



ST PETER'S

— LUTHERAN CHURCH —



***WE ARE A BEACON OF THE COMMUNITY, EQUIPPING, EMPOWERING AND SHARING THE
HOPE AND LOVE OF JESUS.***



Don't Just Remember Memories But Strive to Make Them!

It is so ironic, really, how little time, money, or effort we expend to mark the single most significant event in history—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. How many of us decorate the house for Easter, shop for months, or cook for weeks leading up to the day? Oh, we may buy the traditional new Easter outfit. We may gather with family to eat the spiral-sliced ham and potato salad after sunrise service at church. Perhaps we'll attend the Easter Breakfast at Church. Some even wear ashes on their foreheads at the beginning of Lent or attend a Maundy Thursday service as the day approaches. But do we truly stop to ponder, pray, and prepare our hearts to celebrate the day that changed history forever? Or are we so busy taking a deep breath after Christmas that we miss out on the chance to trace the path from the cradle to the cross?

Don't just remember memories but strive to make them!

Occasionally, during family gatherings the question will be asked about some of the favorite memories that we have had as a family. What I discovered was interesting. It seems that most of the precious memories were not about the extravagant trips (although they were mentioned) but rather the times that revolved around deep meaning and family. Time that was given between Father and son/daughter, mother and son/daughter which shared an adventure of sorts. The appreciation for that extra effort or sacrifice so that a need was met or a dream fulfilled. These memories are so wonderful because they are mutually appreciated. The son who worked with his father to replace the starter of his first car. The mother who took her daughter on a trip to visit grandpa and grandma in Florida. In these situations both the parents and the children were blessed. Extra effort was given and memories were made. And nobody can take these memories away.

Easter season is celebrated world-wide. Hearing the wonderful news that Jesus Christ rose from the dead for you is music to everybody's ears. But this is much more than a memory. And the fact that it can be celebrated each and every day is a blessing. As many of you who are reading this article know, it is because to those who believe in Jesus (and from what they have been saved from) that makes the message OH SO SWEET!

That's why it's important to take the journey to the cross during the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. Hearing the story of the "old rugged cross" and the path Jesus took to get there is enough to bend the knee and flood the eyes with tears of any listener.

Here are some ways you can build memories and perhaps even start a new tradition. It's never too late to do either.

1. Read an Easter Book during the Lenten Period (watch a particular movie)

- Reading the section of the Bible leading up to Easter. (You might even try to light seven candles. One for each word from the cross.)

2. Have Family Lenten [Devotions](#)

3. Make [Easter Story Cookies](#) on Easter Eve

God bless you all this Easter!

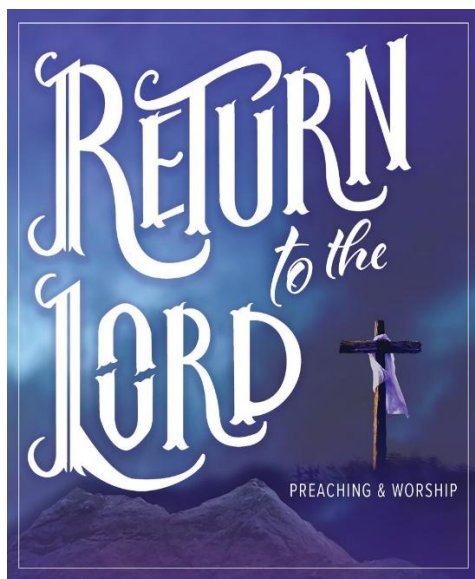
He IS risen!



GO BEYOND THE CROSS

Every year, thousands of people climb a mountain in the Italian Alps, passing the "stations of the cross" to stand at an outdoor crucifix. One tourist noticed a little trail that led beyond the cross. He fought through the rough thicket and, to his surprise, came upon another shrine, a shrine that symbolized the empty tomb. It was neglected. The brush had grown up around it. Almost everyone had gone as far as the cross, but there they stopped.

Far too many have gotten to the cross and have known the despair and the heart break. Far too few have moved beyond the cross to find the real message of Easter. That is the message of the empty tomb.



Wednesday, APRIL 2nd at 6pm- "A Call To Return"

RETURN TO THE LORD

In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord: **"RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD, FOR HE IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER, AND ABUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE; AND HE RELENTS OVER DISASTER"** (Joel 2:13).

God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme **"RETURN TO THE LORD"** and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God's grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God's wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to "turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him" (Joel 2:14). Each sermon in this series focuses on a particular event in the Passion, with a special focus on the people involved in the event.

Ash Wednesday: A Call to Return

Midweek of Lent 1: Return to Prayer- Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane

Midweek of Lent 2: Return from Betrayal- Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane

Midweek of Lent 3: Return from False Witness- Caiaphas and the Council **26th**

Midweek of Lent 4: Return from Denial- Peter in the Courtyard **2nd**

Midweek of Lent 5: Return to the Kingdom of God- Pilate at His Headquarters **9th**

*Join Us for Breakfast April 13,
In Celebration of Palm Sunday
After 8 AM service, in the multi-Purpose room.
Bring Your Family & Friends!*



We will be having a food drive. Please bring non-perishable food items to breakfast. You are welcome to donate money or a grocery store gift card if you prefer.

Hosted By Fellowship

ALTAR FLOWERS

APRIL 6-SUSAN SWEAZY

APRIL 13-BOB KNOCK

APRIL 20-PAULA SAMMIS

APRIL 27-PAULA SMART



Hello. In case you didn't know, we were so blessed last year with free equipment from Upward Sports to be a pilot league for Pickleball. Pickleball is a fast and upcoming sport and is a great way to reach the community. Now, as we move forward, we need to figure out where to go with this ministry. But before we do, we are in need of someone to take up this ministry and formulate a plan.

If we decide to move forward, this person can find a team of volunteers to help and they can structure this ministry however they feel works best. It can be a 8-12 week commitment. They will decide how many practices there will be before the games start. There should be at least 6 weeks of games. Also, after speaking with Upward Sports, they suggest that the best "target" age for this sport ministry is 4th - 12th grade. And that summer is the peak time to have games. But again, whoever leads this ministry can help make these decisions. But what an opportunity!!!!

Volunteers are the backbone to most of the ministries we do at SPL - giving of their time and energy selflessly. . **Matthew 9:35-38** says "**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest**". I pray that you prayerfully consider either stepping up to lead this ministry or can help be a part of it.

Monica Pape

Phillipians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!

MEN OF SPL

"AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD"

"MEN OF ACTION"

The men of SPL are encouraged to come together for fellowship and equipping ourselves to be the men after God's own heart. The **second Saturday of every month**, we will gather at **8:00 AM**. As iron sharpens iron we will pursue building up one another, learn from various speakers, serve where God calls us and grow.

Breakfast will be provided.... Join us!



Pairs & Spares meet together to engage God and one another.

The next breakfast is the first MONDAY of every month at 8:30am at the Main Street Family Restaurant in Creve Coeur.

Everyone is welcome!

We have volunteers for J.A.M. (Jesus & Me) time helpers during the sermon/message portion of our Worship Services to watch over children.

April 6th Olivia S.

April 13th Carol S.

April 20 Jim K.

April 27 Carol S.



Tuesday morning Bible Study at 10:00am lower level. The Engagement Project by Del Tackett.

Adult & Youth Sunday School at 9:30am

St. Peter's has a prayer chain group. If you would like to be placed on the list to keep updated on needed prayers, please notify the office by phone or email. Please share prayer requests with members who are not on the Prayer Chain.

The email is splprayerwarriors@gmail.com. or notify

Beth Underwood at 309-202-9909

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND THOSE SERVING IN HARM'S WAY!

Lauren Tranchitella is now stateside, she is Debbie Inman's granddaughter.



Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20th. It will be held after the Easter Breakfast. We are in need of donations of unwrapped small candy and jelly beans. Bring your kids and enjoy our Easter festivities

APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10-Bible Study 1pm Genesis 6pm-Finance 7pm-Elders	2 6pm Lenten Worship	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 11am Carol Boehler Funeral with dinner
6 8-Traditional Worship 9:30-Sunday School 1045-Praise & Worship	7 8:30 Pairs & Spares 8-5 Lifeline Screening	8 10am Bible Study 1pm Genesis	9 6pm Lenten Worship	10	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 8-Men's Bible Study 6pm Pastor small group
13 8-Traditional Worship 9:30-Sunday School 1045-Praise & Worship Palm Sunday Breakfast	14	15 10-Bible Study 1pm Genesis	16 10am Bible Study	17 Noon-Kiwanis 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship	18 OFFICE CLOSED 7pm Good Friday Worship	19 6pm Pastor small group
20 7-Traditional Worship TF 8am-Easter Breakfast Easter Egg hunt 10-Praise & Worship	21	22 10-Bible Study 1pm Genesis 630pm Church Council	23 10am Bible Study	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 6pm Pastor small group
27 8-Traditional Worship 9:30-Sunday School 1045- Worship	28	29 10-Bible Study 1pm Genesis	30 10am Bible Study			

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Church Classified-----2025

Magnusson Construction Mastic: Replacement Windows & Siding Adam Magnusson, E. Peoria, Il. (309) 694-7831	Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Alexandria Lamprecht (309) 439-9169 112 State St. Ste. 2C, Peoria, Il. 61602
Ron's Carpets Sales & Service. Free Estimates John Vollrath (309) 674-3338 1003 NE Adams, Peoria, Il.	Monica Pape (217) 714-6259 pianoteacher.MP@gmail.com Piano lessons in my home.
Energy Savings AAA Insulation, Don Meyer (309) 698-0062	Becca Ferro -Salon 125 125 N Parkway Dr. Pekin, Il. (309) 863-0560
Tippy Creek Raw (local) Honey and Honey Infused soap Pam Nelson (309) 370-7271 Rob Preston (309) 657-5692 or TippyCreek.com	Cindy Miller , Crafts Handmade Embroidery and Crochet items (309) 472-2161
Genie in a Bottle Cleaning Service Leslie Cody (309) 645-8701 Trish Woodward (309) 660-3656	Scott Roberts (309) 642-0874 Need firewood? Call me. (pick up-no delivery)

St. Peter's Church is a covenant congregation member of Lutheran Senior Ministries and a Supporting partner of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. We are affiliated with Christ Lutheran School, 1311 S. Faraday Ave. Peoria, Il. 61605. Phone: 309-637-1512.

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