

The Fishnet

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hilltown, PA
February 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

Lent begins this year in February. **Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent, is **February 18**. We invite you to gather with your sisters and brothers in Christ for the **Service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes** that evening at 7:00. Invite your family members, friends, and neighbors.

While Lent, for some, may be an uncomfortable time, it provides an auspicious opportunity for us to nurture our spiritual lives. "Lent offers a beautiful opportunity to discover the mystery of Christ within us," wrote the late Henri Nouwen, whose writings are places where I find inspiration. "It is a gentle but also demanding time. It is a time of solitude but also community, it is a time of listening to the voice within, but also a time of paying attention to other people's needs. It is a time to continuously make the passage to new inner life as well as to life with those around us. When we live Lent attentively and gently, then Easter can truly be a celebration during which the full proclamation of the risen Christ will reverberate into the deepest place of our being."

Lent is a period of 40 days, not counting Sundays, culminating in the celebration of the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. More on our plans for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter worship will come in the March and April newsletters. Easter this year is April 5.

As we begin our Lenten journey together this year, I invite you to consider anew how we may best follow Brother Henri's encouragement: to listen to the voice within and to pay attention to other people's needs.

Grace and peace to you now and always,
Pastor Raymond Miller

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS FEBRUARY 8

St. Peter's constitution mandates two congregational meetings every year: one, in February, designated as "the annual congregational meeting," for the purpose of receiving reports from the congregation's staff, officers, and various ministries; the other, in December, for approving the budget and electing council members.

This year "the annual congregational meeting" is planned for Sunday, February 8, following the morning worship service. We encourage our members to attend. A quorum is necessary for us to conduct business. Also, at this meeting, we will take the required second vote on the constitutional amendments approved at the congregational meeting on December 7, 2025. The texts of these amendments may be found in the Annual Report and have been emailed (or mailed) to members.

The snow date for this meeting is Sunday, February 15.

The **Mardi Gras Brunch and Family Game Day** follows the annual congregational meeting on February 8. Please see the following announcement.

Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)

February 1	9:00 am	Service
February 8	9:00 am	Service
"	10:00 am	Congregational Meeting
	11:00 am	Mardi Gras Brunch & Game Day
February 15	9:00 am	Service
"	10:30 am	Adult Study: The End of All Things
February 18	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
February 22	9:00 am	Service



Mardi Gras Brunch & Family Game Day

"Mardi Gras" a.k.a. "Fat Tuesday" leads up to Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the season of fasting and penitence during the 40 weekdays before Easter.



Please join us for:

- a delicious, church brunch
- fun family games, for all ages
- pre-Lent children's crafts
- please bring family and friends! All are welcome!

Sunday, February 8, 2026 from 11:15-2:00

Snow date: 2/15/2026



**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1530 Augsburg Dr. Hilltown, PA**

Web page:

<https://splchurch.net/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterslhilltown>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHxeO1r4B-5bAw1rljOkdaA/live>



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Changes to Congregation Officers

On January 19, 2026 Lisa Bell was elected President.

Special thanks go to Scott Fischer for his years of service on the Congregation Council and as President.

Elected at the same meeting was Tammy Daubert as Vice-President. Ken Shanks remains Treasurer, Linda Ertel remains Secretary, and Karin Rebnegger is Financial Secretary.

Welcome to Council as a new member is Deb Detweiler. Returning members are Lori Groves, Dave Reice, and Judy Smith.

Please keep all your prayers as they work to make St. Peter's the best it can be.

For a complete list of Congregation Officers and their contact information, please call or email the Church Office.

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.

In the event of snow or ice, she may work from home. Please call the church office (215-822-9108) to verify someone is there before travelling on "weather" days.

Soup Collection continues

The soup collection has been extended through the month of February due to the snow cancellations of in-person Services the last two Sundays of January.

Your donation(s) are so appreciated by the food pantry and by the pantry's clients. Please remember how much a bowl of soup meant during the past couple of weeks of intense cold. Share that memory and the joy a simple bowl of soup brought to you by donating a can or cans to St. Peter's Soup Collection for a client of FISH.

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.

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

Other News and Notes

Trinity Lutheran, Lansdale

Thomas Keeseker, composer and pianist, will be at Trinity, Lansdale on Saturday, February 28th at 3:00 pm to offer a 90-minute concert that will include piano, hymn singing, and poetry. His concert will include Spirituals and Lenten-themed music. A free-will offering that will go to the Trenton Children's Chorus will be collected. Handicap accessible.

Perkasie Mennonite Patchwork Coffeehouse

Bunny Barnes, guitarist, and Russ Rentler, multi-instrumentalist, will perform Saturday, February 21 at 7:30. A portion of the proceeds go to RamPacks, which provides food on weekends and school holidays to children experiencing food insecurity in the Pennridge School District. Admission is \$15 per adult; \$12 for those over 65. Students are \$8 (13 and up) with children up to 12, free – cash at door. Low cost desserts and drinks are available. Handicap accessible.

Save the Date...

Valentine's DAY

Time Travelers Band

Feb. 14, 7:00 PM

for You & Your Date

If you've been to any of my recent gigs, you may have heard me mention that Lisa Gribbin & I have been creating a **Music Mentorship Program for the students who participate in our Musicality Youth Ensemble**. We've been fleshing out a plan and tweaking it during several recent performances. Now we're ready to officially launch it. So what do Influencers do these days?!? **THEY THROW A LAUNCH PARTY!** And that's what we'll be doing.

But because our home base of operations is in a church building, we won't be throwing a wild party; it will be sedate & serene, as if Jane Austen were playing an intimate classic rock show, just for you. And regarding mood enhancers, we won't be offering what you'd have found at a Studio 54 launch party, back in the day. Oh, no! Instead we'll be featuring my drug of choice: sugar!

DESSERT! Oh, Sweet Pastry, how I do love thee! (*I promised you Jane Austen and I'm already delivering on that.*)

So take your person (as they say today) to an Early Bird Special dinner on Valentine's Day and then come have dessert while you listen to our newest show, **"The Many Faces of Love," classic rock love songs that cover the whole range of emotions, from euphoria to heartbreak.** David Byrne & The Talking Heads may not have had time for "lovey dovey," but we'll have an entire evening of it for you!

More details will follow in the coming days. But save February 14 at 7:00 pm for dessert and wonderful music.

Bill Gottshall

PRAYER CONCERNS as of January 25

(* = 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: *Spencer Butterwick, *Pam Abaza, Ed Hardy, June Bair, Leroy Gladfelter, Sheryl Gladfelter, Kim Jeresa, Dave Reice, Heather Jeresa, Reed Jeresa, Don Jeresa, Jim Lynch, Mary Ettore.

God's Healing:

Friends and family:

David Gottshall (Bill Gottshall's brother), Brian Blackburn, Sr., Brendan Rush (grandson of Norm Driscoll), Vicki Matott (Deb Detweiler friend), Charlotte Hacker (sister-in-law of Jerry & Joan Gerhart), Franz Grove (friend of Donna Blackburn), 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), John Moll (Wally Simpkins' friend), 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 Hollingswoth (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 Jeresa'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** (Hidden Meadows on the Ridge), **Ethel Geist** (Arden Court, King of Prussia), **Catherine Truesdell** (Lansdale), **Mary Long** (Park Manor, Quakertown), and **Gene Gugger** (Bridges at Warwick, Jamison).

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

+Tillie Kister Murray, +Eleanor Peitzman, Kathy Shea (cousin of Lori Lombardo), +Joe Haenn, Harold Shisler and Leroy Hagey (John Snyder's cousins), Michael Hardy, +Janet Owens, +Jacob Brombach, Dave Yarns (brother of Tammy Daubert), Susan Smolin (daughter of Joan Johnson), Gary Nemec (father of Kelly Florentino, Katie Poust, and Kristine Martin).

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

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 am Worship Service 10:00 – W& M mtg	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9 am Worship Service 10am – Cong mtg 11am-Cong brunch	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9 am Worship (snow date for Cong mtg) 10:30-Adult Study 3pm - NAFIS	16 7 pm Council meeting	17 7 pm NAFIS	18 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm NAFIS	19 7 pm NAFIS	20 7 pm NAFIS	21 Sunset NAFIS
22 9 am Worship Service 7 pm NAFIS	23 7 pm NAFIS	24 7 pm NAFIS	25 7 pm NAFIS	26 7 pm NAFIS	27 7 pm NAFIS	28 Sunset NAFIS

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – February 2026

Date	Time	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture/ Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
February 1	9:00 am Service	D & S Texter	N Driscoll	J Snyder	K Rebnegger	S Fischer	E Rebnegger	
February 8	9:00 am Service	E & S Rebnegger	Lisa Bell	D Gall	Lou Bell	Lou Bell	P Abaza & D Detweiler	J Smith & R Bixler
February 15	9:00 am Service	Deb Detweiler	D Seward	J Seward	L Ertel	P Tackett	D & S Texter	
February 18 Ash Wed.	7:00 pm Service	J & J Gerhart	P Tackett		P Tackett	P Tackett	E Rebnegger	
February 22	9:00 am Service	D Detweiler	E Park	F Park	T Daubert	P Abaza	R Bixler & D Detweiler	N Driscoll & K Rebnegger
March 1	9:00 am Service	D & S Texter	L Groves	N Driscoll	J Snyder	L Bell	L Ertel & K Park	