

# Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



“Give therefore to the  
emperor the things that  
are the emperor’s, and  
to God the things that  
are God’s.”

-Matthew 22:21

*Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost*

*October 22, 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,

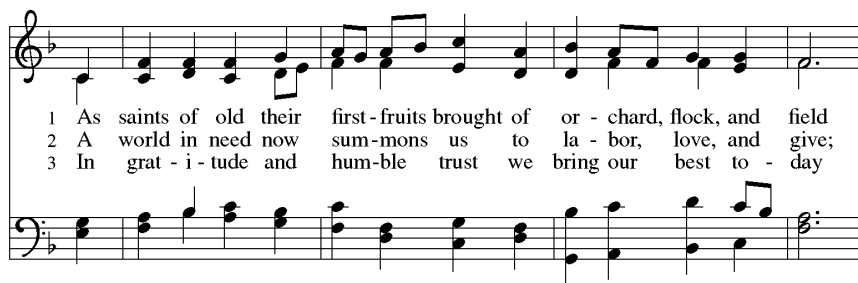
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.**

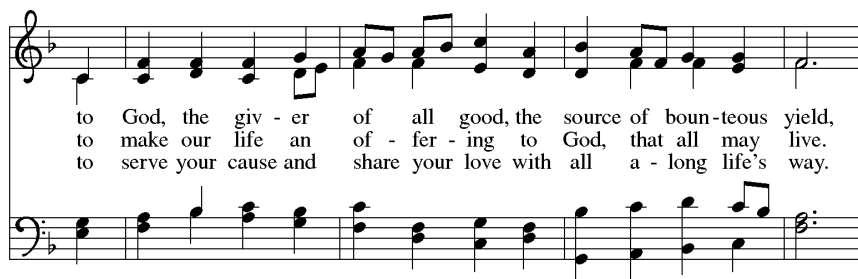
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

**Amen.**

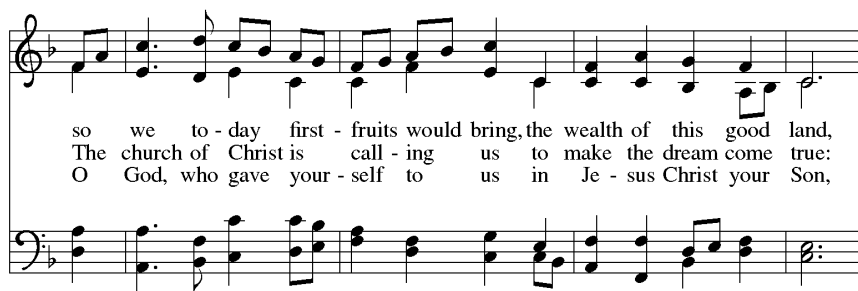
## GATHERING HYMN: As Saints of Old



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.  
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,

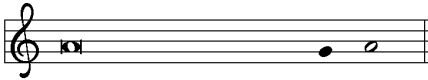


of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

## 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.**

# 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.



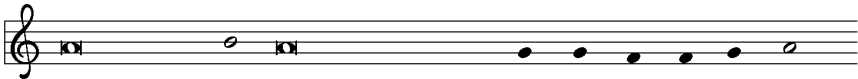
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM**     *If God Is for Us*     Allen Pote

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him and the gates shall not be closed:

<sup>2</sup>I will go before you and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,

<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I surname you, though you do not know me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,

<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the Lord, and there is no other.

<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the Lord do all these things.

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

**PSALM 96:1-13** (*Read Responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be  
moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at  
your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

*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 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

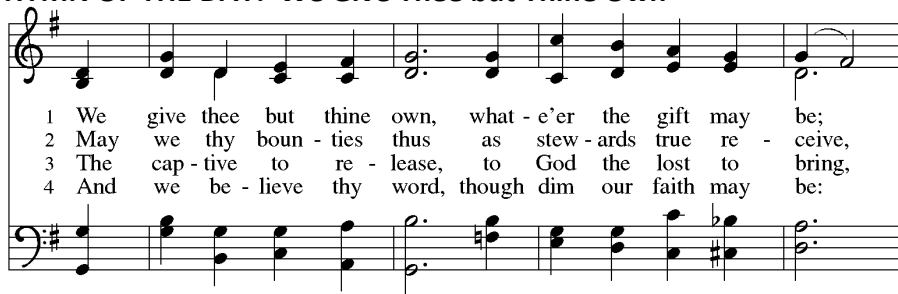
### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

## 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

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love.

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

God of Grace, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

*Our offerings are made processionaly, 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.

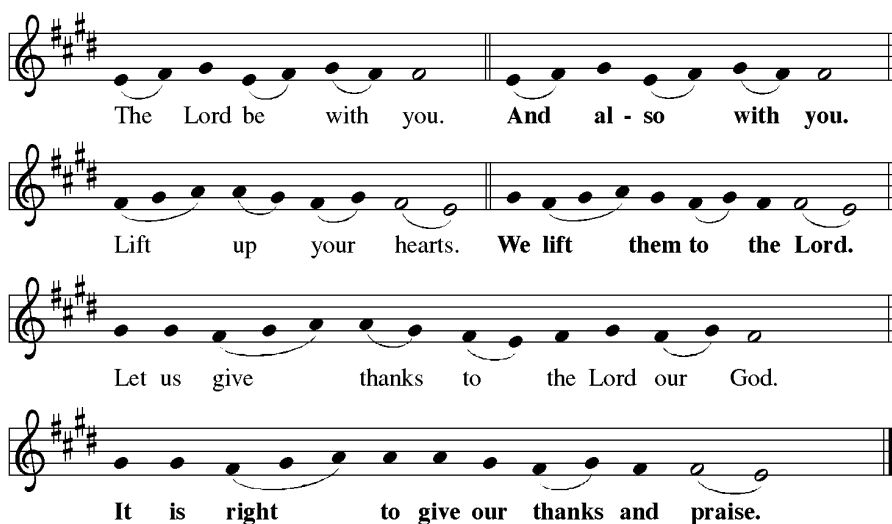
We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

## 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.

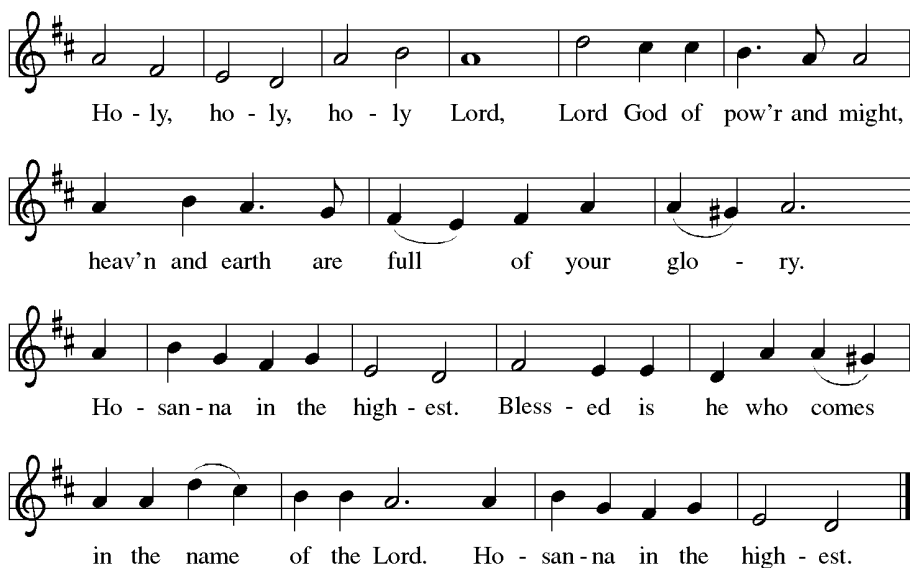
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
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: God of Grace and God of Glory** *(on next page)*

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

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE** *Festal March* Chester Nordman

<u>Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following</u>		
Cole Barkley	Helen Barto	Luke Clawson
Raquel Barron	Kay Burr	Tom Smith
Zachary Mashuda	Ricky Benson	Isabella Stoehr
Marty Smith	Ed Smith	Garrie Wearing
The Family of Joyce Kost	The Family of Tricia Wright Voeltze	
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: God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932



### **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.

*The Altar Flowers are  
presented by  
Vic and Brenda Peffer  
in memory of Elisa and in  
gratitude for all of you,  
our church family, and all  
that you have done for us.*

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



**Blood Drive** – We will be working with Vitalant to host a blood drive on Monday, 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.

**Bible Study** – Our weekly Bible study has returned! We gather on Thursday nights at 7pm via Zoom. We dig into the upcoming Sunday's lessons with humor and levity. Hope you'll join in!

**Turkey Dinner** – Our annual Turkey Dinner will be on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. ***All donations, except for pies and dinner rolls, are due to the church by October 29<sup>th</sup>. Pies and rolls are due by 10:00 November 4<sup>th</sup>.*** All proceeds from our Turkey Dinner this year will go to the Jason family to support them in their ongoing medical battle.

**Choirs** – Our senior choir, Christmas Cantata choir, and bell choir have all restarted their rehearsals. 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.

**Reformation Sunday** – Next Sunday we celebrate God’s ongoing work in the world through the Holy Spirit to keep the Church, God’s Church, as people of the Way despite the forces that would mislead us or separate us from God and each other. We wear red as part of the celebration to honor the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**All Saints Sunday** – On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we give thanks to God in worship for the gift of baptism, which makes us a part of the community of saints because in baptism God sets us apart as holy people of God. We also honor God for the lives of those we love who have died in the previous year especially, but also any loved ones whose life and death we would like to remember before God. Members of our community who have died in the previous year will have their names read during the service and have a candle lit by Pastor as we remember that their light continues to shine in us and before God. Everyone will be invited to also light a candle for them or any other loved ones during the worship service.

**Congregational Meeting** – On Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual congregational meeting. Please plan to stay after worship for that important part of our life together. We will consider and approve a mission spending plan (budget) for our community, as well as, elect people we believed to be called by God into leadership for this season in our congregation’s life.

**Window Project** – We anticipate Williams Glass returning on October 30<sup>th</sup> to continue replacing old protective coverings over our exterior stained glass windows. Because of your support of this project, we were able to immediately sign up to have more windows receive this treatment upon completion of the first seven and then expand the scope for this second phase beyond what we thought possible at first. As long as all goes well, all windows on the main level of the church building should have new protective coverings at the end of this round of work. Thank you for your support and for continuing to support the ministry of our congregation by not neglecting the Current Fund as we make this project happen!

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### St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

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Mon.-Friday	4-6 pm	After School Program
Mon. Oct. 23	9:00 am	History Committee Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship Meeting
	7:00pm	Boy Scouts
Tue. Oct. 24	7:00 pm	Dorcas Circle
Wed. Oct. 25	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
	8:00 pm	Cantata Practice
Thur. Oct. 26	9:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study



### **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	Logan Thomas
Assisting Minister	Troy Barkley
Bell Ringer	Corey Walker
Greeters	Margaret Clawson & Jane Taylor
Lector	Melissa Bonicky
Nursery	Emily Taylor
Tech Support	Heidi Beahm
Ushers	Heidi Beahm & Brian Johns

**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.

## **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:**

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