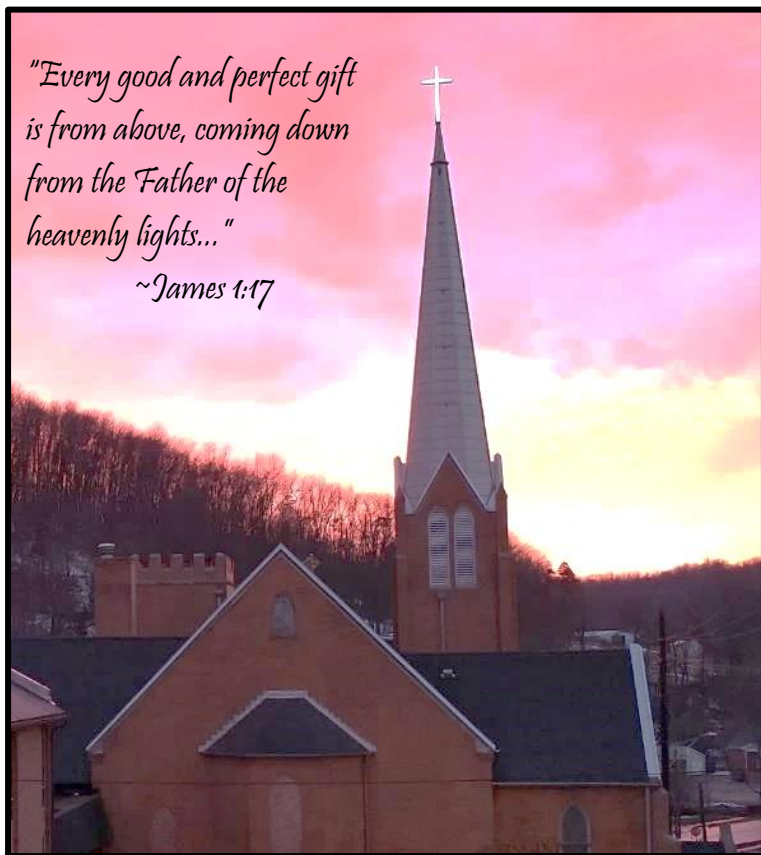


Welcome to  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*September 1, 2024*

*10:15 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: Just As I Am

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871  
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868


## 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.**



## KYRIE


*Refrain*




Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Curt Johns

### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor  
those who fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their  
health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## **GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*The holy gospel according to Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

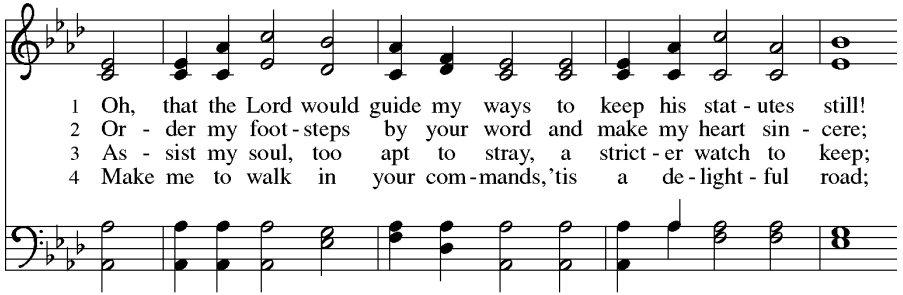
<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

<sup>21</sup>“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*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



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

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

## 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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation,  
and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and  
belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we  
accompany one another in our life with Christ.

***The response for each petition is:***

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of  
your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

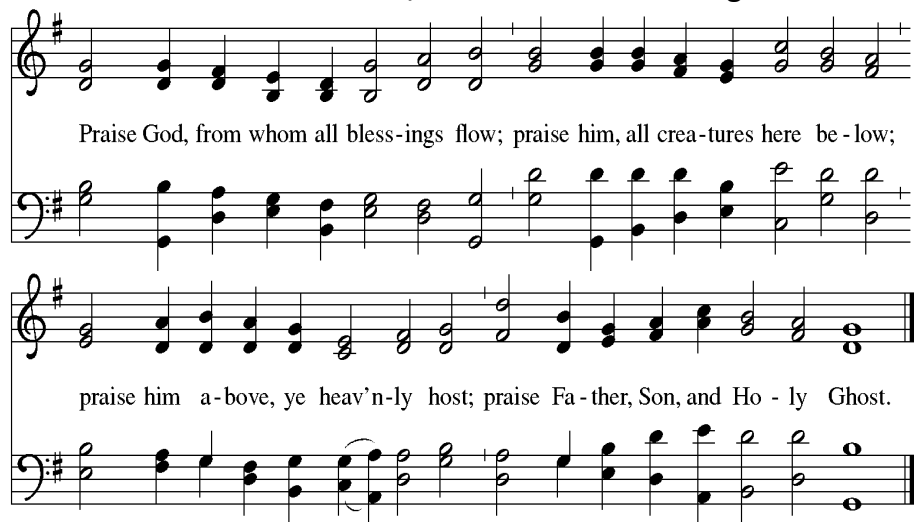
## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*Our offerings are made processionaly, which means dropped into the  
plate located near the entrance to the picnic shelter.*

## OFFERTORY SONG: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. (*silence*) Jesus, Bread of life, **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**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.**

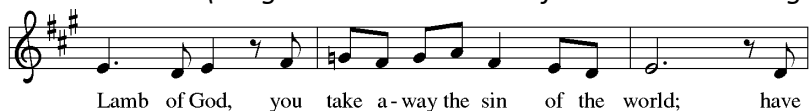
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Let us join together in the heavenly banquet that has no end.

## 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. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim with joy your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus 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 SONG: Be Thou My Vision** (*on the next page*)

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

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Postlude in C*

E. L. Ashford

*The Altar Flowers  
are presented by Rita & Rick  
Reifenstein in memory of  
Martin and Jennie Marburger's  
anniversary on September 2.*

*The eternal candle is presented by  
Teresa O'Malley.  
In celebration of Mike Mashuda,  
and to all grandparents,  
Happy Grandparents Day.*

## SENDING SONG: Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

### **Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:**

Cole Barkley	Sandy Mullins	Luke Clawson
Michael Clawson	Lucille Wingard	Troy Barkley
Pat VanDyke	Jacob Savisky	Maggie Louwagie
Garrie Wearing	Vickie Baker	Aiden Bartley
Alan Wobb	Wendell Banyay	Patty Frishkorn
Max Whitlinger	Joan Gump	Michelle Daniels

The families of Brian Kenney, Andy Szakelyhidi, Greg Swedinski,  
 Helen Barto and Linda Price Young

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### St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

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Mon. – Fri.	4 – 6 pm	After School Program
Tues. Sept. 3	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
Wed. Sept. 4	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. Sept. 5	9:00 am	Quilters Group
	1:00 pm	Mary Circle
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Fri. Sept. 6	12:00 pm	500 Club & Lunch
Sat. Sept. 7	8:30 am	Apple Dumpling Assembly



### **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 (SWPA Synod)	The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow
Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Organist & Music Director	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Gianna Bonicky
Assisting Minister	Robin VanDyke
Bell Ringer	Jason Plank
Greeters	Donna Daugherty & Barb Graham
Lector	Darla Burr Kinkaid
Nursery	Cheryl Thomas
Tech Support	Adam Price
Ushers	Dan Erin & Rob Burr

### **Monthly Benevolent Cause for September**

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause supports Passavant Retirement, Zelie.  
If you would like to support this cause, please mark the **Other** line on your  
contribution envelope **Passavant Retirement**.

**Church directory** – Please sign up for your directory photo session, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> ASAP. Remember that it is completely FREE of charge to have your photo included in the directory. Rita will also be available after worship service if you need assistance registering your appointment. If you cannot physically make it to the church, you can submit your own photo.

**APPLE FEST** – Sept. 20 & 21. Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate toward the making of our apple dumplings and butter. Many hands are needed to measure, cut, mix, and and bake. Please come, volunteer, and have fun and fellowship during our annual event.

**Rally Day** – Next Sunday, we kick of our Sunday school year by gathering in the picnic shelter before breaking out into our classes. Sunday School is for all ages, so please come and be a part of one of the most important ministries we do together as a congregation.

**Food Cupboard** – Pack up is next week! In September, we are collecting items to create **cookie baking kits**. On the table outside of the picnic shelter baking kit bins which have lists of specific items needed. Either sign up to contribute certain ingredients to a bin so it can be filled by a team of volunteers or take a whole bin and return it with all the needed items. We are hoping to supply our neighbors with 20 completed baking kits. Thank you for your help in this ministry of hospitality and outreach!

**St. Peter's Anniversary** - The new **cookbooks** are now on sale for \$12. Please see Rita Reifenstein for more info. Our beautiful St. Peter's Christmas **Ornaments** are still available, at the cost of \$20. Please see Marsha Reedy for more details. Our **dinner celebration** will be on Sunday, October 6 at Lutherlyn. We will gather at 4 pm to begin the celebration programming for the evening and will eat around 5 pm. There is very close parking to the dining hall there and we will have volunteer valets if needed also. Please also consider carpooling. More info will be coming soon.

**Fellowship Outing** – There are just a few tickets left for an exciting road trip to Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA on Saturday, November 2. We will take in a performance of *Daniel* at 3 pm. Those wishing to carpool will leave St. Peter's at 9 am. We'll make a stop for lunch. After the show we'll also stop for dinner and plan to arrive back around 11 pm. Pastor will drive a group. Tickets are \$75. Please see Eilene for more details.

**Rummage Sale** – Next Sunday after worship, we will begin to collect items for our rummage sale. With Luther Hall full of pews, we will store items as best as we can in the garage, the wedding room, and upstairs in the currently set aside room for storage. Please sign up to volunteer to help!

Thankful prayers to God for newly born Benson James VanDyke, son of Tucker VanDyke and grandson of Steven and Robin VanDyke!

## **Welcome to St. Peter's**

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.



### **Newcomers and Guests**

New to St. Peter's? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer). You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.

**Nursery** - is staffed by a volunteer and available for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

### **Staying in Touch:**

Our church office is open Monday, Wednesday, and 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

### **RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:**

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