



"The Herald" Newsletter

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

December 2020



10 Delp Road - Lancaster, PA 17601
(717) 569-9211

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11*

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Progressive Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.



You are invited to be part of our Progressive Christmas Eve service! In response to concerns of safely gathering this Christmas Eve, the worship staff members have created a worship opportunity that allows us to safely gather in person and sing.

St. Peter's will host its first ever Progressive Christmas Eve Service on December 24th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Family groups (Covid pods) will gather in the memorial garden at the north end of the building, and progress to different stations in the church building to share in the story of the Christ child. Groups will progress through the Family Life Center, playground courtyard, and sanctuary before exiting the building on the south side under the carport. At each of these locations, worshipers will experience the Christmas story, sing beloved songs outside in safe ways, celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, and take part in a candlelight singing of Silent Night.

Family groups must pre-register for a starting timeslot. Look for more information on how to do that in the coming weeks. Each group will progress at regular intervals through the church while wearing masks. Each station will be timed such that groups will not overlap or bunch up allowing for everyone to participate but in a way that minimizes risk.

At the memorial garden, in the playground courtyard, and under the car port on the south side of the building, we will be singing outside (with masks on) to share the message of the season through some of our much beloved Christmas songs. Hallways and rooms will be decorated for Christmas and luminaries will light our way to the true light of the world which shines in our darkness.

Live Streaming Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 7:30 p.m.

<https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>

Inside This Issue . . .

Worship Schedule - 2

Adult Christian Ed. - 4

Committees - 5

Groups & Events - 8

Pastoral Letters - 9

Worship & Music - 11

Youth Ministries - 12

St. Peter's Kids - 12

St. Peter's Preschool - 13

From the Volunteer Steward - 14

Mission/Vision Statement - 15

Christmas Memorials - 16

Looking Ahead/Calendar - 17

December Worship Schedule



Wednesday, December 2: Mid-week Advent Service

A brief outdoor service under the carport with liturgy, a hymn and Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Ross leads

Sunday, December 6: The Second Sunday of Advent

Live Streaming Service of the Word at 10:45 a.m.

Parking Lot Church with Communion at 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Sarah preaches

Wednesday, December 9: Mid-week Advent Service

A brief outdoor service under the carport with liturgy, a hymn and Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Ross leads

Sunday, December 13: The Third Sunday of Advent

Live Streaming Service of the Word at 10:45 a.m.

Parking Lot Church with Communion at 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Craig preaches

Wednesday, December 16: Mid-week Advent Service

A brief outdoor service under the carport with liturgy, a hymn and Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Sarah leads

Sunday, December 20: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Live Streaming Service of the Word at 10:45 a.m.

Parking Lot Church with Communion at 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Sarah preaches

Wednesday, December 23: Darkest Night Service

A brief outdoor healing service under the carport with liturgy, anointing, a hymn and candle lighting at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Ross leads

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve

In-person progressive walk-through worship in between the hours of 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Live Streaming Service of Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 27: The First Sunday of Christmas

Live Streaming Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:45 a.m.

Sister Dottie leads worship



PREVIOUS WORSHIP SERVICES

Previous services can be accessed under the videos section of our Facebook page, or by visiting our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/StPetersLutheranLancaster>

A link to the "Live" page is on our website under the stream that links to recent service videos on YouTube.

Live Streaming Continues



Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. for Church @ Home. Worship features our Lutheran liturgy, prayers for the community, a sermon from one of the rostered leaders, a children's sermon, music from our staff musicians, Adam Lefever Hughes and Erik Teichmann, as well as special music from members of our congregation. Be church together on Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

<https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>

Live Streaming Christmas Eve Service - December 24th at 7:30 p.m. <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>

Parking Lot Worship, Sundays 2:00 p.m.



Join us in person, Sundays at 2:00 p.m. for a brief service under the carport in our parking lot. Socially distanced and masked, this worship features communion, Lutheran liturgy, prayers and some music. This service has a more "impromptu" experience that will allow us to worship, share in the Lord's Supper, and sing beloved hymns and carols of the season. More information can be found at [stpeterslutheran.org/worship/parking-lot-worship](https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/worship/parking-lot-worship)

Congregational Outdoor Nativity Pageant



Join us as our children and youth recreate the Christmas story through a live nativity in our parking lot on Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m.. We will sing Christmas carols and recreate the Christmas story. We will follow the drive-in church Covid guidelines. Come and sit in your car or bundle up, bring a chair and sit beside your car. Kids and youth are needed to help with the live nativity, RSVP to Sister Dottie at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org. Watch for more details and a sign up to attend the pageant!

Weekly Updates

Please watch the church website <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org> every Wednesday afternoon at approximately 4:00 p.m. for a short article updating news around the church for the week. It is our attempt to keep you connected to "all things St. Peter's" and the continual unfolding of congregational life in a digital world. You'll find updates on worship life, new Zoom groups that are beginning, news from the broader church and how it affects our lives together, and service opportunities that may present themselves within our church and out in our community.

Check out our Website for Advent and Christmas Church Events

The church leadership is constantly planning, pivoting and tweaking upcoming Advent and Christmas events. Be sure to routinely check the church website <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/christmas> to check the church calendar, blog posts, and announcements about how we are celebrating the season of Advent preparation and Christmas joy.

Living Puppets for Christmas

If you have been involved in the Christmas Eve Children's services in past years, you will understand the need to step away from our children's involvement in the Story Sermon we have been doing for decades. But Pastor Ross is hoping you might consider being part of a Zoom Living Puppet Christmas story this year. The plan would be to gather one night in the coming weeks in our homes, via Zoom, and re-enact the kind of children's Christmas story we typically enact. Your children can dress up as an animal, or shepherd or wise man, and they will have sounds or words to say that characterize their role. If you have been at an Easter family service in recent years, that is the kind of experience this will be ... just via Zoom. If we have enough interest, we'll give it a go. Pastor Ross is in conversation with the camel to see if he is available. The night we will tape will be Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. It shouldn't take us more than 30-40 minutes to do a run through and then a taping for real. We will circulate this through our digital platforms so the congregation can enjoy it, but no names will be associated with any of the children on the video. **If you ... your son(s) and/or daughter(s) would like to be involved, send Pastor Ross an email at craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org with "Living Puppets" in the subject line.**

Adult Christian Education

DECEMBER 2020 Adult Education Class Schedule

Sunday, December 6 – Daily Discipleship: An Attitude of Discipleship: Prepared - Mark 1:1-8, led by Pastor Sarah

Sunday, December 13 – The Reason for God – Session 6, “How God Can be Full of Love and Wrath & God Sending People to Hell?”, led by Sister Dottie

Sunday, December 20 – Daily Discipleship -- An Attitude of Discipleship: Trusting- Luke 1:26-38 led by Pastor Craig (9th Grade Class joins)

Sunday, December 27 – NO CLASS – Christmas Break



Adult Weekly Faith Formation Classes (Through Zoom)



Looking to Sunday Bible Study – Join Pastor Sarah on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. for a relaxed 30-40 minute Bible Study where we look to the scripture connected to the upcoming Sunday. These are online zoom gatherings. For more information, please contact Pastor Sarah at sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



We continue to work through the Book of Exodus in our weekly Bible Study. This second book of the Hebrew Torah, is where we hear some of God's first and most powerful promises to his people. The class schedule for the month of December is as follows, as we journey with the Israelites out of Egypt on the night of Passover, and into the wilderness where the Law will be gifted to God's people on Mt. Sinai.

December 2 – Chapters 12 & 13
December 16 – Chapters 16 & 17

December 9 – Chapters 14 & 15
December 23 & 30 – No Class – Christmas Break

We meet on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. At the moment we are still meeting through the Zoom digital platform. It is never too late to join in the fun. Join us to brush up on your Bible, and enjoy some faith conversation about God, scripture and the world in which we live. Contact Pastor Craig at craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org

Giving Thanks for The Ways You Give

Thank you for being faithful stewards of God's good gifts. We give thanks for the many ways that you have enabled the continuation of St. Peter's mission in the midst of very trying times. Thank you for mailing in your contributions and for using Tithe.ly or Simply Giving for your contributions. You may also drop off your envelopes at the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.

For more information about digital giving visit <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/give/>



Prayer Chain Ministry

Angela & Ginny would like to thank ALL members of the Prayer Chain for the “gift” of their time! Without them volunteering their time to pray, there wouldn’t be a prayer chain. Please consider joining us and using your “gift” of prayers for others. Please contact Ginny Gerhart (717) 626-7406 or Angela Moshos (717) 392-6201 with any questions or to sign up.



“Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10

Health and Wellness Committee



MANAGING STRESS

Your level of stress is likely high right now, what with COVID and the holidays, it’s understandable. What is most important though, is that you have a plan to help reduce that stress. Stress is a physical and emotional response to overwhelming responsibilities, events, and changes. When you’re faced with stress, hormones (chemicals in your body) may trigger changes in your body.



For instance, your * Heart may pound * Blood pressure may rise *Stomach may become tense and * Muscles may tighten.

Stressors (the effects of stress) may include the following:

- Adapting to constant change and the fear of the unknown
- Worries about your finances and the economy
- Handling a major life event, such as loss of a job, or a job change, loss of a friend or relative. Even positive life changes, such as getting married or the birth of a child, can cause stress
- Juggling many roles and responsibilities

If you’re often under stress, you need to learn to manage it. Stress can affect your well-being. Over time, you may show some of the symptoms listed below.

- Physical effects: frequent colds, headaches, trouble sleeping or trouble with digestion
- Mental effects: You may have trouble concentrating or remembering
- Emotional effects: You may feel anxious, depressed, angry, or irritable
- Behavioral effects: Too much stress may lead you to eat poorly, or turn to drugs/alcohol

Basic Stress Management Suggestions:

Take a brisk walk or do something else that is active. Regular physical activity is best for reducing stress.

Learn problem solving skills. They can improve your ability to cope. (Information on the internet may help)

Learn relaxation and mindfulness skills. These skills can help you to notice and manage the responses in your body that come with stress. Daily relaxation may protect you from some of the consequences of stress.

List what needs to get done, make a plan to address the things, and do your best to stick to the plan.

Stress is often associated with negative thinking. Focus your attention on positive thoughts.

You may be feeling the effects of stress if you are not making time for fun in your life. Plan to have regular, enjoyable activities, and see if this reduces your stress. Getting outside in nature, taking a deep breath and noticing God’s beauty in the world can reset those stress hormones.

Global Social Ministry

From the Tanzania Mission Committee



The Tanzania Mission Committee has planned a Covid-19 version of our annual Cookie Walk! We are inviting our church members, friends, and community to a **Cookie Drive Thru** on Saturday, December 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We are offering only the \$15 dollar box of cookies this year. Instead of coming into the narthex, cookie buyers will drive thru the portico, pay for cookies, and committee members will hand your cookies to you in your car. Please wear your mask as we come to your car. The TMC members will have boxed up all the homemade Christmas cookies on Friday, and we pledge to pack the boxes with a great assortment of your wonderful cookies as if we are packing them for ourselves!

To St. Peter's famous cookie bakers: We still need you to sign up to bake a double batch of your best Christmas cookies! There will be a SignUp Genius link in the weekly email blast or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4aaeab2ba0fe3-bakers>. (We still request no bar cookies.) You may bring your cookies to church on Friday, December 11th between noon and 7:00 p.m., by driving thru the portico where we will meet you to receive them - no need to get out of your car. Please bring them in containers that you do not want back as we cannot pile them on tables as usual for you to retrieve them later. Please wear your mask when we come to your car.

This will be our 14th Cookie Event. As always, all proceeds go to help educate and support the orphans in the Busoka Lutheran Church parish in Tanzania.

The Tanzania Mission Committee knows we can all make this work!! It will be different, but what isn't these days? Actually, what is not different is our need to continue to support our Companions in Christ at Busoka Lutheran Church and their support of the orphans in their parish.

It will be here before we know it! We know you will give it your best, as always. Thank you from TMC.



Updates to the Church Directory



We need your HELP! You should have received a call from either a staff member or a volunteer asking to update your family's information. A new directory will be released in JANUARY. If you have not responded, please call or email the office with your correct address, phone numbers, and email addresses. Much of our data is outdated. We are also trying to categorize our adult children as to whether they are attending or have moved on to another worship experience. Any info would be appreciated. Also, if you would like to update your photo, PLEASE forward your new photo to: directory@stpeterslutheran.org

The goal is to establish accurate membership. It is an important part of the strategic plan that is being developed. Please respond, it is significant to our future!

Please feel free to contact Betsy Linn at betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org with any questions.

Security and Mail

In light of concerns regarding the security of mailed offerings and gifts, the church has opened a post office box. The addition of a post office box doesn't change the way you send your mail to the church -- please continue to address your mail to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.

Social Ministry

St. Peter's Community Outreach Programs

Even though parts of our world have stopped, St. Peter's community outreach is continuing to serve our neighborhood, and beyond. Our community meals are continuing monthly, our quilting ladies have provided a total of 87 beautiful quilts for Transitional Living Center so far this year, Lydia's Closet is serving clients that need clothing, and we will be holding our cookie box sale for Tanzania Mission Committee this month. We are THANKFUL to all our members that continue to help those around us!



Our Monthly Community Meal - December 2nd

Community Meal

The December Community Meal will be on Wednesday, December 2nd at Grace Lutheran Church. For more information, please contact Jan Gigl at ronjangigl@comcast.net

Lydia's Closet

Lydia's Closet is OPEN the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Our December Distribution Day is Saturday, December 5th. We will also be filling orders through a form that can be obtained through the church office or online at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/serve/local/lydias-closet/>.



Please pass the information along to any of your friends and neighbors that may be in need of some extra help. Please contact Molly Olmsted at astaloo@comcast.com with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

Lydia's closet-Extra Clothes to Transport

Thank you for all your wonderful donations! The volunteers sort through the clothes, and the ones that are not appropriate are donated to Community Aid in the Lowe's plaza on Rohrerstown Rd. We receive cash for the poundage of the clothing which is put towards toiletries, underwear, laundry detergent, and other items the families need.

Since they took away the donation box, the extra bags have been piling up in the storage shed. I'm seeking volunteers to take loads of clothes to Community Aid. If you have some extra time, please consider taking a load for us! Please contact Betsy Linn, betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org, for more info.



Christmas Giving Opportunity

Consider donating \$30.00 Gift Cards for local school children in need. Cards can be from Walmart, Target, Barnes and Noble or a generic credit card. Mail to the church, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 5160, Lancaster, PA 17601 attn. Sr. Dottie or drop off at the church between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.



The Sheep are Hungry! Please Help Feed Them

Needed in December: *Peanut butter; jellies and jams; canned fruits; canned pasta; canned tomato products; spaghetti sauce; boxed macaroni and cheese; instant stuffing & potatoes; canned yams; complete pancake mix & syrup; canned tuna and chicken; tuna, beef & chicken helper; cereal; instant oatmeal.* Food Carts are in the Narthex. Items go to the Lancaster County Food Hub. *Thanks for your donations!*

Groups and Events

Widows Group

The Widows Group meetings are continuing on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and usually last about one hour. Our next meeting will be on December 22nd in person or on Zoom. If you would be interested in joining, please call or email me for the details. We discuss what is going on in our lives and some fun things as well. I look forward to hearing from you!

Betsy Linn betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Quilters Group

The Quilters are in need of donations of material. You may drop off material at the church Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Thank you.



50 + Group

I am hoping we will be able to meet again next year. Bob Frick has revised his lecture schedule with that in mind. There will be no Christmas luncheon this year. If you have any concerns, suggestions or questions, you can contact me at 717-318-8848 or djshue52@comcast.net. We are well in our circle of friends and family. I hope you are well, too.

Below is the upcoming schedule.

TOGETHER, THEY MADE THE MODERN AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

September 2, 2021	Introduction and FDR
October 7, 2021	Truman and Eisenhower
November 4, 2021	Kennedy and Johnson
January 6, 2022	Nixon, Ford, and Carter
February 3, 2022	Reagan and George H. W. Bush
March 3, 2022	Clinton and George W. Bush



Thanks,
Debbie Shue



St. Peter's Archives

Lancaster New Era Archives

December 23, 1985

3 Candlelight Rites Slated at St. Peter's

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lititz Pike and Delp Road, will celebrate Christmas Eve with three candlelight services at 5:30, 7:30 and 11 p.m. The congregational carol singing will be accompanied by brass instrumentalists. All three services will feature the gospel procession, candle lighting, and organ prelude. The family service at 5:30 p.m. will feature a children's cantata, "So Far to Bethlehem," presented by the Junior Choir. At 7:30 and 11 p.m. the senior choir will sing "Christ is Born" with Heidi Schutzler as soprano soloist, and "O Rejoice Ye Christians Gladly" by Bach. The Rev. Richard E. Geib will deliver the Christmas message at the 7:30 p.m. service. As members of the congregation light their candles the senior choir will sing "Softly the Stars are Shining" by Adolph Torovsky. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated during the 11 p.m. service. The Senior Choir will sing "Before the Marvel of this Night" by Carl Schalk, and the Communion meditation will be delivered by the vicar, Robert M. White.



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends:

It is the time of the year when we find ourselves thinking of presents. Presents for our loved ones ... presents that we put under the Giving Tree in the narthex of our church ... presence – the presence of God becoming incarnate in the baby Jesus in a Christmas manger. It is a season in which we think about the blessings in our lives, and the call to share those blessings with others Oh wait! We're living in "Covid-world." We aren't able to do most of the things that we usually do in December to celebrate those blessings God has showered upon us but that does not mean that we do not have many things to be thankful for ... many things that communicate the presence of God to us. Here are a few that come to my mind.

I am thankful for the creative ways that so many of you have lived out the ministries that are part of your lives in "normal" times. Whether that creativity has expressed itself in a Drive Thru Cookie Walk ... or a video of a lesson you read for Sunday worship ... or digital Bible Study – your willingness to adapt to the environment that is available to us has been a blessing to your staff. I am thankful for the consistent way that you have continued to support the congregation and its ministries. Some of these ministries are "invisible" to the naked eye, when we are unable to serve meals to the needy in our community, or bring Holy Communion to our homebound members ... or pray with people in the hospital – but you have found ways to approximate that service in new and different ways. I am thankful that many of you have rediscovered the blessing of a phone call, as you reach out to those that you no longer see in the narthex after church, or in meetings in our Conference Room, or in the Family Life Center at a congregational Palm Sunday breakfast. I am thankful for the sacrificial way that you have continued to financially support the ministry of St. Peter's ... from your support for a church staff that you mostly see through a Zoom screen, if at all ... to your support for worship services that gather the people of God through the blessing of Live Stream worship ... to your generosity expressed in support for our local and global benevolences. I am personally grateful for your patience with a church staff that almost every week or two, finds itself recreating existing ministries in ways that can be adapted to a digital or socially distanced world. I am grateful for a significant number of church members who work on the front lines of the battle against the Covid virus, either as doctors or nurses in hospitals and doctor's offices, or as caregivers in nursing homes and hospice centers, or as aides, social workers and volunteers who minister directly to people in their homes, because their needs are more modest and practical. And I am especially thankful for your patience in refraining from in person worship that may put some of the vulnerable members of our congregation at risk. I miss in person worship as much, or more, than most of you. Worship and pastoral visitation are why I went into ministry, and why I am still in parish ministry. Few people want to be in worship more strongly than I do. But when we gather again in our sanctuary or Family Life Center worship space, it will be because we believe we can do so safely.



Yes, ironically, I am grateful for many things in this Covid-world in which we live. I am not always happy about the variety of restrictions that we face. But I am grateful for the way that our staff tirelessly strives to create new ways to embrace old routines that feed our faith lives. I am grateful for the support so many of you have offered for our attempts to adapt old ministries to new settings. I am grateful for the kind words you share through emails, cards and phone calls. I am grateful that Covid-19 has not destroyed our ability to be the people of God, nor destroyed the heart of who we are as God's children, in ministry for the good of the world.

I hope and pray that you can join me in my thankfulness ... not only in your Thanksgiving celebrations, different as they may be this year, but also in our preparation for the greatest gift that God has even given to the world ... the gift of his son in a manger, who would spend his life preparing for a second offering of life again on the Cross of Calvary.

"See you" in virtual church and in our virtual meetings,

Pastor Craig

craig.ross@stpeterslutheran.org



Pastor Sarah's Message

*O come o come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until of the Son of God appear.*

This Advent season is like no other I've experienced. I often look for the familiar markers of the season, but this year these markers look different.

For me, many of these guideposts of the season have been experienced in corporate worship and gathering. In our current reality, it would be unwise to use the same guideposts as we have in years past. We might feel a list lost, a lot fatigued, and emotionally vulnerable. In essence, we just might feel like we're in exile from the familiar.

Oh what a time for us to call upon our Lord... we pilgrims who are captive to sickness and the fragility of life. Exile is not a great place to be.

And yet... The Advent song of old reminds us *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Emmanuel. "God with us."

God is with you reminding you that you are not alone, even when this season may feel so strange. This feeling of exile will not last.

And yes, the Son of God is appearing! And we can be witnesses to Christ's presence. And invite others to see where Christ's light shines. How important it is to invite others to see this light in the midst of dark, exile days.

So here's some light to which we may be part and invite others to be part of as well:

- Orphans will be blessed! And you get to make and eat cookies in the process! Be part of the Cookie Drive Thru this December 12, and shine light on children near and far! Sign up to be part of the blessing <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4aacab2ba0fe3-bakers>
- "A little child shall lead them..." children and youth in our congregation will be able to safely live out the Nativity story in an outdoor event on December 13 at 2pm. [Email Sister Dottie](#) to get involved!
- "O come let us adore him!" Let devotion, prayer, and worship be the light on your path. Daily live devotional services are available to you at www.facebook.com/stpeterslancaster, we are leading brief Wednesday Advent services at 7pm under the portico (car port), and we have many other worship opportunities to guide you through this season. Check out Adam Lefever Hughes' newsletter items.

As a community we're creating new guideposts on our Advent journey, but we know that our path will lead us to the Christ child. I hope to see you along the way.

Peace,

Pastor Sarah

sarah.teichmann@stpeterslutheran.org



**CHECK OUT ST. PETER'S
FACEBOOK PAGE!
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**



Worship and Music at St. Peter's

Beverages and Hymns

Join with Adam on the first Wednesday of the month for a Beverages and Hymns Zoom at 8:00 p.m. Settle in with your favorite beverage, a hymnal, and your singing voice for some music and fellowship. Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 2nd at 8:00 p.m. Contact Adam at adam.hughes@stpeterslutheran.org for more info.

Advent Calendar of Prayer

If you haven't already, join the staff daily at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook for our Advent Calendar of Prayer. This short time of a reading from the bible, songs of the season, and prayer is a great way to mark the season of Advent as we wait with hopeful expectation for the Christ child.

Readings and songs can be found on our website at www.stpeterslutheran.org/advent

Midweek Advent Services



Come to the church for a brief midweek Advent service outside under the carport on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in December leading up to Christmas Eve. Services on December 2, 9 and 16 will draw from readings, music, and prayers of the season. Services are held outside and masks are required.

Darkest Night Service

Wednesday, December 23rd at 7:00 p.m. we will hold a Darkest Night service. Similar to our midweek Advent services, this will be a brief time of scripture, song, and prayer held outside under the carport, especially remembering the darkness that can mark this time of year.

Progressive Christmas Eve Service

St. Peter's will host its first ever Progressive Christmas Eve service on December 24th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Worshipers will begin outside on the north side of the building at the memorial garden, proceed through the Family Life Center, Playground, Sanctuary, leaving through the south entrance under the carport. For more detailed information, please see the article on the front page.



Livestreamed Christmas Eve Service

Join us at stpeterslutheran.org/live for a livestreamed Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. on December 24th.

Youth & Family Ministry News...

Nativity Pageant



Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m., Church Parking Lot.

Youth are needed to be part of our living nativity. Contact Sister Dottie if interested. We will have a rain date of Sunday, December 20th. No rehearsal is necessary and there will be no speaking parts. All need to be masked when outside of cars. More info to come. Rain/snow date will be Sunday, December 20th at 2:00 p.m.



Contact Sister Dottie Almoney for more info on our youth classes at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org

RIGHT OF REFUSAL WAIVER FOR PHOTOS — To insure the safety of our parishioners, St. Peter's has adopted a policy for the use of photos from various services, events and educational programs here at church. If you wish that your image or the image of your child(ren) NOT BE USED in any media that St. Peter's publishes, please pick up a "Right of Refusal Waiver" (a bright green form) from the literature racks in the narthex or at the Welcome Desk. For the form to be valid, a photo must be included with the form. Forms will be valid for the calendar year (until December 31). Each year a new form and updated photo will need to be filled. Please hand in the completed form with picture to the church office. Please contact Sister Dottie Almoney or Cindy Geesey if you have any questions.

ST. PETER'S KIDS

Dear Families,

It is difficult to believe that December has arrived, and we are preparing for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Although things certainly look different this year, we will continue to do our best to keep our Christian education moving forward with the advent season.



Each Sunday, a new Sunday School lesson is premiered on our YouTube channel at 10:15 a.m. lasting about 10 minutes and includes songs for children to sing! Families simply need to visit <https://www.youtube.com/c/stpeterslutheranlancaster> to find the latest Sunday School lesson and all other St. Peter's videos that have been uploaded to our YouTube channel. In addition, we will have craft items corresponding to the weekly lessons for you to use at home with your children. They can be picked up at church during the week. Just reach out to me at cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org so I can prepare your travel bag ahead of time, and then call the church office to schedule a pick up time.

Please consider joining us for our Nativity Pageant on Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. in the church parking lot!



We also continue to seek volunteers to assist with our Sunday School lessons. Many of you have volunteered to do children's sermons which have been amazing, and we are so grateful for your willingness to serve! Our Sunday School lessons are equally easy to do and can be video taped ahead of time. We are following the sequential stories from the Spark Story Bible. You can email me with your interest at cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org. Please consider this opportunity. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

May you and your family enjoy good health and happiness as we anticipate and look forward to this Christmas season!

Cindy Geesey



St. Peter's Preschool

It is with great sadness that we announce we are unable to resume *in person* Preschool classes for a January semester.

Under the guidance of church leadership and input from our Safe Church Task Force, it was determined that the resources required to re-open the school, coupled with the number of students willing to return in January, makes resuming classes neither viable nor practical. In addition, with the prevalence of Covid related and additional respiratory illness forecasts for the upcoming months, we cannot, in good conscience, be confident in our ability to provide a safe, healthy environment for students, staff, families and parishioners.

Our aspiration is to come back strong to our students in September, 2021. Until then, we appreciate your continued support and prayers. Stay well everyone.

Lorraine DiBernardo, Preschool Director

lorraine@stpeterslutheran.org



Communication: The Website Is Your Friend!

Please go to our website www.stpeterslutheran.org to find out the latest schedules and calendar events. Check out blog posts to help you plan or to engage your faithful preparations this season. Be sure to check out our Facebook page as well (<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterslancaster>) for posts about upcoming events or to catch the beauty and joy of a past event. If you have questions about events and schedules that you can't find on the website, don't hesitate to contact a staff member. We would love to hear from you.



Portals of Prayer

The church has received the current "Portals of Prayer" devotional booklets for October - December. If you are interested in receiving one, please contact Sandy Shattuck at sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org and she will mail a booklet to you. You may also call the church office or stop by the church to pick one up Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Grocery Cards



Please be aware that grocery cards are now available to purchase from the church office Tuesday through Friday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Please ring the doorbell and enter the narthex and proceed to the window of the office. You must wear a mask and someone will be able to help you from the window. Thank you.

Thank You From Bob Kemp

Thank You

"The proper words escape me to say how much your prayers and words of comfort meant to me. My beloved wife Janet left me to be with her Lord and Savior to suffer no longer. Your love and kindness will never leave me. I will lean on this to help me work through this difficult time I am facing.

I am thankful for the ministers, staff and especially my dear friends for the many years of love and support.

GODS BLESSINGS TO EACH OF YOU." 

Bob Kemp

From the Volunteer Steward

Wow. December. This is the year that just won't end. Remembering that Christmas is just a few weeks away, I wonder, how are we going to celebrate? Family traditions that disappear for 2020, gatherings that don't happen, church services that look different. It will be a strange, and somewhat sad time, from the human point of view.

Now for the good news. This is the month that we celebrate our Savior's birth! We are reminded again that God sent his beloved son to save us from our sins. What better gift is that? Although we may not be celebrating in ways that are familiar, we still need to celebrate because it truly is the best present anyone can receive.

I hope for you a blessed Christmas, and a time to create new traditions!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may be having.

Please stay safe,

Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward

717-618-9615

betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org



Volunteers are Needed

Right now, there are many options to volunteer in the church. Please consider joining one of our committees that are meeting through Zoom. Your church needs help, and we are asking you to step up. It is understood that our lives have been turned upside down, but you've cleaned all your closets and fixed everything that needs to be fixed. Consider using your extra time to help with committees that need people & voices.

Here are vacancies for which there is an immediate and crucial need:

Global Social Ministry Committee — Chair

Long Range Planning Committee — Members

Stewardship Committee — Chair & Members

You can find descriptions for each of the groups on St. Peter's website. Here is the link. Consider taking some time to see if any of these are a fit for you.

I can send you the descriptions, or, give me a call and I'll be happy to explain what is expected.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fVeQyvmq4O5N6mKFsnNacgEPTbGUIyu_ai7E90mCWzA/edit#gid=1

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

We are striving to reach out to as many people as possible to communicate the various online resources that we are making available to you during this time. Some of you receive the "Herald" by mail, but during this time we are only able to send it digitally or only to a limited number of people. Please note that we will have some copies of the Herald on the table in the Narthex that may be picked up between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. Please contact Sandy in the church office if your email address has changed or if you are not currently receiving the newsletter digitally so we can add you to the list.

OUR MISSION

Building a community of faith by God's grace.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
John 15:12

OUR VISION

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church will show our love for God, our love for neighbors,
and our desire to make disciples.

Because we love God, we will:

- Worship and pray together.
- Help each other develop a meaningful relationship with God.
- Model our faith to children, youth, and others.

Because we love our neighbor, we will:

- Serve one another, especially the unseen and underserved within our congregation.
- Support those in need in our Lancaster community and in the world through our ties with the Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.
- Love others boldly in a diverse and changing world, deepening relationships with our neighbors.

Because we desire to make disciples, we will:

- Seek to teach God's love through adult education, our programs for children and youth, and our preschool.
- Offer small groups that connect God's Word to our everyday lives and create communities of faith.
- Share the good news in creative and authentic ways with the St. Peter's family and with neighbors in our community.

POINSETTIA & MEMORIAL GIFT

Poinsettias or a Memorial Gift may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Monday, December 7. A listing for Poinsettias and Benevolence Gifts will appear in the December 24 bulletins.

MEMORIAL GIFT TO ST. PETER'S BENEVOLENCE FUND

\$_____ Gift - Envelope #_____

Given in memory or in honor of: (CIRCLE ONE)

(Print name(s) as you desire them to be printed in the bulletin)

Given by: _____

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



_____ 6½" pot with 3-4 blooms - \$7.50 each

\$_____ Total - Envelope #_____



Given in memory or in honor of: (CIRCLE ONE)

(Print name(s) as you desire them to be printed in the bulletin)

Given by: _____

Please check: _____ I will leave my plant to be delivered to a homebound member whose setting allows the reception of flowers from people outside of the **homebound member's community**.

_____ I will pick up my plant.

Please return this form and check payable

To "St. Peter's Lutheran Church"

By Monday, December 7



LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 1

12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 2

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig
1:00 p.m. - Community Meal Preparation (Kitchen)
2:00 p.m. - Evangelism Committee (Zoom)
4:30 p.m. - Community Meal (Grace Lutheran)
6:30 p.m. - Trivia Night (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Midweek Advent Worship (Carport)
8:00 p.m. - Beverages & Hymns (Zoom) Adam

Thursday, December 3

6:30 p.m. - Strategic Planning (Zoom)

Saturday, December 5

10:00 a.m. - Lydia's Closet Clothing Bank

Sunday, December 6

9:15 a.m. - Youth & Adult Christian Ed, Grade 5 - Adult (Zoom)
10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, PreK - Grade 4 (Livestream), Sister Dottie
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube
2:00 p.m. - Parking Lot Worship (Church parking lot)

Monday, December 7

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 8

12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)
1:00 p.m. - Communications Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 9

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig
7:00 p.m. - Midweek Advent Worship (Carport)
7:00 p.m. - Property Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, December 10

7:00 p.m. - Safe Church Committee (Zoom) Sister Dottie

Friday, December 11

12:00 p.m. - Cookie Drop Off (Carport)

Saturday, December 12

9:00 a.m. - Cookie Drive Thru (Carport)

Sunday, December 13

9:15 a.m. - Youth & Adult Christian Ed, Grade 5 - Adult (Zoom)
10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, PreK - Grade 4 (Livestream), Sister Dottie
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube
2:00 p.m. - Live Nativity Scene (Church parking lot)

Monday, December 14

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 15

12:30 p.m. - "Looking to Sunday" Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Sarah
7:00 p.m. - Stewardship Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 16

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig
7:00 p.m. - Midweek Advent Worship (Carport)

Sunday, December 20

9:15 a.m. - Youth & Adult Christian Ed, Grade 5 - Adult (Zoom)
10:20 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, PreK - Grade 4 (Livestream), Sister Dottie
10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube
2:00 p.m. - Parking Lot Worship (Church parking lot)

Monday, December 21

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 22

10:30 a.m. - Widows Support Group (Narthex)
12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 23

7:00 p.m. - Darkest Night Service (Under Portico)



LOOKING AHEAD (continued)

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Thursday, December 24

3:00 p.m. - Progressive Christmas Eve (Memorial Garden)

7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Worship (Livestream)

Friday, December 25

Christmas Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 27

10:45 a.m. - Online Worship St Peter's website/YouTube

Monday, December 28

Church Office Closed

6:45 p.m. - Tanzania Missions Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 29

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Zoom)

12:30 p.m. - Looking to Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 30

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Zoom) Pastor Craig

10:30 a.m. - Win May Memorial



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE DECEMBER 10TH

Articles for the January 2021 "Herald" are due in the church office no later than **December 10th**. Please submit articles to Sandy Shattuck in the church office or email sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org. Thank you for your cooperation.



If you have any questions, please contact me at

sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org.

Sandy Shattuck

Editor & Parish Secretary

