Dear friends in Christ,

Our mission at St. Peter's Lutheran Church is “Welcoming all to know and love Jesus.” It’s official – this is our new mission statement. So now what? The “now what” will emerge over the months and years ahead as together we discern how we will live out this new mission.

Part of living out our mission is by worshipping and studying together. We have a unique opportunity to do both as the season of Lent begins. Lent is a time of reflection and spiritual growth. This year at St. Peter’s, we will be focusing on Martin Luther’s Small Catechism during Lent.

What is the Small Catechism? I like to think of it as a short book that contains some of the essentials of Lutheran faith. Martin Luther first wrote it during the Reformation to be used in homes. Families studied the Small Catechism together to learn more about Luther’s teachings. Many of you have studied and even memorized the Small Catechism as part of confirmation.

Five hundred years later, we will be reading and studying the Small Catechism on Sunday mornings after worship and in our Wednesday morning study. If you are unable to be part of the study, copies of the Small Catechism will still be available to take home. Our confirmation youth will be leading midweek Lenten services based on the Small Catechism. Preaching on Saturdays and Sundays will incorporate themes from the Small Catechism.

A few weeks ago in a sermon I noted, “We are never too young or too old to learn something new about God, or to discover some insight that gives our faith new life and energy.” I hope that you will join me in learning something new about God during this season of Lent.

Peace,
Pastor Ken

On the Defensive

[This is the third of a series of newsletter articles about the life of Martin Luther, as we join with the church in commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.]

After posting the 95 Theses, Martin Luther came under attack by the church. Rather than retreat or go into hiding, Luther defended himself and counterattacked. He took advantage of three early opportunities to do this. The first was a debate at a meeting of Augustinian Hermits in Heidelberg in 1518. The second was at an assembly of princes and nobles, or a diet, in Augsburg, also in 1518. Cardinal Cajetan was instructed by Pope Leo X to meet with Luther at this meeting and force him to recant. Nothing was accomplished at this meeting, from which Luther left secretly.

The third opportunity was a debate with the skilled debater Johannes Eck at Leipzig. The debate was supposed to be between Eck and one of Luther’s colleagues, Andreas Karlstadt. However, Luther eventually took Karlstadt’s place in the middle of the debate.

Luther became increasingly critical of the church, yet he still felt that it could be reformed by working within the existing system. It is also worth noting the important role of Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony. Frederick was Luther’s ruling prince, and he felt compelled to protect Luther, not because he was convinced of the truth of Luther’s teachings, but because he insisted that Luther be given a fair hearing.

Pope Leo X assigned a group of cardinals and scholars to scrutinize Luther’s writings. They found forty-one scandalous or unorthodox teachings in his writings. On June 15, 1520, Leo issued a document called a papal bull that threatened Luther with excommunication (removal from the church). A few months later students were burning anti-Luther writings in Wittenberg. Luther was also there, and he threw books of canon law and a copy of the papal bull into the fire, a clear act of defiance.

Trivia Question: The term “Lutheran” was first used by Luther’s adversaries to refer to those who criticized the church. Who first used this term?

A.) Cardinal Cajetan  C.) Pope Leo X
B.) Johannes Eck D.) Johannes Tetzel

[Answer found on page 3 of the newsletter.]
Lenten Services

Area community churches will again come together to begin the Lenten season with a community Ash Wednesday service. St. Peter’s will host the service on March 1, starting with a potluck meal at 6:30 p.m. and worship around 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten services continue on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm with our confirmation students leading the services.

Pastor Ken will be teaching First Communion class on Saturday, March 4 from 9 am-1 pm. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, March 5. Children in 2nd grade and older are invited to receive their First Communion. If you would like your son or daughter to participate, please let Pastor Ken know.

This year is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which is a great opportunity for us to learn more about the Lutheran faith. We have an opportunity to do so during the season of Lent. Starting on Sunday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 8, Pastor Ken will lead a five week study of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, a book that explains the basics of the Lutheran faith. There are two opportunities to participate: Sunday mornings after worship and Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. The study guide costs $7. A schedule and signup sheet are on the bulletin board next to Pastor Ken’s office.

Services of Oils and Healing

The weekend worship services on March 25 & 26 will feature the Service of Oils and Healing. As a part of this service, the Oils of Healing are placed on the foreheads of worshippers as a reminder that all healing, physical, spiritual and emotional, comes from God and is exemplified in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. You are encouraged to attend these special healing services and to invite family and friends who may welcome the healing power of God.

Kid’s Coalition Against Hunger

St. Peter’s is hosting a Kid’s Coalition Against Hunger food packing event here on April 29 from 8:30 – 12:30 pm. We need volunteers to sign up for 90 minute shifts. We will be packaging over 10,000 meals for Mid-City Nutrition and disaster efforts throughout the U.S. and the world. If you would like to volunteer, call Tamara Howes at 810-278-0995 or Keri Stevens at 810-333-1153.

Evangelism/Outreach

At our last Evangelism/Outreach meeting, we shared concerns for our shut-ins and those on the prayer list. Those on the prayer list are listed in the bulletin and newsletter and are included in our prayers every Wednesday morning. We had several suggestions and will try one used in other churches. Don’t be surprised if you receive a Sunday bulletin a couple times a month with names and notes from friends at church. We want you to know you are missed.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 12. Don’t forget to set your clock ahead 1 hour.
The scholarship committee would like to remind the congregation that scholarship funds are available for college, post-graduate and trade schools. The application form is in the office. There are some changes this year due to the generous donations given to the scholarship fund. The scholarship amount has increased from $250 to $500 for members and $100 to $200 for non-members. The deadline for applications has changed from March 31st to April 30th. If you have any questions contact one of the committee members: Mike Morenko, Dawn Lambrecht, and Nancy Green.

Easter is on April 16, so it’s time to order flowers to decorate the sanctuary. Envelopes for ordering mums and lilies are in your mailboxes. Lilies are $5 and mums are $6.

St. Peter’s is hosting a kid’s movie night, March 18, 6:00-8:30pm. Come to watch the Trolls movie, enjoy popcorn, and pizza. Children 4 years and older are invited. Bring pajamas, blankets, and pillows. $5 per child. Proceeds will support our Kids Coalition Against Hunger food packing event in April. Parents can drop children off, but must be back by 8:30pm. RSVP to Tamara 810-278-0995

The Attic Angels will hold their sale on May 18 and 19. Bring your items to the basement. A special table will be available for those who want to tag and reserve items.

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support our congregation. Eligible Thrivent Financial members have until March 31, 2017 to direct any remaining Choice Dollars. Help support St. Peter’s. Don’t let designated Choice dollars expire.

IN NEED OF PRAYER: Dennis Rocker, Mary Forys, Janice Convis, Guy MacIntosh, Donna Mead, Sue Kase Meyer, James Murphy, Bob Beier, Dick Guyott, Janine Sommer, Paul & Ruth Reyelts, Delores Cook, Vi Dunn, Will Tanner, Clyde Moore, Ruth Sawher, Kay Folk, Lyle Angus, Louis Eisen, Lana Wagner, Loretta Lukasak, Debbie Kendall, Suzanne Morris, Elizabeth MacDonald.

(Please call or email the office at stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net to update information, or to add or remove names.)

Given in memory of Robert Green by Joanne Niederhauser

Given in memory of Brian Lanter by Joanne Niederhauser

Given in honor of Gail Decator By Your Secret Pal

Trivia Answer The answer is B. Because it was first used by Luther's adversaries, “Lutheran” was not meant to be flattering. Luther didn’t like the term either, preferring the term “evangelical” instead.

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Serving in March, Sunday 9:30 am

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>Jon Jones</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Nancy Latowski</td>
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<td>Jerry Hall</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>Ian Boden</td>
<td>George Eisen</td>
<td>Jared Kramp</td>
<td>Sue Daniels</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Katy Emerich</td>
<td>John Decator</td>
<td>Norene Stoecker</td>
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Saturday, 5 pm

Altar Guild: Theresa Eisen & Karen Boden
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<td>Ecumenical Ash Wednesday at St. Peter’s Potluck 6:30 pm Service 7 pm</td>
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<td>Mallard’s Landing 11 am</td>
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<td>8 Prayer 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Confirmation, JAM, 6 pm Lenten Service 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>Worship, Communion 5 pm National Youth Gathering Meeting 10:30-12:30</td>
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Council Minutes
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
(Draft – to be approved by Council)
February 7, 2017

Opening: The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m.

Council Members: Pastor Ken Staib; Tom Latowski (President); Katy Emerich (Vice President); Carol Vogel (Treasurer); Nancy Latowski* (Secretary); Alan Emerich*; Mark Fisher; Stephanie Neiman; Del Vogel; Ian Boden*; Gary Eisen; Tamara Howes; Jane Miller*; Gwen Anderson. (Those absent from the meeting are marked with an *).

Also attending: John MacDonald, Carter Stevens (youth), Keri Stevens

Devotion: Pastor Ken opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes From Last Meeting: The minutes from 1-10-17 were reviewed. Carol Vogel moved and Del Vogel seconded the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Carol Vogel shared the balance sheets for January, 2017, with General Fund Income for January of $13,258 and total expenses at $16,468. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Gwen Anderson and seconded by Mark Fisher. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Ken’s report for the month of January:
- Pastoral phone calls/visits (January) – 8
- Hosted conference pastors (Jan. 17)
- Met David Vickers, new rector at St. Paul’s Episcopal (Jan. 19)
- Attended 100th Anniversary Celebration for St. Paul’s Lutheran, Port Huron (Jan. 31)
- Ongoing – preaching on new mission/vision statements

Upcoming Activities:
- Pulpit swap with Pastor Joyce (Feb. 11-12)
- Celebration of new mission/vision statements (Feb. 25-26)
- Lent:
  - Community Ash Wednesday – Ecumenical potluck/worship service at St. Peter’s (March 1)
  - Youth leading midweek services on Small Catechism
  - Bible study on Small Catechism (Sundays and Wednesdays
  - No daytime midweek services
- First Communion (March 5), Class (March 4)
- Start preparing for ELCA Youth Gathering 2018 (March 11)

- Healing Service (March 25-26)
- Memorial Service for Al Stiefvater (March 25)

Other Matters:
- Pastor inquired about getting a window in his office door
- Planning day – on hold
- Continuing education – checking schedule - $600 for couples of clergy

Youth and Family Life Ministry Report:
Tamara’s report is attached.

Suggestion Box: No Suggestions

Old Business/Follow-up:

Together We Rise – The following fundraising activities will take place for the Together We Rise project (backpacks for foster children):
- Art Auction (youth)
- Lularoe Fundraiser 2/11/17 @ Julie Alley’s house
- Donate: togetherwerise.org/fundraise/stpeters

Thrivent Funds –
- Dependent upon membership level, funds are available once or twice per year
- Thrivent members who are interested in helping can let Pastor, Council members or groups aware (i.e., youth group)
- At least three weeks lead time is required for processing

Handicap Parking – John MacDonald was in attendance to discuss the parking lot and establishing a handicapped parking area. There was a discussion on getting quotes for approximately 4-6 spots for an approximate total of $20,000. The completion goal would be before Fall 2017. The area being reviewed is where the circle drive is now located. Carol Vogel is checking on the reserve funds which will require congregational approval. The committee will bring back a recommendation in March.

New Business:

Carter Stevens informed Council about a fundraiser on March 18. A Kids’ Movie Night/Parent Date Night will be held from 6 – 8:30 pm. Children will watch the movie, “The Trolls,” have pizza and popcorn at a cost of $5, while being watched by the youth group/sponsors. Proceeds will go to our Kids Coalition Against Hunger food packing event in April.

Congregational Meeting
A congregational meeting will be held on February 12, 2017 to officially approve the new mission and vision statement that resulted from the Strategic Planning effort. The mission statement is: “Welcoming All to Know and Love Jesus.” The vision statement is: “Called by the
power of the Holy Spirit, we will welcome and strive to inspire all to grow in faith. As we share the Word of God through worship, education and service, we will open our hearts to our community and the world around us.”

Housing Allowance Resolution
Pastor brought forward a Housing Allowance Resolution which is used for tax purposes. This is a document which will need to be completed every year in January.

Committee Reports -

Fellowship Outreach - Jane Miller (submitted via email)
- Coffee, cookies and cakes for special events are paid for through donations and the budget for Fellowship Outreach. Norene Stoecker and Kathy Nummer handle these responsibilities.
- This year’s Ash Wednesday Potluck will be on May 1. Carol Boden will work on the Community Potluck. St. Peter’s will be responsible for the main course.
- St. Peter’s will work at the food pantry in May. Joanne and Nancy have been in contact with the pantry about adding more/different items that are on the shortage list other than soap. Nancy also said since we do not donate to a food truck, we could add meat of various kinds.
- Robin Bell reported that a poster and sign-up sheet are waiting for participants to sign in for the mid-winter potluck.
- Jennifer McDonald reported that plans are being made for the annual Attic Angels sale on May 18-19. Tables are set up for contributions. The "helpers’ meet and work most Monday mornings.
- The clothing drive will be in Sept. again.
- Nancy Green reported that the final visit to the Habitat House in St. Clair was made by Pastor Ken and Nancy. They delivered the groceries we collected and a gift certificate for $150. No other home is under construction in our area now.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry - Some people are still making shawls. They would like to continue this program. If Patty Armstrong can no longer serve as leader of this effort, a new contact person will be appointed.
- Community meals - several churches are interested in providing a meal to anyone each month. St. Peter’s will consider participating when we receive more information.
- Joanne Niederhauser is interested in forming a group of women to enjoy a meal (lunch/dinner) together monthly at various restaurants. Watch for more.
- How can we connect more often/better with our homebound or inactive members? It was suggested that we send bulletins several times a month possibly signed by members.

Parish Education – Katy Emerich
- Sunday School
  - Valentine’s Day party – Feb. 12


Stewardship – Mark Fisher, Alan Emerich
- There will be revisions to next year’s envelopes
- They are working on getting the names of the counters into the bulletin

Property – Gary Eisen, Del Vogel
- Parking lot discussion above

Worship – Tom & Nancy Latowski, Ian Boden
- A discussion was held to confirm the purchase a new Christmas tree for the church at a cost of $1,000. The Oktoberfest Committee has donated $600 toward this purchase. Motion was made by Gwen Anderson, seconded by Carol Vogel. Motion carried.
- A Worship Committee meeting was held on February 5, 2017. Details of the meeting are as follows:
  - It was discussed that the 3 p.m. Christmas program was very crowded. We may have need to have chairs ready for the ushers to add seating next year.
  - Christmas season was successful. There was a small number of people at Christmas Day service.
  - It was discussed that a new tree will be purchased with a donation from the Oktoberfest Committee. A decision will need to be made what to do. Jennifer McDonald will list the lobby
  - Feb 11 & 12 – Pulpit Swap – Pastor Joyce will be preaching Sat. and Sunday. Musicians will be there on Sunday, Piano, guitars and vocalists. Pastor has worked with Joyce to select songs. There will be communion, as well.
  - Feb. 26 – We will celebrate our new mission and vision statements. The service will celebrate the new mission and vision. Pastor asked about Holy Communion for that Sunday because of celebration. It was decided to have on 2/26.
  - March 1, Ash Wednesday will be at St. Peter’s for the community service. There has been a potluck and they will have a potluck in our Fellowship Hall prior to the service. There will be ashes.
  - March 8 will start Wed. night services at 7 p.m. The Confirmation class will help with these services. There will be a bible study on the small catechism, as well.
  - The last week falls on Spring break, so pastor will lead.
Sunday, March 5, First Communion will occur.

March 25 & 26 – Healing Service

April 9 – Palm Sunday. Last year we did the reading of the Passion and people read parts. Pastor will ask Sue if she would like to organize.

Pastor is planning foot washing for the April 13 Maundy Thursday service.

April 9 is Palm Sunday. This service will be a Community Service at 7 p.m.

April 16 – Easter – 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. There will be no Palm Sunday breakfast because it is the last Sunday of Spring Break.

April 23 – Resurrection breakfast

Bluegrass services – Scott Bell has asked about it. Whenever it works for the Bluegrass, we will plan it.

Celtic Service – Pastor asked if we would want to hold this. The committee supported the plan for May 7.

May 14 – Confirmation and Mother’s Day

June 4 – Pentecost, blessing of graduates and scholarship Sunday.

Pastor is considering a blessing of bicycles and “wheeled things.

Asperging – Pastor asked whether this would be well-received. To celebrate the baptism of our Lord, pastor would sprinkle water around the church, either with a pine branch or an apparatus (right after Christmas).

There is a possibility of holding a Bluegrass service, dependent on participants.

Our next meeting will be planned for September 17, 2017.

Mutual Ministries – No Report

Devotions for March, 2017 Meeting – Ian Boden

Next Meeting: March 7, 2017. Motion was made by Gary Eisen and seconded by Gwen Anderson to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Future Items

April – Camp Transportation, Van Rental
Lot Seal and Restripe

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Latowski

St. Peters Financial Summary
Month Ending January 31, 2017

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<th>Actual for Month</th>
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<td>General Fund Expenses</td>
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<td>General Fund Cash Balance as of 1/31/17</td>
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Year-to-Date January 2017
Rise Up and Shine Sunday Bible study
On Sunday mornings, our class welcomes all 6th through 12th graders to join us as we Rise Up and Shine for Jesus and enjoy lots of fun, faith and fellowship. Friends are always welcome.

J.A.M. “Jesus and Me” Community Youth Group All youth 6th - 12th from community churches and their friends are welcome on Wednesday. Great youth attend to share highs and lows, to pray for one another, to do service projects. On February 1 we made valentine cookies for members of our churches, and to share with the Bible study group and Confirmation class. Thank you to Gwen Anderson and Kathy Nummer who came to help. We decorated 72 cookies, and we also shared special stories. On February 8 J.A.M. has been invited to join Wednesday Bible study group for Rob Bell Nooma video and discussion time. Thank you for the invite.

A special thank you to St. Paul’s Episcopal for their generous donation of $200 to our Community youth group J.A.M. On January 14, after the Saturday 5:00pm worship, our youth hosted a Soup Supper fundraiser. Donations brought in $265. Thanks to everyone who brought in soups to share: Stacey Yax, Stephanie Neiman, Penny Malcolm, Cindy Houle, and Margaret Danneels. All were very tasty. Thank you for your wonderful support.

2017 Extravaganza, Louisville, Kentucky, January 18-23, 2017 I attended as a Region6 Facilitator for the ELCA youth ministry network. As a facilitator, my flight, hotel, and registration fees are paid by the synod. This event brings together youth leaders, youth pastors, and volunteers to learn and share ideas. I am blessed to be able to attend this conference. I always come home feeling rejuvenated in my ministry.

Up Coming events

Feb 5 Y.E.S., Super Bowl Sub sale orders must be in by Jan 29 all proceeds to benefit Youth Event Scholarship fund.
Feb 19 Together We Rise Kid’s Art Silent Auction, organized by Julie Alley and Katy Emerich. Choose a canvas and decorate it with word art, a favorite Bible verse or story. We will then hold a silent auction in the hallway at church. All money raised will help kids in the community that are in foster care. Your canvas is due back to Tamara by March 12, 2017.
Feb 26 Kids Coalition Against Hunger, part of Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond missions team. Sign up using Sign Up Genius at www.signupgenius.com for the April 29, 2017 event. (Package food and attend a presentation on local and global hunger issues.) Help is needed for these shifts: set-up and first shift 8:30am -10:00am; second shift 10:30-12:00pm; clean-up shift 12:00pm – 12:30pm. Please join us to package over 10,000 meals for Mid City Nutrition in Port Huron, and disaster relief efforts here in the United States, and throughout the world.
Mar 1 Ash Wednesday youth group J.A.M. starts at 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Mar 1 Summer Camp & registrations deposits of $100.00 are due using our camp hold code SPLCSC17.
Mar 11 Our first parent and youth meeting about ELCA National youth Gathering June 27-July 1 2018 in Houston Texas.
Mar 12 Together We Rise Kid’s Art Silent Auction. Canvases are due back to Tamara.
Mar 18 Kid’s movie night here at St. Peter’s 6:00pm-8:30pm. Cost is $5.00. Funds raised will support April 29, 2017 Kids Coalition Against Hunger event. K.C.A.H. team member Carter Stevens is chairing this event. Look for flyers in your church mail box.

God’s love and peace to all,
Tamara Howes
Youth & Family Life Ministry
St. Peter’s Light
March 2017
Welcoming all to know and love Jesus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastor.kenstaib@yahoo.com">pastor.kenstaib@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Howes</td>
<td>Cell: 810-278-0995</td>
<td>Tues. - Thurs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tamarasmyl@hotmail.com">tamarasmyl@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>9 am –12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Cell: 810-824-2171</td>
<td>9 am –12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net">stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Communion:
Every Saturday
1st and 3rd Sunday

ST. PETER’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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