

The Fishnet

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hilltown, PA
December 2025/January 2026



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

Pastor’s Message

This issue of St. Peter’s Fish Net will cover a two-month period, combining December 2025 and January 2026.

December and January constitute a special time of the year for us as Christians. We begin with Advent, move through Christmas, and conclude with Epiphany; all three are known as the “candled” seasons of the church year.

These two months are also a busy time of the year for many of us. Yes, they are joyful but they are also stressful. Shopping, selecting the right gifts, wrapping, decorating, baking, cooking, concert-going, traveling, anticipating time spent with family, oh my! All of these activities take their emotional toll, and I am sure that I have left some things out. The pace is challenging.

A crucial part of the Christmas story is that, when Mary was about ready to give birth, “there was no place for [the holy family] in the inn” (Luke 2:7). Have you ever had such an experience? As human beings, we long for that place that we can call home; we long for shelter and safety. God provides that place for us. There is always room with God.

As we face the busyness of the coming months, may we pause and make room for God! I say this not to add one more thing to our busy schedules but to remind us that God loves us in the midst of our busyness. The world around us tells us again and again, "Don't just sit there; do something." God offers a counter message: "Don't just do something; sit there." God invites us to sit with him and find peace.

Joy to You and to the World! Christ is born.

Pastor Raymond Miller

Of Ongoing Note

We **worship every Sunday** at 9:00 a.m. with coffee hour afterwards. Invite family members and friends to join us.

Because of the rapidly declining inventory of food at our local food banks, we are making a **special appeal for donations of canned goods and non-perishable food items**. You may place your donation in or near the plastic bin on the table in the narthex. Your donations will be delivered to Pennridge FISH in Perkasié.

Coming Up in December

Plan to attend the **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, December 7, immediately following the morning worship service. On the agenda is the election of Congregation Council members, the presentation of the 2026 budget, and the consideration of a series of constitutional amendments.

St. Peter's **Christmas Putz** returns this month and is available for viewing on three Sundays, December 7, 14, and 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Bill Gottshall's students and guest musicians will provide a **Holiday Recital** on Sunday, December 7, beginning at 3:00 p.m. A wide variety of instruments and melodies will be featured. No tickets are required.

Happy hands and willing hearts are needed to assist with **Christmas Decorating** on Sunday, December 21, immediately following the morning worship service.

Invite your family and friends to join us as we gather for our festive **Christmas Eve Service** with Carols and Communion on Wednesday, December 24, at 3:00 p.m.

We continue our celebration of Christ's birth with a **Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 28, at 9:00 a.m.

Coming Up in January & February

We conclude our **Adult Study** on *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* with one-hour sessions on Sundays, January 4 and 11, beginning around 10:30 a.m. in the Apostles Room. Our topics are *The Body of Christ: Church and Holy Spirit* (January 4) and *The End of All Things: Eschatology* (January 11).

The Congregation Council has scheduled the **annual Congregational Meeting** for Sunday, February 8, immediately following the morning worship service. The snow date is February 15.

The **Ash Wednesday Service** is February 18 at 7:00 p.m. Lent begins early this year.

Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)

| | |
|-------------|--|
| November 27 | Thanksgiving Day – church office closed |
| November 30 | 9:00 am Service – 1 st Sunday in Advent |
| December 3 | 7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service |
| December 7 | 9:00 am Service – 2 nd Sunday in Advent |
| “ | Congregational mtg after Service |
| December 7 | 3:00 pm Music recital by Bill Gottshall |
| December 10 | 7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service |
| December 14 | 9:00 am Service – 3 rd Sunday in Advent |
| December 17 | 7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service |
| December 21 | 9:00 am Service – 4 th Sunday in Advent |
| December 24 | 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service |
| December 28 | 9:00 am Lessons and Carols Service |
| January 4 | 9:00 am Service |
| “ | 10:30am Adult Study:The Body of Christ |
| January 11 | 9:00 am Service |
| “ | 10:30 am Adult Study:The End of All Things |
| January 18 | 9:00 am Service |
| January 25 | 9:00 am Service |

Newsletters

December/January is a combined newsletter. The next newsletter will be sent the end of January. The bulletin is always your “go to” source of upcoming events.

Church office hours

The Parish Administrator is in the office on Monday and Wednesday from 9am to 2pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 11:30am.

Music Recital

The December holiday recital, offered to all by Bill Gottshall, will be held Saturday, December 7 at 3:00pm. If past recitals are any indication, this is one not to be missed!!

As always, a wide range of music, musical instruments, and talented individuals will perform. It's a wonderful afternoon to get you in the Christmas mood and dispel pre-holiday stress.

FISH continues to need canned and dry goods



Canned and dry goods donations continue to be needed by FISH. Please help! A bin for donations is in the Narthex. If the church isn't open, place your donation in the bin outside the front doors. The items will be taken indoors before nightfall.

The photo is the first week's worth of donations which totaled 132 lbs! The second week provided 120 lbs. Let's keep up the good work.

FISH asks, whenever possible that your donation(s) come in a carton as the bags tear too easily. Thanks!

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Invites You to Visit Our Christmas Putz



Christmas Putz:

The Putz (pronounced *pootz*), rooted in the Moravian tradition, is a depiction of the story of Jesus' birth. It is more than a nativity scene. It is the Gospel in miniature form from Mary's annunciation to the visits of the Shepherds and Wise Men to the flight into Egypt to save baby Jesus from King Herod's murderous soldiers. It tells the story of the Nativity through music and small illuminated scenes nestled among moss, rocks, sand, and driftwood.



The 2025 Putz will be available for viewing for
3 Sundays from **10:00AM-2:00PM. December 7, 14, 21**
Free, light refreshments will be served.

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias are ready for your order.

The order form is on the next page.

The orders are needed in the church office on or before December 8 (Monday).

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 church for the Christmas season. On the form below, please write your name, the name(s) of who the donation is in honor/memory of and indicate if you wish to take a Poinsettia home with you. Please place the form and your donation in the offering plate or return to Sue in the church office no later than Monday, December 8th.

Name _____

In memory/honor of (circle one)

Donation amount: \$10 \$15 \$20 other\$
(Circle one)

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





Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

Friday December 12th from 2pm to 8pm

Saturday December 13th from 8am to 2pm

BASKET RAFFLE

RUMMAGE SALE

CRAFTS

PRAYER CONCERNS as of November 30

(* = new addition to list)

Prayer Concerns – November 30

[* - new addition]

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: Leroy Gladfelter, Bill Gottshall, Sheryl Gladfelter, Spencer Butterwick, Kim Jerasa, Dave Reice, Heather Jerasa, Eleanor Peitzman, June Bair, Reed Jerasa, Don Jerasa, Jim Lynch, Mary Ettore.

God's Healing:

Friends and family:

Brian Blackburn, Sr., Brendan Rush (grandson of Norm Driscoll), Vicki Matott (Deb Detweiler friend), The Charlotte Hacker (sister-in-law of Jerry & Joan Gerhart), Franz Grove (friend of Donna Blackburn), Jean Mood (friend of Janet Owens), Robyn Gulick (granddaughter of Janet Owens), Jim Fryling (Jerry & Joan Gerhart's cousin), Tom Korbas (Jerry & Joan Gerhart's brother-in-law), Marlon Cortolean (Deb Detweiler's friend), Emily Kuykendall (Bev Gottshall's daughter), Heidi Beason, Rochelle Fly, and Ruth Miller (friends of Rita Bixler), Shirley Treichler (Hope Garrett's sister), Rich Welsh and John Moll (Wally Simpkins' friends), Keith Lewis (Lori Lombardo's brother), Tessa Bair (June Bair's granddaughter), Butch Trucksess (Donna Blackburn's brother-in-law), Bill Treichler (Hope Garrett's brother), David Hallman (Rita Bixler's friend), Judy Johnson (Marv & Betty Rohrs' daughter), Tammy Owens (Janet Owens' daughter-in-law), Rhelda Warriner (Rita Bixler's sister), Lindsey Hollingsworth (Lori Groves' niece), Caitlin (Cate) Fishman (Lori Groves' relative), Jim Trucksess (Donna Blackburn's nephew), Ann Sellers (Pastor Miller's mother-in-law), Kay Moyer (Hope Garrett's friend), Danni Tyrrel (Kim Jerasa's great-niece), Terri Lewis (Lori Lombardo cousin), Terri Jewett-Larkin (Patti Dowse's sister), Aidan Drakeley (Carol Barringer's grandson), Beverly Goheen (Maureen Simpkins' sister), George Yarns (Tammy Daubert's father), Pat Daubert (Rick Daubert's sister).

God's Comfort & Peace:

For our homebound members: **Esther Saylor and Tillie Murray** (Hidden Meadows on the Ridge), **Ethel Geist** (Arden Court, King of Prussia), **Catherine Truesdell** (Lansdale), **Mary Long** (Park Manor, Quakertown).

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

+Joe Haenn, Harold Shisler and Leroy Hagey (John Snyder's cousins), Michael Hardy, +Janet Owens, Dave Yarns (brother of Tammy Daubert), Susan Smolin (daughter of Joan Johnson), Gary Nemec (father of Kelly Florentino, Katie Poust, and Kristine Martin), Paul Hershey (Chris Fellman's father).

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

December 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------------------|---------|--|--|--------|----------|
| Nov 30 1st Sunday in Advent 9 am Worship Service | 1 | 2 | 3 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9 am Worship Service 10am – Cong mtg 10-2 – Holiday Putz 3 pm- Holiday music program | 8 | 9 | 10 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9 am Worship Service 10-2 – Holiday Putz | 15 7 pm Council meeting | 16 | 17 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9 am Worship Service Decorating following Service 10-2 – Holiday Putz | 22 | 23 | 24 3 pm Christmas Eve Service | 25 Church Office closed Merry Christmas!! | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9 am Lessons and Carols Service | 29 | 30 | 31 | Jan 1 Church Office closed | | |

January 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 New Year's Day - Church Office closed Happy New Year!! | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9 am Worship Service 10 am- Adult study | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9 am Worship Service 10 am- Adult study | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9 am Worship Service | 19 7 pm Council meeting | 20 | 24 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 25 9 am Worship Service | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – December 2025

| Date | Time | Usher(s) | Acolyte | Crucifer | Scripture/ Prayer | Server | Altar Guild | Counters |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nov 30 1st Sunday in Advent | 9:00 am Service | D Detweiler | E Park | F Park | J Smith | P Tackett | L Ertel & K Park | |
| Dec 7 2nd Sunday in Advent | 9:00 am Service | D & S Texter | J Snyder | Lisa Bell | K Rebnegger | Lou Bell | P Dowse & E Rebnegger | J Snider & S Davenport |
| Dec 14 3rd Sunday in Advent | 9:00 am Service | S & E Rebnegger | E Park | F Park | J Snider | S Fischer | P Abaza & D Detweiler | |
| Dec 21 4th Sunday in Advent | 9:00 am Service | J & J Gerhart | L Lombardo | D Gall | T Daubert | L Groves | D & S Texter | R Bixler & J Smith |
| Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service | 3:00 pm Service | | | | | | R Bixler & D Detweiler | |
| Dec 28 Lessons & Carols Service | 9:00 am Service | J & D Snyder | J Snyder | Lisa Bell | P Abaza | Lou Bell | L Ertel & K Park | |
| January 4 | 9:00 am Service | D & S Texter | D Seward | J Seward | J Smith | P Abaza | P Dowse & E Rebnegger | K Rebnegger & N Driscoll |

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – January 2026

| Date | Time | Usher(s) | Acolyte | Crucifer | Scripture/ Prayer | Server | Altar Guild | Counters |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dec 28 | 9:00 am Service | J & D Snyder | J Snyder | Lisa Bell | P Abaza | Lou Bell | L Ertel & K Park | |
| January 4 | 9:00 am Service | D & S Texter | D Seward | J Seward | J Smith | P Abaza | P Abaza & D Detweiler | K Rebnegger & N Driscoll |
| January 11 | 9:00 am Service | E & S Rebnegger | L Groves | N Driscoll | L Ertel | S Fischer | D & S Texter | |
| January 18 | 9:00 am Service | J & J Gerhart | D Texter | D Gall | P Tackett | P Tackett | R Bixler & D Detweiler | |
| January 25 | 9:00 am Service | J & D Snyder | E Park | F Park | S Fischer | L Groves | L Ertel & K Park | |
| February 1 | 9:00 am Service | D & S Texter | L Lombardo | J Snyder | K Rebnegger | S Fischer | E Rebnegger | |
| | | | | | | | | |