

Sunday, February 15, 2026
Transfiguration of our Lord, Year A
Holy Communion 10 am



INTRODUCTION

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

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 community of faith committed to loving God and our neighbors. As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation joining with Reconciling Works, we gather for worship, study and service. 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. Come join us and experience the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ.

SERVING OUR CHURCH

Presiding:

February 15, 2026

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

Reader:

Stephanie Ponnert

PRELUDE: What If I Stumble *by DC Talk*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: Psalm 25

GATHER CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, $\text{\text{T}}$ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in [†] Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: Shine Jesus Shine ELW 671 v 1, 2

PRAYER OF THE DAY: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹² The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and

the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

PSALM: Psalm 2

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together,**

against the Lord and against the Lord's anointed?

³ "Let us break their yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

⁴ **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;**
the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵ Then in wrath God speaks to them,

and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶ **"As for me, I have anointed my king**
upon Zion, my holy mountain."

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the Lord,

who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸ **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your**
inheritance

and the ends of the earth for ¹ your possession.

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod

and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰ **And now, you kings, be wise;**
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Submit to the Lord with fear,

and with trembling bow in worship;

¹² **lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of**
wrath.

Happy are all who take refuge in God!

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Change My Heart, O God ELW 801

The Gospel according to Matthew the seventeenth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell

to the ground and were overcome by fear.⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.”⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

YOUTH TALK

SERMON: Amazed and Transformed

HYMN OF THE DAY: How Good, Lord, to Be Here! ELW 315 v1-3

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will say the response together

Merciful God,
receive 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: I Love to Tell the Story ELW 661

OFFERING PRAYER: God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see. *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: Beautiful Savior ELW 838 v1-3

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SEND

BLESSING:

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Standing is optional.

SENDING SONG: We Are Marching in the Light ELW 866 v1-4

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Lovely Day *by Bill Withers*

The Altar flowers are dedicated in memory of Joseph T. Bartush by his children & grandchildren.

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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: Karen Hahn, Gerald Staub, Lynette Grim, Paula, Michele, Amelia, Nolan Smith, Gary Fichthorn, James Spedden, Jaiden Mullins, Jimmy & Cece Abromitis, Lynda Fitzpatrick.

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: John Ziats, Josie Brewster, Michelle, Milton, Bruce, Jim White, Tina Polito, Patty & John Stewart, 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

Kate Haggerty has moved to Wisconsin! Her new mailing address is: 702 Red Clover Way, Denmark, WI 54208

Youth group bowling fun on Sunday February 15, 2026 at 12pm
Invite friends and join us at ABC East Lanes- 1001 Eisenhower Blvd.
RSVP to Pastor Molly or Sam Starlipper.

Ash Wednesday services are on Wednesday February 18, 2026.

Join us for the 10am service in the chapel and 7pm service in the sanctuary.

Midweek Lenten services will be held in the chapel at 10am Wednesdays from February 25 through April 1, 2026.

Holy Huddle- February 22, 2026 at 11:30am in Luther Hall
Bennett will be leading the discussion.

Ministries of St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Church Ministries

Sewing Ladies	Tues 9-11:30 am
Bible Study	Wed 11:00 am
Justice Book Club	contact Marianne Moore
TOGETHER Hope garden	contact Shannon Kelly
Holy Huddle - lunch & faith	One Sunday per month

Outreach Ministries

Community Meals	Tues 6 pm
TOGETHER Afterschool	Tues 3-5:30 pm
Parent Pod	Thurs 9:30-11 am
Food & Clothing Pantry	Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am
*Clothing Closet coordinator	Roxanne Wehnke
*Food Pantry coordinator	Linda Carpen
Meals on Wheels	contact JoAnn Skovira
Family Promise	contact Pr Molly Haggerty
Summer Fun & Lunch	June-Aug
Card Ministry	contact Don Hossler

Community Partners

Hope Academy PA	Mon-Fri
MAHS Life Skills students	Mon-Thurs
Middletown Area Library	Summer Fun
Middletown School District	Summer Fun
Women, Infants & Children	Mon-Fri
Amanda Ruzansky Counseling	by appointment
Lower Susquehanna Synod	
Middletown Borough	

ST. PETER'S STAFF
Everyone Serving and Caring for Others

Rev. Molly Haggerty	Pastor
Shannon Kelly	Coordinator of TOGETHER
Bennett Williams	Coordinator of Music
Shannon Kelly	Office Administration
Hope Pankake	Visitation Chaplain
Sharon Beard	Coord. of Congregational Care
John Ponnett	Treasurer
Kendra Darrah	Financial Secretary
Andy Wren	Council President

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 am. 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

