



“The Herald” Newsletter

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship. Learn. Gather. Serve.

December 2021



10 Delp Road - Lancaster, PA 17601
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“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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Christmas Eve Worship

Outdoor Family Service of Holy Communion
Parking Lot at 2:00 p.m.

Family Services of Holy Communion
at 3:30 & 5:00 p.m.

Traditional Services
of Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

Masks required for all indoor services.

Mid-Week Advent Worship - Wednesdays in Advent

We invite you to join us for Mid-Week Worship on Wednesdays in the Advent season, as we gather around the theme “Welcome to the Waiting Room”. (See page 3 for more information.)

Darkest Night Service



Join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m., December 19th, for this year’s Darkest Night service. It is a healing service held on the Sunday closest to the Winter Solstice (thus the name “darkest night”). We remember those we have loved and lost to death, while also naming in our liturgy other losses of job, identity, relationships, hope, stability ... anything that brings with it an aspect of sorrow. We read Scripture, pray, hear a story intended to evoke some of our emotional load, light candles, and share anointing with oil. The service lasts about 30 minutes.

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December Worship Schedule



Wednesday, December 1: The First Wednesday in Advent

8:00 a.m. – Mid-Week Advent Service, Pastor Craig Preaches,
Outdoor Carport Service

Sunday, December 5: The Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. – Service of Communion in the Sanctuary, Pr. Craig Preaches
9:15 a.m. – Outdoor Carport Communion Service, Sr. Dottie Preaches, Pr. Craig Presides
10:45 a.m. – Service of the Word in the Sanctuary, Pr. Craig Preaches
10:45 a.m. – New Day Service of Communion in the FLC, Sr. Dottie Preaches, Pr. Pretz Presides

Wednesday, December 8: The Second Wednesday in Advent

8:00 a.m. – Mid-Week Advent Service, Sister Dottie Preaches, Outdoor Carport Service

Sunday, December 12: The Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. – Service of the Word with Baptism in the Sanctuary, Sr. Dottie Preaches
9:15 a.m. – Outdoor Carport Communion Service, Pr. Craig Preaches & Presides
10:45 a.m. – Service of Communion in the Sanctuary, Sr. Dottie Preaches, Pr. Pretz Presides
10:45 a.m. – New Day Service of the Word in the FLC, Pr. Craig Preaches

Wednesday, December 15: The Third Wednesday in Advent

8:00 a.m. – Mid-Week Advent Service, Pastor Craig Preaches, Outdoor Carport Service

Sunday, December 19: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. – Service of Communion in the Sanctuary, Pr. Craig Preaches
9:15 a.m. – Outdoor Carport Communion Service, Sr. Dottie Preaches, Pr. Craig Presides
10:45 a.m. – Service of the Word in the Sanctuary, Pr. Craig Preaches
10:45 a.m. – New Day Service of Communion in the FLC, Sr. Dottie Preaches, Pr. Pretz Presides
6:00 p.m. - Darkest Night Healing Service in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 22: The Fourth Wednesday in Advent

8:00 a.m. – Mid-Week Advent Service, Pastor Craig Preaches, Outdoor Carport Service

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve

NOTE – Every service offers Fellowship Cup Communion and Candle Lighting

2:00 p.m. – Outdoor Family Service in Parking Lot
3:30 p.m. – Indoor Family Service in the Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. – Indoor Family Service in the Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
9:00 p.m. – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 26: The First Sunday of Christmas

9:45 a.m. – Communion Service in the Sanctuary, Sr. Dottie Preaches, Pr. Pretz Presides

PLEASE NOTE: Our Worship leaders and Worship Committee have made the decision to use fellowship cups for Holy Communion for all of our Christmas Eve services. This decision was made so that we can offer “normal” traditional Christmas services, including hymns and candle lighting AND Holy Communion, and still be able to create some time between each of the services for the regeneration of the air in the sanctuary. Your fellow members thank you ahead of time for honoring this attempt to keep them safe, as do your worship leaders who will be in the building for eight hours on Christmas Eve.

NATIVITY DISPLAY — Once again, Advent has come and we await the coming of the Christ Child. Nativity displays are such a wonderful way to remember the birth of Jesus and the hopefulness and joy of the season. The curio cabinet in the narthex holds a few sets from my collection. Some are new and some you may have seen before. All are special and tell the Good News of peace on earth, goodwill to all. I hope you enjoy seeing them and may they inspire you to “prepare the way of the Lord”. *Jill Pretz*

Mid-Week Advent Worship – Wednesdays in Advent

We invite you to join us for mid-week worship on the Wednesdays in the Advent season, as we gather around the theme “Welcome to the Waiting Room.” We will consider the following themes each of the four Wednesdays in Advent:

Wednesday, December 1 – Theme: SURPRISE – Pr. Ross Leads

Wednesday, December 8 – Theme: EXPECTATIONS – Sr. Dottie Leads

Wednesday, December 15 – Theme: SCANDAL – Pr. Ross Leads

Wednesday, December 22 – Theme: PREPARE – Sr. Dottie Leads

We will meet outside, under the portico at the main entrance to the building from **8:00-8:30 a.m.** Please bring a lawn chair on which to sit. Communion, a brief homily and a short liturgy will make up each Wednesday’s worship.

Sages Christmas Service

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO ALL OF ST. PETER’S SAGES



On Thursday, December 16th, St. Peter’s will host an early Sages Christmas Service at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The event is open to all members who are 80 years old or older and their guests. Communion will be offered in the pews and the congregation will be seated for the entire service. Watch for your invitation in the mail and feel free to invite friends or family to join you. Following the service, there will be a Narthex reception giving you time to reconnect with members and enjoy some fellowship time. Please let us know you will be coming by calling the church office (717-569-9211) or call Christine Smith (717-299-0949) by Monday, December 13th. A sign-up sheet is also available on the Parish Life Bulletin Board, outside the church nursery. If you need a ride, let us know. We look forward to worshipping and gathering with you on this special day planned for you.

Service Opportunity: Drivers Needed for Sages Christmas Event December 16

Our Christmas Sages Service will be held Thursday, December 16th. If you’re able to give one of our Sages a ride to the service, please sign up on the Parish Life bulletin board outside the church nursery or call Christine Smith at 717-299-0949. Thank you! Approximate times, 10:30 a.m. pick up and 1:30 p.m. return drop off.

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Poinsettia Delivery

It is a tradition at St. Peter’s to bring holiday cheer to some of our older members who may not be able to attend a Christmas Service. Please consider delivering a poinsettia from our altar on Christmas Day or in the days to follow. What a wonderful tradition to start or continue with your family. If interested, sign up on the Parish Life bulletin board outside the church nursery, or contact Christine Smith at 299-0949 or cjsmith1984@gmail.com



Church Office Schedule - Christmas Week

Please make note of the office hours for the week between Christmas Eve and the first week of January.

Friday, December 24:	Office closes at Noon
Saturday, December 25:	Office closed
Sunday, December 26:	Office closed, Church open for 9:45 a.m. Service
Monday, December 27:	Office closed for Christmas Day (deferred)
Tuesday, December 28:	Office closed for the day after Christmas (deferred)
Wednesday, December 29:	Office open for “flex hours”, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 30:	Office open for “flex hours”, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Friday, December 31:	Office open for “flex hours”, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 1:	Office closed
Sunday, January 2:	Office closed, Church open for 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
Monday, January 3:	Office closed for New Year’s Day (deferred)
Tuesday, January 4:	Office returns to 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. office hours



From the Tanzania Mission Committee



Cookie Walk —We're back! **Mark your calendars!** The Tanzania Mission Committee invites everyone to St. Peter's 14th Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 11th. It will be held in the **Family Life Center** from 9:00 a.m. to noon or until the cookies sell out. We invite you to bring family and friends to buy Christmas cookies from this incredible assortment of homemade cookies. Come early for the best selection! To simplify things, we are offering only the \$15 box this year. As always, all proceeds go to help educate and support the orphans in the Busoka Lutheran Church parish in Tanzania.

Attention Cookie Bakers — The 14th Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 11th is on its way! That means it is time for all you cookie bakers to sign up to bake a double batch of your best Christmas cookies and bring them to the church on Friday, December 10th, noon-7:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets for baking cookies will be at tables in the Narthex and New Day on Sunday, December 5. The Sign-up Genius will also be available for baker sign-ups. Here is the sign-up link for bakers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4AAEAB2BA0FE3-bakers1>
The Tanzania Mission Committee thanks you.

NOTE: Because of COVID-19, we have moved all Cookie Walk operations to the Family Life Center. This is much more spacious than the narthex with room to spread out and high ceilings. There will be more tables spaced out with fewer cookies on them to try to keep the line moving. The Preschool door close to Delp Road will be used for entry, and the side door of the FLC will be the exit. We will help buyers keep some space between each other while they wait in line in the Youth Lounge. Cookie bakers will also use the Preschool door for cookie delivery on Friday, December 10th.

MASKS REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE. NO EXCEPTIONS. The Committee is confident that, with cooperation from all, we can provide a safe environment for this wonderful event, and we look forward to a successful Cookie Walk again this year! Thank you.

Adult Christian Education

Weekdays

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

In December, we will continue our study of the First Book of Kings, as part of our overall study of 1 & 2 Kings. Forget your soap operas, folks, and just tune into the Bible on Wednesday mornings with us for intrigue, murder, and betrayal, as heroes and villains rise and fall in our biblical narrative. We will continue to meet in hybrid fashion in December, with in person discussion along with Zoom access to our slides and live class discussion. Our schedule for this month is as follows:

Wednesday, December 1: 1 Kings Chapters 13-15

Wednesday, December 8: 1 Kings Chapters 16-18

Wednesday, December 15: 1 Kings Chapters 19-21

Wednesday, December 22: NO CLASS

Wednesday, December 29: NO CLASS



December Pub Theology – Tuesday, December 7th – 6:30 p.m. at Scooter's in Lititz.

How much do you know about Christmas traditions and what the church celebrates? Come for a combination of trivia and discussion. RSVP to Sister Dottie if you can attend.

(dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org)

Sundays: Reminder—No Sunday School on December 26th. We will return on January 2nd.

Call Committee Update

So, let's talk about rostered leadership this month, in relation to our coming call process. If you attended the Town Hall meeting in October, or spoke with someone who did, you may be familiar with my words about how the synod approaches the resignation or retirement of a senior pastor. I want to clarify those comments, because I was sloppy in the language I used in my brief discussion around filling our current pastoral vacancy.

To start, "rostered leaders" are those persons who have been trained, examined and acknowledged by the ELCA, to serve congregations in the synods or institutions of the ELCA. In recent years we have had three rostered leaders on our staff at St. Peter's ... myself, Sister Dottie and Pastor Sarah. Each of us has a Master of Divinity degree and enjoy the approval of our Lower Susquehanna Synod candidacy committee to serve in the congregations of the ELCA. Sister Dottie also has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary, although that degree does not actually affect her ability to serve congregations. Pastors are called to serve congregations through Word and Sacrament ministry, and are typically focused inward for the health and vitality of the congregation. Deacons are called to Word and Service ministry, and are typically focused outward toward the community in which a congregation is located, and they strive to help the congregation be a Christian presence outside the walls of the church. The policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church is that when a senior pastor retires or leaves a call, all other rostered leaders will also offer their resignations to the congregation. I believe that the logic behind this is that a new senior pastor should have the freedom to shape the core personnel of the congregation in which s/he will serve. Please note that tendering one's resignation as a rostered leader, does not mean that the congregation is obligated to receive and activate that resignation. A new senior pastor can advise a congregation to not accept the resignation of other rostered leaders, so that they may stay on staff. In this kind of setting, my hope and expectation would be that our next senior pastor would clearly see the value of having Sister Dottie on staff and would not recommend that St. Peter's accept her resignation.

I share this conversation, because this may be the ideal time for St. Peter's to seek to call your next senior pastor. I will be sixty-five in two months and the call process for a senior pastor may take us a couple of years. A newly called pastor may see some value in having me remain on staff until a new associate pastor can be found which would no doubt take an additional couple of years for a second call process. Then at that point with a full rostered staff restored, I could retire and drift off into the sunset. Those are considerations that none of us can yet answer, including me. But I have some flexibility in terms of how long I can remain on staff during this transition. I'll need to give some thought to what these years ahead of me will look like for me, with my family's help. St. Peter's leadership should do the same. No matter how the years ahead play out, when the time comes for me to retire, I will do so with nothing but gratitude for the blessing this call has been as one of your pastors.

--Peace, PR

Pastoral Acts

The following pastoral acts were offered since the printing deadline of our November issue of the Herald.

Funeral: Lena Olena Service on October 20 at Clyde W. Kraft Funeral Home, Columbia, PA.

Graveside Service: Lois Hostetter on October 30 at St. Peter's Cemetery, Neffsville, PA



Church Council Meeting Minutes Available

During the November council meeting, the October council minutes were approved. The minutes can now be accessed at the following link to a page on the church website to make them more accessible to the congregation: <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/congregational-documents/> If you are unable to access the link and would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the church office at 717-569-9211.



Mission Campaign

St. Peter's Family,

The *Faith in Our Future* campaign continues to make progress—thank you! As we reported at our recent town hall and annual congregational meeting, 104 households have pledged treasures totaling \$938,080. We have received \$355,714 in pledge payments and outright gifts, which Council is putting to good use in addressing many of our church property and facilities needs, including the parking lot project that Bud Benton described at the annual meeting.

We recently received a question as to whether someone can support the mission campaign if they did not complete a pledge form. The answer is YES! Although pledge commitments are important to allow Council to project funding availability, we anticipate congregants will offer their support through outright gifts throughout the remainder of the three-year campaign. If you make an outright cash or other gift (e.g. IRA distribution, stocks/bonds/mutual funds, real estate, etc.), we ask that you clearly identify your gift as supporting the Mission Campaign.

If you haven't visited our refreshed campaign website at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/mission-campaign/>, check out our progress toward meeting our financial goal, as well as updates on projects in-progress and/or completed. You also can print a campaign pledge/gift form from the website.

With the end of the year approaching, please keep St. Peter's in your heart, as you consider how you will dedicate your year-end treasures to support philanthropic organizations doing important work throughout our communities and across the globe.

We appreciate your continued prayers for the Campaign and the broader stewardship efforts of St. Peters, as well as your discernment surrounding a personal commitment to support St. Peter's growth and ministry enhancement, both near and far. As always, please continue to reach out to either of us, directly, with any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you!

With Faith in Our Future,

Jen and Adrian

Jennifer Schlener-Thomas (jmschlener@gmail.com or 717-228-8450)

Adrian Young (adrianyoung@verizon.net or 717-314-8556)

2022 Stewardship Appeal



We appreciate that many of you have returned your 2022 financial support commitment card and Time and Talent form—thank you! If you haven't had time to do so, it's not too late!

St. Peter's remains a dynamic and spirit-filled congregation known for its faithful response to the blessings God pours into our lives. And we ask everyone to join in this steadfast support of our General Fund ministries that ground our mission in the fullness and diversity of your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. The church needs all of us to meet our mission to build a community of faith by God's grace. We truly are blessed by a spirit of abundance in our stewardship as a family of God.

Kindly return your financial support commitment card and your Time and Talent form by December 1st. If you did not receive your stewardship materials, please contact the church office. Thank you!

A Note From the Financial Secretaries

If you have donations to mail to the church that you'd like credited to 2021, you should mail them **no later than December 20th** due to anticipated delays in the mail service, especially over the holidays. If the church receives your mailed donation after January 1st, we use the postmark date for guidance as to which year to credit. Also, if you submit any donations via an online Tithely transaction, be aware that there can be a 3–5–day delay from the time of the transaction to the date of the deposit (the church uses the deposit date as the contribution date). **You should make any Tithely donations before Christmas** if you want to ensure they get credited to 2021 giving.

Social Ministry



Community Meal Day

December Community Meal will be Wednesday, December 1st at Grace Lutheran Church. For more information about volunteering, please contact Kathy Berkebile at kberkebile@comcast.net.



Lydia's Closet Clothing Bank at St. Peter's

Lydia's Closet Clothing Bank will be open on Saturday, December 4th from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. To volunteer, please contact Molly Olmsted at astaloo@me.com. The clothing bank is always in need of new underwear, especially for older teens (adult sizes).

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. We need help transporting the extra clothes once a month to Community Aid. If you have extra time, please consider taking a load for us! Contact Betsy Linn, betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org, for more info.



Christmas Giving Trees

Visit the tree in the narthex or youth lounge - we are collecting gift cards, games, toys and other items for local families and children in need. Directions are on the ornament you will take, listing the items needed. Return by Wednesday, December 15th. Please note that some gifts are due by December 6th - Manheim Township School District is holding a "shopping" event for parents. Questions can be directed to Sister Dottie Almoney at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org

Local Social Ministry Updates

Recovery Ministry

St. Peter's continues to support Vantage House which is a recovery house for women and their children. The holidays are a time when needs are especially great. The shelter is full at this time with 24 women and 12 children ranging in age from 3 months to 11 yrs. St. Peter's will be providing personal hygiene items as well as socks and underwear. If you are able to help please contact Kathy Berkebile at kberkebile@comcast.net or 717-725-0162.

Quilters

Our Quilters are amazing! So far this fall they have donated over *100 quilts* to the Transitional Living Center on King Street.

Community Meals

The Community Meals are now being served twice a month by St. Peter's. We are increasing the number served to 70 to meet the increased demand. If you wish to contribute to the Community Meals please contact Kathy Berkebile kberkebile@comcast.net or 717-725-0162

Lydia's Closet

This month Lydia's Closet was quite busy! There were online orders for 17 children and over 5 families came in to shop.

I get asked frequently what clothing do we take. The short answer is: we take everything! Because we have started working with other organizations in addition to the Manheim Township Schools, we will take all gently used clothing.

Our volunteers sort through the clothing and if we decide that we can't use it, we pass it along to Community Aid, which in turn gives us money and gift cards for our shoppers.

If you have any questions, please contact Molly Olmsted at (astaloo@me.com or 717-490-3908).

Fellowship Events



Congregational Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Meet in the Family Life Center. We will sing throughout the neighborhood then come back for hot chocolate, hot cider and snacks. Dress warmly!

Prayer Chain Ministry

It continues to be a privilege to pray for our fellow church members and their families and friends. We treat each request with respect and dignity and we are blessed by the trust you show us by asking us to pray for you. Enjoy the beauty of this time of the year!



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

Health & Wellness



National Safe Toys and Gifts Month



With the holiday season in full swing, gifts, (particularly children’s gifts), will be exchanged across the nation in earnest. Although I think we’re pretty sure that Santa ensures all presents are rigorously safety tested, we may need to make sure we give gifts that meet safety standards.

Unfortunately, thousands of children are injured every year as a result of playing with unsafe or non-age appropriate toys. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has created a robust toy safety system, by requiring testing by independent, third party testing laboratories around the world; enforcing stringent lead and phthalates limits for toys; imposing some of the most stringent toy standards in the world. While this goes a long way in protecting our children, young people, and adults, there are still many toy related injuries that take place. In 2010 over 251,700 toy related accidents were reported in hospital emergency rooms in the US.

Obviously accidents will always happen, but this is the perfect opportunity to review some basic safety advice. The following are some safety tips to keep in mind

Balloons - Children can choke or suffocate on deflated or broken balloons. Keep deflated balloons away from children younger than eight years old. Discard broken balloons immediately.

Small balls and other toys with small parts - For children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.

Scooters and other riding toys - Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast, and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be worn properly at all times and they should be sized to fit.

Magnets - High-powered magnet sets are dangerous and should be kept away from children. Whether marketed for children or adults, building and play sets with small magnets should also be kept away from small children.

Once gifts are open:

- Immediately discard plastic wrapping & other toy packaging before they become dangerous play things.
- Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger children
- Battery charging should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to young children. Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any mechanism to prevent overcharging.

Let’s make sure the holiday season is a safe and enjoyable one. Merry Christmas!



Music News

Worship Leadership Schedule

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
December 5	No Choirs	Herald Choir
December 12	St. Peter's Ringers	Herald Choir, Exsultate Ringers
December 19	No Choirs	Herald Choir
December 26	No Choirs (1 service at 9:45 a.m.)	No Choirs (1 service at 9:45 a.m.)

Christmas Eve Services

St. Peter's will offer 5 services on Christmas Eve:

- 2:00 p.m. – Family Service in the Parking Lot
- 3:30 p.m. – Family Service in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. – Family Service in the Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
- 9:00 p.m. – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Ensembles will lead at the following services:

- Exsultate Ringers – 5:00 p.m.
- St. Peter's Ringers – 7:30 p.m.
- Herald Choir – 7:30 p.m.



Children's and Youth Choirs

In consultation with the worship committee, safe church committee, and other ministry areas at St. Peter's, we have decided to delay Children's and Youth Choirs until January at the earliest. With cases numbers being where they are, we are working on the side of caution for now. As vaccines become available, we will be able to continue to restart vocal music ministries. For now, keep those vocal cords limber in the shower or outside and do your best to make it through a busy fall season!

Christmastide Devotional Booklet Available December 12th

Pick up a Christmastide Devotional Booklet to help your family mark the twelve days of Christmas (December 25th – January 5th). This resource contains bible readings, prayers, poems, images, songs, activities, and a house blessing liturgy for the whole family to celebrate the Christmas season. Booklets and chalk (for the house blessing) will be available on a table in the narthex and at the welcome table in New Day starting December 12th. If you would like a devotional, but are unable to pick one up, please contact the church office for one to be sent to you.

No Rehearsals December 27 – January 9

There are NO rehearsals between Christmas Eve and January 9th. Bell choir rehearsals resume January 10th and Herald choir rehearsals resume January 13th.

Mennonite Children's Chorus of Lancaster – Saturday, December 4, 2021 4:00 p.m.

A special program of the Mennonite Children's Chorus of Lancaster will be held in the sanctuary here at St. Peter's on Saturday, December 4th. While not an official program of the 2021-2022 Musical Arts Series, this program promises to be one full of excellent singing by the young people from the Lancaster area. Come to support the future of music-making and engagement in the arts.

Musical Arts – Sunday, December 5, 4:00 p.m. – Hershey Handbell Ensemble

This holiday concert is not to be missed. The Hershey Handbell Ensemble presents an evening of beautiful music in our beautiful Sanctuary to put you in the Christmas spirit. Concert is Sunday, December 5th at 4:00 p.m. At time of printing, masks are required.

Administratively Speaking ...

The 2022 annual budget has been approved! At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 14, the congregation voted to approve the St. Peter's budget for 2022. The budget will be almost \$10,000 less than the 2021 budget. The Finance Committee Chair, Sherry Moul, asked church committee chairs to be conservative in their budget requests for 2022 and include a COVID-19 pandemic impact factor reduction where possible. And they did! As such, not a single committee budget had to be reduced by the Finance Committee this year. AND, the Finance Committee reviewed and finalized the budget in just ONE meeting! I have never seen this in my 35 years of ministry! Bravo Zulu (as we said in the Navy) to the hard and dedicated work of your Finance chair, her team, AND all committee chairs for developing the 2022 budget.

In other news, we shut down the cooling tower. You know what that means...winter is coming. In staff meetings, we are already talking about our snow policy for church events. Special thanks to George Groff for coming over to power wash the cooling tower and remove the built-up "sludge" to prepare the tower for next summer's use.

End of year giving opportunities...

The falling of leaves from the trees means Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far off. As you make your end of year giving plans, keep in mind that there are various ways to make your gift to St. Peter's general ministry fund, as well as to the Mission Campaign appeal. Below are a few ways to consider.

- ◇ Write a check (Remember, you can deduct up to 100% of your Adjusted Gross Income in 2021, through cash gifts.)
- ◇ Give online through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly).
- ◇ Give a gift a stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. The stock market is UP and your investments have likely increased in value. You can deduct the entire value of the investment AND avoid paying any capital gains tax on the sale! The church will sell the positions and use them for church ministry work.
- ◇ If you are over 72 years old, you are required by the IRS to withdraw a portion from your IRA or 401(k) fund and pay tax on this withdraw. The pain of this RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) can be avoided! You are allowed to send all or even just a portion of your RMD straight to St. Peter's, so that the church can use these funds for ministry and you are NOT taxed on the funds that come to the church. Perhaps even more impactful, keeping this income off of your tax return can help reduce the potential for adverse effects on your Social Security and Medicare benefits. This is called a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution). And St. Peter's IS a "qualified charity" for these types of gifts.

Discuss these options with your tax advisor, then give me a call to talk about your options. I will send you or your investment broker the appropriate information to make these transfers quickly and smoothly. One donor sent me an email with this comment, after his experience of donating stock for his donation:

"Paul – Great news! Thanks for sharing. Such an easy process I will definitely keep in mind for future contributions."

I pray for a very happy Thanksgiving and Christmas season for you and your family, as we remember the reason for the season. Praise God for His Son and the blessings we enjoy.

Paul Schultz, your parish administrator

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.

Moral Monday



Looking for something to do in January? Want to tie it in with a Christmas present? The Moral Monday Book Group has the answer for you! We will be reading The Color of Compromise by Jemar Tisby. This book delves into the ways in which the Christian Church was complicit with slavery. According to Zondervan Publishers, “It is *not* a call to shame or a platform to blame white evangelical Christians. It *is* a call from a place of love and desire to fight for a more racially unified church that no longer compromises what the Bible teaches about human dignity and equality. A call that challenges black and white Christians alike to standup *now* and begin implementing the concrete ways.” Our date is not set because we want to ensure all can come. If you’re interested in reading this book please contact Molly Olmsted (astaloo@me.com or 717-490-3908) and we can all decide if we want to be on zoom or in person and what time works best for the group.

Updates to the Church Directory

A new directory will be released in JANUARY. 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!

Feel free to contact me with any questions. Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

FROM THE ARCHIVES

From LNP Archives

Organ Recital Precedes Service

Intelligencer Journal – December 22, 1956

Roger Patches, a student of the ministry and member of the congregation of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Neffsville, will be the narrator for a presentation of the Christmas story in music at the church tomorrow at 7:10 p.m. The service will open with an organ recital by Harold Sawyer, Jr. Included in the program will be the Nativity carol “The Holy Boy” by John Ireland, and the “Christmas Carol Preludes” by Marcel Dupre. Participating in the service will be the three choirs of the church under the direction of Mrs. Russell J. Nuss, choir director for the past 9 years. Mrs. Nuss is president of Lancaster Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Soloists in the choir presentations will be George Kratzert, Harold Sawyer, Samuel Bailey, Mrs. J. H. Krick and Mrs. Donald Peters. The church’s annual Christmas Eve Candle lighting Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday. The three choirs will again sing. The services will be concluded with the candle lighting in which the entire congregation will take part. A recital by a brass quartet will precede the service.

Grocery Cards



Please be aware that grocery cards are available to purchase from the church office Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please call the office with the amount and the store that you are requesting. The staff will get them ready for you. When arriving please ring the doorbell and enter the narthex, proceed to the window of the office and someone will be able to help you from the window. Thank you.

Groups and Events

50+ GROUP — 50+ will meet in the Chapel on Thursday, December 2nd at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Frick's topic will be Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter. You never know what interesting tidbit you may learn. Take, for example, this supposition: if President Kennedy had not been wearing his back brace, he might have survived the shooting in Dallas. The back brace prevented President Kennedy from slumping over when first shot. Governor Connally probably survived because he slumped over after being shot. Anyone is invited to attend. Masks are optional. For more information, contact Debbie Shue at 717-318-8848 or djshue52@comcast.net.

WELCA — **Be sure to come to our WELCA Christmas meeting** on Thursday, December 9th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 124 (Augsburg Alley). A light breakfast will be served. We will be playing the Left -Right Christmas Game; please bring a \$5 wrapped gift to be used in the game. Also we will be sharing special childhood Christmas memories. All women are welcome. Any questions, contact Sally Rager, 717-569-6119 or Kathy Caldwell, 717-627-7434.

Widows Group — Our meetings are continuing and our next meeting will be on December 21st at 11:30 a.m., at Scooter's in Lititz. We will be celebrating Christmas with a luncheon. Please contact Betsy Linn if you are able to attend. Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Camp Corner

Camp is a wonderful place this time of year! There are a few opportunities this month to focus on Advent - the time when we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ. Consider finding peace at camp this Advent season. Learn more about the different camps at their website. <https://www.lutherancamping.org/> Contact Joy & Lyle Hosler with any questions about camp! (717-371-7583; joy@hoslerfamily.net)



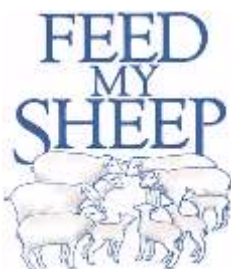
December 4: **Advent Day Apart** *a day to study, pray, and worship in preparation for the birth of Christ* (Wittel Farm)

December 19: **Advent/Christmas in the Barn** *a festive time for fellowship celebrating Christ's birth* (Wittel Farm)

January 7-9: **Youth Winter Retreat** *camp fun in the winter, including Bible study and worship led by summer camp staff* (Kirchenwald)



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



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.* Non-perishable food may be dropped off in the carts in the Narthex and at New Day. Items go to the Lancaster County Food Hub. **Thanks for your donations!**



Pastor's Letter

Hi Folks:

A blessed Advent to you! Has this “season of waiting” ever felt more relevant than in these past two years? We are waiting on lots of things this year, aren't we? But they may not be the usual “waitings” that typically command our attention in December ... that favorite gift you are hoping for ... a beautiful light snowfall on Christmas morning ... your radio station starting up their 24/7 Christmas carol barrage ... or a family dinner with all the fixings. Maybe this year you are waiting to get a vaccine for your elementary school child ... or a booster shot for yourself. Maybe you are waiting for the results of a Covid test for a loved one who is quite ill ... or you're waiting for a lessening of mask restrictions. Some of you may be waiting to see what your job will look like as your company transitions to a remote work environment ... and you are waiting to see whether you will have a job in the changing landscape of your company. Maybe you are just waiting for the malaise and fatigue of dealing with “all things pandemic” to stop ... or even ease a bit.

Most years, the waiting that we do in Advent might be described as “waitings of choice.” We are in control of our personal world for the most part, and so the things we wait for are somewhat within our power to manage. This year that is not the case. There are many things that are not within our power to manage. These days we face “waitings of necessity.” Most relate to the Covid outbreak, and the collateral damage it brings to all of our institutions, from our homes ... to our workplaces ... to our churches and community agencies ... to our governmental programs and institution, both local and national. In a country that prides itself on the concept of “freedom”, it is a tough pill to swallow.

As I play out this theme of “waiting” with you, please know that I have never been a believer in the idea that God “sends us these traumas” to teach us something, or to punish us for something. The Bible reminds us constantly of the brokenness of the world. God doesn't need to punish us ... our misuse of the freedom we are granted creates an endless stream of trauma in our world, in global, local and personal realms. We call it “sin.” Covid is a particularly nasty version of that brokenness. But God's involvement is never in the creation of the trauma. God's involvement is found in the faith offered to us to persevere and strive to restore order, and the reminder that life is not defined by any one moment in time.

So maybe our “Advent waiting” this year is not solely a liturgical or theological exercise, as we relive the various themes of preparation and waiting for the inbreaking of Jesus' presence in our world. Maybe this year there is a visceral and tangible component to our waiting. Maybe, the arrival of Jesus in your life will be found in the improved health of a family member ... or in a long-awaited reunion with a loved one ... or in some stability returning to your life because more and more people around you have gotten their vaccines ... or in just the simple joy of gathering with others again.

The Advent theme of “God with us” may never be more potently felt than this year, as we experience a gradual easing of so many restrictions (thanks to our vaccine availability and good common sense in our use of personal choices of hygiene and safety). I pray that you can enjoy some incarnational moments in which Jesus is with you in the gatherings you can manage with those you love. We will be doing that very thing in our Advent and Christmas worship. It will not be completely “back to normal.” But it will be communal in a safe and sustainable way.

See you in church (however that looks at this moment of time) ...

~~ PR

Livestreaming Options



Livestreaming options will be available for the 8:00 a.m. Traditional and 10:45a.m. New Day Praise services. If you can't join us in person, join us online! <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/live/>. Traditional service bulletins can be accessed at <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/bulletins>.



From the Director of Music

A time for preparation

Advent is here and I'm excited about it. I find the music and messages of this season to be meaningful, centering, and a good foil for the trappings of our commerce-centric society. In particular, this year I'm thinking a lot about preparations.

We often think of Advent as a time for preparation, and it is. While we are preparing to welcome Christ as a baby in the manger with gifts and worship, we are also taught to prepare our hearts for the Lord's arrival.. We prepare to be amazed that God would become flesh and dwell among us, going through the same ups and downs of life that we go through. We are preparing for the message that Emmanuel, God with us, is truly with us and not in a cloud far away watching creation unfold.

Advent, though, is also about the changing of the whole world. It is the way of the world that the old must give way for the new to take its place. We see our leaders turn over, we see programs and maybe ministries coming to a close and others being reborn. This continual cycle of life, death, and rebirth is central to our beliefs as Christians. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Past. Present. Future.

Right now we might be feeling like the last year and a half has been one big preparation. After coming to a screeching halt, we may feel that ever since then we have been building to this moment. To be certain this preparation hasn't been easy. We've shed tears, expressed frustration, endured suffering, and even had moments of pure joy. Walking through this pandemic together has shown us that worship takes place in our hearts and that, despite our ability or inability to gather together, God continues to walk with us and with our community.

Perhaps the lesson here is that all of life is really a preparation. All of life is a rehearsal for that next life when all will be made right. We are called to walk with one another in good and bad times. While the last year and a half may have been more challenging than the year and a half before that, our call remains the same: to accompanying one another on our pilgrimage through this life, to share the love of Christ that sets us free to serve our neighbors, and to praise the creator of the universe with all that we are.

As we prepare this season, whether it be preparations for family gatherings, for church events, or for personal study, let us remember that we are truly an Advent people. We are always preparing for that moment when Christ will break into our lives and make the world whole. Though the work of preparation is never finished, we may rest securely knowing that God is with us every step of the way, no matter what season we may be in.

Peace,
Adam

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.

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.

Youth & Family Ministry News...



Congregational Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 12th 6:00 p.m.

Meet in the Family Life Center – we will sing throughout the neighborhood then come back for hot chocolate/ hot cider and snacks. Dress warmly!

If you have any questions, please contact Sister Dottie Almoney at dottie.almoney@stpeterslutheran.org



ST. PETER'S KIDS

Dear Families,

November has been a busy month and lots of learning has taken place in Sunday School! We had lessons on the Widow's Offering, Be Ready (a story about how God works for good), Christ the King Sunday, Jesus Blesses the Children, and of course, Thanksgiving thankfulness!



This year we are following a lectionary- based curriculum for pre- K through grade 6. This means that what our children learn in Sunday School will be reinforced during our worship services. We are incorporating music with our stories as well activities, games, and crafts! We are providing a solid Christian education program in a fun-filled environment!

It is not too late to register for Sunday school. You can register by visiting <https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/learn/>

While our outdoor Sunday School program has been very successful, we have returned indoors on Sunday, November 21st and our new time is 9:45 to 10:30. We will continue to ensure safety following the CDC guidelines. All children and adults are required to wear masks indoors and stay socially distanced. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation as we transition inside due to the advent of colder, winter weather.

Unfortunately, as the pandemic continues to dominate our environment, we will not be having our usual December activities such as a Santa Workshop or Santa Breakfast. Prayerfully, next year will allow us to add those events back into our calendar!



We are also in need of many volunteers to help with Sunday School. The curriculum is scripted and all materials and resources are provided. Please respond to Cindy Geesey, Director of Children's Ministries at cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org with any amount of available Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. time that you may have. Thank you, in advance, for considering serving our youngest children.

As our Children's Ministries Committee continues to grow, please consider joining us. Many volunteers are needed to help plan and deliver Christian education and events to our children in meaningful and fun ways.

Stay healthy and safe!

Blessings,
Cindy Geesey
cindy.geesey@stpeterslutheran.org.



St. Peter's Preschool

Time is flying by!! Can you believe we are already 1/3 of the way through our 2021/22 school year?!?! There is no better sound than the sound of the children laughing, learning and making new friends. We are so blessed to be back to our face-to-face learning, with a completely full program. It has been a very busy 3 months here at St. Peter's! Our kiddos have had the chance to meet our local fire company, sit in a real fire truck and learn about fire safety. The classes also practiced our fire drill procedure, along with our "Hide & Seek" game with Mrs. Cramer (intruder drills). We have had 3 great student teachers from Millersville University spend time with our classes and do some fun activities. Halloween came with parties, parades and some of you even joined us for Trunk or Treat night here at St. Peter's. Our school pictures were done with Erica McBride and distributed just in time for Thanksgiving. With December right around the corner, we will be talking about Hanukkah, Christmas and other winter holidays. Pastor Ross will be sharing a Christmas puppet show with all the children, to help everyone get in the holiday spirit. Our Christmas show will be on Friday, December 17th at 9:30 am, in our church sanctuary. The show will be for our 4 & 5 year old



classes. I want to take a moment to thank everyone for a great start to our school year. I am extremely thankful this season, for the opportunity to work with such a supportive group of people!

Heather Cramer

St. Peter's Preschool Director

heather.cramer@stpeterslutheran.org

PLAY FOR THE KIDS BENEFITTING FOUR DIAMONDS

—Conquering Childhood Cancer—

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

Four Diamonds at Penn State Health Children's Hospital has launched "Play For The Kids", the organization's new, signature fundraising program that unites Four Diamonds supporters nationwide to conquer childhood cancer! "Play For The Kids" is all about being young at heart and having fun, in honor of kids fighting cancer who often miss out on many childhood activities. Remember how much fun it was to be a kid? Riding bikes, eating popsicles, being with friends, swimming – all things that kids undergoing cancer treatment might miss out on. This March 26th, you can play to honor them. Because everybody deserves to be a kid, don't they?

On March 26th, St. Peter's children are invited to attend one of the very first "Play For The Kids" events! We will be hosting a Fun & Games event here at the church from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. There will be games, food and crafts for children 3 to 10 years of age. We hope everyone will rally their family and friends to help support our children as they play in honor of those that can't. Support can come in sponsors, volunteers to run games, food donations, etc.

Starting now you can register as part of our team and begin fundraising. Go to the following link to join our St. Peter's Kids Care team or send a donation.

<https://playforthekids.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=11049>

With your help, dollars raised by "Play For The Kids" supports the latest breakthroughs in childhood cancer research and ensures that every Four Diamonds child, regardless of income, receives the highest quality of childhood cancer care without ever seeing a bill for that care.

We will also be collecting donations for "Ryder's Smile Packages"! Ryder is a St. Peter's Preschool alumnus, who also happens to be a childhood cancer survivor. We want to help Ryder with the thoughtful care packages that he delivers to other children about to start their cancer treatments. For more info: <https://www.smilepackages.com/>

Please contact Heather Cramer or Dottie Almoney at 717 569-9211 or email: heather.cramer@stpeterslutheran.org

Volunteer Steward Message

What a difference from last December to this year. During this season of Advent, it is time to prepare for the coming of our Lord. We do this by decorating, shopping and spending time with our families. We are also back in church. What a good feeling. And, this is the month that we celebrate our Savior's birth. We are again reminded that God sent his beloved Son to save us from our sins. What better gift is that?

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

Betsy Linn
Volunteer Steward



Volunteers are Needed

Here is a list of volunteer opportunities, with a brief description. Please contact me with questions.

Communications committee – meets monthly through Zoom. Determines what information to share with the congregation and which platforms to use. The committee proofreads the Bulletin and the Herald.

Evangelism committee—meets monthly/bimonthly in person or through Zoom. It provides information to visitors, monitor their visits, and sends welcoming notes.

Property—meets monthly or as needed to discuss issues on our property. The committee is seeking younger members to help with maintenance items around the building.

Prayer Chain-- Emails are sent throughout the week with current concerns and/or updates. Access to email isn't necessary - we make phone calls as well to prayer chain members with the same news as our emails! Everything is done from your home.

Tanzania Mission committee-- meets once a month. It supports our companion congregation, Busoka Lutheran Church, in Tanzania Africa. Funds raised support the orphans, the church and the Busoka Community. Various projects such as the cookie walk at Christmas time are organized by the group.

In addition, there is a great need of Sunday morning volunteers at both 8 and 10:45:

Ushers	Once every 2 months- direct people to seats and communion
Communion Assistants	Once every 2 months- Help Pastor distribute wine to parishioners
Greeters	Once every 2 months- Stand at door to welcome people to church
Welcome Center	Once every 2 months-Look for visitors, provide info on St. Peter's, gather info
Lectors (also New Day)	Once every 2 months-Receive lesson the week before, read the lesson
Acolytes	Once every 2 months-Light and extinguish candles

The more volunteers, the fewer times per year. There are many other volunteer opportunities to explore. Please contact Betsy Linn, Volunteer Steward, for more information. Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org

Betsy Linn
Volunteer Steward
Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org
717-618-9615

Something New to Try

Did you ever wonder how the lights go on and off during the service ? Or how we hear the pastors and lectors? It's possible that you don't know we have an AV room in the back of the sanctuary where all the magic happens. Well, actually, it's not magic. It's just a few buttons and switches that need to be adjusted during the service. We are actively recruiting people to work in the AV room during the services. You will be trained by a seasoned volunteer until you feel comfortable doing it alone. There are also clear written instructions. If you can use the remote for your TV, you can easily handle this job! Please contact Bob Preston to hear more! preston1609@comcast.net



Livestream Help

Help needed – Church@Home for Traditional worship

Do you know that over 100 viewers tune in to our Sunday service's "live stream" using YouTube? For many of our homebound parishioners, those traveling, or others who cannot return to indoor worship, Church@Home has become a vital connection to St. Peter's. Thanks to the creativity of Adam Lefever Hughes and Erik Teichmann, who script out each service, we strive to make the YouTube experience "the next best thing to being there." We need **one additional person** in the AV room each Sunday to do some very simple, non-technical tasks so that the hymn texts, prayers, and other information are streamed on cue throughout the service. It's simpler than your cable remote control -- ***NO COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE IS NEEDED!*** You just need to be present and alert at 8:00 a.m., because that's the service where we produce the video for our viewing community. Jordan Lambert is providing hands-on training to the growing team of streamers. **There is no age requirement to run the livestream!** Please contact Jordan at jislamvt@gmail.com or Betsy Linn at Betsy.linn@stpeterslutheran.org if you are curious about this exciting new opportunity to help with our evangelism and presence in people's homes on Sunday morning.

Change of Mailing Address for St. Peter's Lutheran Church

We want to inform you that we have closed our post office mailbox - PO Box 5160 -that we used during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that the church is re-opened, we are using the church's street address once again. We ask that you contact your bank and any wealth advisers you are using of this mailing address change. The complete mailing address with our zip plus four number for faster delivery is shown below.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
10 Delp Rd
Lancaster, PA 17601-3904




Worship Assistant Schedule for December

	LECTORS	GREETERS	USHERS	WELCOME CENTER
December 5 8:00 a.m.	Don Deibler	John & Kathy Burke	Eric May Liz O'Brien	Christine Ponti
10:45 a.m.	Lois Miklas	Dan & Karen Beck	John & June Crisp	Dave & Lis Wolf
December 12 8:00 a.m.	Diane Gegg	Lloyd & Marty Bull	Tom Rothfus	Ron & Joan Beck
10:45 a.m.	Anneliese Owen	Scott & Sharon Breden	Dave & Lis Wolf	Rich & Ann Larrick
December 19 8:00 a.m.	Eric May	Travis Chaby	Bob & Phyllis Hollinger	Mary Ann Oberholtzer
10:45 a.m.	Janet Roberts	Dick & Loretta Chubb	Rich & Ann Larrick	Craig & Lisa Rodenberger
December 24 3:30 p.m.	Iain O'Brien	Laretta Stutzman	TBA	Susie Roderick
5:00 p.m.	Patti Courtois	Vicki Legath	TBA	Dave & Lis Wolf
7:30 p.m.	Greg Strausser	Bill & Mary Ellen Kopetz	TBA	TBA
9:00 p.m.	Thompson McConnell	Dennis & Louise Sitler	TBA	Art & Libby Stoner
December 26 9:45 a.m.	Steph Gerber	John & June Crisp	Jeff & Anneliese Owen	Shirley Dombach

(continued on next page)

December Flower Delivery Schedule

Date	Deliverer	Recipient
12/5	Tim & Sharon Fickes	Lee & Karleen Eberly
	Debbie Shue	Lura Zeswitz
12/12	Christine Smith	Joan Groff
	John & Kathy Burke	Sally Price
12/19	Cathy Graver	Anna Wertz
	Lauren Bergren	Peggy Popp
12/25	ALL DELIVER 	ALL RECEIVE
12/26	NONE	

Worship Assistant Schedule for December (continued)

	A/V	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	ALTAR GUILD COORDINATORS	ALTAR GUILD
December 5 8:00 a.m.	Tom Badorf	Bret Hoffmaster Susan Ketchum	Debbie Shue	Diane Gegg
10:45 a.m.	Bill Schlener	No Communion	No Communion	No Communion
December 12 8:00 a.m.	Mark Burkholder	No Communion	No Communion	No Communion
10:45 a.m.	Dave Tilley	Todd Benner Clint Frontz	Debbie Shue & Lori Weaver	Kathy Groff
December 19 8:00 a.m.	Tom Chever	Bob Courtois Diane Gegg	Debbie Shue	Susan Chever
10:45 a.m.	Bob Preston	No Communion	No Communion	No Communion
December 24 3:30 p.m.	Bill Schlener	Nancy Pokopec Ginny Stickler	Debbie Shue	Fellowship Cups at all services
5:00 p.m.	Dave Tilley	Jeff Pretz Janet Roberts	Debbie Shue	Fellowship Cups at all services
7:30 p.m.	Bob Preston	Eric May Karen Peiffer	Debbie Shue	Fellowship Cups at all services
9:00 p.m.	TBA	Mary Jane Wilcox Thompson McConnell	Debbie Shue	Fellowship Cups at all services
December 26 9:45 a.m.	Bill Schlener	Dottie Almoney Shirley Gerner	Debbie Shue	Cindy Gillespie

NEW DAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS — DECEMBER 2021

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
Lector	Lisa Teichmann	Megan Thompson	Robert Preston	Lynn Stover
Communion Assistant	Jenny Sassaman	No Communion	Mindy Rottmund	No Communion
Ushers	Mark & Sharon Schaefer	Brian & Britney Booher	Heath & Anna Edelman	Olmsted Family



LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 1

8:00 a.m. - Advent Service (Portico)
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Café & Zoom)
1:00 p.m. - Community Meal Preparation (Kitchen)
2:00 p.m. - Evangelism Committee (Conference Room)
4:30 p.m. - Community Meal (Grace Lutheran)
7:00 p.m. - Worship Committee (Conference Room)
7:00 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)

Thursday, December 2

1:00 p.m. - 50+ Fellowship (Chapel)
7:00 p.m. - Herald Choir (Music Room)

Friday, December 3

1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Cry Room)

Saturday, December 4

10:00 a.m. - Clothing Bank - Lydia's Closet (FLC)
4:00 p.m. - Mennonite Children's Choir (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 5

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream)
9:15 a.m. - Family Outdoor Worship (Portico)
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Deaf Church (Chapel)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m. - New Day Worship (Family Life Center & Livestream)
4:00 p.m. - Musical Arts (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 6

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)
10:00 a.m. - Quilters (Augsburg Alley)
6:00 p.m. - Exsultate Ringers (Music Room)
7:00 p.m. - St. Peter's Ringers (Music Room)
8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, December 7

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
6:30 p.m. - Pub Theology (Scooters)

Wednesday, December 8

8:00 a.m. - Advent Service (Portico)
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Café & Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)

Thursday, December 9

9:00 a.m. - WELCA (Augsburg Alley)
7:00 p.m. - Herald Choir (Music Room)

Friday, December 10

Herald Deadline
12:00 p.m. - Set up for Cookie Walk (FLC)
1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Cry Room)

Saturday, December 11

9:00 a.m. - Cookie Walk (Family Life Center)

Sunday, December 12

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream)
9:15 a.m. - Family Outdoor Worship (Portico)
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Deaf Church (Chapel)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m. - New Day Worship (Family Life Center & Livestream)
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group (FLC)
6:00 p.m. - Family Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 13

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)
10:00 a.m. - Quilters (Augsburg Alley)
6:00 p.m. - Exsultate Ringers (Music Room)
6:30 p.m. - Council Meeting (Conference Room)
7:00 p.m. - St. Peter's Ringers (Music Room)
8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, December 14

1:00 p.m. - Communications Committee (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Property Committee (Conference Room)

Wednesday, December 15

8:00 a.m. - Advent Service (Portico)
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study (Café & Zoom)
7:00 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal (FLC)

Thursday, December 16

11:00 a.m. - Sages Service (Sanctuary)
7:00 p.m. - Herald Choir (Music Room)

Friday, December 17

1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Music Room)

Sunday, December 19

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary and Livestream)
9:15 a.m. - Family Outdoor Worship
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Deaf Church (Chapel)
10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship & Communion (Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m. - New Day Worship (Family Life Center and Livestream)
6:00 p.m. - Darkest Night Service (Sanctuary)



LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Monday, December 20

9:00 a.m. - Worship Leaders (Pastor's Office)
10:00 a.m. - Quilters (Augsburg Alley)
6:00 p.m. - Exsultate Ringers (Music Room)
7:00 p.m. - St. Peter's Ringers (Music Room)
7:00 p.m. - Moral Mondays Book Club (Zoom)
8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, December 21

9:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
10:30 a.m. - Widows Group (Café)
7:00 p.m. - Stewardship Committee (Conference Room)

Wednesday, December 22

8:00 a.m. - Advent Service (Portico)

Thursday, December 23

7:00 p.m. - Herald Choir (Music Room)

Friday, December 24

Church Office closes at noon
1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Cry Room)
2:00 p.m. - Outdoor Family Christmas Eve Worship
3:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary)
7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 26

9:00 a.m. - Combined Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Deaf Church (Chapel)

Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed
8:00 p.m. - AA (Room 100) Al Anon (Cry Room)

Tuesday, December 28

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 31

1:00 p.m. - Al Anon (Cry Room)



JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE DECEMBER 10TH

Articles for the January 2022 "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.



PLEASE HELP SAVE MAILING COSTS!!!!

PLEASE CONSIDER signing up to receive the online version of the "Herald" Newsletter and help us save on our mailing costs. Contact Sandy Shattuck in the Church Office at 717-569-9211 or sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org to sign up and start receiving the "Herald" by email.

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 6. 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.

_____ I will pick up my plant.

(Poinsettias may be picked up after the last service on Christmas Eve)

Please return this form and check payable

To "St. Peter's Lutheran Church"

By Monday, December 6

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.

If you have any questions,
please contact me at

sandy.shattuck@stpeterslutheran.org.

Sandy Shattuck

Editor & Parish Secretary

