



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 2026

St. Peter Lutheran Church
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Deep Rest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. Peter and St. Luke's,

Have you ever needed deep rest? Have you ever been so weary that a good night's sleep is not enough?

God knows our need for sleep, for rest, and for deep rest. God built a rhythm of work and rest into the very fabric of creation. And every 50 years (the year following seven times seven years), God built in a "sabbath of sabbaths," a Jubilee year. It was about more than just rest; it was about deep rest. Relationships are restored. The land gets a break. Deep rest.

When we hear the word "sabbath" we often think of the seventh day, the day of rest. But sabbath is about so much more. It's about healing, reconciliation, renewal. In fact, as the Old Testament unfolds, the word "sabbath" becomes shorthand for many of the festival and celebrations of the people of God. It's a time to celebrate, to party, to enjoy life to its fullest.

When Jesus teaches on the sabbath, he is wary of turning the keeping of it into just another set of rules by which we police each other's behavior: "The sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the sabbath." He intentionally breaks some of the rules that had accumulated around sabbath keeping. But he does very sabbath-centric things: healing the sick and feeding the hungry.

Praise be to God for the gift of the sabbath!

What do you think?

Peace be with you.

+ Pastor Matt

Stewardship Reflections

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

READ EXODUS 4:10-17

*(Aaron) will speak to the people for your, and it
will be as if he were your mouth and as
if you were God to him.*

Exodus 4:16(NIV)

“Can you take care of the children on Tuesday night?” asked a friend in my church. I was going to say no because I had no experience in children’s ministry, but then I thought, *Why don’t I try? After all, this would be an opportunity to serve God.* Before I agreed, I asked her if I would have a partner, and she said that I would. Praise God, the evening went well. The children enjoyed their time with my partner and me. Later, I thought of Moses. Like me, he was not at all confident when God commanded him to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. He had no experience as a leader, But God understood Moses’ hesitation and provided a partner for him—his brother Aaron. With Aaron by his side, Moses fulfilled his command from God successfully. Finally, the Israelites escaped Egypt under Moses’ inspired leadership.

We cannot always do God’s work alone, but we don’t have to. Sometimes God gives us partner. Scripture shows many examples: Eve for Adam (see Gen.2-3); Deborah for Barak (see Judges 4); Silas for Paul (see Acts 15:40). God will bring us people who care for us and who will share our ministry with us.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for never leaving us to fend for ourselves. We thank you for people who care for us and help us in the work you have given us to do. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: God provided what I need to obey the call to serve.



Ourtreach members are Steve and Barb Yunker, Clkaludette Allred, Pam Frayer, Rufena Hartford, Jean Witt, Cindy Bench and Pastor Matt. Please reach out to any of them if you have ideas.

1. Our November Blue Barrel collection items are Canned Meats or Pet Food. These items will be donated to St. Paul Episcopal.
2. We continue to need our members to volunteer as Worship Assistants. We need ushers, greeters, readers, communion assistants, Fellowship Hosts weekly. Please sign up and

help to make our Worship Service run smoothly. If you have any questions about any of the needs please ask an Outreach Ministry member for clarification.

3. Our 2026 Picture Board is in need of pictures of church related activities. If you have any, please feel free to add them to the board.
4. The Norf-End community and Salem Lutheran send a BIG thank you for all of the donated candy. Their Trunk or Treat was a great success and they had good participation with decorated trunks.
5. We are considering holding quarterly God's Work Our Hands events. We can aid members of our congregations and work on Church Chores. Let a member of Outreach know of any needs and we will coordinate. Outreach members are Steve and Barb Yunker, Claudette Allred, Pam Frayer, Rufena Hartford, Jean Witt, Cindy Bench and Pastor Matt. Please reach out to any of them if you have ideas.
6. We will be in charge of Salem Lutheran's Thanksgiving meal November 17th. We will need volunteers to roast turkeys with or without dressing. Turkeys will be provided by **November 8th**. After roasting, please remove meat from bones and return to St. Peter's fridge **November 15th or by 10AM November 17th**. We need helping hands to cook (be at Salem by **12 noon**), serve (be at Salem by **1:30pm**), and to cleanup (be at Salem by **3pm**). Signup sheets are ready for you to help lend a hand. Salem is currently serving 400 meals weekly so the need is HUGE. We need YOU to help make this a successful meal,
7. We need your help as we once again lend a hand for the Ottawa County Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. We will be ringing the bells at Millers New Market in Genoa. Bell ringing will occur from **10am-8pm Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10am-6pm Saturdays**. The ringing will begin **November 16th and run until December 24th**. This location is inside and they have chairs available. The folks of this community are always very generous. A sign up sheet is available for you to volunteer 2 hours. A great opportunity for all of us.
8. Every third Saturday, Rita's Soups provided a FREE meal for the community. Rita's Soups encourages folks to participate, either as a volunteer, a participant, or a donor. Every 3rd Saturday of the month from 11-12:30 soup is served or delivered to inbound participants. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 798 S.Coy Rd. in Oregon. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please contact the church at 419-691-9400.

Our next meeting will be January 13, 2027

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall following worship service.

WORSHIP MINISTRY will be taking orders on Sundays, November 15th, 22nd, and 29th for RED (only) poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Please see Katie Larson or Jody Kapp to place your order, or call the church office Monday- 12 to 5, Wednesday or Friday- 8:30 to 2:30.

OTTAWA COUNTY HOLIDAY BUREAU signup sheets for your township is available on the Narthex bulletin board. Applications are due by December 1, 2026.

WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS will be held Thursday, December 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM, hosted by Trinity UCC (17955 W. 3rd St., Elliston). Please RSVP by November 24th. Additional information and sign-up sheet is on the table and bulletin board in the Narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION: Remember, aluminum can collection is the second Sunday of every month. November 8th and December 13th are the remaining dates for 2026.

NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSE: *O give thanks to the Lord for He is good.* Psalm 136:1

Abigail Circle

Meetings TBD

Sew Group

Every Tuesday
9:00 AM @ St. Peter

Hannah Circle

Tuesday, November 10th
10:30 AM @ St. Peter

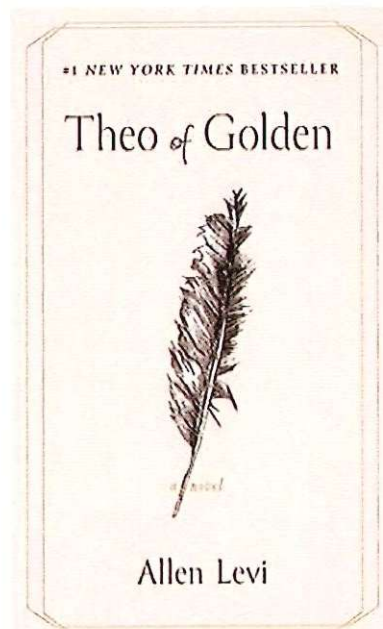
Bible Study

Wednesday, November 11th
12:00 PM @ St. Peter.
Wednesday, October

Book Club

Wednesday, November 11th
10:00 AM @ St. Peter

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.





BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

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



November 2026

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1 8:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL ALL SAINTS' DAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS	2	3 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING	4 8:00 PM AA MEETING	5	6	7																																																																																				
8 8:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM PROPERTY COMMITTEE 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL	9 6:30 PM FINANCE COMMITTEE 7:30 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	10 9:00 AM QUILT SEWING 10:30 AM HANNAH CIRCLE	11 10:00 AM BOOK CLUB 12:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 8:00 PM AA MEETING VETERAN'S DAY	12 9:00 AM -12:00 PM PASTOR'S CONFERENCE in FELLOWSHIP HALL	13	14																																																																																				
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ANNUAL ADVENT BRUNCH at St. John Lutheran Church , Rocky Ridge will be held December 5, 2026 beginning at 9:30 AM. Tickets are \$10, with reservation, limited seating. Please RSVP by November 22. This year's theme is *Piecing Together the Promise of Advent*. A handmade quilt was made to go with this year's theme and will be raffled off at the brunch. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County. See bulletin board for flyer and more information.

GENTLE REMINDER: All canned food donations are greatly and very much appreciated. Please remember that outdated food is not accepted at Food Banks or Community Pantries. PLEASE continue to let Christs' light shine by providing safe food for those in their time of need.

HELP TIE QUILTS - Do you have time on your hands with nothing to do? The Quilting ladies are looking for additional help to tie quilts every Tuesday morning 9:00 AM to Noon.

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH is inviting our congregation to their Arboretum dedication, Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 3-4pm. It's a culmination of a lot of work from the people of Sacred Grounds and the congregation of St. Peter and St. Luke's. This is short Multifaith prayer and dedication service. Check out the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

LUTHER HOME OF MERCY - Now is the time to "Adopt a Resident" for the Christmas Holiday. Almost 200 adults with disabilities were blessed with Christmas gifts due to your generosity! They also received a lot of donations from their wish list in support of their day programs, houses and cottages. If you would like to "Adopt a Resident", reply with the following information to Melissa Gregg, Director of Mission Advancement 419-972-4338

1. Your Name
2. Your Organization/Church (if applicable)
3. Your Phone Number
4. Your Preferences
 - a. # of people you want to adopt
 - b. Campus resident
 - c. Outreach client
 - d. Male/female
 - e. Wish list

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



We give thank for those who have been washed in the waters of Holy Baptism and joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus our Lord:

Luna Clark
Rylan Scott

We also give thanks for those whose baptismal journey has been completed in death and now rest in peace, waiting for the promise of the Resurrection:

Clifford Bury
Jill Cousino
Judy Crandall
Marlene Base Deuschle
Alan Graening
Sue Hartenstein
Sandy Heschel
Claire Kerekes
Payton Krupp
Kim LaFountain
Ken McFarlan
Mary Ellen Miller
Heather Milne

Larry Olmstead
Doak Pfaff
Mike Phillips
Anne Ramlow
Jeremy Redfox
Cynthia Reinhart
Judy Risch
Christopher Rupley
Candy Owen Shaw
Rene Shumate
Paul Voska
Ted Wasserman