

Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

The Lenten Cross Garden will grow each week as a different symbol of Christ is added at the foot of the cross. Its stark beauty prepares us for the extravagant beauty of the Resurrection Garden on Easter Morning.

LINEN *"They took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths."*

-John 19:40

Linen, in its finest form, was a symbol of purity, so it was used in service of worshipping God, from priestly garments to adorning worship spaces. In death, Jesus, our great High Priest, is wrapped in linen, but leaves it behind in order to offer us new life with a robe of righteousness. For this, we gladly worship Him.

We pause to reflect as the linen is added to the cross garden.

GATHERING LITANY***Lifted Up in LOVE: Contagious Love***

(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.)

***God loved the world so that he gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in him believe
Should everlasting life receive.***

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

That whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

The love of Jesus has the capacity to capture the hearts of many.

Because of Christ's love witnessed on the cross, we declare our love for him in faithful witness.

***Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death:
All then who trust in him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.***

Just like the centurion at the cross who said, “Truly this man was the Son of God,”

We cannot help but utter to others what God has made clear to us in Jesus.

The Gospel message is a love story like no other.

So we love to tell the story of Jesus and his love.

We know that the Word of God goes out from us and does not return to us empty.

It accomplishes its purpose and succeeds in the thing for which God sent it.

We are ambassadors of love for Christ and proclaim the salvation that has come to pass for us on the cross.

As word of Jesus spreads, our faith in his life, death and resurrection grows.

The seed of faith in Christ has now become like a mighty oak with deep roots.

So our love for Christ runs deep within our very souls.

*God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs*

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. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22 (*Read Responsively*)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from
the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.


¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY: What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997; alt.
 Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war.

The response for each petition is:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, **receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross we may be instruments of your peace, and know the joy of life eternal; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

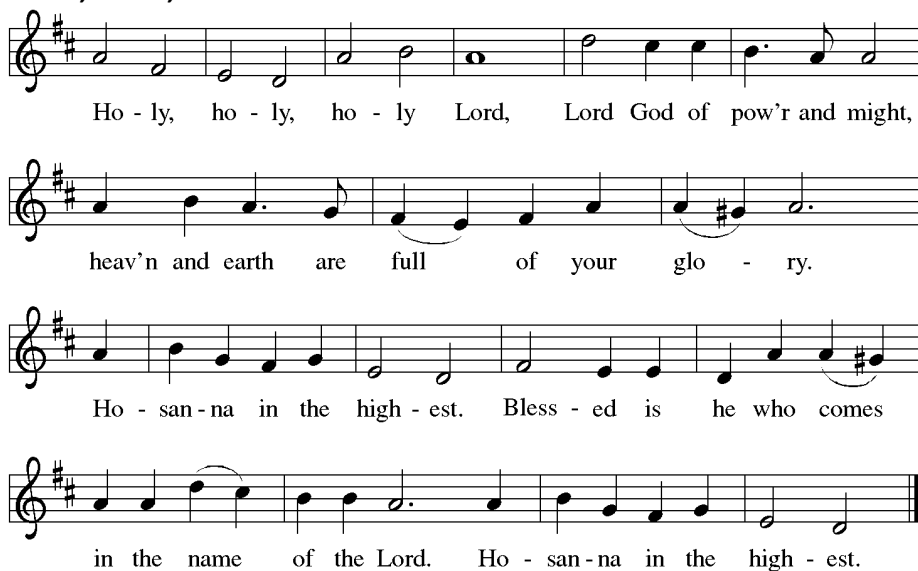
We lift them to the Lord.

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



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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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 Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The Sacrament will be offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you.

And The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Optional responses **Amen or Thanks be to God or Renew us, Lord**

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of thankful hearts; through 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 ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

(found on the next page)

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve with joy. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Recessional

M. Isabelle Ritter

Today’s altar flowers are given by Talea & Chris Merrison to honor the 6th birthday of their son Lorcan Merrison – 3/2 and to honor the 1st birthday of their granddaughter Lucille Merrison – 3/12.



The eternal candle is presented by the Elisa Walker Family in her memory.

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Cole Barkley | Helen Barto | Luke Clawson |
| John Vrana | Mark Phillips | Michael Clawson |
| Nancy Riedel | Josh Green | Mary Lutz |
| Stephanie Hogan | Sue Goehring | Annastyn Hogan |
| Raquel Barron | Patty Grubbs | Kim Morris |
| Carol Kerr | Dan & Mary Brittner | Kay Burr |
| Lucille Wingard | Glen Walker | Buck Ott |

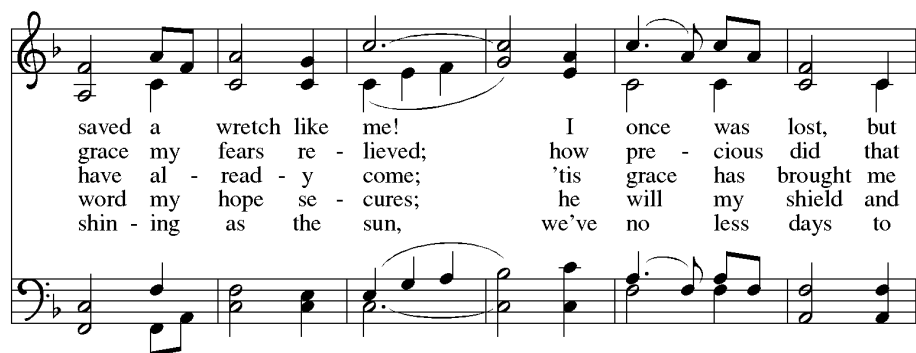
Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter’s in your prayers.

“The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

SENDING HYMN: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for March

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



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)
Synodical Bishop (SW PA Synod)
Pastor
Music Director and Organist
Office Secretary
Sexton
Acolyte
Assistant Minister
Bell Ringer
Greeters
Lector
Nursery
Tech Support
Ushers

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow
The Rev. Brandon Johns
Marlene Domhoff
Kimberly Peaco
Joe Ludwik
Gus Mossor
Karen Ferrari
Joe Ludwik
Troy & Beverly Barkley
Teresa O'Malley
Beverly Barkley
Heidi Beahm
Adam Price & Rob Burr

St. Peter's Upcoming Events

Mon. – Fri.	4 – 6 pm	After School Program
Mon. March 11	6:55 pm	Anniversary Meeting
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:00 pm	Sowers
Tues. March 12	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Wed. March 13	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. March 14	9:00 am	Quilters Group
	6:00 pm	Meager Meal
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	8:00 pm	Bible Study
Sat. March 16	6:30 pm	Game Night

Lutherlyn Campaign – Today is Commitment Sunday! There are statement of intent forms by wherever you received your bulletin. You are invited to be a part of the future of Lutherlyn, by filling out a pledged financial contribution on these forms. Any support is helpful and all goes toward growing the faith of our youth in vital ways for years to come at our own Camp Lutherlyn. Keep the white copy for your records and return the other slips to the basket which is on the table under the bulletin board. Thank you for your support!

Fasting for Change - This Lent you are invited to donate the money you would have spent on what you have given up to help us to bring the President of the Toliara Synod of Madagascar to our congregation and synod for a fellowship-building visit. Coin boxes are on tables in Luther Hall or you are welcome to mark the Other line on your contribution envelope. *Note: offerings given in the contribution envelopes designated to Lent will go toward Lutherlyn's Building for the Future campaign, which has allowed for them to renovate the Amphitheater and will next add new cabins.*

St. Peter's Anniversary - The celebration of our 175th Anniversary has only begun! If you have pictures or news to share from our church history, like pictures from activities or how the inside and outside of the church used to look or wedding photos, please share them with Rita to add to the fun of our celebration.

Did You Know... Youth Night had begun in 1962. The average attendance every Wednesday night was approximately 100 children. The gathering included a meal, classes, social activities and a junior choir rehearsal.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations – There is a box under the bulletin board in Luther Hall for donations for our Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Learning Ministry on Easter morning. We are asking for small prizes and allergy safe candy (individual serving size): smarties, starburst, skittles, Swedish fish, nerds, etc.

Food Cupboard – In honor of our 175th anniversary, we'll keep the giving going with Mac & Cheese in March.

Meager Meals & Service – are being held weekly on Thursdays.

Soup and bread are served starting at 6 pm and the service follows at 7. Please sign up in Luther Hall to donate item for these meals. Hope to see you there!

Keeping the Word Alive Reading & Prayer Vigil (March 29-31)

Holy Week is one of the most spiritually intense times of the whole year, and mirroring the way the Gospels slow down to follow Jesus' every move during his passion week provides us with rich ground for strengthening the roots of our faith. From the conclusion of our Good Friday evening service until the beginning of Easter sunrise service, we will be participating in Keeping the Word Alive at the Foot of the Cross. For about thirty-six hours, we will read continually through the Gospel of John, broken only by readers taking time for prayer or using other provided devotional material to reflect on the magnitude of Jesus' sacrificial love for us. Our thirty-six hour vigil represents the time Christ lay dead in the tomb, but giving audible voice to God's Word reminds us that death is not the victor in this battle. Also this time of incarnating the Word teaches us that we not only play a part in Jesus' death but in the on-going life of his Body. There is a sign up on the red table where you can take a slot or slots to be a reader. Couples, families, or friends may sign up to read and take turns during their window of time. We will also continue our hybrid of in-building and Zoom offerings for reading slots. If you know ahead of time which method that you will use, then you can mark that on the poster, which helps keep the flow of readers smoother as each reader knows how to expect to greet their replacement. A Zoom link will be emailed out later.

Please consider this opportunity to live into Jesus' request of the disciples at Gethsemane to remain with him and stay awake with him (Mt 26:38), and if you have any questions please talk to Pastor or the Worship committee.

Daffodil Jars – For those who bought daffodils, please bring your jars to church by Friday, March 22. Please mark your name on your jar.

Looking Ahead...Lent and Easter



March 14	Meager Meal – 6 pm Lent Service – 7 pm (with communion) Bible Study – 8 pm
March 21	Meager Meal – 6 pm Lent Service – 7 pm (with communion) Bible Study – 8 pm
March 24	Palm Sunday and First Communion Celebration
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service – 7 pm (with communion) -with presentation of <i>The Living Last Supper</i>
March 29	Community Crosswalk – noon (starting here) Good Friday Service – 7 pm Keeping the Word Alive Vigil – 8 pm (through Easter)
March 30	Vigil continues Easter flower and breakfast setup – 11 am
March 31	Easter Sunrise service – 7 am Easter Breakfast – 8 am Sunday School (Egg Hunt) – 9 am Festal Easter Service – 10:15 am

Easter Flowers – If you would like to help decorate our worship spaces inside and outdoors with beautiful flowers, please return the form below by next Sunday. Thank you!

Easter Flower Order Form

Your

Name:

(as you would like it to appear in the bulletin)

If you wish to adorn our church building with Easter Flower(s) during our Easter services, either ***In Memory of, In Honor of,*** or ***To the Glory of God,*** the cost of the flowers are **\$9.00 each.** Orders must be made on or before Sunday, March 17th

I wish to give flowers ***In Memory of the following:***

I wish to give flowers ***In Honor of the following:***

I wish to give flowers ***To The Glory of God:***

Flower:	Color	Quantity
Tulips	Red	
	White	
	Yellow	
	Pink	

Flower:	Color	Quantity
Hyacinths	Pink	
	Blue	
	White	
Easter Lilies	White	
Daffodils	Yellow	

Total # of Flowers Ordered = _____ (\$9.00 each)

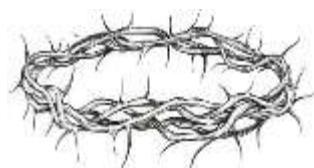
Make check payable to St. Peter's Lutheran church and mark the "Other" line on your donation envelope.

_____ I will pick up flower(s) _____ Deliver to shut ins

_____ Please plant my flowers at the church

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 secretary is in the church office Monday-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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