



Networks

Our Mission:

Learning God's Truth



Sharing the Spirit's Healing



Following the Way of Jesus



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Elementary School
7910 Belair Road ~ Baltimore, MD 21236 ~ 410-665-7300 ~ st-peterslutheran.com

St. Peter's Elementary School & PACE News

Tuesday, December 9th - PACE meeting at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday, December 17th - PreK-grade 1 Christmas Program at 9:30 am., during Chapel; and grades 2-5 Christmas Program at 7 pm.

*We wish you and your family a very merry
and blessed Christmas & New Year!*

Christmas Eve Worship at St. Peter's

Worship at 7:00 pm.
Candlelight worship at 10:30 pm.

Prayer Group

Hello, December! Wow, you're really back so soon?! Drop in and join us for "first Wednesday" December 3rd, as the "Whatever" series from Phillipians 4:8 has fun with "whatever is JUST!" Try us for 45 minutes of refreshment before the Christmas rush. ☺ We meet in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator accessible). See ya at 11 am.!

In His Name,
Patty Read & Kathy Shull

Holiday Closings

St. Peter's ES and the church office will be closed from December 22nd – January 2nd.



CHRISTMAS IS FOR SINGING

I don't think I'm going out on a limb by stating that the songs, carols, and choral music that we sing at Christmastime are the best and most beloved of all music. We've begun hearing the secular songs of the season throughout the public spaces in our communities. If you have a streaming music service you may already be playing these holiday or winter pieces about love, family, or the beauty of snow draped trees and the roar of a fire on the hearth. Now I have a lower tolerance than my daughters for holiday music, especially when they don't give me a choice in the matter of what station we're listening to. On the other hand, I am glad to take up the choral work that we offer in worship. I was in my element as a tenor in my high school and college choruses, and when a certain book, *Carols for Christmas*, from the Oxford University Press, was handed out, I know we were in for fun! I've always enjoyed rehearsing more than when it was time to perform. Because then it's over!

The Bible proves all this true in the first two chapters of Luke's gospel. We have an entire 'book' dedicated to the music of praise and prayer in the Psalms. Moses had composed an actual song that was meant to remind the Israelites what God has done for them in freeing them from being enslaved in Egypt; that's in chapter 32 of Deuteronomy. There are so many more examples of poetry throughout the Bible, especially in the mouth of prophets, but not much explicit singing. But one of my seminary professors believed that what we call speaking in tongues, or *glossolalia*, may well have been people singing in a language that Spirit provided which came out 'naturally' as music. I'd suspect that a lot of prophetic poetry was sung—it makes it easier to remember words when we set them to music.

But back to Luke. There are four visionary *words* that the Church has turned into liturgical songs. Mary, meeting Elizabeth, responds to her blessing with her witness to God's radical act in sending the Son of God

to be *her* child, Jesus. That is the glorious *Magnificat*. When Zechariah, Elizabeth's husband and a priest of God, is freed to speak once more, he proceeds to bless God and the son that he named John. The Church calls his 'song' the *Benedictus*. The angels share the good news of *Gloria in excelsis* to the shepherds in the fields, announcing the birth of the Messiah. Then Simeon offers his gratitude that the Lord has come to him so that he could die in peace, the *Nunc Dimittis*.

All these poems have found their way into the church's worship. The Benedictus and Magnificat are part of daily worship. Zechariah's vision is offered at Matins, morning prayer, and Mary turns the world upside down with her canticle during Vespers, evening prayer. The Gloria and Nunc dimittis are part of Sunday's classic order of worship, though we don't have to use them all the time, but may do so whenever they speak to the theme of a season, as during Christmas and Epiphany.

Now whenever I catch a small inspiration as I plan worship, I tend to push everything else aside and run with some grand plan. But I don't want to drive our secretary, music directors, and singers to rebellion by making a change at this point in our schedule for the season. So I won't lose what I've found—now I have an idea for next Christmastime! So stay tuned in December of 2026(!) for the music of Christmas... from the saints themselves!

Pax, Pastor Lans



A NOTE from YOUR CHOIR DIRECTOR

Reading Pastor's musings about singing all the way through scripture and worship I am almost tempted to embrace it as my report as well – but at the time of this writing we are still looking forward to Thanksgiving – for our family a true festival of thanks - as we share this week with our family living in Europe, but coming to visit us, together, as four generations in one rare moment of our lives. Yes, there is a new baby, our great granddaughter whom we are fortunate to see – a little foretaste to the wonder of Christmas we are looking forward to.

So, it is still Advent time, a time of waiting. The nights are still getting darker, and many problems are weighing heavy – but Advent is also full of singing, expressing both the longing for peace and deliverance, the hope of the promised Savior, and the exuberant joy of Mary's song when she, just pregnant, visits her cousin Elizabeth.

When we look at Eleni's little face smiling at us and her little hands discovering how to move the little toys hanging over her little chair, but also knowing how much she depends on her Mommy for nourishment and safety – it is a miracle to believe that it is through such an infant that wholeness and blessing can and will come to us if we let it. God's ways cannot be defined by our human boundaries, as he cannot be boxed into our ways of understanding.

But we can sing, even in our time of waiting and especially then when it is hard. One of the new songs of Advent we are going to be singing in the next few weeks is giving words to the fear and longing surrounding us even in the middle of the pre-Christmas buzz:

Come now, O God,
when our love is forsaken.
Come, when our bedrock of faith
has been shaken.
Come, when our deepest hopes
are mistaken.
Come, Emmanuel. Come Emmanuel.

Come, put an end
to our self-serving madness.
Come, while the world
is enshrouded in sadness.
Come, turn our tears
of our mourning to gladness.
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
--All Creation Sings: 902

And Mary sings:
My soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my
Savior. --Luke 1: 46,47

Bärbel Otto



December Happy Birthday!

3 Kimberlee Barnes	12 Frederick Fargus
7 Lena Frankenfeld	16 Martha Requard
8 Rose Pearson	17 Cindy Spath
8 Terri Murphy	18 Ruth May
11 Ryder Kane	22 Cathy McQuade
12 Amy Stockdale	22 Watson Fargus
12 Donna Bethke	25 Jesus



December Happy Re-Birthday!

1 Alexander Yelovich
15 Carlisle Mitcherling
27 Amy Stockdale

Happy Birthday and Happy RE-birthday to those of you who were born or "born into" God's family through baptism in December! If your Birthday or RE-birthday is not listed, contact the church office.

The Christmas Heart

"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost 2,000 years ... underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart."

--George Matthew Adams

--December 2011 issue of The Newsletter Newsletter

December Worship Service Assistants Schedule (8:45 am.)

December 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Worship Assistant: Rich Murphy

Ushers: *Jerry Dohmeier and Joe Mills

December 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Worship Assistant: Erik Alexis

Usher: *Don Bayne

December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship Assistant: Holly Vogt

Usher: *Rich Murphy

December 28: 1st Sunday of Christmas

Worship Assistant: Don Bayne

Usher: Kathy Shull

*Opener

St. Peter's WELCA News

Quilting Group - No experience is necessary to help with quilt making—if you can use scissors, we can use you! Contact Janice Frederick for more information (410-665-1868).

Baltimore Cancer Support Group

Weekly Meetings: We meet at St. Peter's on Thursday evenings beginning at 7 pm. All who are/have been touched by cancer are welcome to join us for conversation and support. For more information, contact us at 410-668-1762.

BCSG will not be meeting on 12/25 or 1/1. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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*The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid. —Martin Luther*

*The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God. —C.S. Lewis*



## *December Altar Flower Sponsors*

**12/7 Open for 8:45 am.**

**12/7** In Celebration of **Kimberlee Barnes'** birthday. Given by Nancy Barnes.

**12/14** In Honor of **Amy Stockdale's** birthday. Given by her mother, Irma.

**12/14 Open for 10:15 am.**

**12/21 Open for 8:45 am.**

**12/21** In Celebration of **Cathy McQuade's** birthday. Given by the family.

**12/24 Christmas Eve -**

In Loving Memory of **Marie Sueck** for her December 24th birthday. Given by Terri and Rich Murphy.

**Rose Vase:** In Loving Memory of **Hazel Matz's** December 24th birthday. Given by her son-in-law, Jerry Dohmeier.

**Rose Vase:** In Loving Memory of **Madeline Thrift's** December 24th birthday. Given by her family.

**12/28** In Loving Memory of my mother, **Anna Gahs'** December 31st birthday. Given by her son, Bud.

**12/28** In Honor of **Ciara Rook's** birthday. Given by the Heinbaugh family.

**12/28 Open for 10:15 am.**



## *December Bulletin Sponsors*

**12/7** In Loving Memory of my parents, **Mr. and Mrs. James Frederick, Jr.** Given by their daughter, Mary Lue Frederick.

**12/14** In Honor of **Ruth May's** December 18th birthday. Given by her cousin, Carole.

**12/21** In Honor of our son, **Eddie Volz**, for his December 19th birthday. Given by his parents, Lois and Fred Volz.

**12/24 Christmas Eve -** To Honor our **Savior's** birthday. We wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas. Given by the Mills family.

**12/28** Thank you for our continued support of our flower and bulletin ministry. Happy New Year and God's blessings to **each and every one!** Nancy and Joy.

### **Beginning January, 2026:**

To Sponsor bulletins or flowers contact the church office. Payment for sponsorships should be included with your offering (not a separate payment), and put in the offering plate or mailed to the church, Attn: Finance.

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Altar flowers (2 bouquets) - \$30

Altar piece - \$45

Bulletin sponsorship - \$10

Rose Vase - \$10
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**Need a floral arrangement** for an upcoming holiday event or special celebration? Consider using our Sunday bouquet florist, Drayer's Florist/The Flower Bucket! Call them for pricing and design information at 410-335-6286.

## ***Church & School Staff***

### **Church:**

**Pastor:** Lans Alexis 443-388-1828  
pastor@st-peterslutheran.com

### **Organist/Choir Director:**

Bärbel Otto 410-665-7300

### **Contemporary Music/Praise Team**

**Director:** Richard Stone

### **Administrative Assistant:**

Joy Mayne 410-665-7300  
splcoffice7910@gmail.com

### **Sunday Morning Schedule:**

8:45 & 10:15 am. Worship  
10:00 am. Coffee & Conversation  
10:00 am. Sunday school

### **School:**

**Principal:** April Blahut 410-665-4521  
ablahut@spesmd.org

### **Administrative Assistant:**

Karen Yelovich 410-665-4521  
kyelovich@spesmd.org

### **Parents Association for Christian Education (PACE):**

stpeterspace@gmail.com

### **Church Web Address:**

www.st-peterslutheran.com

### **School Web Address:**

www.spesmd.org

### **School Inquiries Email:**

info@spesmd.org

**You can now make donations on-line through PayPal! Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367 or St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School.**

## ***Church Council Officers***

**President:** Mark McQuade

**Vice President:** Karen Yelovich

**Recording Secretary:** Lena Frankenfeld

**Treasurer:** Kathy Sykes

**Financial Secretary:** William Lauer

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## ***Church Mission & Planning Team Members***

**Faith Formation:** Karen Yelovich

**Fellowship:** Lena Frankenfeld

**Investment:** Rich Murphy

**Nominating:** Mark McQuade

**Prayer Chain:** Ruth Diepold

**Property:** Don Bayne

**School Board:** Lena Frankenfeld

**WELCA:** Heather Frederick

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## ***Annual Meetings***

**4th Sunday in February:** Missions and Life of the Church (*committee reports are due to the church office 3 weeks prior to the meeting*).




**2nd Sunday in November:** Vote on budget and council and Investment Committee members

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**Articles for *Networks* are due to the church office by the 15th of each month. For the June/July issue, they are due by May 15th.**



# December 2025

| <i>Sunday</i>                                                                                                                                                         | <i>Monday</i>                                                                       | <i>Tuesday</i>                                                     | <i>Wednesday</i>                                                                                                                                                                      | <i>Thursday</i>                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Friday</i>                                                            | <i>Saturday</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                      | <b>1</b><br>4p (4th) MM                                                             | <b>2</b><br>3:30p (4th) MM<br>7p (GC) CR                           | <b>3</b><br>9a Chapel (w/<br>Personal Care<br>collection)<br>11a (GC) Prayer<br>Group<br>3:30p (4th) MM                                                                               | <b>4</b><br>7p (S/SL) BCSG                                                                                                                                          | <b>5</b><br>3:30p (4th) MM                                               | <b>6</b>        |
| <b>7</b><br><b>2nd Sunday in Advent</b><br>10a (H) EGW                                                                                                                | <b>8</b><br>4p (4th) MM                                                             | <b>9</b><br>3:30p (4th) MM<br>6:30p (H) PACE<br>mtg.<br>7p (GC) CR | <b>10</b><br>9a Chapel<br><b>10a (H) PACE</b><br><b>Santa's Wksp</b><br><b>set-up</b><br>7p (V) Council<br>mtg.                                                                       | <b>11</b><br><b>9a (H) PACE</b><br><b>Santa's Wksp</b><br>7p (S/SL) BCSG                                                                                            | <b>12</b><br><b>9a (H) PACE</b><br><b>Santa's Wksp</b><br>3:30p (4th) MM | <b>13</b>       |
| <b><i>SPES Holiday Spirit Week</i></b><br><b>M-Merry Headwear Day; T-Candy Cane Day; W-Dress as Christmas Character Day; Th-Tinsel Toes Socks Day; F-Cozy PJs Day</b> |                                                                                     |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |                 |
| <b>14</b><br><b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b><br>10a (H) EGW                                                                                                               | <b>15</b><br>4p (4th) MM                                                            | <b>16</b><br>3:30p (4th) MM<br>7p (GC) CR                          | <b>17</b><br>9a Chapel<br><b>9:30a PK-1st Christmas Program</b><br><b>7p 2nd-5th Christmas Program</b><br>7p (V) Sch. Brd. Mtg.                                                       | <b>18</b><br>7p (S/SL) BCSG                                                                                                                                         | <b>19</b><br>3:30p (4th) MM                                              | <b>20</b>       |
| <b>21</b><br><b>4th Sunday in Advent</b><br>10a (H) EGW                                                                                                               |  | <b>23</b><br>7p (GC) CR                                            | <b>24</b><br><b>Christmas Eve</b><br><b>7:00p Worship</b><br><b>10:30p Candlelight Worship</b><br> | <b>25</b><br><b>Christmas Day</b><br><b>Jesus' birthday!</b>                                                                                                        | <b>26</b>                                                                | <b>27</b>       |
| <b>28</b><br><b>First Sunday of Christmas</b><br>10a (H) EGW                                                                                                          | <b>29</b>                                                                           | <b>30</b>                                                          | <b>31</b><br><b>New Year's Eve</b><br><b>Have a happy and blessed New Year!</b>                                                                                                       | The church office & school will be closed for Christmas break<br>December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026.<br>We wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year! |                                                                          |                 |

Key:  
 (CH) Church; (GC) Grace Chapel; (H) Hall; (LL) Church Lower Level;  
 (S) South Conf. Room; (SL) School Library; (V) Virtual Meeting  
 BCSG=Baltimore Cancer Support Group; CR=Choir Rehearsal  
 EGW=Ebenezer Grace Worship; MM=Mini Maestros



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***Belonging to Jesus, We are  
Feeding & Healing,  
Teaching & Praying  
—Together***

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***DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY ~ GOD BLESS THIS MAIL CARRIER***