

# The Fishnet

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Hilltown, PA  
November 2024**



*(Historic photo from St. Peter's collection)*

*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, at St. Peter's website and on St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hilltown, PA YouTube page after the Service.*

## **Pastor's Message**

"Give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," Paul exhorts the Christians in his Letter to the Ephesians (5:20) – and us too! Yes, we should "give thanks at all times" but, for those of us living in the United States, November is the month in which we observe "a day of thanksgiving," this year November 28. The modern observance of the American Thanksgiving holiday finds its origin in November 1621 among the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts, as they gave thanks with their Native American neighbors for their first harvest. We as a nation have observed "a day of thanksgiving" on and off since 1789, beginning with a proclamation by President George Washington. In 1942 an act of Congress established Thanksgiving Day as the fourth Thursday in November.

The act of thanksgiving, however, ought not be confined to one day. For us, as Christians, to "give thanks at all times" begins with the gratitude that flows out of God's declaration that we are his beloved. Here is what Henri Nouwen wrote about gratitude:

*Gratitude is the most fruitful way of deepening [our] consciousness that [we] are not an "accident," but a divine choice. It is important to realize how often we have had chances to be grateful and have not used them. When someone is kind to us, when an event turns out well, when a problem is solved, a relationship restored, a wound healed, there are very concrete reasons to offer thanks: be it with words, with flowers, with a letter, a card, a phone call, or just a gesture of affection. . . . Every time we decide to be grateful it will be easier to see new things to be grateful for. Gratitude begets gratitude, just as love begets love.* "Deciding to be Grateful," Daily Meditation (October 12, 2024), Henri Nouwen Society.

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving? May your gratitude beget gratitude, and your love beget love this month and always.

### **New and Noteworthy**

Many thanks to Rick Daubert for painting and re-furbishing the St. Peter's sign next to the main door!

November 3 is All Saints Sunday. During our worship service on that day, we will remember our Faithful Departed since All Saints Sunday 2023.

Our first Christmas Putz will be available for visiting from November 30 to December 29, Saturdays, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

The first Sunday in Advent is December 1. Leading us in worship that day is Deacon Kathleen Afflerbach.

Wednesday Advent Services of Evening Prayer are planned for December 4, 11, and 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Our congregational meeting for the purpose of electing council members and approving the 2025 budget is planned for Sunday, December 8, following the worship service.

Our worship service on Sunday, December 15, will conclude with the commemoration of St. Lucy.

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m. Invite your family and friends!

Sunday worship on December 29 will feature a Service of Lessons and Carols.

Watch for more information on these happenings and other forthcoming activities!

*Pastor Raymond Miller*

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### **Upcoming Dates (please mark your calendar)**

October 27	9:00 am	Reformation Sunday with Colonial liturgy
November 3	9:00 am	All Saints Sunday
November 5	Election Day	church office not open
November 24	9:00 am	Christ the King Sunday
November 28	Thanksgiving Day	church office not open
November 30	2 – 4 pm	First day of putz viewing
December 1	9:00 am	First Sunday in Advent
December 1	10:00 am	Putz open after Service
December 4	7:00 pm	Evening Advent Service
December 8	9:00 am	Second Sunday in Advent
December 8	following Service	Congregational meeting for budget and election of Council members
December 11	7:00 pm	Evening Advent Service

December 15	9:00 am	Third Sunday in Advent
December 18	7:00 pm	Evening Advent Service
December 22	9:00 am	Fourth Sunday in Advent
	10:00 am	Greening of church following Service
December 24	3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
December 25	no Service	<b>The Birth of our Lord Jesus</b>
December 29	9:00 am	Lessons & Carols Service

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### **Pastor Appreciation Month Celebration**

On Sunday, October 13, St. Peter's surprised Pastor Miller with cakes in celebration of Pastor Appreciation Sunday, part of Pastor Appreciation Month. Also celebrated was Pastor's 45<sup>th</sup> ordination year. Congratulations, Pastor!!




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### **Pennridge CROP Walk**

Pennridge CROP Hunger Walk had several participants from St. Peter's. Thank you for participating!

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### **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. FISH remains in dire need of canned goods so every donation helps!

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### **Church Sign Update Fund**

The fundraiser to update the Hilltown Pike church sign is underway. The update replaced the LCA logo with the more colorful ELCA logo, added a fourth line for letters/announcements,

and provided larger, 4" letters.

Please use one of the envelopes marked for this fund and place your donation in the offering plate.



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### **Memorial Committee**

The Memorial Committee has been designating a suggested area of interest or recipients for each quarter of the year to try to inspire ideas for Request for Memorial Funds. For this quarter of 2024, we have decided to focus on organizations that help the homeless, food banks and other groups that provide assistance with life's basic needs which many of us take for granted. With the cooler weather coming quickly, now is the time these organizations need to stock up on supplies and funds to handle the influx of clients they will see shortly. We often think of the homeless residents in Philadelphia and other large metropolitan areas but there are homeless people living in tents in Hilltown and our surrounding area. We also have people who struggle to provide three square meals a day for them and their families. Please forward any request for these groups or any other request for Memorial Funds to Judy Smith, Linda Ertel or Lou Bell.

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### **Christmas Putz**

We plan to begin a new tradition--a Moravian Christmas Putz (pronounced "poots") display. . Please see Lori Groves if you wish to help set up this project in late November.

Please sign up for a Saturday afternoon of one or two hours and Sunday mornings for 90 minutes after the morning Service to welcome visitors to the Putz.



# St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hilltown Invites You to Visit Our Christmas Putz



## Christmas Putz:

The Putz (rhyming with *foots*), 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.



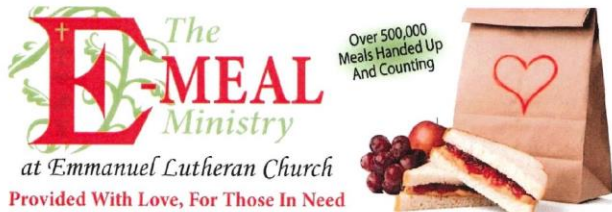
The Putz will be open for visiting **from Nov. 30 thru Dec. 29, Saturdays 2:00-4:00 p.m. and Sundays 10:00-11:30 a.m.** Free, light refreshments will be served. We will also have a craft for children to make.

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**1530 Augsburg Drive, Hilltown, PA 18927** (near Hilltown Pike and Diamond St.)

Web page: <https://splchurch.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterslchilltown>

During the summer, Ann Marie Heidgard gave a chancel talk about Emmanuel Lutheran's (Souderton) E-Meal ministry. Below is a colorful summary that may entice you and/or a friend to participate in some way. All around us are those in need. Your help would be greatly appreciated.



Monday - Saturday 10:30am-1:00pm  
Volunteers Always Needed!



**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
"Souderton's Community Church"  
www.elcsouderton.org  
69 West Broad St. Souderton, PA 18964 215-723-7514  
emmanuel@emmanuelchurch.net  
facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton

**Will You  
Accept  
The E-Meal  
Ministry  
1000 Bag  
Challenge?**



**A great way for groups to support one of the largest food distribution ministries in our area.  
Perfect for churches, youth groups, business teams, civic organizations, and families.  
Filling 1,000 bags helps us distribute meals for one week.**

**Help us provide even more food to our neighbors in need.  
Ask group members or friends to donate the meal bag contents.  
Every 1,000 bags costs around \$350.**

**Do you want to know more about E-Meal?**  
Contact Ann Marie Heidgerd  
Emmanuel's E-Meal Ministry Coordinator  
Text/Phone – 914-589-6874  
Email – [tylerdavin@icloud.com](mailto:tylerdavin@icloud.com)

**Each base meal bag contains:**  
◆ Bottle of Water  
◆ Napkin  
◆ Prayer Card  
◆ Individual Snack  
**Most Groups can complete the challenge in less than 2 hours.  
Great activity for team building and meeting community service goals.  
Complete the challenge at our church or at your location.**

## PRAYER CONCERNS as of October 2024

(\* = 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:** Marie Slack, Kim Jerasa, Dave Reice, Heather Jerasa, Eleanor Peitzman, June Bair, Sheryl Gladfelter, Reed Jerasa, Janet Owens, Don Jerasa, Jim Lynch, Mary Ettore.

### **God's Healing:**

#### **Friends and family:**

Paul Hershey (father of Chris Fellman), Jim Friling (cousin of Jerry & Joan Gerhart), Tom Korbas (brother-in-law of Jerry & Joan Gerhart), Marlon Cortolean (friend of Deb Detweiler), Emily Kuykendall (daughter of Bev Gottshall), Joseph Ferry, Heidi Beason and Ruth Miller (friends of Rita Bixler), Shirley Treichler (sister of Hope Garrett), Rich Welsh and John Moll (friends of Wally Simpkins), Keith Lewis (brother of Lori Lombardo), Tessa Bair (granddaughter of June Bair), Butch Trucksess (brother-in-law of Donna Blackburn), Bill Treichler (brother of Hope Garrett), David Hallman (friend of Rita Bixler), Judy Johnson (daughter of Marv & Betty Rohrs), Tammy Owens (daughter-in-law of Janet Owens), Rhelda Warriner (sister of Rita Bixler), Lindsey Hollingswoth (niece of Lori Groves), Rochelle Fly (friend of Rita Bixler), Caitlin(Cate) Fishman (relative of Lori Groves), 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** (Lutheran Community at Telford), **Esther Saylor and Tillie Murray** (Hidden Meadows on the Ridge), **Ethel Geist** (Arden Court, King of Prussia).

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

+Lorraine Leslie, Richard Bair (brother-in-law of June Bair), +Ron Beerkircher, Chase Yarns (nephew of Tammy Miskowski), Amos Good (nephew of Joan & Jerry Gerhart); Helene Bell (mother of Lou Bell), Denise J. Spier (daughter of Leroy & Shirley Gladfelter), Sara Beaumont Barton, +Kerry Keel Furiga, +Sandie Driscoll, Sue Warfield (friend of Donna Blackburn), Holly Seward (Jim Seward's sister-in-law).

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

## November 2024

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



## Monthly Assisting Ministers Calendar – November 2024

Date	Time	Usher(s)	Acolyte	Crucifer	Scripture/ Prayer	Server	Altar Guild	Counters
<b>Nov 3</b>	9:00 am Service	D & S Texter	L Lombardo	P Abaza	T Daubert	P Tackett	P Abaza & E Rebnegger	R Bixler & J Smith
<b>Nov 10</b>	9:00 am Service	E & S Rebnegger	F Park	E Park	J Snider	S Fischer	D & S Texter	
<b>Nov 17</b>	9:00 am Service	J & D Snyder	J Seward	D Seward	K Rebnegger	P Abaza	R Bixler & L Lombardo	J Johnson & S Davenport
<b>Nov 24</b>	9:00 am Service	J & J Gerhart	D Texter	P Dowse	J Smith	L Groves	K Park & L Ertel	
<b>Dec 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent</b>	9:00 am Service	G & E Miller	Lisa Bell	L Lombardo	L Ertel	Lou Bell	P Dowse & E Rebnegger	P Dowse & N Driscoll
<b>Dec 4 Advent Evening Service</b>	7:00 pm Service	See signup sheet	See signup sheet	See signup sheet				

### 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.