

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
1st Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

Welcome to All in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

✝ **Gathering** ✝

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
We are awaiting the coming of Jesus at the glorious Day of the Lord.
We wait with Mary in hope, with confident faith, and in the joy of expectation.
Let us enter the presence of God in holy reverence.

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Lord Jesus, you are the promised Messiah, anointed to save God's people. Lord, have mercy. **C: Forgive us when we look to others for what you alone give. Lord, have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus, you bring the kingdom of God to us and call us to repentance. Christ, have mercy. **C: Forgive us when we do not seek God's rule over our lives. Christ, have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus, you are the Redeemer proclaimed by the prophets. Lord, have mercy. **C: Forgive us when we do not heed God's Word spoken to us. Lord, have mercy.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to each of you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**Opening
Hymn**

#32
Green

Fling Wide the Door

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - te self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MÄCHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Apostolic Greeting & Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. . . . Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

✚ The Advent Wreath ✚

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible.

The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life.

The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree.

In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Stz. #1

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VNI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

1st Sunday in Advent

Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.

P: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

✙ Word ✙

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.
 God engages us in holy conversation – speaking and listening.
 Let us open our ears and hearts to hear God's voice in the words spoken to us.

First Reading — *Isaiah 64:1-9*

A reading from Isaiah

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned up-¹ on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,
 stir up your strength and ¹ come to help us.**

³Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
 show the light of your countenance, and we ¹ shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD! God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers¹ of your people?**

⁵You have fed them with the¹ bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of¹ tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision¹ of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh¹ us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O¹ God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we¹ shall be saved.

¹⁸**Let your hand be upon the man of¹ your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong¹ for yourself.**

¹⁷And so will we never turn a-¹ way from you;
give us life, that we may call up-¹ on your name.

¹⁸**Restore us, O LORD! God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we¹ shall be saved.**

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

#168 ELW

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

The cantor will sing the alleluia once alone and then the congregation repeats it.



Alleluia. Show us your steadfast¹ love, O LORD,*
and grant us¹ your salvation. *Alleluia.* (Ps. 85:7)

[

Holy Gospel — Mark 13:24-37

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Message

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn
of the
Day
#435
ELW

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

Nicene Creed

Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,**

of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the Church

P: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers to the Father for
the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

P: Holy God, call your church into holy fellowship as we await your resto-
ration of all things. Energize your faithful people to live with hope and
compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries. Center us on
your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Open our eyes to see how all creation signals your presence: the
vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that
rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth.
Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Cause the nations to tremble at your holy presence, that justice and
liberation might prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to
peoples in conflict, especially Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Hamas.
Teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability
to areas and people facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief, especially those we name now..... *[pause]*..... Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to them that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Send out your angels, the messengers of your Word, to gather your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of the saints who dwell in your eternal presence, especially Francis Xavier, whom we commemorate today. Join our hopefulness with theirs as we await the great Day of Christ's coming. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Peace

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection. God does not hold our sins against us. This is true peace, Like Jesus with his disciples, pastor shares the word of reconciliation from God to us.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

We share Christ's forgiving and reconciling love with one another, binding ourselves to one another as community. As we are at peace with God, so we are also at peace with one another.

✚ **Thanksgiving** ✚ We respond to God's abundant grace and mercy

Support God's Mission

Offering *Please consider making your thank offering to God ...*

By Mail to St. Peter's Lutheran Church 947 N. George St. York PA

Or SCAN HERE >



Or ONLINE at www.StPetersLutheranYork.com.

In the **Purple** box, Click **Donate** button to set up a one-time or recurring donation.

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Thanksgiving For the Word

P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, From the beginning you have created life and faith by the utterance of your mouth. Open our ears to hear you as you speak through the Sacred Scriptures which tell us of your faithfulness. Open our hearts to hear your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, who calls us to you, teaches us to trust, and shows us to love. Open our minds to receive your wisdom as the Holy Spirit comes into us with your Word to guide us and shape us into your image. Accept our thanks for the gift of your Word by which we know you as our God and Savior, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us how to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

✠ Sending ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.
Go! The Messiah is coming!

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn

#33
Green

The King Shall Come

The musical score for 'The King Shall Come' is presented in two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davission, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near. C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Altar Greens are given to the glory of God.

Hand Bells Rehearsal — Thursdays, DECEMBER 7,14,21, 6:30 PM

Council Meeting — Tuesday, DECEMBER 19, 7:00 PM

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

OFFERING

General \$ 1,367.00	HVAC \$ 55.00
Pointsettia \$ 80.00	Capital Improvement \$ 250.00
Masonry \$ 90.00	Altar Flowers \$ 50.00
Christmas \$ 100.00	

Portions of this service are from sundaysandseasons.com.

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CHRISTMAS EVENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Thursday, DECEMBER 14, 6:30 PM

St. Peter's Lutheran

A service of healing and remembrance.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, DECEMBER 16, 4:00-6:00 PM

St. Peter's Lutheran, York

—Live Music from Emigsville Band —Reading of Nativity Story & The Night Before Christmas —Visit from Santa Claus —Make your own ornaments —Refreshments



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, DECEMBER 24

3:30 PM – St. Peter's Lutheran

7:00 PM – Christ, Manchester

10:00 PM – St. Peter's Lutheran

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Monday, DECEMBER 25

10:00 AM [NO 8:45am service]

St. Peter's Lutheran

POTLUCK BRUNCH PARTY AFTER SERVICE

1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, DECEMBER 31, 10:30 AM

St. Peter's Lutheran

Carol singing following to follow.



EPIPHANY WORSHIP

Sundays, JANUARY 7 thru FEBRUARY 11

At St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York

8:00 AM – Early Service [No 8:45 AM service at St. Peter's]

At Christ Lutheran, Manchester – 10:30 AM

* Ash Wednesday Service, 3:30 PM – at St. Peter's

* * Sunday, FEBRUARY 18 – Worship will resume at St. Peter's Lutheran



God's Has a Mission!

As disciples and stewards of Jesus Christ, we, the members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church are committed to the preaching and teaching of the Word of God to all people. We will reach out to one another and to others, giving and receiving, in worship, fellowship, and witness to Jesus Christ!



MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Susan Becker—Tom Bruson—Janice Cromer—Rich Davis—Don Gise—Shelva Gise—Bruce Harget—Cheryl Hibner—Samantha Hilker—Ken Humphreys—Marsha Humphreys—Lori Joseph—Shirley Lutz—Ron Malehorn—Fabian Marrero—Michele McFarland—Philip Michael—Pr Judy McKee—Brenda Croumer Miller—Charlie Neff—Rowan Neff—Scott Neff—Kathy Pugh—Dolores Rehmeyer—Betty Roach—Donna Roach—Bill & Rachel Sanders—Nancy Stough Miller—James Thompson—Vickie Toomey—Matthew Walters—Zach Weiland—Margaret Wiley—Dave Yates—Lois Yates—Stephen Young

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Donna Arnold—Norma Buck—Evelin Burgos—Bill Everhart—Don Everhart—Helen Everhart—Doris Hoffacker—Ken & Joyce Innerst—Carla & Mike Lehr—John Lehr—Jean Leiphart—Joanne V. Martin—Marguerite Ness—Betty Roach—Lois Smith—Lois Snyder—Joyce Topper

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
947 North George Street, York PA 17404
8:45 AM—Worship Service



Church Staff

The Reverend Beth A. Schlegel, *STS* Pastor
Terri Schroll Secretary
Kristen Hartman—Susan Hartman Sextons

Our phone number is: 717-854-0589

Our Website is: <http://www.stpeterslutheranyork.org>

Our Email Address is: stpeterslutheran@verizon.net

Pastor Beth Schlegel: Phone #: 717-495-8894

Email: pastorschlegel@live.com

This Week CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM

Friday
Office Closed