

The Fishnet

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hilltown, PA
November 2025



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

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, they name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia! (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn 422, Verse 1)

This year the month of November begins with All Saints Sunday (November 2), works its way through the final Sundays of the Pentecost season (November 9 and 16), makes a year-end hurrah on Christ the King Sunday (November 23), pauses to give thanks on Thanksgiving Day (November 27), and ushers in the Advent season (November 30). That’s a lot to ponder and prepare for!

On All Saints Sunday we give thanks for St. Peter’s “faithful departed” of the past year and for the departed loved ones also of the past year, whose names members of the congregation have caringly submitted. We will do so by reading those names aloud and lighting candles. For some, feelings of grief may re-emerge but that is nothing to be ashamed of. As a community of faith, we are here to love and care for each other as we gather in the promise of Jesus’ resurrection.

On All Saints Sunday we give thanks as I previously mentioned – for the lives of those near and dear to us. By giving thanks, we acknowledge the blessing that God has given us with those precious lives. Now those loved ones have taken their place among “all the saints” and we look forward to the wonderful homecoming that God is creating for all of us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Not long ago my wife Serena introduced me to the *Positivity Challenge*, which invites us to ask ourselves what we are thankful for and to list three things every day for five days. Though the

challenge may seem like simply one more thing to do, it may help us to discover some things about our lives that we have not seen before, especially as we approach Thanksgiving Day. Here is my first-day list of the three things that I am thankful for: (1) I am thankful for the life that God has given me; (2) I am thankful for my wonderful family; and (3) I am thankful for the ministry that God has given me and for the many directions, not of my own planning, that it has taken.

May God abundantly bless all of you this November!

Pastor Raymond Miller

Final Notes: Join us from approximately 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, November 9, 16, and 23, as we continue the **Adult Study** on *Making Sense of the Christian Faith*.

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.

Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)

November 2	9:00 am	Service: All Saints Sunday
November 4	Election Day – church office closed	
November 9	9:00 am	Service
“	10:30 am	Adult Study
November 16	9:00 am	Service
“	10:30 am	Adult Study
November 17	7:00 pm	Church Council meeting
November 23	9:00 am	Service: Christ the King Sunday
“	10:30 am	Adult Study
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

Painted rocks at church entrance

A truly inspiring moment

By Diane Gall

On Sunday October 19, I had the pleasure of meeting 12 interesting Muslim children. I was asked to come up with something the kids could do while their parents were in Dorcas Hall during the “Meet and Greet” with St. Peter’s.

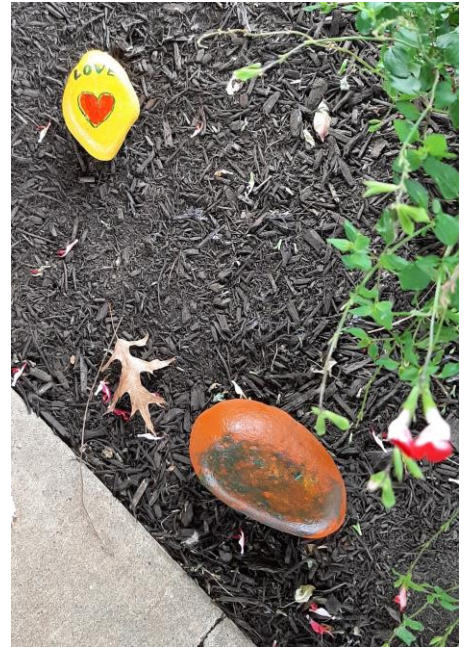
I decided to focus on the subject of “friendship”, because I thought it was appropriate for the occasion, and it is an easy concept for kids to connect with.

I planned to paint rocks that depicted a “friendship” theme, or something that the child thought was special about themselves. Kids never seem to disappoint me and this group was no different. What a varied collection of rocks and artwork! One boy painted 7 rocks by himself. Each one was a collage of every color of paint I had on the table. His sister told him to stop so the other kids could have enough rocks to paint.



Meanwhile, I was enjoying his enthusiasm. When all the rocks were finished and dried, I sprayed a clear sealant on them to preserve the paint and then I scattered them in the garden in our entryway. I wanted them to find their rocks the next time they came to St. Peter's and feel as though they were part of our sharing the building.

Next, I wanted to get the kids up and moving and I found a twist on an old game of "Musical Chairs". Each time the music plays, the kids walk around the chairs. When the music stops, they have to find a seat, however, in the meantime, I removed a chair. The remaining kids had to all fit on the remaining chairs. So, if we had 7 kids, all 7 had to fit on 6 chairs, then all seven on 5 chairs, and so on. No child was ever "out", just the chairs, until we ended up with only one remaining chair and 7 kids trying all to fit on that chair. To liven the game, they only had 5 seconds to share their seats. (To avoid any accidents, I already placed a big armchair in the circle of chairs, and this was always the last remaining chair. Therefore, the possibility was there that all 7 could fit, if they were creative.)



During the first round of play, we were well into the game and only the arm chair remained. As all 7 kids walked around the chair and the music played on, one of the older girls yelled out, "I am 10, I should sit on the bottom and the next oldest should sit on me, and so on until we are all sitting." Another girl shouted, "Well, I am 10 also." There was a brief discussion about when their birthdays were, until they decided that the chair was wide enough for them to sit side by side. "Ok," the second girl said, "who here is 9?" The order of oldest to youngest was finished in lightning speed as the kids were sure the music would stop at any

second. When the music did stop, the older girls sat side by side, and the younger kids piled on top like an orchestrated military exercise. They all fit on the armchair in less than 3 seconds! I was so impressed how they were able to work together to accomplish their goal. No pushing, no arguing, just cooperation and laughter. Needless to say, we played another two rounds. We upped the ante on the last round when we removed the armchair and kept the small yellow Sunday School chair. It got REALLY creative on that round, and still they managed to all fit!



As someone who has spent a lot of time with kids, I must say that this past Sunday was a treat. It was so wonderful to hear a lot of kids' voices at once in the rooms of St. Peter's. I hope we have a long and wonderful relationship with our new friends.

Newsletters

December/January will be a combined newsletter.

If you have information that you'd like to include in the December/January newsletter, please send it to the church office (stpeterslc@comcast.net) or place a hand written note in the church office mailbox before November 18.

The weekly announcement page in 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.

Wreath orders for Christmas

Skip Davenport is taking orders for gorgeous Christmas wreaths for your home or on a gravesite.

Please see Skip for the styles of wreaths available and to place an order.

Music Recital

The December music recital, offered to all by Bill Gottshall, will be held Saturday, December 13 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 our local food pantry.

More than ever, with Federal funding cut to many nonprofits and the ever-increasing rise of simple grocery items, food pantries are challenged to assist those who need additional food and dry goods items.



The holiday season is fast approaching, and so is our chance to make a real difference for our local families in need. **We're collecting Holiday Meal Bags to ensure every family can enjoy a warm, festive meal this season.**

Your generosity can bring comfort and joy to our neighbors, but we need all donations by Thursday, November 6th to ensure our neighbors will receive a holiday meal.

Each Holiday Meal Bag should include non-perishable items for a traditional holiday meal, such as:

- Boxed stuffing mix
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, etc.)
- Gravy (jarred or canned)
- Cranberry sauce
- Boxed dessert mix (brownies, cake, etc.)
- Other shelf-stable holiday meal items

Optional: You can also include a \$10–\$25 grocery store gift card to Giant, Walmart or Aldi, to help families purchase perishable items like turkey or ham.

Donation Deadline: Wednesday, November 6

Drop-off Location: 104 N. Main Street, Souderton

Please consider putting together a bag, or two, or any amount to help spread holiday cheer to families in our community. Every contribution counts!

If you have any questions, contact Kyle Foster at: kfoster@keystoneopp.org

Thank you for your kindness and for helping make this holiday season brighter for everyone.

4H Activities

Below are summer activities in which the two 4H groups that meet at St. Peter's Lutheran are involved.

The photos below are from the "Horsin' Around" group. Their activities and studies focus on horses.



Thanks to Lorriane DeLeo for both sets of photos and for her continued guidance of these young people and their 4H journey.

The photos below are from the “Scales and Tails” 4H group trip to Ringing Rocks. The stream and woods there offered abundant opportunity for reptile and amphibian research and observation.

Scales and Tails have been at the Middletown Grange Fair the past few years. There, they bring some of their pet creatures and animatedly discuss them with the fair goers. Always a delight!



PRAYER CONCERNS as of October 26

(* = 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: 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]

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 All Saints Sunday 9 am Worship Service	3	4 Election Day Church office closed	5	6	7	8
9 9 am Worship Service 10:30 am Adult Study	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9 am Worship Service 10:30 am Adult Study	17 7 pm Council meeting	18 December/January newsletter input due	19	20	21	22 Joe Haenn Funeral 10 am Visitation 11 am Service
23 9 am Worship Service 10:30 am Adult Study	24	25	26 Newsletter mailed	27 Thanksgiving – Church office closed	28	29
30 1st Sunday in Advent 9 am Worship Service						

Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – November 2025

Date	Time	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture/ Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
Nov 2 All Saints Sunday	9:00 am Service	D & S Texter	D Seward	J Seward	L Ertel	P Tackett	P Dowse & E Rebnegger	
Nov 9	9:00 am Service	S & E Rebnegger	L Lombardo	L Groves	J Snider	L Groves	P Abaza & D Detweiler	K Rebnegger & N Driscoll
Nov 16	9:00 am Service	J & D Snyder	N Driscoll	D Gall	L Ertel	P Abaza	D & S Texter	
Nov 23	9:00 am Service	J & J Gerhart	D Seward	J Seward	T Daubert	S Fischer	R Bixler & D Detweiler	D & S Texter
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