

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." -Matthew 11:28

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord, our God, creator of heaven and earth, come into the brokenness of our lives and our land with your healing love. Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance and to bow to one another in real forgiveness. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts and consume the prejudice and pride which separate us. Strengthen us to work for unity and harmony between people of every race, color and creed. Make us instruments of your love, O God, agents of your justice and peace, and good stewards of the richness of this land and the blessings you provide. Guide us and our nation with your holy light until all are one in You. Amen.

PRELUDE

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Lani Smith

BELL RINGING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Let us bring the burden of our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,

we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation.

Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

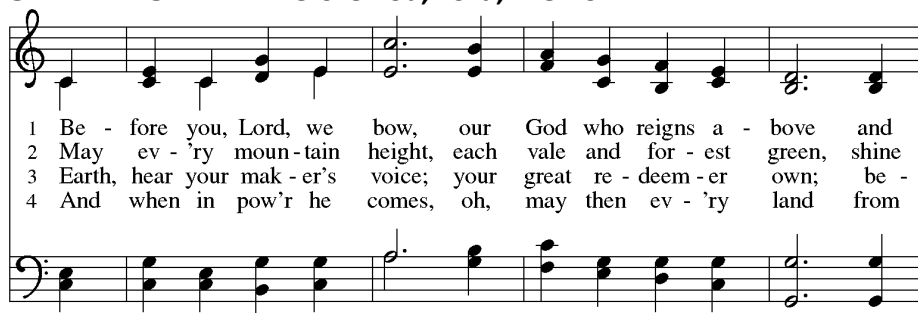
All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins

through the grace of ✠ Jesus Christ,

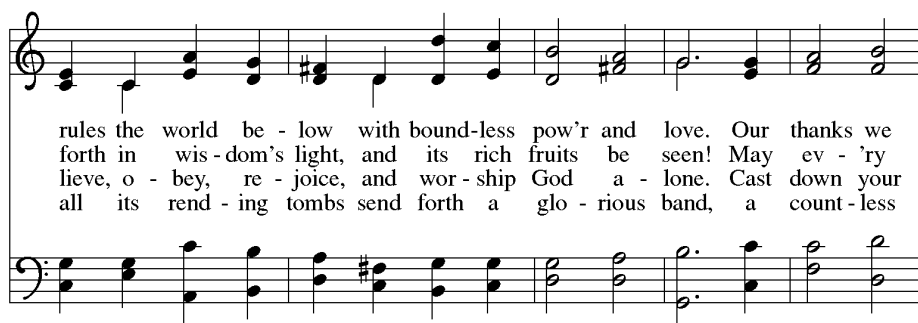
and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Before You, Lord, We Bow



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
 2 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
 3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -
 4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound-less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
 forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
 lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your
 all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!
 tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
 pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
 throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
 Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Refrain

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

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

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

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

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

Refrain

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

PSALM 145:8-14 (Read Responsively)

⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**Lord, you are good to all,**

and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O Lord,

and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom**

and speak of your power,

¹²that all people may know of your power

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;**

your dominion endures throughout all ages.

You, Lord, are faithful in all your words,

and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall

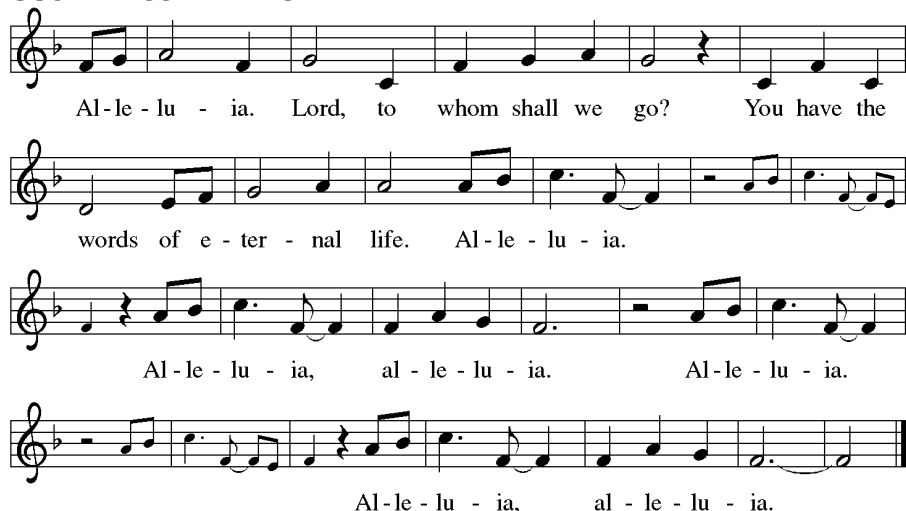
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! *This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the crowd:] “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

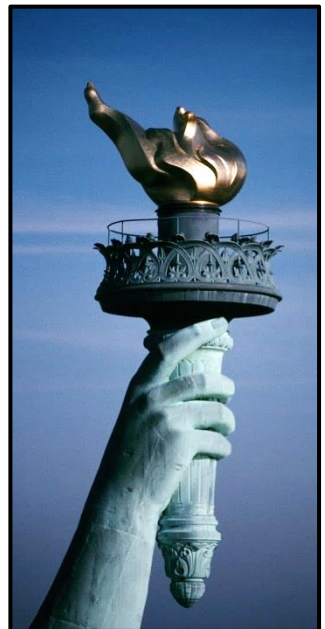
²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

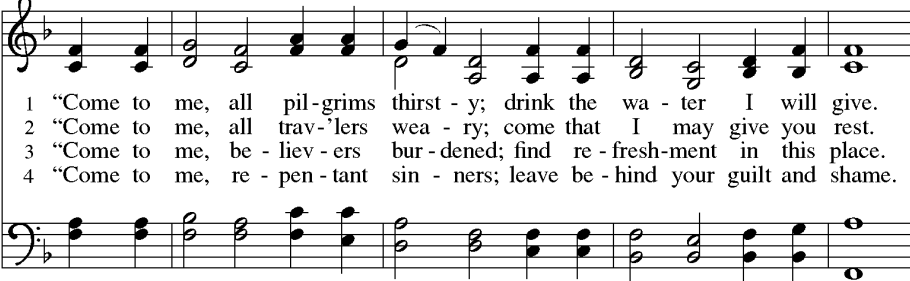
The New Colossus

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

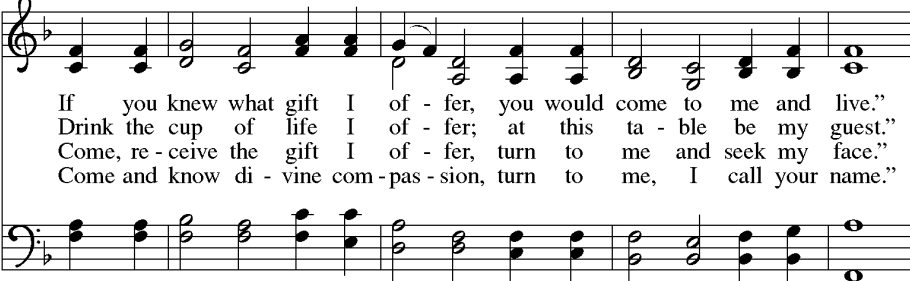
-Emma Lazarus, November 2, 1883



HYMN OF THE DAY: Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
 2 "Come to me, all trav-ers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

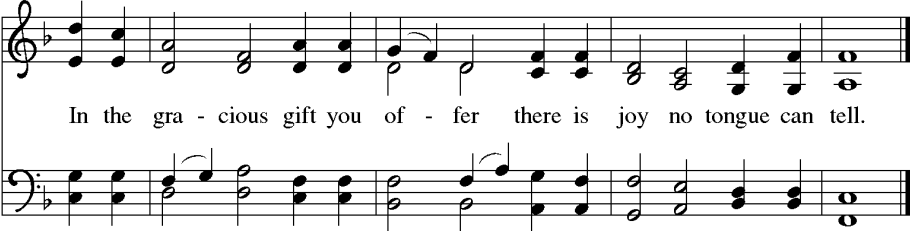


If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
 I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer,
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
 lonely ways no longer roam.
 Come and take the gift I offer,
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

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Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to bear witness to the faith of our hearts in public squares. Bless pastors and bishops with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel.

The response for each petition is:

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

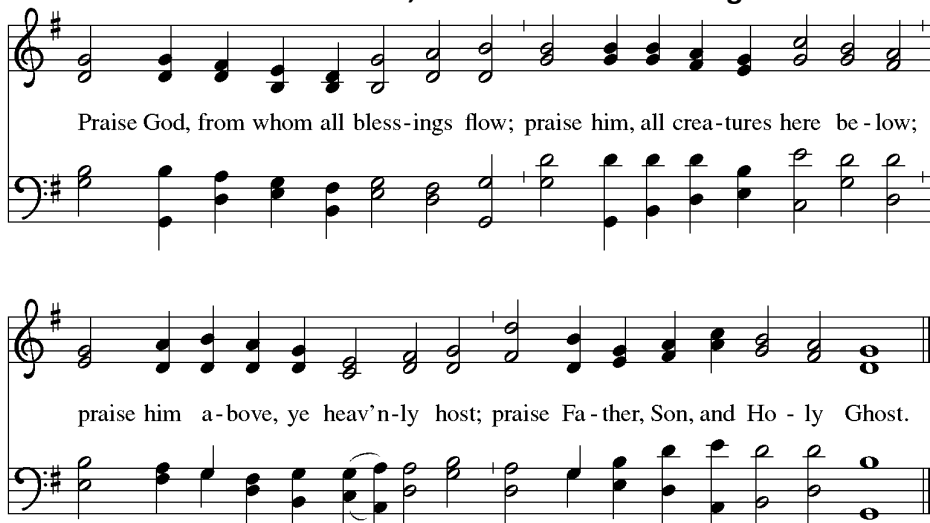
PEACE

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.

OFFERTORY SONG: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. *(silence)* Blessed are you, O God, **for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving you and our neighbors in love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord taught us:
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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



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.

COMMUNION

The Sacrament will be offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *And* The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Optional responses **Amen or Thanks be to God or Renew us, Lord**

BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God the Creator, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve the people of this, and every, land. Keep steadfast our hold on the One who is the Truth. Make us living signs of your liberation and reconciliation, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **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: O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit-ed plain:
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
till all suc-cess be no - ble-ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929

Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

For Spacious Skies!

Rob Roy Peery

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Luke Clawson	Mary Fulghum
Berty McMillen	Stephanie Hogan	Donna Daugherty
Anastyn Hogan	Debbie Beahm	Casey Guerriero
Kerren Morra	Sherill Roberts	Chris Merrison Sr.
Ken Nagle	Ed & Mary Sue Hunia	Greg McCauley
Dale & Beth Weis		

The Families of Mary Vandersyde, Charlie Adomaitis,
Lorna March, and Bud Smelscer

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given in celebration of
Paxton James Heusey's first birthday.
He is the great-grandson of
Tom & Cindy Ayres*



*Today's Eternal Candle
is presented by
Marlene Domhoff
in memory of
Bob Domhoff*

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for July: Evans City Public Library

If you would like to support this cause, please mark the "Other" line on your contribution envelope ECPL.

Featured July Food Cupboard Donation – Toiletries

WELCA School Kits – This year, we will be putting together 100 school kits. Please consider taking a tag or two from the donation poster in Luther Hall and donating the items to help make much needed school kits. If you would rather donate money and have someone do the shopping for you, please see Colleen Prenovitz. The collection will be ongoing through mid-September.

(Please make checks payable to WELCA not St. Peter's Church)

Cookbooks – There are still 5 cookbooks for sale. Please see Rita Reifenstein if you would like one.



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

Sexton

Acolyte

Asst. Minister

Bell Ringer

Greeters

Lector

Ushers

Nursery

Tech Support

The Rev. Yehiel Curry

The Rev. Melissa Stoller

The Rev. Brandon Johns

Marlene Domhoff

Joe Ludwik

Lily Johns

Ted Lindgren

Joe Ludwik

Patti & Charlie Flach

Teresa O'Malley

Tom & Cindy Ayres

Linda Schmidt

Adam Price

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. July 6	6:15 pm	Softball @ ML
Tues. July 7	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
Wed. July 8	10:00 am	Community Quilter
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Thurs. July 9	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	6:15 pm	Softball @ ML



Saturday, October 10th

Time: 1:00 pm

Cost: \$70/adult ticket*

\$54/child ticket*

***tickets include buffet style meal**

Only 35 tickets available!

This year we are attending The Ohio Star Theater at Dutch Valley,
Sugar creek, Ohio. Please see the sign up in Luther Hall.

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.

Offering – Thank you for supporting our ministries! Plates are available at the front and rear of the nave to receive offering, or you if you prefer, we have Venmo as an option. If you choose to use Venmo, please note how you would like the funds to be designated, like for Current Fund, etc.

Peters LCEC

@Peters-LCEC



venmo

Staying in Touch:

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon.

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

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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