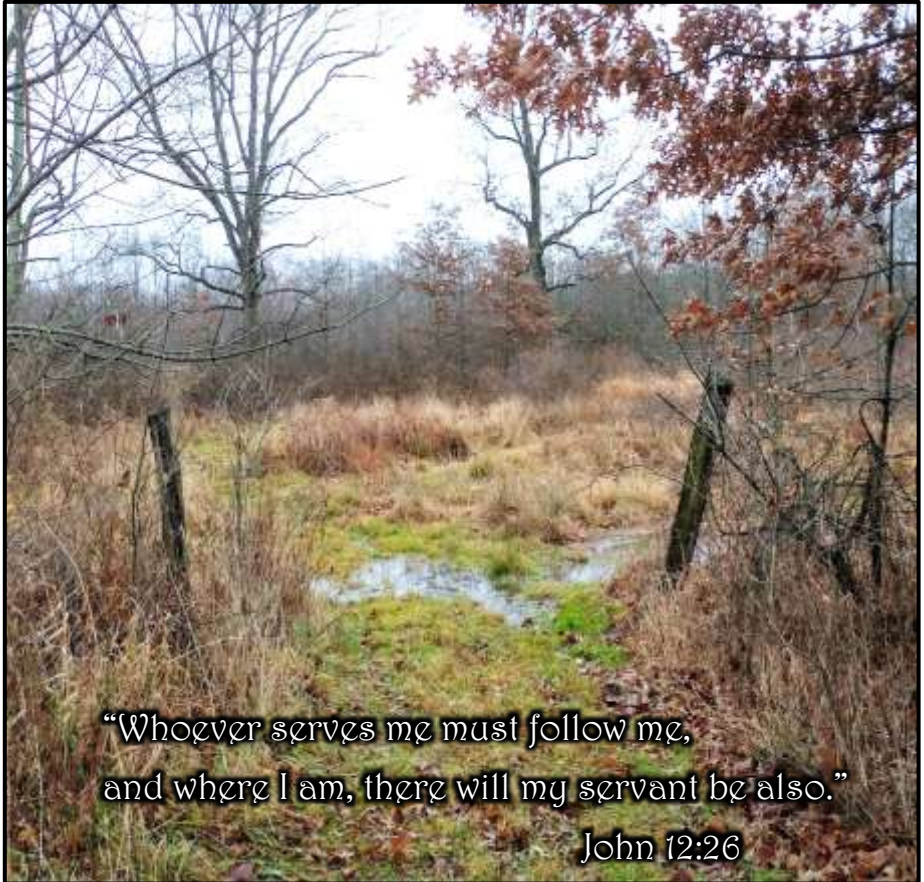


# Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



"Whoever serves me must follow me,  
and where I am, there will my servant be also."

John 12:26

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

*March 17, 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.*

**WINE** *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished".*  
— John 19:30

Feasts and festivities have been marked by the sharing of wine for millennia. On the cross, Jesus was offered vinegar wine as an insult to mock his suffering. As God's suffering servant, Jesus bore every insult and pain that human sin could produce and in return, offered his own lifeblood so all could share in the feast without end.

*We pause to reflect as the wine and grapes are added to the cross garden.*

**GATHERING LITANY*****Lifted Up in LOVE: Protected In 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 blood of Jesus shields us from Satan.  
**So the blood of Jesus seals a place for us in the mansions of heaven.**

***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.***

Though the world may try to break us down and hurt us through trials and temptations, hardships and frustrations, evil and anger, **Nothing can separate from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Covered with the robe of righteousness received through the Crucified Christ,  
**our lives are clothed in divine love that preserves us in the faith to life everlasting.**

Out of God's great love for us in Jesus, we now have the armor of God at our disposal.  
**Decked in the truth, peace and saving Word of God, we can stand firm against the slings and arrows of hatred, doubt and unbelief launched against us.**

We lift high the cross as we march forward in faith,  
**knowing that every step we take is ordained and ordered by God.**

*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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENIOR CHOIR**

*Is This the King?*

Joseph M. Martin

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

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

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

## **PSALM 119:9-16 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>9</sup>How shall the young keep their way clean?

By keeping to your word.

<sup>10</sup>**With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not stray from your commandments.**

<sup>11</sup>I treasure your promise in my heart,  
that I may not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup>**Blessed are you, O Lord;  
instruct me in your statutes.**

<sup>13</sup>With my lips I recite  
all the judgments of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup>**I take greater delight in the way of your decrees  
than in all manner of riches.**

<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your commandments  
and give attention to your ways.

<sup>16</sup>**My delight is in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.**

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

<sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



## GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate

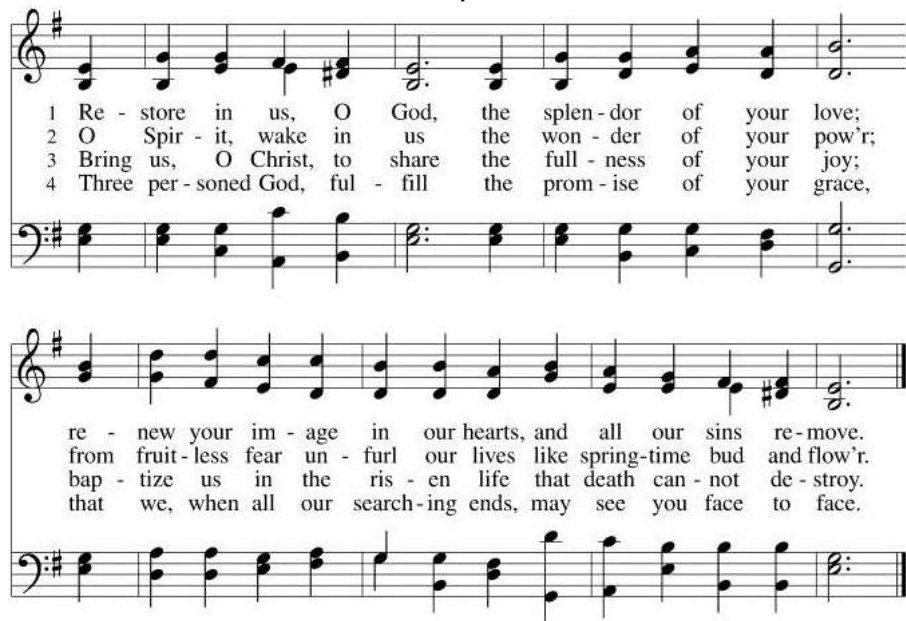
their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: Restore In Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love;  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r;  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;  
 4 Three per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,

re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
 bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 that we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: SOUTHWELL, Daman, *Psalmes*, 1579

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## 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.*

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

***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 processionally, 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.

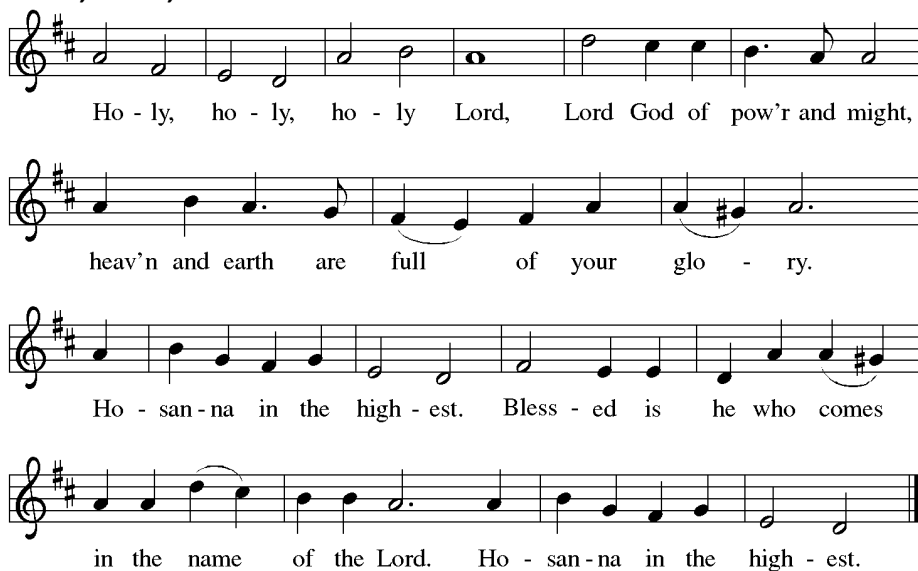
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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: Lift High the Cross** (*on the next page*)

**SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**                      *All Glory Be to Thee*                      Gertrude H. Richolson

<p><i>Today’s altar flowers are given by Bea King in memory of Greg and Alan King</i></p>		<p><i>The eternal candle is presented by the Elisa Walker Family in her memory.</i></p>
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**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        |
| Sandy Mullins         | Glen Walker                    | Buck Ott        |
| MaryAnn & Rich Wetzel | Sandy Critchlow (Davin’s aunt) |                 |
| Lou & Jan McKibben    | The Family of Curt Frank       |                 |

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: Lift High the Cross**

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956  
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947  
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### **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  
Owen Price  
Glenn Fulghum  
Corey Walker  
Dan & Casey Guerriero  
Tom Ayers  
Melissa Bonicky  
Adam Price  
Cindy & Tom Ayers

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#### **St. Peter's Upcoming Events**

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Mon. – Fri.	4 – 6 pm	After School Program
Mon. March 18	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:00 pm	Sowers
Tues. March 19	7:00 pm	WELCA General Meeting
Wed. March 20	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. March 21	9:00 am	Quilters Group
	6:00 pm	Meager Meal
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	8:00 pm	Bible Study

**Lutherlyn Campaign** – Last Sunday was Commitment Sunday; however, if you would still like to join in pledging your support to the Lutherlyn’s Building for the Future Capital Campaign, there are statement of intent forms on the table under the bulletin board. Keep the white copy for your records and return the other slips to the basket there. Thank you for your support!

**Fasting for Change** - This Lent, if you have been saving the money from your fast or if you would just to practice almsgiving, you can place those funds or return your box right into an offering plate. Our offerings will help us to bring the President of the Toliara Synod of Madagascar to our congregation and synod for a fellowship-building visit.

### **St. Peter’s Anniversary**

*Did You Know...* St. Peter’s Pipers was organized in January, 1970. For six years this vibrant singing group entertained and traveled to share Christ’s message. The Pipers will be holding a reunion on July 14, 2024.

**Food Cupboard** – In honor of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we’ll keep the giving going with Mac & Cheese in March.

**Keeping the Word Alive Vigil** – Starting after the 7 pm Good Friday Service, St. Peter’s family and friends will work as a team to keep a vigil until the sunrise service on Easter morning. This is a unique opportunity to deepen our spiritual connection to Christ, the Living Word, in connection with the time he spent in the tomb. The vigil will include reading the Gospel of John as well as other devotional materials. Please sign up for one or more slots!

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

**Last Call for Easter Flowers** – If you would still like to order flowers, today is the last day. Order forms may be found next to the bulletins on the table.

## **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](mailto:stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net)

Pastor Email: [rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org](http://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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