



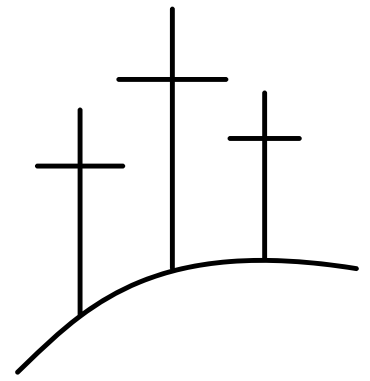
The Scroll

EASTER 2026



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Church,



Holy Week is one of the great gifts of the Christian calendar. It's a chance for us to slow down, pay attention, and walk through the story that changes everything. I hope you'll join us for as much of it as you can.

Maundy Thursday, April 2 begins with Wee Worship at 5:30 (a service designed for families with young children). Then at 6:00 is our famous Shrimp and Lobster Dinner. At 7:15, we gather for an evening of worship that is unique in our church year. We'll have the opportunity to hear individual words of forgiveness spoken over you, a reading that includes some of Jesus's final words, communion, and the stripping of the altar. It is one of my favorite services of the year.

On Good Friday, April 3 at 7:00 PM, we enter the Passion through a liturgy called *The Cry of the Whole Congregation*. This is a service that draws us into the drama and weight of this day.

Holy Saturday, April 4 holds two very different and equally wonderful gatherings. At 10:00 AM, we welcome the children in your life – toddlers through 5th grade – to our Faith Party, with the Easter story, song, craft, snack, and an egg hunt. That evening at 7:00, we join our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal in Mechanicsburg for their Easter Vigil – the lighting of the new fire, the chanting of the Exsultet, and the story of salvation told from beginning to almost-end. It is a beautiful way to spend a Saturday night.

On **Easter Sunday, April 5**, we gather together at 9:30 AM to celebrate. This is a one-service day where we're all together to declare that Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

These are sacred days. I hope you can join us for worship.

In Christ,
Pastor Alex

H O L Y W E E K

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 - Worship

Holy Saturday, April 4

10:00 AM - Faith Party (register here) →



7:00 PM - Vigil at St. Luke's Episcopal,
Mechanicsburg

Easter Sunday, April 5

9:30 AM - Worship

Worship & Music

Our Lenten journeys are almost over, and Easter is on its way. What will you take into the Easter season and beyond from your Lenten journey? Will you take any Lenten disciplines with you and continue them? Will you take any newfound revelations? Will you take a sense of affirmation that your God is your rock and Jesus your salvation? Will you take guidance from the Holy Spirit and let it lead you on a new journey or support you on your current journey?

We can learn so much by listening to our triune God and following His way. And, we continue to learn from Him throughout our earthly journeys. Ponder what you have learned as you move forward from Jesus' life journey, teaching, infinite love, and death on a cross to His glorious resurrection and our life journeys ahead.

Yours in Christ,
Susan Hensel

Ministry Spotlight:



As a new outreach activity to our community, a group of 12 members of St. Peter Lutheran Church volunteered at the Mission Central (located on 5 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg; <https://missioncentral.org/>) on March 23, 2026, for 2.5 hours. Since this was the first time for most of us to volunteer at Mission Central, we were first given an orientation session and a tour of the facilities by Judy Herrold, the Volunteer Coordinator.



The activities of Mission Central are housed in a huge warehouse, which has separate aisles for different products donated to them. For example, there was a section with donated medical equipment, furniture, and a “Shoe Alley” with donated pairs of shoes, and a large pile of donated suitcases, which are often needed for transporting medicines to other countries.



The facility had many murals painted by local youth groups. The one shown here was particularly interesting, showing a line of hungry people getting bread with Jesus in the middle among them.

Our project of the day was to inspect donated hygiene packages and assemble them into Mission Central Care Kits, which contained a washcloth, a hand towel, a bar of soap, a toothbrush, 10 band-aids, a comb, and a nail clipper. This was a light job that all of us were able to do.



St. Peter is committed to partnering with Mission Central to “Connect God’s Resources to Human Need”, to borrow the slogan of Mission Central. So, stay tuned for future volunteer opportunities with your sisters and brothers from church! We have agreed to serve this year on these dates, each day from **12:15 pm to 2:45 pm: April 27, June 22, August 24, and October 26.**

Each time we need a group of 12 volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be circulated ahead of each visit.

You can also help us collect items that Mission Central needs for their different programs and the “kits” that they assemble. The four most needed items are:

1. Handtowels
2. Children’s scissors
3. Spray air fresheners, e.g., Mrs. Myers
4. Nail clippers

There will be a box in our church building where you can deposit your donations of these items. If you have question, please contact Cheryl Fratus.

President's Corner



It has been refreshing to see people returning to church in person as the weather improves! We've come out of a brutally cold winter all ready to pick up the pace of doing God's work. There are many opportunities to serve at St Peter Lutheran Church that help others feel God's love.

Your Church Council continues to do its part by managing the Administrative, Property, and Ministry functions of the congregation so that the congregation can carry out the work.

Having a well-functioning administrative staff of Pastor, Parish Administrative Assistant, Director of Music Ministry, Organist, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, and Pre-School Director is essential to carrying out our congregation's mission. Council is currently involved in securing two interim people to fill vacant positions as we search for permanent replacements for the Parish Administrative Assistant and Organist positions.

In the effort to ensure a clean, safe, and accessible building and grounds, we will be looking toward completing the refurbishment of the parking lots this year and having automatic doors installed on the doors entering the gym hallway. This has been delayed by the lack of parts to complete the job. New and improved lighting is still a work in progress. And Council has a goal of improving how to set aside funds (Deferred Maintenance) for items that are anticipated to need replacement as they exceed their life expectancy.

Support for the Ministries of the church cannot be covered with only money; ministries need volunteers! We are fortunate to have part-time staff to lead our Music Ministry and Youth and Family Ministry, but we depend on members of the congregation to volunteer to actually make the ministry work. For instance, having a choir director only works if members volunteer to sing. And growing a garden to feed hungry people will only work if people plant and nurture the plants. These are only two examples of the many ways you, as a member of the congregation, can become not just a member of St Peter but are the hands that carry out God's work.

Council meetings are always open to members to attend. If you have an interest in something in the congregation that needs improvement and you would like to offer a suggestion of how the council can make that happen, please bring it to any council member or to a council meeting.

Yours in Christ,
Priss Bashore

Soup-er Bowl of Caring 2026 Results

All the cans of soup have been counted—thank you, Audrey—and the cash donations have been tallied—thank you, Tom. Here are the wonderful results:

Pulpit side (tomato)	363
Organ side (noodle)	343
Total Cans	706

Cash Donations	\$320
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Grand Total 1,026 cans equivalent



Thank you to everyone who donated! New Hope Ministries picked up the soup on Friday, 2/20, and they were very thankful. The real winners are our community neighbors who need help!

CPR/AED Training Complete

In February, ten St. Peter members completed a CPR/AED training led by Zach Weiss, a certified American Red Cross instructor. All participants passed the 45-question exam. Thank you, Zach, for volunteering your time and making our congregation and community safer!



Life Together

Welcome New Members!

On March 15th, the family of St Peter welcomed eleven new members to our congregation! We are overjoyed to have each of you as part of our community! You can see their photos on St Peter's Photo Board. Look for the photos with a star!

Marianna Heeter

Brook & Deidre Lenker

Bob & Brenda Long

Devin, Katie & Lucas Manzullo-Thomas

Gerard Tromp & Helena Kuivaniemi

Janice Shuty

2nd Sunday Fellowship

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10th, we will celebrate a time of fellowship from 9 AM - 10:30 AM. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, cake, and other snacks. Visit with your new and longtime church friends! Bring a snack to share (optional). Beverages will be provided. Please contact Dottie Shultz with questions at dshultz627@gmail.com or (717) 766-0457.

Fair Trade Sunday - April 12th

Hope Academy's sixth-grade girls have completed their own coffee blend – Creciendo Juntas (Growing Together) – and it will be available for purchase on Fair Trade Sunday, April 12. Chica Bean and LWR Farmers Market coffees, olive oil, teas, mangoes, dates, and chocolate bars will also be available. Note: chocolate bar prices are increasing, with proceeds supporting Hope Academy students in Guatemala, including our own Anahi. Donation envelopes are in the pews.

Earth Day Sunday School - April 19th

Join us for a special Earth Day Sunday School with Angela Book, PSU Master Gardener and pollinator expert, who will teach us how to create a pollinator garden for bees and other beneficial insects. This event is designed for families and all interested gardeners. Watch upcoming Scoops for the sign-up link. As God calls us to care for Creation, this is a wonderful way to respond!

Life Together

Community Garden & New Hope Ministries

We're gearing up for another year of providing food through New Hope Ministries in Mechanicsburg! Dwayne Lebo will be plowing the Community Garden and preparing space for onions, and wheat has already been planted for Caitlin Peffer's beloved communion bread. Current team members will receive an email soon with updates. Not on the team yet? Send your email address to Carol Forbes to join. Already on the team but unable to help this year? Please let Carol know.

Photo Board

Stop by the bulletin board outside the choir room to take a look at our Member Photo Board as it comes to fruition. Members are reminded to bring in a photo of their family. This is especially helpful for new members joining our church family. If you have a photo on your phone but are not able to get a print, please send it to Carol Forbes at (717-433-6718), and she will have a print made.

Hope Academy Pennsylvania

Hope Academy PA, a bilingual school for girls from preschool through sixth grade, is now in its third year. The Academy is the result of Pastor Jennifer and Deacon David Hope-Tringali's work to create a US connection with Hope Academy's school in Guatemala. Led by long-time teacher Jen Graf, the preschool offers a STEAM program with several hands-on learning experiences. The Academy is offering a Spanish Immersion Summer Camp with two week-long choices for families.

Important Note!

If you notice any of these boxes around the building, like the one in the photo, please leave them where they are & do not touch them! Our pest control company has carefully placed and recorded each box to help keep the building serviced all year.



SPYG (Youth Group)

We've got a lot of great Youth Group events coming up!

Annual Youth Sunday Breakfast Church is on April 12th at 9:30 AM. St Peter youth will lead the worship service! It's a potluck; please bring a shareable breakfast dish if you are able!

The annual retreat for Sr. High & Young Adults (SHYA Retreat) is May 15th-17th at Camp Nawakwa. This retreat is for our older youth and young adults to deepen their faith within a community of peers.

[REGISTER HERE - SHYA RETREAT 2026](#)

The last SPYG Jr. meeting of the school year is on Sunday, May 3rd, and the final SPYG meeting of the school year is on Sunday, May 31st.

Come on out to a youth group meeting for a great meal, great friends, and learning about your faith in new and fun ways!

Confirmation Camp is June 21st-27th at Camp Nawakwa. If you have not signed up yet, be sure to get in touch with me ASAP! Confirmation Camp is one of the most fun weeks of the year, where middle school and high school youth from all over central PA gather for a week of faith formation, classic camp activities, and making memories that will last a lifetime!

See you at Youth Group!

April '26

4th - Faith Party (SPYG Jr. Event)

12th - Youth Sunday Breakfast Church, 9:30 AM

12th - SPYG Meeting, 5-8 PM

18th - Wittel Farm Flex meeting

May '26

3rd - SPYG Jr. Last Meeting, 12-2 PM

3rd - SPYG Meeting, 5-8 PM

6th - D&D&D Flex Meeting, 6-8 PM

15th-17th - Sr. High & Young Adults Retreat at Camp Nawakwa

31st - SPYG Last Meeting, 5-8 PM



Gather Around God's Campfire!

Join us for VBS

Monday, July 13 - Thursday, July 16

9:00-11:30 AM

For children ages 4 through entering 6th grade



Register here: →



Readings in Worship

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday - Jesus' Last Words - John 19:23-30

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday - Jesus the Passover Lamb - John 19:31-42

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday - Resurrection - John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 12 - Second Sunday of Easter - Thomas - John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 19 - Third Sunday of Easter - Paul's Conversion - Acts 9:1-19a

Sunday, April 26 - Fourth Sunday of Easter - Paul and Silas - Acts 16:16-34

Sunday, May 3 - Fifth Sunday of Easter - Paul's Sermon at Athens - Acts 17:16-31

Sunday, May 10 - Sixth Sunday of Easter - Partnership in the Gospel - Phil. 1:1-18a

Sunday, May 17 - Seventh Sunday of Easter - The Christ Hymn - Phil. 2:1-13

Sunday, May 24 - Pentecost - Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7

Sunday, May 31 - Trinity Sunday

April 04 - Kevin & Jean McArdle

April 19 - John & Martha Sproat

April 20 - Joanne & Dave Keeny

April 24 - Katie & Kyle Noss

April 26 - Betty & Don Harris

April 27 - Carol & Peter Slack

*Happy
Anniversary*

May 01 - Bob & Cindy Barger

May 12 - Dory & Steve Kessler

May 12 - Zach & Lesley Reinhart

May 25 - Ronnice & Shannon Terry

May 26 - Jim & Shirley Maxwell

May 27 - David & Jacey Ross

Financial Snapshot

	Feb '26
Income	34,058.14
Expenses	24,641.67
Net Income	9416.77

	YTD
Income	50,530.19
Expenses	48,277.97
Net Income	2,252.22

Birthday Blessings!



April 01 - Ed Strevig
April 05 - Jodie Ruediger
April 08 - Katie Montgomery
April 09 - Diane Boust
April 11 - Owen Witmer
April 14 - Zach Reinhart
April 14 - Thomas Noss
April 15 - Kathy Zagoric
April 15 - Kellen Michalowski
April 16 - Sam Bashore
April 17 - Lesley Reinhart
April 22 - Diane Smith
April 24 - Kylie Ross
April 25 - Violet Stitt
April 26 - Cindy Ward
April 30 - Mark Bogdan

May 01 - Mary Jane Steinhart
May 02 - Pat Franko
May 03 - Creedin Paulus
May 03 - Bonnie Allen
May 07 - Jonesy Bueno
May 11 - Carolyn King
May 11 - William Kishbaugh
May 11 - Patrick Potter
May 13 - Maryanna Hall
May 16 - Anna Montgomery
May 18 - Audrey Bamberger
May 19 - Kellan Ross
May 23 - Martha Sproat
May 26 - Cynthia Jones
May 26 - Mary Ann Charles
May 27 - Deacon Weigel
May 28 - Logan Zagoric
May 30 - Kevin McArdle
May 30 - Al Myers
May 31 - Stacey Niedzwiecki



**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