



# 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*

*April 2026*

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

Phone: 419-836-8903

Web: [stpeterblackberry.org](http://stpeterblackberry.org)  
[facebook.com/spblackberry](https://facebook.com/spblackberry)

Email: [stpeterblackberry@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterblackberry@gmail.com)

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## Psalm 24 and Easter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few years ago I attended worship for Pascha (Easter) at a local Eastern Orthodox Christian Church. As part of their order for worship, we processed around the cathedral and the Bishop Knocked on the doors, reciting words from Psalm 24 (7-10):

*Lift up your head, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in!  
Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle.  
Lift your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in!  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the king of glory.*

These are Easter words, testifying to the victory over sin and death that our Lord Jesus achieved through his death and glorious resurrection.

But do you know what the first verse of Psalm 24 is? Psalm 24:1 reads: *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.* This verse guides everything from our care of the earth to how we manage possessions and wealth. It all belongs to the Lord and should be managed, treated, and cared for accordingly. Even our own lives are not our own. They are too a gift from God.

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Grace and Peace,

+ Pastor Matt

# Stewardship Reflections

## WALKING WITH NEIGHBORS

### Read Matthew 22:34-40

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your strength  
and with all your mind and your  
neighbor as yourself.*

*Luke 10:27 (NRSVUE)*

When I retired, I moved to the mountains and lived only a few miles from the Appalachian Trail. Each year, thousands set out to hike the entire trail – a months-long journey of nearly 2,200 miles. Hikers must carry everything they need to survive – for days at a time. Many hikers end up tired, sore, and short on water and food, despite their best planning. Encountering these “thru-hikers” on my day hikes, I was amazed at how they looked out for each other and shared their meager resources. A few ounces of water, a little food, a bandage, an aspirin, or a ride into town could make a huge difference. Strangers formed community. The other hikers became their new “neighbors.”

As Christians, we are called to serve others and take care of our neighbors I need. On the trails I regularly visited, people benefited from small kindnesses. I always brought extra food, supplies, and a well-stocked first-aid on hikes. I was enriched by my interactions with hikers; we shared stories, laughed, hugged, and prayed together. What opportunities do we have to serve others? Let us be observant and open-minded, pray about it, and see what surfaces.

Prayer: O God, our Savior, thank-you for the beauty of your world. We thank you for opportunities to meet new friends and neighbors. Amen

Chris Bullis (North Carolina, USA)

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Wherever I am, I can care for  
my neighbors and make a  
difference.

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## Phillip the Blue Barrel Food Collection



The Blue Barrel Collection item for April is Donor's Choice. These items will be delivered to Lutheran Social Services. Remember to check out their "Wish List" posted on the bulletin board for items or ideas.

Remember to return your Lenten Sacrificial Offering Jars to church after Easter. The funds collected will be going to support the Mlenga congregation as it builds a new church building.

And if you collected items for the Reverse Lent Calendar please have them to the church the Sunday after Easter. These items are going to the Family Advocacy Center.

We will be helping with a Bingo night at Lutheran Home of Mercy April 11 at 6:30 pm. We will gather by the Administration Building to be guided to the cottage we will be hosting. We have Bingo prizes already gathered that were not used during God's Work our Hands last year. So what we need is YOU!!!

This is always a fun time and will last about 1 hour. So mark your calendar and help as we shine our Jesus Light in the community.

Please sign up so the administration will know if we can host 1 or 2 cottages. Signup sheets will be available on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Salem Tuesday/Easter Meal – We Need Your Help!

We are in charge of the Tuesday meal at Salem on April 14<sup>th</sup>. This will be an Easter celebration meal with ham and scalloped potatoes. We will need helpers to cook - arrive by 12 NOON, serve - arrive by 2PM, and cleanup - arrive by 3PM. And we will need lots of cakes and pies. Salem is still serving over 350 meals each Tuesday! Your help is needed!!!! Please use the signup sheets so we know how much help to expect.

ALONG WITH THE MEAL, Salem will be having a Baby Shower that evening. They have 5 Expectant mothers registered. The request includes diapers, bottles, bottle brush, blankets, pacifiers, first aid kits. Further information will be coming.

There are some great resources available for all kinds of needs on our communities. If you or someone you know is in need of a hand they can simply go to [www.findhelp.org](http://www.findhelp.org) and enter their zip code. Available resource options include baby supplies, housing, clothing, medical, transportation, food, etc. Please find a list of resources hanging on the bulletin board. Pass this information along to others.

Next Out Reach Meeting will be April 21 at 11 AM at St. Peter.

**ST. PETER LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, January 12, 2026 at Church**

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

The meeting was opened by Pastor Matt with a prayer and explanation of the 3rd petition of the Lord's Prayer. Cindy made a motion seconded by Jon to approve the minutes from the December 2025 council meeting. MC Financial Reports were not complete, will approve when they are completed at February meeting.

**Pastor's Report: Worship:** Pastor shared that there will not be a round robin for Lent this year. He will be using the series Half Truths by Adam Hamilton to base services on. Wednesday services will be at St. Luke's with a meal before, Maundy Thursday at St. Peter and Good Friday at St. Luke's. Ash Wednesday is February 18th this year. He also reported on Luna Clark's baptism that will be held next week. Visits for December 2025 - Homebound 3, Hospital 4, Other 3, Phone Calls 1. Pastor will be attending a Lent Preaching Retreat in Howe, IN January 18-20 as well as AFP NWO: Building Donor and Partnership Connections That Last in Bowling Green on January 28.

**President Report:** Wes reported that conversations have started with the family of Marlene Base on where they would like her memorial used, possibly towards the AC and Heating projects we have currently.

**Vice-President Report:** Jon reported on some rough totals of where our Ameriprise accounts are sitting; approx. \$6000 (3.43% interest), \$96,000 (9.02% interest), \$170,000 (11.52% interest) Jon also brought up that we may want to look into putting the funds that are in our memorial fund into Ameriprise to try and grow the money until we need to use it. He also reported that there was an issue with our credit cards through Croghan. There was a fraud alert that we were never made aware of by Croghan and they closed the account. Due to ongoing issues with Croghan, Jon made a motion to move all of the accounts for church except our current loan from Croghan to Genoa Bank. Al seconded, MC.

**Executive Committee:** No report

**Congregational Life:** No Report

**Education:** No Report

**Finance:** Wes reported that they discussed possible memorial projects. Renovating the lounge has been discussed, but they feel that it is not used enough to have as a project. Another project idea they discussed was possibly updating the kitchen.

**Property:** Al reported that the boiler repairs from last month should be completed this week.

**Outreach:** No Report

**Worship:** No report.

**Women of the Church:** No report

**Old Business:** Shared Ministry meeting needs to be scheduled, Wes will take care of getting this done.

**New Business:** There was some discussion about moving our Council Meetings to the 3rd Monday to allow more time for Finance to go over the monthly reports and have the info ready for the meetings in time. Will discuss more at next meeting. Judy made a motion to allow Education to have a Sub Sale January 18th to February 1st to raise money for Sunday School. Cindy seconded, MC.

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

**NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Kapp



8 - Jessica Brown  
 Mary Ann Siefke  
 9 - John Wolf  
 12 - Alyssa Smith  
 13 - Robert Beyer  
 Rylan Scott  
 16 - Matt Amonette

19 - Cora Kapp  
 20 - Jillian Schneider  
 23 - Kane Peeler  
 25 - Alyse Sorg  
 27 - Simon Amonette  
 Dylan Diekman

28 - Maria Beamer  
 Mila McQueary  
 29 - Ethan Bench  
 Jordan Diekman  
 30 - Carol Ann Foss  
 Priscilla Lehmann

10 - Jeffrey & Robbin Large  
 13 - Jim & Norma Coy  
 16 - Bob & Judy Brown  
 23 - Mike & Kathy Jasinkowski  
 24 - Carlos & Susan Lowell  
 26 - David & Amy Behlmer  
 29 - Don & Janet Radsick



*Abigail Circle*

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

*Hannah Circle*

Thursday, April 21  
 10:30 AM @ St. Peter

*Sew Group*

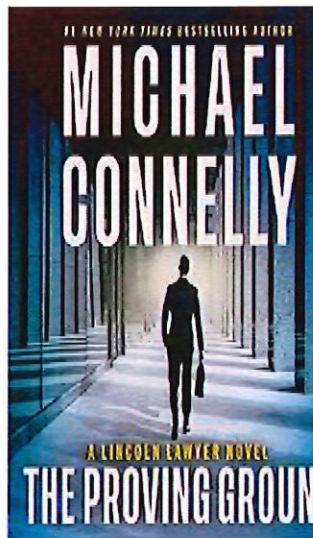
Every Tuesday  
 9:00 AM @ St. Peter

*Book Discussion Group*

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

*Bible Study*

Wednesday, April 1  
 NOON @ St. Peter



Following his “resurrection walk” and need for a new direction, Mickey Haller turns to public interest litigation, filing a civil lawsuit against an artificial intelligence company whose chatbot told a sixteen-year-old boy that it was okay for him to kill his ex-girlfriend for her disloyalty.

Representing the victim’s family, Mickey’s case explores the mostly unregulated and exploding AI business and the lack of training guardrails. Along the way he joins up with a journalist named Jack McEvoy, who wants to be a fly on the wall during the trial in order to write a book about it. But Mickey puts him to work going through the mountain of printed discovery materials in the case. McEvoy’s digging ultimate delivers the key witness, a whistleblower who has been too afraid to speak up. The case is fraught with danger because billions are at stake.

# April 2026

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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5 7AM Sunrise Service, 7:30AM Easter Breakfast, 8:45AM Easter Service  <b>CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	6	7 9:00 AM Quilt Sewing	8 10:00 AM Book Club 8:00 PMAA Meeting	9	10	11 BINGO @6:30PM at Luther Home of Mercy(meet at Adm. Building)																																																																																											
12 10:00 AM Property Ministry 10:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Adult Sunday School 12:00 PM -1:15 PM Catechism <b>Aluminum Can Collection Day</b>	13	14 9:00 AM Quilt Sewing  Easter Meal @Salem Lutheran 12PM - 5PM	15 8:00 PMAA Meeting	16	17	18																																																																																											
19 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15AM Adult Sunday School 11am - 1pm St Peter Adult Gathering @Blackberry Corners	20	21 9:00 AM Quilt Sewing 11 AM Outreach Ministry Mtg @St. Peter <b>MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	22 8:00 PMAA Meeting EARTH DAY	23	24	25 8:15AM North Central Spring Assembly @Zion Lutheran, Luckey, OH																																																																																											
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**ST. PETER LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, February 9, 2026**

Attendance: Gary Diefenthaler, Jared Diekman, Al Gahler, Judy Gahler, Wes Gahler, Jody Kapp, Pastor Matt Musteric and Jon Overmyer.

The meeting was opened by Pastor Matt with Martin Luther's Small Catechism: The Lord's Prayer: The Fourth Petition and prayer.

Judy made a motion seconded by Jared to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2026 council meeting. MC. It was noted that the Ameriprise accounts had an increase of 8% for 2025, amounting to \$21,707.33. The December 2025 Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**Pastor's Report: Worship:** February 18: Ash Wednesday, Wednesdays in Lent theme: "Half Truths" 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship (St Luke's is hosting), March 8: Preschool Program during worship, March 15: Rylan Scott baptism, April 5: Easter Sunday, May 17: Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism, May 24: Pentecost **Pastoral Acts:** Luna Clark baptism: January 18, 2026. **Pastoral Care and Visits** totaled 13.

**President Report:** Still in need of a Council Recording Secretary.

**Vice-President Report:** Working on moving church bank accounts to Genoa Bank.

**Executive Committee:** No report.

**Congregational Life:** No report.

**Education:** Super Bowl SUB sale provided \$700.83, to be placed in the Sunday School account. Holding a Sunday School teachers meeting on February 22. Next meeting is February 17 at 7pm.

**Finance:** Pastor is in need of a new laptop and software (laptop and software will remain property of St. Peter) at a cost of approximately \$1,280 and a replacement webcam (for videoing the worship service) is needed for approximately \$300. Al made a motion seconded by Jody to purchase the laptop, software and webcam using Thrivent Choice funds. MC. Looking at various memorial projects. Congregational Growth committee is investigating church website development and logo development for mailings and apparel, at a cost of \$2,500. Annual hosting of the website would be \$300. Jared made a motion seconded by Judy to use Memorial funds for these items. MC. Kitchen updates could be another memorial project.

**Property:** Previously approved repairs were performed the week of January 26. Tech found leaks on both circulation pumps and recommended rebuild of the shaft seals for \$1,363 each. More research is being done on this. Insurance company is scheduled to do a boiler inspection on February 17. Next meeting is March 8 at 10am.

**Outreach:** February 21st we will be helping at St. Paul's Episcopal to serve a meal and visit with those that come. Instant Church Directory is available via the app. LHOM sent a card of thanks for the gifts that were collected. Red Kettle campaign was a success, collecting \$6,678.96. Hoping to host an April Bingo Party at LHOM.

**Worship:** Discussion was had on the organ maintenance, which was last done about 5 years ago. Since the pipes are not being used, it is felt maintenance is not necessary. Council instructed the committee to pursue having the organ maintenance done. Discussion was held about moving to one Christmas Eve service. A survey of the congregation will be done. Jody made a motion seconded by Al to survey the congregation during February and March. MC. Preschool program will be held on March 8. A baptism will be held on March 15. Palms for Palm Sunday was discussed. St. Peter will host Maundy Thursday service and St. Luke's will host Good Friday. The ministry has not gotten a lot of feedback on the contemporary music. Still trying to find a good mix. Joint worship service at St. Luke's will be June 4; at St. Peter's TBD.

**Women of the Church:** No report. **Old Business:** Gary made a motion seconded by Jody to move the church council meeting to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. MC. Jody made a motion seconded by Gary to hold the March church council meeting on March 23. MC.

**New Business:** Jody made a motion seconded by Jared to allow the Country Slickers 4H club to hold their meetings in the fellowship hall. MC. Gary made a motion seconded by Jared to place a collection basket out from Feb. 22 through March 22 for donations to help Lucy Musteric with Lutheran Summer Music Camp fees. MC.

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

**NEXT MEETING: March 23, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**

Gary Diefenthaler

**North Central Spring Assembly April 25, 2026 @Zion Lutheran Church, 303 Park Dr., Luckey, OH 43443.** Pre-register by April 18<sup>th</sup>, but registrations will be accepted at the door the day of the event. Registration is \$12.00, and starts at 8:15 AM with a continental breakfast, speakers, and lunch. Sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL'S APRIL BIBLE VERSE:** *"The joy of the Lord is my strength."*  
Nehemiah 8:10.

**PRECIOUS MOMENTS PRESCHOOL:** It's time once again for their yearly fundraiser of Little Caesar's Pizza kits. Orders and \$\$ due by April 13<sup>th</sup>, delivery is the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>. Online orders due April 12<sup>th</sup>, Fundraiser ID #51352. Order form and more info located on the table in the Narthex or online.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT SIGN-UP:** There are several opportunities to be involved with the worship service from greeter, usher, reader, communion helpers, flowers, to fellowship hosts. Check out the sign-up sheets for the upcoming months and fill in those blank lines.

**BOILER/ROOF LOAN BALANCE: as of 3/31/2026: \$31,430.84.**

