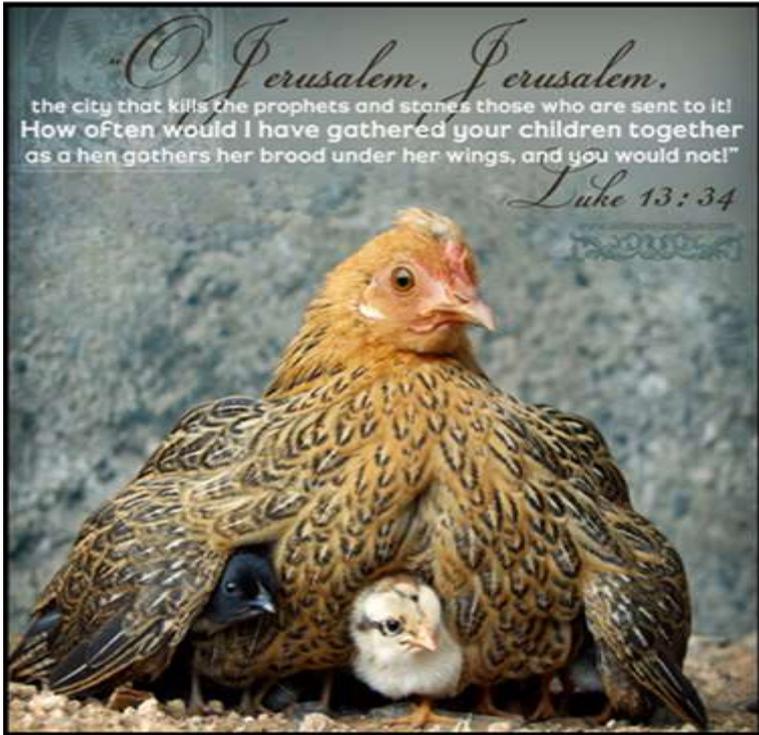


Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Second Sunday in Lent
March 13, 2022
10:15 Worship Service
Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

THORNS *Twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head.*
 – *Matthew 27:29*

Thorns are an adaptation by plants for defense, and their protection is used by vulnerable animals to survive. Jesus's thorns were meant to mock his royalty, but instead, God uses them as a part of the sovereign plan of salvation. In Jesus' blood freely given, Jesus protects us, the weak and vulnerable, from the eternal effects of our sin and brokenness.

We pause to reflect as the crown of thorns is added to the cross garden.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING LITANY (*1 Cor. 13:13; Heb. 11:1; Rom. 8:24; 1 John 4:16*)

Faith, hope and love, these three;

and the greatest of these is love.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

the conviction of things not seen.

Hope that is seen is not hope.

For who hopes for what is seen?

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,

and God abides in them.

Faith, hope and love, these three;

and the greatest of these is love.

O Lord our God, show us your everlasting love,

that we may serve you from the obedience of our hearts.

Lead us in the way of your peace,

that our souls may be restored.

Fill our imaginations with the wonders of your creation,

that our minds may reflect your glory.

Guide us in the way of the cross,

that we might proclaim the strength of your love.

GATHERING HYMN: Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels

The choir will sing verse 1 and the congregation will all sing vs. 2-4



1 Not for tongues of heav - en's an - gels, not for wis - dom to dis -
2 Love is hum - ble, love is gen - tle, love is ten - der, true, and
3 Nev - er jeal - ous, nev - er self - ish, love will not re - joice in
4 In the day this world is fad - ing, faith and hope will play their



cern, not for faith that mas - ters moun - tains, for this
kind; love is gra - cious, ev - er pa - tient, gen - er -
wrong; nev - er boast - ful, nor re - sent - ful, love be -
part; but when Christ is seen in glo - ry love shall



bet - ter gift we yearn:
ous of heart and mind: may love be ours, O Lord.
lieves and suf - fers long:
reign in ev - 'ry heart:

CONFESSION AND REASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, remember us in your love, and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The greeting of peace is shared.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM *For God So Loved the World* Allen Pote

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALM 27 (*Read Responsively*)

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my
life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek
God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me
high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who
surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of
rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in
anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation.

10Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me in.

11Teach me your way, O Lord;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

12Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing
violence.

13This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

14Wait for the Lord and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the Lord!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17--4:1

17Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. **18**For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. **19**Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. **20**But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. **21**He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4:1**Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

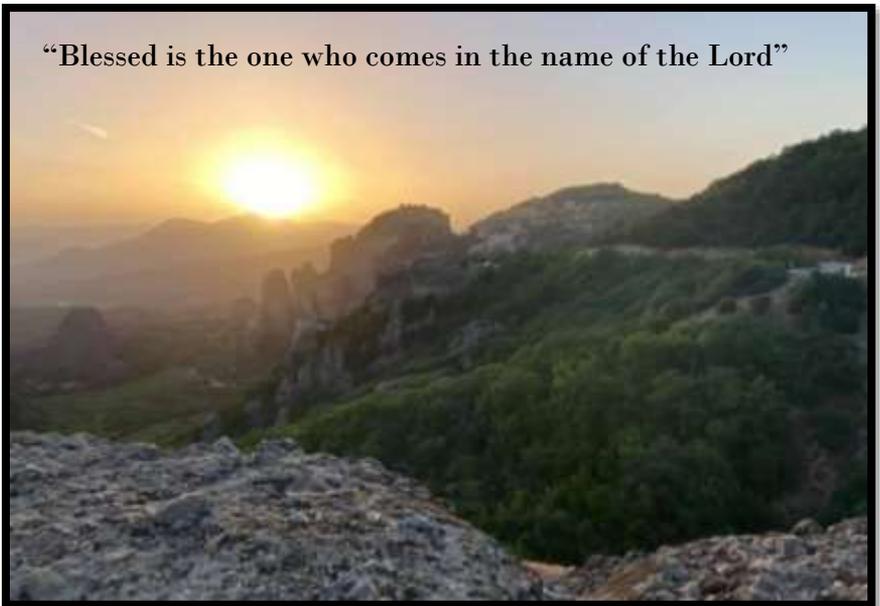
GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”
This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY: Thy Holy Wings

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord, you gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel.

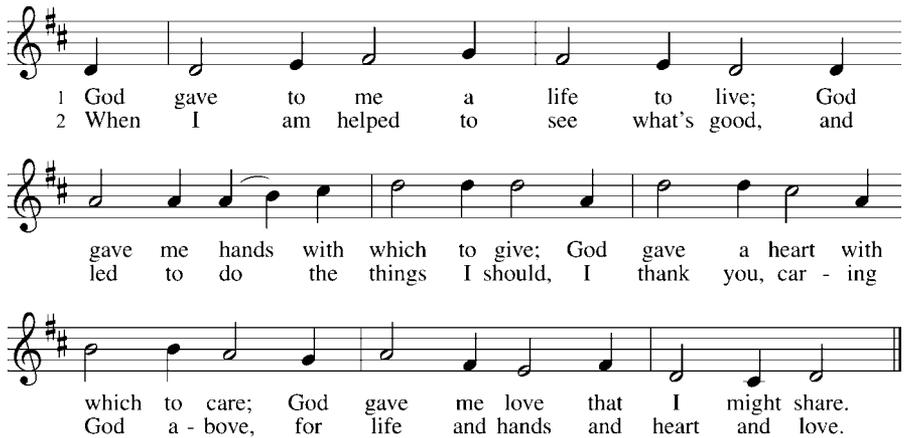
The response for each petition is: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionaly, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the front and rear of the nave.

OFFERING SONG: God Gave to Me a Life to Live



1 God gave to me a life to live; God
2 When I am helped to see what's good, and
gave me hands with which to give; God gave a heart with
led to do the things I should, I thank you, car - ing
which to care; God gave me love that I might share.
God a - bove, for life and hands and heart and love.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, **receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

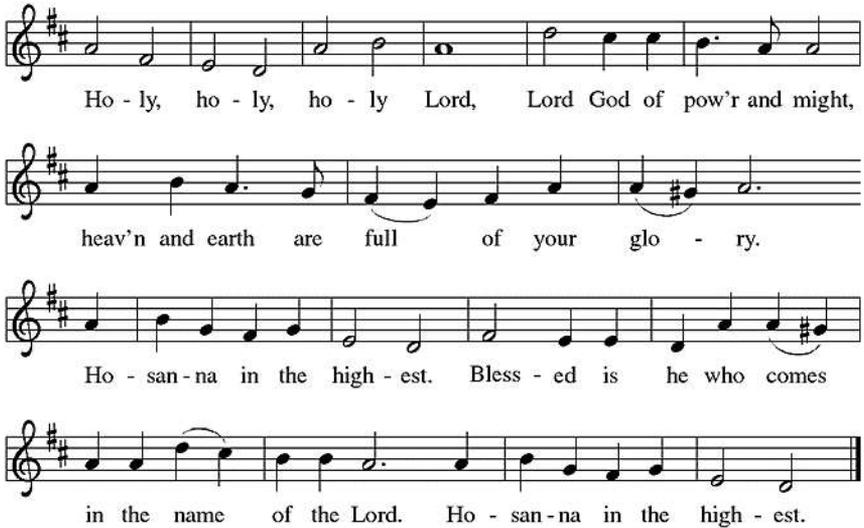
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

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 the strength and mercy of God keep you from all fear. Amen.”

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Let us share now in the heavenly banquet that has no end.

BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

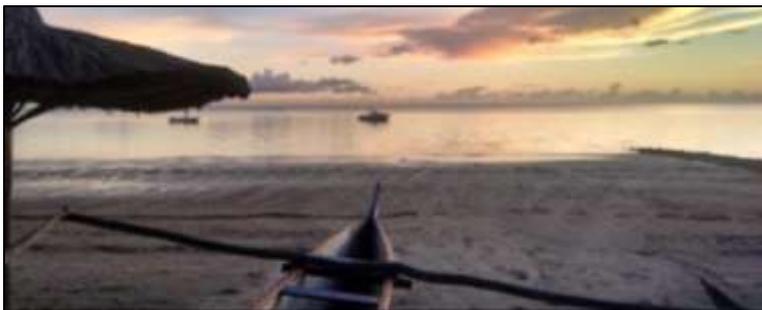
Let us pray. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through 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: Jesus, Still Lead On

1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

SHARING FOR SERVING: BIRTHDAYS AND MISSION NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* Edward Broughton

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for March

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

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Matt & Kim Morris | Jeannie Wearing |
| Jan Hogan | The family of Rosalyn Kummer |
| Luke Clawson | Joyce Hayes (cancer) |
| Cole Barkley | Ron & John West |
| Amy Anthony | Amanda, Raquel, and Elana Barron |
| Ed Hunia | Erin Price |
| Colleen Prenovitz | Ray Middleton |
| David English | |

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.
"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given
by Faye Dawn Nelson
In celebration of the birthdays of
Larry & Jordyn
(Many blessings to you)*

Meager Meals – on Thursday evenings at 6 pm we will gather before worship to eat soup and bread together. If you would like to provide either for a night or nights, please sign up in Luther Hall.

Fasting for Change - 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. *Offerings given in the contribution envelopes designated to Lent will benefit St. Peter's brick loan and 10% to synod benevolence.*



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Presiding Bishop (ELCA) | The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton |
| Synodical Bishop (SWPA Synod) | The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow |
| Pastor | The Rev. Brandon Johns |
| Organist & Music Director | Marlene Domhoff |
| Office Secretary | Heidi Beahm |
| Sexton | Joe Ludwik |
| Lector | Marsha Reedy |
| Acolyte | Gianna Bonicky |
| Bell Ringer | Dan Erin |
| Ushers | Tom Ayers & Brian Johns |

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

| | | |
|---------------|---------|------------------------|
| Mon. – Fri. | 3:30 pm | After School Program |
| Mon. Mar. 14 | 7:00 pm | Boy/Cub Scout Meetings |
| Tue. Mar. 15 | 7:30 pm | WELCA General Meeting |
| Wed. Mar. 16 | 7:00 pm | Sr. Choir Practice |
| Thur. Mar. 17 | 9:00 am | Quilters |
| | 6:00 pm | Meager Meals |
| | 7:00 pm | Lent Service |
| Sat. Mar. 19 | 6:30 pm | Game Night |

Fish Dinner- will be held on Friday, March 25th at 4:30 pm. A donation poster is in the back of the church. If you can make a donation please do so and sign up on the sheet below the poster.

Clothing Cupboard- many thanks for all of the wonderful clothing items that have been donated to help those in need. **We are NOT in need of clothing at this time** as our clothing cupboard is filled with clothing for all seasons.

At Home Communion Ministers- we need volunteers to visit shut in members to take them communion. Stay today for a quick meeting after worship to find out more about being part of this ministry.

Easter Candy Fundraiser- support St. Peter's Campers and place a candy order today. Sign up sheet is on the table in Luther Hall.

Welcome to St. Peter's

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.



Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer). You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.

Nursery- is self-serve and available on for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared to children ages 5 and up.

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

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month