Without a full time pastor, the office could use some back-up assistance in case of sickness or time off for the secretary. If you are interested, please contact one of the executive council members:

Pres. Sherry Sanders 361-655-0123  
V. Pres. Eva Nell Griffith 361-645-3881  
Sec. Sandra Post 361-645-3963



## Vacation Bible School News — PandaMania: Where God is Wild about You!

Get ready for a Pandarrific time at Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is PandaMania: Where God is Wild about You! 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 16 and 17 with the closing during worship time on Sunday, June 18. We will be divided into two classes this year. Two year olds will be allowed to participate, but must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

We'll gather at 9a.m., then travel the path hearing a Bible Story, doing awesome Crafts and Projects, learning Music of praise, maybe play a few Games, have an incredible lunch followed with a sendoff at 12p.m. The kids will get to meet Panda Payge and see what she'll be up to each day! We will have a children's offering each day that will go towards a special project that the kids will help select. Our closing will be the worship service on June 18 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 June 11. 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 teaching, assisting with crafts, music, pictures or food, please contact Lana Jarzombek at your earliest convenience, lana.jarzombek@yahoo.com or 361-645-4793. Thank you!!

WOMAN

**Mon May 1, 2017**

6:30pm Worship and Music  
Committee meeting

**Wed May 3, 2017**

9am Lutheran World Relief  
stripping day for making quilt  
tops, bring your own lunch  
6:30pm Choir practice  
7:30pm Bible Study, Galatians &  
James: Faith and Works,  
"What is Faith?" session 2

**Fri May 5, 2017—Sun May 7, 2017**

Synod Assembly, Omni San Antonio  
Hotel at the Colonnade

**Sat May 6, 2017**

11am Confirmation class

**Sun May 7, 2017**

9am Communion service  
10am 8th grade promotion and  
graduation reception  
11am Confirmation class

**Tue May 9, 2017**

2pm Women of the ELCA Bible  
study  
3pm Women of the ELCA meeting

**Wed May 10, 2017**

6:30pm Choir practice  
7:30pm Bible Study, Galatians &  
James: Faith and Works, "The  
Dangers in Ourselves,"  
session 3

**Sun May 14, 2017**

9am Communion service, 1st  
Communion for First  
Communion Students  
3pm Worship service at La Bahia  
Nursing Home

**Wed May 17, 2017**

9am Lutheran World Relief  
workday, stone soup for lunch  
6:30pm Choir practice  
7:30pm Bible Study, Galatians &  
James: Faith and Works,  
"Warnings and Instructions,"  
session 4

**Thu May 18, 2017**

6:30pm Congregation Council  
meeting

**Fri May 19, 2017—Sun May 21, 2017**

Camp Service Weekend at Camp  
Chrysalis in Kerrville

**Sun May 21, 2017**

9am Communion/Contemporary  
service; Blessings of Bicycles  
and Other Wheeled Things  
10:15am Sunday School

**Wed May 24, 2017**

6:30pm Choir practice

**Sun May 28, 2017**

9am Communion service;  
Dedication of Memorials;  
Blessings of Bicycles and  
Other Wheeled Things

**Wed May 31, 2017**

6:30pm Choir practice

**Sun June 4, 2017**

9am Communion service,  
Affirmation of Baptism



Happy  
Mother's Day

2017

## Women plan to observe Rachel's Day, recognize graduates, prepare for Mother's Day recognition, and assemble kits for the Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis

By Kathy Albrecht

St Peter's Women of the ELCA discussed in-kind gifts for the tenth Triennial Gathering, that will be held July 13-16, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme for the Gathering, *All Anew*, calls us to look at life in a new way. Our Women of the ELCA purpose statement calls us to be there for each other. God calls us to make a difference in the world. It seems that the month of May brings our focus back to how we, as women, can reach out and care for those around us and individuals throughout the world.

Bible study, "Christian Faith and Christian Freedom: For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free" with readings from Galatians 5:1—6:18, was led by Linda Dornburg from the April *Gather* magazine. Marilyn Morris will lead the May Bible study from the May *Gather* magazine.

Deanna Wacker presented "Points to Ponder" with a reading entitled "Pass It On" with a Bible passage from 1 Timothy 4:14. God has given you an array of talents, do not neglect the gift that is in you.

Dorothy Bowman, president, called the April 11 meeting to order with twelve members present. She read from the *Interchange* about in-kind gifts for the Triennial Gathering that each congregational unit can collect and send to the Triennial Gathering. It was decided to set a goal to fill ten "Days for Girls Kits," and then in July, send them with Elaine Post and her sisters, who will be attending the Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis. Dorothy also read a letter from Equal Exchange concerning their partnership with Lutheran World Relief. It stated that at the end of May 2017, LWR has decided to end their Fair Trade partnership with Equal Exchange and begin work with another coffee purveyor.

A report was given on the birthday party at La Bahia Nursing Home held on March 21 at 2:30 p.m. It was reported that everyone's participation and time spent with residents was greatly appreciated.

Mother's Day recognition on May 14 was discussed. There will be a collection taken for Upbring. The tea pot will be placed in the narthex to receive all donations. (Please see the article on this page concerning the Mother's Day gifts.)

St. Peter's 2017 graduate and 8th grade graduates will be recognized on May 7. Members of the congregation are asked to bring cookies and finger food for the reception.

Rachel's Day will be held on May 7 and everyone is asked to wear blue. (Please see the article on page 5 concerning Rachel's Day.)

Four members delivered the 2016/2017

Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits on April 19 to Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. A Thrivent grant to help pay for the 2017/2018 quilt batting will be applied for.

A motion was made and approved that we will not hold June and July meetings, with the monthly meeting resuming in August.

St. Peter's college student was discussed and it was decided to talk with Rhonda Irwin, College Connection Ministry Leader, concerning any funds needed for this projects.

Offerings were then given and the meeting closed with Dorothy giving the prayer.

St. Peter's Women of the ELCA will hold their next regular meeting at 3 p.m. on May 9. Bible study will be held prior to the meeting at 2 p.m.

### Mother's Day gifts to be received for Upbring

On Mother's Day, May 14, 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. Tens of thousands of children in our communities are treated as objects instead of treasures, and we must be determined to change that reality. Together, we can give all 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 mom. 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.



— council from page 1 —

maintenance chores have been accomplished by several members and the roof repair has been completed. He stated there was a grand total of 13 members who participated in the Adopt a Highway clean up day, and he reported on progress of Columbarium committee in getting the site marked and waiting on final bids for concrete work. Beverly Martin reported Worship and Music will meet on May 1, and Billy Dornburg reported our next worship service for La Bahia Nursing Home will be on May 14 at 3 pm. Terrell Wiggins reported that Sarah Brandes has graciously consented to be our contact person for the web site which is up and looking good.

**Rachel's Day will be observed May 7**

St. Peter's Women of the ELCA encourages everyone to wear blue for the worship service on May 7—the color blue is a symbol of hope. Together we recognize the value of all God's children and 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. Rachel's Day is a time to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.

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. Commit to pray for victims and their families. Rachel's Day is a day of remembering the young lives lost, and it should also be a time to recommit to children everywhere. It is important to celebrate as well as mourn. It is in celebrating that the faith community is stirred to hope and can envision a better future.

— youth Easter activities from page 1 —

offerings for the meal. These funds are used to help offset youth summer camping costs.

We would like to extend our appreciation to everyone that supported these events. From food to manpower, and even helping publicize the events — THANK YOU! So many of our congregation's young people attended the events but we also had a very large amount of visitors. It was a pleasure to meet so many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews of our members. St. Peter's is honored to be a place for families to come together from many different cities and celebrate special times together.



**Youth gathered in St. Peter's sanctuary for Easter songs before the Easter egg hunt began.**



**Ainsley Yendrey reaches down to grab one of the many eggs hidden outside St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Beside her is Conner Collins. Following the egg hunt, youngsters were offered bags of Easter treats and refreshments.**



**Grace and Lynleigh Griffith run through the field cracking confetti eggs on each other during the St. Peter's Lutheran Church annual Easter egg hunt. Youngsters were divided into age groups and then set free to hunt.**



**Paisley Diebel examined her recently found Easter egg closely during the Easter egg hunt held on April 15.**

**Camp service weekend set for May 19-21**

St. Peter's 49<sup>th</sup> annual camp service weekend will be held May 19-21 at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville. A \$250 Thrivent grant has been received to help with the cost of one of the camp projects, a cement handicap ramp. All projects have not been finalized, at this time, but updated information will be shared when it is available.

**Thank you card —**

Thank you for helping to send me to church camp. I really appreciate it and I will have so much fun.

Mackenna

*\*Mackenna Coleman-Diebel will be attending summer camp at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville the week of July 30 through August 4, 2017.*

## St. Peter's Staff

**The Rev. Joseph Wold**  
Transitional Minister

**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)

**Billy Dornburg**  
Chair of Outreach  
(term ends 12/31/17)

**Dalton Dornburg**  
Vice Chair of Christian  
Education and Youth Ministry  
(term ends 12/31/17)

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

**Beverly Martin**  
Chair of Worship and Music  
(term ends 12/31/17)

**Sandra Post**  
Secretary and Co-Chair of  
Stewardship  
and Finance  
(term ends 12/31/18)

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

**Terrell Wiggins**  
Co-Chair of Property  
(term ends 12/31/19)

**The Rev. Joe Wold**  
Transitional 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  
5-02 The Rev. Michael Robinson  
5-9 Zander York  
5-10 Arlene DeForest  
5-14 Walker Wimberly  
5-17 Meghan Foil  
5-21 Brenda Straube  
5-24 Mallory Luker  
5-26 Jonathan Ideus  
5-27 Jill Wiggins  
5-30 Mollie Janota-Wallace



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

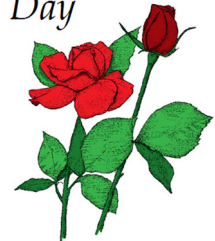
5-1-04 Ronda and Nathan Irwin  
5-7-16 Erin and Nicholas Smith  
5-15-10 Tara and David Krueger  
5-19-73 Sherry and Sandy Sanders  
5-19-62 Deanna & Gary Wacker  
5-27-62 Loyce & Delbert McCullough

*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*



Megan and Tyler Tislow  
are the proud parents of a  
daughter, Kashlynn Tislow,  
born April 5, 2017, weighing  
9 lbs 8 ozs and 19.5 inches  
long. She is the granddaughter of Linda and  
Randy Koehler. She is also being welcomed by  
big brother, Hunner Parma, and big sister, Zayne  
Parma.

Mother's  
Day



May 14, 2017

## St. Peter's Ministry Fund Update Through March 31, 2017

Ministry fund beginning balance, January 1, 2017	\$24,057.45
Offerings	\$49,173.75
Cost of ministries	\$33,711.43
Ministry fund ending balance, March 31	\$39,519.77

*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



St. Peter's Ander



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

- Allene Bethke** – mother-in-law of June Bethke
- Sharon Bethke** – cousin of Arlene DeForest and Eva Nell Griffith
- Family of Billy Bob Billo** – friend of the community
- Dawn Butler** – sister of Lana Jarzombek and Rhonda Irwin
- Denise Engle** – friend of Amy Wilburn
- Brenda Foil** – member of St. Peter's
- Joyce Foster** – grandmother of Shelby Foster
- Robbie Friedrichs** – friend of June Bethke
- Janie Garcia** – co-worker of Jamie Friedrichs
- Ainsley Garza** – cousin of Arlene DeForest and Eva Nell Griffith
- Barry Geary** – member of St. Peter's
- Kerry Giles** – son-in-law of Sherry and Sandy Sanders
- Rebecca Graves** – infant great-niece of Joyce Franklin, friend of Alvin and Arlene DeForest
- Kyndal Gruetzmacher** – graduate of Goliad High School
- Milton Haas** – friend of Alvin and Arlene DeForest
- Emily Harrison** – teacher of Maely Brandes
- The Rev. Bill Hassel** – retired Bluebonnet Conference pastor
- Dale Henderson** – father of Margaret Luker
- Vanita Ann Hausmann Homer** – friend of Brenda and Aldon Bade
- Carolyn Houseton** – friend of Beverly Martin
- Betty Jacob** – friend of June Bethke
- Ryan Janak** – eight year old nephew of Leo Henke
- Nora Karl** – great-grandmother of Shelby Foster
- Joe Ladeairous** – father of Regina Calhoun
- Richard Marek** – father of Lindsey Smith, friend of Fritz and Geraldine
- Jo Nell Martin** – former member of St. Peter's, friend of Arlene DeForest
- Herbie Maurer** – brother of Brenda Bade
- Mary Linda Morley** – friend of Beverly Martin
- Stephanie Navas** – granddaughter of Fritz and Geraldine Sturm
- Bryce Ousley** – student at Goliad High School, friend of Wendi Yendrey
- Jordan Peterson** – husband to be of Carolyn Well's step-granddaughter
- Ruth Pieper** – friend of the community and member of St. Luke's, Schroeder

- Allen Pollard** – father of Karie Wimberly
- Randy Poppert** – nephew of Ina DeForest and Alvin DeForest
- Family of Arlis Preiss** – friend of the community
- Marcus Rezendez** – friend of Amy Wilburn
- Allison Rideout** – friend of Beverly Martin
- Jack Robinson** – grandfather of Fischer Saxton
- Leota Romine** – sister of Aldon Bade and associate member of St. Peter's
- Debra Rouse** – friend of Wanda Schendel
- Tom Searcy** – brother of Geraldine Sturm
- Stefani Soper** – friend of Karen Klinkerman
- Bonnie Staha** – friend of Jamie Friedrichs
- Patricia Stanley** – co-worker of Gayle Albrecht
- Chuck Taylor** – father of Ashford Taylor
- Glenn Layne Towery and family** – friends of the community
- Victor Vargas** – four year old nephew of Alyssa, Luke Abrameit's wife
- James White** – friend of Allen and Ruby Jank
- Terrell Wiggins** – member of St. Peter's
- 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
- Family of Sophie Zandonatti** – aunt of Beverly Martin and Brenda Foil
- Students and Teachers at Goliad High School**



**Youth of St. Peter's Lutheran Church sit in front of quilts made by the ladies of this congregation. On Sunday, April 2, the quilts were blessed and prepared to be shipped through Lutheran World Relief. School supplies, personal hygiene care and baby care kits for those in need were also collected by the congregation, boxed and prepared for shipping. The children here were practicing their Easter music for a special service Easter Sunday.**



**On April 8, thirteen 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.**



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. Joseph Wold, transitional minister  
Phone: 830-632-5471 or 248-330-4274  
E-mail: joearlywold@yahoo.com

## Worship Leaders for May

### ALTAR GUILD

Dorothy Bowman and Lana Jarzombek

### MINISTER OF HOSPITALITY

Arlene DeForest

### GREETERS

Brenda Foil and Janice Seiler

### USHERS

Valerie Albrecht and Glenn Karnei

### OFFERING COUNTERS

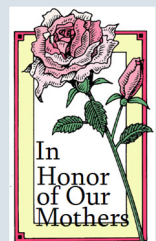
Lana Jarzombek and Geraldine Sturm

### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

June Bethke and Deanna Wacker

### FLOWERS

5-7 Bob and Nancy Gerhardt  
5-14 Alvin and Arlene DeForest  
5-21 Ina DeForest  
5-28 open





# Registration Form

VBS: June 16-17, 9am—12pm with closing on June 18 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: \_\_\_\_\_

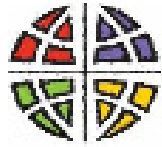


In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

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.



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Easter 2017

**"Jesus Christ is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead."  
(Colossians 1:18)**

Dear friends and co-missionaries,

In China, including Hong Kong, Easter always falls at the same time as Qing Ming, the spring festival. Last year they were on the same day; this year they were five days apart. I am fascinated by the way that the themes of these two holidays connect with each other. They both involve visiting the tombs.

On Easter, Christians go to the cemetery with the disciples in the gospel reading and find Jesus' tomb empty. On Qing Ming, families go to the cemetery to honor their ancestors at their tombs. A Chinese friend told me that honoring the ancestors is important for Chinese people because it helps them to reflect not so much on where they are going after they die but more on where their life came from in the first place. The ancestors brought them into the world and created their family. So, on Qing Ming the whole family gathers at the cemetery to clean up the tomb, burn incense as they say prayers to and for their ancestors, and leave offerings of food and drink.



They might also bring offerings of paper models of the things their ancestors enjoyed in life: food, shoes, money, cigarettes, and burn these in a small oven next to the tomb.

If the item is too big, like this paper car I saw at a funeral home!, they bring it to a special location designated for burning offerings.

Sometimes I talk with my students and colleagues about what Christians do on Qing Ming. They tell me that if the whole family is Christian they observe Qing Ming in a way that reminds me of the Mexican "Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead". The whole family gathers for a picnic at the tomb, feeling that their ancestor is somehow present with them. They may pray and sing hymns and leave flowers behind. If there are only a few Christians in the



family, they still join the family to show love and respect because this is still where they came from, even if they no longer participate in the offering rituals.

I think that the emphasis of Qing Ming on our origin puts a wonderful spin on Easter. If I go to the tomb of Jesus on Easter not to be reminded of my destination but to be reminded of "the origin of our existence," as a Chinese friend put it, this makes Jesus' empty tomb something truly new and amazing. The place where Jesus' corpse was laid becomes the place from which the cause of all life emerges. It's where we came from as a Christian family. So, on the day of resurrection we revisit Jesus' empty tomb together to share a meal, to pray and sing, and to make the place beautiful with flowers because the Spirit of Jesus is with us there, making us alive together with Christ. Happy Easter season to you all!

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