The Voice of St. Peter's



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Pastor's Note

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

We are still figuring out how to do church, aren't we? Much like everything else in life. As I write this, we are getting news that the vaccine is being released. Many people, including myself, are aiming to get one. I have been calling around to local pharmacies and hospitals, and while I am on a list at one local hospital, I have yet to get an appointment.

But while we wait for these things to happen, we are still very much a church in transition. I'm not just speaking for us here at St. Peter's, by the way: we in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod just elected a new bishop who began his tenure this month. Recently, our churchwide office released a statement about how they hope to look at church in a different way, both structurally and spiritually.

So in the meantime, while these things get worked out, I do want to lift up that we are livestreaming our services on Facebook. The good news? You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch. All you have to do is point your browser to https://www.facebook.com/StPetersLutheranPineGrove and scroll down at 9:00 on a Sunday morning until you see the live video. Sometimes, the video is automatically muted. If that is the case, you can click on the speaker with the X in front of it on the lower right hand corner of the screen, and that should make the audio turn on.

This is an uneasy time we find ourselves in, brothers and sisters. If you need to talk to me about this, I am always available by phone or email, and currently I am doing visitations as they are requested. I just want you to keep in mind some things:

- 1.) The church in the book of Acts had very different challenges than us, but they were huge in the sense that they had to set up what the Church of Christ would look like. They ended up just fine.
- 2.) Fear and anxiety are normal, as is frustration and anger. While we cannot control the emotions as they come to us, we can control what we do about them. I encourage you to seek out your Lord in prayer and do something actively, such as writing down your thoughts, crocheting or knitting, or going out to your garage and finding something to hammer on.
- 3.) Try your best to practice patience. In the grand scheme of things, we will, before you know it, be able to resume life as normal. We are in this odd "between time" that is not quite normal, but we are still able to worship currently and we are still able to do things like have Bible Study, Bible Journaling, and our new Book Discussion group. Take advantage of these things as they are available!

Peace to you along the Way, Pastor Brian Beissel (570)516-1787 brianthepastor@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Christian Education
Brenda Ferrebee

Fellowship
Donna Zerbe

EvangelismJustin Strouphauer

Finance

PropertyVernon Strouphauer

Social Ministry

Stewardship
Nancy Reichelt, CC Liaison

Worship and Music Steve Hikes, CC Liaison

Youth Ministry
Jodi Derr 570-294-6057

Technology Ben Moyer 570-617-0703

Wellness
Justin Strouphauer, CC Liaison

Endowment Fund
Steve Hikes

Stew Zerbe Mem. Scho. Fund Donna Zerbe

*Cemetery Association*Kurt Wessner 570-345-8020

Council of Churches
Dale Ferrebee, CC Liaison



January 2021 Meeting

Christian Education Committee and Sunday School Staff: new SPARK series of lessons began on January 10th on "The Lord's Prayer"

Technology Committee:

purchased new IPad and tripod for Pastor, so he can live stream the worship services **Fellowship Committee**: will be replacing the flooring in the kitchen.

Church Council & Officers



Elected Church Council

Jodi Derr
Bill Siegel
Angie Brown
Dennis Adams
Dale Ferrebee
Nan Hoenich
Nancy Reichelt
Ben Moyer
Missy Witherow
Donna Zerbe
Steve Hikes
Justin Strouphauer

Officers

Nancy Reichelt, President Justin Strouphauer, Vice President Nan Hoenich, Secretary Ben Moyer, Treasurer

> <u>Pastor</u> Brian Beissel

February Daily Scripture Readings

February 1- Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:1-21; Acts 21:17-26

February 2- Psalm 35:1-10; Numbers 22:22-28; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40

February 3 – Psalm 35:1-10; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Mark 5:1-20

February 4 – Psalm 147:1-11,20c; Proverbs 12:10-21; Galatians 5:2-15

February 5- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Job 36:1-23; 1 Corinthians 9:1-16

February 6 – Psalm 147:1-11,20c, Isaiah 46:1-13: Matthew 12:9-14

February 7 – Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11,20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 8 – Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37; Acts 14:1-7

February 9- Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 8:1-6; Acts 15:36-41

February 10 – Psalm 102:12-28; Job 6:1-13; Mark 3:7-12

February 11 – Psalm 30; Leviticus 13:1-17; Hebrews 12:7-13

February 12 -- Psalm 30; Leviticus 14:1-20; Acts 19:11-20

February 13 – Psalm 30; Leviticus 14:21-32; Matthew 26:6-13

February 14 – 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-16; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

February 15 – Psalm 6; 2 Chronicles 26:1-21; Acts 3:1-10

February 16- Psalm 6; 2 Kings 7:3-10; 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

February 17 – Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18 – Psalm 41; 2 Chronicles 7:12-22; 3 John 2-8

February 19- Psalm 41; Isaiah 38:1-8; Hebrews 12:7-13

February 20- Psalm 41; Isaiah 39:1-8; Luke 4:38-41

February 21 – Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 22 – Psalm 38; Isaiah 30:18-26; Acts 14:8-18

February 23- Psalm 38; Micah 4:1-7; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

February 24 – Psalm 38; Lamentations 5:1-22; John 5:19-29

February 25 – Psalm 103:1-13, 22; Ezekiel 16:1-14; Romans 3:1-8

February 26– Psalm 103:1-13, 22; Ezekiel 16:44-52; 2 Peter 1:1-11

February 27- Psalm 103:1-13, 22; Ezekiel 16:53-63; John 7:53-8:11

February 28- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday Service Schedule

Holy Communion 2nd Saturday of the month

6:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service

9:00 am

Holy Communion

1st & 3rd

Sundays of the month

Sunday School
Online

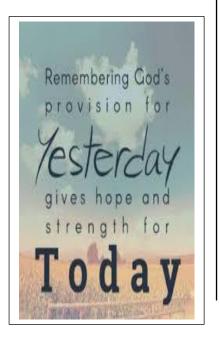






St. Peter's Mission Statement

"We, the members of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, blessed by God's grace in Word and Sacrament, and desiring to fulfill God's call to minister and witness to the world, commit ourselves to a mission which includes: Meaningful worship; Enthusiastic Christian Education programming; Active witnessing to our Christian faith; Dedicated service; and Responsible support of the programs and financial concerns of the church."



Altar Flowers are available for February 7, 14, 28 – cost is \$20

Chancel Flowers are available for February 7, 14, 21, 28 – cost is \$20

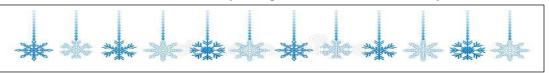
Bulletins are available for February 7, 14, 21, 28 – cost is \$15

Sanctuary Candle is available for March – cost is \$35

Candle Oil is available for March – cost is \$15

Newsletter is available for March and April – cost is \$40

Call the church office for availability or sign the charts in the hallway.



The February Sanctuary Candle is sponsored to the Glory of God in honor of loved ones by Dennis and Gail Adams.

The February Candle Oil is sponsored to the Glory of God in memory of loved ones by Dennis and Gail Adams.

Church Finances - End of December 2020

December General Income: \$19,617.41 December General Expenses: \$19,009.91

Checking Balances

General Fund \$26,413

Memorial Fund \$11,312.60

Youth Ministry Fund \$16,778.57

Capital Improvement Fund

a. Parsonage Improv.
 b. Video/Audio
 c. Designated Prepaid Fuel
 d. Designated Fellowship
 e. Undesignated Cap.Improv.
 Total
 \$1,386.28
 \$1,444.39
 \$1,462.00
 \$4,828.37
 \$13,015.35
 \$22,136.39

Savings Accounts

Undesignated Savings \$49,982.51

Designated Stew Zerbe

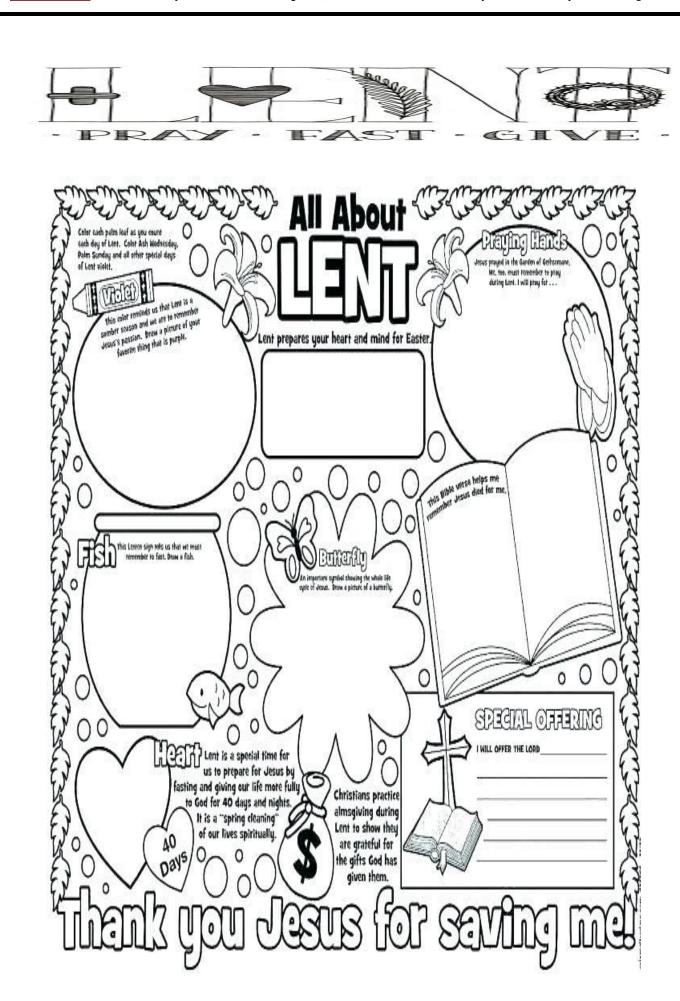
Memorial Scholarship Fund \$11,778.14

Total \$61,734.65

YTD Contributions Total \$163,446.84

Includes the following funds:

General, Lent/Easter, Youth Ministry, Plate, Pre-Buy Oil, Benevolence, Memorial, Building, Capital Imp, World Hunger, Hall Rental, Sunday School, Flowers, Initial Offering, Weekday Church School, Hunger Food Table, VBS, Bulletins, Communion, Newsletter, Stew Zerbe Memorial, Endowment, Needy Fund, Candle Oil, Souper Bowl of Caring, Christmas Eve, Christmas Baskets, Sanctuary Light, Disaster Relief, Pentecost/Ascension, Harvest Home, Reformation, Thanksgiving, Luncheon, Fellowship, Video/Audio and 200th Anniversary



Mutual Ministry Committee

Steve Hikes Lindsey Zimmerman Tammy Hikes Todd Tice Vernon Strouphauer Tammy Lengel

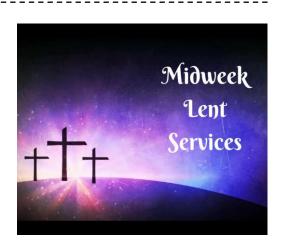


Bible Journaling will be meeting inperson or on Zoom on Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in the Zoom meeting, please contact Angie Brown.



Adult Bible Study will be held every Monday at 10:00 am in-person and on Zoom. For more information, please contact Pastor Beissel.

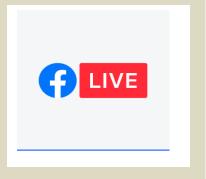




Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:30 pm. The Service will be streamed on Facebook live.

Mid-Week Lenten Services will be held every Wednesday starting February 24th – March 31st at 7:00 pm. All services will be streamed on Facebook live.

Watch the Weekly Worship Services on Facebook Live



Office Hours

Monday through Friday

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

570-345-3306

St. Peter's Parish Secretary LeAnn Reightler

If you need to communicate a message or share information when LeAnn is not in the office, please call and leave a message for her. LeAnn will return your call the next business day when she is in the office.

Online Sunday School Schedule

The Lord's Prayer

February 7th

Science Alethea Wessner and Gwen Moyer

February 14th

Bible Skills & Games Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich

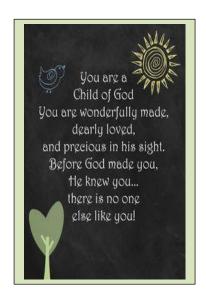
February 21st

Video Jodi Derr

February 28th

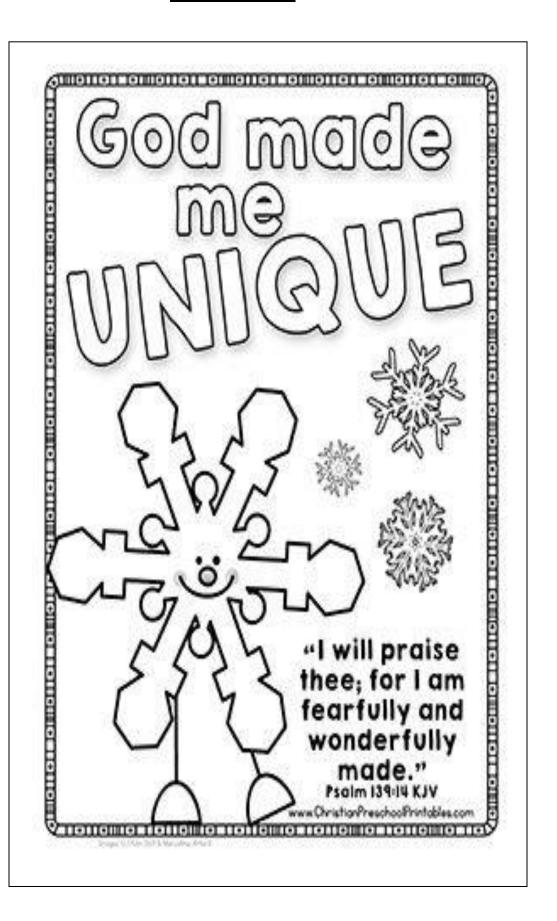
Closing Pastor Brian

Kid's Zone









Memorials and Gifts... To the Glory of God

General Fund

\$100 in honor of the birth of Jesus by Charlie Gilbert

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by John and \$20 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Kris Mars

\$75 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Michael and Marlene Troxell

\$50 in memory of Norm Kreiser by Richard and Sandra Manbeck

\$25 in memory of Gladys Luckenbill by Richard and Sandra Manbeck

\$25 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Richard and Sandra Manbeck

\$1000 in memory of loved ones by Richard and Sandra Manbeck

\$50 in memory of Clarence Benko by Elaine Benko

\$100 in memory of Thelma Hubler by husband Harvey

\$300 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Paul and Carol Lengel

\$20 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Dani Warfield

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Ronald and RuthAnn Lehman

\$25 in memory of Gladys Luckenbill by Dion and Kay Boyer

\$100 in memory of Chester Luckenbill on his birthday by Rod Luckenbill and family

\$100 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Henry and Amy Anderson

\$100 in memory Terry Ditzler by Arnold and Delphine Bohn

\$25 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Robert Keener Inc. and Carol Pankake

\$25 in memory of Gladys Luckenbill by David and Michaelene Watson

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by David and Michaelene Watson

\$500 in memory of Norman Beck by wife Marie

\$15 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Donald and Barbara Schwartz

\$15 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Donald and Barbara Schwartz

\$50 in memory of loved ones by Gary and Thelma Adams

Memorial Fund

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Dion and Kay Boyer

Howard and Shirley Lengel

\$50 in memory Terry Ditzler by Roger and Mary Zimmerman

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Richard and Donna Schach

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Shirley Koenig

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Paul and Clara Lorence

\$30 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Kevin and Patti Kreiser

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Edward and Lynn Johnson

\$50 in memory Terry Ditzler by David and Jane Fennelly

\$25 in memory Terry Ditzler by Richard and Shirley Rager

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by John and Terry Schaeffer

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Shirley and Abie Krammes

\$100 in memory of Terry Ditzler by David Derfler

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by George and Alice Brommer

\$100 in memory of Terry Ditzler by

\$100 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Roger and Mary Zimmerman

\$50 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Lamar Lehman

\$100 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Jordan Lengel

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Carol Baldwin

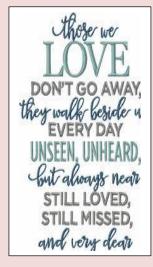
\$100 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Thomas Zimmerman

Passed Away

January 2nd Linda Brown

January 3rd Alexis Wilder

January 4th Florence Hinz



Memorials and Gifts... To the Glory of God

Memorial Fund (continued)

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Daryl, Alethea, Sophia and Calista Wessner \$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Carolyn and Eric Umbenhauer

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Charles Umbenhauer

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Robert and Jean Becker

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Stephanie Graham

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Stephen and Barbara Hikes

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Charlie and Edith Miller

\$40 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Dale and Kay Moyer

\$25 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Cheryl Beck

\$100 in memory of Aunt Thelma Lengel by Susan Johnson

\$25 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Stephen and Barbara Hikes

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Albert and Sally Fritz

\$50 in memory of Terry Diztler by Russell Bohn

\$100 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Larry and Lois Lehman

\$25 in memory of Gladys Luckenbill by Shirley Koenig

\$100 in memory of Chester Luckenbill on his birthday by Stephen and Barbara Hikes

\$100 in memory of Aunt Thelma Lengel and Cousin Gladys Balthaser Luckenbill by Fred and Janet Fisher

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Joseph and Bernadette Hafer

Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund

\$100 in memory of Mae Brommer, Anna and Monroe Herring by Dave and Jean Herring

\$50 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Steve and Beverly Morgan

\$25 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Dave and Jean Herring

\$25 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Jeff and Wendy Hueston

Endowment Fund

\$25 in memory of Alexis J. Wilder by the Stokes family

Pre-Buy Oil Fund

\$50 in memory of loved ones by John, Kim, and John Henry Schroeder

\$100 in memory of William and Gloria Harris by Steve and Beverly Morgan

\$20 in memory of Terry Ditzler by Gary and Mary Bohr

Fellowship Fund

\$20 in memory of Thelma Lengel by Gary and Mary Bohr

ELCA World Hunger

\$100 in memory of William and Gloria Harris by George and Kathy Sorokach and family

Capital Improvement Fund-Parsonage Improvements

\$500 in memory of Terry Ditzler by St. Peter's Cemetery Association

Publishing Deadlines

If you want to publish something in the Sunday bulletin or the monthly newsletter, please submit your information by the following deadlines:

The bulletin deadline is Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 pm.

The March newsletter deadline is Monday, February 15th. This is necessary to allow time to lay out the publication.



To Learn More. Click Icon or visit St. Peter's Website

Resource Links

ELCA

https://www.elca.org/

NEPA Synod http://nepasynod.org/

Schuylkill Mission District http://lutheransalive.org



<u>Please Visit</u> <u>St. Peter's Webpage at:</u>

stpeterslutheranpinegrove.org

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need, especially:

Bill Bretz Ronald Hepler Sr. Charles Keefer Jr. Pat Zimmerman Butch Schuller Paul Marencic Ruth McMullen Cheryl Varndell Dr. Bob Yost Mary Jane Hindman

Richard Becker Suzi Hall Kay Potts McFred Brown Jimmy McMullen



From now on, Remember in Your Prayers and the weekly bulletin prayer list will have the identical list of names. We are going to be eliminating names from the newsletter prayers and the bulletin list after one month. If a name is desired to be moved to the prayer circle list, please speak with Nan Hoenich or contact the church office after it's removed from the newsletter/bulletin list and then it will be added to the prayer circle only. You can contact Nan at (570)345-8706 or the church office at (570)345-3306.

February Ministry Meetings

February 1	Endowment Fund Committee	7:00 pm
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February 7 Fellowship Committee 10:00 am

February 11 Church Council 7:00 pm

February 14 Christian Education Committee 10:00 am





Next evening worship with Holy Communion, led by Pastor Beissel, will be held on Saturday, February 13th, at 6:00 pm.

Gratitude and joy

Faith & family: Growing together

by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

www.livinglutheran.org

Focal verse

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. -Psalm 106·1

Reflection

I heard the stomping of feet across the wooden floors, then my kids shouting, "Superheroes!"

I stood at the sink, dish scrubber in hand, while they ran in circles with their capes flying behind them.

"Want to watch us, Mommy? We're superheroes! We have to go help some people," my eldest said.

As quickly as they had entered the kitchen with outstretched arms, clenched fists and unbridled laughter, they left. I remained staring at a pile of dishes and the sunlight streaming through the window.

I smiled. Little did they know they were helping me see joy right in front of me.

Children make it easy for us to delight in small things. It's what they do naturally. But how do we teach them about gratitude? I want to see them move from joy to recognizing the source of their joy. I want them to see God as the author of all that is good.

I want them to see a sunset and say, "Wow, God, that's beautiful. Thank you for your creation."

I hope they feel the love of family and friends and say, "Thank you, God, for a rich and varied community that loves me for who I am."

I hope they read God's word and say, "Thank you, God, for your story that fills me with hope."

The best way to teach gratitude to our children is to model it and offer our own gratitude first. The more we share our gratitude out loud and name that for which we are thankful, the more our children will too.

A prayer for you: Thank you, God, for my children—for their joy and curiosity, their life and love. Thank you for your gifts of grace and mercy that are new every day. Amen.

Practices

With younger children, be silly and make up a song together. Walk around your home or neighborhood singing, "Thank you, God!" and go back and forth naming what you're thankful for.

Where do you spend the most time as a family? Fill that area with slips of paper naming things for which you give thanks: family and friends, your favorite foods, your home and community, etc. Add to this list throughout the month.

Together as a family, read *Thanksgiving in the Woods (*Beaming Books, 2019) and talk about how your family can include others at your table, both virtually and in person with safety restrictions.

Prayers

We pray for our country: for peace, justice and compassionate leaders.

We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger in alleviating hunger and advocating to change systems that perpetuate food insecurity.

We pray for families who are separated from one another during the holidays.

We give thanks for technology that connects people around the world.

We give thanks for laughter among friends and the smiles of children.

We give thanks for local businesses.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Service opportunity

Thanksgiving is a great time to invite others to share a meal together, but perhaps this month is the time to commit to sharing your food more consistently. Talk as a family and pick a date to make your favorite meal, a dessert or a loaf of bread. Every month, share that food with someone or donate food to your local food pantry.



February's book is *On Pills and Needles* by Rich Van Warner. When Rick Van Warner found himself searching abandoned buildings and dangerous streets looking for his missing son, he had no idea that the synthetic, pill-form heroin that had snared his teen was already killing so many. In the years of pain and heartache that followed as he tried to save his son from opioid addiction, Van Warner discovered what the American public is just now becoming aware of. We will gather to discuss this book on Tuesday March 2nd at 7:00 pm. We will hold the gathering via Zoom, with hopefully an in-person gathering assuming conditions are safe.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	10:00 am Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Endowment Fund Committee meeting	6:00 pm confirmation class via Zoom	3	4	5	
g:oo am Worship Service to:oo am Fellowship Committee Meeting to:30 am Sunday School- Online S:oo pm confirmation class via Zoom	10:00 am Adult Bible Study	9	10	7:00 pm Church Council meeting	12	6:00 pm Evening Worship Service
p:oo am Worship Service p:oo am Christian Education Committee and Sunday School Staff Meeting p:o:30 am Sunday School- polline p:oo pm confirmation class ria Zoom	15 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	16	7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 pm Bible Journaling	19	2
9:00 am Worship Service 0:30 am Sunday School- online 5:00 pm confirmation class via Zoom	10:00 am Adult Bible Study	23	7:00 pm Mid-Week Lenten Service	25	26	:
28 g:oo am Worship Service .o:30 am Sunday School- online						