

Sunday, January 11, 2026
Baptism of Our Lord/Lectionary 1, Year A
Holy Communion 10 am



Introduction

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children.

Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

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

January 11, 2026

Preaching & Presiding:

Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Bennett Williams, Paige Pavlishin, Gerry Leonard

Reader:

John Ponnnett

PRELUDE: Washed By the Water *by NEEDTOBREATHE*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: Bridge Over Troubled Water *by Simon & Garfunkel*

GATHER

THANSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 556 Morning Has Broken

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you

KYRIE: ELW Setting 3, pg 138

CANTICLE: This is the Feast ELW Setting 3, p 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

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

PSALM: Psalm 29

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

¹ Ascribe to the ¹ Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- ¹ ry and strength.

² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory ¹ due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory
thunders;

the Lord is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the Lord is a pow- ¹ erful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a ¹ voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;

⁶**the Lord makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.**

⁷The voice ¹ of the Lord
bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the Lord ¹ shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- ¹ ness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the ¹ forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are ¹ crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The Lord sits enthroned a- ¹ bove the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- ¹ evermore.**

¹¹O Lord, give strength ¹ to your people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- ¹ ings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God’s inclusive forgiveness in Jesus’ name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter’s preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

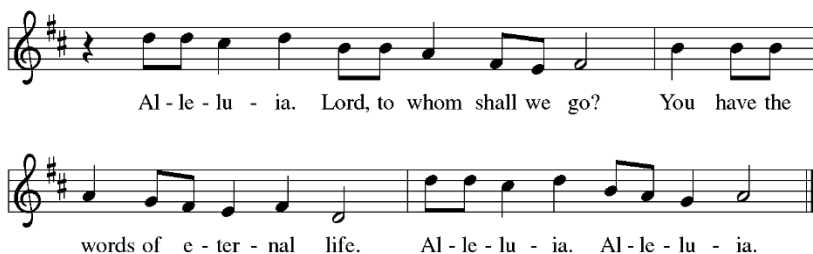
³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the

prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION setting 3 p142

Please stand as you are able.



The Gospel according to Matthew the third chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

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

YOUTH TALK

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 459 Wade in the Water

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *We will say the response together.*

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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: Bless the Lord O My Soul *by Matt Redman*

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before, O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1:

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ:
our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit
with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope;
the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: ELW Setting 3 pg 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 SONGS: ELW 396 Spirit of Gentleness
ELW 423 Shall We Gather at the River**

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: ELW 551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

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

POSTLUDE: Down to the River to Pray *by Allison Krauss*

**The bulletins are dedicated in memory Jim Swartz by Nancy
Swartz & 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

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

Family Promise Volunteers Needed January 11-18, 2026.

We are still in need of a few drivers for Monday- PM, Friday AM and a host for Saturday. If you can help with this, please sign up on the following link. <https://tinyurl.com/FPJanuary>

Altar Guild Volunteers

We are looking for people who are willing to help prepare communion, altar and banners as needed. Please contact Molly or Sharon if you are willing to volunteer.

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

Meals on Wheels
Family Promise
Summer Fun & Lunch

contact Don Hossler
contact Pr Molly Haggerty
June-Aug

Community Partners

Hope Academy PA
MAHS Life Skills students
Middletown Area Library
Middletown School District
Women, Infants & Children
Amanda Ruzansky Counseling
Lower Susquehanna Synod
Middletown Borough

Mon-Fri
Mon-Thurs
Summer Fun
Summer Fun
Mon-Fri
by appointment

ST. PETER'S STAFF

Everyone Serving and Caring for Others

Rev. Molly Haggerty
Shannon Kelly
Bennett Williams
Shannon Kelly
Hope Pankake
Sharon Beard
John Ponnett
Kendra Darrah
Andy Wren

Pastor
Coordinator of TOGETHER
Coordinator of Music
Office Administration
Visitation Chaplain
Coord. of Congregational Care
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Council President

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