

Sunday, February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany, Year A
Holy Communion 10 am



INTRODUCTION

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

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

February 1, 2026

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

Reader:

Open invitation

PRELUDE: Turn! Turn! Turn! *by The Byrds*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: A Light in Me *by Jervis Campbell*

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, ✠ 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: As We Gather at Your Table ELW 522 v1-3

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Song after First Reading- Be Still *by B Williams*

Psalm 46:10 & Micah 6:8

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God

Be still, and know that I am God

Be still...

PSALM: Psalm 15

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their
friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those
who fear the Lord.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back
their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take
bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: You’ve Got a Friend *by James Taylor*

You just call out my name, and you know wherever I am,
I'll come running to see you again.

Winter, spring, summer, or fall, all you got to do is call
and I'll be there, yes I will.

You've got a friend.

The Gospel according to Matthew the fifth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY: Let Streams of Living Justice ELW 710 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 Saw the Light *by Todd Rundgren*

Verse 1:

It was late last night
I was feeling something oh so right
There was not another soul in sight
Only You, only You

Verse 2:

So I walked along,
though I knew that there was nothing wrong
And the feeling hit me oh so strong about You

Chorus:

'Then I gazed up at You and the answer was plain to see
'Cause I saw the light In Your eyes in Your eyes

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: Come To the Table *by Sidewalk Prophets*

VERSE 1:

We all start on the outside
The outside looking in
This is where grace begins
We were hungry we were thirsty
With nothing left to give
Oh the shape that we were in
Just when all hope seemed lost
Love opened the door for us

CHORUS:

He said come to the table
Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior
Sit down and be set free
Come to the table

VERSE 2:

Come meet this mighty crew of misfits
These liars and these thieves
There's no one unwelcome here
So that sin and shame that you brought with you
You can leave it at the door
Let mercy draw you near

CHORUS

VERSE 3:

To the thief and to the doubter To the hero and the coward
To the prisoner and the soldier To the young and to the older
All who hunger all who thirst All the last and all the first
All the poppers and the princess All who fail you've been forgiven
All who dream and all who suffer All who loved and lost another
All the chained and all the free All who follow all who lead
Anyone who's been let down All the lost you have been found
All who have been labeled right or wrong To everyone who hears
this song

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: The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ELW
551 v 1-3

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

POSTLUDE: Let It Be *by The Beatles*

**The bulletins are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of
Larry Lingle's birthday by his wife & family.**

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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

Our prayers and the comfort of our Christian faith are extended to the family of Richard Brandt. Richard passed away January 13. His service of Christian burial will be held here, at St. Peter's, on February 14. Visitation will begin at 11am, service at 12pm with luncheon to follow.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: New to our prayer list this month: 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

Holy Huddle- February 22, 2026 at 11:30am in Luther Hall

Pr. Molly will be making chili and cornbread. Bennett will be leading the discussion.

Join us for a coffee hour after service on February 1 to say goodbye to Kate (Molly's mom) before she moves to Wisconsin.

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.

SOUP-er Bowl Sunday food drive- February 8, 2026. Please bring in canned soup for our food ministries. You can put your donated cans on the table for the team you are rooting for.

