

Welcome to  
**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**  
*202 Van Buren Street*  
*Evans City, Pennsylvania 16033-1127*  
*(724) 538-5810*



*Pastor Brandon Johns*  
*November 22, 2020*  
*Noon Thankoffering*  
*Worship Service*

## Thankoffering, like Thanksgiving, is a time for gratitude.

St. Peter's Women of the ELCA is asking you to support the many ministries of WELCA using the **blue envelope** provided in today's bulletin. *(Please make any donations by check payable to WELCA.)* WELCA programs range from advocacy and education to discipleship and outreach including endeavors of the ELCA such as Global Mission, World Hunger, and Disaster Response. WELCA continues to develop ministries in response to the needs of women and the church as a whole.

### A Brief History

As we make our Thankofferings today, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier. When Women of the ELCA was formed 30 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings.

Giving Thankofferings is grounded in Scripture and in the constitution of the WELCA. "All income, whether received by the unit, cluster or conference, synodical or churchwide organizations, shall be viewed as being given to the total program of Women of the ELCA. ... Thankofferings shall be gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings. These offerings shall be received by the unit and transmitted in full to the churchwide organization for the support of the ministries of this organization and the church" (Article X, Churchwide Women's Organization Constitution, Section 4, Item 1). Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, let us give thanks!

***Bell Ringing***

**GATHERING LITANY OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving!**

Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

*(We sing the indented lines together. For the first verse we begin after it is played through once. Afterwards we sing immediately with the music.)*

**We gather together to seek the Lord's favor,  
For daily we savor God's goodness divine.  
Together confessing, we seek his greatest blessing  
And find an honored place at his table to dine.**

Let all the earth sing praise to God!

**Let the sound of his praise be heard in all the world!**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together in the presence of the Lord.**

Let us exult in God's steadfast love!

**We gather together with songs of thanksgiving.  
To God ever-living, our anthems we raise.  
With anthems unending, let praise be ascending  
With hearts and lives united to show forth our praise.**

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

**My soul shall rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his deliverance.**

Let all who take refuge in God rejoice; let them ever sing for joy.

**My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises God  
with joyful lips.**

Give thanks to the Lord with all your heart!

**We gather together, abundantly gifted  
Our voices uplifted ring sweet in God's ear.  
O blest congregation, with high adoration  
Come now to offer thanks; in God's temple appear.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service,  
and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom  
to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have  
made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

A: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM 95:1-7a (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.



**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.  
A: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

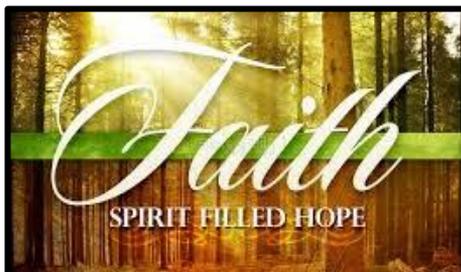
*(The assembly stands, if able, to welcome the gospel.)*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



## **Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

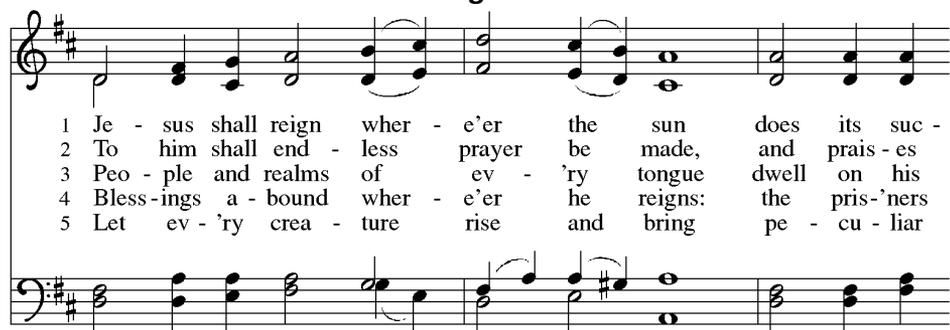
### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

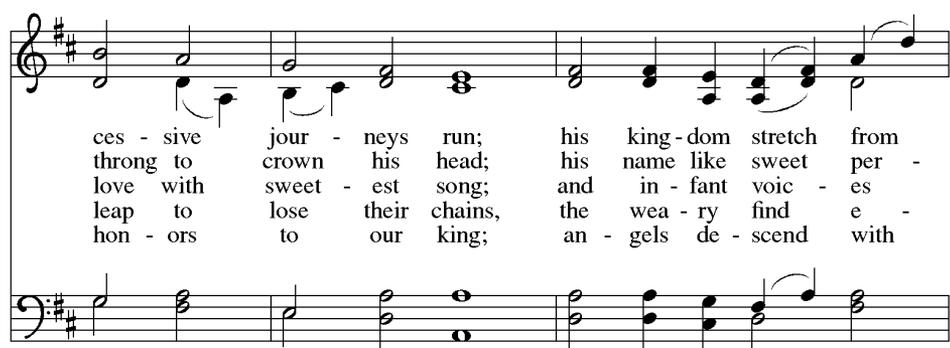
This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*(Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed)*

**I believe that God has created me together with all that exists.**

**God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.**

**In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property; along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served.

***The response for each petition is:*** Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGING OUR DAILY BREAD**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**God gives daily bread, even when we do not pray for it,  
even to those who do not deserve it.**

*(We sing the indented lines together. For the first verse we begin after it is played through once. Afterwards we sing immediately with the music.)*

*In addition to our regular offerings, the blue envelope in your bulletin is for the opportunity to make an extra offering for the many ministries of the Women of the ELCA, such as Global Hunger and Disaster Response.)*

**Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer  
For all things living, created good:  
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**Daily bread includes every blessing we need for this life, such as:**

Women: **home and property**

Men: **food and clothing**

Women: **work and income**

Men: **a devoted family**

Women: **good government**

Men: **an orderly community**

Women: **peace and health**

Men: **favorable weather**

Women: **a good reputation**

Men: **and true friends and neighbors**

**Bless Lord the labor, we bring to serve you  
That with our neighbor, we may be fed  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you  
Harvesting, milling, for daily bread.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**We ask in this prayer that God would help us realize his goodness,  
and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**

**Father providing food for your children,  
By your wise guiding teach us to share  
One with another, so that rejoicing  
With us, all others may know your care.**

We shall not live by bread alone but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God.

**Jesus Christ is the Word of God, made flesh for us.  
He is the Bread of Life.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**God gives daily bread, even to those who do not deserve it.  
We ask that God would help us to realize his goodness,  
and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**

**Then will your blessing, reach every people,  
Freely confessing your gracious hand.  
Where all obey you, no one will hunger;  
In your love's sway you nourish the land.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

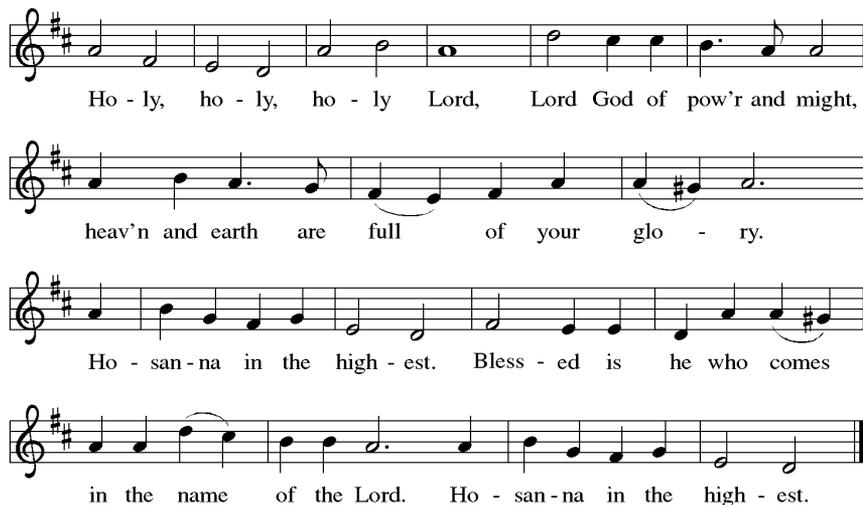
Let us pray. (*silence*) Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**THE PROPER PREFACE** (*It is indeed right.... join their unending hymn*)

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and help us to pray:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## **INSTRUCTION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

At this time Pastor will take a moment to explain how the distribution of Holy Communion will take place from our seats. The explanation will conclude with the Invitation to Communion and then we will commune.

The elements of the Sacrament are offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *And* The blood of Christ, shed for you.

For children who do not communion, lay hand(s) on each child and offer this or another blessing:

*“May God give you faith to see the hope you have in the love of Jesus. Amen.”*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, the foretaste of the heavenly feast to come.

## **BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: Sent Forth by God’s Blessing**  
**(Located on the next page of this bulletin)**

**SHARING FOR SERVING: BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND MISSION NOTICES**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

*Gratitude*

Lee Rogers

## SENDING SONG: Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed,  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

*The Eternal Candle  
is presented by  
the Beahm family  
in celebration of the  
anniversary of  
Heinie & Jane Raupp*

*Today's Altar Flowers are given  
by  
Eilene Budisky & Family  
In Loving Memory of Stella  
Frishkorn*

**RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:**

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**Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following**

Ray Middleton	Mary Jane Raupp
Mary Kay Hill	Charlie Flach
Eilene Budisky	Rege & Becky Rengers
Sandy Zachrel	Marylee – Kim's sister (surgery)
Dennis Eckstein	The Family of Bill Rape
Toni Ryan	

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.

***Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for November***

***Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Glade Run Lutheran Services. If you would like to support this cause, please mark the other line on your contribution envelope Glade Run.***

**Glade Run-** Christmas donation tags are here! Helen Barto placed a wreath with the tags on it in the entry to the church with the glass doors. Please pick up your tags ASAP and return your gifts to the box in the church lobby.

**Christmas Card Box-** Unfortunately we will not be hosting the annual Christmas card exchange box here at church this year. Due to services be held online we will not have the ability to ensure that cards are received in time for Christmas.

**Live Stream Sunday School and Worship** – During the season of Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>, Sunday School will be offered virtually through Zoom at 9 am and worship will return to a 10:15 am start time streamed through YouTube and Facebook only.

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St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

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M-F	Full Day After School Program
Mon. 11/23	6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
Tue. 11/24	6:30 pm Scouts 7:30 pm Dorcas Circle
Wed. 11/25	<b>7:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom link e-mailed)</b>
Sun. 11/29	9 am Sunday School through Zoom 10:15 am Worship (live-steamed only)
Mon. 11/30	7 pm Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

**Newcomers and Guests**

New to St. Peter's? We are glad you found us. Please check in with Pastor by calling or email to talk about what St. Peter's is like under regular conditions and so you can be connected with the ministries we are holding in old and new ways during these social distance times.



**Office Hours:**

Heidi Beahm, our secretary, is in the church office Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM until Noon. Pastor Johns can also be reached at the church. Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: [stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net](mailto:stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net)

Pastor Email: [rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com)

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