



# Blackberry Beacon

*"Let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 5:16*

*October 2025*

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## The Minor Prophets: Haggai

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During 2025, we will be journeying together through the minor prophets. This month I invite you to read the book of Haggai.

The book of the prophet Haggai is set years after the exile to Babylon. Persia is the new empire and has allowed the exiled Israelites to return to Jerusalem. Haggai has four things to say:

- ☐ He critiques those returning for building their own houses first while God's temple still lies in ruins. They heed his call and get to work on the temple.
- ☐ But then they are disappointed, because the new temple is nowhere near as glorious as the former temple. So Haggai reminds the people of God's promises and gives them hope.
- ☐ Haggai then uses an example from Leviticus to share how their apathy and injustice will be transmitted to their work rebuilding the temple, and calls them to renewed faithfulness.
- ☐ And he finally ends on a future note of hope... that God will renew the world from his "home base" of Jerusalem. When will this happen? We will have to read the last two minor prophets, Zechariah and Malachi, to find out.

You can hear more about Haggai at the Bible Project website:

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/haggai/>

+ Pastor Matt

P.S. I finished reading the Bible this year on September 21, my baptismal birthday. I encourage you to make it a practice to read through the entire Bible on a regular basis. Once each year is a good discipline, but reading the Bible over a two or three-year period works too!

# Stewardship Reflections

## God's Instruments

Read Matthew 5:13-16

*You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden.  
Matthew 5:14 (CEB)*

The disturbing events in our world challenge us to reflect on our Christian calling and identity. We cannot deny the suffering and injustice around the world and in our own communities. War, gun violence, and other forms of attack are ever-present. People continue to risk their lives to escape harsh conditions in the places they call home. We cannot ignore tensions among family members and friends due to our competing priorities. All these are reflections of our broken world. And wouldn't our silence in the face of such pain be a betrayal of our calling to be God's instruments of peace, justice, and healing? God has called us to let Christ's light shine where darkness prevails, and that doesn't necessarily mean that we must do something big. Our simplest acts of kindness can bring healing to a broken heart. Our honest prayers can be a source of strength for others. Our simplest acts of courage can bring justice to our communities. Let us discover the ways God is calling us to serve and intentionally strive to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Prayer:** Dear heavenly Father, thanks you for calling us to be your servants in the world. Help us to live according to Christ's teachings. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: How is God calling me to be salt and light in the world?

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Have you paid attention to the Weekly Outreach Opportunities in your bulletin? This is located on the front cover and offers suggestions of ways you and your families can show the love of Christ in the world and be His Shining Light. Look for ways to be a gift to others. God places opportunities in your life on a daily basis. We just have to be aware and then act.



## **Worship Assistants**

Thank you for filling in the blanks on our Worship Assistant sheet. We need Readers, Greeters. Ushers, Communion assistants, and Fellowship Hosts ever week. If you would like to assist and not sure what is expected, please seek out a member of your Outreach Ministry to help.

## **Phillip the Blue Barrel**

Thanks abound for all of your generosity in providing items for our area Food Pantries. You always donate above and beyond and when the items are delivered they are SO APPRECIATED. October's collection will be Thanksgiving Foods to be shared with LSS (Think canned veggies, boxed stuffing, instant potatoes, gravy, canned fruit, etc).

## **2025 Picture Board**

Notice that the 2025 Picture Board is filling up with memories of all of our various church activities. Feel free to add pictures you may have. This is a fun way to remember all of the business that goes on in our congregations.

## **Instant Church Directory**

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Jean Witt and Pastor Matt for helping to make our new Instant Church Directory a reality. Jean has spent much time gathering and entering information and pictures to help make this an up to date and living document. If you have not yet submitted a picture it is not too late. We really would like to have this completed soon.

## **God's Work, Our Hands**

Our annual God's Work Our Hands Sunday was outstanding with lots of folks participating. The group who lent a hand fishing with the residents of Lutheran Home of Mercy had a grand time as did the residents. There were 4 trees planted in Salem's new Arboretum. And a record number of cookies and notes were assembled at St. Luke's. The cookies went to St. Paul's Food Pantry and Pastor Julie said that the folks were THRILLED by this special treat. Great job everyone!!!! We were truly shining God's light in a sometimes dark world.

Wow!!! A huge number of Bingo prizes were collected for our "just in case it rains" GWOH activity at LHOM. We did not need to use them since the weather cooperated for fishing. However, we plan on scheduling a Sunday in the future to play Bingo with one of the cottages. Stay tuned!

## **Thanksgiving Meal for Salem**

Mark your calendars for November 18<sup>th</sup>. We will once again be preparing a Thanksgiving Meal for Salem. We will need folks to roast turkeys, make dressing, donate desserts, and help at Salem cooking, serving, and cleanup. Watch for sign-up sheets in mid-October.



## Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

It's time to think about the Salvation Army of Ottawa County's Red Kettle Campaign. Our representatives, Rufena Hartford and Claudette Allred will be looking for help ringing the bell at Millers New Market in Genoa beginning November 21<sup>st</sup> – December 24<sup>th</sup>. Watch for sign-up sheets soon! Help us ring in the Christmas Season.

## Seminars

Thank you to all who attended the last of our series of Seminars. Jennifer Ramon provided excellent legal information to help us and our families navigate the legalities after we pass on to Heaven. There were lots of great questions and she provided us with solutions.

### Abigail Circle

Monday, October 20  
7:00 PM @ St. Peter

### Sew Group

Every Tuesday  
9:00 AM @ St. Peter

### Hannah Circle

Tuesday, October 21  
10:30 AM @ St. Peter

### Bible Study

Wednesday, October 1  
12 Noon @ St. Peter

### Book Club

Wednesday, October 8  
10:00 AM @ St. Peter

Bible study is back in session. We will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 12 noon from September-March. Our topic this year is "Learning to Love Leviticus." Leviticus is a book of the Bible that is often ignored...but there are so many treasures in this book! If a time other than noon would work better, please let me know. I'm open to adjusting the time for those who are committed to attending.

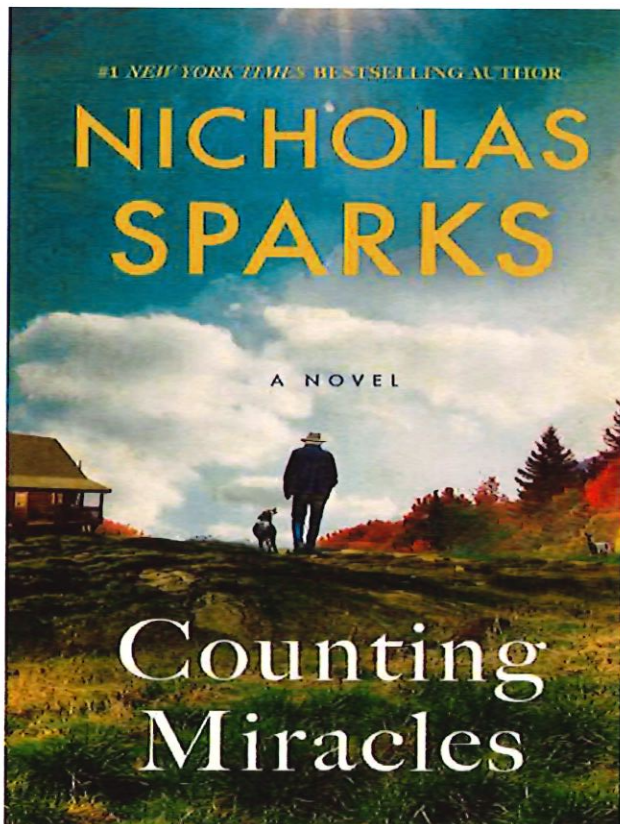
Pastor Matt

October

Book Club Selection

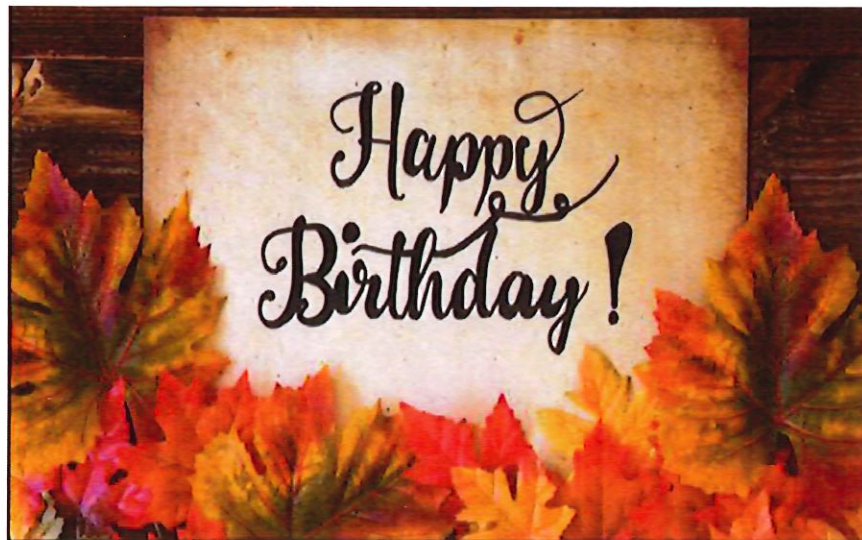
*Counting Miracles*

By Nicholas Sparks



Tanner Hughes was raised by his grandparents, following in his grandfather's military footsteps to become an Army Ranger. His whole life has been spent abroad, and he is the proverbial rolling stone: happiest when off on his next adventure, zero desire to settle down. But when his grandmother passes away, her last words to him are find where you belong. She also drops a bombshell, telling him the name of the father he never knew—and where to find him.

# OCTOBER



1 - Ken Starkey  
2 - Charles Jaeger  
4 - Lisa Diekman  
6 - Shirley Lajti  
Robbin Large  
Dominik Royster  
7- Seth Moore

12 - Janet Radsick  
14 - Jaime Overmyer  
17 - Jon Overmyer  
19 - Winston Reinhart  
20 - Wendy Millinger  
Bonny Ottney  
Jeff Sorg

29 - Cody Behlmer  
Pam Wittman  
30 - Maximus Wolff  
31 - Norma Coy  
Alex Wolff  
Kurt Wolff



15 - Patrick & Renee Moore  
20 - Jared & Christy Diekman



# October 2025

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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ST. PETER LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, August 11, 2025 at Church

Attendance: Gary Diefenthaler, Judy Gahler, Wes Gahler, Jody Kapp, Jon Overmyer, Kim Reif and Pastor Matt Musteric Guest – LeAnne Butzin

The meeting was opened by Pastor Matt with a devotion based on the Small Catechism: The Lord's Prayer : Salutation and prayer.

Jon made a motion seconded by Judy to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2025 council meeting. MC Judy made a motion seconded by Jon to approve the July 2025 Treasurer's Report. MC. The July beginning balance shows as \$12,619.89 and an ending balance of \$6,568.07. It was discussed that there was some issues with Portico in June and the June Treasurer's report should be corrected

**Pastor's Report:** Worship: Blessing of the Backpacks Aug. 24, Wedding: Wolf and Cutlip Aug. 30, Sept. 7 God's Work Our Hands. Pastoral Acts: Helen Amonette: July 9 (hospice chaplain presiding). Pastoral Care and Visits for June and July totaled 26. Teaching: Catechism classes will start in September, with a parent meeting in August or early September. Bible study will resume in September and run through March, considering a series on the prophets. Other: Dedication of the Isaiah 117 House was on July 16. Led a workshop on spiritual practices for Community of Christ Lutheran, Whitehouse, on July 17. Continuing Education: Reframing Compassion Workshops in Toledo on June 30, July 14 and Aug. 11. Giving USA Briefing (trends in charitable giving) July 17. Kate Bowler at Lakeside July 24. Sabbatical: Grant application decision will be announced by Aug. 31, 2025.

**President Report:** We continue to be in need of a Church Council Recording Secretary and an additional person and chairman for the Finance Ministry.

**Vice-President Report:** Has been in contact with Ameriprise to see what is needed to get authorized accesses updated. Still waiting to hear back from them.

**Executive Committee:** No report

**Congregational Life:** BBQ update: Mt. Carmel and the fire department will not loan out their racks. Don Lajti's racks will not handle chickens. Hoping we can do a Pork Chop BBQ on Nov. 2. Still working on setting a date to attend a Mud Hens baseball game.

**Education:** Finalized Vacation Bible School plans. Working on Sunday School roster. Continued to discuss Sunday School material. Holding a Sunday School teacher meeting on Aug 10. Rally Day activities will begin at 10:15am on Sept. 14 in the fellowship hall. Asked council if we wanted to see if St. Luke's would want to join in on Rally Day and have a combined service. Next meeting is August 12 at 7pm,

**Finance:** No report. Still in need of a Finance chairperson.

**Property:** Tom Ottney did water testing and filed the report. Randy Reif had Northwood Door repair pivots on the East doors.

**Outreach:** Grace Alone – Furniture Ministry is collecting bedding during the month of August. Estate Planning Essentials Seminar will be September 21 at 11:45am with a free meal provided. We are asking all of our church members to submit their family photos for our Instant Church Directory. Names of the members, having submitted photos by Sept. 1, will be placed in a drawing for one bushel of Big Dave's sweet corn. God's Work Our Hands is September 7.

**Worship:** No report.

**Women of the Church:** No report..

**Old Business:** Various council members met with our Mennonite Mutual insurance company agent. Discussion was held about premiums and claim submissions. We have had 3 claims in the last 5 years, which impacts our premiums. There are very few companies that insure churches. We could put in a claim but we would take a chance on not being able to renew our policy next year. It was decided not to proceed with any insurance claims at this time.



Gary made a motion seconded by Jody to discuss HVAC repairs and cost estimates as part of the upcoming annual meeting in November 2025. MC

Office copier lease is due to renew in February 2026. Our current lease has a monthly base of \$207, usually about \$40 more for excess B& W copies and \$65 for color copies. Generally, monthly copier expense is around \$306. We have a new 5 year lease quote for a RICOH copier that is structured at a base of \$284 (includes 5000 B&W copies and 500 Color copies), estimated B&W overage of \$7 and estimated color overage of \$10 for an estimated monthly expense of \$306.

Judy made a motion seconded by Gary to enter into a new 5 year copier lease. MC

**New Business:** Judy made a motion seconded by Jody to invite St. Luke's to have a combined service at St. Peter on September 14 and join in our Rally Day activities. MC

Jon made a motion seconded by Judy to adjourn the meeting. MC. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: September 8, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Gary Diefenthaler

### **NEW ADDRESSES:**

Hilda Blay  
Wesley Ridge English Gardens Room 219  
2225 Taylor Park Drive  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Phyllis Dehring  
Genoa Retirement Village  
300 Cherry Street RM. 15  
Genoa, OH 43430

Glen & Jane Tank  
Genoa Retirement Village  
300 Cherry Street Apt 38  
Genoa, OH 43430

### **YEARLY ENVELOPES**

Some parishioners have requested not to receive envelopes for 2026. A "number" can still be issued that will generate a statement for you at the end of the year. Any questions, please call the office know.



# **BBQ Pork Chop Dinner**

**Sunday, November 2, 2025**

**11:00 AM until Sold-Out**

**St. Peter Lutheran Church (Blackberry)**

**17877 W. St. Rt. 579**

**Corner of St. Rt. 579 and Elliston –Trowbridge Rd.**

BBQ Pork Chops

Red Skin Potatoes

Stuffing

Green Beans

Cole Slaw/Applesauce

Rolls/Butter

Homemade Desserts

One Chop      \$13.00

Two Chops    \$15.00

**Carry Out Only**