

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



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Pastor Brandon Johns
December 6, 2020
10:15 am Worship Service

BELL RINGING**WELCOME****LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

*The second candles is lit as "Light One Candle" is sung
by Luke Zoelle & Owen Price*

ADVENT LITANY: And the Word was God

(We sing the indented lines together. For the first verse we begin after it is played through once. Afterwards we sing immediately with the music.)

***Behold, the gifts of God made flesh
To stir the heart, the soul refresh.
The presence of the Lord is known;
In Bethlehem his gift is shown.***

Stir up.

Stir up our hearts, O God.

Make us ready to meet you in Bethlehem.

Make us happy to greet you in our day-to-day.

Inscribe your Word upon our hearts

That we might be glad to receive your Living Word.

***Our hearts, O God, are stirred, we know,
Our lives are lit with heaven's glow,
The hearts of stone have been removed.
Our sinful ways have been reprov'd.***

Gently stir and comfort the hearts of your people, O God, with deepest inner peace.

Pacify our turbulent relationships.

Still our inner storms.

Send, now, your Prince of Peace.

*With peaceful hearts and inner calm
Make us, O God, an earthly balm,
That all the world might see our love
And glorify you, God, above.*

As wick touches wick, the flame is doubled, bringing peace to troubled hearts.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly.

*Thus present-laden cause the shift
That changes "gifted" into "gift."
Let us your "present presence" be -
Rich gifts of faith for all to see.*

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. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (Read in Unison)

- ¹You have been gracious to your land, O Lord;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**
- ²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**
- ⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who
turn their hearts to you.**
- ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**
- ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**
- ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- ¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.**
- ¹³Righteousness shall go before the Lord
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

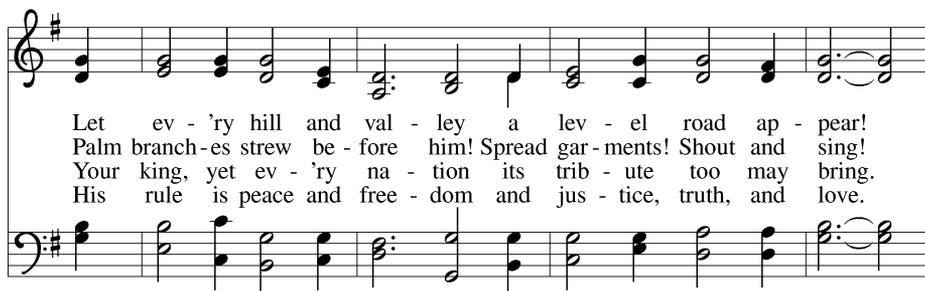
This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Prepare the Royal Highway



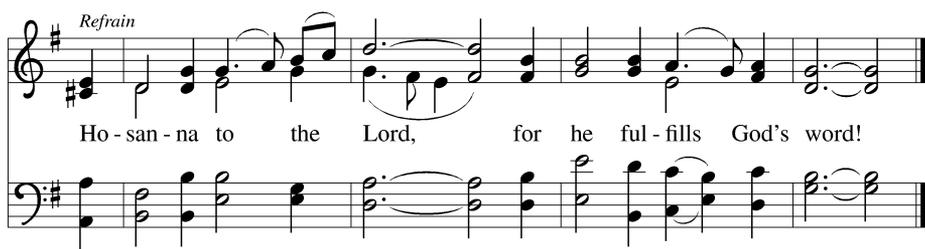
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission.

The response for each petition is:

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

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Karen Ferrari & Heidi Beahm

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.

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

CANTICLE OF ADVENT ANTICIPATION *(to the tune of "The Doxology")*



Stir up your pow'r, O Lord, and come. A - gain we
pray, "Your will be done." May Ad - vent blue to
us fore - tell the ech - o of E-mman - u - el.

ADVENT ANTIPHON

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give us victory over the grave.

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.

*(text from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" which is based on the
"O Antiphons" of Advent from the sixth century)*

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and help us 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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex- spect- ed, come with par- don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo- ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son

"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

SHARING FOR SERVING:

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND MISSION NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Jubilate

Stewart Landon

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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Prayers Have Been Requested Recently For The Following:

Mary Kay Hill

Evelyn Critchlow

Heinie Raupp

Dennis Eckstein

Rege & Becky Rengers

The family of Joe Schriver

The Critchlow family

The family of Gary Blinn

The family of Eddie Raupp

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers. Also, please remember those who are in need of long-term prayer support, whose names and concerns are kept on a prayer list, which is in the newsletter and emailed weekly.

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

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for December

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

Advent Special Offering – If you make an offering this Advent using the separate Advent envelopes, those gifts will be split between Synod Benevolence and Priority Projects. Regular Sunday morning envelopes function according to your direction or if undesignated then 90% goes to Current and 10% to Synod Benevolence as normal.

*Today's Altar Flowers
are given by
MaryBelle McMillen
in loving remembrance of
her wedding anniversary to
Dean McMillen
(12-6-50)*

*The Eternal Candle
Is Presented By
Karen Ferrari
In loving memory of
Michael Ferrari*



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Presiding Bishop (ELCA)
Synodical Bishop (SW PA Synod)
Pastor
Music Director and Organist
Office Secretary
Sexton
Lector

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow
The Rev. Brandon Johns
Marlene Domhoff
Heidi Beahm
Joe Ludwik
Karen Ferrari

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Sun. Dec. 6 9 am Zoom Sunday School
 10:15 am Virtual Worship Service
 4 - 8 pm Christmas Pageant Filming (in parts)

Mon. Dec. 7 7:30 pm WELCA General Meeting

Tue. Dec. 8 6:30 pm Scouts
 7 pm Council Meeting

Wed. Dec. 9 7:30 pm Bible Study

Th. Dec. 10 7 pm Learning Ministries Meeting via Zoom

Sat. Dec. 12 7:15 pm SPY Skating

Sunday School Christmas Program – will be streamed through a Zoom watch party on Sunday, December 20th at 6:30 pm. If you are unable to join our Zoom presentation of the Nativity story, then the YouTube link to watch the pageant at your convenience will be emailed out afterwards.

Christmas Eve - an abbreviated Candlelight Service with Holy Communion will be held at our shelter at 7:00 pm and a traditional Christmas Eve Service of the Word Incarnate will be streamed at 10:00 pm. Make plans to join us as we celebrate the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem.

Advent Devotionals - are available for all ages on the table outside the glass door entry to the building.

The 2021 offering envelopes - will be available outside of the glass doors starting December 13th. The envelopes are numbered and dated for 2021 so please wait to use them until the new year! Please remember to keep your membership active a contribution and communion of record in this calendar year or the preceding year is necessary.

Glade Run Gifts - please return all unwrapped gifts with tags by Saturday, December 12th. A box is located inside the church lobby. You can also log onto the Glade Run website if you were not able to get a tag here at the church and make a direct donation to Glade Run by having gifts sent to Glade Run.

Christmas Trivia Night – Please join us on Saturday, December 19th at 6:30 pm for a fun night of Christmas-themed trivia. We'll gather through Zoom for the festival of friendly competition.

Soup Sale - will take place on Saturday, January 17th. Soup will be sold by the quart for \$8.00. The soup menu includes: potato, stuffed pepper, chicken noodle, and wedding. Pre-orders are due no later than January 12th and will be sold on first come first served basis. Watch for more information in the January newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

Christmas Luminaries at St. Peter's - Once again St. Peter's will light your way on Christmas Eve with our annual luminaries. If you would like to sponsor a luminary please fill out a sponsor form, or you can e-mail or call the church with your request. Donations of \$5 will be accepted and proceeds will go toward paying down our brick loan.

Christmas Luminary Order Form

Your Name: _____

(as you would like it to appear in the bulletin)

If you wish to place a Christmas Eve luminary
either ***In Memory of, In Honor of,***
or ***To the Glory of God***, the cost is **\$5.00.**

Orders must be made on or before Sunday, December 20th

I wish to give ***In Memory of the following*** :

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

I wish to flowers ***In Honor of the following*** :

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

I wish to give ***To The Glory of God*** :

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Total # Luminaries Sponsored = _____ (\$5.00 each)

**Make check payable to St. Peter's Lutheran church and
mark the other line on your donation envelope.**

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

