Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Thankoffering Worship Service

November 19, 2023

Pastor Brandon Johns

Thankoffering, like Thanksgiving, is a time for gratitude.

St. Peter's Women of the ELCA is asking you to support the many ministries of WELCA using the **designated contribution envelope from your weekly giving envelopes or mark a pew envelope "Thankoffering."** WELCA programs range from advocacy and education to discipleship and outreach including endeavors of the ELCA such as Global Mission, World Hunger, and Disaster Response. WELCA continues to develop ministries in response to the needs of women and the church as a whole.

A Brief History

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

Giving Thankofferings is grounded in Scripture and in the constitution of the WELCA. "All income, whether received by the unit, cluster or conference, synodical or churchwide organizations, shall be viewed as being given to the total program of Women of the ELCA. ... Thankofferings shall be gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings. These offerings shall be received by the unit and transmitted in full to the churchwide organization for the support of the ministries of this organization and the church" (Article X, Churchwide Women's Organization Constitution, Section 4, Item 1).

Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, let us give thanks!

BELL CHOIR PRELUDE We Gather Together Kathleen Wissinger

BELL RINGING

GATHERING LITANY OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

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

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving!

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

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

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

Let all the earth sing praise to God!

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

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

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

Let us exult in God's steadfast love!

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

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

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

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

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

Give thanks to the Lord with all your heart!

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

GRFFTING

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. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

Let Us Give Our Thanks Together

Douglas Nolan

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

PSALM 90:1-12(Read Responsively)

¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;

⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.



SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



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

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saving, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him. 'Well done. good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SFRMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord of Light



Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.

Fa - ther, as

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

in

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high-est heav-en,

SO on be

done.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

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

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

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor.

The response for each petition is:

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PFACE

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

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR DAILY BREAD

Give us this day our daily bread.

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

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

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

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

Women: home and property

Men: food and clothing Women: work and income Men: a devoted family

Women: good government Men: an orderly community Women: peace and health Men: favorable weather Women: a good reputation

Men: and true friends and neighbors

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

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

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

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

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

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

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

OFFERING PRAYER

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

DIALOGUE

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

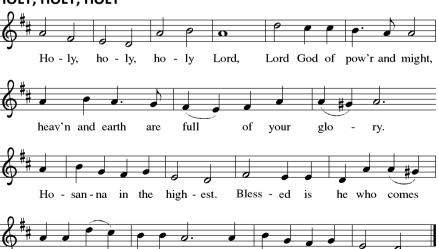
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

in the

name



Ho - san - na

in the

high - est.

the Lord.

of

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

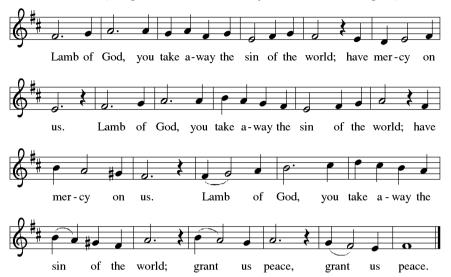
LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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



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. We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

SENDING SONG: God, whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je - sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat - tered door, all at peace in health and free-dom, rac - es joined, the church made one. ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise; Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; O - pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra-cious do - nor of our days. born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne. heal - ing, teach-ing, and re - claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE With Thankful Hearts Bertha Frick

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Glade Run Lutheran Services

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

The Altar Flowers are for the glory of God and in honor of Jane Brown's 100th birthday from her children The Altar Flowers are presented by Rob & Lisa Burr in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary

The Eternal Candle is presented by Becky & Rick Riddle in memory of their parents

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following

Cole Barkley Helen Barto Luke Clawson Raquel Barron Tom Smith Kay Burr Zachary Mashuda Ricky Benson Elaine Mulneix Marty Smith Mary Belle McMillen Paige Volz Charlene Brittner **Garrie Wearing** Josh Green Judy Holman Holly Butcher Linda Middleton Steve Knight Mason Martin **Butch Kost** The family of Ed Smith Avery Kelly Julie W. The family of Isabella Stoehr The family of Sharon Thorton

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

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.

<u>WELCA</u> - This year's designated outreach for WELCA is TryLife Center of Lower Burrell. In conjunction with our Thankoffering service, we are collecting items to support this organization in their aid to families. Please consider donating. Items needed:

- Diapers:
 - Preemie & Newborn
 - Sizes 4 through 7 Urgent Need!
- Pull-Ups/Training Pants:
 - Sizes 2T-5TS
- Baby Wipes Urgent Need!
- Baby Soaps, Shampoos, and Diaper Rash Ointment
- Pedialyte (for children under 3)
- Formula:
 - Any preemie formula
 - Similac Sensitive
 - Similac Total Comfort and Pro Total Comfort
 - Enfamil Gentlease (Regular, not Neuro-pro)
 - o or any other kind of formula... we can always use it!

<u>Angel Tree</u> – We are supporting the youth of Glade Run again this year with our angel tree in the back of the nave. You are invited to take a tag or tags and meet the Christmas requests for these, our neighbors, and return unwrapped items to our church building. See Helen Barto for more information and also the article in our newsletter or the Glade Run website for addition ways to donate. Thank you for your ongoing support of those in need!

<u>Advent Lunch</u> – Our annual kickoff to the Advent season is returning this year on Dec. 3. 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.

^{*}TryLife Center's comprehensive and **free** Learn to Earn program provides parents with education, one-on-one support, information/referrals, and material assistance.

<u>Hymn Sing</u> – On Sunday, December 10th at 6:30 pm we will have an Advent and Christmas hymn sing. We will be trying to record this event too in order to work toward producing a CD of our congregation singing favorite hymns as part of our 175th anniversary. Please plan to join this extra chance to sing carols!

Sunday School Christmas Program – Save the Date: 12/17, 6:30pm.

<u>Annual Christmas cookie sale</u> – Sun., 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.

<u>Annual Poinsettia Orders</u> – Order forms will be available the next few weeks, and will be need to be returned on December 10th. This will ensure they are here by Christmas Eve.

<u>Christmas Dinner and Caroling</u> – All are invited to eat together and then sing carols throughout Evans City on Dec. 22nd starting at 5:30.

<u>Christmas Ornament</u> – Our Anniversary Committee has worked hard, with a lot of help from Wendell August Forge, to be able to offer a beautiful, commemorative Christmas ornament marking our

congregation's 175th anniversary.
These 3.5 inch diameter, highly detailed ornaments are only \$20 each and come with a red ribbon for displaying them and a color picture of our Shepherd window with a brief history of our congregation on the back. Please see Marsha Reedy (or talk to Pastor if you need help finding her) to get yours today, whether for yourself or as gifts to family members.





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 Marlene Domhoff Organist & Music Director Joe Ludwik Sexton Secretary Kimberly Peaco Acolyte Mark Zoelle **Assisting Minister** Anna Plank Jason Plank Bell Ringer Margaret Clawson & Jane Taylor Greeters Teresa O'Malley Lector Colleen Prenovitz Nursery **Tech Support** Adam Price Ushers Dan & Casey Guerriero

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:		
MonTues.	4-6 pm	After School Program
Mon. Nov. 20	7:00 pm	Sowers
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Nov. 23-24	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving	

<u>Worship Volunteers</u> – 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.

<u>Congregational Meeting</u> - The mission spending plan (2024 budget) passed without adjustment. Patti Flach was reelected to council and joining her will be Staci Bettencourt, Linda Schmidt, and Corey Walker. Helen Barto will continue serving on the Endowment Fund committee. Heinie and Mary Jane Raupp will be our delegates to the 2024 Synod Assembly, in addition to Pastor. Thanks to those whose terms are ending, continuing and beginning for your service!

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: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net
Pastor Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net
Pastor Email: stepterslcec@zoominternet.net
Pastor Emailto: <a href="

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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