

# Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*October 1, 2023*

*10:15 Worship Service*

*Pastor Brandon Johns*

**BELL RINGING****CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

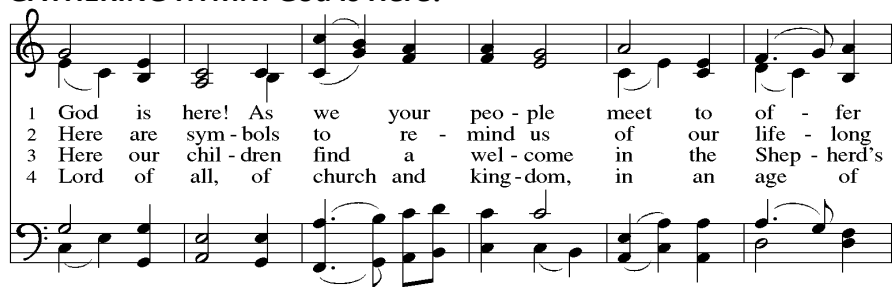
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN: God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us of old. Here in the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

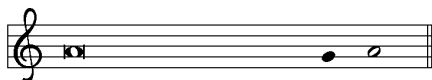


world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of is preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

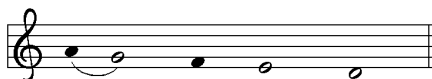


wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



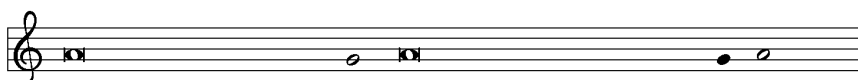
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



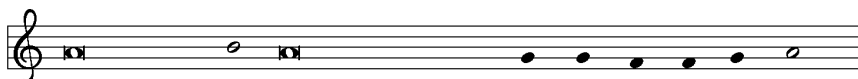
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

## GREETING

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. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*All for the Glory of His Name*

Mary Parks

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel.

<sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

**PSALM 25:1-9** (*Read Responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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 21:23-32**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

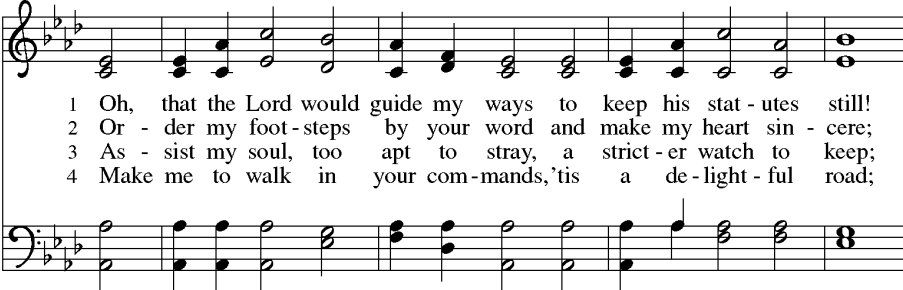
<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

## **SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## 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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. *A brief silence.*

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness.

***The response for each petition is:***

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

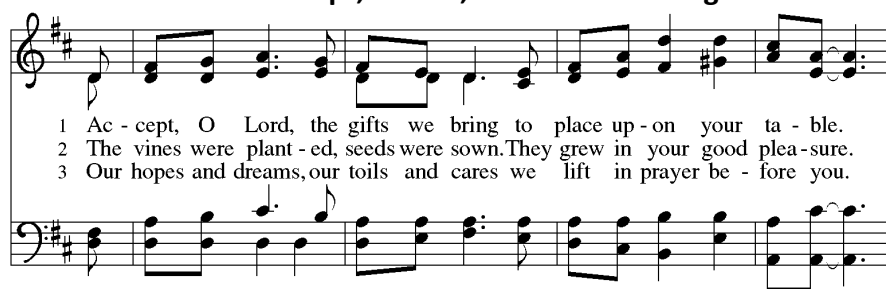
## PEACE

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

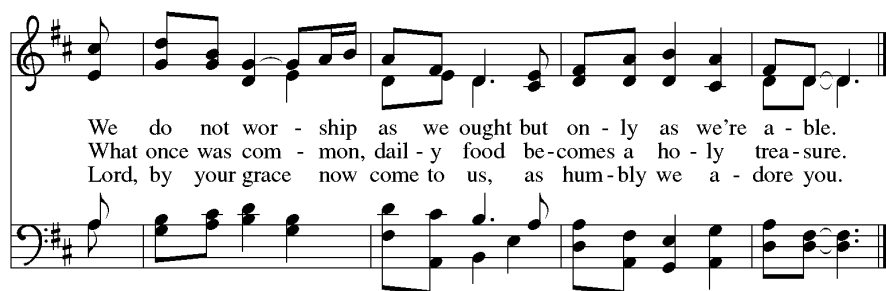
## OFFERING

*Our offerings are made processional, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.*

### OFFERTORY SONG: Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.  
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.  
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. **You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

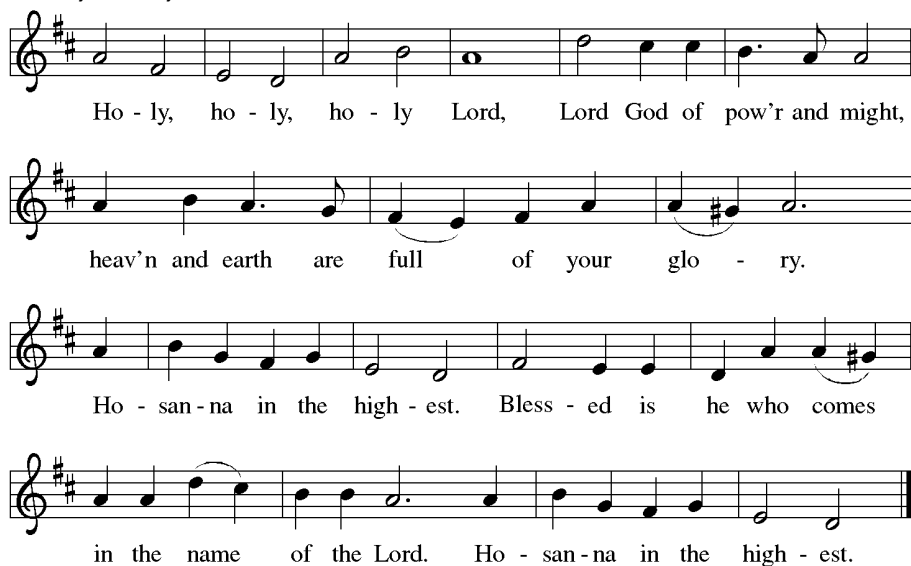
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**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**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet. Christ gathers us in.

**LAMB OF GOD** *(sung as the distribution of the sacrament begins)*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION**

**The Sacrament will be offered with these words:**

The body of Christ, given for you. *And* The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*Optional responses Amen or Thanks be to God or Renew us, Lord*

**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. God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. **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: The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve** *(on next page)*

**SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**                      *He Is the Salvation*                      Stephen Otis

<u>Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following</u>		
Cole Barkley	Helen Barto	Glenn Fulghum
Luke Clawson	Luann Brosius	Nancy Riedel
Mary Watson	Lori Rasp	Mary Kay Knox
Marty Smith	Mia Maust	Mr. Miller
The Green/Morra Family	Tricia Wright Voelzke	Kathy Z.
The family of John Reinhart	The family of Nancy Andrew Stroup	
Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.		
<i>"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16</i>		

**SENDING SONG: The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve**



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to share the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
cher - ish a dream and help the blind to see.  
pow - ered us; we do the lov - ing deed.  
to Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820  
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

*The Altar Flowers  
are presented by  
Wes & Linda Schmidt  
in loving memory of  
Bryon Schmidt*

*The eternal candle  
is presented by  
Dan and Casey Guerriero  
in honor of  
their daughter Josie and  
her first birthday*

**Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for October**

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Lutheran Service Society.  
If you would like to support this cause, please mark the Other line on  
your contribution envelope.



**Thank You!** – A great, big THANKS! to everyone who helped in ways big and small to make our Apple Fest, Rummage Sale, and Quilt Show a series of successes this year. Because of your support, we were able to raise money for community organizations, our own projects, youth ministries, and even continue to raise our profile in the community. Plus, it's always fun to be together whether we're working or playing. Thanks again!

**Fall Mums** – Order forms are here and located on the on the table between the nave and Luther Hall. They are due back by TODAY. Our mums will adorn our worship space next Sunday and can be taken home afterwards.



**Harvest Home** – We encourage you to bring a nonperishable food item with you to worship next Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate harvest home and sharing with those who are in need. Special offering envelopes for Harvest Home will support the Food Cupboard.

**Food Pack Up** – After our fellowship time, you're invited to come downstairs to pack up bags and boxes of food for our neighbors.

**Spaghetti Dinner** – If you would like to volunteer for helping at the dinner, then help is always welcome. There is a sheet on the red table where you can sign up to be part of set up, dinner service, clean up, and/or providing a dessert. All help is appreciated, but please remember, too, that your presence at the dinner is a valued service as well.

**Madagascar Dinner** – Come to Zion Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm to have an authentic Malagasy dinner, check out cultural items, hear from church guests from Madagascar, and maybe even win a prize. All that helps to grow our relationship with our companion synod and helps to raise funds to bring distinguished guests here on a church-to-church visit. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged and can be done through the synod's website or with Pastor's help. He's leading this effort for our synod.

**Blood Drive** – We will be working with Vitalant to host a blood drive on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 2-7pm. If you need help signing up to donate, please let Pastor know. Also, if you would like to be part of the hospitality team, welcoming people to our church and/or providing cookies for donors, please let Pastor know that as well.

**PumpkinFest** – Save the date for our seventh annual PumpkinFest, which will take place on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 5:30pm. Expect heavy doses of our usual fantastic attractions, like pumpkin carving, pumpkin treats, and the spooky house, plus new twists and treats. Support our After School Program and be a part of the event that has people saying every year, “Orange you glad you came?!”

**Bible Study** – Our weekly Bible study has returned! We gather on Thursday nights at 7pm via Zoom. Does the word “study” still give you chills worse than the Doll Room in the Spooky House? Have no fear; this gathering is for you! We dig into the upcoming Sunday’s lessons with humor and levity and no question is ever too silly or too serious. Hope you’ll join in!

**Turkey Dinner** – Save the date for our annual Turkey Dinner. It will be on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> this year. All proceeds from our Turkey Dinner this year will go to the Jason family to support them in their ongoing medical battle.

**Choirs** – Please note, no time like the present to put a ring on it, as Bell Choir begins today! All joking aside, our senior choir, Christmas Cantata choir, and bell choir have all restarted their rehearsals. We are grateful for the music ministry of this congregation and for our reputation as a musically talented and enthusiastic congregation. However, these vitally important ministries only are able to continue as long as we step up and join together offering our time and talents on behalf of this community and to the glory of God. You can do it. You are needed.

---

### St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

---

Mon.-Friday	4-6 pm	After School Program
Mon. Oct. 2	7:00 pm	Anniversary Meeting
Tues. Oct. 3	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
Wed. Oct. 4	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Cantata Practice
	8:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. Oct. 5	9:00 am	Quilters Group
	1:00 pm	Mary Circle
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. Oct. 6	10:00 am	500 Club
Sat. Oct. 7	4:30 pm	Spaghetti Dinner

**Worship Volunteers** – Anyone, third grade and older interesting in learning how to acolyte or teens and adults interested in becoming lectors, assisting ministers, ushers, or bell ringers, please see Pastor and we'll schedule a training when it works for those interested.



### **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
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Acolyte	Leah Plank
Assisting Minister	Anna Plank
Bell Ringer	Jason Plank
Greeters	Donna Daugherty & Barb Graham
Lector	Ted Lindgren
Nursery	Marge Lindgren
Tech Support	Adam Price
Ushers	Joe Ludwik & Rob Burr

## **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 staffed by a volunteer and available 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 for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

## **Staying in Touch:**

Our church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon. Pastor is often there also or by appointment. 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)

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month

## **RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24133. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.