

# St. Peter Lutheran Church

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]

324 E. Traer St., PO Box 638

Greene, Iowa 50636



All Saints, Harvest Offering, Thanksgiving

## NOVEMBER 2020

The Newsletter of  
St. Peter Lutheran Church [ELCA],  
Greene, IA

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*A special Harvest Offering will be taken on*

*November 21st & 22nd.* This gift will be in addition to the regular weekly offering. This year the Harvest Offering will go to the following  
1/3 to the Greene Food Bank,  
1/3 to Lutheran Disaster Response and  
1/3 to our YAGM Missionary.

•Please put your offering in the enclosed **Harvest Offering envelope.**

Please think of the many gifts you have received this year.



**St. Peter Lutheran Church - Greene, IA**  
**Unofficial Council Minutes October 7, 2020**

**Members Present via Zoom or in person:** Clarene Backer, Esther Backer, David Crow, John Ebensberger, Carrie Eiklenborg, Pastor Flucke, Andrea Gotto, Kelly Hoodjer, Erin Mulder.

**Members Absent:** Jan Osier, Chuck Thompson and William Schmidt. **Also Present:** Christin Flucke, Gale Brinkman (Treasurer) and Robin Majewski.

**Devotions:** There was further discussion on the book "Autopsy of a Deceased Church". The council feels St. Peter has some symptoms of illness and discussed some approaches we might take to treat those symptoms.

**Secretary's Minutes:** Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

**Church Vision:**

**Additions to Agenda:** New Business – Update Wish list, Old Business COVID-19 – Opening up church to small groups.

**Building and Grounds:** **A.** John & Carol Barth have done painting in the old basement. **B.** Asbestos removal at the parsonage is completed. Gary Schmidt is looking into a floor covering for the parsonage basement. **C.** The tree stump at the parsonage has been removed and sidewalk repair is pending. **D.** Steve Mulder provided lawn spraying recently.

**E.** Paul Yerkes is working on repairing the parsonage refrigerator. **F.** Big thanks to Gary Schmidt and others who helped out while Erin & Kris Dralle were unable too.

**Education and Youth:** **A.** Report that 41 attended Sunday school on line in September. On line Sunday school will continue in October with plans being made for possible return to in person Sunday school in November. **B.** A survey will be sent to parents regarding in person Sunday school and also ask for more parent volunteers.

**Stewardship and Finance:** **A.** The council agreed to split the November 21/22 "Harvest Offering" equally between the Greene Food Bank, Lutheran Disaster Response and our YAGM Missionary.

**Worship and Evangelism:** **A.** Hoping to have outdoor Sunday services behind the church on October 11 & 18, weather permitting. **B.** In person, indoor services will continue without singing by the congregation due to COVID-19.

**C.** It was decided not to have a Thanksgiving Eve worship and instead mail out devotions and prayer suggestions to each family. **D.** Advent services will be on line devotional videos. **E.** Christmas services are yet to be decided. **F.** Thanks to Dennis Griffin for the use of his sound system for the outdoor services.

**Personnel:** Employee evaluations will be coming up next month.

**Mutual Ministry:**

Committee reports were approved.

**WELCA:** Circle meeting planned for November.

**Youth & Children's Ministry:** **A.** Four 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are planning to attend the "Fall Junior High Riverside Retreat". Carrie made a motion to have St. Peter pay half of the \$90 fee for each student attending. Seconded by Kelly, passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report:** **A.** Pastor asked to be allowed to carry over one weekend of Continuing Education to 2021 due to limited meetings held this year. After discussion it was moved, seconded and approved to allow this for 2020 only.

**Treasurer's Report:** **A.** Multiple different health insurance options for Pastor Daniel were presented. Pastor requested that he would like the "Silver Plus with Health Savings Account" plan. The council after discussion agreed to this plan.

**B.** Council also approved payment of \$75 for tree stump removal and \$444 for a new microwave for the parsonage.

**Old Business:** **A.** The steeple leak will be tabled until the November meeting. **B.** Valley View technology after further discussion Kelly moved that St. Peter allocate \$300 for purchase of needed items. It was seconded and approved. Pastor will take care of purchasing the items. **C.** COVID-19

## Mission Statement

### St. Peter Lutheran Church

**WELCOMES** people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church,  
**EQUIPS** people with a faith that works in daily life, and  
**SERVES** in the world to make a difference in Jesus' Name.

### St. Peter Lutheran Church Financial Report October 20, 2020

	Ending Balance
Current Fund Balance	\$17,332.78
Current Fund Amount in MMDA	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$17,332.78
Other Fund Balances	
Benevolence and Mission	\$1,078.25
Building and Repair	-\$3,370.64
Basement Windows	\$3,899.00
Fellowship	\$1,988.59
Thrivent Choice	\$3,921.00
Restoration	\$21,171.49
Missionary Support	\$735.00
AED	<u>\$450.00</u>
	<u>\$29,872.69</u>
Bank Balance	
Checking	\$26,123.70
Money Market	<u>\$21,081.77</u>
TOTAL BANK	<u>\$47,205.47</u>
Goyer Scholarship	\$717.38
McCosh - Gift of Love	\$1,021.09
PPP - Loan	\$0.00

## On Stewardship

"It's a funny thing about life, once you begin to take note of the things you are grateful for, you begin to lose sight of the things that you lack." —Germany Kent, American Journalist

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
—God in Isaiah 58:9-10

## Planned Giving

Our lives are journeys of faith and generosity. As our faith matures and deepens, so does the way we support God's work in the world. As a child, perhaps you started by giving coins at Sunday School and watching as your parents gave offerings in worship. As we grow up in the church, our giving evolves as well, reflecting new depths of meaning, understanding, and experience.

When your earthly life comes to a close, you can continue to give and make a difference in our congregation through planned giving. Have you remembered the church in your will or through a charitable trust or annuity? What a wonderful enduring testimony to God's blessing in your life! Ask the church office for more information about planned giving.





## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking members to serve on the church council. This is an opportunity to serve the Lord and to better understand of all the ingredients that are needed to fulfill the ministry at St. Peter. We ask you prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. Council positions will be voted on at our Annual meeting. There are also openings on some of the committees. If you are interested, please contact the Nominating Committee: Carol Barth, Ashley Coake, Lauren Hawker, Phil Wahlgren, Delores Adelmund & June Vogelmann.

## Generosity and Thanksgiving

In this season of thanksgiving, a sincere 'thank you' is in order to everyone who supports our congregation throughout the year with their attendance, service and regular financial contributions.

Please note, St Peter offers secure electronic giving options on a scheduled, automated basis. It's convenient for you and provides

much-needed financial consistency for the church. An authorization form is required and can be obtained from the church office. We also

offer giving opportunities through your smart phone and a link on the church's web page. Contact Gale Brinkman for more information or review the "electronic giving" card in the pew rack.



## NOVEMBER - Holy Communion

6:00 pm - Saturday, November 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

9:30 am - Sunday, November 1st, 8th, 15, 22nd & 29th

### Home Communion

Please call the church office and schedule a time for the Pastor to come to you with Holy Communion.



- When individual glasses are offered at Holy Communion, the clear glasses have wine in them and the purple glasses have grape juice.

## Greene Community Food

Food Bank item for the month of November is Peanut Butter. All donations are appreciated, we can use any food or paper items that are given to us.



## Socially Distance Quilting

Some of the Quilters have shown interest in meeting several times a month to get started on quilts. We are looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. We will try this: Tuesday, October 20, Tuesday, November 3 and Tuesday, November 17. We will meet from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, with a break about 10:30. We will provide coffee and tea. If you would like a snack, just bring for yourself. We will **not** do a dinner. Please bring a mask and plan to social distance. We will try this and can always change as we go.



**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!!**

The WELCA board would like to thank all of the WELCA Women that supported us with your generous donations given in place of our Annual Country Time dinner and Raffle Fund Raiser. Its great to know that you support our ministry to St. Peter, our community and also reaching out to others near and far. We ask your prayers as we continue to deal with the pandemic and hopefully WELCA will be able to soon be back into doing some things we have done in the past. God's Blessings to all of you as we all work together through this 2020 year.

**ALTAR FLOWERS: November - Glory Circle**

### WELCA CALENDAR

**Senior citizen meals coordinator - Nancy Reser**  
**November 7th - LWR In-Gathering in Hudson, IA**  
**12th - 9:30 am - Circle meeting - Thankoffering - WELCA Board refreshments**  
**16th - Prayer Shawl Ministry - 3:00 pm**  
**28th - Put up poinsettias**

**The WELCA Thank Offering Boxes will be given as part of our worship services on Saturday, November 14th and Sunday, November 15th. Place your money in an envelope and bring your offering to any of these worship services. Please save your Thank Offering box so it can be used again next year.**

## LWR In-Gathering Report to Congregation

The LWR In-Gathering is going to be held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9-11 a.m. It will be at St. Timothy Lutheran in Hudson. Jeff Dralle has graciously offered to help us deliver our 128 quilts, 67 school kits, and 11 baby care kits. Thank you, Jeff.

In anticipation of whether there would be an ingathering, some of our quilts were delivered locally: Valley View Care Center - 17 quilts, Allison Care Center - 10 quilts, Cedar Rapids Homeless Shelter - 28 quilts, Friends of the Family in Waverly - 13 quilts, Bremwood - 19 quilts and Marshalltown Veterans Home - 12 quilts. We also made and delivered 5 Valor Quilts to the following Veterans: Les Johnson, Darrel Brinkman, Ray DeVries, Eldon Peterson and Gale Brinkman.

**All Saints Weekend - October 31st and November 1st  
Remembrance**

A "saint" isn't perfect, just forgiven. That's why all believers in Christ can be and are called saints. The actual definition of a "saint" is "holy one." By faith in Jesus Christ, all who hold on to Jesus Christ and depend upon HIM to forgive their sins, make them right with God and give them a place in eternity with Him - those people and those people alone are "saints."

**ALL SAINTS DAY** historically has remembered this and we do as well at St. Peter. These saints of God have finished their labor for Christ and have now been taken home to be with HIM where they are cheering us on until "our race also is done."

Come to worship the first Sunday of November and remember them and be strengthened for the rest of "your" race/work for God. All were buried through the church since last ALL SAINTS DAY.

ALL SAINTS  
DAY



2019

*Frederick Nordmeyer  
November 11, 2019*

*Robert Nordmeyer  
November 19, 2019*

*James Fesenmeyer  
November 27, 2019*

2020

*LaVern Landers  
January 9, 2020*

*Majorie Butzlaff  
January 15, 2020*

*Carolyn Martin  
January 23, 2020*

*Terry Landers  
January 25, 2020*

*Berniece Krull  
March 10, 2020*

*Clarence Brinkman  
April 9, 2020*

*Robert Schroeder  
May 22, 2020*

*Merle Krueger  
May 23, 2020*

*Mildred Senne  
August 7, 2020*

**Christ the King Sunday**  
**- November 22nd**  
**Last Sunday of the**  
**Church Year**



**MEMORIAL GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**  
**and in memory of:**

WELCA has given \$100.00 to the Memorial Fund in memory of all the Saints from November 1, 2019 - November 1, 2020



## NOVEMBER Birthdays

1 - Christian Odom,  
Kristi Orta,  
Tarah Osier,  
Rhonda Rottler,  
Danielle Steere  
2 - Zachary Quade  
3 - Bryce Schroeder,  
Autumn Studebaker  
5 - John Brinkman,  
Russell Kock,  
Shawn Landers  
6 - Violet Brinkman  
8 - John Landers,  
Jonathan Worley  
9 - Randy DeVries,  
Darla Steere  
10 - Gale Brinkman,  
Ramon Holtz  
11 - Caitlin Hyman,  
Morgan Steere  
12 - Lindsay Bain

13 - Evelyn Van Raden  
14 - Debra Landers,  
Mya Landers,  
Dennis Wunsch  
15 - Richard Johnson,  
Dustyn Martin,  
Shane Testroet  
16 - Tegan Landers  
17 - Les Johnson,  
Kayleen Landers,  
Marilyn Schroeder  
18 - Richard Adelmund,  
Joe Backer,  
Mike Constien,  
Colton Platts  
19 - Calvin Kock,  
Wendy Steere,  
Michael Wilcox,  
Robyn Wunsch,  
Melodie Yerkes

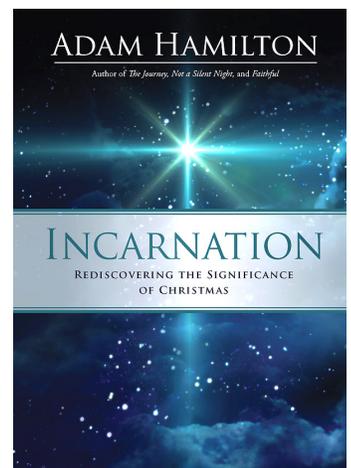
20 - Hallie Testroet,  
Tod Kock,  
Joan Menken,  
Silas Spratt,  
Tyron Steere  
21 - Scott Chisholm,  
Lindsey Hoodjer  
22 - Gail Arjes,  
Elizabeth Mathers,  
Kurt Menken,  
Bryce Trees  
23 - Phil Pitzenberger  
24 - Thomas Hodges  
26 - Teryn Joebgen,  
Lyle Landers,  
Casey Yerkes  
27 - Jeff Stirling,  
Holly Wedeking  
28 - Jeff Lewis,  
Neal Nordmeyer  
30 - Rick Steere

## Online Advent Bible Study

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, Pastor Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

This group will meet via Zoom from 3:00-4:00 each of the four Sunday afternoons in Advent, beginning on November 29. Suggested donation of \$10 for the book. Let Pastor Daniel know by November 18 if you're interested.

In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ child for our lives and world today!



## LSI Article

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, loving home.

In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit [LSIowa.org/Foster](http://LSIowa.org/Foster), or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

## Turn your clocks **BACK**

as you go to bed on Saturday night  
**November 1st**  
and get one more hour of blessed sleep!



## Family In Other Churches

As Christians, we are called to participate in a local congregation of Christ's Body, the Church. We are grateful for the many people who have chosen to serve the Lord through membership at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Greene. We appreciate your commitment to this congregation!

We also recognize that today, people frequently move between communities and it can be easy to get disconnected from a church congregation. We hope that when someone moves away from St. Peter, they will connect with another congregation and continue their service to Christ in a new church home. If you have a family member who is part of another congregation, please let the church office know so their membership may be properly transferred to their new community.

## Restoration Fund St. Peter Lutheran Church

## Operation Christmas Child



**GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.**

Operation Christmas Child is opening doors to the Gospel. This program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse headed by Franklin Graham, brings shoe box gifts as well as the good news of Jesus to millions of children around the world experiencing suffering, pain, sorrow and poverty. These gifts become a channel for God's blessing, opening hearts to receive His love, hope and peace.

Just 20 years ago, it was illegal in Mongolia for children to go to Sunday School. In fact, any religion was strictly forbidden during the 70 years of Soviet rule. With the collapse of the Communist regime in Mongolia in 1990, doors of opportunity to share the Gospel opened slowly. Missionaries found it a difficult task since Buddhism took root in the culture. Mongolians think Christianity is a foreign religion, but when Operation Christmas Child boxes were sent starting in 1996, these gifts plus the telling of God's love really touched their hearts. The boxes show that God is not asking them to do something for Him and He is not angry at them. This is a very different God than what they are taught in their religion.

Through the project children and their families who live in some of the most remote provinces of Mongolia are being reached with the Gospel. One of these children is Balginyan who received a shoe box gift last year in the mountain community of Ulzit. Balginyan rises early every morning to milk his family's cows and helps his father look after their herd of sheep, goats and yaks. Horses are his mode of transportation.

When the boy opened his box, he was amazed to find a beautiful toy horse, as well as other small gifts. He also received "The Greatest Gift of All" Gospel booklet in his own language. He was so taken by the story and pictures that he carried it with him when he herded the sheep that evening. "I took the book with me and read it," he said. "After that, I started to read the Bible and I began to pray. I learned that God is a shepherd, the Great Shepherd."

A child from Ecuador stated, "I learned how Jesus died on the cross because He loves me. I know that God cares for me as a Father. Although my father abandoned me, God will never leave me."

Another child from Guyana was so thankful for her gift box. "Thanks for the beautiful gift you sent me. The box was packed with all the things I needed so badly. One of the things was a pair of shoes because the one I have are very old and have holes. The other children would make fun of me at school and at church. When I opened my box and saw the shoes I was so happy, and the shoes were even the right size."

Shoe box gifts, were delivered to children all over the world. Gifts went by plane, boat, camel, yak, whatever it takes to bring the joy and Gospel message to hard to reach places. In Madagascar, a remote island dotted with towering trees, Operation Christmas Child had distributed hundreds of thousands of gifts boxes, reaching villages so remote that helicopters find them by smoke signals.

WELCA will be sponsoring this charity again this year. Please join us and fill a shoe box with simple gifts, include a letter and photo if you would like, and **enclose a check for \$9.00 to Samaritan's Purse to cover shipping expenses. Bring the boxes to the WELCA table in the fellowship hall by Sunday, November 15th.**

## Operation Christmas Child

Instructions in preparing your shoe box:

- Use an empty shoe box (gift wrap lid and box separated), or a small plastic container, or use the red / green boxes provided by Operation Christmas Child,
- Decide whether it will be for a girl or boy in these age categories: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 years. Tape a label on the lid of the box with the age category and gender of the child. Brochures which include labels will be located on the WELCA table.
- Fill the box with gifts. In a separate envelope you can include a note to the child and a photo of yourself and family.
- **IMPORTANT:** enclose a check for \$9.00 to Samaritan's Purse (envelope also included in brochure) for shipping and the Gospel materials in package. If you are packing more than one box, a combined donation in one envelope is okay.
- Place a rubber band around the box and **bring to the fellowship hall by November 15th.**



**SUGGESTED GIFTS:** Toys such as small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo's, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, Slinky, etc. School supplies, pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pads, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books. Hygiene supplies such as toothbrush, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc. Other items such as T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items, toothpaste, candy, war related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medicines or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes, china dolls, glass containers or aerosol cans.

Thank you for helping to bring the Good News of God's love to needy children throughout the world. And thank you for your prayers.

## Snow Cancellations

Worship services will only be canceled IF the town is completely shut down.

Also, if school is canceled during the day then all youth / confirmation activities will be canceled as well. Cancellations will be posted at Facebook.com/stpetergreene and on KWWL and KLMJ



**There will be no Thanksgiving Eve Service this year. Please check the back of the calendar page for a family devotional.**





## Scripture for an Election Season

As Christians, we believe that all we have and all we are is gifted to us by God, to be used to bless others and to build God's kingdom. We often talk about stewardship in terms of our financial resources, but with election day rapidly approaching, I want to reflect on what it means to steward our citizenship, and in particular, the privilege we have of voting.

Let's look at a few Scripture verses relevant to the choices we will soon be making as citizens of our city, state, and nation. First, a proverb on the importance of electing good leaders:

**When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;  
but when the wicked rule, the people groan. -Proverbs 29:2**

Although it might be surprising given how often politicians cite Scripture, the Bible has little concept of a democracy. Yet it does speak of choosing leaders. While the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness, it became clear that Moses needed help leading them, so he instructed each tribe to choose leaders. The leadership criteria he gives them for their choice is helpful for us as we vote.

**Choose for each of your tribes individuals who are wise, discerning,  
and reputable to be your leaders. -Deuteronomy 1:13**

This election is important, and I believe we as Christians are called to participate, to vote in a way consistent with our faith, to elect leaders who will work to protect and serve all people, seek justice, pursue peace, and stand up for the poor and the least of these. And yet, it's also important to keep perspective. We don't need Trump or Biden to save us – we already have a Savior.

**For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations. -Psalm 22:28**

Citizenship in this nation is important, but being Americans is not our most important identity. First and foremost, you are a child of God, claimed in the waters of Holy Baptism. Our goals are not always the same as this world's goals—sometimes they're even opposite.

**If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own.  
Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the  
world hates you. -John 15:19**

**But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,  
the Lord Jesus Christ. -Philippians 3:20**

**So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also  
members of the household of God. -Ephesians 2:19**

Whether you're pleased or disappointed on November 4<sup>th</sup> (*or quite likely a few days or even weeks later*), keep perspective. No matter who wins the election, our call as Christians continues: love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37, 39)

**Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a  
humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a  
blessing. -1 Peter 3:8-9a**

In Christ, -Pastor Daniel Flucke

## St. Peter Lutheran Church Delivers Senior Center Meals - November 2020

We will need delivery persons for each Thursday in November 5th, 12th, and 19th with the last week being Thanksgiving so will come on Wednesday the 25th. Frozen meals should be picked up at Chris Baker's home at 10:30 am. You will need gloves and masks and are not to go in the houses. THE AVERAGE NUMBER IS 16-17 WITH 2 COUNTRY DELIVERIES. Chris Baker has masks and gloves if people need them. It takes about an hour to hour and half to deliver. Each box has 5 frozen meals. **Please call the church office 816-5531 for a day you can help delivery meals.**

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## "Cans for Candy" Halloween Food Drive Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:30-6:30 pm

As you head out trick-or-treating this year, please be sure to grab a few non-perishable food items for the Greene Community Food Bank and drop them off in the parking lots of either St. Peter

Lutheran Church or St. Mary Catholic Church. Youth from St. Peter and Scout Troop 1026 will be at both locations to hand out candy in exchange for your food donation, and we hope to have a couple additional "spooktacular" activities for families to enjoy as well. Thank you for helping to "scare away hunger" in our community this fall!



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## Sunday School Update

After offering at-home Sunday School programming for September and October, the Christian Education Committee has decided to try a "test run" of gathering students back in person. To keep numbers manageable with regards to being able to physically distance children and recruit enough adult helpers, we will be dividing families into "A" and "B" groups and offering one in-person class for each group during the month of November. Group A families will meet on November 8, and Group B families will meet on November 15, both at 10:30 am following Sunday morning worship. All families will be notified which group they are in, and masks will be required for all students and volunteers. We're excited to see our students after so much time apart and to share a fun Thanksgiving lesson with you all! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christin Flucke or another member of the Christian Education Committee.

## Read

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with skin diseases approached him. Keeping their distance from him, they raised their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, show us mercy!"

When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they left, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned and praised God with a loud voice. He fell on his face at Jesus' feet and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.

Jesus replied, "Weren't ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? No one returned to praise God except this foreigner?" Then Jesus said to him, "Get up and go. Your faith has healed you."

-Luke 17:11-19

# Thanksgiving

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, remember the source of your blessings, and reflect on how God has blessed you!

## Discuss

- What inspired the Samaritan man to return and thank Jesus?
- Do you think the other nine who were healed were grateful to Jesus?  
If so, what do you think kept them from returning to thank Jesus?
- How has God blessed you?
- Do you find it difficult to thank God? Why or why not?
- How can you say "Thank you" for the blessings God has given you?

## Pray

Good and gracious God, everything we have is a gift from you. Thank you for all the ways you have blessed us. As we celebrate this holiday, open our eyes so we can notice what you have done for us, and help us to be truly thankful.

God, thank you for...*(name some things you are thankful for today)*.

Inspire us to share your blessings with others. Most of all, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came to earth and gave himself as a gift for us. Thank you for loving and forgiving us. Amen

## Respond

The word "Thanksgiving" includes both "Thanks" & "Giving." We thank God, and we give in response to God's generosity. Here are a few COVID-friendly ideas for including both elements in your holiday:

- Think of five people who have helped you in some way this year, then let them know you are thankful for them by calling or mailing a card.
- Make a list of moments from this year that you're grateful for, and put it somewhere you'll see it, then each day for a week, add a new item to the list.
- Share your blessings with others by finding something in your house to donate to a neighbor or charity.
- Donate some money or time to a cause you care about, or write a letter to an elected official about it.

*Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give **thanks** to God the Father through him. -Colossians 3:17*

*Praise the Lord! Give **thanks** to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love endures forever. -Psalm 106:1*

*Come, let's sing out loud to the Lord! Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation! Let's come before him with **thanks!** -Psalm 95:1-2a*

*Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give **thanks** in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

# NOVEMBER 2020 - St. Peter Lutheran Church

Grateful for the Harvest of Food and Souls for God's Kingdom

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship with Communion <i>Departed Saints in Christ Remembered</i>	2 7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting	3 Quilting 9 am - 1 pm	4 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Church Council meeting	5	6	7 6:00 pm Worship with Communion
8 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Sunday School Group A	9	10 Senior Health Clinic	11 6:15 pm Confirmation	12 9:30 am Faith, Vision & Glory Circle meeting & Thank Offering	13	14 6:00 pm Worship with Communion <i>WELCA Thank Offering</i>
15 9:30 am Worship with Communion <i>WELCA Thank Offering</i> 10:30 am Sunday School Group B  Newsletter Items Due	16 3:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	17 Quilting 9 am - 1 pm	18 6:15 pm Confirmation	19	20	21 6:00 pm Worship with Communion <i>Harvest Offering</i>
22 9:30 am Worship with Communion <i>Christ the King Sunday &amp; Last Sunday in the Church Year</i> <i>Harvest Offering</i> 11:00 am Christian Education meeting	23	24	25 6:15 pm Confirmation	26 Office Closed  <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	27 Office Closed	28 9:00 am Have your Poinsettias to the church  6:00 pm Worship with Communion
29 9:30 am Advent 1 Worship with Communion	30		Ushers and Lectors - Sign up at church to volunteer.	<u>Altar Guild:</u> Erin Mulder		