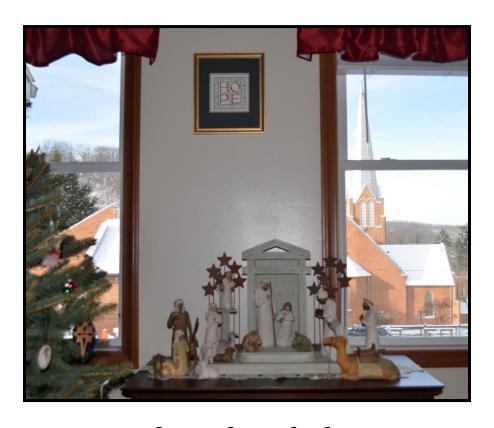
# Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



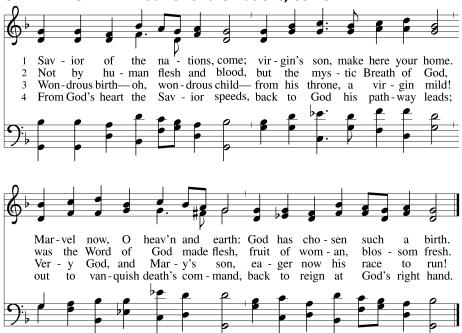
Second Sunday of Christmas with Holy Baptism for Brittany Nicole Green

January 5, 2025 10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

#### **BELL RINGING**





- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

#### GATHERING DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

#### **GREETING**

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

And also with you!

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### THE RITE FOR HOLY BAPTISM

#### PRESENTATION

The baptismal family gathers with the ministers at the font.

We begin the Rite for Holy Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen** 

God, who is rich in mercy, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. In this sacrament, we become children of life, heirs of all God's possessions, God's own children, and brothers and sisters of Christ. As Christ is our brother, we also become brothers and sisters to one another in the communion of all the saints. We begin our new life, we live our new life, and we look forward to the resurrection under the sign of our Baptism. Today God calls Brittany Nicole by name to enter into this inheritance.

With the gift of baptism, comes expected responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,
and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace among all people.

Brittany Nicole, called by the Holy Spirit, knowing in part the responsibilities of the baptismal life in Christ, and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ? *Response: I do.* 

Josh and Kerren, baptismal sponsors for Brittany, do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Brittany and pray for her in her new life in Christ? **We do.** 

The assembly stands as able.

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? *Response: I renounce them.* 

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given praise and honor and worship through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** 

The assembly may be seated.

#### **BAPTISM**

Brittany Nicole is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

May you evermore be clothed with the righteousness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for whose sake God has now made you His child and promises you the fullness of new life.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Brittany with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.** 

Receive the sign of the Holy Cross, as a sign that through your baptism you are participating in the death and resurrection of Christ. Through the cross you have been redeemed; in baptism you receive the fullness of this redemption; and henceforth you are called to take up your cross and follow after Christ.

Brittany Nicole, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Peace be with you. **Amen**.

#### WFLCOME

"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Let us pray: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon this family you have made. Let us ever rejoice in the gifts you have given us. Make us teachers and examples of righteousness for Brittany and all our children. Please also strengthen all of this assembly in our own Baptism so we may share eternally with Brittany the salvation you have given her through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.** 

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The newly baptized is introduced to the assembly.

**SENIOR CHOIR** We Three Kings of Orient Are

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." 8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

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

says the LORD.

### PSALM 147:12-20 (Read responsively)

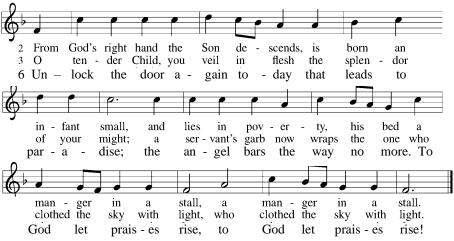
- <sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
- <sup>13</sup>who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.
- <sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- <sup>15</sup>God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.
- <sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
- <sup>17</sup>God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?
- <sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.
- <sup>19</sup>God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.
- <sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

# SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were

marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!** 





#### GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to John, the first chapter.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

#### SERMON

#### HYMN OF THE DAY: O Word of God Incarnate



- O Word of God in car nate, O Wis dom from on high,
- 2 The church from you, dear Mas ter, re-ceived the gift di vine;
- 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav ior, a lamp of bur-nished gold







Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693

#### COUNCIL INSTALLATION

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love.

# The response for each petition is:

God of grace, receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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: Angels, from the Realms of Glory**



- 1 An gels, from the realms of glo ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth; 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- Sa ges, leave your con tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi sions beam a far;
- 4 All cre a tion, join in praising God, the Fa ther, Spir it, Son



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:

God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.

seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.

ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

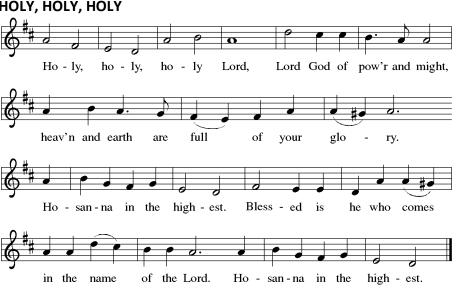
Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

#### 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**

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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 in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored to him.

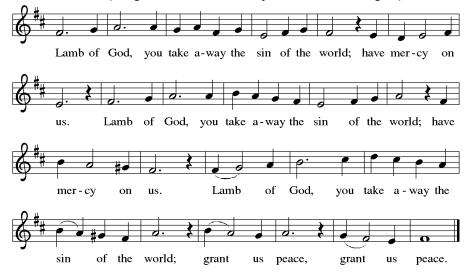
By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold to pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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



# 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** 

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

#### **BLESSING**

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

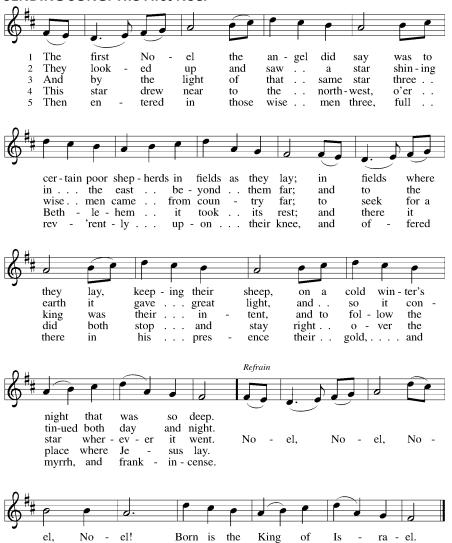
#### **PRAYFR**

Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.** 

#### **BENEDICTION**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ-Child. And may Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### SENDING SONG: The First Noel



Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

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

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the love of the Messiah. Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE** Postlude in C Minor Charles E. Sergisson

# **Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for January**

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

The eternal candle
is presented by
Teresa O'Malley:
Happy New Year and may
the Lord bless us all!

Today's altar flowers are presented by Dan and Casey Guerriero in loving memory of Sue Ludwik who was born in January

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley Troy Barkley Luke Clawson Roberta Domhoff Lisa Burr Gary Checkan Kay Burr Tony Platek Roy Marburger Mary Marburger Long Tim Crutchfield Berty McMillen John Kriebel David & Betty Wobb Albert Dorlain Pastor Tony Schneck Ailisha Raquel Barron Susan Lohr

Fred Sharrar

The families Norma Iman, Paul Emmett, and Lucille Wingard

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

	St. Peter's Upcoming Events:	
MonFri.	4-6:00 pm	After School
Mon. Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Fellowship Mtg.
Tues. Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Property Mtg.
Wed. Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study

<u>Pot Luck Epiphany Luncheon</u> - Our annual Advent Friend reveal and Epiphany luncheon will be held **today** immediately following worship. EVERYONE is invited to bring a dish to share and listen to stories of those who participated in Advent Friends 2024.



#### 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 Acolyte Lily Johns **Assisting Minister** Anna Plank **Jason Plank** Bell Ringer Cheryl & James Thomas Greeters **Cheryl Thomas** Lector Linda Schmidt Nursery **Tech Support** Adam Price Ushers Dan & Casey Guerriero

<u>Nursery</u> – With the nursery being back to regular use, we could use some older children and teens as assistants. Please let Adam Price or Beverly Barkley know if you're interested. Thank you!

<u>Sign Ups</u> – The flower chart, eternal candle, and newsletter sponsorship sheet as well as a sign up for After Worship Fellowship are available on the bulletin board in Luther Hall. Please consider serving in one or more of these ways. Thank you!

<u>Luminaries</u> - Many thanks to everyone who sponsored luminaries this year. A special thank you to Robin VanDyke for organizing the sponsorship of luminaries and the team of volunteers who prepared the luminaries for all to see. Another special thank you to those who cleaned up and put the luminaries away for use next year.

<u>The 2025 Offering Envelopes</u> - are available in your church mailbox, located in Luther Hall. Please remember to keep your membership active a contribution and communion of record in this calendar year or the preceding year is necessary.

# Excerpts from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther's Christmas Sermons:

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening with our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his humanity. Look upon the Baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, except for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. See how God invites you in many ways. He places before you a Baby with whom you may take refuge. You cannot fear him, for nothing is more appealing than a baby. Are you frightened? Then come to him in the lap of the fairest and sweetest girl. You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to us than this, that Christ became human, a child, a baby, playing in the lap of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to this gurgling baby and believe that he has come, not to judge you, but to save.

On the day that I die, I will see nothing but sheer blackness except for this light: "To you is born this day a Savior." The Savior will help me when all fails. When the heavens, the stars, and all creatures fade, I see nothing in heaven and earth except for this child. This light is so great that I can say, "Dear Mary, you have borne this Child not for yourself alone. You are indeed his mother. But I have an even greater honor than yours as a mother. Your honor is to be the mother of this child, but my honor is this – I know no one, human or angel, who can help me as can the Baby that you, dear Mary hold in your lap."

Let us for the sake of this Child, count all gold, all power, all honor as nothing. Let us see that compared with this Child, the stars in heaven are nothing. Then we will know the true meaning of the angel's message: "To you is born this day a Savior!"



# St. Peter's Lutheran Church

# **SOUP SALE**



\*Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>\*
\$10.00 per Quart
\$3.00 per Loaf of Bread

# Orders due by Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> \*Please make checks payable to WELCA

Name	Phone	
Choice of Soup	Number of Quarts	x \$10.00
Potato		
Stuffed Pepper		
Chicken Noodle		
Wedding Soup		
Loaves of Bread	Quantity x \$3.00	
	Total Amou	ınt

<u>To place orders, please return this form to the church office.</u> For more information contact Christine Johns (571) 212-0449

Proceeds support the local families in financial need and widows in Madagascar.

\*Soup orders may be picked up
Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30 pm
or delivered to homebound upon request

# 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 through 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: <a href="mailto:stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net">stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net</a>
Pastor Emailto: <a href="mailto:stpeterslcec.net">stpeterslcec.net</a>
Pastor Emailto: <a href="mailto:stpeterslcec.net">stpeterslcec.net</a>
Pastor Emailto: <a href="mailto:stpeterslcec.net">stpeterslcec.net</a>
Pastor

Church Website: <a href="www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org">www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org</a> 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:**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24133.New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.