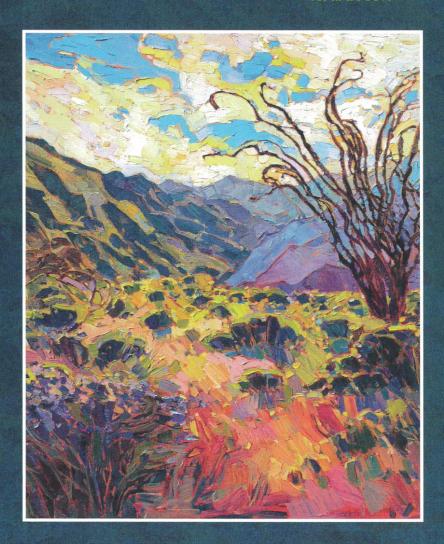
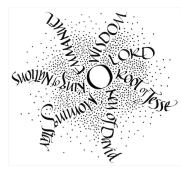
The desert shall rejoice and blossom

ISAIAH 35:1





GATHERED BY THE LONG ARMS OF THE CROSS

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM WORSHIP at splcm.org/worship Video streamed in Sunday School Wing

Welcome to St. Peter!

+ + +

Guests to our community are welcome here. We greet you warmly and invite you to ask an usher or one of our members for any assistance you may require.

Please use the <u>Record of Fellowship</u> to indicate your presence with us this morning and provide us with up-to-date contact information.

<u>Prayer requests</u> may be added to the green-colored form, "Our Gathering Prayers," next to the guest book near the front entrance.

<u>Personal Assisted Listening Devices</u> with adjustable volume control are available from the usher.

Doxological Hymns conclude with a doxological verse (words of praise addressed to the Triune God) and are so indicated with a \triangle . Children are invited to pick up a hand bell from the greeters at the entryway to ring on these verses.

<u>Bible story bags</u> are available for young children to use during the service. They can be found on the "tree" in the narthex.

A Special Welcome to Children Please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at St. Peter. We know that your children are a gift to the Church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all. We rejoice in Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16).

Should you need a quiet space, we have a <u>Cry Room</u> at the back of the sanctuary available for use by parents with small children. For parents needing more space, a larger <u>Family Room</u> is partitioned off in the Sunday School Wing where the service is streamed on a television monitor. Just ask an usher for assistance.

<u>Restrooms</u> are located to the right of the front entrance through the coatroom.

<u>Electronic Devices</u> You are invited to disconnect from the world and be open for God's connection with you. Please turn off your devices during the worship service.

AS WE ARE GATHERED BY THE CROSS

We look around and see all those things that are not what we think they should be. We look in the mirror and see what we lack. When John sent his disciples to Jesus, Jesus called them to rejoice in what is already present. Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, had come. He brings healing and salvation to all who will receive Him. Quite literally, these miracles are still happening all around us. Those wounded by affliction and despair find healing in Christ. The dead in trespasses and sins are raised up to life. The weak are made strong, the poor are made rich, and those with only a past are given an eternal future. What do you see and hear? Look at the world, and you will find uncertainty, anxiety and fear; but look to Jesus, and you will find peace that surpasses all understanding and joy without end.

P—PASTOR; G—CONGREGATION; A—CANTOR/CHOIR; L—LECTOR/LEADER
Lutheran Service Book: Divine Service — Setting Three pp. 184ff

H In the Name of Jesus H

GATHERING

PRELUDE (CHOIR)

Rejoice! Rejoice! - Fanny Crosby, 1820 -1915; arr. Aaron David Miller

Rejoice! Rejoice! Our King is coming!

The time will not be long until we hail the radiant dawning, and lift up a glad new song.

Oh, wondrous day! Oh, glorious morning, when the Son of Man shall come!

With joy we wait our Savior's returning. Oh, wondrous day!

Stand

INVOCATION Matthew 28:19b; [18-20]

The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Psalm 32:5

Kneel/Sit

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 Topin 20:19-231

 Index 20:19-231
- C Amen.

Stand and turn toward the processional cross

GATHERING HYMN

- Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
 The Savior promised long;
 Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
 And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

Hark the Glad Sound - LSB 349

- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,The bleeding soul to cure,And with the treasures of His graceTo_enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
 Thy welcome shall proclaim,

 And heav'n's eternal arches ring
 With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51

Text: Public domain

Sit

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ADVENT VERSICLES

- **L** The Spirit and the church cry out:
- Come, Lord Jesus.
- L All those who await His appearance pray:
- **C** Come, Lord Jesus.
- **L** The whole creation pleads:
- C Come, Lord Jesus.

us.



(Three candles are lighted.)

We are waiting,

we are waiting for the Lord to come down and be with us. "Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

Text: Finnish song; tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt.
© 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Used by permission of OneLicense net License # A-707328

O ANTIPHON ORNAMENT

(O Oriens - O Dayspring)

- **P** <u>O Dayspring</u>, splendor of light everlasting:
- Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.



Kneel/sit

KYRIE ~ *Lord*, *Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47



P Let us pray to the Lord.



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on (In anticipation of the angels' announcement to the shephe.

(In anticipation of the angels' announcement to the shepherds at Christmas, the <u>Gloria in Excelsis</u> – the Song of the Angels – is silenced during Advent.)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY (sung)



P The Lord be with you.



2 Timothy 4:22



P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.





Sit

READINGS AND RESPONSES

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 35:1–10

The Ransomed Shall Return

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,

"Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God

will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- This is the Word of the Lord:
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Antiphon – text: David F. Wright; arr. Charles R. Anders



- Antiphon: Oh, praise the Lord, my soul! I'll praise him all my life.

 With music I shall give him praise as long as I shall live.
- A Praise | the LORD!*

 Praise the LORD, | O my soul!
- ²I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*
 I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.
- A 3Put not your trust in princes,*
 in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- vation.
- 4When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;* on that very day his plans | perish.
- *Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,* whose hope is in the | LORD his God,
- 6who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,* who keeps faith for- | ever;
- A who executes justice for I the oppressed,* who gives food to the I hungry.
- The LORD sets the prisoners free;

 the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.

 The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

 the LORD loves the | righteous.
- A The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,* but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.
- O 10The LORD will reign for- | ever,* your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!
- Glory be to the Father and I to the + Son* and to the Holy | Spirit as it was in the be-I ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- Antiphon: Oh, praise the Lord, my soul! I'll praise him all my life.

 With music I shall give him praise as long as I shall live.

SECOND LESSON – James 5:7–11

Patience in Suffering

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

- This is the Word of the Lord:
- **C** Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 11th chapter:



Messengers from John the Baptist

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord:



Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
 "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 "Cast away the works of darkness,
 All you children of the day!"
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding – LSB 345△

- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
 Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
 Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
 One and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory
 And the world is wrapped in fear,
 He will shield us with His mercy
 And with words of love draw near.

△5 Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through Baptism into Christ.
 Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
 I believe in God,

	Living together in trust and hope, we comess our rathi.	
	I believe in God,	Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy 6:4
	the Father Almighty,	Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3
	creator of heaven and earth.	Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; Colossians 1:6
	I believe in Jesus Christ,	Romans 10:9
	His only Son, our Lord.	John 1:12; 3:16; Matthew 16:16
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,		
	and born of the virgin Mary.	Luke 1:34; John 1:14
	He suffered under Pontius Pilate,	John 19:1, 16-18; Mark 15:25
	was crucified, died, and was buried.	John 19:1; Luke 23:53
	He descended into hell.	1 Peter 3:18-19
	On the third day He rose again.	1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6
	He ascended into heaven	Acts 1:9
	and is seated at the right hand of the I	Father. Acts 7:55
	He will come again	Matthew 26:64
	to judge the living and the dead.	Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12
	I believe in the Holy Spirit,	John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38
the holy *catholic Church, the communion of saints, 1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22		
	the forgiveness of sins,	Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:28
	the resurrection of the body,	1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
	and the life $oldsymbol{+}$ everlasting.	Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42
	Amen.	Psalm 106:48

*The ancient text reads "catholic," meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian faith.

Sit or Kneel

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition is said:

- **P** Lord, in Your prayer,
- **C** come, hear our prayer.

GREETING OF PEACE Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and in preparation for reception of the Holy Supper.



Sit

OFFERTORY Psalm 51:10-12

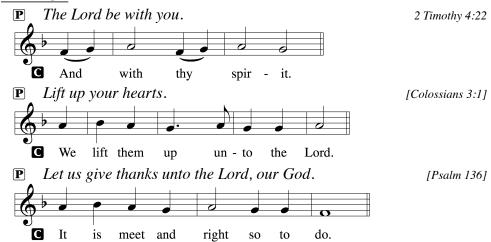
(Please STAND as the elder and usher bring the gifts forward to the altar.)



LORD'S SUPPER

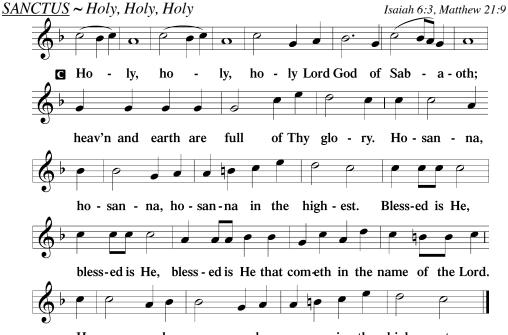
GREAT THANKSGIVING

PREFACE



PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising you and singing:



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Sabaoth (SAH-bay-oath) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."

<u>EUCHARISTIC PRAYER</u> ~ Prayer of Thanksgiving



P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks for the salvation You have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary, the Son of the Father, the Light of the world, our Emmanuel. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that as Your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in His body and blood.

■ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD (see LSB 162)

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory

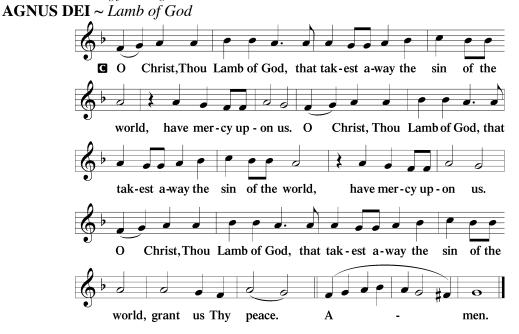
<u>PAX DOMINI</u> ~ Peace of the Lord (sung)

forever and ever. Amen.

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.





Distribution Notes



The Lord's Supper is joyfully received here today. At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ gives us a tremendous gift. His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and embodies our unity with one another. Accordingly, in I Corinthians 11, St. Paul cautions Christians to receive the Supper together only when they are united in a common faith and love. If you are new to our congregation, please see the pastor before communing.

Please fill in around the altar accordingly: <u>Fellowship Hall Side</u>: fill in from the <u>back to the front;</u> <u>Sunday School Side</u>: fill in from the <u>front to the back.</u>

- * Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicating so by crossing your arms over your chest.
- * Those communing will receive the host from the pastor and may receive the consecrated wine by Common Cup OR Individual Cup.
 - **The State of the State of the**
 - Individual Cup: Available as you process down the center aisle from the individual cup dispenser. Twist and pull upward to receive an empty cup. An elder will fill your cup at the altar. Place the used individual cup in the collection basket.

After receiving the elements you may return to your pews. Please inform an usher if you want the elements to be brought to you.

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION



Text: Anonymous (9th century); Translated and versified by A.B. Deliyannides, 2011 Tune: EARENDEL 8.7.8.7.D, A.B. Deliyannides

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers - LSB 515

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
 And let your lights appear;
 The evening is advancing,
 And darker night is near.
 The Bridegroom is arising
 And soon is drawing nigh.
 Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
 At midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain
 Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
 Go forth as He approaches
 With alleluias clear.
 The marriage feast is waiting;
 The gates wide open stand.
 Arise, O heirs of glory;
 The Bridegroom is at hand.

- 3 The saints, who here in patience
 Their cross and suff'rings bore,
 Shall live and reign forever
 When sorrow is no more.
 Around the throne of glory
 The Lamb they shall behold;
 In triumph cast before Him
 Their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,
 O Jesus, now appear;
 Arise, O Sun so longed for,
 O'er this benighted sphere.
 With hearts and hands uplifted,
 We plead, O Lord, to see
 The day of earth's redemption
 That sets Your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.; Text: Public domain

Stand

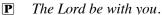
DISMISSAL

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
- C Amen.



SENDING

BENEDICTION



2 Timothy 4:22



P Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]



BENEDICTION (sung)

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and \mathbb{F} give you peace.



Sit

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS AS NECESSARY

The CALENDAR OF EVENTS highlights this week's meetings and activities.

Announcement Forms located on the slat wall are to be placed on the Celebrant's chair.

Stand

SENDING

- **P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE (ORGAN)

Glory to God Alone

+ Daily Lectionary Prayer Calendar +

<u>Daily Lectionary</u> and <u>Psalms for Daily Prayer</u> for the week of Sunday, December 14 - Saturday, December 20 are available in your <u>Lutheran Service Book</u> (<u>LSB</u>), on pages: 299-304

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - DEC. 21

Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24 (antiphon: v. 7); Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17 AT 7PM

SOUP & SALAD SUPER AT 5:45PM

His Name Shall be Called: Everlasting Father

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- <u>LITURGY ELEMENTS</u>: Sung portions of the liturgy from <u>Lutheran Service Book: Divine Service Setting Three pp. 184ff. Copyright © 2006. Concordia Publishing House.</u>
- Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

Christmas Worship Schedule

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM AT SPLCM.ORG/WORSHIP

I am bringing you good news of great joy

Sunday Morning, December 21st at 10:15 am

4th Sunday in Advent Worship

-"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Meditation—
EDUCATION HOUR at 9:00 am

Wednesday Evening, December 24th, at 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 25th, at 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship – The Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, December 28th, Worship at 10:15 am Is Sunday after Christmas – Feast of the Holy Innocents NOTE: NO EDUCATION HOUR

Sunday, January 4th, Worship at 10:15 am 2nd Sunday after Christmas (with Epiphany Reading) NOTE: NO EDUCATION HOUR

(Education Hour Resumes, Sunday, Jan. 11: 9:00-9:50 am)

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY:

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Adam Clark, Elder: Mark Waldron

Senior Pastor Lectors: Sandy Holland and Brian Reedstrom

Preacher: The Rev. Bryan Borger, Usher: Karen Waldron

Associate Pastor Altar Guild: Chasity Rockwell

Crucifer: Cooper Rockwell Sound Board: Tim Nye
Music Director and Organist: Emily Ruch Video Streaming: Tim Nye

St. Peter Choir Greeters: Dave and Chris Seitz

Cantor: Chuck Ryan Doorkeeper: Steve Bubanovich

Please update the <u>Sunday Servant</u> sign-up sheet on the slat wall.

St. Peter Lutheran Church

437 East Dragoon Trail; Mishawaka, IN 46544; 574-255-5585



The Rev. Dr. Adam Clark, Senior Pastor – Cell 574-323-0654 The Rev. Bryan G. Borger, Associate Pastor – Cell 574-386-6401

Mrs. Emily Ruch, Director of Music Ministries

Renee Peggs, Ministry Coordinator (Church Office)

Sunday Schedule: Education Hour (All Ages) 9:00-9:50am

Sunday Worship 10:15am