

**Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion 10 am**



INTRODUCTION

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

***ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
121 N. SPRING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057
Sunday Worship 10:00am and Wednesday 10:00am***

**THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH
THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE**

St. Peter's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation joining with Reconciling Works. As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome and invite all of God's people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status.

SERVING OUR CHURCH

December 7, 2025

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth with Dan Allegar

Reader:

Stephanie Ponnett

PRELUDE: *Riverside by the Pool Boys*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: **Dan Allegar** *selection*

ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 2

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

Light two candles.

After the prayer, the candle will be lit, and the congregation will sing the song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257 v 2

GATHER

ADVENT LITANY: *(we will sing the response)*

We prepare a way for the light in the world,

Emmanuel, God with us

We look for you in the eyes of the hungry and unhoused

Emmanuel, God with us

We feel you in the community as we embrace those who have been
unseen or uninvited

Emmanuel, God with us

We search for your love, light and justice in this broken world

Emmanuel, God with us

We wait for the spirit to guide us back to you

Emmanuel, God with us

Gather us today to look toward the light this advent season. Prepare
our hearts, minds and spirits to be one with you.

We ask this in the name of the

Creator, Redeemer and Advocate

Amen

GATHERING HYMN: Let Justice Flow Like Streams ELW

717 v 1-3

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare
the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as
people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be
glorious.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no

more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
from Godspell

The Gospel according to Matthew the third chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Joy to the World ELW 267 v 1-3

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will say the response together.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let us confess our faith through the Apostles' Creed together:

APOSTLES' CREED (*will be spoken*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

C: and also with you

P: share that peace with one another

MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Washed by the Water *by NEADTOBREATHE*

Chorus:

Even when the rain falls Even when the flood starts rising
Even when the storm comes I am washed by the water
Even when the rain falls Even when the flood starts rising
Even when the storm comes I am washed by the water

Bridge:

And even if the Earth crumbles under my feet
Even if the ones I love turn around and crucify me
I won't never ever let you down
Won't fall, won't fall, won't fall as long as you're around m

OFFERING PRAYER: Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: In the night in which he was
betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and
gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for
you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Body of Christ given for you.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all
to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for
you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the
remembrance of me.

Blood of Christ shed for you.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER (*will be spoken*)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table and all are welcome. The Ushers will bring you forward. The Pastor will give you the bread and the communion assistant will have a tray of wine. Please take one cup and drink it.

COMMUNION SONG: Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters ELW 445

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

SEND

BLESSING: May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

Standing is optional.

SENDING SONG: Light Dawns on a Weary World ELW 726 v
1-3

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Keep awake. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Day by Day *from Godspel*

The lamp candle is dedicated in memory of “Pinky” (Catherine Snyder) by her sister Regina Heagy. The bulletins are dedicated to friends and family by Ray Thompson.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this place their home.

St. Peter's News

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: New to our prayer list this

month: Amelia, Nolan Smith, Debbie Goodling, Gary Fichthorn, James Speeden, Jaiden Mullins, Josie Brewster, Ruth Shireman, Jimmy & Cece Abromitis, Lynda Fitzpatrick, the Rainal Family, family of Becca

Those friends and members in need of

continued prayers: Richard Brandt, Michelle, Milton, Bruce, Betty Wise, Jim White, Jenny Dimeler, Marie Fox, Tina Polito, Patty & John Stewart, Charles Brooks, Mitchell Hahn, Karen Eckles, Barbara Henry, Emily Booth, Lucinda Sheaffer.

****SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES****

Justin Polito, Corbin Stetler, Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Mondeaux, Anthony Mondeaux, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

Altar Guild Help Needed

We are looking for people interested in helping the Altar Guild.

Team will be trained to prepare communion on Sundays and

Wednesdays, set up the altar, change banners as needed and clean up communion. Talk to Sharon or Pr. Molly if interested.

Thursday Advent Services at the Kierch 7pm

Join us every Thursday of Advent to worship at the Kierch.

Giving Tree Gifts Due

Please wrap your items and attach the tag to the wrapped gifts. Place them under the Giving Tree by December 7th. For questions, contact Shannon Kelly at the church office.

Mitten Tree

Each year, we help spread a little warmth to the children and families in Middletown through our Mitten Tree. Please bring in new or handmade hats and mittens for all ages and place them on the tree in the north narthex beginning November 16th. These items will be collected until December 14th.

Poinsettia Dedications

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia to a loved pick up your dedication form and return it with payment by December 21st.

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – noon. Monday – Thursday

Enter through the Community Center doors

Phone Number: (717) 944-4651

Web site: www.stpetersmiddletown.org

E-mail address: ParishMail@stpetersmiddletown.org

WMSS 91.1FM broadcasts our service at 11am.

Facebook livestream: St Peter's Lutheran Church Middletown

