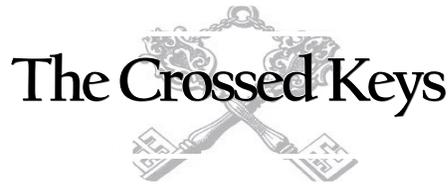




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March 2016

Holy Week, Reconciliation, and opportunities to build bridges.

Holy Week is approaching fast as it is the last week in March, March 20-27 to be specific. This year Holy Week seems to be an opportunity for us to build bridges and reconcile. Reconciliation is the work Jesus came to do and the work he gave us to do after his resurrection. St. Paul says it like this,

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Cor 5:17-19

It is not exactly going out on a limb to say we are a divided nation and people. Despite all the education and technology at our disposal, we need the ministry of reconciliation as much now as we ever have.

We may not be able to fix divisions all at once, but we can work on our corner of the world and see what we can do. In Holy Week we have several opportunities to come together with one another and with other Christians in town. I know you all are busy, but I hope that in this holiest of weeks, you can make some time to remember the important work of reconciliation Jesus did on the Cross, and the call for us to continue that work.

Palm Sunday – March 20th at 9am (One service this Sunday) – This is our chance to come together as a parish. As we celebrate the highs and lows of the Lord's final week with readings and music. Personally I enjoy this service as it involves readers and servers from both services.

Maundy Thursday – March 24th at 6pm – This is our chance to come together with some of the Pastors in town as we participate in the liturgy of Maundy Thursday. Tony Foreman and Cody Haar (Cornerstone Church), Gary Kopsa (VOA) John Constantine (Story Community Church) Claude Alley (Ranchester Community Church and VOA Homeless Shelter) and more will join together as we pray, reflect on the word of God, wash feet and share Communion (we will wash our hands in between feet and communion, I promise.)

Good Friday – March 25th at 12 noon – The tradition of multiple pastors preaching on a common text for this service continues. Phil Wold (Trinity Lutheran) Doug Melius (First Presbyterian) Don Derryberry (First United Methodist) and Doug Goodwin (First Christian) and others will preach on Luke 23:43 when Jesus tells one thief on the Cross "*Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.*"

These services are opportunities for us to come together as a parish and as a Christian community. It's not perfect yet, but it's a start. What you should be encouraged by and grateful for, is that God is using St. Peter's to be an agent of reconciliation in this community.


 John+



Dr. John Milliken-Family Minister
 drjohn@stpeterssheridan.com
 307-461-1924



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Last month I shared some stories about students and will do the same this month as well. Some of these will be updates about students I wrote of before, while others are new.

*Ya:* Ya is a Chinese woman who married a Lithuanian man who was working in her country. She has been living in Lithuania now for around four years and has been studying at LCC most of that time. She says she needed something to do. The fact that the program was in English, a language she knew, made this a good fit.

I found out that she has serious health problems--which often result in her missing class. Her vocabulary in such things is limited, but it seems she has growths of some kind in her intestines and other digestive system problems that are chronic and often quite severe. She will have days where she is in so much pain that she cannot do anything. She also often has blood in her stool. She is finding it difficult to get much help in these matters since the medical system here is not great and she can't speak Lithuanian. Her husband works on oil rigs and will be gone for five weeks at a time. She is only willing to go to the doctor when he can be with her. I'm not sure how good that relationship is; another faculty member told me there have been concerns that he is abusive. It is a difficult situation, since there is little I can do except pray for her and try to encourage her as I am able.

Her time at LCC has opened up to her the idea of God, something she had never thought about before. She says she prays sometimes and has been interested in what she has learned about God. It is not clear to me how much she understands, however. At least it seems her faith is not robust enough at this point to be much of a sustaining force in her struggles.

*Alina:* Alina is from Kazakhstan and will be graduating in December. She grew up in a Muslim home, but tells me it was mostly just a cultural thing. She desired to study outside her country because the education system there is so corrupt, and became aware of LCC through an acquaintance.

I have noticed during the class that she is one of the students who pays careful attention and there seems to be something going on inside. This morning I asked her if she'd like to sit down for tea to talk about the class and what she's been thinking about. We had a very fruitful discussion about faith. She is interested in Christianity but also put off by certain aspects of it. We talked through her objections and she seemed to find it very helpful.

*Ingrida:* I wrote about her last time around; she has proved a very outspoken and provocative member of the class--but in a way I think has been helpful to discussion. We had a very long talk yesterday afternoon, initiated by her. She said she wanted to hear my story because she didn't understand why someone who

Continued next page...

seemed rational and normal would be so invested in institutional Christianity, which to her seems impossibly constricting. Sometimes it is hard to know if a conversation accomplishes anything, but I hope I was at least able to demonstrate a genuine care and concern for her as a person. She shared with me something of her past, which contains some very painful experiences and negative interactions with Christians. I was reminded of how incredibly important our lives are as witnesses (or not) to the truth of what we proclaim.

*Dmitri* : Dmitri has recently found out that he was accepted to business school in Rochester, NY. He is waiting to hear from several other schools. We had another long talk about faith a week or so ago. He says he really likes (and tries to live) the moral message of Christianity, but doesn't see the necessity of any kind of relationship with God. He says he can be moral on his own. Maybe it is easy to think that when you are young (and single, and without children). Leaving aside whether he is right about this (I think it is possible only in a limited sense), I tried to point out that the real issue isn't whether we think we need God but that he has made us for relationship with Himself and invites us into it. How are we going to respond to the invitation?

*Ieva*: Last month I described her as my angry student. She has softened in her demeanor in class, but I can't say she is particularly engaged. We sat down for tea a couple of weeks ago and had a great conversation. She told me she has never been able to believe in God, even though at times she has wanted to. The conversation led to a consideration of whether her pride wasn't standing in the way of her really being open to God in her life. She admitted that she wants to be in charge and in control. She is afraid that if she starts exploring faith God is going to mess with her life in ways she won't like. Here she is certainly on to something. Even though it can be difficult, though, God always moves us in the direction of our good. The great lie that Satan told so long ago and tells still is that God just wants to ruin our fun.

*Katya*: I will keep this one brief but want to mention one more student. Katya tells me she is a pagan, and what this amounts to is a bewildering mix of beliefs and practices that she has adopted from various sources. As I spoke with her I recognized a kind of spiritual confusion I have seen before. One has the sense in speaking with her that there are no solid places to stand from which to begin to reason with her.

Please pray for these students as you are led. I approach my work here with "fear and trembling," knowing well how little I have of my own to give and how much I depend upon God to work in hearts and guide my words. I think of all those praying for us back in the US and it is an encouragement to me. Your part is so important.

Our family is doing well. If you read the blog, you will have some sense of what is going on in our everyday life. We are all looking forward to spring break, which begins at the end of this coming week. We hope to spend lots of time together as a family and I hope to get all my ducks in a row for the second part of the term. We will take a short trip to the capital, Vilnius, in the middle of the week. There will be lots of interesting pictures to look forward to.

Thank you again for your support and interest.

In Christ,

John

Dr. John Milliken's webpage, may be found at address:

<http://millikenlcc.wordpress.com>



**SR. WARDEN**-Patrick Henderson  
(461-0054)  
**JR. WARDEN** -Liz Swanson  
(674-6662)  
**SECRETARY**- Linda St. Clair

**Members:**

Isabel Wallop  
Mary Dailey  
Rick Thompson  
Robert Prusak  
Phil Dorsch  
Ann Ernst  
Donna Kuehne  
Karen Ferguson  
Suzie Schatz –Benson  
Dave Nicolarsen

**CONVENTION**

**DELEGATES**

Sharon Bedard  
Peter Clark  
Roger St. Clair

**ALTERNATES**

Lois Hall  
Tina Mediate  
Shari Peddicord  
Arin Waddell

**The Members of St. Margaret's Guild**

**Women, you are invited to an  
"Almost Spring Brunch"  
SATURDAY, MARCH 19Th -12:00 pm  
at the home of Betty Harrison.**

We are asking those who are able, to bring your favorite salad or dessert along with the recipe; to be shared with others.

Betty will provide the main dish and serving items.

*At Betty's request, also bring your nickels, dimes and quarters for a fun game to play that day.*

**Please RSVP--to:**

Roberta Thompson-[307.674.8578](tel:307.674.8578) or  
Gail Boyer at the church office-[307.674.7655](tel:307.674.7655)  
**Contact Roberta for any questions.**

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**Socks for Refugees**



An interdenominational humanitarian effort in Sheridan to collect socks to send to refugees arriving in and traveling across Europe.



**Sock Sunday!!**

**Sunday, March 13th  
What to do?**

**Sock Sunday!!**

- On **Sock Sunday** bring a pair of socks in a quart sized Zip-closed bag.
- Please include the gender and size on a piece of paper in the bag. You can add a note of encouragement if you like as well.
- Cash donations for shipping the socks to Europe are welcomed as well.



## St. Peter's Ministry Schedule • March Greeter-Lynn Outland

|                | March 6                                                   | March 13                                            | March 20                                                      | March 27                                                                                                                          |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>LEMS</b>    | A: J. Smith<br>B: J. Smith<br>C: J. Smith<br>D: P. Sorvik | A: None<br>B: None<br>C: J. Smith<br>D: J. McKnight | A: None<br>B: None<br>C: J. Smith<br>D: J. McKnight           | A: None<br>B: None<br>C: J. Smith<br>D: P. Sorvik                                                                                 |
| <b>LAY</b>     | 7:30<br>F&S Asmus                                         | 7:30<br>L. Galloway                                 | 7:30<br>S. Bedard                                             | 7:30<br>P&C Clark                                                                                                                 |
| <b>READERS</b> | 10:00<br>M&M Evers                                        | 10:00<br>L. Greenough<br>L. Outland                 | 10:00<br>S&S Peddicord                                        | 10:00<br>P. Haworth<br>L. Greenough                                                                                               |
| <b>USHERS</b>  | S. Mentock<br>K. Ferguson<br>S & S Peddicord              | F&G Boley<br>J&B Benepe                             | P. & C. Haworth<br>D. Goodwin<br>F. Smedley                   | 8:00 S. Asmus<br>10:00 D&A Vaughan<br>R. & J. Prusak                                                                              |
| <b>ACOLYTE</b> | B. St. John<br>C. Mentock<br>M. Black                     | B. Mentock<br>C. Mentock<br>N. Haworth              | <b>9:00 Palm Sunday</b><br>L. Alsup<br>K. Alsup<br>N. Haworth | <b>Easter Sunday</b><br><b>8:00</b> B. St. John<br>N. Haworth<br><b>10:00</b> C. Mentock<br>M. Fritz<br>B. Mentock<br>J. Eisenach |

**For any questions or changes for the ministry schedule contact ~ Juanita Smith at 673-4928**



Mar 02 Harbee Tharaldson  
 Mar 03 Liz Shelton & Sarah Manor  
 Mar 04 Holland Duell  
 Mar 05 Todd Swanson  
 Mar 06 Margaret Pilch  
 Mar 09 Elizabeth Craft  
 Mar 11 Michael Odom  
 Mar 13 Kayla Woodward  
 Mar 14 Brenda Henderson  
 Mar 15 Haley Jo Timm  
 Mar 16 Lois Hall,Carolynn Dowdy, Jim McManus,  
 Susie Waddell, & Laura Eaton

Mar 17 Tom Atkinson & Will Dominguez  
 Mar 19 Peg Parkison, Hannah Gibbons-Pelayo  
 Mar 20 Debbie Ebia, Helen Manor  
 Mar 23 Sue Storey & Javier Craft  
 Mar 25 Bae Heyneman  
 Mar 26 Penny Hoffman & Anne Vaughan  
 Mar 27 Beth Bisbee  
 Mar 29 Sandy Sanderson, Susan Board &  
 Ryan Karajanis  
 Mar 30 Karmin Stopka  
 Mar 31 Larry Gale, Kurt Eisenach, &  
 Sophia Gibbons-Pelayo

Spring Fundraising Event  
Taco Fest

March 4th, from 5:30-7:00 pm  
This event will be held at the  
SJHS Early Auditorium building  
in the Gymnasium.  
Donations will be received at the door



St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry is a great outreach to those who may be ill or one needing

encouragement. If you love to crochet and would like to be a part of this outreach, you may pick up yarn in the craft room at the church. We are always open to receiving yarn as well.

**Luke Study for March & April - Sundays at 9am & Thursdays at 4:30pm**

| Sunday   | Thursday | Scripture Text | Chapter in NT Wright Guide |
|----------|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| March 6  | March 10 | Luke 7         | 8                          |
| March 13 | March 17 | Luke 8:1-25    | 9                          |
| March 20 | March 24 | No study       | No study – Holy Week       |
| March 27 | March 31 | No study       | No study – Easter Week     |

| Sunday   | Thursday | Scripture Text   | Chapter in NT Wright Guide |
|----------|----------|------------------|----------------------------|
| April 3  | April 7  | Luke 8:26 – 9:17 | 10                         |
| April 10 | April 14 | Luke 9:18-62     | 11                         |
| April 17 | April 21 | Luke 10          | 12                         |
| April 24 | April 28 | Luke 11          | 13                         |

**What do you believe when you say:**

***I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?***

**That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son.**

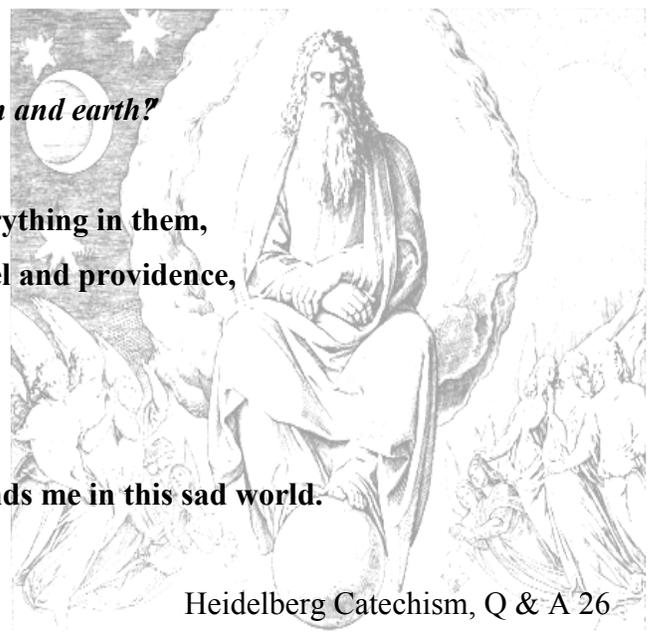
**I trust him so much that I do not doubt**

**he will provide whatever I need for body and soul,**

**and he will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this sad world.**

**He is able to do this because he is almighty God.**

**he desires to do it because he is a faithful Father.**



March 2016



St. Peter's Church Calendar



| Sunday                                                                  | Monday                  | Tuesday                    | Wednesday                                                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                               | Friday                                                                                               | Saturday                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| HE: Holy Eucharist<br>HS: Healing Service<br>SRS: Sugarland Ridge       |                         | 1<br>10:00 HS<br>1:00 SRS  | 2<br>Women's Council<br>9 AM                                                                                                  | 3<br>Red Door<br>10-3PM<br>Study of Luke<br>4:30 PM<br>Choir Practice                  | 4                                                                                                    | 5                                            |
| 6<br>4th Sunday of Lent<br>Study of Luke<br>9am<br>7:30 HE              | 7<br>Handbells<br>6:30  | 8<br>10:00 HS<br>1:00 SRS  | 9<br>St. Nick's Crafters<br>5:30 Stations of the Cross<br>6:00 Soup Supper<br>6:30 Study Lord's Prayer                        | 10<br>Red Door<br>10-3PM<br>Study of Luke<br>4:30 PM<br>Choir Practice<br>6:30         | 11                                                                                                   | 12                                           |
| 13<br>5th Sunday of Lent<br>7:30 HE<br>10:00 HE<br>Study of Luke<br>9am | 14<br>Handbells<br>6:30 | 15<br>10:00 HS<br>1:00 SRS | 16<br>Vestry Meeting-6pm<br>St. Nick's Crafters<br>5:30 Stations of the Cross<br>6:00 Soup Supper<br>6:30 Study Lord's Prayer | 17<br>Red Door<br>10-3PM<br>Study of Luke<br>4:30 PM<br>Choir Practice<br>6:30         | 18<br>Altar Guild<br>Palm Crosses<br>9:00 AM                                                         | 19<br>Altar Guild<br>Palm Crosses<br>9:00 AM |
| 20<br>Palm Sunday<br>9:00 HE<br>One Service<br>No Luke Study            | 21<br>Handbells<br>6:30 | 22<br>10:00 HS<br>1:00 SRS | 23<br>St. Nick's Crafters                                                                                                     | 24<br>Red Door<br>10-3PM<br>No Luke Study<br>6:00 Maundy Thursday<br>Community Service | 25<br>Good Friday Service<br>12:00PM<br>5:30 Stations of the Cross<br>6:00 PM<br>6PM Good Friday-BCP | 26                                           |
| 27<br>Easter Sunday<br>7:30 HE<br>10:00 HE<br>No Luke Study             | 28<br>Handbells<br>6:30 | 29<br>10:00 HS<br>1:00 SRS | 30<br>St. Nick's Crafters                                                                                                     | 31<br>Red Door<br>10-3PM<br>No Luke Study<br>Choir Practice<br>6:30                    |                                                                                                      |                                              |

**ST. PETER' S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**1 SOUTH TSCHIRGI STREET**  
**SHERIDAN, WY 82801**



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 Phone: 461-0554

Jr. Warden-Liz Swanson  
 email: swanson238@bresnan.net  
 Phone: 674-6662

**St. Peter's Office Hours**  
 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (Monday - Friday)  
 Office Phone: 674-7655

**St. Peter's Office and Music Staff**  
 Gail Boyer: Parish Administrator (674-7655)  
 Karon Keahey: Parish Secretary (674-7655)  
 Suzie Schatz-Benson:  
 Music Coordinator (763-0525)  
 Jeannene Mc Knight: Organist  
 Cathy Storm: Pianist



**Open to everyone!**  
**Handbells Practice**  
 Mondays at  
 at 6:30 PM



**Choir Practices** are held on  
 Thursday's at 6:30 PM. If you love to  
 sing and would like to be a part of  
 these vital ministries, contact Suzie  
 Schatz-Benson at 672-2140