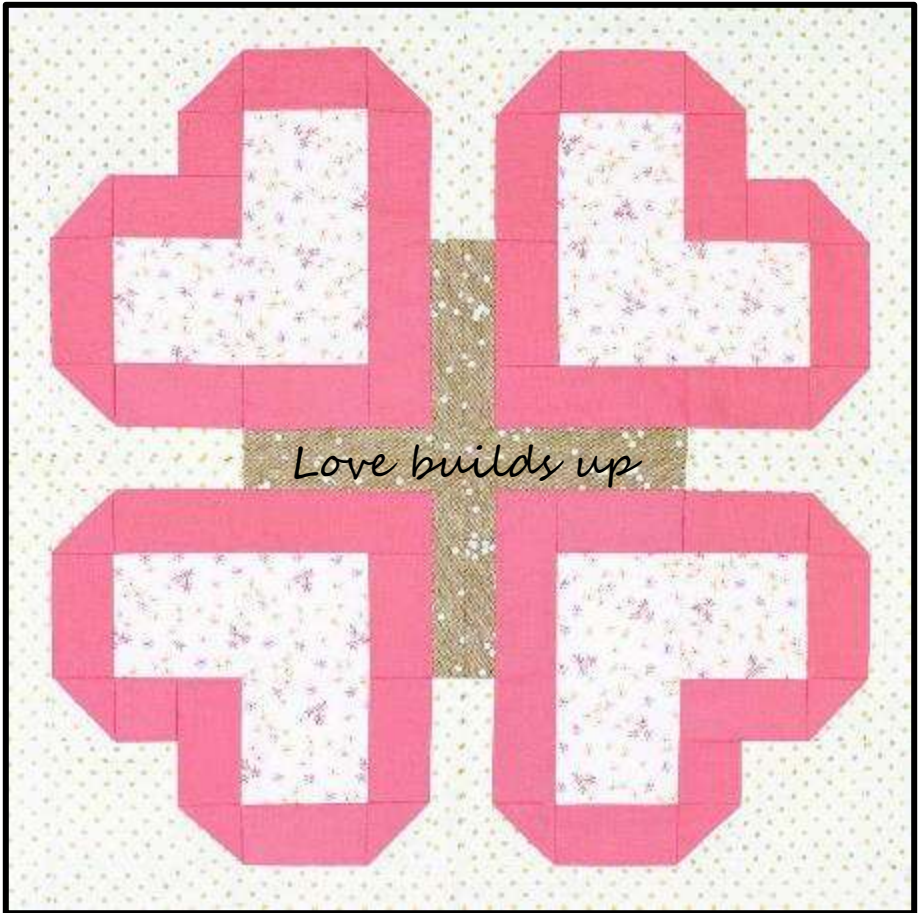


Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024
10:15 am 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.

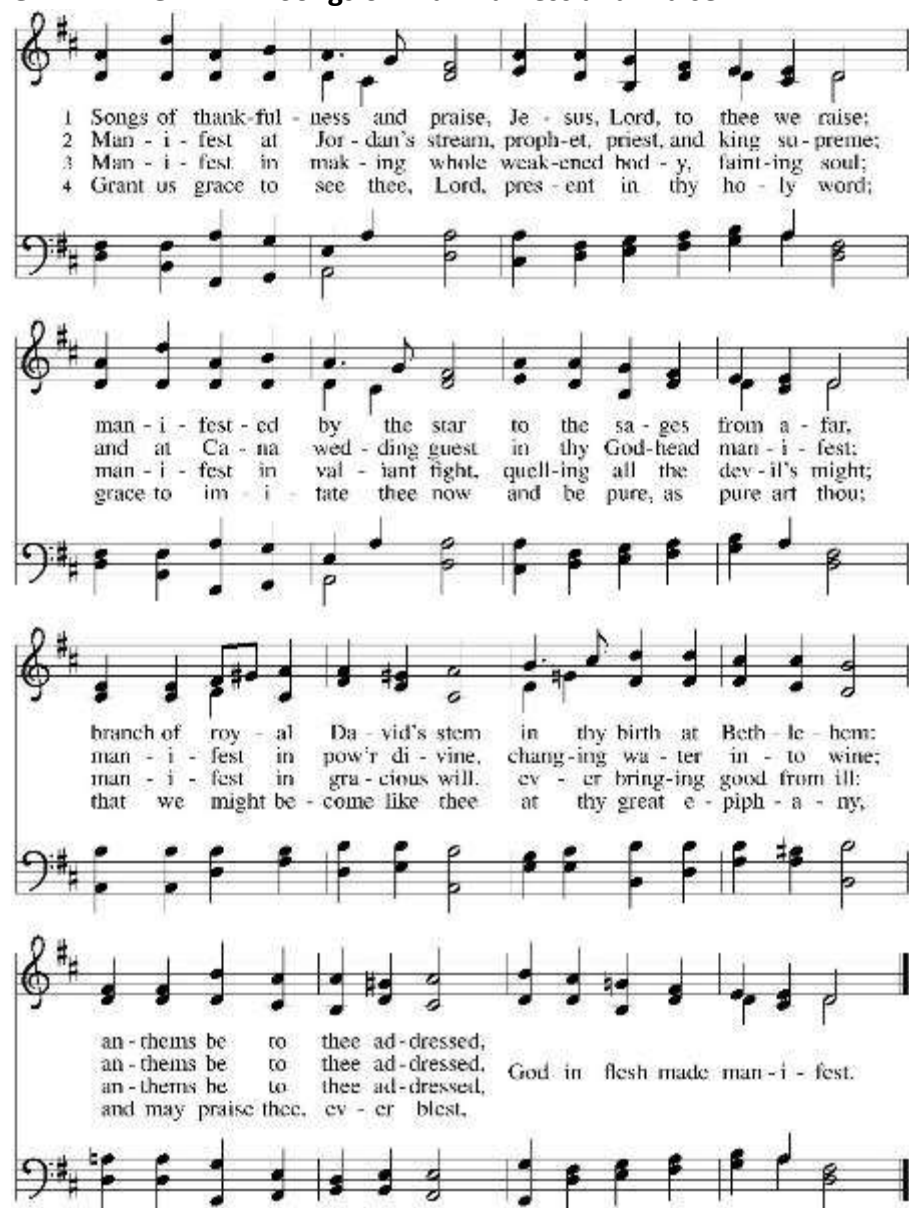
Most merciful God,

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: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

Our Lord is Great John Parker & Joseph M. Martin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALM 111 (*Read Responsively*)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people
and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding.
God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.”

⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?

¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

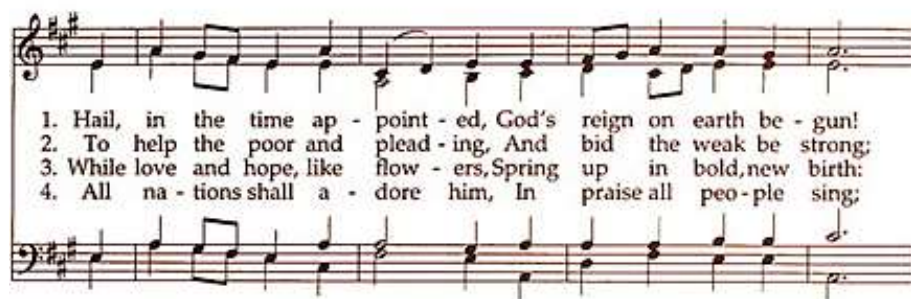
This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2. Christ comes with ten - der heal - ing For those who suf - fer wrong,
 3. He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth,
 4. Great kings shall bow be - fore him, And gold and in - cense bring;



1. Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, God's reign on earth be - gun!
 2. To help the poor and plead - ing, And bid the weak be strong;
 3. While love and hope, like flow - ers, Spring up in bold, new birth:
 4. All na - tions shall a - dore him, In praise all peo - ple sing;



1. Christ comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free;
 2. To give them songs, not sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
 3. Be - fore him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 4. Our prayers shall be un - ceas - ing; With dai - ly vows as - cend;



1. To take a - way trans - gres - sion, And rule in eq - ui - ty.
 2. Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Are pre - cious in his sight.
 3. And right - eous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
 4. The king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.

Ps 72:1-7, 10-11, 15, 19
 James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Münster Gesangbuch, Münster, 1833
 Arr. by William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways.

The response for each petition is:

God of grace, receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of wonder, **you formed us in our mother's womb, and from the cradle of Creation you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

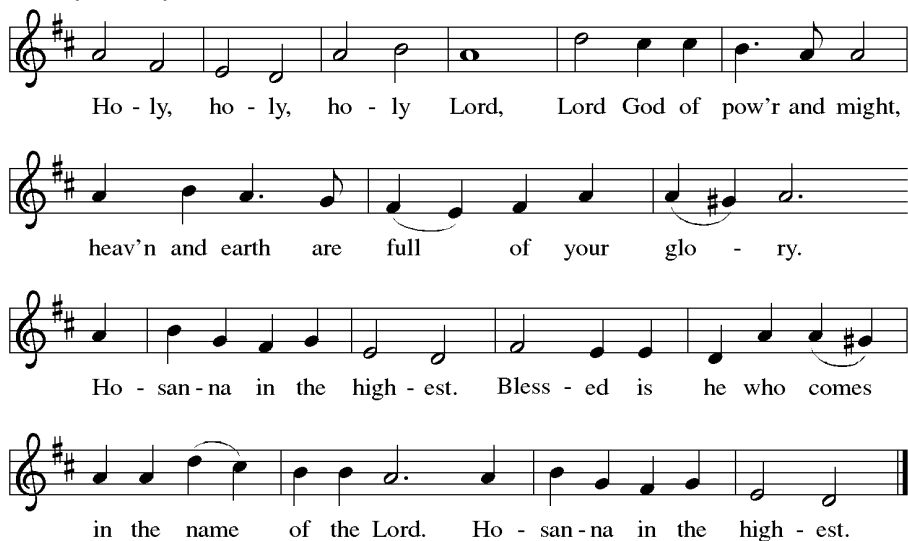
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,

through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering
those who trust you and shine your light upon this world.

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, 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

Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold 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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and peace.

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

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

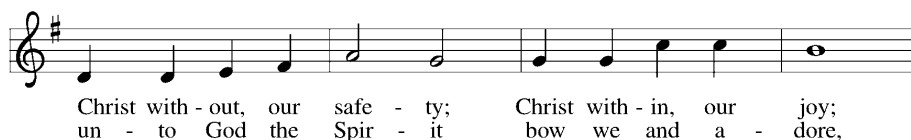
BENEDICTION

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: On Our Way Rejoicing



Refrain



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Jubilate

Ellen Jane Lorenz

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for January

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

*Today's altar flowers
are given by
Troy & Bev Barkley
in honor of
their 64th anniversary*



*The eternal candle
is presented by
Joe Ludwik
in loving memory of
Sue Ludwik's birthday*

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Helen Barto	Luke Clawson
Karen Marburger	Fred Flach	John Vrana
Nancy Riedel	Michael Clawson	Orvis Davis
Sally & Curt Frank	Julie S.	Raquel Baron

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

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. – Fri.	4 – 6 pm	After School
Mon. Jan. 29 th	6:30 pm	Finance Mtg.
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Wed. Jan. 31 st	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. Feb. 1 st	9:00 am	Quilters
	1:00 pm	Mary Circle
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. Feb. 2 nd	Noon	500 Club

Food Drive – Thank you to everyone who donated cereal in January! In February, we will focus on Peanut Butter and Jelly for the Food Cupboard, as we look to make our anniversary year a celebration of service.

Congregational Meeting – Please plan to stay after worship on February 4th, for lunch and our annual Bulletin of Reports meeting.

Cards for Karen Marburger - She is not yet home and cards help brighten her day! Please see Marge Wearing for more information.



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).*

Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Music Director and Organist	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Logan Thomas
Assisting Minister	Glenn Fulghum
Bell Ringer	Corey Walker
Greeters	Vic & Brenda Pepper
Lector	James Thomas
Nursery	Colleen Prenovitz
Tech Support	Heidi Beahm
Ushers	Troy Barkley & Dean Zinkhann

Anniversary Celebration – Welcome to the 175th Anniversary of our congregation! On February 11th, we welcome Bishop Kusserow, who will be here to help us kick off our months-long celebration by helping to lead worship that morning and eating with us at the potluck luncheon we will have after the service. He will also lead a forum during Sunday School. Other ways of celebrating this year include the commemorative ornament that is for sale, the cookbook that is on its way, an updated history, and a semiformal dinner in October. If you would like to be a patron of any of these special productions, please talk to Rita Reifenstein or Pastor.

Attention Singers – We would love to have some extra voices in choir for February 11th, when the bishop is here. Please talk to Marlene.

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. 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). A nursery is staffed by a volunteer and available for children. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. There is a set of two restrooms down there as well. You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.