



*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”  
At once they left their nets and followed him.*

# Petersburg Lutheran Church

*A Congregation of the Alaska Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



Interim Pastor  
Zachariah Harris III

**November 27, 2022**  
**10:00 am**

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

406 Excel Street, PO Box 709

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Interim Pastor Zachariah Harris III

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November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

*(Please stand if able, as indicated)*

**P** Presiding Minister **A** Assisting Minister **C** Congregation

GUESTS: Hello! God is pleased that you chose to come to His house today and so are we. Rest at ease! You are our guest. You will hear God's word read, sing songs of praise, and receive words of encouragement. Welcome to worship with Petersburg Lutheran. Please be sure to sign our worship register. If you are interested in becoming involved with our church family please see Pastor for more information. May God's peace comfort you and your family.

## *We Prepare for Worship*

*Welcome and Greetings*

**stand**

### *Gathering Song*

*"Fling Wide the Door"* **ELW# 259**

*Confessions*

**P** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever.

**C** Amen

**P** Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of new beginnings,

**C** we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

**We have strayed from your paths.**

**We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire**

**and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

**P** People of God,  
 a new thing is growing in our midst,  
 a tender branch,  
 a living sign.  
 By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
 You have put on T Christ,  
 and your sins have been washed away.  
 Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C** Amen

**We Praise God**  
*Greeting*

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

**C** And also with you.

*Hymn of Praise*  
*“Glory to God”*

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

*Prayer of the Day*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

Sit

**God Speaks to Us**

*“Light One Candle” v1 ELW# 240*

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.

*Children’s Sermon—The Prophecy Candle*

*The Ward family lights the First Candle on the Advent  
Wreath*

## ***The First Reading***

Isaiah 2:1-5

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

<sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

**A** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## ***The Second Reading***

Romans 13:11-14

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

**A** Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

**stand**

**The Gospel Reading**  
**Matthew 24:36-44**

**P** The Holy Gospel

**C** Glory to you O Lord.

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

**P** Here ends the Gospel

**C** Praise to you O Christ.

sit

*Sermon*  
Silence for Meditation  
**stand**

*Hymn Of the Day*  
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” v1-4 ELW # 257

**We Offer To God**

Apostles’ Creed

**P** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**C** I believe in God the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.**  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**  
**born of the virgin Mary,**  
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**  
**was crucified, died and was buried;**  
**he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again;**  
**he ascended into heaven,**  
**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**  
**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
**the holy catholic Church,**  
**the communion of saints,**  
**the forgiveness of sins,**  
**the resurrection of the body,**  
**and the life everlasting. Amen**

## *The Prayers of the Church*

**P** As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence*

**P** God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth and Ukraine. God, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care especially those we name before you at this time...God, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C** Amen

### *Presentation of Tithes and Offerings*

(The offering is a part of our service when God's people respond to His goodness with gifts to support God's work in the world. Malachi 3:10 promises us that our 10% tithe of our wealth will not go unrewarded, and we are encouraged to give offerings above the tithe. An offering is not expected of our guests, but if you consider Petersburg Lutheran to be your church home, know that all your gifts support ministries both locally and globally.)

### *Offering Song* "Let The Vineyards"



**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## *The Offering Prayer*

**P** Let us Pray: Eternal God,  
**C** you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior.  
Amen.

## *We Celebrate the Lord's Supper*

### *The Words of Institution*

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying,  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**P** Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:  
**C** 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

sit

*Distribution*

(The celebration of the Lord's Supper is not limited to our members. The Lutheran belief is that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Children who have not received their first communion instruction are invited to come forward for a blessing. Come forward via the center aisle. Receive the bread and wine. Return to your seat via the side aisle. If you are unable to receive wheat, please ask for a gluten-free host. If you are unable to receive wine, please use the clear non-alcoholic grape juice in the center of the tray.)

*Offering Song*

“Create in Me a Clean Heart” **ELW# 186**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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*Blessing*  
**stand**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C** Amen.

*Post Communion Prayer*

**P** Let us pray: Faithful God,

**C** in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*We Leave to Serve*

*Benediction*

**P** God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever. **C** Amen

**sit**

*Announcements*

**stand**

*Sending Hymn*

*“Rejoice, Rejoice Believer”* ELW# 244

*Dismissal*

**P** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C** Thanks be to God!

*Postlude*

## Prayer Requests

*Worshippers are encouraged to speak the names of loved ones in need of prayer during the Prayer of the Church. You are also encouraged to remember all the following in your prayers. Names can be added to the prayer list by informing the church office once permission has been received from the person being added to the prayer list. O Lord, hear our prayers!*

### **2022 3% November-Crocheting Their Way” Ministry; Wildwood Women’s Prison, Kenai, AK**

This is an ecumenical project of volunteers trained by the Kairos Prison Ministries of Alaska. Items crocheted by the inmates are distributed to various charitable organizations.

**November-** Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole

**Prayers for Church Council:** Bev Siercks-President, Bill Moulton-Vice President, Robin Roberts– Treasurer, Ginger Evens-Secretary, Nancy Berg, Desi Burrell, Chris Van Ettinger, Bridget Wittstock-Good Beginnings, John Small

**Prayers for Health & Healing:** Joseph Tagaban, Annette Olson, Andy Massey, Dee Foley, Lenore Mathisen, Chris Christensen, Liv Perschon, Ed & Elaine Klemmer, Linda Bieber

**Please pray for our Call Committee:** Becky Martin, Jim Engell, Jennifer Bryner, Brenda Norheim, Jim Roberts and Jody Tow.

### **Prayers for those Serving our Country**

Alan McCay	USCG, serving in Port Angeles, WA
Erik Paulson	US Marines, serving San Diego, CA
Michael Serafini	Serving in El Paso, Texas
Shane Small	US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK
Kevin Thynes	Serving in Fairchild AFB, Spokane WA
Peter Vermeer	USCG, serving in Connecticut
Chase Hammer	Us Marine, Serving in North Carolina
Dave Chapman	Serving in Honolulu, HI
Jon Floyd	Serving in San Diego, CA
Trinity Dunham Grayson	Serving in Maryland
Michael Gardner	Serving in Fort Meade, MD

## **This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am...Adult Bible Class

10 am ... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

**Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 5:45pm Soup and Bread in HCH. Service 6:15**

**Choir practice following service.**

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

6:00 pm Bible Study in Ed. Room

### **Non Church Related Uses**

**Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

10am-2pm Rain Country Quilters meet in the Ed. Room

### **Soup and Bread**

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Soup and Bread in the HCH, soup and bread starts at 5:45pm and service start 6:15pm.

**Choir practice following service.**

When using the facility please make sure to shut off the lights and lock the doors behind you. Thank you

**Outreach: Salvation Army Pantry Requested Items:** Pasta sides, like Rice-a-Roni, noodles, Ramen Noodles, canned fruit, canned soup, crackers, toothpaste and toothbrushes, small sizes of peanut butter and jelly.

### **Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services**

You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account.

<https://www.facebook.com/PLC2018plus>

or go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+.

*There is a monthly Newsletter with more details to date on PLC. Check your email*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



**Today, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>:** Polly Koeneman

**Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>:** Glo Wollen, David Tow, Sylvia Ewing

**Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Max and Zach Peeler, Cherie Martens

## Your Offering

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church and mailing it in. Some contribute electronically by giving from their checking account or a credit card. You can access the secure giving site through our web page <https://www.petersburglutheran.com/giving>

## Your Offerings:

November Offering to Date \$16,649

November Monthly Budget \$21,717

Yearly Offering to Date \$170,396

Yearly Budget \$260,599

## Mission of Petersburg Lutheran Church

*“to Know Christ, to Grow in Christ, and to  
Show the Love of Christ”*

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<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Today: Nov. 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Next Week: Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></b>
Musician	Lila Trask	Tamara Evens
Reader	Lana Corl	
Vocalist	Katey Gilpin	Katey Gilpin
Counter	Sue Flint	
Coffee Crew	Last Name S-Z	Last Name: A-E
Video		Jim Roberts
Ushers	Bev Siercks	Kathy Emmenegger
Altar Care	Lila Trask	Lila Trask
Communion Helpers		

We are in need of at least two Communion Helpers each week. Please let Katey or the office know if you would like to help.

# **Gospel Message**

## **November 27, 2022**

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **Time to Wake Up**

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and, ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what's comfortable and "always has been" to what's actually happening right now. It's why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as "wake-up calls."

Yet it is never God's intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us.

That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. We won't *need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can't raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells.

This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.

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*Lessons for Next Week*, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

#### **Petersburg Lutheran Church**

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