

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH, MECHANICSBURG

JANUARY 2026

THE SCROLL

"GROW IN FAITH, LIVE IN HOPE, SERVE IN LOVE"

Dear Church,

A new year always invites us to take a breath. The calendar flips, the Christmas decorations slowly make their way back into their boxes, and the quiet of winter settles in. And right in that moment, the church gives us Epiphany — a season all about God's light showing up in surprising places. It's as if the Spirit whispers, "Don't pack everything away just yet. There's more to notice."

Epiphany is the season that reminds us that faith isn't something we leave behind with the tinsel. It's about how Christ keeps revealing himself in the ordinary rhythms of our lives — in conversations we didn't expect, in opportunities we didn't plan, in moments when grace breaks through the winter gray. As we begin 2026 together, I hope that we'll practice looking for that light: small, steady, and always a little brighter than we remembered.

To start the season, I hope you'll join us for a combined worship service on **Sunday, January 4 at 9:30 AM, when we'll welcome The Buzz Jones Quintet for a festive Epiphany Lessons and Carols service.** It's a joyful, musical way to step into the new year and a reminder that God's story continues to unfold and that we get to sing our part.

May this season be filled with clarity where you've been uncertain, brightness where things have felt dim, and a renewed sense of God's presence guiding us into whatever comes next. Blessed Epiphany, and happy New Year!

In Christ,
Pastor Alex

January Birthdays

January 2 – Matthew Witmer

January 4 – Kamryn Terry

January 5 – Faith Klemick

January 6 – Darlene Fawber

January 6 – Michael Pepper

January 7 – Grant Franko

January 8 – Kyle Noss

January 10 – Gloria Moyer

January 10 – William Bowen

January 11 – Anne Harner

January 15 – Esther Long

January 15 – Barbara Nace

January 15 – Kristina Reeve

January 16 – Kevin Walter

January 18 – Madison Ernst

January 20 – Stephanie Gross

January 23 – Clay Pepper

January 23 – Lori Caruso

January 27 – John Sproat

January 28 – Marlin Keller

January 31 – Carol Cook

President's Corner

Happy New Year to all!

2026 has arrived and with it the Congregation Council begins a new year. We welcome back Cheryl Fratus who has served on council before and we also welcome Sara Weiss who is a first time council member. Steve Kessler and Marlene Bohr will remain on council having been elected to a second term. Along with our remaining members we will have our full twelve on council. Our Treasurer, Tom Draude will serve again along with our Recording Secretary, Dory Kessler and council member Rena Rinehart as Financial Secretary.

One of the main things the council has on the agenda for January is hiring a new Parish Administrative Assistant. We will be temporarily depending on members of the congregation to cover the office while we search for a new PAA. Although there will be some modifications to office hours, the main goal is to keep communicating with the congregation about all that is going on at the church.

The results of the Stewardship Campaign as of December 22, 2025 are as follows, Pledges received in person and online now total 38 out of the 50 households on record! Thank you to all who have pledged your support to our church's mission.

Yours in Christ,
Priss Bashore



On-Going Ministries

Fair Trade Sunday will be **Sunday, January 11** Stop by for your coffee, tea, chocolate bars, and olive oil, and know that what you are purchasing pays a fair wage to the workers producing them.

The **Quilt Sewing Circle** meets **Fridays from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM** in the Adult Sunday School Room. Join us! Contact Joyce Bowers or Mary Jane Steinhart for more information.

Giant and Weis Gift Cards are available from Tom Draude and Priss Bashore at worship. The church gets a percentage of each sale, so this is an easy way to financially support your church while doing your normal grocery shopping.

Donate to New Hope Ministry - Please consider donating for our friends and neighbors who depend on New Hope Ministries. You may put your donations in the grocery cart located outside the door close to the Church office! You will be so Blessed!

Community Aide Bin - If you donate to the community aide bin outside our Church in the parking lot, our church benefits from this! Please donate clothing only!

If you donate to Community Aide on the Pike, our number is **10046** to receive the donation credit! Thank you!

Lector and Liturgist Schedule

January

4th

9:30AM - ONE SERVICE

Lector - Rich Harner

Liturgist - Susan Hensel

11th

8am Lector - Fred Hait

8am Liturgist - Stacey Niedzwiecki

10:45am Lector - Clay Peffer

10:45am Liturgist - Sara Weiss

18th

8am Lector - Joy Gross

8am Liturgist - Karl Segletes
10:45am

25th

8am Lector - Esther Long

8am Liturgist - Stacey Niedzwiecki

10:45am Lector - Denise Roth

10:45am Liturgist - Jean Wiltrout

Happy
New Year!

January Anniversaries

January 18 - Charles and Judy Wiley

2026 Council Meetings

January 18
February 15
March 15
April 19
May 17
June 21
July 19
August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

All council meetings are at 6pm

January Ushers Schedule

4 - Carol and Clyde Forbes

11 - Joy Gross and Mary Jane
Steinhart

18 - Kathy Zagoric and Dory
Kessler

25 - Witmer Family

January Counter Schedule

4 - Tom Draude, Clyde Forbes
and Al Myers

11 - Sue Potter and Cheryl Paull

18 - Fran Hummer and Carol
Forbes

25 - Priss Bashore and Pat
Plummer

January Tech Schedule

4 - Craig Nelson and Pam
Ringhoffer

11 - Craig Nelson and Kathy
Zagoric

18 - Craig Nelson and Stacey
Niedzwiecki

25 - Priss Bashore and Pam
Ringhoffer

SPYG & SPYG Jr. Schedule

January

2 - 4 - Winterfest (Sr. High Synod
Retreat at Wyndham Resort,
Lancaster)

10th - SPYG Dinner Church
Fundraiser

18th - SPYG Jr. Meeting
SPYG Meeting



Thank you!

Hello, St Peter Church Family! This is a tough note to write for me, I think because I'm often told that I have a big heart.

I wanted to let you know as you may already know that my last day at St. Peter was December 29, God has presented another opportunity in my life for my family and I, and though it is HARD to leave here I believe it is the right choice at this time. If you're anything like me, change is hard for myself, especially when you get used to certain things and enjoy the people that you are around. **"To everything, there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." -Ecclesiastes 3** I am also TRUSTING in God and following Him, I encourage each of you to do the same. Personally, it has been life changing for me. **"Trust in the Lord, with all your heart." - Proverbs 3:5**

I want to express much **THANKS** and appreciation to all that I have met since I've been at St. Peter. I have learned a lot since I've been here and I am grateful for that along with those that I have met! I don't want this to be a goodbye (I'm not good with those) but more so a "I'll see you around" kind of thing because I'm hoping that I will still see you around!

I hope you have a wonderful, blessed New Year with many wonderful things ahead. I believe that God has great things in store for you!

-Jenny



Worship & Music

First, we had memories of Thanksgiving. Then, we had memories of Advent and the anticipation of the Christ Child's arrival. Now, we have memories of Christmas Day.....memories of a tiny baby sent by God to show us His way and save us. Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever know. What a memory to keep in your heart and gift to share with those you encounter in life.

May your next memories be of God's work done by your hands, of seeing need and addressing it, of being forgiven at the altar by our gracious God, of loving all God's children no matter who or where they live, of knowing that God's steadfast love is yours and mine, of the promise of salvation which is granted through grace through that tiny baby whose birth we remember each year.

Happy 2026. Wishing you a year making memories that will last, not just a year, but forever.

-Susan



Altar Flowers Prayer Concerns

January

4 -

11-

18-

25-

Please pray for...

Connie, Karen, Laura and Erin

Prayer requests and thanks - If you have a specific prayer request or thanks that you would like to share in the monthly Scroll please contact the office or email

Office@StPeterMechanicsburg.com

To sign up for flowers for on the altar, please stop by the office or refer to the sign up located on the hallway bulletin board.

Save the Dates

January 4 - Buzz Jones and his Jazz ensemble @ 9:30AM

January 10 - SPYG Dinner Fundraiser

January 24 - Congregational Dinner @ 4pm

Bible Study

Monday bible studies, with Pastor Alex - @ 1:30 PM

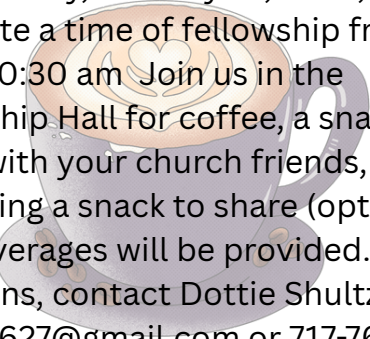
January 5 is the start back date for the New Year!

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 12:30PM

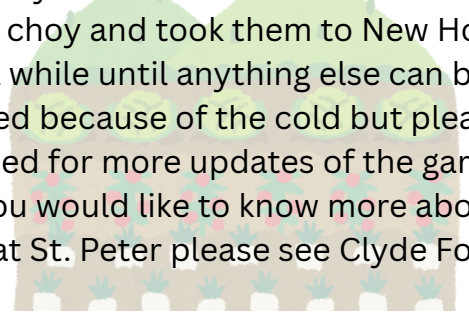
Fellowship Sunday

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, we will celebrate a time of fellowship from 9 am to 10:30 am. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, a snack, and a visit with your church friends, old and new. Bring a snack to share (optional), and beverages will be provided. Any questions, contact Dottie Shultz, dshultz627@gmail.com or 717-766-0457.



Garden Happenings

Recently we harvested 5 lbs. of lettuce and bok choy and took them to New Hope. It will be a while until anything else can be harvested because of the cold but please stay tuned for more updates of the garden and if you would like to know more about our garden at St. Peter please see Clyde Forbes!



Congregational Dinner

The Fellowship Committee invites you, your family & friends to join us for a congregational dinner for our First Responders on Saturday, January 24th at 4:00 pm!

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to MEET and THANK our local First Responders from Upper Allen, Mechanicsburg & Monaghan and to support St Peter's First Responders: Tommy Carmichael, Kevin & Jean McArdle, and Matt Witmer!

The Fellowship Committee will prepare & provide everything for an Italian dinner - enjoy a night off from cooking! A gluten free option will be available. The cost per person is just \$11 payable at the door. Youth under 12 are free! The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Save
The
Date

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him." -Romans 15:13

Sunday Bible Readings

January 4 - John 1:35-51 - Behold the Lamb of God, Call of disciples, "Come and see." (Psalm 66:1-5)

January 11 - John 2:1-11 - Wedding at Cana, water into wine. (Psalm 104:14-16)

January 18 - John 2:13-25 - Jesus cleanses the temple, signifying the destruction and raising of his body.

January 25 - John 3:1-21 - Jesus and Nicodemus

bible in a year

january

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Genesis 1-2 | 17. Exodus 5-7 |
| 2. Genesis 3-5 | 18. Exodus 8-10 |
| 3. Genesis 6-9 | 19. Exodus 11-13 |
| 4. Genesis 10-11 | 20. Exodus 14-17 |
| 5. Genesis 12-15 | 21. Exodus 18-20 |
| 6. Genesis 16-19 | 22. Exodus 21-24 |
| 7. Genesis 20-22 | 23. Exodus 25-27 |
| 8. Genesis 23-26 | 24. Exodus 28-31 |
| 9. Genesis 27-29 | 25. Exodus 32-34 |
| 10. Genesis 30-32 | 26. Exodus 35-37 |
| 11. Genesis 33-36 | 27. Exodus 38-40 |
| 12. Genesis 37-39 | 28. Leviticus 1-4 |
| 13. Genesis 40-42 | 29. Leviticus 5-7 |
| 14. Genesis 43-46 | 30. Leviticus 8-10 |
| 15. Genesis 47-50 | 31. Leviticus 11-13 |
| 16. Exodus 1-4 | |

february

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Leviticus 14-16 | 16. Deut. 1-3 |
| 2. Leviticus 17-19 | 17. Deut. 4-6 |
| 3. Leviticus 20-23 | 18. Deut. 7-9 |
| 4. Leviticus 24-27 | 19. Deut. 10-12 |
| 5. Numbers 1-3 | 20. Deut. 13-16 |
| 6. Numbers 4-6 | 21. Deut. 17-19 |
| 7. Numbers 7-10 | 22. Deut. 20-22 |
| 8. Numbers 11-14 | 23. Deut. 23-25 |
| 9. Numbers 15-17 | 24. Deut. 26-28 |
| 10. Numbers 18-20 | 25. Deut. 29-31 |
| 11. Numbers 21-24 | 26. Deut. 32-34 |
| 12. Numbers 25-27 | 27. Joshua 1-3 |
| 13. Numbers 28-30 | 28. Joshua 4-6 |
| 14. Numbers 31-33 | |
| 15. Numbers 34-36 | |

march

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Joshua 7-9 | 17. 1 Samuel 11-13 |
| 2. Joshua 10-12 | 18. 1 Samuel 14-16 |
| 3. Joshua 13-15 | 19. 1 Samuel 17-20 |
| 4. Joshua 16-18 | 20. 1 Samuel 21-24 |
| 5. Joshua 19-21 | 21. 1 Samuel 25-28 |
| 6. Joshua 22-24 | 22. 1 Samuel 29-31 |
| 7. Judges 1-4 | 23. 2 Samuel 1-4 |
| 8. Judges 5-8 | 24. 2 Samuel 5-8 |
| 9. Judges 9-12 | 25. 2 Samuel 9-12 |
| 10. Judges 13-15 | 26. 2 Samuel 13-15 |
| 11. Judges 16-18 | 27. 2 Samuel 16-18 |
| 12. Judges 19-21 | 28. 2 Samuel 19-21 |
| 13. Ruth 1-4 | 29. 2 Samuel 22-24 |
| 14. 1 Samuel 1-3 | 30. 1 Kings 1-4 |
| 15. 1 Samuel 4-7 | 31. 1 Kings 5-7 |
| 16. 1 Samuel 8-10 | |

april

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 1 Kings 8-10 | 16. 1 Chron. 7-9 |
| 2. 1 Kings 11-13 | 17. 1 Chron. 10-13 |
| 3. 1 Kings 14-16 | 18. 1 Chron. 14-16 |
| 4. 1 Kings 17-19 | 19. 1 Chron. 17-19 |
| 5. 1 Kings 20-22 | 20. 1 Chron. 20-23 |
| 6. 2 Kings 1-3 | 21. 1 Chron. 24-26 |
| 7. 2 Kings 4-6 | 22. 1 Chron. 27-29 |
| 8. 2 Kings 7-10 | 23. 2 Chron. 1-3 |
| 9. 2 Kings 11-14 | 24. 2 Chron. 4-6 |
| 10. 2 Kings 15-17 | 25. 2 Chron. 7-9 |
| 11. 2 Kings 18-19 | 26. 2 Chron. 10-13 |
| 12. 2 Kings 20-21 | 27. 2 Chron. 14-16 |
| 13. 2 Kings 22-25 | 28. 2 Chron. 17-19 |
| 14. 1 Chron. 1-3 | 29. 2 Chron. 20-22 |
| 15. 1 Chron. 4-6 | 30. 2 Chron. 23-25 |

may

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|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. 2 Chron. 26-29 | 17. Job 11-13 |
| 2. 2 Chron. 30-32 | 18. Job 14-17 |
| 3. 2 Chron. 33-36 | 19. Job 18-20 |
| 4. Ezra 1-4 | 20. Job 21-24 |
| 5. Ezra 5-7 | 21. Job 25-27 |
| 6. Ezra 8-10 | 22. Job 28-31 |
| 7. Nehemiah 1-3 | 23. Job 32-34 |
| 8. Nehem. 4-6 | 24. Job 35-37 |
| 9. Nehem. 7-9 | 25. Job 38-42 |
| 10. Nehem. 10-13 | 26. Psalms 1-3 |
| 11. Esther 1-4 | 27. Psalms 4-6 |
| 12. Esther 5-7 | 28. Psalms 7-9 |
| 13. Esther 8-10 | 29. Psalms 10-12 |
| 14. Job 1-4 | 30. Psalms 13-15 |
| 15. Job 5-7 | 31. Psalms 16-18 |
| 16. Job 8-10 | |

june

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|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Psalms 19-22 | 17. Psalms 68-70 |
| 2. Psalms 23-25 | 18. Psalms 70-72 |
| 3. Psalms 26-28 | 19. Psalms 73-75 |
| 4. Psalms 29-31 | 20. Psalms 76-77 |
| 5. Psalms 32-34 | 21. Psalms 78-80 |
| 6. Psalms 35-37 | 22. Psalms 81-83 |
| 7. Psalms 38-40 | 23. Psalms 84-86 |
| 8. Psalms 41-43 | 24. Psalms 87-89 |
| 9. Psalms 44-45 | 25. Psalms 90-92 |
| 10. Psalms 46-49 | 26. Psalms 93-95 |
| 11. Psalms 50-52 | 27. Psalms 96-98 |
| 12. Psalms 53-55 | 28. Psalms 99-102 |
| 13. Psalms 56-58 | 29. Psalms 103-105 |
| 14. Psalms 59-61 | 30. Psalms 106-108 |
| 15. Psalms 62-64 | |
| 16. Psalms 65-67 | |

july

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Psalms 109-111 | 17. Proverbs 8-11 |
| 2. Psalms 112-114 | 18. Proverbs 12-14 |
| 3. Psalms 115-118 | 19. Proverbs 15-18 |
| 4. Psalms 119 | 20. Proverbs 19-21 |
| 5. Psalms 120-123 | 21. Proverbs 22-24 |
| 6. Psalms 124-126 | 22. Proverbs 25-28 |
| 7. Psalms 127-129 | 23. Proverbs 29-31 |
| 8. Psalms 130-132 | 24. Eccles. 1-3 |
| 9. Psalms 133-135 | 25. Eccles. 4-6 |
| 10. Psalms 136-138 | 26. Eccles. 7-9 |
| 11. Psalms 139-141 | 27. Eccles. 10-12 |
| 12. Psalms 142-144 | 28. Song of S. 1-4 |
| 13. Psalms 145-147 | 29. Song of S. 5-8 |
| 14. Psalms 148-150 | 30. Isaiah 1-3 |
| 15. Proverbs 1-3 | 31. Isaiah 4-6 |
| 16. Proverbs 4-7 | |

august

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|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Isaiah 7-9 | 17. Isaiah 55-57 |
| 2. Isaiah 10-12 | 18. Isaiah 58-60 |
| 3. Isaiah 13-15 | 19. Isaiah 61-63 |
| 4. Isaiah 16-18 | 20. Isaiah 64-66 |
| 5. Isaiah 19-21 | 21. Jerem. 1-3 |
| 6. Isaiah 22-24 | 22. Jerem. 4-7 |
| 7. Isaiah 25-27 | 23. Jerem. 8-11 |
| 8. Isaiah 28-30 | 24. Jerem. 12-16 |
| 9. Isaiah 31-33 | 25. Jerem. 17-19 |
| 10. Isaiah 34-36 | 26. Jerem. 20-22 |
| 11. Isaiah 37-39 | 27. Jerem. 23-25 |
| 12. Isaiah 40-42 | 28. Jerem. 26-29 |
| 13. Isaiah 43-45 | 29. Jerem. 30-32 |
| 14. Isaiah 46-48 | 30. Jerem. 33-36 |
| 15. Isaiah 49-51 | 31. Jerem. 37-39 |
| 16. Isaiah 52-54 | |

september

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Jerem. 40-42 | 16. Ezekiel 34-36 |
| 2. Jerem. 43-46 | 17. Ezekiel 37-39 |
| 3. Jerem. 47-49 | 18. Ezekiel 40-42 |
| 4. Jerem. 50-52 | 19. Ezekiel 43-45 |
| 5. Lamentations | 20. Ezekiel 46-48 |
| 6. Ezekiel 1-3 | 21. Daniel 1-3 |
| 7. Ezekiel 4-7 | 22. Daniel 4-6 |
| 8. Ezekiel 8-11 | 23. Daniel 7-9 |
| 9. Ezekiel 12-14 | 24. Daniel 10-12 |
| 10. Ezekiel 15-18 | 25. Hosea 1-4 |
| 11. Ezekiel 19-21 | 26. Hosea 5-7 |
| 12. Ezekiel 22-24 | 27. Hosea 8-10 |
| 13. Ezekiel 25-27 | 28. Hosea 11-14 |
| 14. Ezekiel 28-30 | 29. Joel |
| 15. Ezekiel 31-33 | 30. Amos 1-3 |

october

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Amos 4-6 | 17. Matthew 12-15 |
| 2. Amos 7-9 | 18. Matthew 16-19 |
| 3. Obadiah + Jonah | 19. Matthew 20-22 |
| 4. Micah 1-4 | 20. Matthew 23-25 |
| 5. Micah 5-7 | 21. Matthew 26-28 |
| 6. Nahum | 22. Mark 1-3 |
| 7. Habakkuk | 23. Mark 4-6 |
| 8. Zephaniah | 24. Mark 7-10 |
| 9. Haggai | 25. Mark 11-13 |
| 10. Zacha. 1-5 | 26. Mark 14-16 |
| 11. Zacha. 6-10 | 27. Luke 1-3 |
| 12. Zacha. 11-14 | 28. Luke 4-6 |
| 13. Malachi | 29. Luke 7-9 |
| 14. Matthew 1-4 | 30. Luke 10-13 |
| 15. Matthew 5-7 | 31. Luke 11-17 |
| 16. Matthew 8-11 | |

november

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|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Luke 18-21 | 16. Acts 23-25 |
| 2. Luke 22-24 | 17. Acts 26-28 |
| 3. John 1-3 | 18. Romans 1-4 |
| 4. John 4-6 | 19. Romans 5-8 |
| 5. John 7-10 | 20. Romans 9-11 |
| 6. John 11-13 | 21. Romans 12-16 |
| 7. John 14-17 | 22. 1 Corin. 1-4 |
| 8. John 18-21 | 23. 1 Corin. 5-8 |
| 9. Acts 1-2 | 24. 1 Corin. 9-12 |
| 10. Acts 3-5 | 25. 1 Corin. 13-16 |
| 11. Acts 6-9 | 26. 2 Corin. 1-3 |
| 12. Acts 10-12 | 27. 2 Corin. 4-6 |
| 13. Acts 13-14 | 28. 2 Corin. 7-9 |
| 14. Acts 15-18 | 29. 2 Corin. 10-13 |
| 15. Acts 19-22 | 30. 2 Corin. 14-16 |

december

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|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Galatians 1-3 | 17. James 4-5 |
| 2. Galatians 4-6 | 18. 1 Peter 1-3 |
| 3. Ephesians 1-3 | 19. 1 Peter 4-5 |
| 4. Ephesians 4-6 | 20. 2 Peter |
| 5. Philippians | 21. 1 John 1-3 |
| 6. Colossians | 22. 1 John 4-5 |
| 7. 1 Thessalonians | 23. 2 John |
| 8. 2 Thessalonians | 24. 3 John |
| 9. 1 Timothy 1-3 | 25. Jude |
| 10. 1 Timothy 4-6 | 26. Revel. 1-4 |
| 11. 2 Timothy | 27. Revel. 5-8 |
| 12. Titus + Phile. | 28. Revel. 9-11 |
| 13. Hebrews 1-4 | 29. Revel. 12-15 |
| 14. Hebrews 5-8 | 30. Revel. 16-19 |
| 15. Hebrews 9-13 | 31. Revel. 20-22 |
| 16. James 1-3 | |

November 2025 Financial Information

	November	2025
General Fund Summary		
Total Income	24,039.61	262,136.40
Total Expenses	22,010.69	258,720.18
Net Income	-2,028.92	3,416.22

Thank you for sponsoring Anahi

Dear St. Peter Lutheran (Mechanicsburg)

Warm greetings from the entire Hope Academy Guatemala team.

As we approach the end of 2025, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for the support, generosity, and love you have shown Anahy Sophia by sponsoring her. Your support has made a real difference in her life. This year, she learned, grew, explored, had fun, and discovered new possibilities... and all of this was possible because you believed in her. Thank you for walking alongside her, even from a distance. Your support opens doors, strengthens her self-esteem, and nourishes her hope for the future.

Meanwhile, we look forward to the 2026 school year with excitement and hope. We are already preparing school supplies, organizing the facilities to welcome the girls, getting uniforms ready, and developing a special and nutritious menu for their breakfasts and lunches. All with the desire that each one starts the year feeling cared for, motivated, and welcome.

Thank you for being a fundamental part of this mission. Your support not only sustains a girl's education: it sows hope and helps transform lives.



ELCA Prayer Ventures

As of printing time, the ELCA Prayer Ventures for January are not yet available. You can find them later at resources.elca.org/category/prayer-ventures/. In their place, we invite you into a unique Epiphany practice.

Following the Star: An Invitation to Epiphany Star Words

After the familiar rhythms of Advent and Christmas—with their candles, carols, and beloved stories—the season of Epiphany invites us to pay attention in a different way.

Epiphany is about revelation: about God showing up where we might not expect, and about our eyes being opened to what God is doing in the world and in us. It's the season that begins with a star in the sky and ends with a voice from heaven at Jesus' baptism, declaring, "You are my beloved."

One of the spiritual practices many congregations use during Epiphany is the practice of Star Words. If this is new to you, consider this an invitation to curiosity rather than a test to pass or a puzzle to solve.

What Are Star Words?

A Star Word is a single word—usually drawn at random—that you carry with you through the season of Epiphany, or even throughout the year. You don't choose the word; it chooses you. Like the star that guided the magi, the word becomes a gentle guide: something to notice, pray with, resist, wrestle with, or grow into.

Some people immediately love their word. Others find themselves confused, annoyed, or even resistant at first. All of that is normal. The point is not to force meaning, but to stay open to what God might be revealing through it over time.

Star Words are not fortune cookies or personality tests. They are prompts for prayerful attention—small lenses through which we watch for God at work in our daily lives.

How to Use a Star Word

There's no "right" way to do this. Here are a few simple suggestions:

Notice when your word appears—in Scripture, conversation, news, or your own thoughts.

Pray with it. You might ask: Why this word? Where do I need this word right now? Where might God be inviting me to live into it?

Reflect occasionally. Has the word changed for you? Have you changed in relation to it?

Be patient. Some words unfold slowly. Some don't make sense until months later.

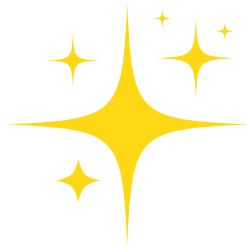
You don't need to think about your Star Word every day. Even setting it aside and coming back to it later is part of the practice.

ELCA Prayer Ventures

A Word for the Season

Below is a set of 26 Star Words. You're invited to draw one, receive one, or simply notice which one catches your attention. However you encounter your word, receive it as a gift—not because it is perfect, but because God delights in meeting us exactly where we are.

Star Words (A–Z, with two Y's and no X):



Abide
Courage
Enough
Grace
Imagination
Kindness
Mercy
Open
Quiet
Seek
Unafraid
Wonder
Yield

Beloved
Delight
Freedom
Hope
Joy
Listen
New
Peace
Rest
Trust
Vision
Yes
Zeal



You might want to write your word somewhere you'll see it: on a bookmark, a phone note, the fridge, or your nightstand. Let it travel with you.

As you live with your Star Word, you may want to return to this Epiphany promise from the prophet Isaiah:

“Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”
— Isaiah 60:1

Epiphany reminds us that God's light is already present—sometimes blazing, sometimes barely visible—but always enough to take the next step.

Wherever this season finds you, may you be guided by light you did not make yourself, and may your Star Word become a quiet companion on the way.



Staff, Council, and Leaders

Congregation Leaders

Staff

Pastor- Alex Martini

Parish Administrative Assistant- Vacant

Director of Music- Karl Segletes

Church Organist- Vacant

Director of Youth and Family Ministry- Kellan Michalowski

GLEE Pre School- Joelle Beck, Director

Congregation and Council Officers

President, *Priss Bashore

Vice President, *Kathy Zagoric

Secretary, *Pam Ringhoffer

Treasurer, Tom Draude

Financial Secretary, *Rena Rinehart

Council Members and Committee Chairs **asterisk indicates council member*

Christian Care Giving: *Pam Ringhoffer, liaison; *Cheryl Fratus, Chair

Christian Education: *Marlene Bohr, Chair

Communication: *Rena Rinehart, facilitator

Evangelism:

Fellowship: *Kathy Zagoric, liaison; Melissa McCord, facilitator

Finance: Bob Eichinger, Chair

Audit Committee:

Property: *David Hamilton, Chair

Outside property- Clyde Forbes; Inside property- Craig Nelson

Protocols: *Steve Kessler, Chair

Safety and Security: Bill Laubenheimer

Social Ministry: *Connie Kishbaugh and Carol Forbes, Co-chairs

Stewardship: *Priss Bashore, facilitator

Youth and Family Ministry: *Sarah Bowers, liaison

Worship and Music: Susan Hensel, Chair; *Pastor Alex, liaison

Council Member: *Sara Weiss

Auxiliaries

ELCW: *Joyce Bowers- President; liaison to council

The Scroll

**St. Peter Lutheran Church
130 Nittany Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

Address Service Requested

Contact Information

717-766-2701

Office@stpetermechanicsburg.com

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Pastor Alex - Alex@stpetermechanicsburg.com

www.stpetermechanicsburg.com

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youtube.com/@st.petermechanicsburg6351 for our online services

8:00 AM and 10:45 AM Worship

Wee Worship 9:00 AM