

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Festal Easter Service

April 20, 2025

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

WELCOME AND COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Welcome to worship this Easter morning! Having journeyed with Christ to the cross, now we encounter his empty tomb. The baptismal promise of a resurrection life like Jesus' after having joined him likewise in death takes sharper focus in light of this journey to the cross and empty tomb. Each Sunday, we celebrate the mystery of Jesus' incarnation and resurrection, but on this day of all days, our praises soar to new heights as Jesus' victory over death comes more sharply into focus. Here, also, in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we encounter the real presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord who has been resurrected unto everlasting life. If you are new to this gathering of disciples, please commune with us believing that Jesus is truly present for all of us who gather in his name, and especially when we share in this holy meal together. We have gluten free wafers for those who need them. If you or your child do not normally receive Holy Communion, you are still welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, offered by Pastor. Please also let an usher or Pastor know if you are unable to come forward and would like the elements brought to you. Finally, if you would prefer to commune from your seat with prepackaged elements, those are available by the bulletins and you are welcome to participate in the Sacrament through Jesus' extended table.

BELL CHOIR PRELUDE

An Easter Celebration
Easter Triumph

Robin Benton
Dan Edwards

BELL RINGING



RESURRECTION GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Al - le - lu - ia!

GATHERING LITANY

Day has dawned and shadows are left behind.
The stone is rolled away and hope is reborn.

**This is the day that our God has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

God opens to us the gates of righteousness.
We enter to give thanks to our God.

**We give thanks, for our God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Set your mind on things that are above.
Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Look up and welcome Christ's appearing.

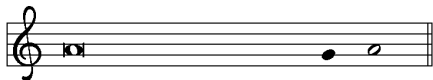
**We have been raised with Christ.
Glory is being revealed to us on this holy day.**

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

Let us greet one another in peace with the strong name of
the Living Christ. *(Peace is passed at this time. Please remain
standing after peace is shared.)*



KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



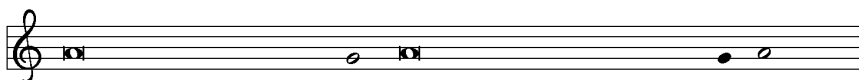
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



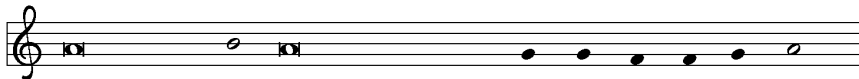
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR *Christ Is Risen, Alleluia!* Albrecht & Althouse

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24 (*Read Responsively*)

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

²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26

¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
- 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
- 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
- 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909

Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries, that their work plant seeds that flourish.

The response for each petition is:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionaly, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the front and rear of the nave.

OFFERING SONG: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

(chord is played then all sing)



Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal
Ea - ster tri - umph Ea - ster joy! This a -



sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bo - dy for the feast -
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love
lone can sin des - troy; from sin's pow'r Lord set us free,

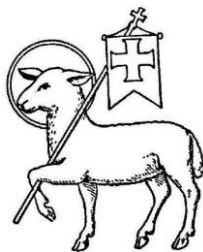


Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!
new - born souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

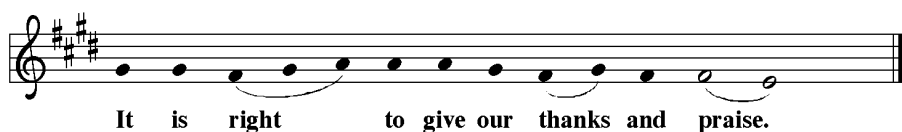
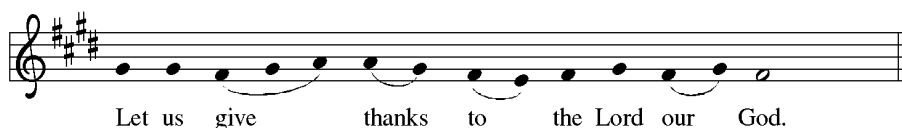
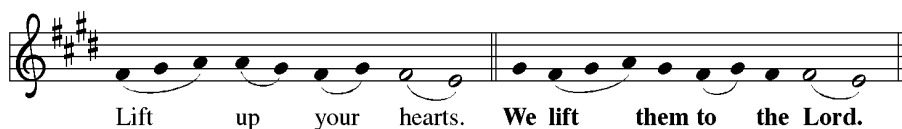
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. *(silence)*

Blessed are you, **O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

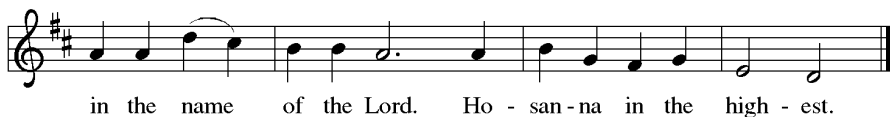
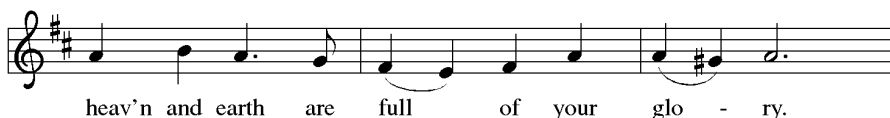


DIALOGUE



THE PROPER PREFACE *(It is indeed right... join their unending hymn)*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way,
at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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,

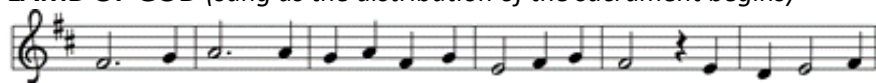
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven.

Hallelujah!

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. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world with joy in Jesus' name. **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: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! *(on the next page)*

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Benton Price

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley

Luke Clawson

Gary Checkan

Pr. Tony Schneck

the Jason Family

Stephanie Hogan

Amy Grigorovich

Berty McMillen

Jerry McElhinny

Cliff & Liz Mashuda

Clark Graham

Dale Weisz

Dave & Patty Grubbs

Ron Hartman

Joe Galarneau

Dominick Scarpino

Kay Marburger Terry

Garrie Wearing

David Knight

Jane Raupp

Emma Plank

Rick Robertson

Pastor Jack Delk

Linda Almsy

The families of Mark Hannah and Tim Mick

*The Altar Flowers
are presented by the
Family of Helen Barto
honoring the Anniversary of
Helen and Paul Barto*



*Today's eternal candle is in
memory of Ruth & Claire Hoffman,
Ed Smith, and in honor of the
birthdays of John Hoffman, Steve
Brittner & my granddaughter,
Chelsea Barron, by Teresa O'Malley*



SENDING SONG: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turms to life once more;
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris-ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the worship spaces beautiful with Easter flowers! *(For a full list of sponsors, please see the enclosed insert.)*



Families who gave flowers To the Glory of God:

Kelly Anthony & Mike Mazur, The Erin Family,
Pastor & Christine Johns, Brian & Danielle Johns,
Teresa O'Malley—*Gloria Deo!* Colleen Prenovitz, Marsha & Don Reedy

Thank You – a special thank you to everyone who donated items to make the Easter Egg hunt a wonderful experience for our youth. Many thanks to SPY for filling the eggs for the kids as well. Thank you also to everyone who volunteered to Keep the Word Alive through the Easter vigil.

Dorcas Circle – Next meeting will be at Teresa O'Malley's house on April 22 at 7pm. We will be making the favor for the Mother Daughter Banquet. Bring a hole punch if you have one.

Mother Daughter Banquet – will be held on Tuesday, April 29th at 6:30p.m. in Luther Hall. Please bring a dish to share and your table setting. Our program this year will be Washboard Tony and Rockin' Rob. All women and girls are invited as we are all daughters and sisters in Christ. Hope to see you there.

WELCA Spring Invite – Saturday May 3, 'Peace Through the Storm' at Redeemer Trinity Lutheran Church, Monaca, PA. For more information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board in Luther Hall or contact Teresa O'Malley.

Thrivent Action Team Cards – Are you a member of Thrivent and would like to sponsor projects at St. Peter's with an action team card? If so, please see what projects could still use sponsorship in 2025 on the sign-up sheet in Luther Hall. Also, if you need any help, please see Pastor or Heidi Beahm. You are welcome to add new projects to the list as well! This list is our first attempt at responding to the request by Thrivent members for a better way of knowing how they can help the church through their access to Action team cards.

RUMMAGE Sale – Our Spring Rummage Sale is May 2nd and 3rd. Clean, unbroken donations are accepted beginning today. Large furniture items and electronics are acceptable as long as those who bring them are willing to take them back if they don't sell. Thank you! Volunteers are accepted too! Please see the sign up for times.



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Music Director and Organist	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Myka Plank
Assisting Minister	Ted Lindgren
Bell Ringer	Wes Schmidt
Greeters	Pat Capella & Dean Zinkhann
Lector	Robin Plank
Nursery	Cheryl Thomas
Tech Support	Adam Price
Ushers	Joe Ludwik & Dan Erin

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon.-Fri.	4-6:00 pm	After School Program
Tue. April 22	7:00 pm	Dorcas Circle
Wed. April 23	10:00 am	Community Quilting
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur. April 24	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Sat. April 26	6:30 pm	Game Night

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for April

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

Welcome to St. Peter's

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



Newcomers and Guests

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

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

Staying in Touch:

Our secretary is in the church office Monday-Friday from 9 am until noon. Pastor is often there also or by appointment. Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 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.