

The Fishnet

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hilltown, PA
November 2023**

Although masks are not required, the use of masks during Services is up to the attendee.

In addition to "in-person" worship, Services are viewable live each Sunday morning on St. Peter's Facebook page and on St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hilltown, PA YouTube page after the Service.



November is the month for giving thanks. Thanksgiving Day, of course, is Thursday, November 23. In his First Letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul exhorts us, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (5:18).

Several years ago, I signed up to receive daily meditations from the Henri Nouwen

Society. Not long ago, one in particular caught my attention. In it, Henri Nouwen reflects on the meaning of "the grateful life." He writes, "How can we live a truly grateful life? When we look back at all that has happened to us, we easily divide our lives into good things to be grateful for and bad things to forget. But, with a past thus divided, we cannot move freely into the future. With many things to forget, we can only limp toward the future.

"True spiritual gratitude embraces all of our past, the good as well as the bad events, the joyful as well as the sorrowful moments. From the place where we stand, everything that took place brought us to this place, and we want to remember all of it as part of God's guidance. That does not mean that all that happened in the past was good, but it does mean that even the bad didn't happen outside the loving presence of God . . . Once all of our past is remembered in gratitude, we are free to be sent into the world to proclaim good news to others." henrinouwen.org

My family and I wish you a blessed month of November, a Happy Thanksgiving, and fruitful moments of reflection on living the grateful life.

Pastor Raymond Miller

Looking Ahead to December

Whether we believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner. The First Sunday in Advent is **December 3**.

As we have done in the past, we are offering three Services of Evening Prayer, all at 7:00 p.m., on the Wednesdays in Advent. These services will be offered “in person” or by livestream. If you are unable to attend “in person,” we extend a special invitation to join us by livestream. These services promise to enhance your observation of the holiday season. With that in mind, we have selected topics of holiday interest for each Wednesday in Advent.

December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day. That evening, we will consider the true story of Saint Nicholas from the perspective of children, through the telling of an original story titled “Who’s the Real Santa Claus?”

On **December 13**, we tell a story that originated in Mexico, “The Legend of the Poinsettia,” explaining how the poinsettia became a prominent decoration during the holiday season. Meet two Mexican children, Pepita and Pedro. Did you know that December 12 is *National Poinsettia Day*?

On **December 20**, as we did last year, we conclude our Wednesday Advent observance with a Swedish tradition known as the Lucia Fest. Join us as we visit a modern Swedish-American home on the eve of St. Lucy’s Day, which is actually December 13. Meet St. Lucy and her court.

Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we are offering only one service on Sunday, December 24. Join us for St. Peter’s Festive Service of Christmas at 3:00 p.m.

On Sunday, **December 31**, we will offer a Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)

October 29	9:00 am - Service of Confirmation/Reformation Sunday Be sure to wear something red for Reformation Sunday!
November 5	9:00 am - All Saints Sunday
November 7	Election Day – church office closed
November 23	Thanksgiving Day – church office closed
December 3	9:00 am - 1 st Sun in Advent
“	10:00 am - Congregational Meeting following Service
December 6	7:00 pm - Midweek Advent Service: St. Nicholas story

All Saints Sunday, November 5

During the Sunday, November 5 Service we remember all the saints who have gone before us, along with baptisms during the past year.

If you would like to list the name of a loved one in the November 5 bulletin insert, please contact the church office by phone or email before Wednesday, November 1. Include the person’s name, relationship to you, and date of death.

Tribute to Veterans

St. Peter’s will celebrate Veterans Day on Sunday, November 12 by special prayer during the Service.

Holiday Concert

Bill Gottshall will provide a Holiday Concert on Sunday afternoon, December 10 at St. Peter’s.. Details will follow in the December newsletter.

Volunteer Cookie Bakers Needed

The Lutheran Community at Telford Auxiliary is hosting a Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00am until 1:00pm (it may end earlier if sold out).

In order to have a wide variety of Christmas cookies to choose from, they hope to have five or more volunteers from each congregation bake their favorite Christmas cookies.

Please let Donna Snyder (267-203-8552 or campsnyder@hotmail.com) know if you will participate in this fun and profitable project for the Lutheran Community at Telford.

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee is actively seeking input from the Saint Peter's congregation on where we can most effectively use some of St. Peter's Memorial funds.

Each quarter the Memorial Committee will offer a general area of interest, such as The Environment, First Responders/ Military, Animal Shelters, etc. We will then ask for the congregation's specific suggestions on where the donations from St. Peter's may best be used. These general areas are meant to spark ideas for the use of funds, and as always, we would always welcome requests for the use of Memorial Funds outside of the quarterly areas of interest. The committee will then view and explore the requests for recommendation to the Council.

Thank you. We look forward to making this a Congregational Project for the betterment of our Church, Community, and World.

Canned and dry goods for FISH

Canned and dry goods donations may be placed in the marked receptacle under the mail boxes in the hallway.

Food larders are receiving less donations but have more people than ever needing the larder's support. Please help – a can here, a box of cereal there: Every little bit helps.

Even if you're unable to attend Sunday Service, someone is in the church office Monday through Thursday mornings. Just ring the doorbell.

AUDITIONS FOR 2024 SHOW CRAZY FOR YOU

Laymen Playmen is proud to present for its 36th production of the Broadway musical, **CRAZY FOR YOU** (music and Lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin, book by Ken Ludwig).

Crazy for You is a romantic comedy set in the 1930's which tells the story of a New York banker who is sent to Deadrock, Nevada to foreclose on a rundown theater. Of course, he falls in love with the theater owner's daughter and the story revolves around them and saving the theater.

Auditions will be held at Lansdale United Methodist Church, 300 North Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 on Thursday, November 9th from 7:00pm- 9:30pm and Saturday, November 11th from 10:00am–12:00 noon. All ages welcome. Additional audition information can be found on www.laymenplaymen.org. Please note change in location for auditions.

Show dates for 2024 are April 19-21 and April 26-28.

There will also be an opportunity to learn some dancing! Two "Dance Workshops" will be held on Sunday, October 15th at 6:00pm and Monday, October 16th at 7:00pm at Lansdale United Methodist Church. No tap shoes or sneakers for these sessions- regular dress or character shoes are acceptable. Registration is required for these sessions. Information can be found at www.laymenplaymen.org.

For further questions, please contact Charla Bendas at cbendas2001@gmail.com.

Anti-Racism Education for Lay and Rostered Participants

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Anti-Racism Team announces a new offering of anti-racism education, this time for both lay and rostered participants. This session begins with an introduction, via Zoom, on **Monday, Nov. 6** at 7 p.m. Modules outlining the historical context of the systemic racism embedded in our current institutions are on-demand online. The series concludes with an all-day gathering at the Brossman Center on Saturday, Feb. 3. **Register by November 2** at antiracism@sepa.org.

Christmas Decoration



Fund



Please consider making a donation to the Christmas Decoration Fund this season. Your donation will be used to purchase items such as flowers (poinsettias), candles, etc...) that will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the holiday season. On the form below, please indicate who the donation is in honor/memory of, your name(s), and if you would like a poinsettia to take home with you. Please return the forms to Sue in the church office no later than Thursday, December 8th. Thank you!

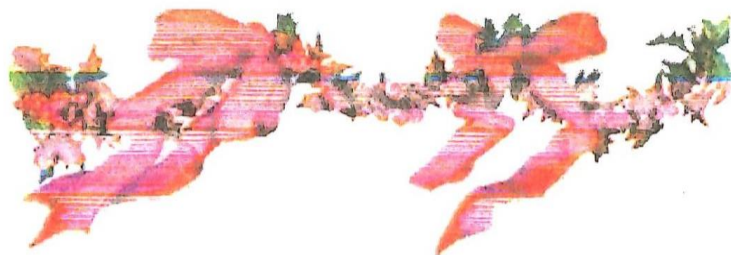
Name(s) _____

In memory / honor of _____

(circle one)

Donation Amount (circle one): \$10 \$15 \$20 other \$ _____

I would like to take a poinsettia home with me ___ YES _____ NO



Congregational Staff

- **Rev. Raymond Miller, Sr. Pastor** 215-822-9108
stpeterslc@comcast.net
 - **Sue Fellman Jacob, Parish Administrator** 215-822-9108
stpeterslc@comcast.net
 - **Laurel Tackett, Organist**
 - **Bill Gottshall, Keyboard**
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St. Peter's Congregational Council

Rick Daubert, President (term ends: December 2023) 2nd Term

Diane Gall, Vice-President (term ends: December 2023) 2nd Term

Scott Fischer, Secretary (term ends: December 2025) 2nd Term

Ken Shanks, Treasurer

Lisa Bell (term ends: December 2024) 1st Term

Lori Groves (term ends: December 2025) 1st Term

Karin Rebnegger (term ends: December 2024) 1st Term

Dave Reice (term ends: December 2025) 1st Term

Judy Smith (term ends: December 2024) 1st Term



PRAYER CONCERNS as of October, 2023

(* = new addition to list)

God's Protection and Safety:

On all who drive buses, trains & planes. For all the service men & women especially:

Petty Officer First Class Abigail L. Gall, US Coast Guard, daughter of Diane & Chris Gall

CAPT. Walker Gall, US Air Force, son of Diane & Chris Gall

God's Healing:

Parishioners: Wally Simpkins, Heather Jerasa, Eleanor Peitzman, Dave Leslie, Ron Beerkircher, Brian Blackburn, Joan Gerhart, June Bair, Sheryl Gladfelter, Reed Jerasa, Janet Owens, Don Jerasa, Kim Jerasa, Jim Lynch, Sharon Senigo, Mary Ettore, Sandie Driscoll.

God's Healing:

Friends and family:

Bill Treichler (brother of Hope Garrett & Shirley Treichler), Diana Christianson (niece of Elaine, BBLC), Helene Bell (mother of Lou Bell), Denise Sanders (friend of Deb Detweiler), Patti Stover (coworker of Deb Detweiler), David Hallman (friend of Rita Bixler), Judy Johnson (daughter of Marv & Betty Rohrs), Tammy Owens (daughter-in-law of Janet Owens), Rev. Erika Wesch, Adele Hodgman (cousin of Pastor Miller), Rhelda Warriner (sister of Rita Bixler), Sue Warfield (friend of Donna Blackburn), Lindsey Hollingswoth (niece of Lori Groves), Rochelle Fly (friend of Rita Bixler), Caitlin(Cate) Fishman (relative of Lori Groves), Jean Scull (Rev. June Bair's future mother-in-law), Jane Hastings (friend of Deb Detweiler), Jim Trucksess (nephew of Donna Blackburn), Ann Sellers (Pastor Miller's mother-in-law), David Yarns (brother of Tammy Daubert), Kay Moyer (friend of Hope Garrett), Danni Tyrrel (great-niece of Kim Jerasa), Terri Lewis (cousin of Lori Lewis), Terri Jewett-Larkin (sister of Patti Dowse), Aidan Drakeley (Carol Barringer's grandson), Beverly Goheen (sister of Maureen Simpkins), George Yarns (father of Tammy Daubert), Pat Daubert (sister of Rick Daubert).

God's Comfort & Peace:

For our homebound members: **Joe Haenn and Ethel Geist** (Lutheran Community at Telford), **Esther Saylor and Tillie Murray** (Hidden Meadows on the Ridge).

God's Grace for the Family & Friends who mourn the death of:

*Larry Donis (uncle of Lori Lombardo), +Janet Nebhut, Elsie Stoud (Deb Detweiler's sister), +Norm Geist, Herb Brenner (brother -in-law of Laurel Tackett), Melanie Lewis (sister-in-law of Lori Lombardo), +Julia Detweiler, Mary A Reice (mother of Dave Reice), Robert Bell (father of Lou Bell), Mary Palko (sister of John Snyder), +Ted Fickert.

[+indicates a member of St. Peter's. Names will stay on the printed list for 1 year]

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9 am Worship Service – All Saints Sunday	6	7 Election Day Church office closed	8	9	10	11
12 9 am Worship Service – Veterans commemoration	13 7 pm Worship & Music meeting	14	15	16 Newsletter input due	17	18
19 9 am Worship Service	20 7 pm Council meeting	21	22 Newsletter mailed	23 Thanksgiving Day Church office closed	24	25
26 9am Worship	27	28	29	30		

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – November 2023

Date	Time	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture/ Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
Nov 5 All Saints Sunday	9:00 am	D & S Texter	L Lombardo	L Groves	S Fischer	P Abaza	D & S Texter	J Snider & S Davenport
Nov 12	9:00 am	S & E Rebnegger	Lisa Bell	N Driscoll	Lou Bell	P Tackett	R Bixler & L Lombardo	P Dowse & N Driscoll
Nov 19	9:00 am	J & J Gerhart	E Park	F Park	J Smith	S Fischer	K Park & L Ertel	D & S Texter
Nov 26	9:00 am	J & D Snyder	P Dowse	D Gall	J Snider	Lou Bell	P Dowse & E Rebnegger	R Bixler & J Smith
Dec 3 1 st Sunday in Advent	9:00 am	D & S Texter	L Lombardo	P Abaza	L Ertel	P Abaza	P Abaza & E Rebnegger	J Snider & S Davenport

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you are unable to participate on your scheduled Sunday, please call one of the other individuals on the list and arrange to switch dates.