

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
DAY of PENTECOST, May 24, 2026

Virtual Prayer and Preaching

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Spirit and Church cry out, **come, holy Jesus.**

All who await his appearance cry out, **come, holy Jesus.**

God's whole creation cries, **come, holy Jesus.**

In the light of Christ's Easter life, and the gift of Spirit to the Church,  
we confess our sins. *Silence for reflection.*



**PRAYER of the DAY**

The Spirit of Christ is with you. **And also with you.**

Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Numbers 11:24-30**

*The spirit of God rested upon seventy elders in Israel who had been chosen to share the burden of leadership with Moses. When some became jealous that two others also had the spirit and could prophesy, Moses said that he hoped that all of God's people would be prophets.*

This is a reading from Numbers, chapter 11.

Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on Moses and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets and

that the LORD would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**SECOND READING: John 20:19-23**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

This is a reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 20.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**The WORD for the DAY of PENTECOST: Acts 2:1-21**

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

This is the Good News of the Gift of Spirit, given in the Acts of the Apostles, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed,

saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
**that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,**  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
**and your young men shall see visions,**  
**and your old men shall dream dreams.**

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
**in those days I will pour out my Spirit,**  
**and they shall prophesy.**

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
**and signs on the earth below,**  
**blood, and fire, and smoky mist.**

The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,  
**before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.**  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**HYMN of the DAY: #800   *"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"***

- 1     Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
      wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
      stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,  
      and make me love you as I ought to love.
- 2     I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
      no sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
      no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;  
      but take the dimness of my soul away.
- 3     Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
      all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
      I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
      Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
- 4     Teach me to love you as your angels love,  
      one holy passion filling all my frame:  
      the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,  
      my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

**MESSAGE:**        **Fire**                    *silence for reflection follows*

**the CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, we pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

O God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces, especially this weekend as we remember those who died in service to their country. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit through the gift of baptism. Bless both those preparing for or affirming their baptism. May they be encouraged by this community of faith as they live out their baptismal promises. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship Center, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Will, Bea, Kathy, Linda, Bud and family, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith, especially scientists Nicolaus Copernicus and Leonard Euler, whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Blessing God's holy name, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

### **SPIRIT'S SENDING**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Holy One, **you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen**

#### **BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and their Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
bless † us now and forever. **Amen**

#### **PEACE**

We are sent to share Good News,  
forgiven and reconciled with all God's people.  
The peace of Christ is with you always.

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**Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists**

Remembering scientists such as Copernicus and Euler offers an opportunity to ponder the mysteries of the universe and the grandeur of God’s creation. Copernicus is an example of a renaissance person. He formally studied astronomy, mathematics, Greek, Plato, law, medicine, and canon law. He also had interests in theology, poetry, and the natural and social sciences. Copernicus is chiefly remembered for his work as an astronomer and his idea that the sun, not the earth, is the center of the solar system. Euler (OY-ler) is regarded as one of the founders of the science of pure mathematics and made important contributions to mechanics, hydrodynamics, astronomy, optics, and acoustics.

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Today’s Sponsorships

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*Today’s Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of Buzz Robinson.  
Given with love by the Mills family.

In Celebration of Jeff’s and Michell’s wedding anniversary.  
Given by Doris Alkire.

In Loving Memory of Duane Barnes’ May birthday.  
Given by Nancy Barnes

*Rose Vase*

To the Glory of God to Celebrate  
Noah Shull’s graduation from Harford Tech High School.  
Love, G’ma & Pop (Kathy & Lyle Shull).

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Today’s Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of my parents,
Vi and Ernest Grimm’s wedding anniversary, May 23rd.
Given by their daughter, Carole Grimm.

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Attendance for Sunday, May 17, 2026: 30

## ***Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities***

**Memorial Day Closure:** The church office and SPES will be closed on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day holiday as we remember those in the armed forces who died in service to our country.

**Church Office Summer Hours:** Beginning on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, the church office will be open M-Th 9a-3p, F 9a-12p.

**The Chosen (season 4):** Tuesdays from 5:15-7 pm. Season 4 explores faith, loss, courage, and what it truly means to follow Christ when the way forward is uncertain. Invite a friend and come for a lite dinner and fellowship at 5:15 pm. followed by a viewing of this uplifting series. May 26 & June 2 at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234).

**Women's Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, May 23 from 9:30 am.-12 pm. at All Saints' (4215 Loch Raven Blvd., 21218). Guest preacher, Rev. Lamont Brown will be presenting. Join us for a relaxed morning of food, connection, and spiritual encouragement. Cost is \$30/person. To purchase tickets, contact Donna Jolley at 443-743-4762 or jolleydonna941@yahoo.com.

**Free Community Health & Wellness Fair:** Saturday, May 30 from 10 am.-2 pm. at Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave.). Learn the importance of healthy eating habits, mindfulness, staying active, and utilizing helpful resources.

**Afternoon Tea Bus Trip:** Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, hosted by St. John, Brooklyn (226 Washburn Ave., 21225). Tea Trolley Tearoom in Delta, PA with first stop at The Markets of Shrewsbury. Cost \$110 (food, transportation, tax, gratuity and driver tip included). The bus will leave St. John parking lot at 10 am. and return at 5 pm. Information and reservations, contact Leslie at 410-969-0129. Deadline for Reservations and payment in full due by June 14. This is an annual fundraiser to support the programs and ministries of St. John.

**Christmas In July:** Saturday, July 25 from 3-7 pm. at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). Traditional spaghetti dinner and dancing to the music of the Monaldi Brothers family band. Admission is \$20/person and a new unwrapped toy. Please call 410-687-4621 for tickets, and note that there are steps to the parish hall.

**Sponsorships Needed:** Bulletins for June 7<sup>th</sup> and altar flowers for July 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact the church office to sponsor.

**Clothing Shed:** St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234) has a clothing shed. Please consider donating gently used clothes, linens, shoes, belts, blankets, purses, and stuffed toys (no housewares).

**Secretary Position Available:** Part time, 20 hr./week, 4 days/week. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, have good organizational skills, be able to work independently and with others, and have good communication skills. Interested parties should call St. Matthew Lutheran Church office (410-335-4210).

**St. Peter's Family Goods Center:** If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

**Give to St. Peter's On-line!** Did you know that you can make offering donations and sponsorship payments 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. When submitting your donation or payment, you can note what it's for. It's THAT easy!

### ***News from St. Peter's Elementary School and PACE***

Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Open enrollment for 2026-27 continues. Referrals are always welcome!

### ***Summer Children's Programs & Vacation Bible Schools***

To Mars & Beyond VBS: June 22-26, 5:30 pm. dinner, 6-8:15 pm. program. Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206, 410-485-7654).

David VBS: July 10th from 5:30-7:30 pm. – Kick-off party with a movie about David. July 11th from 10 am.-3 pm. – Crafts, games, and learn more about the David story. Second Presbyterian Church (4200 St. Paul Street) Children from 4 years old to those who've just completed 5th grade are welcome to attend. A \$10 donation per child is requested. For more information and to register go to: <https://secondpresby.org/vbs-2026-registration/>.

Travel to Rome – Paul & the Underground Church VBS: July 27th-31st from 11 am. – 2 pm. Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234, 410-668-8080). For ages 4 and up. Lunch will be served.

Rainforest Falls VBS: July 27th-31<sup>st</sup>. St. Michael's, Perry Hall (9534 Belair Rd., 21236).

Kids Summer Arts Camp: July 27th-August 7th (Monday-Friday) from 9 am.- 3 pm. St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234, 410-444-5171). For kids who've completed 1st-5th grades. Includes lunch & snacks, fun & creative activities, music making, dance & movement, making art, dinner & closing performance. Professional staff. Registration is \$250/student and is open now!