



the CROSSWORD

Volume 12 Number 11 November 2017

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Coming Events

- **November 5**
All Saints' Sunday
- **November 12**
Veteran's Recognition;
Presentation of the 2018
Budget for St. Peter's;
Budget Stew
- **November 19**
Thankoffering Service;
Youth Advent Workshop
- **November 22**
St. Peter's Thanksgiving Eve
Service, 6:30pm
- **December 3**
St. Peter's Congregational
Meeting
- **December 10**
St. Peter's Sunday School
Christmas Program



St. Peter's annual Oktoberfest was held Sunday, October 22, with perfect weather, great food and fellowship. This year's recipient of the Oktoberfest proceeds is Cross Trails Ministry. A silent auction was held, along with a live auction for several of the donated items. Photo by Karen Klinkerman

Council Approves New Members, Names Nominating Committee

By Sherry Sanders

At their regular monthly meeting, council named a nominating committee of outgoing council members, Beverly Martin and Billy Dornburg, and congregation member, Alvin DeForest. They approved receiving new members, Trace and Leslie Wunsch, Kaysa, Leighton, and Maevyn, by affirmation of faith, and Pat McDonald by affirmation of faith.

Business items of credit card procedures, approval of vacation time the week after Christmas for Pastor Anne, and setting the date for congregational meeting on December 3 immediately following worship, were all accomplished.

In Outreach business, Billy Dornburg reported updates to the Welcome packet and plans for a new Pictorial Directory to be completed in 2018. It was added that another trip to Rockport and carpentry work prior to going will be planned and announced later. Upcoming dates for

Christian Education and Youth Ministry, as reported by Eva Nell Griffith, included Youth Advent Project on November 19 and Sunday School Christmas Program on December 10. Pastor Anne added that the new confirmation class is off to a good start. Kenneth Brand reported on a good workday at the picnic area. All is ready for Oktoberfest. He also updated council on the arrival of Columbarium.

In news from Worship and Music, Beverly Martin reported dates for Thanksgiving Eve service, November 22 at 6:30 p.m., Christmas caroling on December 17 after worship, regular worship service at 9 a.m. on December 24, and Christmas Eve Candlelight service on December 24 at 8 p.m. Advent services will be hosted by Zion in Arneckeville on December 6, at St. Peter's on December 13, and at St. Luke's in Schroeder on December 20, with meal at 6:30 p.m. and worship at 7:30 p.m.

From the pastor



NOW THAT WE'RE getting settled in, I can begin to get "in the groove" of things here at St. Peter's before the rush of Advent and Christmas begin. Living in Cuero, I'll be working from home for much of the time I'm not out visiting.

For the time being, I plan to be in the office every Wednesday afternoon after 3 p.m., every Saturday morning, and any time there is a meeting scheduled at the church. If you want to meet with me some other time, just call me and I can be at the office, or I can come to your home. I have started visiting with shut-ins and those who have recently been ill. Look for a sign up sheet to appear soon in the narthex for those who want to meet with me or just for a "get acquainted" visit (Jerry can come, if you want to get to know him, too!).

For your information, my Facebook page is a personal one, and my policy is not to "friend" any church members, so don't take it personally when your request is denied. You can contact me any time on my cell phone [361-676-4799](tel:361-676-4799), or at my church email revsplca@gmail.com.

It's hard to believe we've only been here a month. You have made us feel so welcome, and we already feel like we're part of the family of St. Peter's, Ander.



Bibles were presented and mentors were commissioned for the new confirmation class during Sunday worship on October 15. Photo by Lana Jarzombek



Pastors attending the installation service are: Carmen Retzlaff, Herb Beyer, Barbara Beale, Anne Kolmeier, Sue Briner, and Dan Zellmer. Photo by Lana Jarzombek



Thanks to Lindsey Youngblood for the beautiful, tasty cake for the reception, and to all who helped to make this day a celebration to remember. Photo by Lana Jarzombek

The Rev. Anne J. Kolmeier installed as pastor for St. Peter's on September 24, 2017

Pastor Anne Kolmeier was officially installed as the pastor of St. Peter's on Sunday, September 24, in a joyous celebration of worship with communion. Pastor Herb Beyer, Bluebonnet

Conference Dean, presided at the installation, and Pastor Sue Briner, Bishop's Associate of the Southwestern Texas Synod, was the preacher for the day.

St. Peter's confirmation class began on October 15

St. Peter's new confirmation class for 2017-2019, led by Pastor Anne Kolmeier, began on Sunday, October 15. The class will be meeting in the sanctuary from 10:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of every month. So don't be surprised at what you may see beyond those glass doors!

The class and their mentors are: Kade Irwin / Brenda Bade; Harley Jarzombek / Sarah Brandes; Walker Wimberly / Beverly Martin; Kaysa Wunsch / Wendi Yendrey and Leighton Wunsch / Ryan Luker. Thank you to those who have agreed to serve as their mentors and help them along their faith journey.



Five students are enrolled in the 2017-2019 confirmation class this year: Kade Irwin, Harley Jarzombek, Walker Wimberly, Kaysa Wunsch and Leighton Wunsch. Photo by Lana Jarzombek

November

2017

Wed Nov 1, 2017

6pm Nominating Committee for
Congregation Council
6:30pm Choir Practice
7:30pm Bible Study, Romans:
Session 9, "Life in the Spirit"

Sun Nov 5, 2017

9am All Saints' Sunday,
Communion Service
10:15am Confirmation Class in the
Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School

Wed Nov 8, 2017

6:30pm Choir Practice
7:30pm Bible Study, Romans:
Session 10, "Are God's
Promises Reliable?"

Sun Nov 12, 2017

9am Veterans Recognition,
Communion Service
10:15am Sunday School
10:30am 2018 Proposed Budget
Presentation, followed by
Congregational Stew Meal

Tue Nov 14, 2017

2pm Bible study, Women of the
ELCA
3pm Women of the ELCA
Meeting

Wed Nov 15, 2017

9am LWR Quilting and Workday
6:30pm Choir Practice
7:30pm Bible Study, Romans:
Session 11, "Faith in Everyday
Life"

Thu Nov 16, 2017

Newsletter Article Deadline
6:30pm Congregation Council
Meeting

Sun Nov 19, 2017

9am Contemporary Service;
Thankoffering led by Women
of the ELCA
10:15am Confirmation Class in the
Sanctuary
10:15am Youth Advent Project

Wed Nov 22, 2017

6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thu Nov 23, 2017—Fri Nov 24, 2017

Thanksgiving Holiday

Sun Nov 26, 2017

9am Communion Service
10:15am Sunday School

Wed Nov 29, 2017

6:30pm Choir Practice
7:30pm Bible Study, Romans:
Session 13, "The "Weak" and
the "Strong"



November 5, 2017
Set clocks back 1 hour!

Nominating committee to secure members to serve on council

Two adult members and one youth will be elected to serve on St. Peter's congregation council at our annual congregational meeting on December 3. A slate of nominees will be presented to the congregation council at their November meeting. If you would like to serve our congregation through this important ministry, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee: Billy Dornburg, Beverly Martin, Alvin DeForest, or Pastor Anne.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

The congregation council has called a congregational meeting to begin immediately following the 9 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

The following items will be on the agenda: adoption of a 2018 budget; election of members to the congregation council; and appointment of financial treasurer, financial secretary, memorial

treasurer, perpetual care treasurer, a member of the memorial committee, and members of the mission endowment fund committee. Plans for the camp service weekend for 2018 will also be reviewed.

Copies of the proposed 2018 budget, as approved by the congregation council, will be distributed at the November 12 Budget Stew.

St. Peter's to celebrate Thankoffering Service on November 19

By Marilyn Morris

St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ander will celebrate a Thankoffering service on November 19.



Ella Angerstein Goebel, a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arneckeville and a Bluebonnet Conference Board member, will be the speaker. The service will be sponsored by

St. Peter's unit of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

According to "All about Thankofferings" by Emily Hansen, Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and provide an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in a celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, an opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection, and so the women of the congregation would come together for a Thankoffering service.

Today, Women of the ELCA collect more than \$1 million in Thankofferings annually for the ministries and mission of the women's organization. Examples of the ministries include: (1) seed grants for program initiatives addressing Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls, awarding nearly \$50,000 in grants in 2015; (2) providing programs focused on evangelism, global education, cross-cultural content, racial justice and advocacy, stewardship and intergenerational content and issues; (3) internet and printed resource materials such as the *Gather Magazine* and its Bible studies, which the St. Peter's women's unit has utilized prior to each unit meeting for several years, and *Daily Grace*, *Café* and *Bold Connections* to list a few. In 2014, churchwide provided the speakers for a daylong conference focused on racial justice and advocacy sponsored by the St. Peter's unit organization inviting women from area ELCA churches to attend. Plus churchwide board members and staff are readily available to synod, conference and unit organizations for consultation. In addition, every 3 years the churchwide organization offers a triennial convention which offers excellent programming and has been attended in the past by several members of the St. Peter's unit organization.

"Growing up," Ella stated in her resume, "My mother and other church women all set a good example of service by being a part of Ladies Aid

and the Altar Guild." At Zion, Ella joined a Bible study for young women which served as her initiation into the women's organization. She attended the fall convention when the ELCA merger occurred and for the last 30 years has attended approximately 20 conventions. This is her second time serving on the Synodical Board as the Bluebonnet Conference representative. She's been a unit leader "forever", presently serving as unit secretary, serving as president and treasurer in the past. In addition, she is the organist and church secretary at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Ella grew up in Meyersville and has been married to Clifford Goebel for almost 45 years. They have one son, Casey, who lives in Seattle, WA. Ella loves dogs and has two, Bo Diddle and Izzie.

Prayer shawls for 2018 Synod Assembly voting members that will elect new ELCA bishop

At the Synod Assembly in 2018, the Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA will elect a new bishop. Anyone that can knit or crochet is invited to create prayer shawls to be gifted to voting members as they participate in the election process. As you create with yarn, pray for those making important decisions for the future of the church. You are welcome to knit or crochet, and use any pattern you are comfortable using. Shawls should be approximately 15 inches wide by 60 inches in length, depending on the style. Our goal is 400 shawls from across the synod. St. Peter's Women of the ELCA will be holding the 2018 Bluebonnet Spring Gathering on March 10, 2018, and will be collecting the completed shawls. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Albrecht at the church office, 645-2922.

Pop tops to be collected for companion synod in Costa Rica

A collection container for pull tabs from soda cans has 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 on South Padre Island in September 2018.

ELCA

 OF THE
 Women
 WOMEN

St. Peter's 29th annual Oktoberfest supports Cross Trails Ministry

What an awesome celebration! Oktoberfest 2017 is "in the books," and what a day it was. With a wonderful meal, a huge silent auction, a special live auction, live music, and everyone working together, \$9,500 was raised for Cross Trails Ministry, the camping ministry of our synod. What a wonderful way to support this ministry and get to know our neighbors at the same time!



St. Peter's member and artist, Gerald Griffith, donated his LaBahia Mission oil painting to the special live auction, with proceeds to support Cross Trails Ministry. Photo by Karen Klinkerman



Volunteers serve up sausage, potatoes, homemade bread, green beans, noodles and sauerkraut, during Oktoberfest at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ander. Photo by Lana Jarzombek



Congregation members and visitors look through the silent auction items at this year's Oktoberfest held at St. Peter's picnic area in Ander. Photo by Karen Klinkerman



Representing Cross Trails Ministry at St. Peter's Oktoberfest were Annabeth Saddler, assistant program director, Kelly Krupicka, communication and event director, and Vestal Odom, facilities director. Photo by Lana Jarzombek

Thanksgiving Eve service to be held at St. Peter's on Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Eve worship is back! This year we will once again have our Thanksgiving worship on Wednesday, November 22, at 6:30 p.m. Join us as we give thanks to God for the many blessings he has given us this year.

St. Peter's to receive new members

On November 12, new members will be received into the family of St. Peter's. If you wish to join at this time, please contact Pastor Anne or call the church office at 361-645-2922 or email the church office at office@stpetersander.org as soon as possible.

Worship service to include recognition and prayers for our veterans

Our veterans, our active service members, and their families will be recognized with special prayers during the worship service on November 12. Join us in thanking them for their service to our country.

Proposed 2018 budget to be presented Nov. 12

The annual "Budget Barbecue" is scheduled for November 12. We gather at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall for a presentation and discussion of the proposed budget for 2018, and then join together in fellowship over the Janks' famous STEW (not barbecue this year!). The budget will be voted on at the December 3 congregational meeting.

ADVENT IS COMING!

As is our tradition, we will be joining together with Zion, Arneckeville and St. Luke's, Schroeder for our weekend services.

The evening begins with a potluck meal at the host church at **6:30 pm**. Members of the host church will provide soup, coffee, tea, and tableware. The members of the travelling churches will bring sandwiches, salads, desserts, etc.

Worship begins at **7:30 pm**. This year's theme is *Flames For The Faithful*, centering around the candles on the Advent Wreath. Pastor Anne and Pastor Barb will share in worship leadership for all three services.

The schedule is as follows:

- Dec. 6: Zion, Arneckeville
The Prophecy Candle
- Dec. 13: St. Peter's, Ander
The Bethlehem Candle
- Dec. 20: St. Luke's, Schroeder
The Shepherd's Candle

Join us as we set aside time to prepare for the coming of the Christ.

St. Peter's Staff

The Rev. Anne Kolmeier
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. 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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

11-01 Megan Parma
11-01 Karie Wimberly
11-03 Addison Yendrey
11-04 Brady Taylor
11-07 Ronnie Willms
11-08 Wayne Albrecht
11-08 Kenneth Brand
11-08 Dalton Dornburg
11-09 Brenda Bade
11-10 Beverly Martin
11-11 Jenny Adickes
11-11 Cody Parma
11-12 Kaid Brand
11-20 Jaron Post
11-21 Evan Lovett
11-30 Ashford Taylor



Happy
Anniversary

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

11-07-59 Gayle & Harold Baecker
11-09-62 Dorothy & David Bowman
11-15-97 Jennifer & Jon Adickes
11-17-84 Rhonda & Jonathan Ideus
11-23-89 Regina & Mike Calhoun
11-27-76 Sandra & Paul Post

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



Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 5, 2017



St. Peter's Ministry Fund Update Through September 30, 2017

Ministry fund beginning balance, January 1, 2017	\$24,057.45
Offerings	\$135,621.69
Cost of ministries	\$89,719.58
Ministry fund ending balance, September 30, 2017	\$69,959.56

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



Joan Albrecht – wife of Wayne Albrecht
Family of Debra Barker – friend of the community
Allene Bethke – mother-in-law of June Bethke
Vergie Bitterly – sister of Deanna Wacker
Charles Bluntzer – friend of the community
Family of Bernice Haschke Boehm – aunt of Beverly Martin and Brenda Foil
Dawn Butler – sister of Lana Jarzombek and Ronda Irwin
Regina Calhoun – member of St. Peter's
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
Kerry Giles – son-in-law of Sherry and Sandy Sanders
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
Dale Henderson – father of Margaret Luker
Marshall Henson – friend of the community and member of St. John's, Goliad
Vanita Ann Hausmann Homer – friend of Brenda and Aldon Bade
Betty Jacob – friend of June Bethke
Ryan Janak – eight year old nephew of Leo Henke
Nora Karl – great-grandmother of Shelby Foster
Athalee Koehler – mother of Randy Koehler
Joe Ladeairous – father of Regina Calhoun
Ross Mansker – brother-in-law of Vicki Wimberly
Family of Irvin Massingale – family friend of Geraldine Sturm
Herbie Maurer – brother of Brenda Bade
Vernette McMullen – member of St. Peter's
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
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 friend of Greta Henke
Katherine Sauer – grandmother of Jarrett Yendrey
Family of Beverly Scott – mother of Leslie Wunsch
Bonnie Staha – friend of Jamie Friedrichs
Barbara Stall – cousin of Arlene DeForest and Eva Nell Griffith
Patricia Stanley – co-worker of Gayle Albrecht

Chuck Taylor – father of Ashford Taylor
Wayne Timmerman – friend of Pam and Ted Long
Victor Vargas – four year old nephew of Alyssa, Luke Abrameit's wife
James White – friend of Allen and Ruby Jank
Sharon Wilborn – friend of Beverly Martin
Mike Wilburn – member of St. Peter's
G.T. Yendrey – grandfather of Jarrett Yendrey
Zander York – member of St. Peter's grandson of Bob and Nancy Gerhardt
Buddy Young – friend of Allen and Ruby Jank

All Saints' Sunday observance and dedication of columbarium planned for November 5



On the afternoon of October 25, St. Peter's parking lot was bustling with excitement as the heavy equipment and workers carefully placed the 6,525 pound granite columbarium on the concrete pad in the cemetery.

Join us as we celebrate our being named as God's saints at the beginning of the service, then process out to the cemetery to remember those saints who have gone on before us. While out in the cemetery, we will dedicate our new columbarium.

Christmas program to be presented December 10

St. Peter's Christmas Program will be held on December 10th during worship time. We're looking for any youth that want to participate as well as any adults that can help. Please contact Lana Jarzombek at 361-645-4793 or

lana.jarzombek@yahoo.com if your child can participate or you would like to assist in any way. We will assign parts soon and decide on a practice schedule.



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, minister
Phone: 361-676-4799
E-mail: revsplca@gmail.com

Worship Leaders for November

ALTAR GUILD

Ina DeForest and Nancy Gerhardt

GREETERS

Harley Jarzombek and Lana Jarzombek

USHERS

David Bowman and Wendi Yendrey

OFFERING COUNTERS

Sharon Abrameit and Jill Wiggins

MINISTER OF HOSPITALITY

Sandy Sanders

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Karen Klinkerman and Janice Seiler

FLOWERS

11-5 Yendrey Family
11-12 Dorothy and David Bowman
11-19 Marilyn Morris
11-22 Thanksgiving Eve
11-26 open





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends and Companions in mission,

October 2017

In his letters Paul always greets the church in this or that place and urges the members to greet each other with a holy kiss. I pass those greetings on to you. In his letter to the Romans, whom he had never met, Paul wrote about how much he wanted to visit them "so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine" (Romans 1:12). That was how I felt about my first-time visit to Myanmar, the subject of this last of my travel newsletters.

Recently I had the wonderful experience of being a visiting lecturer at the Karen (pronounced Kuh-REN) Baptist Theological Seminary (KBTS) in Yangon, Myanmar. The trip was sponsored by the Mekong Mission Forum, a subgroup of the Lutheran World Federation that nurtures church networks, social services, and educational institutions in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Some of you might know Myanmar by its old name, Burma. The word "Burma" refers to the largest ethnic group in the country, the mostly Buddhist Burmese. The change of the country's name reflects the fact that Myanmar is very diverse ethnically; not everyone is Burmese. The Karen, for example, are another large ethnic group, most of whom are Baptist because of the nineteenth-century Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson. Here is a photo of Immanuel Baptist Church, the first Baptist church in Yangon. Standing in front are my hosts, Tha Shi, assistant lecturer in Church History at KBTS, and Sul La, our patient driver in the mostly stalled traffic of Yangon. Tha Shi is wearing the traditional wrap called a *longyi*.



The 30 students who attended my lectures at KBTS for three days are in the final year of their MDiv (Master of Divinity) program, so they already knew a bit about church history, especially the history of their own Baptist tradition in Myanmar. I chose to talk about something I was pretty sure they knew little about because very few church history textbooks cover it well: the history of the Assyrian Church of the East. If you read my June newsletter, you will recognize this as the same church that went to China in the seventh century.

In most parts of Asia the first Christians were members of this church, which arrived in Myanmar via India in the eleventh century. The students were surprised to learn that the first Christians in Myanmar were not Baptist!

The reason I wanted to introduce the students to the Church of the East was that the situation of the church in Myanmar today reminds me of the situation of the Church of the East throughout its history. Except at its very beginning in the independent kingdom of Osroene (southeastern Turkey today), the Church of the East has never had political power. For about 1,800 years it has lived in places where the majority of the population is not Christian and where the government does not support Christianity. I hope that the students found kindred spirits, encouragement and insight by tracing the Church of the East's survival, mission, and interreligious dialogue, especially with Buddhists. The students certainly concentrated hard as they explored this new topic in their third language, English.

(Karen is their first language and Burmese their second.) I was happy to notice that they grew bolder and more talkative with each day. Here we are together after our final class. I was given a *longyi* and the students were delighted that I wore it on the last day.

When I wasn't teaching, I was being treated with great hospitality. My hosts took

me sightseeing in Yangon, where the main attraction is the phenomenal Shwedagon Pagoda, a golden pagoda encrusted with jewels and surrounded by numerous similarly lavish pavilions. We went at night, when the whole place glitters. I've never seen so much gold! Many people were there praying, especially at the Tuesday corner. There is a corner for each day of the week, and we were there on a Tuesday. I leave you with some photos and a recommendation to visit Myanmar some day and make sure to meet the Christians there so that you can encourage and strengthen each other.



Carolyn Schneider

Associate Professor of Church History
The Lutheran Theological Seminary,
50 To Fung Shan Road, Shatin, N.T.
Hong Kong SAR, China



The tip of the Shwedagon Pagoda shimmering at night



Women light candles to pray at one of the pavilions



Little girls sit still and meditate as they learn to be Buddhist nuns

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

1. By check: Make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Carolyn Schneider (GCS2016)" in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to:

ELCA Global Church Sponsorship
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

2. By credit or debit card: See <https://community.elca.org/HongKong> or call 800-638-3522 and specify "Carolyn Schneider (GCS2016)".

3. By automatic monthly bank withdrawal, or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication and support: Contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2657, or globalchurch@elca.org.