



## December Greetings!

As the weather starts to chill, I find myself having less yardwork in my life. Maybe you have the same experience. It is a blessing in many ways ... and since I often reflect on my life through the lens of St. Peter's Church, I realize that this extra time opens up some space my life and yours ... at just the right time! Because we are on the threshold of the Season of Advent, a time when we discipline ourselves to walk the line between life in this world, and life in the world that awaits us when our days on earth conclude. The liturgical imagery of the Advent season is more broad, bold, and unique than any of our other Christian seasons. It challenges us to place one foot in the present and one foot in the future that awaits us. In doing so, it also challenges us to allow what we envision in that future world, to have impact on our present world.

What might that mean for you? Maybe more discipline in attending worship and other activities that you love at church. Maybe it means that you step up your volunteering for those in need in our county. Maybe it invites you delve into the Bible and actively engage the stories of this season. Maybe it invites more disciplined financial stewardship. Be creative ... be faithful ...

— See you in Church, PR

## Letter from Sister Dottie

*From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

— Ephesians 4:16

It's hard to believe that 2023 is almost over and we will be turning the calendar to a new year. So much has happened in the world and the life of St. Peter's. Hard decisions had to be made – staff positions were cut and we had to take a realistic look at our budget. Unfortunately, we are not close in meeting our projected income for our 2023 budget. Financial resources are not our only concern – human resources are a big concern as well. We need volunteers to help with our ministries. Just like budgets are moral documents and reflect our mission and vision, volunteers also are a sign of what is wanted and needed at our church.

If we lack volunteers, we risk losing ministries. Volunteers are a sign that a certain ministry area is important to our members. Our members are the hands, feet and voices that make ministry happen! The role of the staff is to equip and help our members lead and live out their call to discipleship.

As Advent is the beginning of a new church year, let's make some church "new year's resolutions" to be more involved in the life of the church. Here are a few ministries that need your help:

- Sunday School Teachers (everything is provided!)
- Altar Guild
- Worship Assistants (Ushers, greeters, Lectors, Acolytes, Communion Assistants)
- Kitchen help for special events
- VBS leaders and chaperones

There are also more opportunities to serve your church and wider community. Please prayerfully consider how you can be more involved in our parish. Our ministries depend on you!

## Quick Notes

### SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY —

We thank the members of the St. Peter's Wind Quintet for sharing their wonderful musical gifts to us this coming Sunday, December 10: Lydia Thompson Klinger, flute; Kathy Horein, oboe; Gary Troxell, clarinet; Bo Weaver, French horn; and Robin Plant, bassoon.



**THANKSGIVING FOR NEW DAY —** On December 17, 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.

**WELCA —** The December meeting for WELCA will be held on Thursday December 14 in Augsburg Alley. Please join us for our Christmas Party as we will serve a light breakfast at 9:00 a.m. followed by a traditional present exchange game at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift to exchange with no names on your gift. After the exchange we will enjoy making a Christmas craft. Hope to see you there!

**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](mailto: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!

**DRIVERS FOR SAGES CHRISTMAS EVENT —** Drivers are needed to bring a Sage to service on December 21. In case of inclement weather, the event will move to the following day, December 22. Approximate times are pick up at 10:30 a.m., drop off at 1:00 p.m. If you can help contact Christine Smith at 299-0949, [cjsmith1984@gmail.com](mailto:cjsmith1984@gmail.com) or sign up on the Parish Life bulletin board outside the church nursery.

## Worship for Dec. 10

*Second Week of Advent*

**Traditional Worship**  
8:00 a.m.

*Preaching: Pastor Ross*

**Traditional Worship &  
Communion**  
10:30 a.m.

*Preaching: Pastor Ross*

**New Day Worship**  
10:30 a.m.

*Preaching: Sister Dottie*



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

10 Delp Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

### Upcoming Worship Schedule

#### December 10

**8:00 a.m.** — **Lector:** Ginny Stickler;  
**Greeter:** Catharine Kimmich; **Ushers:**  
Tom Rothfus & Don Wenrich;  
**Welcome Center:** Shirley Dombach;  
**A/V:** Angela Moshos.

**10:30 a.m.** — **Lector:** John Ford;  
**Greeters:** Dawn & Gary Troxell;  
**Ushers:** Dan & Karen Beck; **Welcome  
Center:** Rich & Ann Larrick; **Acolytes:**  
Cortes family; **A/V:** Dave Tilley;  
**Communion Assistants:** Thompson  
McConnell & Jeff Pretz; **Altar Guild  
Coordinator:** Debbie Shue; **Altar  
Guild:** Barb Cooper.

**Flowers Deliverers:** Christine Smith &  
Ken Shirk; **Coffee Bar:** Cindy Miley.

#### December 17

**8:00 a.m.** — **Lector:** Ginny Stickler;  
**Greeter:** Mark Burkholder; **Ushers:**  
The Rotz family; **Welcome Center:**  
Tom Rothfus; **Acolytes:** Rotz family;  
**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:** Bob Preston.

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

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

## Advent & Christmas Activities at St. Peter's

**COOKIE WALK THIS SATURDAY** — The Tanzania Mission Committee invites everyone to St. Peter's 16th Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9. 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! We are offering two size boxes, the small box for \$8 and the large box for \$15. As always, all proceeds go to help educate and support the orphans in the Busoka Lutheran Church parish in Tanzania.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER** — Come on out this Sunday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m. to support our youth at our annual Christmas Dinner theater. Tickets are by donation. We will present our original production of "A Camel's Christmas" Dinner will be Italian this year - spaghetti with or without meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. We have actors, musicians and servers ready to perform and serve you! Tickets can be obtained by donation in the Narthex Sunday mornings or by contacting Sister Dottie.

**MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES** — Join us for Midweek Advent services on December 13 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. These brief services are a nice way to add a spiritual discipline to this busy season.

**SCHEDULE CHANGE** — Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are Sundays this year, so each of those weeks will have one combined 9:30 a.m. service. Communion on the 24th, Lessons and Carols on the 31st.

**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.

**SAGES SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE** — Sages, mark your calendars for Thursday, December 21 at 11 a.m. for our annual Sages Christmas service. Watch for your invitation in the mail with details. Hope you can join us!

Rev. Craig Ross, Senior Pastor

Sister Dottie Almoney, Director of Education & Outreach

### Contact Information

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