

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
202 Van Buren Street
Evans City, Pennsylvania 16033-1127
(724) 538-5810



Pastor Brandon Johns
January 3, 2021
10:15 am Worship Service

BELL RINGING

GATHERING HYMN: *O, Come, All Ye Faithful*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



GATHERING DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 147:12-20 (Read in Unison)

¹²**Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,**

¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴**God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

- ¹⁵God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁶God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
- ¹⁷God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?
- ¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
- ¹⁹God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.
- ²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 1:1-16

The holy gospel according to John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power ³to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Word of God Incarnate*

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the sixth system.

NICENE CREED

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,

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory.

The response for each petition is:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC by Cora Plank

OFFERING

As we live in our current reality of a community in diaspora, financial offerings can still be dropped off at the church, mailed, or made electronically (tithe.ly app, etc.). As always, these avenues of offering are for the sake of serving the desire of the community to steward the gifts God has given us, not as a demand for your salvation. Please remember that although we are again physically apart for a time, St. Peter's remains a hub of ministry and service, and relies on your ongoing financial support to ensure our ministries of worship, faith formation, and care for one another and our neighbor are able to continue.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With all the hosts of heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING: *Let All Together Praise Our God*



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
6 Un - lock the door a - gain to - day that leads to
high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
par - a - dise; the an - gel bars the way no more. To
sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
God let prais - es rise, to God let prais - es rise!

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

(written by Ambrose of Milan in ~380; text of *Savior of the Nations, Come*)

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth: God has chosen such a birth.
For your Word made flesh, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.
For your Word made flesh, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!
For your Word made flesh, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
For your Word made flesh, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity, praise we sing eternally!
For your Word made flesh, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

LORD'S PRAYER

Taught by God's Word Incarnate, we are bold to pray:
**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**

BENEDICTION

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ-Child.
And may Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



SENDING SONG: *The First Noel*



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

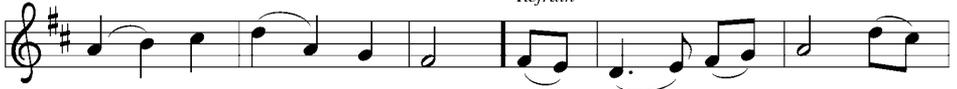


cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

SHARING FOR SERVING:

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND MISSION NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of the Messiah. **Thanks be to God!**

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for January

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Meals On Wheels. If you would like to support this cause, please mark the other line on your contribution envelope Meals On Wheels.

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently For The Following:

Mary Kay Hill

Heinie Raupp

Doris Smelcser

The family of Betty Foster

Mark Zoelle

The family of Evelyn Critchlow

Rege & Becky Rengers

Thelma Schoeffel

The family of Leslie Reifsnyder

Donna Daugherty

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given by
The Johns Family
In honor of those who offer
services of medicine, healing
and care*



*The Eternal Candle
Is Presented By
Pastor & Christine Johns
In loving memory of
Our grandparents*

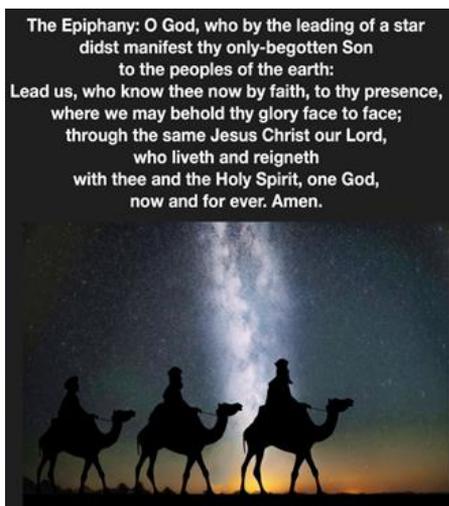
Altar Flowers - Now is the time to fill in your 2021 flower reservation, first come – first served. The flower chart is online and can be accessed with by using the following link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845ABAB28A0F49-sponsors>
Or by contacting the church office to see if there is an open date for sponsorship. The altar flowers are \$35 for two vases. Mark an envelope, write FLOWERS and the amount.

Eternal Candle - If you would like to sponsor the eternal candle for a month in 2021 you may also sign up to do that on the flower / candle chart that is located at the above link or by calling or emailing the church office. The cost to sponsor the candle is \$15.00 for the month and your donation can be placed in your offering envelope.

At Home Holy Communion Service- will take place on Sunday, January 10th at 7 pm. A zoom link will be provided for that service as well as bulletins and travel communion elements which will be located on the table outside of the glass doors or you can use bread and wine or juice that you have at home and access the bulletin through the email that will be sent with the link.

Advent Friends

Our annual Advent Friend reveal will take place on Friday, January 8th at 7 pm through a zoom meeting. EVERYONE is invited to attend and listen to the stories of those who participated in Advent Friends 2020.





St. Peter's Lutheran Church

SOUP SALE



Saturday, January 16th

\$8.00 per Quart

Orders due by Tuesday, January 12th

*Please make checks payable to W-ELCA

Name _____ Phone _____

<u>Choice of Soup</u>	<u>Number of Quarts</u>	<u>x \$8.00</u>
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Potato	_____	_____
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Stuffed Pepper	_____	_____
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Chicken Noodle	_____	_____
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Wedding Soup	_____	_____
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Total Amount _____

To place orders return forms to church office
or call Vonda Weimer at 412-400-9763

Proceeds to support a new heating system at St. Peter's and
the Evans City Fire Department

***Soup orders may be picked up by a drive-thru pick up in
our lower parking lot**

(Please use the South Street Entrance)

or delivered to homebound upon request

Saturday, January 16th from 2:30-3:30 pm

Welcome to St. Peter's

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.

Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? We are glad you found us. Please check in with Pastor by calling or email to talk about what St. Peter's is like under regular conditions and so you can be connected with the ministries we are holding in old and new ways during these social distance times.

Staying in Touch:

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

