Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Lent

March 3, 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.

NAILS There they crucified him. – John 19:18

Nails are meant to hold things together, useful in building. Rome twisted their purpose for torment, holding flesh and wood together for pain. Jesus repurposed those nails, though, taking our pain of sin into his own, so that God and humanity, through the cross and its nails, might be joined together for all eternity.

We pause to reflect as the nails are added to the cross garden.

GATHERING LITANY Lifted Up in LOVE: Restored 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.

While we ere still sinners, Christ restored us to a right relationship with God through the cross

We are forgiven and free from our slavery to sin because of Christ's perfect love.

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.

No longer do we live for ourselves. But we live for Christ, who humbled himself to the point of death.

We are renewed in Christ to be a blessing to others and refreshed to serve wholeheartedly.

What is old has gone; what is new has come to pass because of the love of Christ on the cross.

As new creations in Christ, we look not to the past but only forward to the glory yet to come, when all will be restored at Christ's return.

A reversal of fortune occurred at the cross when death was defeated and an eternity of love began.

We are the recipients of that eternal love that makes us the beneficiaries of Christ's sacrifice for our sake.

As the water and sunlight renew the earth, so may we be renewed in our love of the Lord, who is the Living Water and the Light of the World.

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

GRFFTING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR What Wondrous Love Is This James Mansfield

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

PSALM 19 (Read Responsively)

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

8The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

12Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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





GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to John, the second chapter.

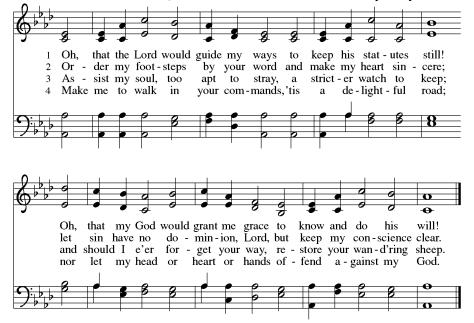
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers

and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. *This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance.

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



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





EUCHARISTIC 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.

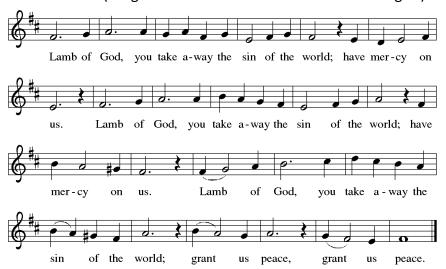
LORD'S PRAYER

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)



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 \oplus give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (on the next page)

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Now Unto the King Eternal Arthur Thomas Gilbert

Today's altar flowers are given in memory of Lydia Grace's 18th birthday and in honor of Nathan's 24th birthday by Neal & Beverly Critchlow



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 The Corniby Family Mary Lutz

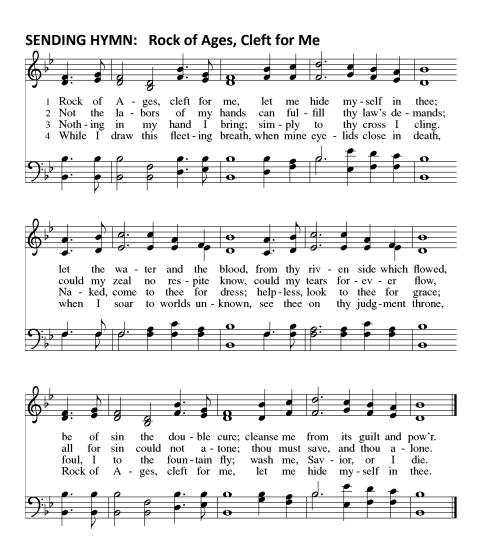
Stephanie Hogan Sue Goehring Annastyn Hogan Raquel Barron Patty Grubbs Kim Morris

Carol Kerr Dan & Mary Brittner Kay Burr
Julie Lucille Wingard Glen Walker

Buck Ott The Family of Jeffrey Banyay

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



Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778 Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

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.

<u>Food Cupboard</u> – Thank you to everyone who donated Peanut Butter and Jelly in February! It was quite the spread! In honor of our 175th anniversary, we'll keep the giving going with Mac & Cheese in March.



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Presiding Bishop (ELCA) The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Synodical Bishop (SW PA Synod) The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow **Pastor** The Rev. Brandon Johns Music Director and Organist Marlene Domhoff Office Secretary Kimberly Peaco Sexton Joe Ludwik Mark Zoelle Acolyte **Trov Barkley** Assistant Minister **Bell Ringer** Davin Beahm Becky Riddle & Pat Painter Greeters Lector Patti Flach **Emily Taylor** Nursery Joe Ludwik & Dan Erin Ushers **Tech Support** Adam Price

St. Peter's Upcoming Events					
4 – 6 pm	After School Program				
6:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting				
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts				
7:00 pm	Property Meeting				
5:30 pm	Manna Night				
7:00 pm	Choir Practice				
9:00 am	Quilters Group				
1:00 pm	Mary Circle				
6:00 pm	Meager Meal				
7:00 pm	Lenten Service				
8:00 pm	Bible Study				
4:00 pm	Fish Fry Dinner				
	4 – 6 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	4 – 6 pm After School Program 6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Property Meeting 5:30 pm Manna Night 7:00 pm Choir Practice 9:00 am Quilters Group 1:00 pm Mary Circle 6:00 pm Meager Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service 8:00 pm Bible Study			

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

<u>Meager Meals & Service</u> – 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!

<u>Fish Fry</u> – This Friday, March 8th, from 4 - 6:30 pm is the Fish Fry. Volunteers and donations are always welcome!

Fasting for Change - This Lent consider not just the discipline of giving something up, but also giving something toward. As part of your Lenten journey, 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. Just a reminder, too, that the commemorative Wendell August Forge ornaments are still available. Please see Marsha Reedy.

Did You Know... Large portions of the basement were dug out by hand after WWII around 50 years after our current church building was constructed? If not, then you missed last Sunday's sermon (3).

<u>Easter Egg Hunt Donations</u> – 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 <u>allergy safe</u> candy (individual serving size): smarties, starburst, skittles, Swedish fish, nerds, etc.

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.



Looking Ahead...Lent and Easter



March 7 Meager Meal – 6 pm Lent Service – 7 pm (with communion) Set up for Fish Dinner – 8 pm (no Bible study) 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 March 28 Maundy Thursday Service – 7 pm (with communion) -with presentation of *The Living Last Supper* 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 March 31 Easter Sunrise service - 7 am Easter Breakfast – 8 am Sunday School (Egg Hunt) - 9 am

Festal Easter Service - 10:15 am

Easter Flower Order Form

Name:					
	(as you	would like it to	appear in the bul	lletin)	
If you wis	sh to adorn	our church build	ding with Easter F	lower(s) c	luring our
			Memory of, In Ho	•	
	•	•	t of the flowers ar	-	
(Orders must	t be made on or	before Sunday, N	/larch 17t	h
I wish to g	ive flowers	In Memory of t	he following:		
I wish to g	ive flowers	In Honor of the	following:		
			_		
I wish to g	ive flowers	To The Glory of	God:		
Flower:	Color	Quantity	Flower:	Color	Quantity
	Color Red	Quantity		Color Pink	Quantity
Flower: Tulips	00101	Quantity	Flower:		Quantity
	Red	Quantity	Flower:	Pink	Quantity
	Red White	Quantity	Flower:	Pink Blue	Quantity
	Red White Yellow	Quantity	Flower: Hyacinths	Pink Blue White	Quantity
Tulips	Red White Yellow		Flower: Hyacinths Easter Lilies	Pink Blue White White Yellow	Quantity
Tulips	Red White Yellow Pink		Flower: Hyacinths Easter Lilies Daffodils	Pink Blue White White Yellow	Quantity
Tulips Total # of	Red White Yellow Pink Flowers Ord	dered =	Flower: Hyacinths Easter Lilies Daffodils (\$9.00 or all the content of the cont	Pink Blue White White Yellow each)	
Tulips Total # of	Red White Yellow Pink Flowers Ord	dered =	Flower: Hyacinths Easter Lilies Daffodils (\$9.00	Pink Blue White White Yellow each)	
Tulips Total # of	Red White Yellow Pink Flowers Ord Make check mark the	dered = payable to St. I "Other" line on	Flower: Hyacinths Easter Lilies Daffodils (\$9.00 or a continuous per	Pink Blue White White Yellow each) church annyelope.	
Tulips Total # of	Red White Yellow Pink Flowers Ord Make check mark the	payable to St. I "Other" line on	Flower: Hyacinths Easter Lilies Daffodils (\$9.00 or	Pink Blue White White Yellow each) church annyelope.	
Tulips Total # of	Red White Yellow Pink Flowers Ord Make check mark the	dered = payable to St. I "Other" line on	Flower: Hyacinths Easter Lilies Daffodils (\$9.00 or	Pink Blue White White Yellow each) church annyelope.	

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: style="color: blue;">

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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