

St. Peter's Post 9/1/26

St. Peter's Lutheran Church



From the Pastor

"I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom." ~Psalm 145:1-3

Last year, when the last beach umbrella was packed away in Ocean City, New Jersey, the Johns family knew we'd all be headed to St. Augustine

to celebrate my mom's seventieth birthday at the end of December. It softened the blow of having to leave the shore. This year, we left with far more uncertainty of when and how we'd make it back to the beach next year, not just the next months. Dad, Brian, and I still had our Alaska trip to look forward to then, but now that trip is only pictures, stories, and frozen fish fillets. In the meantime, the girls went back to school, concluding the freedom of summer vacation. Despite all its joy, August was also full of endings, which can be hard, even painful.

How we handle the end of a day, a trip, a season, a life, can change the fondness and joy that we carry forward from them. Often, I am tempted to allow sadness to overcome the rest of my emotions. Sadness at the conclusion of something good is to be expected and shows how much that journey meant to us. However, when it dominates our feelings, then the wonder of all that was experienced gets overshadowed. The immense worth of the day, trip, season, or life gets diminished because we see them only through the lens of the pain experienced due to their ending.

Praise offers us the balance we need whenever our sadness threatens to tip the scales and send us down over a cliff. Praising God for the journey traveled, the joy experienced, and the wonder illuminated through time spent helps me to remember the blessing of what was and appreciate that I was a part of it happening. Praising God for the blessing of what has ended (provided that it was, in fact, a blessed time) casts off the pall that hides in darkness the good of what was and instead shines a loving light that reveals its goodness.

The beach house we have stayed in for the last three years is unavailable the week we need it next summer. Where we'll be able to stay next year is uncertain. Life is full of a million uncertainties that are far worse than that, all threatening to exacerbate the sadness of the endings within life's journey. However, as Christians, we are given a hope to remedy the uncertainty and the sadness. In Jesus, we are promised that none of our joys in this life can rival the joy that is to come, and even life itself ending is but a new beginning of the next part of the eternal life given to us by God. So we praise on.

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Children's Ministry

Our annual back to school blessing was held on August 16th. We hope everyone had a great start to the school year and is shining their lights and sharing God's love in whatever classroom they are a part of this year.



On August 16th, St. Peter's friends and family welcomed Elsie Claire as our newest sister in Christ on Congratulations to proud parents, Robert & Jessica, sponsors, Paul & Kelly, and grandparents, Bob & Mary.



Join us for...

Rally Day
SEPTEMBER 13TH

Sunday School 9 am (for all ages)

Kick off the Sunday school year in the picnic shelter as students are welcomed and then share together in large group learning and activities.

Worship 10:15 am

With students settling in to a new school year, our Manna Night program will be starting back up September 16th at 5:30 pm. Children come together together for dinner, devotions, games, crafts, and service. The evening is geared toward children grades K-6th and teen helpers are enthusiastically welcome! We also need many volunteers in the kitchen and with the various activities, so please see Patti Flach or Pastor Johns if you are able to help.



Children's Ministry *continued*



On August 11th, youth from St. John's & our St. Peter's SPY group participated in a local service day.



Please continue to share info about our **After School Program**.

Take a look at the new playground set up, thanks to Gus Mossor's

Eagle Scout project. He brought together scouts from 5 different troops and logged about 200 man hours!

They also received all the funding through *Journey Signs Travel* and *Home Depot*.





On Saturday, August 15th many gathered for the annual corn roast. A special thank you to the Raupps for donating the delicious corn and to the Fellowship committee for organizing all the fun and Bingo prizes too! The potluck meal was delicious and the desserts were out of this world! God certainly provided a beautiful day for our church family to spend time together.



Wine & Cheese Fellowship Event and Softball Party

A special thank you to Heinie & Jane Raupp for hosting the wine, cheese, and other goodies night at their home on Saturday, August 22nd. It was a wonderful time of togetherness. Games and stories also added to the joy of the night. Fellowship as Christ's body is truly a gift from God.



Thank you to Melissa & Ryan Bonicky for hosting our End of Season Softball Party. There was no trophy to hoist, but I dare say it was the best season yet. Some very prestigious awards were also handed out! Wonderful nights on the field and wonderful fans in attendance made for another great time of fellowship.



Our Women of the ELCA

WELCA SCHOOL KITS

We have had a great response to our school supply collection. Thank you to all who donated. We gathered to string the backpacks at the beginning of August so they are ready to be filled.

Please bring all items to the church by
Sunday, September 6th.



Regular Monthly Meetings:

1st Thursday of each month @ 1pm

Book Study & snacks at the church

4th Tuesday of each month @ 7pm – Bible Study & Dessert

This gathering is hosted in member's homes.



In September, the Dorcas Circle Meeting will be Tuesday, September 15th and the General Meeting will be Tuesday, September 22nd. Come and help put together the school kits.



Announcements

Join your church family and friends
for our monthly lunch outing
Wednesday, September 2nd at 12 pm.

This month's restaurant is Marty's

Anyone is welcome to attend.

Please let Pr. Johns know how many will be joining
from your party so he can pass that along to RSVP.



On **Thursday, September 3rd at 1:00 pm**
our Women's Circle group will be meeting
for a Book Study using *A Conversation with
God, For Women*. Please join us to share in
discussion and fellowship. All are welcome.

Food Drive – Thank you to everyone who
donated toiletries in July. In August,
we will focus on collecting **tissues & paper
towels**.

500 Card Club – Friday, September 4th at noon.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

No experience needed! If you would like
to learn to play, you are welcome to join
in the fun. It's a potluck event so bring
whatever you would like to share.



Join us the 2nd Sunday of each
month after worship to pack
food for folks in our
community in need of a little
extra help each month.



Immigration Discussion – Sunday, September 13th.

Pr. Linda Theophilus from Eastmont Lutheran will be our
guest speaker. She has been an advocate for immigrants
and frequently visits imprisoned immigrants. She will talk
about immigration practices before 2014 and compare
that with current practices. Join us after worship.

Helen's Helpers & Nancy's Needlers

meet once a month to work on sewing
service projects. They are currently working
on school kit bags and clothing protectors.
No experience necessary. There are tasks
that can be done by all skill levels. They will
not be meeting in August, but join them
again **September 14th**.



Beginning **Thursday, September 17th**

The group gathers on zoom at 7:00 pm.

The link is emailed weekly. If you would

like to join let Pastor Johns or Christine

know that you would like to be added to the group email.

We will be accepting clean, ready to sell items on
September 6th. Please do not put price your items.
Larger items need to be able to be taken back if not
sold. Volunteers are needed to make this sale
successful! Proceeds will benefit our Manna Night
program and St. Peter's Campers that attend Lutherlyn.

Set up: Sept. 16th at 7:15 pm & Sept. 17th

Sale Dates: Sept. 18th 9 am — 6 pm,

Sept. 19th 9 am — 4 pm



After Church Fellowship Time is back in
September. If you are able to sign up either
individually or as a group to provide snacks
for after church fellowship, please see the
sign up in Luther Hall. We gather to share
time with each other after worship. It's a
special time together, made sweeter by the
goodies you provide.

Community Worship – we invite you to join
us on **Sunday, September 20th at 10 am.**

The service will take place in front of the
Evans City Fire Hall. Communion will be
offered at this service as well. If you would
like to bring your own chair you are
welcome to do so or you can use the chairs
that are provided. We will still have Sunday
School at St. Peter's at 9 am.

More Announcements & Birthdays

Senior Choir begins September 2nd at 7:00 pm.
We are always looking for new members, so please consider joining us on Wednesday evenings as we combine our voices in praise to God.



Bell Choir rehearsal begins on September 20th.
Rehearsals will be from noon to 1:00 pm after worship on Sunday mornings.
Contact Deb Mort (412-427-8017) if you would like to join the bell choir.

APPLE FEST

The Apple Fest is coming soon,
and many donations are needed to make this event possible. Please save the dates below to volunteer,
and have fun and fellowship
during our annual event!



Apple Fest:

Sept. 18th & 19st

Dumpling Making:

Sat. Sept. 5 at 8:00 am

Apple Cutting for Apple Butter:

Fri. Sept. 11 at 8:30 am

Apple Butter Making:

Sat. Sept. 12 at 5:00 am - 3 pm?



St. Peter's Church Family Wishes Many Blessings to You

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Becky Riddle | 14 Colton Wearing |
| 2 Kay Burr | 15 Amorabella Jason |
| 5 Erin Price | 19 Matt Otto |
| 7 Ron Blinn | 20 Brian Johns |
| 9 Debbie Merrison | 24 Rob Burr |
| 9 Keith Otto | 24 Luke Johns |
| 9 Ray Middleton | 24 Ted Lindgren III |
| 11 Alvera Blinn | 25 Gary Barnhart, Jr. |
| 11 Easton Wilson | 27 Sharon Lintz |
| 11 Emersyn Walker | 27 Seth Price |
| 12 Cam Norris | 30 Luann Brosius |
| 13 Bev Critchlow | 30 Curt Johns |



Raise A Fork For A Good Cause



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
202 Van Buren St. Evans City (724) 538-5810
**SPAGHETTI DINNER
FUNDRAISER**

Enjoy spaghetti, meatballs,
sausage, salad, garlic bread and
dessert to help support
Matt & Nicole Otto during their
adoption journey.



Oct. 3 4-6:30 pm

Please consider participating and
then mark your calendars for
Monday, October 26th when we
will hold our 4th Annual Elisa
Walker Memorial Blood Drive.



Make your
appointment
TODAY!

**DONATE
BLOOD**



Financial Facts

July 2026 Contributions:

Fund Description	Amount
212 Food Cupboard	60.00
213 Synod Benevolence	990.05
240 Evans City Library	114.50
242 EDCO Park	20.00
400 Current Fund Income	9,876.55
401 Music Fund Income	10.00
405 Flower Income	140.00
406 Youth Fund Income	300.00
407 Priority Project Income	944.00
408 After School Program Income	3,750.00
410 Campership Income	10.00
412 Manna Night	200.00
Grand Total	16,415.10

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for September will support **Passavant Retirement Community**. If you would like to support this cause please mark the "Other" line on your contribution envelope.



Order forms for fall mums for our annual Harvest Home celebration will be available soon! Harvest Home will be celebrated October 11th so be looking in your bulletin for order forms in the coming weeks.



Thank you for your support & patience throughout the lengthy process of our much-needed basement bathroom renovations.

There are a few fixes that remain until they can be declared "completed".



2026 Contributions to Date:

Fund Description	Amount
211 Meals on Wheels	232.00
212 Food Cupboard	2,279.74
213 Synod Benevolence	9,271.45
217 ELCA Lutherlyn Prospect	138.76
218 Lutheran Service Society	215.66
228 Seminary	121.00
234 Sherri Ifft - Missionary	82.00
240 Evans City Library	114.50
241 Evans City Fire Department	129.00
242 EDCO Park	474.00
244 ALS of Western PA	1,928.00
245 Batten Disease	5.00
299 Pastor's Disc. Fund	1,150.00
400 Current Fund Income	105,822.91
401 Music Fund Income	989.00
402 Memorial Fund Income	1,000.00
403 MIF Endowment (M.M.)	2,000.00
404 Youth Money Market	3,000.00
405 Flower Income	2,338.00
406 Youth Fund Income	1,942.96
407 Priority Project Income	28,350.45
408 After School Program Income	18,697.96
410 Campership Income	3,048.47
412 Manna Night	688.96
421 Vacation Bible School	26.00
440 Softball Team Income	600.00
441 Church Outings Income	1,177.00
Grand Total	185,822.82

A Financial Update – To keep everyone informed about our current financial situation, the reconciled treasurers report of our current fund as of the end of July 2026 is as follows:

Current Fund \$5,955.22

Memorial Fund \$11,497.05

Youth Fund \$8,735.94

Manna Fund \$6,907.61

Priority Project Fund \$17,076.90

After School Program \$258.37

Dear St. Peter's,

Thank you for your donation. We appreciate your kindness and support.

Sincerely,

Linda Barkhurst

BDSRA



Batten Disease Support-Research-Advocacy

Thoughts and Prayers

Beverly Barkley
 Cole Barkley
 John, Summer, Timothy Barron & Family
 Peter Barry
 Debbie Beahm
 Ricky Benson
 Tom Broeren
 Eilene Budisky
 Kay Burr
 Lisa Burr
 Arlene Cameron
 Jane Carruth (*Colon Cancer - B.Barkley*)
 Luke Clawson
 Randy Crump
 Donna Daugherty
 David English (*Lung Cancer*)
 Diane Fair
 Karen Ferrari
 Michelle Follet & Family
 Mary, Glenn, and David Fulghum
 Lori Goodwin
 Patti Grubbs
 Joan Gump
 Richard Hutchins (C
 Anastyn Hogan
 Stephanie Hogan
 Ella Jason
 Greg John
 Val Kurth (*Breast Cancer*)



Todd Manuel (*Blood Cancer*)
 Diane Marburger
 Dick Marburger
 Joe Marburger
 Patty Marburger
 Jane Mashuda
 Diamond McCracken
 Bertie McMillen
 Cole Moretti (*Cancer*)
 Carmen and Sandra Morra
 Kerren Morra
 Linda Nye
 Mark Phillips
 Emma Plank
 Jason Plank
 Erin Price
 Bill Puryear (*Cancer*)
 Lori Rasp
 Rick Reifenstein
 Tammi Rossi
 Dominick Scarpino
 Pastor Tony Schneck
 Kay Marburger Terry
 Julie W
 Marshall White
 Matthew Wible
 Roland Wise
 Pat Wolfe
 Audray Muscatello Yost



INTERCESSIONS FOR CONSOLATION IN GRIEF

*Members and friends who have entered the
 Church Triumphant in the previous 3 months:*

The family of:
 Charles Harbaugh

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

*Please contact the church office as soon as possible
 to request additions or changes.*

Gini Rinkus
 Nancy Zattiero

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Council Minutes

August 10, 2026

Present: Staci Bettencourt, Bev Critchlow, Pat Capella, Patti Flach, Casey Guerriero, Janice Hogan, Pr. Johns, Ted Lindgren II, Robin Plank (Zoom), Linda Schmidt (Zoom), Robin VanDyke, Corey Walker, Marge Wearing

Devotions: President Ted Lindgren called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M. Following this, the Pastor shared a reading from *Israel's Praise*. Discussion and prayers followed.

Minutes: The June meeting minutes were read and approved. Corey motioned to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Bev. Motion carried.

Reception of Visitors/Communications: Baby Reece!

Pastor's Report: A detailed, written report was submitted addressing, among many other items, a vacation, a successful VBS program, and a discussion of Gus Mossor's Eagle Scout project. Pastor talked about alternatives to the Synod office space that he also shared at the Synod Assembly.

Treasurer's Report and the Financial Secretary's Report: The June-July report was reviewed and discussed.

Financial: No written report was submitted. Their meeting will be at the end of this month.

Fellowship: A written report was submitted. C. S. Lewis' book, *Reflections on the Psalms*, was read and discussed during the Summer Book Study. The annual Corn Roast will happen on Saturday, August 15th at 5:30. Participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. The 2026 Wine and Cheese event will occur on Saturday, August 22nd at 6:30. Any hors d'oeuvre or wine would be welcome. Once again, the Raupp's will host. A suggested donation of \$200 raised from the AppleFest will go to the Evans City Fire Department. The remainder will be going to the Priority Project. Staci seconded this and the motion was approved. Heidi Beahm will be the chairperson for the AppleFest activities this year. A spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit Matt & Nicole Otto's adoption process will be held on October 3rd.

Learning Ministry/Youth: No written report was submitted. A meeting needs to be scheduled soon. The Summer Mission Trip to Ocean City occurred during the week of July 19th. Eleven youths participated. St. Peter's hosted the community VBS from June 15th-19th. Kid Kamp also occurred during that week. Manna Night will begin again on September 16th. Volunteers are welcome and needed. This reflects a change due to Pastor's Texas ELCA meeting for the Companion Engagement Team. The Rummage Sale supporting youth activities will once again occur on Friday, September 18th and Saturday, September 19th. Set up is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17th. Volunteers are needed for all days.

Property: A written report was submitted. The Education Building's roof redesign and repair was thoroughly reviewed (see New Business). The railing on the side entrance leading to the upper parking lot is broken and needs to be repaired as well as the pipe railing by the stone wall. There is also a safety issue with the top ledge of the stone wall. The driveway paving project is almost complete. A post by the Food Cupboard entrance was knocked over and needs to be replaced.

Worship and Music: No written report was submitted. A well-received outdoor service was held on July 26th. Deb Mort and the Johns family provided the music that provided a campership tone.

Other Official Reports: None

Unfinished Business:

Bathroom Project: This project is continuing and the plan is hopefully completed by this Friday or Monday.

Upper Parking Lot Project: The work has been completed.

Synod Assembly: Charlie and Patti Flach attended this with Pastor in June.

New Business/Miscellaneous:

Education Building Roof: A special congregational meeting will be held following church services (and cake) on Sunday, August 16th to discuss the leaking roof, the repairs, the cost, and the funding of this project. \$10,000 had been recently placed towards Priority Projects, and this will go towards this. The roof repairs and building damage are not covered in our current insurance policy, because the roof wasn't damaged by a storm. We will ask Charlie Flach to examine this policy and after an unofficial review as we may attempt to appeal this decision. Due to the impending weather, the Hostetler Roofing Company may bring materials ASAP. Due to the emergency situation, a motion was made by Corey to move forward with the roof replacement prior to the Congregational Meeting. Bev seconded this. Motion was approved. Council recommends to the congregation that we accept the bid by Hostetler Roofing of \$11,600 to repair and redesign the Education building roof utilizing the monies from the Priority Project. Ted motioned and Robin V. seconded this. Motion approved. We will be looking for a different insurance company.

New Member: Kim Fyock enthusiastically joined our church in July. Patti moved to accept Kim into membership; Bev seconded this and the motion was approved.

Immigration Discussion Group: SuLan Peebles, daughter of our new member, Kim Fyock, will share her experiences as an immigrant and as an employee of ICE on Sunday, August 17th at 9:15. Pastor Bev Banyay also purchased a book, *They Are Us: Lutherans and Immigration* that may also generate future discussions if there is interest.

Future Discussion on Potential Capital Campaign: A potential, future discussion item may be held regarding emergency, property items.

Due to Pastor's Texas meeting, the next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment and Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M. Ted moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Robin V. Motion carried. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Patti Flach, Council Secretary**



We had a great group gathered together to learn more about immigration. Thanks, SuLan & Kim, for hosting the conversation.

Calendar & Volunteers

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		9am - Pr. Cluster -Zellie. 4pm - After School 6:30pm - Fellowship 7pm - Property Mtg.	9am - E.C. Ministerium 10am - Community 12pm - Lunch Bunch 4pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	10am - Quilters Group 1pm - Mary's Circle 4pm - After School	12pm - 500 Club & Lunch 4pm - After School	8am - Apple Dumplings
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:15am - Worship	7pm - Boy Scouts	4pm - After School	10am - Community 4pm - After School 7pm - Choir Practice	10am - Quilters Group 4pm - After School	8:30am - Apple Cutting 4pm - After School	5am - Apple Butter
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship 11:30am - Immigration 11:45am - Pack Up Food	10am - Helen's Helpers 4pm - After School 7pm - Boy Scouts	4pm - After School 7pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Dorcas Circle	10am - Community 4pm - After School 5:30pm - Manna Night 7pm - Rummage Sale Set-	Rummage Sale Set-up 10am - Quilters Group 4pm - After School 7pm - Bible Study	Rummage Sale Applefest 4pm - After School	Applefest
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship 12pm - Bell Choir	7pm - Boy Scouts	4pm - After School 7pm - W/ELCA General	10am - Community 4pm - After School 5:30pm - Manna Night 7pm - Choir Practice	10am - Quilters Group 4pm - After School	4pm - After School	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship 12pm - Bell Choir	4pm - After School 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Worship Mtg.	4pm - After School 6:30pm - Finance Meeting	10am - Community 4pm - After School 5:30pm - Manna Night 7pm - Choir Practice			

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS 2026

Date	9/6/26	9/13/2026	9/20/2026 Community Service	9/27/2026
Acolyte	Anna Johns	Gia Bonicky	N/A	Ethan Johns
Altar Flowers (\$20/vase)	Wes & Linda Schmidt	Joe Ludwik	Beverly Barkley	Jane Taylor
Altar Guild	Teresa O'Malley	Teresa O'Malley	Teresa O'Malley	Teresa O'Malley
Asst. Minister	Ted Lindgren III	Deb Mort	N/A	Ted Lindgren II
Bell Ringer	Joe Ludwik	Austin Schmidt	N/A	Adam Price
Eternal Candle (\$15)	Teresa O'Malley	Teresa O'Malley	Luann Brosius	Luann Brosius
Greeters	Barb Graham & Karen Ferrari	Lisa & Rob Burr	N/A	Margaret Clawson & Jane Taylor
Lector	Adam Price	Pr. Linda Theophilus	N/A	Becky Rengers
Nursery	Pat Capella	Linda Schmidt	N/A	Danielle Johns
Offering Counters	Staci Bettencourt & Debbie Merrison	Staci Bettencourt & Debbie Merrison	Staci Bettencourt & Debbie Merrison	Staci Bettencourt & Debbie Merrison
Tech Support	Adam Price	Heidi Beahm	N/A	Heidi Beahm
Ushers	Casey & Dan Guerriero	Danielle & Brian Johns	N/A	Joe Ludwik & Dean Zinkhann

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St. Peter's
Lutheran Church

202 Van Buren St.
Evans City, PA
16033

Call us: 724-538-5810

E-mail us

stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net

God's Son



Never Fails

Website:

www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org



Our Staff:

Pastor Brandon Johns

Heidi Beahm,
After School Director

Marlene Domhoff,
Organist / Music Director

Joe Ludwik, Sexton

Christine Johns,
Secretary



The Sunday Bulletin Deadline is
Wednesdays at 10 am

Monthly Newsletter Deadline is the
3rd Sunday of each month

Sunday School at 9 am begins September 13th
Weekly Worship Service on Sundays at 10:15 am
Check Our Weekly Calendar for other events.

Office Hours for Secretary:

Monday thru Friday 9 am—noon

Newsletter
September 2026

This month's newsletter is sponsored by
Marlene Domhoff
in Loving Memory of Lynette Wingard