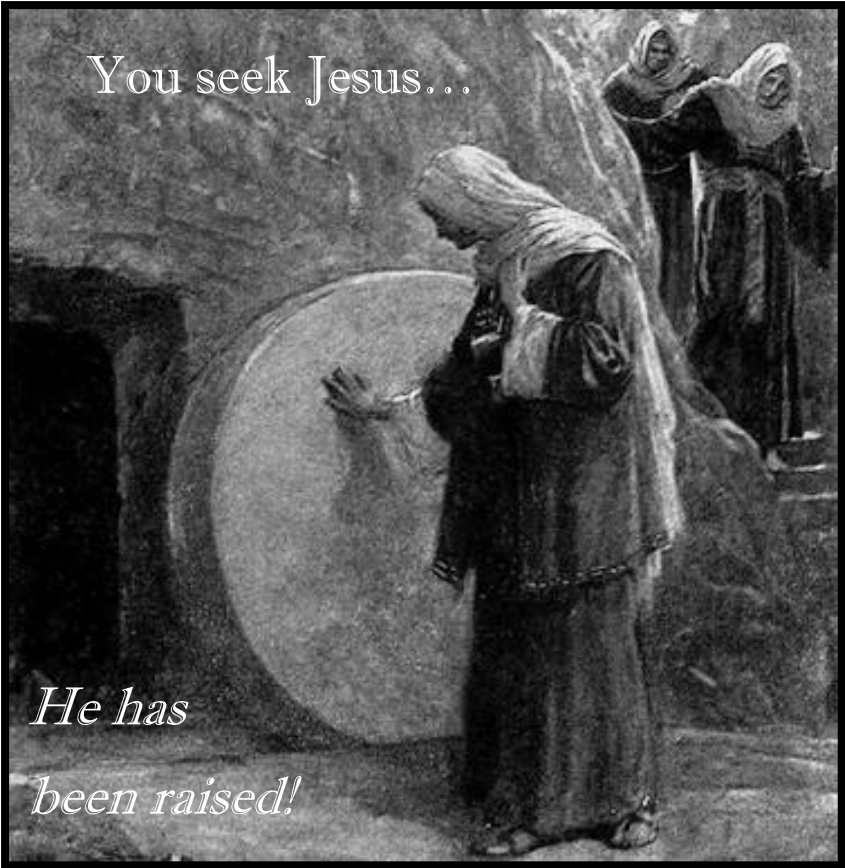


Welcome to  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



You seek Jesus...

*He has  
been raised!*

*Easter Sunrise*

*April 20, 2025*

*7:00 a.m. Worship Service*

*Pastor Brandon Johns*

*Welcome to worship this Easter morning. We gather here early amid hushed tones that are befitting the somberness of the men and women who were disciples of Jesus. To them, it had seemed as though death and darkness had won, and all that was left was to care for a lifeless body. As the first ray of light breaks at dawn, so the Word, kept alive during our vigil, pierces the darkness with promised hope. The confidence of that hope builds as the hues of sunrise give way to the certainty of the new day, which is reflected in our service as the Word continues to build into our litany, peace sharing, and faith affirmation. With the altar reappointed, carrying with it the elements in which we encounter the real presence of our Risen Lord, the sublime reality of Christ's resurrection dawns upon us, as it would his disciples, and we break forth in awe-filled, joyous songs of highest praise and thanksgiving for the one who bore the cross and overcame death, that we might live with him also. May this gathering and this service shine the resurrection dawn into your life.*

### **INVOCATION**

In the Name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, Man of Nazareth in Galilee, Victor over death, Lord of all things. **Amen.**

### **GATHERING LITANY**

Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.

**Lord, grant us faith in the risen Christ.**

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

**Lord, grant us belief in eternal life.**

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortality must put on immortality.

**Lord, grant us courage for the future.**

We have an inheritance, which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading.

**Lord, grant us power over defeat.**

By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

**Lord, grant us hope for the new day.**

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.

**Lord, grant us victory through Christ.**

People of God, Christ is Risen.

**Amen, He is Risen . . . risen from the dead! Alleluia!**

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.)*

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Because Christ Lives . . . We are Redeemed +  
**God is love – and we receive that love through His Word,  
the Word made flesh in His beloved Son, Jesus.  
This is the greatest love we will ever know –  
that God would send His Son to us to redeem us  
and to show us how to live and how to love each other +**

Because He lives . . . His Spirit Lives in Us +  
**Through the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
we have the power of Christ in us –  
the power to forgive, as we have been forgiven . . .  
And the power to love one another, just as God loves us.  
And greatest of all,  
the power of His Spirit grants us the blessed gift of His peace +**

Because He lives . . . We Praise Him +  
**We rejoice and give thanks and praise to Almighty God  
who so loved us that He sent His Son to live among us.  
His life, death, and resurrection invite us to believe in Him  
and come to Him. This is why we celebrate Easter –  
because Jesus Christ is Risen and He Lives +**

**From death to LIFE . . . . . The Altar is Appointed**

## RESURRECTION VICTORY HYMN: 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!

## 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.**

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how 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. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not 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. <sup>42</sup>He 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. <sup>43</sup>All 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!*

**SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

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

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

**SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM** *Christ Is Risen, Alleluia!*

by Sally Albrecht & Jay Althouse

## **GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body.

<sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The 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. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But 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: 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!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(from Hippolytus's *Apostolic Traditions* ca. 217 AD)

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We have them with the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord. **It is proper and just.**

We give thanks to you God, through your beloved son Jesus Christ,  
whom you sent to us in former times as Savior, Redeemer,  
and Messenger of your Will,  
who is your inseparable Word, through whom you made all,  
and in whom you were well-pleased,  
whom you sent from heaven into the womb of a virgin,  
who, being conceived within her, was made flesh,  
and appeared as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and the virgin.  
It is he who, fulfilling your will and acquiring for you a holy people,  
extended his hands in suffering,  
in order to liberate from sufferings those who believe in you.

Who, when he was delivered to voluntary suffering,  
in order to dissolve death, and break the chains of the devil,  
and tread down hell,  
and bring the just to the light, and set the limit,  
and manifest the resurrection,  
taking the bread, and giving thanks to you, said,  
"Take, eat, for this is my body which is broken for you."  
Likewise the chalice, saying,  
This is my blood which is shed for you.  
Whenever you do this, do this in memory of me.

Therefore, remembering his death and resurrection,  
we offer to you the bread and the chalice,  
giving thanks to you,  
who has made us worthy to stand before you  
and to serve as your priests.



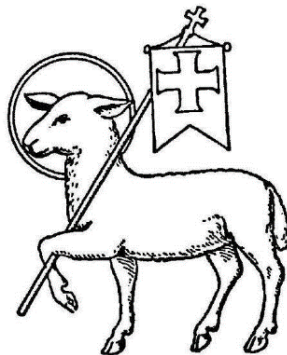
And we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit to the offering of your Holy Church. In their gathering together, give to all those who partake of your holy mysteries the fullness of the Holy Spirit, toward the strengthening of the faith in truth, that we may praise you and glorify you, through your son Jesus Christ, through whom to you be glory and honor, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, now and throughout the ages of the ages. **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

*Here 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 this holy meal together. We have gluten free wafers, so please let the pastor know if you need one. If you or your child do not normally receive Communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing, just let the pastor know.*

## 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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

*(Following the Post Communion Blessing and Prayer, if weather permits, we will leave the Sanctuary directly and gather outside, which was the first place that our Risen Lord was encountered as dawn broke long ago. Follow those who are leading the service. Please take this bulletin with you as the liturgy for the service continues on the following pages.)*

## **OFFERING**

*If you have not already placed your Easter offering in one of the plates beside where you picked up your bulletin, then you are invited to do so as we make our way outside. Should we be unable to continue worship outside, please make your offering at the conclusion of the service.*

## **LITURGY FOR THE WELCOME OF THE SON, WHO NEVER FAILS**

### **PRAYERS AT THE DAWN OF RESURRECTION**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In Your mercy, let us share the divine life of Him who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

By whose authority are you here?

**We are the ones Christ called friends.**

What path do you follow?

**By the grace of God we follow the way of the Risen Christ.**

Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

Let us pray. O God, strength of the powerless and light of all darkness: Look in mercy upon your Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world experience and see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through Him from whom they first took being, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE PSALMODY: Psalm 118:1-2, 15-24**

Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good, and His love is eternal.

**Let the people of Israel say, "His love is eternal."**

Listen to the glad shouts of victory in the tents of God's people:

"The Lord's mighty power has done it!"

**"His power has brought us victory, his mighty power in battle!"**

There are glad shouts of victory in the tents of the righteous:

**the right hand of the Lord is exalted.**

Open to me the gates of righteousness:

**That I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.**

I praise you, Lord, because you heard me,

because you have given me victory!

**The stone which the builders rejected as worthless,  
turned out to be the most important of all.**

This was done by the Lord; what a wonderful sight it is!

**What a wonderful day the Lord has given us;**

**let us be glad, let us celebrate!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**



## COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Spread the message: Christ is alive!

Live the good news: our lives are renewed!

**We have seen and heard the good news.**

**We have been touched by the presence of Christ.**

Share the Word: God's peace is offered to all.

Communicate the power of love: be transformed.

**We are saved and reconciled and empowered.**

**God has chosen to make all things new.**

Announce and proclaim: God is our strength.

Rejoice in the promise: We shall triumph over death.

**This is the day which the Lord has made!**

**This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia!**

## BENEDICTION

Children by the grace of God, one in Christ, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, rejoice in the resurrection and live in hope, peace, and joy.

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

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and raise you to newness of life, now and forever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the risen Christ.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** (if indoors) *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* Humphrey Turner

*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*

## 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 Park.

### ***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

**Food Drive** – We are collecting Hamburger Helper in April. Please consider donating to help our neighbors in need.

**Clothing Cupboard** – The women of the church are hoping to reopen the Clothing Cupboard. We are in need of volunteers the first and third Fridays in the morning. Please see Colleen Prenovitz. We are not accepting clothing at this time. Thank you.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

**RUMMAGE Sale** – Reduce - Reuse - Recycle at St. Peter’s with our Spring Rummage Sale for Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Clean, unbroken donations are now being accepted. 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.

**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.

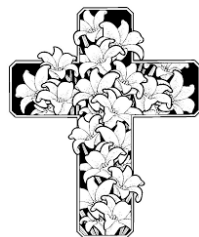
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**St. Peter’s Upcoming Events:**

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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

**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



**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
Organist & Music Director	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Lily Johns
Assisting Minister	Robin VanDyke
Lector	Teresa O'Malley
Greeters	Davin & Heidi Beahm
Tech Support	Heidi Beahm
Ushers	Anna Johns & D.J. Beahm

## **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.

## **Staying in Touch:**

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)

## **RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:**

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