

## What's Happening: June 30, 2024 The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

*Congratulations to Rebecca Austin, Tim Lange, and Cayleigh & Fallon  
on the birth of Ian Edward on June 20, 2024!*

**Parishioners in need of Prayer:** Cindy, Bryan, Kiara, Sue, Rebecca, Jennifer, Lois, Jim & Linda, Bob, Jo, and Peggy

**Homebound Parishioners:** Anida, Sheena, Doug, Jane, and Molly

**Parishioners' Friends and Family:** Sheryl, Tina, Betty, Tim, Jim, Frank, Carley (Liz Crosby), Annette (Sally Scovill), Maryellen (Bob Brown), Don, Craig (Ann Bish), Azri & Barb, Stan & Deloris (Jim & Nickie Stary), Vitalia (Carolyn Beredo), Laura (Dennis McCready), Lee (John Keller), Dan (Deb Vandrasik), John (David Nash), Marilou (Sara Ferry), Ann (Jan McDonough), Samantha (Sam Morgan), Sharlene (Bob & Christine Schauer), John & Mary (Julie Steigerwald), Ginger (Marci Rich), Brynn, Ellie (Linda Purdy), Virginia (Brenda Pongracz), Christian (Ann Wright), Grace (Cheshier Family), Tristan (Jessica Philpott, Luke & Mark Sferra), Bonnie, Gary (Emily Malquest), Leslie, Alyssa, Gerry, Nacine, Paul (Joanne Hull), David (Beth O'Rourke), Dan (Cindy Lemmerman), Lee (Tom & Sue Andrews), Weston (John Neumann), Elaine (Patti Dobro), Sue, Michael (Amanda Chambers), Kristen (Alison LaRosa), Carol (Monica Jochum)

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**Join us for Sunday Worship at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.  
10 a.m. is LIVESTREAMED ONLINE  
The Rev. Michael Lager, Rector**

The Service will be livestreamed beginning at 9:50 a.m.  
and the recording will subsequently remain available here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5r-XEvAg8xKiE12jnl\\_s7g?](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5r-XEvAg8xKiE12jnl_s7g?)

Welcome to St. Peter's! If you are attending services, please use the glass door at the rear of the church off the parking lot (where the elevator is located) or the front door to enter the church. If you need any assistance, please see one of the ushers or Tom Newman, St. Peter's sexton.

Parents, if you wish to bring little ones to church, the care room is open every week. Children are also encouraged to sit in their special area in the front of the church on the carpet. Older children who would like to come to church are always welcome. We have activity bags at the back of the church with things to do based on the message of the day.

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### June Outreach Focus of the Month



Loose cash and coins put in the offering plates this month will benefit our June Outreach partner — the ALS Association. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, was responsible for the tragic deaths of two of our beloved parishioners, Jack Bauer (husband of Cherie Bauer) and Harold Babbit (husband of Jan Babbit). Both men were diagnosed in the prime of their life with this incurable disease and are missed terribly to this day.

ALS is a terminal neurodegenerative disorder that results in the progressive loss of both upper and lower motor neurons that normally control voluntary muscle contractions. It presents with muscle stiffness, twitches, or weakness in its early stages and progresses to having the inability to eat, speak, move, and breathe. There is no known cause for ALS, and there is no cure; treatments for the disease simply help to slow progression and improve

symptoms. Although ALS can affect people of any age, it typically strikes between the ages of 40 and 70 and targets males more often than females. Survival after diagnosis is often only two to four years.

The ALS Association is the only national non-profit organization fighting ALS, and it leads the way in research, care services, public education, and public policy. The association strives to provide hope and empowerment to those afflicted with this disease.

If you visit the ALS Association site on the internet, the first words you encounter are “compassion, integrity, and urgency.” These words seem very appropriate after witnessing the progression of the disease with Jack and Harold. Our hope for the St. Peter’s family is that you give generously to this organization to put an end to this tragic affliction.

— Martha Taylor

***NOTE: The Outreach Partner for the month of July is the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.***



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**SAVE THE DATE! CELEBRATE AND HONOR  
THE REV. NANCY WITTIG ON SUNDAY, JULY 28**

**On Sunday, July 28, at a special all-church worship service at 9:30 a.m.,** the congregation of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will come together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of the Rev. Nancy Wittig. Mother Nancy will officiate, preach, and celebrate the Holy Eucharist on the eve of the 50th anniversary of her historic ordination, which took place on July 29, 1974.

Mother Nancy was one of the “Philadelphia Eleven,” women who, in defiance of the constitution and canons of the Episcopal Church, became ordained as priests at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia. This singular act became the subject of the documentary film *The Philadelphia Eleven*, which was released in 2023.

As the Rev. Mike Lager wrote in the July issue of the *Fisherman’s Net*:

“This milestone is beyond the longevity of a professional career in the Church. It represents a lifetime devoted to serving God, the Church, and the community out of the faith we all cherish.”

A brunch reception in honor of Mother Nancy’s ministry will take place in the Undercroft after the service. More information — including an announcement regarding the food that you will be asked to bring — will follow.

*In honor of the anniversary of the Philadelphia Eleven, the documentary will be available to watch online, on the tech platform Kinema, from 12 p.m. EDT on July 26 through 12 p.m. EDT July 30. You can purchase a ticket at the link below for \$11. Proceeds from this viewing will allow more people to see the movie. For questions about the film, please contact Lorna Jordan at 216-647-3774 or [ljcookie1@gmail.com](mailto:ljcookie1@gmail.com).*

<https://kinema.com/events/the-philadelphia-eleven-ut94x5>

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### St. Peter’s Missioners Back from West Virginia

Our group of enthusiastic youth missionaries and their adult chaperones returned home on Saturday, June 22, following nearly a week in Jackson County, West Virginia. The mission trip, sponsored by Brothers’ Keeper, coincided with a heat wave that saw temperatures reach the mid-90s. They worked long hours on various construction projects — digging a French drain, building a deck, sealing a roof — and made a genuine difference in the lives of the Appalachian people they met. One elderly woman, seated on her front porch, told them: “I think that you guys is fantastic...all the young workers have been super...I thank y’all for helping me and I really appreciate it ’cause I can’t get out much, and it’s nice to have someone around the house once in a while. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and may God bless each and every one of you real good.”

This summer’s second mission trip, sponsored by Hosanna Industries, takes place the week of July 14, in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania. More information about St. Peter’s youth mission trips can be found in the May issue of the *Fisherman’s Net*, and in forthcoming issues, too.



### Join Us for Worship at Lakewood Park this Sunday!

Our Annual Worship Service and Picnic-in-the-Park will take place this **Sunday, June 30, at Lakewood Park. The day begins with Worship at 10 a.m. in the Kiwanis Pavilion.** (There will be an 8 o’clock service at church for those who prefer the contemplative nature of that worship format, but *all* are welcome to join us at the park.) St. Peter’s will provide

hot dogs and ham-burgers. If your last name starts with A – J, *please bring beverages to share*. If your last name starts with the letters K – R, *please bring a side dish to share*. If your last name starts with S – Z, *please bring a dessert to share*. We look forward to seeing you for a day of abundant grace, food, fellowship, and fun!



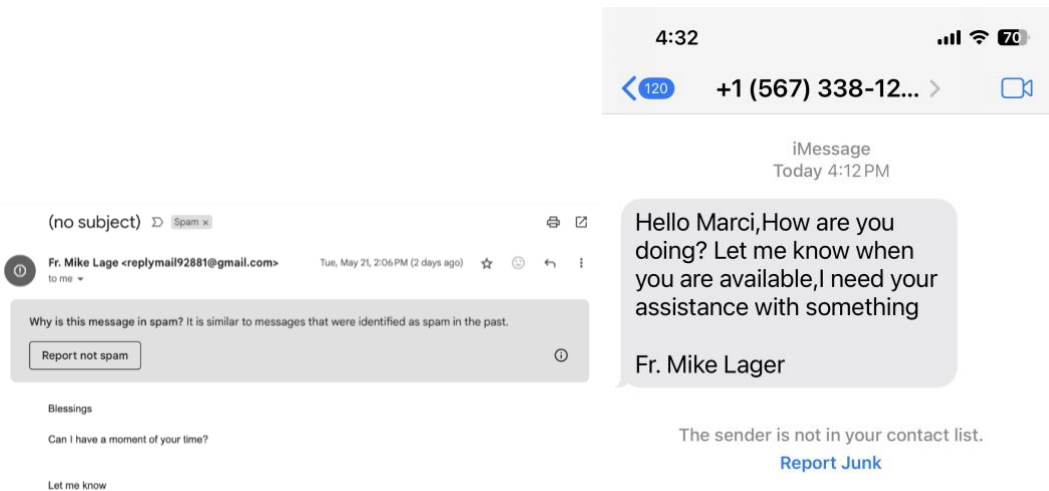
On Sundays at 9:09 a.m., Father Mike leads Adult Forum, a Sunday School class for grown-ups; he also teaches Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Another opportunity to study the Bible takes place on Fridays at 8 a.m. at Joe’s Deli. For information about the latter group, contact Jim Calhoun: [jlciv401@gmail.com](mailto:jlciv401@gmail.com).

### Altar Flowers at St. Peter’s



Parishioners are invited to enhance the loveliness of our worship by donating altar flowers on Sunday — either for the glory of God, or in memory, thanksgiving, or celebration of important people or events. With the exception of the Lenten season, many Sundays are available throughout the year. If you would like to make a gift of altar flowers, please call Johnny Kaufman in the church office at 216-226-1772, or stop by in person to reserve a date. Two regular bouquets are \$90; two special bouquets are \$150. If you would prefer to share with another parishioner on a Sunday,

the cost will be divided between families. Please let the office know of any acknowledgements of Remembrance or Thanksgiving.



## Protect Yourself from Spammers. Don't Reel in These Phish!

*A Note from Marci Rich in Communications:*

*This is a public service announcement that I initially wrote for What's Happening earlier in June, with the intention of repeating it periodically. Since preparing a recent edition for distribution, a NEW spam communication — a text from a phone number pretending to be Father Mike's — went out to some parishioners on Wednesday, June 12. I issued a spam alert within the hour. At the end of this PSA, I will include the steps you should take if you receive either phishing text messages or emails. We at St. Peter's recommend that you be cautious in opening any message that appears to be from someone at the church while this current wave of spamming is taking place, and that you always double-check the email address and/or the phone number of the sender. (We're not the only church affected; Father Keith Owen reports that the same thing is going on at St. Hubert's.)*

If you happen to see an email in your inbox that looks like it might be from Father Mike, similar to the one at the left above, look again. It's actually a screenshot of an email that I recently found in my spam folder. Always on the alert to avoid being the next victim of a scammer, I texted Fr. Mike and sent this to him. (Of course, the email wasn't from him, but I already suspected that.)

Let's take a moment to analyze this fake email. Look at the name in the "From" section: Fr. Mike Lage (the "r" is missing from his last name). The reply mail shows a Gmail domain suffix. (The church does not use Gmail.) And there is nothing in the subject line. The scammers lent credence to their impersonation by beginning their email with "Blessings," something Fr. Mike would indeed say. Scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated. And it's not just emails; scammers are going on phishing expeditions by using your cell phone numbers, sending out spurious texts that can snare you if you click on a link or send a reply text. The second image (above right) is screenshot of a text message I recently received.

In some cases, you might even receive a phone call from some official-sounding "agency" or utility company that could lead you down a costly and frightening rabbit hole if you don't end the call

immediately.

Here are some guidelines to protect yourself from spammers and phishers and other charlatans that go bump in the night:

1. Never click on any link in an email or text that looks suspicious.
2. Never download any attachments from a suspicious email.
3. Never share any personal or financial information with someone sending you a dubious email. St. Peter's will *never* ask you for personal or financial information in an email.
4. Never send any money or gift cards if the suspicious email or text contains a request to do so.
5. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be with a government agency, a utility company, or a credit bureau, end the call immediately and call the actual entity to let them know you've received such a call.
6. You can report these scams to the Federal Trade Commission's "Report Fraud" website: <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>
7. Call, text, or email the person being impersonated. (In the example I'm using, I got in touch with Father Mike straightaway.) Advise the person that you received a questionable email, and ask if they did, in fact, send you such a communication.

*If you receive a spammy text from anyone, especially someone pretending to be from St. Peter's, here are some guidelines from the Federal Trade Commission:*

1. Copy the message and forward it to 7726 (SPAM). This helps your wireless provider spot and block similar messages in the future.
2. Report the spam on the messaging app you use. Look for the option to report junk or spam.
3. Report the spam to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov). I would also add that you never attempt to return the call, and that you never click on any link that might be contained in the message.

Please know that if The Real Father Mike is reaching out to you, his email return address will be "rector@stpeterslakewood.org." He will always include something pertinent in the subject line. And he will invariably use your name at the start of the email.

The office is exploring ways to improve its email communications in order to avoid this sort of problem. In the meantime, please let us know if you get anything that looks spammy.

Peace and blessings,

—The Real Marci Rich  
Communications

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## Shake-It-Up Summer Sunday School is Ongoing at St. Peter's

Summer Sunday School — aka the “Shake-it-Up Café — is ongoing through the end of August. The premise of the program is ingenious: children explore the Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for living out God’s World. By celebrating biblical festivals, they will discover secret ingredients that will help them follow God. The shake It Up Café is for pre-K children through fifth grade; youth in middle school and high school also attend as mentors, leading some of the lessons.

*Note: Due to the Fourth of July and Labor Day holiday weekends, Summer Sunday School will not be offered on July 7 and September 1. Instead, we encourage you to use these dates as an excellent opportunity to worship together as a family. And please read further in this edition of “What’s Happening” for registration information about Vacation Bible School.*

— [Michelle Killin-Keith](#)



## Lakewood Arts Festival: We Need Your Fake Flowers!

St. Peter’s is participating in the Lakewood Arts Festival, scheduled for **Saturday, August 3**. Those of you who have participated in the past know that we have become famous for our CHURCH LADY HATS! While these hats are always a big hit, it takes literally *hundreds* of fake flowers to make them, and so we again ask all of you to donate the flowers and similar ornamentation from arrangements that you no longer use or display.

Please bring your old flowers (or maybe new ones you picked up at Jo-Ann’s or Michael’s) to church anytime between now and August 1 and we will put them to good use! Look for the specially-marked box in the rear-entry vestibule, across from the St. Luke’s donation bin. For questions, please see Liz Crosby.



## Quarterly Contribution Statements

Statements showing combined first and second quarter contributions — which is to say *all* contributions made through the end of the second quarter of 2024 — will be sent out to parishioners in July. If you have any questions, please call Janine Finucane, the church office bookkeeper, 216-226-1772, or email her at [finance@stpeterslakewood.org](mailto:finance@stpeterslakewood.org).



## Registration is Ongoing for Vacation Bible School

Registration is ongoing for this summer’s Vacation Bible School (VBS), which takes place from **Sunday, August 4 through Thursday, August 8**. To register online, please visit [tinyurl.com/UnderConstruction2024](http://tinyurl.com/UnderConstruction2024). VBS is for participants ranging from age four (pre-K) to incoming fifth grade, youth volunteers (incoming sixth through twelfth grades), and adult volunteers. The week’s activities will take place across the street at Lakewood Congregational Church. Dinner will be provided each day, although participants are welcome to pack a meal if they prefer. There is no cost for VBS, but donations are welcome. Opportunities to donate will be offered closer to the start of VBS.

*For pastoral emergencies, please contact  
The Rev. Mike Lager at 479-221-4030 or  
via email at [rector@stpeterslakewood.org](mailto:rector@stpeterslakewood.org)  
Also, if you would like to put someone on the prayer list,  
please contact the office at [office@stpeterslakewood.org](mailto:office@stpeterslakewood.org).*