



**From the Pastor:**

*"In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." 2 Cor. 5:19*

Lent and Law - while they are a match made in heaven, it's certainly hard to think of their pairing as a love story. Asceticism, mandate, sacrifice, and kill, even when it's receiving the "Thou shalt not" treatment, hardly seem to be the vocabulary of a star-crossed, heart-warming tale. On the contrary, they have all the energy and feel of the textbook for a history course requirement taken by a student majoring in dance. A closer look, however, reveals subtext that tells of passion so strong, not even Shakespeare could pen it more eloquently.

Lent and Law remind us of God's desire for us. God created us in love for loving relationship. The First Commandment reiterates God's longing to be first in our hearts. When given the chance to choose from among over six hundred laws, Jesus identifies loving God with all that we are and have as most important. Unfortunately, what seems like natural eternal bliss stumbles and falls.

Most love tales, whether in print or film, incorporate a falling out between the potential partners, taking a page directly from the story of humanity and God. Individually, we also replicate the original break-apart-when-things-were-coming-together archetype attributed to Adam and Eve, repeating that trope with about as little variety but even more frequency than Hallmark movies. Just when we think a straight read of the Ten Commandments justifies us, Jesus and others, like Martin Luther, remind us that not killing someone isn't actually the threshold for checking that box. We're supposed to work for the good of our neighbors and enemies too. Lent and Law remind us that we all have fallen short of being the loving partner God made us to be.

Thankfully, the story doesn't end just as it was getting good; instead, it gets even better. Sure Lent and Law tell us that we aren't deserving of God's heart, but they also show us that we weren't ever all good by ourselves either, which is okay because, in a shocking twist, God still loves us and wants to be with us. Sacrifice leads to reconciliation, which allows love to renew and flourish. God puts them all passionately on display in the person of Jesus and his death on the cross. We need the love and grace of God's arms. Lent and Law help us to see the Way.

Renewed in love and reconciled in Christ, Lent and Law direct us on how to coauthor the chapters of our lives titled, "Having Been Saved by God This Is How I Shall Live As a Christian in Gratitude and Loving Relationship." Not the snazziest heading, but the fervor is there. Jesus explains in words and actions what loving God and our neighbors looks like for those who would follow him. Luther offers insight through the Catechisms, especially in explaining the Commandments. Check them out. They're love stories after all.

2. Acknowledgements & SPY	6. Financial Facts	10. Volunteers
3. Announcements & B-days	7. Thoughts & Prayers	11. Calendar
4. Lent & Activities	8. Minutes	12. Sponsor Page
5. Announcements	9. Minutes	

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & SPY

Thank you

Dear St. Peter's,

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Evans City Public Library at the end of 2021. As we plan for 2022, your support helps us to continue to provide meaningful services to our community. Thank you for being a partner in that as we reach out to our neighbors in Evans City.

The ECPL Board and Staff

St. Peter's Church Family,

Thank you so very much for thinking of me. I am very touched and grateful for your thoughtful and generous gift. May God bless you now and always.

T.M.

*(Recipient of funds donated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund).*



St. Peter's Youth enjoyed an afternoon of snow tubing with friends on Saturday, February 5th. A special thank you to Pastor Johns for making this trip possible for the kids. Stay tuned for more activities and projects to come.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & BIRTHDAYS:

**Fasting for Change** - This Lent consider not just the discipline of giving something up, but also giving something toward. As part of your Lenten journey, you are invited to donate the money you would have spent on what you have given up (eating out, sweets or your morning latte) to ELCA World Hunger. Coin boxes are on tables in Luther Hall or you are welcome to mark the other line on your contribution envelope. You may choose to donate weekly, or give the sum of your savings at the end of Lent. This is a great individual or family project to take on this Lent.

*Note: offerings given in the contribution envelopes designated to Lent will benefit St. Peter's brick loan and 10% to synod benevolence.*



### March Birthdays

**St. Peter's Church Family Wishes Many Blessings To You!**

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Julia Knauff          | 24 James Thomas      |
| 1 Steve Van Dyke        | 24 Don Reedy         |
| 2 Pastor Beverly Banyay | 24 Peyton Wearing    |
| 2 Ashley Green          | 25 Rita Reifenstein  |
| 2 Nathan Critchlow      | 25 Cassandra Zoelle  |
| 2 Lorcan Merrison       | 27 Staci Bettencourt |
| 2 Wes Schmidt           | 28 Sue Manuel        |
| 3 Elsa Plank            |                      |
| 3 Myka Plank            |                      |
| 4 Shayne Grosick        |                      |
| 5 Ryan Bonicky          |                      |
| 8 Mary Jane Raupp       |                      |
| 9 Robin Van Dyke        |                      |
| 11 Ethan Thomas         |                      |
| 12 Gary Barnhart        |                      |
| 12 Kasen Critchlow      |                      |
| 13 Zachary Humes        |                      |
| 13 Chase Wearing        |                      |
| 14 Troy Barnhart        |                      |



**Softball—** If you are interested in playing on the St. Peter's softball team this season, please talk to Pastor Johns, who is the coach of our team. Games are held during the week at the Middle Lancaster Field mostly and occasionally in Slippery Rock this year, from May through the beginning of August, with spring training held in April. Everyone is welcome to participate or to be part of the best cheer squad in the league.



**Shrove Tuesday** – is March 1st and St. Peter's will host our annual pancake and sausage dinner beginning at 6 pm followed by a bring your best joke competition and a 2021 year in review DVD presentation, followed by the burning of palms service.

Those who have their best joke ready to share can sign up on Shrove Tuesday to provide an even flow of entertainment. Best jokes can come from folks of all ages, just remember to keep them G rated for younger ears and in respecting our church family as a whole.

## Keeping the Word Alive Vigil (April 15-17)

Holy Week is one of the most spiritually intense times of the whole year, and mirroring the way the Gospels slow down to follow Jesus' every move during his passion week provides us with rich ground for strengthening the roots of our faith. From the conclusion of our Good Friday evening service until the beginning of Easter service, we will be participating in Keeping the Word Alive at the Foot of the Cross. For about thirty-six hours, we will read continually through this year's lectionary gospel, Luke, broken only by readers taking time for prayer or using other provided devotional material to reflect on the magnitude of Jesus' sacrificial love for us. Our thirty-six hour vigil represents the time Christ lay dead in the tomb, but giving audible voice to God's Word reminds us that death is not the victor in this battle. Also this time of incarnating the Word teaches us that we not only play a part in Jesus' death but in the on-going life of his Body. There will be a poster in Luther Hall where you can take a slot or slots to be a reader or watcher. No one should be in the building alone, especially at night, and watchers provide support for readers who would otherwise be participating in the vigil alone. Couples, families, or friends may sign up for both the reader and corresponding watcher slots and take turns while they are present in the church reading and keeping watch.

Please consider this opportunity to live into Jesus' request of the disciples at Gethsemane to remain with him and stay awake with him (Mt 26:38), and if you have any questions please talk to Pastor or the Worship Committee. More details will be announced closer to the start of the vigil as we continue to consider the best blend of safe and effective ways to hold our services and ministries.



## Looking Ahead...Lent / Holy Week

Mar. 2	Ash Wednesday 7 pm
Mar. 10	Meager Meal 6 pm Service 7 pm
Mar. 17	Meager Meal 6 pm Service 7 pm
Mar. 24	Meager Meal 6 pm Service 7 pm
Mar. 25	Fish Fry 4:30 pm
Mar. 31	Meager Meal 6 pm Service 7 pm
Apr. 7	Meager Meal 6 pm Service 7 pm
Apr. 10	Palm Sunday
Apr. 13	Silent Communion Service 7 pm
Apr. 14	Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
April 15	Good Friday: Community Cross Walk—noon <i>(Starting across the street from St. John's)</i>  Worship Service 7 pm
Apr. 15-17	Keeping the Word Alive vigil
Apr. 17	Easter



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
202 Van Buren St. Evans City  
724-538-5810

**FISH FRY DRIVE  
THRU DINNER**

Friday, March 25th  
4:30 pm (no early sales) until sold out

Menu: Fried Fish , Mac & Cheese,  
Green Beans, Cole Slaw,  
Roll & Butter, Dessert,  
and Beverage

\*Free Will Offering Accepted

Drive thru only  
no pre-orders

Monetary donations are currently being accepted to help with the cost of the fish and other expenses. If you would like to donate in this way contact Eilene Budisky or Casey Guerriero, or send your donation the church, attention: fish dinner fundraiser.

**Morning Manna & Kid Camp**- will be offered again this coming summer. St. Peter's will host 1 week of Morning Manna and 3 weeks of kid camp. (June 6-10, June 13-17, August 15-19) Please see Heidi Beahm if you are interested in registering for any of these camps. Morning Manna is from 9-noon and will be a farm theme this year. Kid camps will run from 7:30 am – 5:30 pm.

### Game Night

Join us the third Saturday of each month for the fun and fellowship of game night at 6:30 pm. We have enjoyed trivia time, cards, games, and more during our time of fellowship. The evening is fun, and you can choose your own drinks, snacks, and friends to participate!



**Communion Ministers** - if you would like to volunteer to take communion to shut in members, that ministry is going to begin again in the next few months, and we need your help! Training will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, March 13th. Please let Pastor Johns know if you would like to be part of this ministry.



**Meager Meals** – is returning this Lent, at least tentatively. On Thursday evenings at 6 pm starting on March 10<sup>th</sup>, we will gather before worship to eat soup and bread together. If you would like to provide either for a night or nights, there is a sign-up in Luther Hall.

# FINANCIAL FACTS

*St. Peter's Lutheran Church*  
**Funds Report**

Posted Contributions For Period: 01/01/2022 to 01/31/2022

Fund Description	Amount
204 W.E.L.C.A.	10.00
211 Meals on Wheels	305.00
212 Food Cupboard	838.47
213 Synod Benevolence	1,222.90
242 EDCO Park	20.00
400 Current Fund Income	12,568.01
402 Memorial Fund Income	25.00
405 Flower Income	210.00
406 Youth Fund Income	10.00
407 Priority Project Income	80.00
408 After School Program Income	2,237.00
409 Loan Income	2,065.00
410 Campership Income	10.00
414 Heating System Income	125.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19,726.38</b>

**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 January 2022** is as follows: Current Fund \$7,636.13, Memorial Fund \$4,284.72, Youth Fund \$7,565.01, Manna Fund \$3,996.73, Priority Project Fund \$7,109.13, After School Program \$17,363.13. 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 March**

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for March will support Camp Lutherlyn (*This is not the same thing as St. Peter's Campers*). If you would like to support this cause please mark the other line on your contribution envelope

**Giving To Synod Benevolence in 2022**

Just a quick reminder that if you would like to give to Synod Benevolence in 2022 (giving to the greater church that reaches beyond the doors of St. Peter's) you can choose to mark your contribution envelope in the benevolence section.

**Just a reminder: if you do not mark your contribution envelope 10% of your entire donation will go to synod benevolence, as approved by church council. St. Peter's pledged \$13,750 to synod benevolence in 2022. Hopefully we reach that goal this year.**

**2022 Lent Offering is designated to the brick loan and 10% to synod benevolence**

**\*See pg. 5 for special designation Lent outreach (World Hunger)**



**HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®**

- Online**
1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).
  2. In the "GET STARTED" section on the right, click **Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®**.
  3. Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "**Register for account access.**")
  4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
    - a. To direct to a previous organization:
      - Click "**Direct Now**" next to the organization's name, or
      - Click on the "**View activity history**" link, scroll down and click on the **name of the desired organization.**
    - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "**Search.**"
  5. Choose "**Direct All**" or **enter a specific number** and click "**Direct Now.**" Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS... IT'S TIME TO DESIGNATE AGAIN!**

## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Amy Anthony (Cancer)

**Cole Barkley**

John, Summer, Timothy Barron & Family

**Wendel Banyay**

Sara Barnhart

Amanda Barron

Sharla Barron

Herb Brittner

Rob Boring (*Liver Problems-nephew of Joe Ludwik*)

Tom Broeren

Jane Brown

Jane Carruth (*Colon Cancer - B.Barkley*)

Jimmy Dapper

David English (*Lung Cancer*)

Diane Fair

Bob & Joan Ferringer

Pat Foringer (*ALS*)

Mary, Glenn, and David Fulghum

Lori Goodwin

Joyce Hays

Rich Isreal

**Bella Jason**

Marylee Jones

Val Kurth (*Breast Cancer*)

**Carol Kerr**

Kim Long (*cancer*)

**Todd Manuel** (*blood cancer*)

**Tom Manuel** (*brain tumor*)

Matt & Kim Morris

Erin Price

Bill Puryear (*cancer*)

Harold & Barb Rader

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 Dyke's Sister-In-Law*)

Dave Van Dyke (*Cancer*)

Tracey Weimer (*submitted by Vonda Weimer*)

**John West**

**Ron West**

Beverly Williams (*colon cancer- submitted by Vonda Weimer*)

John & Kay Yuengert (*submitted by Karen Ferrari*)

Nancy & Butch Zattiero

**INTERCESSIONS FOR CONSOLATION IN GRIEF**

The family of Edward Gilliland (12-30-21)

The family of Jack Weimer (12-30-21)

The family of Deb Venturini

The family of Warren Smith

The family of Charles Watson (1-5-22)

The family of Don Zinkhann (1-25-22)

The family of Beryl Gilliland (2-14-22)

**PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND**

Norma Iman

Agnes Watson

Mary Belle McMillen

Ruth Rasp

Lucille Wingard



## FEBRUARY COUNCIL MINUTES—UNAPPROVED

### St Peter's Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 8, 2022

**Present:** Pastor Johns, Debbie Merrison, Michael Bettencourt, Rita Reifenstein, Dan Erin, Ted Lindgren III, Casey Guerriero, Robin VanDyke, Rob Burr, Marlene Domhoff, Adam Price, and Patti Flach

**Absent:** Jane Taylor

**Visitors:** None

President Dan Erin called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and Pastor Johns led us in prayers of love and thanksgiving.

**Minutes:** January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes were read. Robin motioned to accept the minutes as read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ted. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report submitted.

**Financial Secretary Report:** No report submitted

**Pastor's Report:** Written report submitted. The families of: Curtis, Amanda, Ethan, and Luke Johns and Brian, Danielle, Carter, and Mackenzie Johns are transferring to St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Curtis, Amanda, Ethan, Luke, Brian, Carter, and Mackenzie are transferring from Good Shephard Church in New Castle. Danielle is officially transferring from the Roman Catholic Church. Kate Rengers and Cam Norris will also be officially joining our congregation as well. Patti motioned to accept the report and new members. Rita 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried.

**Fellowship:** We will be having our Fish Fry on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be drive-thru only. We will also be having Shrove Tuesday breakfast followed by jokes for all. We will start Meager Meals for Thursday night Lenten services. Fellowship committee needs to decide what the money will be going towards.

**Finance:** Written report submitted. Lent Offering will be 10% to Benevolence, 90% going to Brick Loan. Lent "Fasting for Change" will go to world hunger. We voted to accept the percentages that Finance Committee recommended. Ted Lindren II, Marge Wearing, and Jason Plank will assist with auditing 2020 and 2021.

**Learning Ministry/Youth/Manna/Afterschool:** No meeting. Youth Gathering is canceled. The Youth is planning on doing something instead that is mission related. Pastor Johns reached out to the other Southwestern PA churches that were originally planning on attending the Youth Gathering. He will see if the other Youth Group Leaders would like to work together on mission work in the Pittsburgh area.

Summer registration is open for Lutherlyn. They have added another week for Senior High since

## FEBRUARY COUNCIL MINUTES—UNAPPROVED

the Youth Gathering has been canceled.

Grant Application has been submitted for the After School Program. We are looking to help lower-income families with this grant.

**Memorial:** No meeting.

**Mutual Ministry:** No meeting.

**Property:** Written report submitted. No action needed by council. We are waiting for people to look at the roof due to the amount of snow on it. Boiler is working well. We are still looking towards putting a fence up by the hill.

**Music & Worship:** Written report submitted. No action needed by council. We are looking forward to having Lenten services in person this year. We will try to do communion at the rail starting on Thursday services. People will also be given the option to partake in communion from their seat as well. We are looking at training more people to assist with streaming Sunday services.

We will begin having ushers again at the end of February. We will have two ushers. One usher will bring the plate forward from the front and the other usher will bring forward the plate from the back.

**Other:** Bulletin of Reports will be on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. No action needed.

**Unfinished Business:** We discussed building use. Beginning with our Lenten services, we will be holding Meager Meals. We will see how open people are to attending meals based off the reception. We will be using this to gauge if people are ready for more in-person fellowship.

**New Business:** We are looking to possibly update the Church Constitution. We will have a group overlook the Constitution and review it. The committee for this will consist of Dan Erin, Ted Lindgren III, and Michael Bettencourt. They will overlook this possible update.

**Miscellaneous:** W-ELCA had their Soup Sale. The money raised will be designated for youth and mission involvement since the Youth Gathering was canceled. They will also use some of the money towards the next Youth Gathering in 2024.

Ted motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Casey Guerriero

**PEOPLE MAKING WORSHIP BETTER TODAY AT ST. PETER'S**



THANK YOU

Date	03/02/2022 Ash Wed.	03/06/2022	03/13/2022	03/20/2022	03/27/2022
Acolyte	Lily Johns	Alyssa Mossor	Gianna Bonicky	Elsa Plank	Logan Thomas
Usher	Troy Barkley	Heidi Beahm Cindy Ayres	Tom Ayres Brian Johns	Casey & Dan Guerriero	Troy Barkley Adam Price
Lector	Charlie Flach	Adam Price	Marsha Reedy	Robin Plank	Jane Taylor
Bell Ringer	N/A				
Altar Guild	Bev Barkley & Bev Critchlow				
Altar Flowers (\$35)	N/A	Bev Critchlow	Sponsor Needed	Carol Kerr	Bea King

500 Card Club – will meet the first Friday of the month from 11 am – 1 pm. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like to learn to play you are welcome to join in the fun. It's a pot luck event so bring whatever you would like to share.



A special thank you to everyone who helped to make the Super Bowl hoagie fundraiser for our After School Program this year. We were amazed that we raised \$1,600!!!!!! Thrivent Financial provided seed money in the amount of \$250 to get the fundraiser started. Funds raised will help us to provide tuition assistance to students and families in need as well as purchasing needed supplies for the program. Thank you again for all of your love and support!  
Heidi Beahm

# MARCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	1 <b>Shrove Tue.</b> 9am - Pr. Cluster -Zellie. 3:30pm - After School 6pm - Pancake Dinner 7pm - Property Mtg.	2 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Worship 8pm - Choir Practice	3 9am - Quilters Group 1pm - Mary Circle 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Bible Study	4 11am - 500 Club & 3:30pm - After School 	5
6 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Bell Choir 11:30am - First Holy	7 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Boy/Cub Scouts 7pm - Fellowship	8 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Council Meeting	9 12pm - Lunch Bunch 3:30pm - After School 6:30pm - Relay for Life 7pm - Choir Practice	10 9am - Quilters Group 3:30pm - After School 6pm - Meager Meal 7pm - Lent Service 8pm - Bible Study	11 3:30pm - After School	12 2pm - SPY Service
13 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Bell Choir 11:30am - Communion 11:30am - Food	14 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Boy/Cub Scouts	15 3:30pm - After School  7:30 pm - WELCA General Meeting	16 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	17 9am - Quilters Group 3:30pm - After School 6pm - Meager Meal 7pm - Lent Service 8pm - Bible Study	18 3:30pm - After School	19 6:30pm - Game Night 
20 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Bell Choir 11:30am - First Holy	21 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Boy/Cub Scouts 7pm - Sowers	22 3:30pm - After School 7:30pm - Dorcas Circle	23 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	24 9am - Quilters Group 3:30pm - After School 6pm - Meager Meal 7pm - Lent Service 8pm - Bible Study	25 3:30pm - After School 4pm - Youth Night 4:30pm - Fish Fry 	26
27 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Bell Choir	28 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Boy/Cub Scouts 7pm - Worship Mtg.	29 3:30pm - After School	30 3:30pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	31 9am - Quilters Group 3:30pm - After School 6pm - Meager Meal 7pm - Lent Service 8pm - Bible Study	1 11am - 500 Club & 3:30pm - After School	2



**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**



**Sponsored by**

**Perry & Luann Brosius**