

**First Sunday of Advent
November 27th, 2022
Holy Communion**



Introduction

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

***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

November 27th, 2022

Preaching/Presiding

Pr Molly Haggerty

Reader:

Bennett Williams

Musician(s):

Spirit and Truth

Masks are optional.

We ask that if you are not feeling well you worship from home via Facebook Live or listen to the service on WMSS 91.1FM.

We give thanks for your patience during this continued Covid season in your continued care for the health and safety of all.

PRELUDE: Oh, How Shall We Get Ready?

To the tune of All Glory, Laud, and Honor ELW 344

OH HOW SHALL WE GET READY

Chorus: Oh, how shall we get ready what carols shall we sing?
For Christmas day is coming the birthday of our king.

Verse 1: The candles lit for Advent The banners have been hung
The tree is decorated the lights have all been strung.

Chorus: Oh, how shall we get ready what carols shall we sing?
For Christmas day is coming the birthday of our king.

Verse 2: The children are excited they can't contain their joy
For Jesus brings His presence to every girl and boy to every girl
and boy.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENT

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING SONG: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
ELW 265 v 1, 3, 4

GREETING AND RESPONSE

The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

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

As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.

Enlighten us with your grace,

And prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

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

Amen.

Light One Candle [verse 1]

ELW 240

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.**

He shall bring salvation to Israel.

God fulfills the promise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,

Forgive us, when in our full and busy days we fail to share your love and grace with those around us.

Forgive us, when we fail to focus on the person speaking to us.

Forgive us, when we pass a neighbor and do not acknowledge them.

Forgive us, when we fail to share the bounty you have given us with those in need.

Forgive us and guide us Lord, as we continue to live and grow into the people you are forming us to be.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

KYRIE

ELW page 184 (Setting 8)

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

The Psalm will be read responsively.

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of
the LORD.**

For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW PAGE 188 (Setting 8)

The Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you O, Lord

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the

Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers ELW 244
1, 2, & 4**

Please be seated for the prayers.

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God,

Receive our prayers.

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Let us share the peace with each other with a wave or a smile.
For those listening at home please share grace and peace with those around
you, or call or text someone.*

Please be seated.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We are an Offering ELW 692

+OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PREFACE

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

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: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord ELW 190

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

**and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.

Come to the banquet.

Please be seated & come forward for Holy Communion as directed by our ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion the pastor will come to you.

COMMUNION SONGS

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257

Awake My Soul by Mumford and Sons

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in true faith to everlasting life. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy,

bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.

Guide us toward your promised future,

coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; have courage; hold fast to

what is good; do no one evil for evil; strengthen the

fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all

people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the

Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Standing is optional

SENDING SONG: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness
ELW 251 v 1, 2, & 3

DISMISSAL:

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

POSTLUDE: Wake Me Up *by Avicii*

Dedications are available. Please contact the church office.

Awake My Soul

By Mumford and Sons

How fickle my heart and how woozy my eyes
I struggle to find truth in a world of lies
And now my heart stumbles on things I don't know
My weakness I feel I must finally show
Lend me your hand and we'll conquer them all
But lend me your heart and I'll just let you fall
Lend me your eyes I can change what you see
But your soul you must keep, totally free
Awake my soul Awake my soul
How fickle my heart and how woozy my eyes
I struggle to find truth in a world of lies
And now my heart stumbles on things I don't know
My weakness I feel I must finally show

In these bodies we will live, in these bodies we will die
And where you invest your love, you invest your life
In these bodies we will live, in these bodies we will die
And where you invest your love, you invest your life
Awake my soul
Awake my soul
Awake my soul
For you were made to meet your maker
Awake my soul
Awake my soul
Awake my soul
For you were made to meet your maker
You were made to meet your maker.

Wake Me Up

By Anicii

Feeling my way through the darkness
Guided by a beating heart
I can't tell where the journey will end
But I know where to start
They tell me I'm too young to understand
They say I'm caught up in a dream
Well life will pass me by if I don't open up my eyes
Well that's fine by me
So wake me up when it's all over
When I'm wiser and I'm older
All this time I was finding myself, and I
Didn't know I was lost

So wake me up when it's all over
When I'm wiser and I'm older
All this time I was finding myself, and I
Didn't know I was lost
I tried carrying the weight of the world
But I only have two hands
Hope I get the chance to travel the world
But I don't have any plans
Wish that I could stay forever this young
Not afraid to close my eyes
Life's a game made for everyone
And love is a prize
So wake me up when it's all over
When I'm wiser and I'm older
All this time I was finding myself, and I
Didn't know I was lost
So wake me up when it's all over
When I'm wiser and I'm older
All this time I was finding myself, and I
I didn't know I was lost
I didn't know I was lost
I didn't know I was lost

ST. PETER'S NEWS

November 27th, 2022

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen Mrakovich (2), Brayden Erickson (3), Alan Crogle (4),
Doris Arnold (6), Dylan Grim (7), Joyce Rissmiller (7),
Thelma Thomas (7), Nathan Barnhart (8), Margaret Easton
(8), Marianne Moore (8), Albert Crogle (11), Donna Elberti
(14), Martin Hahn Jr. (15), Saoirse Denardo (17), Elaina
Green (17), Walter Jorich (22), Nancy Beard (25), Lenda
Evans (26), Thomas Staub (27), Lois Brandt (28).
If we have missed your birthday, please let Molly know and

we will get you added to our list.

HARRISBURG GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus is performing a free Holiday concert here at St. Peter's! Please join us Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The concert will feature a prelude by renowned organist, Jeffrey Smith. Founded in 1987, the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus serves the central Pennsylvania region by delivering a distinctive brand of enjoyable entertainment that's suitable for the entire family.

FAMILY PROMISE

St. Peter's is dedicated to showing Christ's love to neighbors nearby and far away. Our church is a host site for Family Promise- Renewed in Grace- once each quarter. Three families in need will enter our church at 6pm, be fed a nutritious dinner, rest in the Sunday School wing and leave at 7am with prepared breakfasts. Volunteers are needed to serve these families during the week. Please Contact Pastor Molly or Sharon if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity!

ADVENT DAY APART

Saturday, December 3rd from 9am-2pm, please join us at the Wittel Farm for a day of prayer and meditation in preparation of the birth of the Christ child. The registration fee is \$15, which includes lunch, Please register by November 18th by calling 717-677-8211 or online at www.LutheranCamping.org

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Pastor Chad Butz has organized a young adults' group. The next meeting is Monday, November 28th at 7pm at Tattered Flag. Feel free to stop by! If you, or someone you know is interested in joining the group, learning more, or getting on the mailing list, email Pastor Chad Butz at: cbutz678@gmail.com

CARE-A-VAN

Do you occasionally have some open spots in your week? Please consider helping the Interfaith Care-a-Van transport service for our community. Drivers can volunteer for whatever works for their individual schedule. When a request is made, volunteers are emailed and can choose the calls that fit into their plans for the week or month. You do not need to commit to cover a day or week on a regular basis. If your plans change, one of our other drivers can step in to cover your assignment. The Care-a-Van riders are so appreciative of all the volunteers that help them get to medical appointments, food shopping, and other essential locations. You can view the riders' location, destination and trip details in advance before you accept the date. Please offer some time if you are able to this needed community service. You can call 717-743-0788 to volunteer as a driver.

GIVING TREE and MITTEN TREE

Ornaments with a child's wish list will be on the Giving Tree. All presents should be wrapped and returned by December 15th. Starting November 20th, please bring in hats and mittens for our Mitten Tree!

DONATIONS NEEDED

Our church is sponsoring a family of refugees from the Republic of Congo. The Ilunga family has 13 members! They are in need of household items, furnishings, bedding, and gift cards for Giant, Walmart, and Target. Please contact Pastor Molly or Dave Brown if you would like to help in any capacity.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month:

Diana Arnold, George Fuoti, Daratha Gilligbauer, Kathleen Shuton, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, Maillo Chavez, Lucinda Sheaffer, Glenn Evans, Anna Herr, and Dorothy Murphy, Mary Houser, Ruby Mabee, and Mae and Brenda Stum

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers.
Karen Ainsley, Fred Harris, Ida Kramer, Anna Raffensburger,
Betty Wise, and Tina Polito

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

Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez,
Hunter Magaro, John Pappas, Corbin Stetler, Colton Stone,
Aaron Williams

DAUPHIN COUNTY OFFICE OF THE AGING

The Dauphin County Office of the Aging provides a well-balanced hot lunch meal for delivery to residents of Dauphin County. To request home delivered meals, please contact the Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging at (717) 780-6130. St. Peter's is responsible to deliver the meals the months of June and December.

Dec 5-9- Carol and Mart Hahn

Dec, 12 -16- Barb and Allen Jacobs

Dec. 19-23-Gail and Don Hossler

Dec. 26-30-Ella, Kristie,Landon and Miles Young

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

will be on the 1st Sunday of every month. Non-perishable food items and personal care items are needed. You can bring food donations to the church throughout the week and place in the Food Pantry wagon.

SEWING CIRCLE

The Sewing Circle is in need of lightweight blankets and sheets. If you can donate these items please place on the table in the North Narthex. The Sewing Circle meets each Tuesday from 9-noon. If you are interested in helping (cutting patches, sewing patches, tying quilts) please stop by the sewing room on Tuesday. For more information see Mary Lingle or Karen

Hahn

DEDICATIONS-

If you would like to dedicate altar flowers or the bulletins in memory or honor of someone or an occasion the following dates are available:

Bulletins (\$15), Altar Flowers (\$20)

Dedications sheets are available on the windowsill of the office.

Bulletins – November 27th

Bulletins – December 4th

Bulletins – December 18th

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS

Please see the Advent and Christmas Dedications form outside the church office and on the table in the north narthex. Please choose which dedication(s) you prefer and complete the necessary information. Check should be made payable to St. Peter's Church. Dedications should be received by December 11th, 2022.

- Decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias Christmas Eve \$10
- Dedicate a wreath for the main church door \$25
- Dedicate a wreath for the Kierch doors \$25

TREE 4 HOPE

Join Tree 4 Hope on December 2nd from 6:30-9:30pm at Historic Acres of Hershey (3425 Old Hershey Rd, Elizabethtown, PA 17022) for its second annual Beer 4 Hope Charity Beer Release and Holiday Party! A free will donation at the door gets you in for great food, great music, great beer, and a great cause. All proceeds go to support the construction of Hope Academy's second floor. Be sure to wear your nicest (or ugliest!) Christmas sweater.

MIDDLETOWN HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, December 10th

Come enjoy a variety of Holiday music and stories in Dauphin County's oldest church. Sant Peter's Kierch is located on Union and High Streets built in 1769 and dedicated by Henry Muhlenburg. The Interfaith Council and St Peter's Lutheran Church is hosting an afternoon of holiday entertainment and stories about the history of the church and the many ways the holidays are celebrated in our community. Although connected with the Holiday Tour, no ticket or entrance fee will be required at the Kierch which is open from 1-4. There is a \$15 fee for the House Tour.

FILL The STABLE

Through the ELCA Good Gifts and Lutheran World Relief, animals will be purchased and provided to families in need. These animals will provide these families with food, funds, and fertilizer- all for a better future. Donations of \$10 or more are being collected and animals will be purchased through ELCA Good Gifts of Lutheran World Relief depending on the cost of each animal and the amount collected. Please fill out the form in the narthex or by the church office by December 11th.

ST. PETER'S STAFF

Everyone Serving and Caring for Others

Rev. Molly Haggerty	Pastor
Alex Mabee	Coordinator of TOGETHER
Bennett Williams	Coordinator of Music
Jen Joyce	Coordinator of Office Administration
Dan Kemper	Coordinator of Communication
Jade Lesisko	Office Intern
John Ponnett	Treasurer
Kendra Darrah	Financial Secretary
Stephanie Ponnett	Council President

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am. – noon. Monday – Thursday

The Church Office will be closed for Labor Day, 9/5/22

(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

WMSS 91.1FM broadcasts our service at 11am.

Watch the service live (10am) on our FACEBOOK page-

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Middletown, PA