

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Advent
with baptism for
Matthew Carmello Green

December 3, 2023
10:15 Worship Service
Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

The first candle is lit as the litany begins.

ADVENT LITANY: A Little Child Shall Lead Them

(We sing the indented lines together. For the first verse we begin after it is played through once. Afterwards, we sing after a chord is played.)

There is a child who leads us on

The path to God's own grace.

Forgive us, Lord, through your good will,

Revealed in Jesus' face.

The prophet Isaiah said that the wolf would lie down with the lamb
and the calf with the lion.

The promise of the Prince of Peace was foretold.

There will be no war or division or strife.

For the little Child is the Lord of my life.

He is the Son of God, the Lord,

Who makes the way for me,

He takes away my sin and shame,

That I might be set free.

The coming of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might was
declared ages ago.

The little Lord Jesus calms our minds.

The Lord judges with love and fills the earth with righteousness.

The Child of Heaven blesses us.

*There was a prophet long ago,
Who said Good News would shine.
We wait with patience for that day
When Jesus says, "You're mine!"*

The infant Jesus removes all fear and gives us strength and help.
This Little Savior is our King from the line of David, and he is the Ruler of all.

*The Promised One, who was above,
Is born in Bethlehem.
The little child of lowly birth
Is Branch of Jesse's Stem.*

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADVENT WREATH

The Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1a, 2

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

The Reflection

The Blessing

Stir up your might and come to save us.

Reveal your face to us, and give us life.

Let us pray. Holy are you, God of righteousness and peace: You promised to wait with patience for all to come to repentance, and to send your prophet to cry in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. As we light these candles during this season of Advent, open our ears to hear you speak tenderly to your people, and open our hearts to welcome you as a shepherd who gently leads the flock. **Amen.**

ADVENT PARAMENTS

The Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God: for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

The Reflection

The Placement of the Paraments

Sunday School Choir

Light One Candle

The Blessing

Stir up your might and come to save us.

Reveal your face to us, and give us life.

Let us pray. Holy are you, God of power and glory: You have commanded us to show your splendor to our children; and you have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. As we adorn your holy house with these paraments, open our eyes to see the beauty of holiness so that our lives, like these paraments, might proclaim the glory of your majesty through the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE RITE FOR HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

The baptismal family gathers with the ministers at the font.

We begin the Rite for Holy Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

God, who is rich in mercy, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. In this sacrament, we become children of life, heirs of all God's possessions, God's own children, and brothers and sisters of Christ. As Christ is our brother, we also become brothers and sisters to one another in the communion of all the saints. We begin our new life, we live our new life, and we look forward to the resurrection under the sign of our Baptism. Today God calls Matthew by name to enter into this inheritance.

Josh and Kerren, called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Matthew baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring Matthew to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,
and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace among all people.



Do you promise to help Matthew grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Matthew and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

The assembly stands as able.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given praise and honor and worship through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Matthew Carmello is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May you evermore be clothed with the righteousness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for whose sake God has now made you his child and promises you the fullness of new life.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Matthew with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Receive the sign of the Holy Cross, as a sign that through your baptism you are participating in the death and resurrection of Christ. Through the cross you have been redeemed; in baptism you receive the fullness of this redemption; and henceforth you are called to take up your cross and follow after Christ.

Matthew Carmello, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
Peace be with you. **Amen.**

WELCOME

“Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Let us pray: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon Kerren and Josh. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them and us teachers and examples of righteousness for Matthew and all our children. Strengthen Josh, Kerren, and all of this assembly in our own Baptism so we may share eternally with Matthew the salvation you have given him through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The newly baptized is introduced to the assembly.

APOSTOLIC 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. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM: *Say He Will Come* Robert C. Lau

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19 (*Read Responsively*)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

continued...

- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

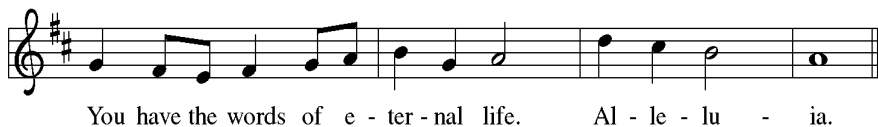
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.



**6. O Come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
Refresh the hearts that long for you;
Restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new.

The response for each petition is:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **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.

CANTICLE OF ADVENT ANTICIPATION *(to the tune of "The Doxology")*



Stir up your pow'r, O Lord, and come. A - gain we
pray, "Your will be done." May Ad - vent blue to
us fore - tell the ech - o of E-mman - u - el.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Eternal God, **you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and care. We ask this through Christ our Savior. 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.

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.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup,
we remember your Word dwelling among us full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.
Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God
incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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.

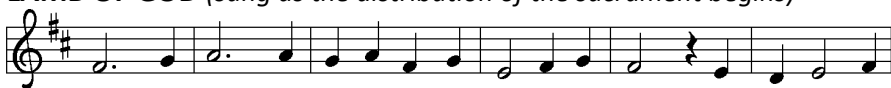
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

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)*



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. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, coming among us by the real presence of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, the loving reign of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

SENDING SONG: The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.



SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Jubilate

Stewart Landon

Advent Lunch – Please stay today for lunch! Any funds donated for the lunch will support next summer’s youth mission trip.

Poinsettias - Orders are now being taken. Please have your forms returned by 12/10. This will ensure they are here by Christmas Eve.

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support
Bethesda Lutheran Services
To support this cause, please mark the *Other* line on your envelope.

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following

Cole Barkley	Helen Barto	Luke Clawson
Raquel Barron	Tom Smith	Phil Salm
Zachary Mashuda	Ricky Benson	Dave Martin
Marty Smith	Elena Barron	Mark Phillips

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

*The Eternal Candle
is presented by
Barb Graham
in memory of Harold Graham*



*Today’s Altar Flowers
are given by Eilene Budisky
in memory of Ron Crider
and
Barb Graham in memory of
Harold Graham*

St. Peter’s Upcoming Events:

Mon.-Friday	4-6 pm	After School Program
Mon. Dec. 4	7:00 pm	Fellowship Meeting
Tue. Dec. 5	6:30 pm	WELCA General Meeting
	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
Wed. Dec. 6	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
	8:00 pm	Cantata Practice
Thur. Dec. 7	9:00 am	Quilters Group
	1:00 pm	Mary Circle
	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).

Pastor
Organist & Music Director
Sexton
Secretary
Acolyte
Assisting Minister
Bell Ringer
Greeters
Lector
Nursery
Tech Support
Ushers

The Rev. Brandon Johns
Marlene Domhoff
Joe Ludwik
Kimberly Peaco
Alyssa Mossor
Glenn Fulghum
Troy Barkley
Becky Rengers & Janice Hogan
Marsha Reedy
Staci Bettencourt
Adam Price
Heidi Beahm & Joe Ludwik

Christmas Ornament – Wendell August Forge Christmas ornaments marking our congregation's 175th anniversary are available for \$20 each and come with a color picture of our Shepherd window and a brief history of our congregation on the back. Please see Marsha Reedy to get yours today, whether for yourself or as gifts to family members.

WELCA – The Christmas WELCA General Meeting will be held on 12/5 at 6:30 pm in Luther Hall. **All women are invited.** Please bring a covered dish to share and your table setting. After our meal, we will have a brief meeting and fellowship.

Hymn Sing – Next Sunday at 6:30 pm, we will have a Christmas hymn sing. Please plan to join this extra chance to sing carols!

Christmas Cookie Sale – 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.

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

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

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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