
From the Pastor:



“For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.”

Romans 3:22b-25a

As soon as we walked into the vendor booth at Oktoberfest, I knew that we were going to have to buy something. I immediately whispered as much out of the side of my mouth to Christine, with a sorry preceding and trailing the observation. It wasn't that I had a craving for maple-based products that these peddlers of tree sugar were going to fix. In fact, it was a different sweet, honey, that I was hunting. No, it was because I made eye contact with the gentlemen behind the table and empathetic feelings quickly bubbled up within me, bonding me emotionally to them. Still, I might have been able to untangle that heart handshake, if they hadn't been so generous in their offering of samples, and my girls hadn't been so swift in their acceptance. We left with a five-dollar bottle of maple barbecue sauce, before my heart could damage my wallet any further, and quickly moved directly to our intended target without allowing for any more side connections.

Later, the girls wondered why we bought something from the maple people when I had told them we were just going to get honey before they got their Westminster church slushies. Christine was gracious and didn't just say, "Because your daddy is a sucker." Of course, I prefer to think of it as being human. She explained that they were trying very hard to get a business going, and daddy likes supporting people like that. Especially, she added, since they were so generous with their free samples. This required further explanation that although the sample is free to us, it costs them money, and they are really counting on that making them a sale. Having experienced a gluttony of free samples at Sam's Club, there were more questions revolving around why we take those without buying out the store. Of course, Christine had a very reasonable explanation about the size of the businesses and how Sam's doesn't need to make a sale to every person on every item to survive. Truthfully, though, I've been known to buy frozen ravioli and some sort of chicken cheese dog just because the employee there seemed delighted to make a sale.

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The takeaway here isn't "make sure you always hit up Pastor when you're selling something," because, really, you should already know that's a successful strategy. What I am reminded of here is the cost that almost always exists even behind something that is labeled as "free." Even though a common axiom is that the best things in life are free, what we really mean by that is that they don't cost money. Love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, friendship, laughter, and more are among the best parts of life, and all can be had without paying a cent. This, however, does not mean that they come without cost to someone. Risk of loss, hurt feelings, surrendering of power, and time are all part of the price of forming and sustaining relationships. Grace, free gift of God that it is, fits this profile as well.

Just like the maple cotton candy that my girls gleefully accepted, grace is a gift that we can and should accept with excitement, not just because of its sweetness but also because we don't have to pay for it. Just like the sample, free doesn't mean without cost. In both cases, it is the one who hands out the gift that bears the cost. God's grace is freely given. We accept it unearned. The cross stands to remind us that God has paid the price of our forgiveness, of the mercy we have received, of the communication of the vastness of love that God has for us, in short – of grace. From the outset of the Christian community, St. Paul and others realized the importance of remembering that God covered the cost of grace so that we could receive it freely, lest we be tempted to abuse grace and its Giver.

A flippant misuse of the grace that God extends to us is what Dietrich Bonhoeffer referred to as cheap grace. Bonhoeffer and Paul both warned that failing to keep squarely in mind the cross's role in the grace we receive could lead to a misuse of this gift. Like mowing through all the free samples just because they're there, a person who takes grace lightly might choose to engage or continue in a behavior simply because of a perception that it doesn't cost a thing, since God's grace will take care of it anyhow. Both theologians remind us that is the wrong way of understanding the priceless nature of grace. Grace is meant to deepen our connection to God, because knowing God's cost leads us into repentance and then devotion to the One who could so deeply love us. Grace is priceless because it is so valuable that we could never cover the expense, not because it's without a price tag.

Put another way, I believe that God extends grace freely hoping to make a connection in the same way that the maple vendors hoped to connect to the crowds moving through. Grace stops us and invites us in. By extending it to us, maybe God hopes that we will lock eyes and be moved by the offer. Then, in our best human way, we will be touched emotionally by the grace that costs us nothing and God everything, and buy into the richness of love and life that God has to offer. Move over maple cotton candy. Grace is the best free sample of them all.



Dear Friends,

Once again our church is in partnership with Oak Grove Lutheran, Grace Lutheran in Rochester, and other local Lutheran congregations to host a 5K Run/Walk called Chase Away Hunger. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefits our various churches' community food banks, including our very own Evans City Food Cupboard. Last year we had the most walkers from any of the participating congregations, and my hope is that will grow this year.



The race is Saturday, October 19th at Brush Creek Park. Race time is 9:30 am, with registration opening at 8:30. In addition to being able to help by running or walking on race day, our church is responsible for providing the cookies for participants and a volunteer to help direct traffic. I offered to take cookie duty, knowing what wonderful bakers we have, so if you're able to help please let me know. If you'd like to walk or run, there are registration forms on the table in Luther Hall or simply go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/BeaverFalls/ChaseAwayHunger5kWalkRun>.

Thanks for your help, Pastor

WEEKDAY CHRISTIAN



If you're looking to grow your faith but find scheduled meeting times too tricky, consider the podcast "WeekDay Christian." Pastor Johns is working with Pastors Nathaniel Christman and Angela Smith to record podcasts that examine a topic, like prayer, and discuss it for about 40 minutes, reflecting on the topic in the Bible, our lives, and how it might be a part of the regular lives of Christians. They can be found at <http://weekdaychristian.buzzsprout.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/WeekdayChristian-291498931588654/> as well as iTunes and GooglePlay.

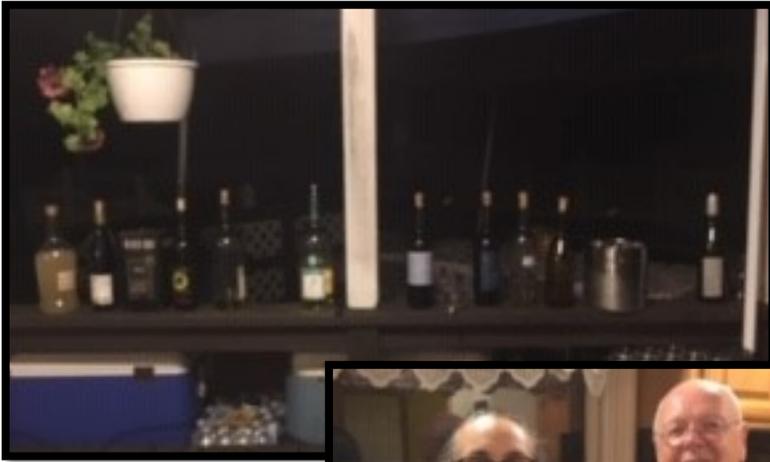
Once again this year, St. Peter's has been invited by the principals of Evans City Elementary and Middle Schools to partner with them in serving the children of our community. Starting in October, the schools will offer **Homework Club** after school on Thursdays to create a safe, nurturing space for the completion of homework for students who might otherwise not have that opportunity or be taking advantage of it at home. We have agreed to join with volunteers from 5 other churches to be a part of this program. We will need to supply at least 6 volunteers and a snack for the approximately 30 children from 3:10 – 4:30pm and are welcome to join with other congregations on their service dates if we would like. A loving presence for the children more so than academic knowledge is the needed skill for this role. Please talk to Pastor if you are interested in joining with him and being a part of our list of volunteers to serve the children of the community in this way.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

St. Peter's **Sunday School Teachers** are in need of substitutes to fill in when their full time teachers are not able to attend. If you enjoy working with children and have your clearances (the church can order them for you if not) and would be willing to fill in for a teacher please speak to Jen Erin after worship or sign up on the bulletin board in Luther Hall.

WINE, CHEESE & ANIMALS



Wine & Cheese Social 2019

Many thanks to Heinie & Jane Raupp for hosting the wine and cheese social on September 7th. The evening offered swimming, hot tubbing, volleyball and of course a great sampling of wine and appetizers.



Attention animal lovers – October 20th will be a day to celebrate all members of God’s Animal Kingdom. Having a blessing of the animals is a long-standing Christian tradition, usually happening in the fall around the commemoration of Francis of Assisi, whose great love for animals and the gospel led him to bless and tame a wolf that had been in conflict with its surrounding human community. In this tradition, St. Peter’s will be holding an extra worship service celebrating God’s good gift of the animal kingdom outside on October 20th at 2 pm. Everybody is invited whether you have an animal or are an animal lover. All of the non-human animals in your lives are also invited to attend the service and will be called forward with their human companions during the service so that they can receive a blessing. We do ask, though, that you be the judge as to what extent your animal or animals will need to be restrained as there will hopefully be a variety of animals present. Following the service, which will be held at the picnic shelter, there will an opportunity for fellowship as we gather for treats after worship.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Trivia Night – St. Peter's is hosting a Halloween trivia night on Friday, October 11th at 6:00 pm. Teams of 4 will compete for fun and prizes for a donation of \$20 per team. Drinks and snacks are included and a movie showing will be offered for children. Donations will benefit our ministries for our church's youth.

Many thanks to everyone who brought items to make the WELCA school kits this year. WELCA was able to send 77 school kits this year. A special thank you to Nancy Zattiero for organizing the school kit drive and to Karen Ferrari and Patti Flach for helping to count items for the kits and Bea King for her help with sowing. The kits will be helpful to many children this school year.



After School Program Float

A special thank you to Heinie & Jane Raupp for pulling a float for the after school program in the Oktoberfest parade. The kids had a great time and we actually brought home a first place win! Thanks to the church kids who rode along with us as well. A fun time was had by everyone who participated.



Apple Butter for Sale

\$8 Quart & \$5 Pint

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this year's apple fest a huge success! A special thank you to Thrivent Financial for sponsoring this annual fundraiser as well.



WORKING TOGETHER



Many thanks to everyone who dedicated so much of their time to make the 2019 quilt show such a huge success! The many beautiful quilts that were displayed in our sanctuary was an amazing sight! So much time and talent involved in the making of each one. Thanks again for all of your hard work and to those who shared their quilting talent so graciously with others.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make Apple Fest 2019 a huge success here at St. Peter's! A special thank you to Robin & Paul Green for their donation of apples for the apple dumplings, to the Raupp family for their apple contributes for apple butter, to Thrivent Financial for supporting this fund raiser, and to the ever faithful fellowship committee for their continued leadership in their annual event.



Many thanks to everyone who supported our rummage sale in any way as well. We had record breaking donations both with items and funds raised (over \$1,800)! Proceeds benefited our Manna night program and campers.



FINANCIAL FACTS

Designation:	August Total
Lutherlyn	\$ 25.00
Food Cupboard	\$ 10.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 846.00
EDCO Park	\$ 20.00
Current Fund	\$ 12,433.41
Music Fund	\$ 65.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 225.00
Flower Income	\$ 160.00
Youth Fund	\$ 200.00
After School Program	\$ 20.00
Loan Income	\$ 4,300.00
Camperships	\$ 73.75
Total	\$ 18,378.16

A Financial Update – in an effort to keep everyone informed about our current financial situation the reconciled treasurers report of our current fund **as of the end of August 2019** is as follows: Current Fund (-\$4,942.53), Memorial Fund \$8,791.15, Youth Fund \$6,782.74, Manna Fund \$2,989.30, Priority Project Fund \$7,946.89, After School Program \$10,179.18. Many thanks to those who continue to give to these funds which give us the ability to serve Christ and others.

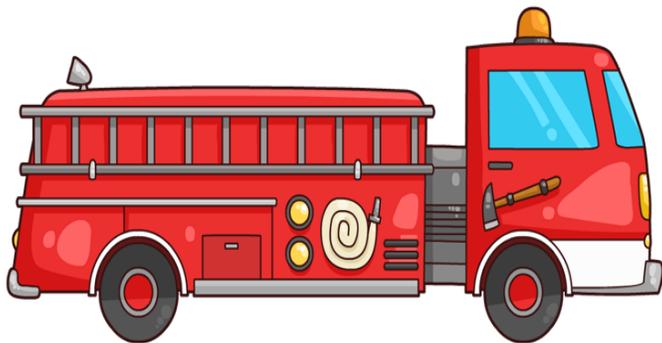


Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for October

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Lutheran Senior Life. If you would like to support this cause, please mark the other line on your contribution envelope Lutheran Sr. Life

Thank You

On behalf of the Evans City Area Fire Dept. and Evans City Area Fire Auxiliary we would like to thank you for your generous donation of food and water provided to all the eighty plus area volunteer fire fighters battling the recent fire at St. Mathias Church. Your willingness to assist those in our community was greatly appreciated.



A Note From Lutherlyn

Thank you for making a difference at Lutherlyn! By supporting Lutherlyn you are ensuring that all children, regardless of their financial circumstance, can attend summer camp at Lutherlyn where they learn how to be Christ's light in the world. Your recent gift of \$150.00 goes further than just helping kids get to camp. Through them, your gift is a blessing to their families, friends and communities. We are truly grateful for your dedication to this ministry and for the many Life-Changing Adventures in Faith you have made possible for campers this summer at Lutherlyn. - Deb Roberts, Executive Director

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

John, Summer, Timothy Barron & Family
 Dave Barber (*Cancer*)
 Sharla Barron (*Knee Surgery*)
 Rob Boring (*Liver Problems-nephew of Joe Ludwik*)
 Tom Broeren
 Levi Budisky
 Jane Carruth (*Colon Cancer - B.Barkley*)
 Helen Couvert_(*Liver Cancer*)
 Jim Critchlow
 David English (*Lung Cancer*)
 Diane Fair
 Joann Finch (*submitted by Teresa O'Malley*)
 Pat Foringer (*ALS*)
 David Fulghum
 Lori Goodwin
 Rich Isreal
 Charles Jackson (*from: Karen Ferrari*)
 Carol Kerr
 Alma Kincaid (*Leukemia – from: Marsha Reedy*)
 Val Kurth (*Breast Cancer*)
 Mario Limonciello (*submitted by Talea Merrison*)
 Kim Long (*cancer*)
 Todd Manuel (*Blood Disease*)
 Diane Marburger
 Jim Marburger
 Wayne Meissner (*from: Karen Ferrari*)
 Matt Morris
Bill Oehlschlager

Francis & Oskar Perez (*health problems – from Talea Merrison*)
 Erin Price
 Bill Puryear (*cancer*)
 Rege & Becky Rengers
 Carol Smith (*Cancer*)
 Tammy Dauben Speck (*Breast Cancer*)
 Carrie Sphar (*cancer – from: Cheryl Thomas*)
 Sadie Terek (*cystic fibrosis – from: Kim Morris*)
 Garret Thomas (*cancer – from: Kim Morris*)
 Cathy Van Dyke (*Robin Van Dykes Sister In Law*)
 Dave Van Dyke (*Cancer*)
 Shirley Weimer (*submitted by Vonda Weimer*)
 Tracey Weimer (*submitted by Vonda Weimer*)
 Betty Westerman (*Beverly Barkley's Mother*)
 Beverly Williams (*colon cancer- submitted by Vonda Weimer*)
 Terry Williams_(*surgery*)
John & Kay Yuengert (*submitted by Karen Ferrari*)
 Russell Zoelle Sr. (*Health Issues*)

INTERCESSIONS FOR CONSOLATION IN GRIEF
Members and friends who have entered the Church Triumphant in the previous 3 months:

The Family of Lowry Clawson (7-2-19)
 The Family of Peggy Christner
 The Family of Harold Schoeffel (7-29-19)
 The Family of Ethel Burgard (8-25-19)

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Please contact the church office as soon as possible to request additions or changes.

William Boice
 Leland & Norma Iman
 Agnes Watson
 Mary Belle McMillen
 Ruth Rasp

Please contact the church office as soon as possible to request additions or changes



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 10, 2019

Present: Michael Bettencourt, Barb Brown, Pastor Johns, Russ Zoelle, Cheryl Thomas, Luann Brosius, Heinie Raupp, Debbie Merrison, Pat Capella, Dan Vicheck, Emily Critchlow

Absent: Becky Rengers, Matt Otto

Guest: Heidi Beahm

President Michael Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 7:15PM and Pastor Johns led us in prayers of grace and thanksgiving.

Minutes: Written report submitted. Correction: Becky Rengers was in attendance at the August meeting. Luann motioned, 2nd by Barb to accept the minutes at corrected, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Written report submitted by Heidi Beahm. Current Fund stands at (\$4,942.53). Dan motioned, 2nd by Russ to accept the report and pay the bills, motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Written report submitted.

Pastor's Report: Written report submitted.

Fellowship: Written report submitted. Emily moved to accept recommendations of Fellowship committee regarding Turkey Dinner (November 9) funds, 2nd by Pat, motion carried.

Finance: Meeting September 26.

Learning/Youth/Manna/Afterschool: Written report submitted for July. Next meeting on/around September 30.

Memorial: \$600 in donations received. Becky sent thank-you notes to 3 people.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Property: Meeting held to discuss projects – completed nearly every job listed in the Bulletin of Reports. Garage update – no alley listed on map from courthouse, may have to attend meetings to get variances on property lines. Put 4 new tires on church van. Railings have been purchased for handicap steps, waiting for them to come in – used Thrivent funds to help with purchase. Heinie plans to seal the new sidewalk after he pressure washes the stones.

Music & Worship: Written report submitted

New Business: Pastor presented the nominating committee recommendations for new Council Members, Mission Endowment Fund, and Synod Assembly Delegates. Debbie moved, 2nd by Dan to approve the recommendations.

Dan motioned, 2nd by Pat to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm.
Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Thomas

PEOPLE MAKING WORSHIP BETTER TODAY AT ST. PETER'S				
Date	10/06/2018	10/13/2018	10/20/2018	10/27/2018
Asst. Minister	Kim Morris	Glenn Fulghum	Thor Lingenfelter	Teresa O'Malley
Lector	Cheryl Thomas	Helen Barto	Karen Ferrari	Patti Flach
Eucharistic Ministers	VanDyke / Capella	O'Malley	Merrison / Green	NA
Communion Asst.	Helen Barto	Amy Anthony	Robin VanDyke	Marsha Reedy
Acolyte(s)	Alyssa Barnhart	Anna Plank	Alex Barnett	James Thomas
Greeters	Dan Erin	Joe Ludwik	Dan Vicheck	Pat Painter
	Jen Erin	Jason Plank	Jen Vicheck	Karen Ferrari
Ushers:	Troy Anthony	Dan Vicheck	Lisa Burr	Dan Erin
	DJ Beahm	Jen Vicheck	Patti Flach	Adam Price
	Kierstin Beahm	Holly Lingenfelter	Emily Taylor	Dean Zinkhann
	Emma Plank	Thor Lingenfelter	Jane Taylor	Russ Zoelle
Bell Ringer	Troy Barkley	Thor Lingenfelter	Dan Vicheck	Dan Erin
Asst. Bell Ringers	Seth & Owen	Mark & Luke	Lily & Anna	Penelope & Jack
Offering Counters	Becky Rengers	Becky Rengers	Becky Rengers	Becky Rengers
	Barb Brown	Barb Brown	Barb Brown	Barb Brown
Altar Guild	V. Weimer	V. Weimer	V. Weimer	V. Weimer
	K. Morris	K. Morris	K. Morris	K. Morris
Fellowship Time	Donation Needed	Jane Taylor	Holly Lingenfelter	Donation Needed
Nursery	Beverly Barkley	Erin Price	Cassandra Zoelle	Colleen Prenovitz
	Julia	Kierstin	Natalea	Emma
Altar Flowers (\$35)	Bettencourt	Sponsor Needed	Sponsor Needed	Ferrari
Wording:				
Eternal Candle (\$15)	Pam Volz	Pam Volz	Pam Volz	Pam Volz
Wording:				



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OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1 8 am - Pr. Cluster -Zellie. 3pm - After School 6:30pm - Finance Mtg.	2 8:30am - EC 3pm - After School 5pm - Manna Night	3 9 am - Quilters 9:30am - Bible Study 1pm - Mary Circle 3pm - After School 7pm - Property Mtg.	4 3pm - After School	5 6:30pm - S.P.Y.
6 Harvest Home 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - After Church 11:45am - Bell Choir	7 3pm - After School 7pm - Fellowship	8 3pm - After School 7pm - Council Meeting	9 8:30am - Ministerium 3pm - After School 5pm - Manna Night	10 9am - Quilters 9:30am - Bible Study 3pm - After School 3pm - E.C. Homework	11 3pm - After School 6pm - Trivia Night	12 8:30am - WELCA
13 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - After Church 11:45am - Bell Choir	14 Columbus Day 3pm - After School 7pm - Oktoberfest	15 3pm - After School	16 3pm - After School 5pm - Manna Night 7pm - Senior Choir	17 9am - Quilters 9:30am - Bible Study 3pm - After School	18 3pm - After School	19 8am - 5K-Chase Away 6:30pm - Game Night
20 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - After Church 11:45am - Bell Choir 2pm - Animal Blessing	21 3pm - After School 7pm - Sowers	22 3pm - After School 7:30pm - Dorcas Circle	23 3pm - After School 5pm - Manna Night 7pm - Senior Choir 8pm - Cantata Practice	24 9am - Quilters 9:30am - Bible Study 3pm - After School	25 3pm - After School	26 5:30pm - Pumpkin Fest
27 Reformation 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - After Church 11:45am - Bell Choir	28 3pm - After School 7pm - Worship Mtg.	29 3pm - After School	30 3pm - After School 5pm - Manna Night 7pm - Senior Choir 8pm - Cantata Practice	31 Halloween 9am - Quilters 9:30am - Bible Study 3pm - After School	1	2

Save the date...



Our annual pumpkin fest will be held on Saturday, October 26th starting at 5:30 pm! With an earlier start time we can do more things!!!! We can't wait to have our pumpkin patch with time for carving and seed roasting, bake sale, ice cream, spooky house, adult craft, kid carnival and more! There is certainly something for everyone!

More details to come so stay tuned for updates.

Save the date...

**Our annual TURKEY DINNER will be held on
Saturday, November 9th
Start time: 4:30 pm**



ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

202 Van Buren St.
Evans City, PA
16033

Call us: 724-538-5810

E-mail us

stpeterslccc@zoominternet.net

God's Son



Never Fails

Website: [http://
www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org/](http://www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org/)



Our Staff:

Pastor Brandon Johns

Heidi Beahm, *Secretary*

Marlene Domhoff,
Organist / Music Director

Joe Ludwik, *Sexton*

- The Sunday Bulletin Deadline is Wednesdays at 10 am
 - Monthly Newsletter Deadline is the 3rd Sunday of each month
 - Sunday School: 9 am
 - Weekly Worship Services: Sundays at 10:15 am
 - Check Our Weekly Calendar of other events.
- Office Hours for Secretary:
M-F
9 am—noon**

SPONSORING THE NEWSLETTER



**Many thanks to Luann & Perry
Brosius for sponsoring the
October newsletter.**