



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

November 2025

St. Peter Lutheran Church
17877 W. State Route 579
Martin, OH 43445

Phone: 419-836-8903
Email: stpeterblackberry@gmail.com

Web: stpeterblackberry.org
facebook.com/spblackberry

The Minor Prophets: Zechariah

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 Zechariah.

The book of the prophet Zechariah is set toward the end of the exile to Babylon. God communicates to the prophet Zechariah through strange dreams and visions (chapters 1-8). You can listen to all the details on the Bible Project website (<https://bibleproject.com/videos/zechariah/>).

The people ask if God's kingdom is coming soon. When will it be? The prophet flips the question and asks the people if they are ready to be the kind of people who are ready to receive the kingdom. Zechariah also speaks of the coming kingdom of the Messiah, showing us what it will be like (chapters 9-14).

While the book of the prophet Zechariah is a wild ride with lots of imagery, it is also a book of hope.

+ Pastor Matt

Stewardship Reflections

An Abundant Catch

Read Matthew 4:18-22

*I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink.
I was a stranger and you welcomed me...Matthew 25:35 (CEB)*

Years ago I lived in Key West, Florida. One morning we were catching mahi-mahi almost as fast as we could bait the hooks. We realized we had more fish than we could eat, so we headed back to shore. The skipper gave us an address where we could take the extra fish.

Six nights a week, the Catholic Sisters served supper to people living in poverty. We gave them our fish and were invited back for dinner. As the Mother superior blessed the meal, she said, “A Catholic, a Protestant, and a Jew provided our meal tonight. Regardless of your heritage, all are welcome to eat at God’s table.”

Gift was simple – indeed the fish would have spoiled if we hadn’t given them away. However, it transformed the rest of my time in Key West. Hardly a week went by when someone didn’t stop me on the street and ask, “Aren’t you the guy who brought us the fish? God bless you.”

Until then I had never seen those people who were struggling. People are still struggling. Look around at those who are cold, lonely, and hungry. There are countless ways to support them. The rewards of giving far exceed the value of the gift.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for opportunities to share what we have. Open our eyes to the people in need around us, and guide us to support them. Amen.

Thought for the day: God can do great things with simple gifts.

This material is reprinted from *The Upper Room* magazine, copyright 2025 by The Upper Room Inc.
www.upperroom.org, and is used by permission of the publisher.



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. November's collection will be Canned Meats or Pet Foods to be shared with St. Paul's, and December's collection is Canned Soups to be shared with the Elliston Food Pantry.

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.

Thanksgiving Meal for Salem

Mark your calendars for November 18th. 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. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Help us ring in the Christmas Season. It's time to think about the Salvation Army of Ottawa County's Red Kettle Campaign. Our representatives, Rufena Hartford and Claudette Allred are looking for help ringing the bell at Millers New Market in Genoa. We are scheduled to ring on Friday, November 21st, from 10 AM to 8 PM (2-hour time slot). We ring again on Saturday, December 19th from 10 AM to 8 PM (2-hour time slot). Sign up fast to get your favorite time slot, sheets are on the table in the Narthex.

Sunday School Bible Verse

November's Bible Verse is: "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 136.

Abigail Circle

Monday, November 17
7:00 PM @ St. Peter

Hannah Circle

Thursday, November 20
10:30 AM @ St. Peter

Book Club

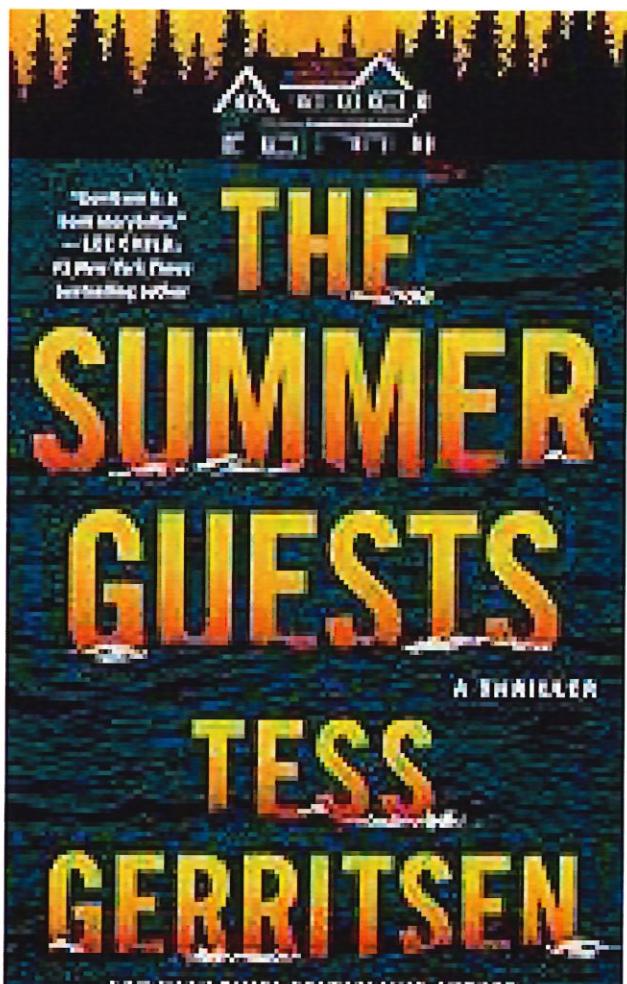
Wednesday, November 12
10:00 AM @ St. Peter

Sew Group

Every Tuesday
9:00 AM @ St. Peter

Bible Study

Wednesday, November 5
12 Noon @ St. Peter



November

Book Club Selection

The Summer Guests

By Tess Gerritsen

From New York Times bestselling author Tess Gerritsen comes a chilling follow-up to *The Spy Coast*, plunging the Martini Club into the search for a missing teen—with a startling connection to their own pasts.

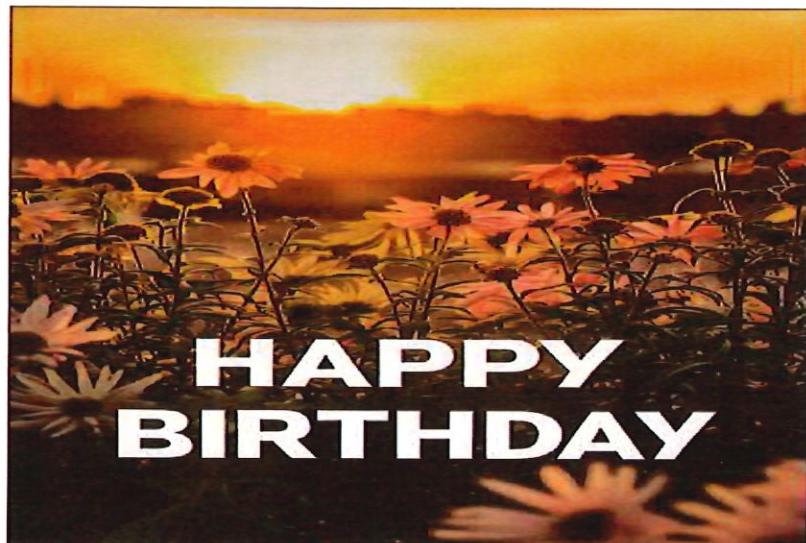
When former spy Maggie Bird retired to the seaside hamlet of Purity, Maine, she settled in for a quiet life with breathtaking views. But enemies from her past soon threatened to destroy everything.

Maggie survived, thanks to her wits and the collective intelligence of the Martini Club, the circle of ex-CIA friends in her cocktail-sipping book club. Their handiwork, however, caught the attention of young police chief Jo Thibodeau. Now Jo and her neighborhood ex-spies have an uneasy alliance.

After a teenager vanishes—and Maggie's neighbor becomes the prime suspect—she joins the investigation, determined to prove her friend's innocence. But the girl's wealthy family pushes for an arrest. And when authorities discover a long-dead corpse in a nearby pond, the case becomes doubly complicated, with unthinkable ties to long-buried secrets.

As Jo grapples with two unexplained mysteries, the Martini Club races to uncover the truth behind shadowy secrets...before more lives are lost.

November



3 - Ron King	13 - Valerie Meinke
4 - Connie Cole	15 - Austin Sorg
Colton Diekman	16 - Jennifer Schneider
5 - Robert Millinger	17 - Chayce McQueary
9 - Arik Bench	21 - Ron Lajti, Jr
12 - Randy Reif	28 - Hudson Diekman



15 – Jason & Rachel Lohner
24 – Ron Jr. & Danielle Lajti

November 2025

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Oct 2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Dec 2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Oct 2025							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		Dec 2025							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								1
Oct 2025																																																																																																		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																												
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																												
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																												
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																												
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																													
Dec 2025																																																																																																		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																												
1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																													
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																												
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																												
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																												
28	29	30	31																																																																																															
2 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:45 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School All Saints Sunday	3	4 9:00 AM Sew Quilts Election Day	5 11:30 AM Outreach Ministry 12:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM AAA Meeting	6	7	8																																																																																												
9 8:45 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00AM-12:30 PM Advent Wreath Making 12:00 PM-1:15 PM Catechism Aluminum Can Collection Day	10 6:30 PM Finance 7:30 PM Council	11 9:00 AM Sew Quilts 10:30 AM Hannah Circle @ St. Peter Veteran's Day	12 10:00 AM Book Club 4:00 PM Worship Ministry 8:00 PM AAA Meeting	13	14	15																																																																																												
16 8:45 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School	17 12:00 PM December Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Abigail Circle @ St. Peter	18 9:00 AM Sew Quilts	19 8:00 PM AAA Meeting	20	21	22																																																																																												
23 8:45 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School	24 Pre-School Thanksgiving in Fellowship Hall	25 9:00 AM Sew Quilts	26 8:00 PM AAA Meeting	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29 9:30 AM Advent Brunch @ St. John's Rocky Ridge																																																																																												
30 8:45 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School New Event																																																																																																		

ST. PETER LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 15, 2025 at Church

Attendance: Cindy Bench, Gary Diefenthaler, Al Gahler, Judy Gahler, Wes Gahler, Jody Kapp, Jon Overmyer, and Pastor Matt Musteric

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

Jody made a motion seconded by Judy to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2025 council meeting. MC Jody made a motion seconded by Judy to file the August 2025 Treasurer's Report for audit. MC. The July ending balance showed as \$6,568.07 and the August beginning balance showed as \$3,592.79.

Pastor's Report: Worship: Joint service at St. Peter's Sept. 14, Women's Thankoffering Oct. 5, Guest Pastor, Greg Olsen Oct. 26. Pastoral Acts: Wedding: Jennifer Wolf and Brian Cutlip Aug. 30. Pastoral Care and Visits for August totaled 16. Teaching: Catechism will focus on the Small Catechism, Bible Study will be on the book of Leviticus. Continuing Education: Global Leadership Summit Aug. 7-8, Reframing Compassion Workshops at Cherry Street Mission on Aug. 11, Association of Fundraising Professionals, NW Ohio "Putting Donors First" Aug 27. Sabbatical: Grant application was not awarded.

President Report: Due to a computer error on the supplier's end, we owe \$5,400 in propane costs for the 2024-2025 season. This will increase our propane budget to around \$1,600 a month for the 2025-2026 season. No penalties are being applied. The propane rate will be locked in at \$1.38 per gallon.

Vice-President Report: By Sept. 24, the church office will have access to a credit card.

Executive Committee: No report

Congregational Life: Plans are underway for a Pork Chop BBQ on Nov. 2.

Education: Using a new Whirl lectionary program for Preschool and Kindergarten class. Planning for Rally Day on Sept. 14. Holding Sunday School Teacher meeting on Sept. 28. Dawn Bolen has joined the Ministry. Next meeting is to be determined.

Finance: Cindy made a motion seconded by Jody to have Gail Overmyer and Jon Overmyer be placed on the church's Ameriprise accounts as authorized contact persons. MC. Ministries were reminded to have their budget requests prepared by the October council meeting.

Property: Electrician will work us into the schedule for our needed kitchen repairs. Annual contract for HVAC maintenance is up for renewal with Wadsworth. No other quotes were received from any other companies. New contract is for \$5,398.00 for Aug. 1 – July 31 and includes the same services as prior year. Price increase is \$208 from prior year. Jon made a motion seconded by Cindy to renew the annual HVAC maintenance contract with Wadsworth. MC. Next meeting is Oct. 12 at 10am.

Outreach: Blue Barrel August donations were peanut butter and jelly to St. Paul, September will be cereal to Elliston. Pam Frayer is organizing the Caring Shepherds. Seminar Sept. 21 at 11:45am will be Legal Issues discussion. Instant church directory still needs some member pictures. Jean Witt has been the driving force in this effort. God's Work Our Hands was at Luther Home of Mercy helping residents enjoy fishing, at Salem planting trees and at St. Luke's baking cookies and writing notes. Jim Vermilyea was collecting bedding in August. Next meeting is September 21 at 1:30pm.

Worship: Will be trying a couple new settings. 1st Sunday – children's sermon Pastor, 2nd Sunday - children's bells, 3rd Sunday – children's sermon. Sanctuary piano has been tuned. Will have fellowship hall and chapel pianos tuned. Next meeting Nov. 12 at 4pm.

Women of the Church: No report..

Old Business: None.

New Business: Gary questioned the usefulness and need for the church's website. It was decided to ask this question in a mass email to our members and also discuss this at the annual meeting.

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

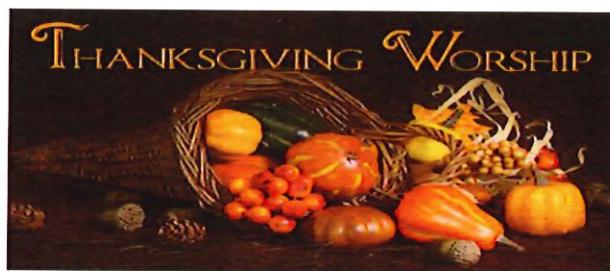
NEXT MEETING: October 13, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Gary Diefenthaler



May life bring you a reflection of the kindness you've shown to others. It's a comfort to know we can count on each other through whatever life brings. My healing journey isn't over yet, but every day brings me closer to brighter days. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Don & Janet Radsick

I would like to thank Pastor Matt for his visit and prayers while I was in Wildwood Pre-Op. I would also like to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, text, visits and cards during my recovery. Much appreciated. Gary Diefenthaler



Mark your calendar! St. John Williston will be hosting a Community Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday, November 24th at 5 PM followed by a community meal (6PM). There is no charge for the meal, but we ask that you please contact the church office (419-836-5514) to reserve your place. Participants may bring a dessert to share.



What Gift Will **YOU** Bring?

The women of St. John Lutheran Church, Rocky Ridge, would like to invite the ladies of our congregation to their 28th annual Advent Brunch on Saturday, December 6, 2025, beginning at 9:30 AM. Brunch and fellowship will be enjoyed after the program. Reservations are due by November 23, 2025. The cost for the brunch is \$10. Proceeds will benefit the Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center TNT Mentoring program. Check the table in the Narthex for more info, and sign-up sheet.

Alan Graening has been diagnosed with cancer and is in Hospice care. For anyone wishing to send a card or note to Alan, his address is: Alan Graening, 4205 Meadowfield Ct., Batavia, OH 45103.