WELCOME in the NAME OF JESUS
St. Peter's Lischey's UCC
www.lischeysucc.org (717) 225-3932
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Thanksgiving Sunday
Sunday, November 22, 2026
10:30 AM (In the Sanctuary & via YouTube)

Welcome and Gathering Songs- *Blaine Breeden*

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude: "We Gather Together" — *Chime Choir* Page

****Call to Worship:***

L: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

P: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

L: Know that the Lord is God.

P: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

L: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

P: Give thanks to him and praise his name.

ALL: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

****Opening Prayer:***

ALL: O God, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You richly bless us with all that we need: bread from the earth and the Bread of Heaven, which gives life to the world. Grant us one thing more: grateful hearts to sing Your praise in this world and the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

****Opening Hymn:*** "We Gather Together" – Red Hymnal #561 Kremser

Prayer of Confession:

L**:** God has laid before us the paths of life and goodness, as well as death and evil, yet we have often turned away from life and goodness. Let us humbly confess our shortcomings before God:

ALL: Patient Lord, we are rushing headlong into the holiday season, forgetting that the word "holiday" is actually comprised of two words: "holy and day." Forgive us when we treat the "holiday" as a task and a burden, when we load ourselves down with tasks that do not enhance this day. Help us move past the busyness of the day into the attitude of gratitude we should display for all the many wonders and blessings you have poured on us. Forgive us when we grumble and gripe about the work and do not relish the delight in having family and friends together. Remind us that there are those for whom this day holds little delight and hope. Help us reach out to them with love, listening to their hearts, and trying to meet their needs. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon:

L: There is nothing so broken that God cannot restore.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Children's Message- *Rev. Susan Emmons*

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *Jenell McKowen*
Ephesians 1:15-23

Message: Let's Make Our Thanksgiving Count *Rev. Susan Emmons*

Hymn: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" – Red Hymnal #559 Elvey

Litany of Thanksgiving: A litany by **Matt Tims**, published at Reformed Worship.
(This litany uses Psalm 126 as a framework for expressing gratitude for our community and for God's work among its people.)

L: Generous God, we have so much to be thankful for as Your people have throughout generations. We thank You for your faithfulness to each of us individually. Today we give You particular thanks for the ways You are forming our community. We join with the psalmists to rejoice in Your restoring work:

P: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

L: We give You thanks: For the vision and guidance You give us. For Your invitation to partner with Your work around us. For the expected and unexpected delights of our life together.

P: Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

L: We give You thanks: For how laughter and play bring us together. For the infectious giggles of the children among us. For the seasoned chuckle of our older saints. For the joy of Your spirit that infuses all that we do.

P: Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

L: We give You thanks: For the things, great and small, You have done among us. For the relationships restored and friendships healed. For the new friends who have joined us and the old friends You brought back. For preserving the faith of so many through generations. For meeting us each week in our worship together.

P: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

L: We give You thanks: For the stories of redemption in our community. For our shared celebrations: for birthdays and baptisms, for anniversaries and graduations, for our festivals and feasts.

P: Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev.

L: We give You thanks: For the relief of Your presence amidst challenge and loss. For providing us support through Your people. For Your spirit's healing work in our lives.

P: Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

L: We give You thanks: That You welcome and hold our grief and our lament. That You never stop redeeming our sorrow.

P: Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

L: With Your people of all times and all places, we hold onto this hope: Because of Jesus, and by Your spirit, You are at work restoring our world, bringing an end to all tears and filling Your creation with abundance.

P: We give You thanks. The Lord will do great things for us.

ALL: Amen

Announcements, Joys, and Prayer Concerns

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (Praise Booklet, p. 4)

Invitation to the Offering:

L: At a time when our tables overflow with blessings, may our gratitude for the One who gave us so much, be evident in the generosity of the gifts we now return.

Offertory: "This is Our Song of Praise" W. Sickles

(*The ushers will move down the aisles and pass the offering plates along the rows.*)

****Offertory Response (sung)***: **"**We Give Our Thanks" (See below.)



****Prayer of Dedication (unison):***

ALL: Lord of the harvest, we rejoice in the bounty of your world; we thank you for the rich harvests it produces. As we do so, we remember those who do not have enough. Show us what needs to be done, and how to share the world's harvest more fairly. Teach us to value people more than things. We give to you these gifts and pray they will bring love and justice to those who are most in need. We offer them in your Son's name. Amen.

****Closing Hymn:*** "Now Thank We All Our God" – Red Hymnal #556 Cruger/Mendelssohn

****Benediction***

****Postlude:*** "With Grateful Hearts" Bach

**Members should rise if able.*

Weekly Announcements, Updates, and Concerns
November 22, 2026

Visitors…
Thank you for joining us today. We are happy to have you here. Please sign the guestbook located at the bell tower. Since you may be unfamiliar with us, here are some housekeeping items to help you find your way around:

- Restrooms are located in the overflow room, in the new section by the office, and down the stairs from the new section.
- Brown offering envelopes are located in the pew backs and also on the cart by the bulletins. The offering plates are located on the cart, and at the belltower and middle entrances.

Thank You…
Thank you to all my friends at Lischeys for sending me this beautiful Thanksgiving card. It is so Heart-warming and Very Special because you took the time to write your name on it. Very much appreciated. *~Bob Strausbaugh*

Harvest of Hope Holiday Meal Collection…
Help us support **Harvest of Hope** by contributing items for their holiday meal program. Our goal is to collect **100 boxes of mashed potatoes** and **100 boxes of stuffing** to help provide meals for local families during the holiday season. Collection begins now and will continue through **November 22**. Donations may be placed on the table in the overflow room. Thank you for your generosity and for helping make the holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

Greeters Needed for January-July 2027
As I begin preparing the new Greeters' Schedule for January through July 2027 in the coming weeks, I invite you to consider becoming part of this important ministry. It is a wonderful way to serve your faith community and perhaps even a great New Year's resolution! The qualifications are simple: just bring a friendly smile 😀 and a welcoming spirit. A warm greeting helps our church family feel at home each week and may provide a first-time visitor with their very first impression of our congregation as a caring, welcoming, and loving church. I would love to add a few more volunteers to the schedule. If you are interested in serving, or if you have scheduling restrictions or other concerns, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to share Christ's welcome with others! *~Darlene*

Christmas Decorating Day – Join the Fun!
Saturday, November 28 | Beginning at 8:30 AM
Help us prepare **St. Peter's Lischey's Church** for the Advent and Christmas seasons by joining us for our annual Christmas decorating day. Whether you arrive at 8:30 AM or a little later, all helping hands are welcome. We don't punch a time clock, so come when you can and stay as long as you're able! We especially need volunteers to help transform our church into the beautiful and welcoming space that has been enjoyed during Christmas celebrations at St. Peter's Lischey's for more than 250 years. Come share in the fellowship, the fun, and the joy of preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth. **We hope to see you there!**

Christmas Gift-A-Way…

December 5th at Mt. Zion UCC, Spring Grove • 1:00-3:00 PM

The Christmas Gift-A-Way will be held on **December 5th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Mt. Zion UCC**. We are currently collecting **new and gently used, clean gift items** for both children and adults. Please note that **clothing and shoes cannot be accepted**. We are seeking gifts that adults can give to children and gifts that children can give to adults for Christmas. Donations may be brought to the church **through November 29th**. Your generosity will help make Christmas brighter for many families in our community. Thank you for your support and contributions!

Carols in the Grove…

Celebrate the joy and spirit of the Christmas season with the **Spring Grove Alumni Chorus** as they present **"Carols in the Grove"** on **Sunday, December 6th,** at **4:00 PM** at the **Spring Grove Area Middle School**. This festive holiday concert will feature beautiful Christmas music performed by the Spring Grove Alumni Chorus along with the **Alumni Instrumental Ensemble**. Join family, friends, and neighbors for an afternoon filled with beloved holiday carols and seasonal favorites as we gather to celebrate the traditions of Christmas through music. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend this special community holiday event. We hope to see you there for an inspiring afternoon of music and Christmas cheer!

Save the Date: A Farewell Celebration for Lillia Messersmith…

Family and friends are invited to a special **Farewell Celebration for Lillia Messersmith** honoring her life and cherishing the many memories she leaves behind on **Saturday, January 9, 2027**, at 1:00 PM in the church fellowship hall. Hosted by the Messersmith family, this gathering will provide an opportunity to share stories, celebrate Lillia's life, and enjoy fellowship with those whose lives she touched. Please save the date and plan to join the family as they remember and celebrate **Lillia Messersmith**, who passed away on November 11, 2026.

Office Administrator Position Available

St. Peter's Lischey's UCC is seeking a part-time Office Administrator to support the church's communication and daily operations. Competitive salary, professional development opportunities, and paid vacation after one year. Interested individuals or referrals should contact the church office. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Homewood Auxiliary Membership Drive Begins…

Support Homewood Living Plum Creek residents by joining the Auxiliary during our November membership drive. Membership donations help fund special resident needs. Suggested dues are $3 for individuals or $5 for couples. See Nancy Cherry to join.

Christmas Card Collection for Homewood Living Plum Creek…

Help us spread some Christmas cheer to the residents of Homewood Living Plum Creek! We are collecting Christmas cards to brighten their holiday season. This year, Homewood has requested that cards be submitted **without envelopes** so residents can easily enjoy and display them. Please sign each card on behalf of our church and leave the envelopes at home (or keep them for your own use). We are also collecting **boxes of tissues** and **unscented body lotion** for the residents. Please place your cards and donations at the church **by December 6th**. Thank you for helping us share kindness, comfort, and the joy of the season with our neighbors at Homewood Living Plum Creek.

Poinsettia Ordering Information…

Order your Christmas poinsettias for $8 each by **November 29th**. Pick up an order envelope and dedication form from the cart in the overflow room, or call the church office to place your order. Include payment with your order and return it in the offering plate on the cart.

Thank you to our helpers this week:		**Next week's helpers are:**
Gathering Music	Blaine Breeden	Blaine Breeden
Lay Reader	Jenell McKowen	Melisa Altland
Acolyte	Joy Spangler	Sage Freed
Children's Message	Rev. Susan Emmons	Open
Greeters	Elvin Myers & Darlene Miner	Joy & Larry Spangler
Money Counters	Lisa Crisamore, Darlene Miner, & Pat McKowen	Darlene Miner, Don Carl, & Pat McKowen
Sound & Streaming	Blaine Breeden & Steve Miner	Joy & Larry Spangler

Upcoming Events at Lischey's Church…

Thursday, November 26th	6:30 PM	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, November 29th	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday School
	9:30 AM	SPLATT and Children's Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
Sunday, December 13th	10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata
Monday, December 14th	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 16th	10:00 AM	Jefferson Homemakers' Meeting

Office Hours…

The office will be open during the hours listed below. Doors will be locked for security; therefore, we ask that you call (717) 225-3932 to let us know you are coming. Staff will be there at the following times:

Nancy Cherry, Minister of Music	Wed/Thur	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Pat McKowen, Secretary	Tue-Thur	8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Upcoming Birthdays (*Designates Over 80)

November 26	Anne Bakner	November 28	Lisa Crisamore
November 26	Beth Mensinger	November 29	Kaleb Hamme

Our Response to God's Love last week was…

Attendance 58: 54 Sanctuary/ 4 YouTube

Current Offering	$1,690.00
Loose Offering	50.00
OCWM	30.00
Memorial Fund	90.00
Christmas Memorials	30.00
Total	**$1,890.00**

561 We Gather Together

May God be gracious to us and bless us. Ps. 67:1



TEXT: Netherlands Folk hymn; translated by Theodore Baker
MUSIC: Netherlands Folk song; arranged by Edward Kremser
Last stanza harmonization by Dick Bolks

KREMSER
12.11.12.11.

559 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

You crown the year with Your bounty. Ps. 65:11



TEXT: Henry Alford
MUSIC: George J. Elvey

ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR
7.7.7.7.D.

Now Thank We All Our God 556

Give thanks to the Lord . . . make known . . . what He has done. Isa. 12:4



TEXT: Martin Rinkart; translated by Catherine Winkworth
MUSIC: Johann Crüger; harmonized by Felix Mendelssohn

NUN DANKET
6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.