

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Reformation Sunday

*October 29, 2023
10:15 am Worship Service*

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

GATHERING LITANY

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.

There is one Body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Father of all.

Blessed be God, who by the Word, is revealed to be perfect Love.

**Blessed be God whose grace is freely given to all,
conveyed to us through water, word, bread, and wine.**

Blessed be God who sustains and protects his Holy Church.

And blessed be God who sanctifies us and guides us in our faith.

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: Give to Our God Immortal Praise

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM *I'm Standing on the Solid Rock* Harold Lane

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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



PSALM 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

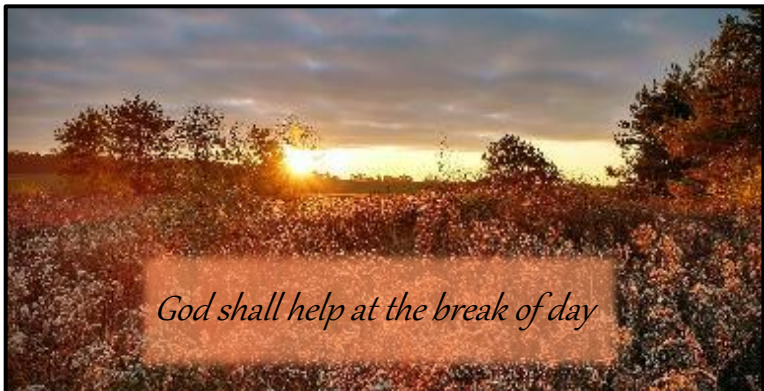
⁷The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.



SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

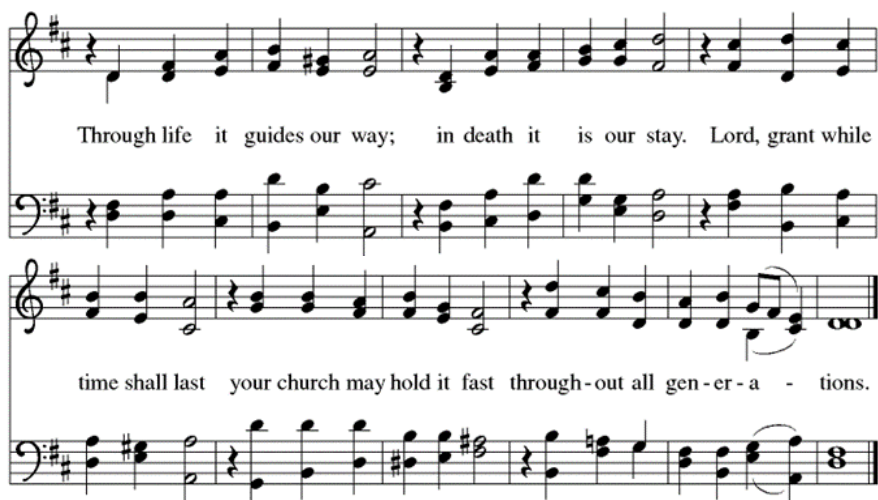
²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. *This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

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



God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;

to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.



GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

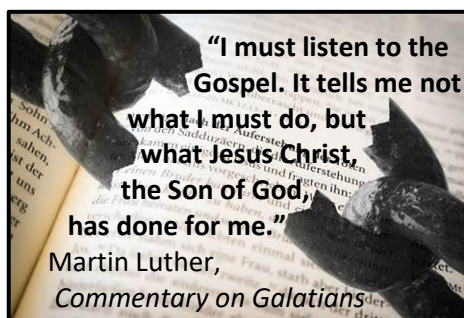
Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY: The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.*

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church’s many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ.

The response for each petition is: God of grace, **hear 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: O Lord, We Praise You




1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you, in thanks -
2 Your ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en, life to
3 Lord God, be - stow on us your grace and fa - vor, that we



giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your
win us in heav - en. No great - er
fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to -



bod - y and your blood you nour - ish our weak souls that
love than this to you could bind us; may this feast of
geth - er here in love and u - nion, nor re - pent of this

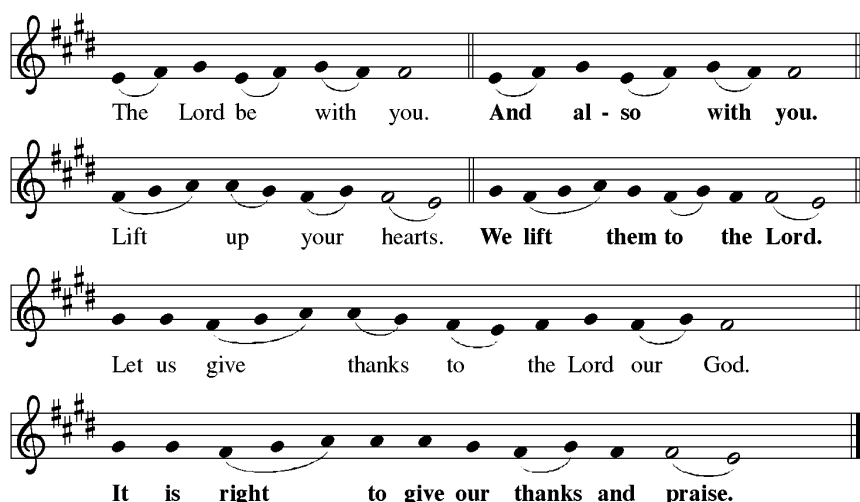


they may flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy!
that re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest com - mu - nion. O Lord, have mer - cy!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen.

DIALOGUE



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

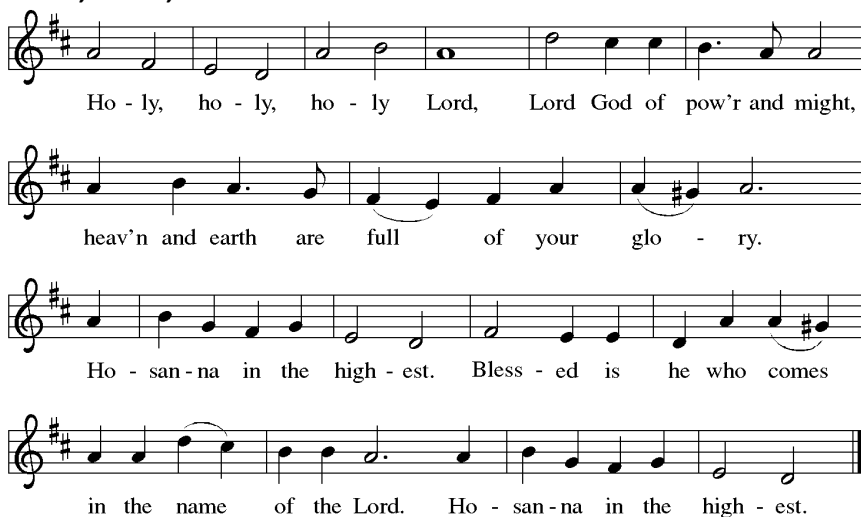
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

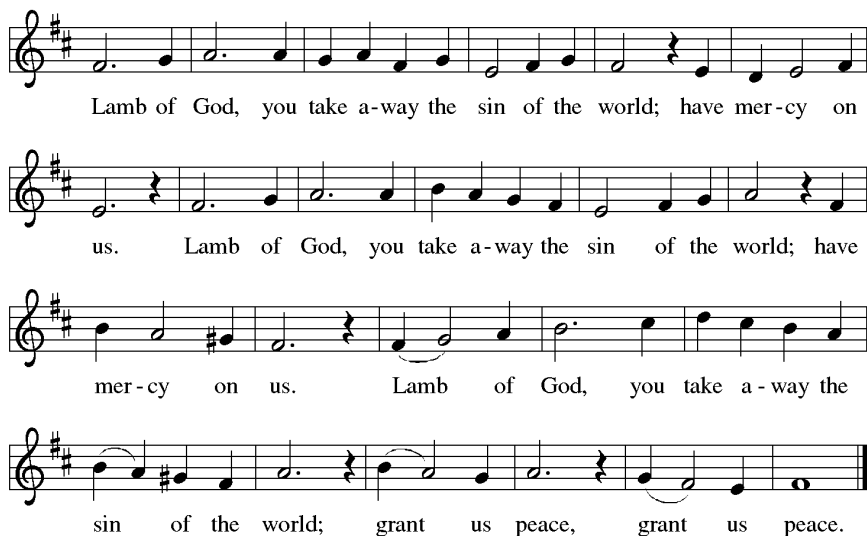
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**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.

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: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Recessional for a Church Festival* Ellen Jane Lorenz

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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*Today's Altar flowers
are given by Karen Ferrari
in loving memory
of her father
Robert Sarver*



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



Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following

Cole Barkley	Helen Barto	Luke Clawson
Raquel Barron	Kay Burr	Tom Smith
Zachary Mashuda	Ricky Benson	Isabella Stoehr
Marty Smith	Ed Smith	Paige Volz
Charlene Brittner	Garrie Wearing	Elaine Mulneix
The Family of Joyce Kost	Magaret Clawson	
The Family of Tricia Wright Voeltze		

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

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support
Lutheran Service Society.

To support this cause, please mark the "Other" option on your
contribution envelope.

Thank You – to everyone who helped in any way to make our Pumpkin Fest wonderful here at St. Peter's. It was a night of fantastic spirit, and we raised just over \$1,000 to help provide community families with loving childcare by funding scholarships to our After School Program.



Blood Drive – Out blood drive is tomorrow! It's from 2-7 pm and **walk-ins are welcome in addition to those who signed up.** Also, if you would like to be part of the hospitality team, please let Pastor know that as well.

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

All Saints Sunday – Next Sunday, 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, Nov. 12th, 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 believe to be called by God into leadership for this season in our congregation's life.

Window Project – We anticipate Williams Glass returning tomorrow 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, too!

Advent Lunch – Our annual kickoff to the Advent season is returning this year on Dec. 3 (the first Sunday of Advent). Our SPY will be hosting a lunch after worship and there will be Advent-themed activities for all ages. Any funds donated for the lunch will support next summer's youth mission trip.



 **Advent Friends** - Brothers and sisters, the season of hope and anticipation, joy & merry-making is nearly upon us. In order to help prepare our hearts for the expectant delight of the holiday season, we are again organizing our secret gift-giving activity. Being an Advent Friend is another special way to highlight Advent by enjoying the fellowship of others and having some fun keeping secrets. Look for a sign-up form in the newsletter and on the table in coming weeks. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor.

Annual Christmas cookie sale - will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17th following our worship service. Cookies will be provided by Lutherlyn camper families for fellowship time. If you enjoy the sweet, festive treats, then you are invited to purchase more to take home in order to help defray the cost of camp for our youth. Christmas tins will be available to fill.



Below is a letter from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther at Coburg Castle to Lazarus Spengler, dated July 8, 1530, concerning the meaning of his seal, which we also know as the Luther Rose (see the front cover).

Grace and peace in Christ!

Honorable, kind, dear Sir and Friend! Since you ask whether my seal has come out correctly, I shall answer most amiably and tell you of those thoughts which now come to my mind about my seal as a symbol of my theology.

There is first to be a cross, black and placed in a heart, which should be of its natural color [red], so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For if one believes from the heart he will be justified. Even though it is a black cross, which mortifies and which also should hurt us, yet it leaves the heart in its natural color and does not ruin nature; that is, the cross does not kill but keeps man alive. For the just man lives by faith, but by faith in the Crucified One. Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace; in a word it places the believer into a white joyful rose; for this faith does not give peace and joy as the world gives and, therefore, the rose is to be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all the angels. Such a rose is to be in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy; it is already a part of faith, and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that in heaven such blessedness lasts forever and has no end, and in addition is precious beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

May Christ, our dear Lord, be with your spirit until the life to come.

Amen.

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. – Fri.	4-6 pm	After School Program
Mon. Oct. 30	2:00 pm	Blood Drive
	6:30 pm	Finance Meeting
	7:00 pm	Boy/Cub Scouts
Wed. Nov. 1		No Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
	8:00 pm	Cantata Practice
Thur. Nov. 2	9:00 am	Quilters Group
	1:00 pm	Mary's Circle
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. Nov. 3	12:00 pm	500 Club & Lunch
Sat. Nov. 4	4:00 pm	Turkey Dinner



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	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Penelope Erin
Assistant Minister	Karen Ferrari
Bell Ringer	Corey Walker
Greeters	Michael & Staci Bettencourt
Lector	Charlie Flach
Nursery	Pat Capella
Tech Support	Adam Price
Ushers	Troy Barkley & Dean Zinkhann

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

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

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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