



Greetings of Peace and Hope to You:

For those of you who are calendar-geeks, you are aware of the "longest and shortest" days of the year in the northern hemisphere ... our two solstice days. Summer solstice fell this year on June 21, and winter solstice falls on December 21. For almost two decades, here at St. Peter's, we have gathered on a night close to the winter solstice, to have a service of remembrance for those we have loved and lost. We name it "The Darkest Night" service. It is a serving of remembrance. We read Scripture ... we hear a story of loss and life (typically from Cynthia Rylant's book, *The Children of Christmas*). Laying on of Hands for grief is offered at the communion rail for those who find it meaningful, and we have a candlelighting rite as we remember "losses" of all kinds. We will hold this service again this year on December 20 at 7:00 p.m. as third and final Advent service of the season.

I hope you will consider joining us. While we love the joy of this holiday season, it is also good and right to express our grief for any number of losses that confront us at this time of the year.

— See you in Church, PR

For those with Messiah tickets, the church doors will open at 3 p.m. for you to enjoy the coffee bar; the doors to the sanctuary open at 3:40 p.m. A reminder this is a sold out ticketed event.

Gratitude for Cindy Geesey

We would like to offer a huge thank you to Cindy Geesey for the service she has provided St. Peter's as the Director of Children's Ministries for the last four and a half years. During her time of service, Cindy created and organized numerous activities for the children, including the Easter egg hunt, Vacation Bible School, the Gingerbread Bash, and educational information for children's First Communion. Cindy was also responsible for Sunday school for grades 1-4, which included planning the curriculum and recruiting teachers. More than just providing activities, Cindy provided a warm and caring environment for all the families she nurtured. We appreciate all you have done for the Children's Ministries at St. Peter's!

Gratitude for Erik Teichmann

We would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to Erik Teichmann for his years of service as our New Day Band Leader. His gifts and talents gave the service an energetic atmosphere in which to worship. It is certain that we will miss his energy and passion for contemporary music and his leadership of our volunteer band members. It is with a sad heart that we say goodbye and "well done good and faithful servant."

New Day Service of Thanksgiving



On Sunday we will have a Thanksgiving for New Day observance in the Family Life Center at 10:30 a.m. This will be the final New Day service before that ministry pauses for 2024. We encourage New Day attendees to feel welcome at our 8:00 or 10:30 a.m. traditional services after this date.

Faith in our Future

In this final year of the campaign, we appreciate your continued interest in staying abreast of our progress in our Faith in Our Future campaign.

As of November 4, 113 households have helped us secure pledges totaling \$941,180 with pledge payments and outright gifts totaling \$723,741. Of the dollars received, \$675,000 have been allocated to the capital projects component of the campaign, which are outlined in the matrix below. We continue to offer our thanks and praise for the generosity given thus far in the campaign. THANK YOU!

If you have not already made a financial commitment to Faith in Our Future, we hope you will do so now!

- Make an outright cash gift via check or electronically via Tithely. Be sure to designate your gift to "108 Mission Campaign."
- Make a monthly contribution electronically via Tithely or Vanco. Be sure to designate your gift to "108 Mission Campaign."
- Transfer stocks or securities to St. Peter's, designating your gift to the "Mission Campaign."

As we close out the calendar year, we ask you to consider your year-end giving. This is an important time of year to consider gifts of all kinds, including cash, securities, or Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs, which remain the best way to give for those over 70.5. Remember, this is the only way to avoid taxes on Required Minimum Distributions. Contact Paul Schultz, our parish administrator, for assistance.

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your gifts of financial treasure, continued prayers, discernment, and commitment to the success of Faith in Our Future! Thank you for continuing this journey with us.

With Faith in Our Future,
Jennifer Schlener-Thomas
Adrian Young

Worship for Dec. 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Traditional Worship & Communion

8:00 a.m.

Preaching: Pastor Hand

Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m.

Preaching: Pastor Hand

New Day Worship & Communion

10:30 a.m.

Preaching: Pastor Ross



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

10 Delp Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Quick Notes

DARKEST NIGHT SERVICE — This week's Midweek Advent service is The Darkest Night liturgy. Join others in the Sanctuary for a healing and remembrance service. Holy communion, anointing for healing, a candlelight ritual and themed story will be part of worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES — Help us spread the word to your friends, family, and neighbors about our Christmas Eve services! At 3:00 and 5:00 p.m., we will have Family Services featuring an interactive sermon for the kids. At 7:30 and 9:00 p.m., we will host Traditional Services. There is Communion and special music at all four services; Herald choir and livestream are at 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — Please consider delivering a poinsettia to a homebound member Christmas Day or sometime in the days to follow. Contact Christine Smith at 299-0949 or cjsmith1984@gmail.com if you are able to help. Sign up is also available on the Parish Life bulletin board outside the church nursery. Great family outreach opportunity!

COOKIE WALK RECAP — The Cookie Walk was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of 125 talented bakers, dedicated TMC members and volunteers, our many buyers and 16 Boy Scouts. We also had a surprise visit from Santa Claus! We raised \$4,695 in cookie sales and donations to feed, clothe, and educate the orphans of Busoka Lutheran Church, our companion congregation in Tanzania. Thank you to all involved for making this an excellent Cookie Walk.

PUB THEOLOGY — Join us on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the home of Lynn and Scott Fyfe (50 Ridings Way, Lititz). We will start with drinks and fellowship with a game of trivia with a twist beginning around 6:30 p.m. There will be prizes! Bring a side dish and a beverage to share. Lynn is making stuffed shells for dinner. Hope to see you there for a night of food, fun and fellowship!

Upcoming Worship Schedule

December 17

8:00 a.m. — **Lector:** Ginny Stickler; **Greeter:** Mark Burkholder; **Ushers:** TBD; **Welcome Center:** Tom Rothfus; **Acolytes:** TBD; **A/V:** Tom Chever; **Communion Assistants:** Randy & Debbie Shue; **Altar Guild Coordinator:** Debbie Shue; **Altar Guild:** Diane Gegg.

10:30 a.m. — **Lector:** Beth Glassford; **Greeters:** TBD; **Ushers:** Geoff & Anneliese Owen; **Welcome Center:** Clarence Simon; **A/V:** Bill Schlener.

New Day — **Communion Assistant:** Sister Dottie.

Flowers Deliverers: Liz O'Brien & Debbie Shue; **Coffee Bar:** Mark & Angela Moshos.

December 24

9:30 a.m. — **Lector:** Thompson McConnell; **Greeters:** Tom & Debbie Stover; **Welcome Center:** Benjamin DeLeonardis; **A/V:** Tom Badorf; **Communion Assistants:** Kathleen Bailey & Greg Hand; **Altar Guild Coordinator:** Debbie Shue; **Altar Guild:** Jill Mowery.

3:00 p.m. — **Lector:** Becky Lutz; **Ushers:** Geoff & Anneliese Owen; **Welcome Center:** Sherry Weller; **A/V:** Dave Tilley; **Communion Assistants:** Dawn & Gary Troxell; **Altar Guild Coordinator:** Debbie Shue; **Altar Guild:** Debbie Shue.

5:00 p.m. — **Lector:** Nicolette Simon; **Usher:** Tom Rothfus; **Welcome Center:** Tom Rothfus & Liz O'Brien; **A/V:** Benjamin DeLeonardis; **Communion Assistants:** Bill Sassaman & Ginny Stickler; **Altar Guild Coordinator:** Debbie Shue; **Altar Guild:** Debbie Shue.

7:30 p.m. — **Lector:** Jennifer Schlener-Thomas; **Ushers:** Jo Boltz, Cindy Miley, Dave & Lis Wolf; **Welcome Center:** Darla & Mark Cordin; **A/V:** Bob Preston; **Communion Assistants:** Jo Boltz & Eric May; **Altar Guild:** Debbie Shue.

9:00 p.m. — **Lector:** Stephanie Sherk; **Ushers:** Jo Boltz; **Welcome Center:** Phyllis & Bob Hollinger; **A/V:** Jordan Lambert; **Communion Assistants:** Paul Berkebile & Janet Roberts; **Altar Guild:** Debbie Shue.

Rev. Craig Ross, Senior Pastor • Sister Dottie Almoney, Director of Education & Outreach

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