

The Scroll

LENT 2026



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Church,



This Lent, our midweek worship will invite us to listen to the story of Jesus in a slightly different way.

Instead of a traditional sermon each Wednesday, we'll hear a series of dramatic monologues spoken from the perspectives of people who encountered Jesus up close: Mary Magdalene, Martha, Peter's mother-in-law, Thomas, and the man who was healed after years of paralysis. These are characters we know from Scripture—but whose inner lives we rarely get to hear.

It's been quite a while since we've used drama in worship at St. Peter. So why now?

The idea began in a recent Bible study conversation. Someone noticed a brief line in the Gospel where we're told that Jesus spoke with a person—and that, afterward, she and her community came to believe in him. But Scripture doesn't tell us what Jesus said. It simply leaves us with the outcome.

That gap sparked a question: What might that conversation have been like?

Of course, Scripture is our foundation. But within the biblical story there are moments of silence, hints, and unanswered questions. This Lent, we're going to step gently and faithfully into those spaces—not to replace the Bible, but to listen to it more deeply. Through prayerful imagination, we'll explore what these people might have thought, feared, hoped, and felt when their lives intersected with Jesus.

We'll begin this journey on Sunday, February 22, when you'll hear a monologue from Lazarus during Sunday worship—a kind of opening doorway into the series. Then, starting Wednesday, February 25, the midweek services will continue with new voices each week.

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and return. By hearing the gospel through the voices of those who encountered Jesus firsthand, we may discover that their questions sound surprisingly familiar—and that their encounters with Christ still speak to our own.

We invite you to join us on Wednesdays in Lent, and to listen with both your ears and your imagination.

In Christ,
Pastor Alex

Lent

2026

Ash Wednesday February 18

Noon - 1 PM: Ashes-to-Go in the Church Parking Lot

5:30 PM: Ash Wednesday Service designed for families with young children

6 PM: Fish Dinner in the Church Gym

7:15 PM: Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesdays in Lent

6:00 PM : Fish Dinner in the Church Gym

7:00 PM : Holden Evening Prayer

Join us for these

Wednesdays:

February 25

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of honesty and hope. We receive ashes as a sign of our mortality and our need for God. These are words of truth, not shame: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes are paired with the promise of grace. We come not to prove our faith, but to be met by God's mercy, as we begin again the journey toward Easter.



Ministry Spotlight: Giving Tree



This year, we collected donations for 3 separate organizations/causes:

First, we collected items for the Dillsburg New Hope Ministries “Christmas Blessing Express” store. New Hope indicated that they were most in need of items that teenagers would shop for, and so we collected things like jewelry, perfume, footballs, basketballs, baseball bats, phone chargers and cases, and earphones and earbuds. Bill Laubenheimer delivered our donations on December 8th.

Next, we sponsored a 6-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy who attend Winding Creek Elementary school in the Cumberland Valley School District as a part of the Winding Creek “Holiday Help” drive. The students’ parents filled out a form to request the items they would like their children to receive and we provided those items. Some examples of things that we donated were as follows: winter coats and boots, articles of clothing in their sizes, toys, games, and books. I delivered the items on December 10th, and the parents picked them up from the school later that week.

Finally, we collected items on Bethesda Mission’s wish list to provide much-needed support for people staying in the shelters this winter. Some examples of things that we donated were winter boots, hand warmers, pillows, shower shoes, towels, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, sweatpants, underwear, batteries, cell phone chargers, stamps, Giant gift cards, and Bibles. We also collected items for the Bethesda Mission Community Center. The center provides after school homework help and structured activities for children in the neighborhood. We donated remote control cars, Nerf guns, school supplies, and backpacks. Audrey and I delivered the items on January 1st. The four gentlemen who helped us unload the donations were very appreciative. They were especially excited about the remote-control cars and Nerf guns and said that the kids at the center were going to be very excited when they saw them.

I would like to thank everyone who donated items this Christmas season. Our congregation is always very generous!

-Faith L.

Items donated to Bethesda Mission:





Ministry Spotlight: UPMC Hospital

On January 8th, Bill and I crossed the river to UPMC Hospital in Harrisburg. We delivered 82 puzzle and children's activity books donated by the ELCW. We met again with Shonda Chapman. She is the head of the Volunteer Coordinator and Community Services office. While we were filling out the volunteer donation cards and counting the books for their inventory, we chatted with Frank Bobak, who we met on our last visit, and Robert (Rob) Hershey. Rob normally volunteers as a greeter at the front door of the hospital. But, while we were there, he was training to take over the cart, because Frank was taking some time off. They explained to us that there were two carts. One for the general population of the hospital and one for the patients and families of the Ronald McDonald House. They were excited to receive the children's coloring and activity books. Right in front of us, Frank loaded the Ronald McDonald cart with some of the books that we brought. While we were learning about the two different carts, three teenagers arrived. They volunteer five days a week for three hours as part of a high school program. On this day, they were working in the Central Sterile and Orthopedic departments. The office was very busy and we didn't want to take up too much of their time but just before we left Shonda, Frank, and Rob consented to pose for a picture for the SCROLL. If you look closely, Frank has his arm around me. He's a very friendly guy. Bill and I enjoy our visits to the UPMC volunteer office. Shonda said that they could use:

- Adult coloring books (The kind with perforated pages you can tear out.)
- Colored pencils (Small packs that you can get at the dollar store.)

Respectfully Submitted
Clare Laubenheimer



President's Corner



Have you had the experience of having a beloved electrical appliance suddenly decide it does not want to work anymore? Was it an appliance that had faithfully served you for over 20 years? Were you shocked to find out that that same appliance now costs about three times as much as it did when you first bought it? Of course you have! Appliances just don't last forever.

We had that very thing happen to the standing freezer in the church kitchen recently. It will cost us about \$9,000 to replace. Luckily Council established a Deferred Maintenance Fund to pay for things like this that have an anticipated replacement date. Some of the other items that fit under this are HVAC units, and refrigerators. Building fund donations go into this fund as well as a portion of the Annual Budget.

Council is involved in the search for a new Parish Administrative Assistant. We are very thankful for the volunteers that are keeping the office operating smoothly. Even though we do not have a full time organist at present we are enjoying the musical gifts of a variety of substitute organists and two members who are providing piano accompaniment for our Services. The search for a permanent organist continues.

Council is still looking for someone to Chair the Finance committee. This is a position that does not require the person to keep the books, Tom Draude takes care of all that. If you are a person that is interested in the financial workings of an organization, would like to be a part of the budget process for the church and the Pre School, and has some experience in reading and understanding a financial report you might be just the person we need. Please contact Priss Bashore for more details.

As we enter the Lenten season the Council will continue to meet monthly to take care of the business of the church while also finding ways to carry out the mission of St Peter Lutheran church to Grow in Faith, Live in Hope and Serve in Love.

Yours in Christ,
Priss Bashore

New Service Opportunity



If you're looking for a chance to volunteer in your community, we have a wonderful new opportunity for you. St. Peter is gathering a team to volunteer at Mission Central (5 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg).

They are a religious non-profit that partners with more than 200 organizations. They supply essential resources to those providing humanitarian aid and critical care. From flood recovery efforts to school supply distributions, or medical equipment, they stand ready to respond – wherever and whenever it's needed.

St. Peter has committed to sending volunteers from **12:15-2:45 PM** on the following dates: **Feb 23, Apr 27, June 22, Aug 24, Oct 26**. We would love for you to join us. Please send an email to office@stpetermechanicsburg.com letting us know you'll be there.

If you're able to help, dress in layers (it can be chilly in the warehouse), and wear closed-toed shoes. There is work to be done for people of ALL ages and abilities!

CPR/AED Training at St. Peter Saturday, February 21

We're pleased to announce that we will be providing Adult/Child CPR/AED hands-on training here at St. Pete's on Saturday morning, February 21. Our own Zach Weiss is a certified American Red Cross instructor and has agreed to provide training to our congregation. We appreciate in advance that Zach is willing to give up his Saturday morning for this important training. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. He can accommodate up to about 10 people for this training. If interested, please sign up as soon as you can. On behalf of our Safety & Security Team, thank you Zach for making this important training available!



Life Together

Lenten Prayer Walks

Continuing in the tradition of the last few years we will again be offering a Prayer Walk during Lent on Sundays after late church. Join us as we pray around the community. We walk, talk and then pause several times for silent prayer as we pray for that community. It's a great time to get to know each other better. If the weather is not to your liking, please know that we will adjust how we are doing it. We usually start out with the UA police and fire stations and also walking around our gardens to pray for an abundant growing season. Those are two of them. A completed schedule will be included in an upcoming Scoop. Dates will be 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, and 3/22.

2nd Sunday Fellowship

On Sunday, March 8, 2026, we will celebrate a time of fellowship from 9 am to 10:30 am. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, a snack, and a visit with your church friends, old and new. Bring a snack to share (optional), and beverages will be provided. Any questions, contact Dottie Shultz, dshultz627@gmail.com or 717-766-0457.

Egg-Making

The ELCW annual egg makers are working each Tuesday and Thursday in February & March from 8 am until Noon. If you are available on any Tuesday or Thursday to help with this St. Peter fundraising project, please join us! It's a great time to socialize with your St Peter friends!

Eggs for Sale

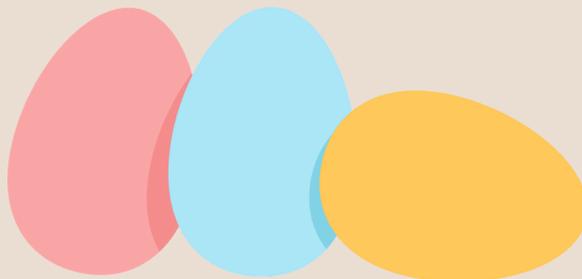
The ELCW is selling peanut butter, maple walnut, coconut cream & butter cream eggs. Order forms are in the office & boardroom. Eggs are just \$1.25 each and can be purchased & picked up at the following times:

Sundays - 8:30 AM - 12 PM

Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9 AM - 12 PM

Wednesday evenings during Lent

Please contact Carolyn King at 717-766-0988 for additional pickup times.



ELCW (Women's Group)

At their January meeting, the ELCW made 180 Valentine's Day favors for our local Meals on Wheels. Good work, ELCW!



SPYG (Youth Group)

Don't miss the SPYG Lock-in February 27-28.

The SPYG Jr. (K-5th grade) meeting is on March 8 from Noon to 2 PM.

The SPYG (6th-12th grade) meeting is on March 8 from 5 to 8 PM.



Save the Date!

VBS - July 13-16. Invite your neighbors, family, and friends!

If you would like to help, please see Clare Laubenheimer

Faith Party - Saturday, April 4. Save the date for our annual Easter celebration, complete with story, songs, crafts, snack, and an Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers through 5th graders!

Special Garden Sunday School - We'll have more details soon, but plan for April 19 to be a special Sunday School even with a gardening activity and a special guest!



Sunday Readings

Sunday, February 15 - Transfiguration Sunday - John 9:1-41 - The Man Born Blind

Sunday, February 22 - First Sunday in Lent - John 11:1-44 - Jesus Raises Lazarus

Sunday, March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent - John 13:1-17 - Jesus Washes Feet

Sunday, March 8 - Third Sunday in Lent - John 18:12-27 - Peter's Denial

Sunday, March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent - John 18:28-40 - Jesus and Pilate

Sunday, March 22 - Fifth Sunday in Lent - John 19:1-16a - Jesus Condemned

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday - John 19:16b-22 - The Crucified Messiah

*Happy
Anniversary*

March 21 - Jim and Jodie Ruediger

March 22 - Tom and Kim Draude

March 22 - Craig and Tammy Nelson

March 18 - Gary and Becky Fenstermacher

2025 Year-End Financial Report

Thank you!

Because of your generosity, this past year was one of strong, faithful ministry. Together, we supported worship, learning, care, and service in our community and beyond. We are grateful to share that we finished the year with income exceeding expenses. This is a sign of health and shared commitment to God's work among us. Thank you for giving, serving, and trusting God's abundance. We look forward to what God will do through us next as we continue to be called to grow in faith, live in hope, and serve in love.

Thanks be to God!

Dec '25

Income 29,488.68

Expenses 23,192.61

Net Income 6,296.07

Jan - Dec '25

Income 291,625.08

Expenses 281,912.79

Net Income 9,712.29

Birthday Blessings!



February 16 - Stacie Witmer

February 18 - Josh Bissell, Bryce Gross, Kevin Lehman

February 19 - Katie Noss

February 20 - Andrea Bankes

March 1 - Grant Sisock

March 2 - Lily Sisock, Rich Harner

March 4 - Thayer Bogdan

March 9 - Shirley Maxwell, Molly Witmer

March 12 - Whitney Stitt, Kevin Marlowe

March 13 - Sarah Bowers

March 17 - Karen Poe

March 18 - Dennis Dacheux

March 19 - Scott Williamson, John Ball

March 22 - Cheryl Fratus

March 23 - Heather Young

March 24 - Joy Gross, Shirley Miller

March 25 - John Jones, Shannon Terry

March 26 - Don Harris

March 29 - Wendy Sweigert, Ronald Stough



**130 Nittany Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

MAUNDY THURSDAY • APRIL 2

5:30 PM · Wee Worship

6:00 PM · Shrimp & Lobster Dinner

7:15 PM · Worship

GOOD FRIDAY • APRIL 3

7:00 PM · Service

EASTER SUNDAY • APRIL 5

9:30 AM · Festival Worship