

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

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: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 and sing lead your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

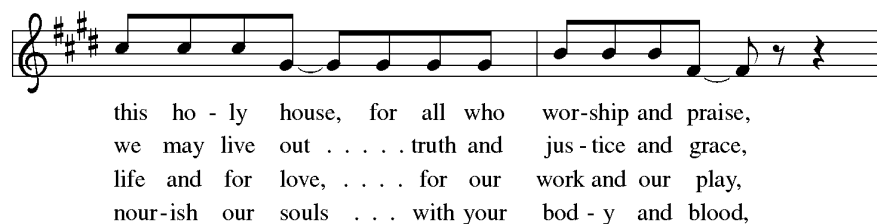
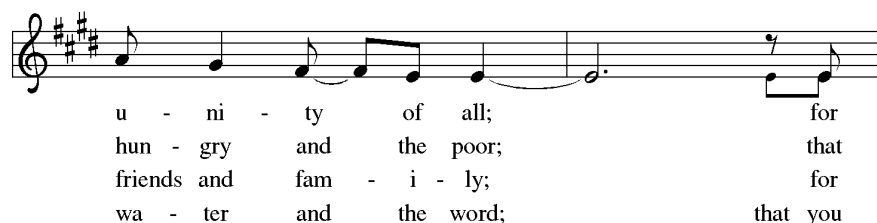
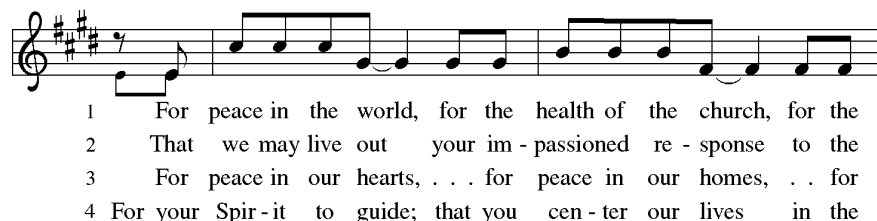
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

- ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
- ⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall,
- ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
- ⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
- ⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

PSALM 146 (*Read Responsively*)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- ² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- ³ Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
- ⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**
- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- ⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
- ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.
- ⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. ¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

²⁷ He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰ He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: God of the Fertile Fields



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

Presentation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Pastor Larry and Deb Mort, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of St. Peter's. They have come to our congregation after many years of faithful service among our sisters and brothers at St. Andrew in Moon Twp.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for Deb and Larry whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Brother and Sister in Christ,
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,
and do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for Deb and Larry in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Together we confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize and the faith that grounds our shared community of believers.

**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.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Continue to graciously pour out upon Larry and Deb, along with this assembly, and all your people 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.**

Welcome

Let us welcome this sister and brother in Christ into the fullness of our community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth.

The response for each petition is: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

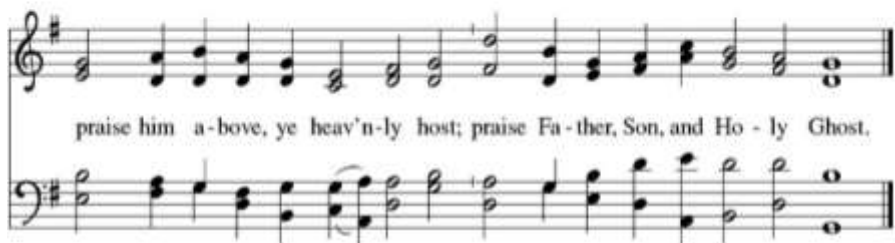
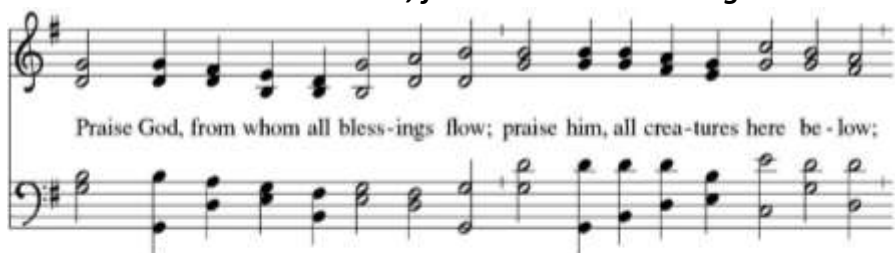
PEACE

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

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processional, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.

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



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. (*silence*) Merciful God, **you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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, Lamb of God.

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. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: We Are Called

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be

Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as

live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain
We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to
love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

5

SHARING FOR SERVING: Birthdays and Mission Notices

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

The Power and the Glory

Roy E. Nolte

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Luke Clawson	John Wilson
Stephanie Hogan	Mary Fulghum	Pr. Jack Delk
Jim Schrader	Eilene Budisky	Jules Stella
Berty McMillen	Rick Reifenstein	Lori Burns

*The Altar Flowers
are given by Jane Taylor
in memory of her brother
Lowry Clawson.*



*The Eternal Candle is given
by Karen Ferrari
in Loving Memory of
Robert & Edith Sarver*



Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for October

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**.

THANK YOU! – A big, heartfelt, Thank You! to EVERYONE who helped in any way to make our annual AppleFest and Rummage Sale the great events that they were. It took many days and many hands to make over 1,000 dumplings and almost 70 gallons of apple butter, as well as, to bring in, set up, sell, and then remove the extra items for the Rummage Sale. All was done with grace and a spirit of togetherness in mission that was uplifting for our church and surrounding community. So far the Rummage Sale has raised over \$2,600 towards Campers, Manna Night, and the After School Program! Apple dumplings sold out midday on Saturday, but there is a little apple butter left if you'd still like to pick some up. Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to the life and ministry of God here at St. Peter's.

Blessing of the Animals – For the first time in six years (how time flies!), we will be holding our special outdoor service where all our friends from the Animal Kingdom are invited to participate in worship and receive a blessing. **It'll be Sunday, October 5, at 1 pm in the picnic shelter.** All humans are welcome as well! Last time, friends from a vet clinic and Animal Friends joined us as part of church members putting in the time and effort to reach out to community partners. If you are interested in filling that role for this year's service, please talk to Pastor.

Manna Night Returns! – We are back to weekly gatherings from 5:30 to 7:15 pm. Our theme is Footsteps in Faith: Adventures in Acts. Please journey alongside us and bring a children or children to this vital ministry where we grow in our discipleship following in the footsteps of the Apostles. We can always use volunteers, too. Please talk to Patti Flach.

Bible Study Returns – If you would like to join this entertaining and enlightening ministry, please let Pastor know so that he can add you to the group email. A link is emailed weekly. Join us this Thursday and get your Fall started on the right foot!

Worship Volunteers – If you are interested in being an Usher, Assisting Minister, Lector, Bell Ringer, Altar Guild, or Acolyte, then please talk to Pastor. We have a great list of volunteers doing a wonderful job but more involvement is welcomed and encouraged!

Spaghetti Dinner – Please come out for a home (church home) cooked meal and fellowship and while enjoying the food and friends, financially support members of our community. Hope to see you on Saturday, October 11 between 4 and 6:30 pm.

Harvest Home – Fall mums are now on sale. Order forms must be returned by October 5th. We'll celebrate Harvest Home on 10/12. Please take a specially decorated bag home with you next Sunday, but even if you don't, then you are still invited to bring food items to donate to the Food Cupboard. After the service on 10/12, we will take the items downstairs and pack up boxes and bags of food.

Blood Drive – The 3rd Annual Elisa Walker Memorial Vitalant Blood Drive will be held on Monday, October 27th from 2-7:00 pm. Please save the date and volunteer to donate at St. Peter's.

PumpkinFest – Please come out for our ninth annual PumpkinFest, which will take place on Saturday, October 25th beginning at 5 pm. Expect heavy doses of our usual fantastic attractions, like pumpkin carving, pumpkin treats, and the spooky house, plus new twists and treats. Support our After School Program, help St. Peter's shine the light of God's presence in our community, and have the most fun to be had for miles around while doing it. Deciding to come to PumpkinFest is easy as pumpkin pie!

Help Please – The Property Committee has been trying for months to find people to give us bids for renovating the downstairs bathrooms, but have come up empty. If you have a person who has done similar work for you or someone else that you know and you or they were happy with the quality and price, then we would appreciate you passing along their information to the committee. Please see Heinie Raupp if you would like to refer someone. Thanks!

Hedge Trimming – If you enjoy topiary, then we have a few bushes and hedges that could use a fall clipping. We have a hedge trimmer and extension cord at the church if needed. No need to talk to someone about it ahead of time, unless you're uncertain of which ones and how much. In that case, it would be best to talk to Pastor or someone else from the Property Committee.

Wedding Invitation – Kierstin Beahm and Kyle Peak would like to invite their entire church family to be a part of their wedding by watching live on YouTube as they stand before God, family, and friends making their vows to each other in holy matrimony. Although they regret being unable to invite everyone whom they love and care about to be in person participants in all the day's activities, your love and support are valuable to them and they look forward to sharing this and many more memories with everyone. Link: <https://youtube.com/live/i75GuVrEcm4?feature=share>



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ELCA Presiding Bishop

SWPA Synod Bishop

Pastor

Organist & Music Director

Office Secretary

Sexton

Asst. Minister

Lector

Acolyte

Bell Ringer

Ushers

Nursery

Tech Support

Greeters

The Rev. Yehiel Curry

The Rev. Melissa Stohler

The Rev. Brandon Johns

Marlene Domhoff

Lisa French

Joe Ludwik

Glenn Fulghum

Adam Price

Meera Lindgren

Davin Beahm

Joe Ludwik & Dean Zinkhann

Beverly Barkley

Heidi Beahm

Luann Brosius & Becky Riddle

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. September 29	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tues. September 30	6:30 pm	Finance Meeting
Wed. October 1	9:00 am	E.C. Ministerium
	10:00 am	Community Sewers
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. October 2	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	1:00 pm	Mary's Circle
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. October 3	12:00 pm	500 Club & Lunch
	5:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Sat. October 4		Kierstin Beahm Wedding

Harvest Home / Fall Mums Order Form

Your Name: _____

(as you would like it to appear in the bulletin)

If you wish to place Flower(s) in the nave during our
Harvest Home service on October 12, either
In Memory of, In Honor of, or *To the Glory of God*,
the cost of the flowers are **\$8 each**.

Orders must be made on or before **Sunday, October 5th**

I wish to give flowers ***In Memory of the following:***

I wish to give flowers ***In Honor of the following:***

I wish to give flowers ***To The Glory of God:*** _____

Quantity Ordered _____

Total Cost (\$8 each) _____

**Make check payable to St. Peter's Lutheran Church
and place in a pew envelope and return to the church office.**

_____ I will pick up flower(s)

_____ I would like the mums to be planted at the church

There are no color guarantees. We will be receiving their best available flowers. However, if you have a color preference, please write it on this sheet in case we can honor it.

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. You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice. 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).

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, 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:

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