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Well, here we are again! Starting a new calendar year!

As I look out my window, the sun is shining, but of course at this time of the year that does not mean it is warm outside!

We are in that season of temperature fluctuation-changes to snow to sunshine and warm(ish) temperatures, to ice and back again. It is enough to give you whiplash as you try to figure how many layers of clothing you will need.

We are in a similar situation in our world. As someone once said “wars and rumors of wars” seem to pop up where we least expect it. I am not talking about shooting wars, although that is happening. I am thinking about all the things that are going on seemingly every day. As Christians we believe that God calls us to love one another, care for those in need, and generally live lives of compassion and love for all things, but it can be hard when seemingly everyone is yelling at each other about so many things.

It is easy to get caught up in all the discord, but we are called to live another way. God calls us to love one another, no matter what their ideology, nationality or gender. SO, how do we do this? I believe that we need to see the smaller picture. Who am I with right now? What am I called to be with others?

Followers of Jesus are called to love.

But this person is mean and angry.

This person just doesn't understand.

And so many are in need of God's love.

My teacher responded to me when I tried to explain why I did not do my homework. After listening to me for a bit she would say to me “No buts, just get it done!”

It sounds harsh but it worked for me.

Could God be saying the same to us when we fail to follow Jesus, loving our neighbors as ourselves?

Just Love.

But Jesus.....

But to me “No buts, just love always.”

Love God, love your neighbor, be the body of Christ in the world!

Pastor Marie Meeks, Designated Pastor

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Brenda Ferrebee

Discipleship

Nancy Reichelt

Fellowship

Beverly Morgan, CC liaison; Donna Zerbe

Finance

Nancy Reichelt

Property

Vernon Strouphauer, CC liaison

Social Ministry

Lillie Morgan, CC liaison; Donna Zerbe

Technology

Nancy Reichelt

Wellness

Mary Daubert, CC liaison

Worship and Music

Barbara Hikes

Youth Ministry

Jodi Derr

Endowment Fund

Alethea Wessner

Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund

Donna Zerbe

Cemetery Association

Kurt Wessner 570-345-8020

Council of Churches

Dale and Brenda Ferrebee,
CC liaisons

Church Council Meeting Highlights

January 8, 2026

- A Sunday morning modified schedule was approved in the event of inclement weather. Sunday School and the catechetical class will begin at 10:30 am and the worship service at 11:45 am.
- The Church Council will be installed on the first Sunday after the annual congregational meeting.
- Beginning Sunday, February 22nd, the Service of Word and Prayer in *With One Voice* (WOV) will be used during the worship services. On Palm Sunday we will return to the Setting Ten worship service in the ELW (cranberry hymnal.)
- The equipment has arrived to stream the worship services on YouTube.
- Klean Kut Tree Service will be contacted for an estimate to cut down trees near the parking lot.
- April 5 – Easter Festival Service at 9:00 am.
- A May 2, 2026 wedding here at St. Peter's was approved.
- Dale and Brenda Ferrebee were approved as St. Peter's delegates to the 2026 NEPA Synod Assembly to be held June 4-6.

Church Council Members

2026

Beverly Morgan*

Vernon Strouphauer*

Brenda Ferrebee*

Jodi Derr

2027

Stephen Hikes

Barbara Hikes

Dale Ferrebee*

Lillie Morgan*

2028

Mary Daubert*

Andrew Hikes

Nancy Reichelt*

Joshua Zimmerman*

*Serving second consecutive term and cannot be reelected at the end of their term.

Officers

Stephen Hikes, President

Dale Ferrebee, Vice President

Jodi Derr, Secretary

Brenda Ferrebee, Treasurer

Lillie Morgan, Financial Secretary

Designated Pastor: Rev. Marie Meeks

Council members are elected for a term of three years, and no more than two consecutive terms.

Call Committee Members

Bryan Reichelt, Chair

Stephanie Graham

Joshua Zimmerman

Jocelyn Hikes

Julie Koehler

Kurt Wessner

February Worship Readings

Sunday, February 1

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany; Holy Communion

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Psalm 15

Sunday, February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

Sunday, February 15

Transfiguration of Our Lord; Last

Sunday after Epiphany; Holy Communion

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Psalm 2

Sunday, February 22

First Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Psalm 32



Sunday School Schedule

The Widow's Offering

February 1st

Science

Gwen Moyer and Alethea Wessner

February 8th

Video

Jodi Derr and Jessica Geary

Jesus and John the Baptist

February 15th

Creative Drama

Barbara Hikes and Sue
Strouphauer

February 22nd

Art

Nan Hoenich and Janelle Gruber

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service

9:00 am

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd

Sundays of the month

Sunday School 10:30 am

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class continues to meet in the TV room. The class is participating in a new Bible Study series from Augsburg Fortress titled *Together by Grace: Bible Conversations MATTHEW*.

Community Lenten Services

The season of Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 18th** with **Ash Wednesday services at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm** at St. John's Lutheran Church. These services will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Midweek Lenten Services will be held on **February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th**. These services are scheduled for **2:00 pm and 7:00 pm** at St. John's Lutheran Church.

The theme is Lenten Worship through the Senses.

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."

February Ministry Meetings

February 4
Worship and Music Committee
6:00 PM

February 9
Church Council
7:00 PM

February 17
Christian Education Committee
6:00 PM

February 19
Finance Committee
4:30 PM

February 19
Discipleship Committee
5:45 PM

Altar Flowers are available for February 1, 8, and 22 – cost is \$30

Chancel Flowers are available for February 1, 8, 15, and 22 – cost is \$30

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

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

Newsletter is available for February – cost is \$40

Bulletins are available for February 8 and 22 – cost is \$15

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

Church Finances as of December 31, 2025

December 2025 General Fund Contributions:	\$18,599.93
December 2025 Restricted Funds Contributions:	\$ 7,813.76
December 2025 General Fund Expenses:	\$ 7,755.57

Reminder that we are not currently paying compensation / salary for a pastor.

December account balances:	General Checking	\$62,887.98
	General Savings	<u>35,295.51</u>
	Subtotal	98,183.49
	*Restricted Savings	10,893.99
	General balance	\$109,077.48

December Memorial Fund - Checking	\$18,069.50
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December Capital Improvement Fund – Checking	\$ 6,474.03
*Restricted funds	<u>7,361.00</u>
Balance in Account	\$13,835.03

*All funds listed as restricted cannot be used for any purpose other than what the giver donated them for. We have restricted funds for the Food Pantry, Needy Fund, Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Video/Audio, Prepaid Fuel, Fellowship, Parish House (Parsonage) Improvements.

Youth Ministry Fund	\$7,730.11
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**QR CODE FOR
ONLINE GIVING**



MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

(General Fund) \$40 IMO Linda Zimmerman by Linda Venszl;
IMO Arthur "Skip" Long: \$50 by Pastor Bob and Nan Hoenich,
\$25 by Swatara Village Property Owners Association; \$900 IMO
John and Ruth Hikes, James and Nora Aungst, Norman and
Mildred Balthaser, Luther and Vinnie Luckenbill, Chester and
Gladys Luckenbill, John "Jack" Hikes, and Violet Hikes by
Stephen and Barbara Hikes; \$1,000 IMO Sandra Manbeck, Kelly
Lynne Manbeck, Emma Potts, Arthur Potts, and Kay Potts by
Richard Manbeck and family; \$100 IMO Richard and Carol
Becker by Gary and Kathy Toy; \$100 IMO Chester Luckenbill for
his birthday by Stephen and Barbara Hikes

(Youth Ministry Fund) \$50 IHO the youth carolers and their
leaders by Barbara Schwartz

(Pre-Buy Oil Fund) \$100 IHO the birth of Jesus by Charles
Gilbert

(Sunday School) \$50 IHO the baptism of Rhys Paul Herring by
parents Jacob and Shannon and siblings Cole, Scarlett, and Ana

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 at 2:00 pm.
The March 2026 newsletter
deadline is Wednesday,
February 11th.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

Alice Hunkapiller
Paul Lengel
Ruth McMullen
Tom Wertz
Taylor Wessner
Bill Siegel
Beverly Morgan
Kerry Nagle
Bonnie Kintzel
Anna Wertz
Bessie Keefer
McKenna Morgan Cooper

Bruce Witmer
Janet Jones
Stacee Harris
Shirley Lengel
Dale Legarht
Christopher Beeman
Sue Stump
Lynn Sabadish
Dana Strouphauer
Joyce Frantz
Ray Stump
Nancy Ditzler

Eric Umbenhauer
Barbara Schwartz
Waylon Hartman
Jen Gerhardt
Elizabeth Platko
Shannon Shadle
Brian Kustan
Kelsey Cleary
Bill Schaeffer
Kerry Nagle
Tina Keefer
Janet Fidler

If you have prayer requests or info for the Sunday bulletin prayer listing,
please contact the church office or Nan Hoenich at 570-345-8706.

Church Office Hours

Monday & Thursday 9:00 AM –
3:00 PM (in office)
Tuesday & Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00
PM (remote)

Please leave a message on the office
answering machine (570-345-3306)
on Tuesdays and Fridays.



Food Pantry Report

Calls were coming in to the volunteers at the Pantry mid-December hoping that the next distribution date would be soon. Consequently, we decided to begin distributing before Christmas Day and continuing through the Christmas season into January.

We also began to get blankets, sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, coats, and winter clothing to families starting on December 31st and January second, third, and fourth.

We will continue to reach out and invite people to come to the Pantry during the cold winter months to pick out winter clothing that you so graciously donated.

Thank you for your support and prayers in this outreach ministry in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Bob Hoenich

Fed by Faith. Filled with Love.

February Food Pantry items include:

Honey
Sugar
Canned fruit
Dried Mixes
Frosting

Jello Mixes
Pudding Mixes
Toaster Pastries
Hot Cocoa/Coffee
Popcorn

Help Youth Ministries score 1000 oz of soup for the food pantry by February 8th!

Canned soup donations can be placed on the food pantry table in the social hall.



Inclement Weather Schedule

At the beginning of January an inclement weather schedule was put in place. Sunday School and catechetical class will begin at 10:30 am as usual. The worship service will begin at 11:45 am in order to allow more time for the parking lot and sidewalks to be cleared. Emails will be sent to those who have provided email addresses and telephone calls if no email address is available. Notice of the use of the inclement weather schedule will be posted on the church's Facebook page. Please notify the church office if you have a new email address or telephone number.

After a six-year hiatus, our Sunday School and catechetical class students presented a Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 28th. It was a joy to see so many children participate in this program. The children enjoyed making the ornaments and angels that were placed on the tree during the program. Thanks to Janelle Gruber for leading, all teachers, parents, our Sunday School musician, and our students for their hard work.



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2026

1 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Fourth Sunday after Epiphany; Needy Fund Collection Pastor Bob Hoenich 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	2 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons	3 4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons	4 6:00 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 – 8:45 pm Music Lessons	5 4:15-9:15 pm Music Lessons	6	7 8:00 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons
8 9:00 am Worship Service; Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Brenda Ferrebee 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	9 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	10 4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons Senior Citizens	11 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 – 8:45 pm Music Lessons NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	12 4:15 – 9:15 pm Music Lessons	13	14 8:00 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons
15 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Last Sunday after Epiphany; Transfiguration of Our Lord Pastor Bob Hoenich 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	16 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons	17 4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting	18 8:00 – 8:45 pm Music Lessons 2:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at St. John's 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at St. John's	19 4:15 – 9:15 pm Music Lessons 4:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting 5:45 pm Discipleship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	20	21 8:00 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons
22 9:00 am Worship Service; First Sunday in Lent Nancy Reichelt 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	23 4:15 – 6:15 pm Music Lessons	24 4:15 – 5:45 pm Music Lessons Senior Citizens	25 8:00 – 8:45 pm Music Lessons Food Pantry Distribution 2:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service at St. John's 7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service at St. John's	26 4:15 – 9:15 pm Music Lessons Food Pantry Distribution 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	27 Food Pantry Distribution	28 8:00 am – 12:15 pm Music Lessons Food Pantry Distribution

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