

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Church Council Meeting Highlights	2
Committee Chairs	3
Call Committee Members	3
Church Council Members & Officers	3
December Worship Readings	4
St. Peter's Schedule	4
Lessons and Carols	4
Sunday School Schedule	4
Sunday School Christmas Program	4
Christmas Eve Services	4
Adult Sunday School	4
St. Peter's Mission Statement	5
December Ministry Meetings	5
Sponsorships	5
Church Finances	5
Remember in Your Prayers	6
Publishing Deadlines	6
Memorials and Gifts	6
We Remember These Saints	6
Church Office Hours	6
Food Pantry	7
Youth Ministry Update	7
Blanket, Sweater, Sweatshirt, and Jacket Collection	7
<i>Christ in Our Home</i>	8
Resource Links	8
QR Code	8
Committee Reports	8
Nominating Ballots	8
Annual Congregational Meeting	8
Offering Envelopes	8
December Calendar	9

Church Council Meeting Highlights November 13, 2025

- Trunk or Treat had over 500 children and their families come through the church lot.
- An elevator maintenance agreement will be signed with Port Elevator, Inc.
- Food pantry distributions will occur during the week of Thanksgiving and the week after Christmas.
- Youth ministries is planning for Christmas caroling the first weekend in December.
- Church Council nominating ballots will be distributed during the December 7th and December 14th worship services.
- Hall rental approved for December 13th at 1:00 pm.
- New or gently used blankets, sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets will be collected and distributed at the Food Pantry's Christmas food distribution and during the winter months.
- The December 28th worship service will be a service of lessons and carols.
- Committee reports for the 2025 Annual Report should be submitted to the parish secretary via email by January 12th.

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Brenda Ferrebee

Discipleship

Nancy Reichelt

Fellowship

Beverly Morgan, CC
liaison; Donna Zerbe

Finance

Nancy Reichelt

Property

Vernon Stroupbauer, CC
liaison

Social Ministry

Lillie Morgan, CC liaison;
Donna Zerbe

Technology

Nancy Reichelt

Wellness

Mary Daubert, CC liaison

Worship and Music

Barbara Hikes

Youth Ministry

Jodi Derr

Endowment Fund

Alethea Wessner

Stew Zerbe Memorial

Scholarship Fund

Donna Zerbe

Cemetery Association

Kurt Wessner 570-345-8020

Council of Churches

Dale and Brenda Ferrebee,
CC liaisons

Church Council Members

<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
Mary Daubert	Beverly Morgan*	Stephen Hikes
Gwen Moyer	Vernon Stroupbauer*	Barbara Hikes
Nancy Reichelt	Brenda Ferrebee*	Dale Ferrebee*
Joshua Zimmerman	Jodi Derr	Lillie Morgan*

*Serving second consecutive term and cannot be reelected at the end of their term.

Officers

Stephen Hikes, President
Dale Ferrebee, Vice President
Jodi Derr, Secretary
Brenda Ferrebee, Treasurer
Lillie Morgan, Financial Secretary
Designated Pastor: Rev. Marie Meeks

Council members are elected for a term of three years, and no more than two consecutive terms.

Call Committee Members

<i>Bryan Reichelt, Chair</i>	<i>Jocelyn Hikes</i>
<i>Stephanie Graham</i>	<i>Julie Koehler</i>
<i>Joshua Zimmerman</i>	<i>Kurt Wessner</i>

December Worship Readings

Sunday, December 7 **Second Sunday of Advent; Holy Communion**

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Second: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Sunday, December 14 **Third Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10
Second Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
Psalm 146:5-10

Sunday, December 21 **Fourth Sunday of Advent; Holy Communion**

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16
Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Sunday, December 24 **Christmas Eve; Holy Communion**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7
Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Psalm 96

Sunday, December 28 **First Sunday of Christmas**

First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9
Second Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23
Psalm 148



Sunday School Schedule

Advent and Christmas

December 7
Nativity Story

December 14
Christmas Program

December 21
Jesus' Birthday Party

December 28
Christmas Movie

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class continues to meet in the TV room. The class is participating in a new Bible Study series from Augsburg Fortress titled *Together by Grace: Bible Conversations MATTHEW*.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services With Holy Communion

4:00 pm

7:30 pm



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday Schedule Worship Service 9:00 am

**Holy Communion
1st & 3rd
Sundays of the month**

**Sunday School
10:30 am**

Lessons and Carols
The Sunday morning worship service on December 28th will be a service of lessons and carols.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Preparations are underway for the return of our annual Sunday School Christmas program after a six-year hiatus.

Please join us on Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 am in the fellowship hall.



St. Peter's Mission Statement

"We, the members of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, blessed by God's grace in Word and Sacrament, and desiring to fulfill God's call to minister and witness to the world, commit ourselves to a mission which includes: Meaningful worship; Enthusiastic Christian Education programming; Active witnessing to our Christian faith; Dedicated service; and Responsible support of the programs and financial concerns of the church."

December Ministry Meetings

December 3
Christian Education
Committee
6:00 PM

December 11
Church Council
7:00 PM

December 13
Synod Council
9:00 AM

December 17
Worship and Music
Committee
6:00 PM

Sponsorships

Altar Flowers are available for December 7 and 28 – cost is \$30

Chancel Flowers are available for December 7 – cost is \$30

Sanctuary Candle is full for December – cost is \$35

Candle Oil is full for December – cost is \$15

Newsletter is full for December – cost is \$40

Bulletins are available for December 7 and 14 – cost is \$15

Call the church office for availability or sign the charts in the downstairs hallway.



The December Newsletter is given to the Glory of God IMO our parents by Vernon and Sue Stroupbauer.

Church Finances – End of October 2025

October 2025 General Fund Contributions: \$10,667.00 (after designated funds are distributed \$2,783.00)

October 2025 General Expenses paid: **\$ 12,709.03 ***

*Currently we are not paying compensation for a minister. The estimated compensation would be \$10,574.00 per month.

October 2025 Account balances:

- Checking \$40,174.29
- Savings** \$43,347.04

**\$5,837.54 is designated towards the Needy Fund and Stew Zerbe Memorial Scholarship Fund

- Memorial Fund \$16,056.21
- Capital Improvement Fund \$12,180.03

***\$6,891.10 is designated to Video/Audio, Prepaid Fuel, Fellowship and Parsonage Improvements. \$5,289.03 is designated for Capital Improvement.

- Youth Ministry \$ 7,352.25

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

(General Fund) \$100 IMO Thelma Hubler by Harvey Hubler; \$25 IMO Ellen I. Miller by Stephen and Barbara Hikes

(Memorial Fund) \$50 IMO Carl Reed by June Reed; \$25 IMO Lester W. Schaeffer by June Reed; \$15 IMO Paul H. Schaeffer by June Reed; \$100 IMO Gertrude Pezzoni and Janet I. Klinger by Pat Weckle and Sandra Kemmerling; \$750 IMO parents Paul W. W. Lengel and Thelma I. Lengel by Howard Lengel and children; \$500 IMO my first wife Catherine Lengel, my son Robert W. Lengel, grandson Jacob Lengel, and granddaughter Samantha Lengel by Howard Lengel and children; \$500 IMO my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and Shirley Lengel by Howard Lengel; \$30 IMO Ellen Miller by Donna Zerbe

(Pre-Buy Oil Fund) \$100 IMO George Gilbert on his birthday by Charles Gilbert

(Food Pantry) \$800 IMO Glenn, Garry, and Sue Moyer by Dennis and Gail Adams; \$40 IMO Ellen Miller by Linda Venzl

Publishing Deadlines

If you want to publish something in the Sunday bulletin or the monthly newsletter, please submit your information by the following deadlines:
The bulletin deadline is Wednesday at 2:00 pm.
The January 2026 newsletter deadline is December 10th.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need, especially:

Alice Hunkapiller
Paul Lengel
Ruth McMullen
Tom Wertz
Janet Fisher
Bill Siegel
Beverly Morgan
Lori Fehr Moyer
Bonnie Kintzel
Anna Wertz
Bessie Keefer
McKenna Morgan Cooper
Taylor Wessner

Bruce Witmer
Janet Jones
Stacey Harris
Shirley Lengel
Dale Legarht
Christopher Beeman
Sue Stump
Lynn Sabadish
Dana Strouphauer
Joyce Frantz
Ray Stump
Nancy Ditzler
Kerry Nagle

Eric Umbenhauer
Barbara Schwartz
Waylon Hartman
Jen Gerhardt
Elizabeth Platko
Shannon Shadle
Brian Kustan
Kelsey Cleary
Bill Schaeffer
Kerry Nagle
Tina Keefer
Janet Fidler

If you have prayer requests or info for the Sunday bulletin prayer listing, please contact the church office or Nan Hoenich at 570-345-8706.

Church Office Hours

Monday & Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (in office)

Tuesday & Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (remote)

Please leave a message on the office answering machine (570-345-3306) on Tuesdays and Fridays.

We Remember These Saints

- ✠ Ellen Miller, who passed away on November 13th
- ✠ Linda Zimmerman, who passed away on November 16th





In December, Share the Peace and Love of Christmas.

Support St. Peter's Food Pantry with favorite holiday food items that bless your table.

Canned Ham/Spam	Canned Vegetables
Canned Tuna	Sauerkraut
Canned Chicken	Potatoes/Stuffing
Boxed Meals	Puddings
Cake/Cookie Mixes	Applesauce

Thrivent members can apply for a \$250 grant for the church's food pantry twice per year! Ask us how!



Blanket, Sweater, Jacket, and Sweatshirt Collection

Our church will be doing a **blanket, sweater, jacket, and sweatshirt collection** to reach out to families this winter. New or clean used items are welcomed to bring to the church to place on the designated table in the fellowship hall or taken directly upstairs and placed in the first pew on the organ side of the church. Items collected will help families to stay warmer this winter. Blankets, sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts will be shared with the Pantry Christmas food distribution as well as throughout the winter as the need arises. Jodi Derr and Pastor Bob have already been receiving calls and making contacts with families in the Pine Grove borough, the townships surrounding the borough as well as nearby communities. We are blessed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be a blessing to others. Your generosity and charity flowing from our loving hearts have and will continue to touch people’s lives. We will share with you about this outreach ministry throughout the winter. May God be with us!





Youth Ministry Update

On a cold and windy fall night (October 31st – Halloween) 28 adults and 8 youth, ranging in age from 5-6 months to early 80’s, gathered together for St. Peter’s annual Trunk or Treat outreach ministry festivities.

With 14 vehicles and one fire truck assembled on the church parking lot at 5:30 pm thereabouts, we waited in anticipation to greet our guests with Christian hospitality, smiles, pleasant conversation, along with warm food (hot dogs), warm drinks (hot chocolate), cold drinks and plenty of apples (2 bushels), candy, and treats in abundance.

Around 5:40 pm the parade of children, youth, teenagers, young adults, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends all began to create an awesome group of folks we greeted till near 8:00 pm.

One of our volunteers had 500 gift bags. A consultation with her at 7:40 pm gave us a count of 435 children coming through. And then more came as if a bus dropped them off in front of the church. The number climbed to at least 475! We estimated that adult family members was well over 300+ more.

We were tired, but overjoyed, sleepy but full of excitement to talk about our experience, cold but surely warmed in our hearts to mingle with everyone, absolutely believing that we were in a ‘holy place’ in the Presence of our Lord Jesus, feeling the fellowship and love of God’s people with our neighbors and our community in which we all dwell.

Christ in Our Home

devotional booklets for the months of January, February, and March are now available. Free copies can be picked up in the narthex, the elevator lobby, the TV room, the hallway display rack, and the fellowship hall. Please note that there are a few **large print edition** copies available.

Committee Reports

Please submit committee reports for the 2025 Annual Report to the parish secretary via email no later than Monday, January 12th.

Offering Envelopes

The 2026 offering envelopes will be available in the fellowship hall beginning Sunday, December 7th. Please see our financial secretary Lillie Morgan if you would like to receive envelopes but don't see them with the boxes in the fellowship hall.

Resource Links

ELCA

<https://www.elca.org/>

NEPA Synod

<http://nepasynod.org/>

Schuylkill Mission District

<http://lutheransalive.org>

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026** immediately following the worship service. Both the worship service and the meeting will take place in the fellowship hall. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1st.

Nominating Ballots

Church Council nominating ballots will be distributed during the December 7th and 14th worship services.



QR CODE FOR ONLINE
GIVING

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 2025

	1 4:15 - 5:30 pm Music Lessons	2 4:15 - 5:45 pm Music Lessons	3 6:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 - 8:45 pm Music Lessons	4 4:15-9:00 pm Music Lessons	5	6 8:30 am - 12:00 pm Music Lessons
7 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Second Sunday of Advent; Needy Fund Collection Pastor Mindy Heppe 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	8 4:15 - 5:30 pm Music Lessons	9 4:15 - 5:45 pm Music Lessons Senior Citizens	10 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:00 - 8:45 pm Music Lessons	11 4:15-9:00 pm Music Lessons 7:00 Church Council Meeting	12	13 9:00 am Synod Council Meeting 8:30 am - 12:00 pm Music Lessons
14 9:00 am Worship Service; Cantata Brenda Ferreebee 10:30 am Children's Sunday School Christmas Program	15 4:15 - 5:30 pm Music Lessons	16 4:15 - 5:45 pm Music Lessons	17 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 - 8:45 pm Music Lessons	18 4:15 - 9:00 pm Music Lessons	19	20 8:30 am - 12:00 pm Music Lessons
21 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion; Pastor Lauren Applegate 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	22 4:15 - 5:30 pm Music Lessons	23 4:15 - 5:45 pm Music Lessons	24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion Pastor Mindy Heppe 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion Pastor Bob Hoenich	25 Church Office Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 8:30 am - 12:00 pm Music Lessons
28 9:00 am Worship Service; First Sunday after Christmas; Lessons and Carols Barbara Hikes 10:00 am Coffee Social 10:30 am Sunday School; Catechetical Class	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE			