

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 2, 2026

Virtual Prayer and Preaching

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**the CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who pours love into our hearts  
and healing upon the earth. **Amen**



Confident that God justifies us by grace through Christ's faithfulness,  
we confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*  
Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to give witness to  
your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans  
from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.  
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your  
call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you.  
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live  
as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in  
whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of  
eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen**

**CALL to WORSHIP and PRAYER of the DAY**

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, **and do what is right,**  
for soon my salvation will come **and my deliverance revealed.**  
For my house shall be called **a house of prayer for all peoples.**

The God of mercy is with you. **And also with you.**

Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Glorious God, your generosity  
waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance.  
Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and  
with this flood fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Isaiah 55:1-5 CEV**

*God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God  
also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all people, with  
promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness  
to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God  
has glorified Israel.*

This is a reading from Isaiah, the 55<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
If you are thirsty, come and drink water!  
If you don't have any money, come, eat what you want!  
    Drink wine and milk without paying a cent.  
Why waste your money on what really isn't food?  
    Why work hard for something that doesn't satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and you will enjoy the very best foods.  
    Pay close attention! Come to me and live.  
I will promise you the eternal love and loyalty  
    that I promised David.  
I made him the leader and ruler of the nations;  
    he was my witness to them.  
You will call out to nations you have never known.  
    And they have never known you,  
but they will come running because I am the LORD,  
    the holy God of Israel, and I have honored you.  
    This is God's Word, the seed and soil of faith.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21**

*After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now when Jesus heard about the beheading of John the Baptist, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."

And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"**

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.
- 4 Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984. Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

**MESSAGE:**            **PROVIDENCE**            *silence for reflection follows*

**the CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

For your church in every place, that is satisfies those who hunger for your word. Bless the ministry of readers, translators, Bible study leaders, and writers, that God's word is broken open and shared with all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creations and all the bounty it provides, that your creatures are fed and nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers, those who fish, and all whose labor brings your abundance to our tables. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your children in every nation, that they learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward your reign of love, hope, and peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Bless all your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this community. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they are comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship Center, St. Peter's Elementary School, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Bea, Fred, Bill, Linda, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving for the faithful who now rest in your mercy, that their witness continues to inspire the church. By their example, may we trust your promises in life and in death. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Seeking our daily bread, 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**

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen**

### **BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,  
bless, heal, and hold us, today and always. **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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***Today's Sponsorships***

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Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of my brother, Charles Eck.

Given by Janice Frederick.

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*Today's Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of Marie Kreisel's August 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Given by the Volz family.

In Loving Memory of Uncle Herb Weinreich.

Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for Sunday, July 26, 2026: 22

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

Rainforest Falls VBS: Thanks to everyone for their prayers and support. Many thanks to our volunteers and families! We had a great week of games, songs, crafts, and Bible stories!

Church Office Hours week of 8/3: The church office will be opening late on Monday, 8/3, and closed on Tuesday, 8/4.

The Chalice Circle: Thursday, August 6th at 6 pm. at Epiphany Lutheran Church Parlor (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). The Chalice Circle is a place where you can share life experiences, make deep and lasting connections and deepen your spirituality through shared practices. This is a small group experience and we would love to have you with us. If you would be interested in learning more about joining us, please contact Jennifer Simms at 443-386-8469 or jennifersimms1@gmail.com. Refreshments will be served.

Steak Shack Fundraiser: Wednesday, August 12th from 10 am. – 11 pm. at Steak Shack (1 East Joppa Road, Towson, 21286). Just mention Donation Day at the register or drive-thru at checkout and 25% of your total meal purchase will be donated to Christus Victor!

Spa Day Creations: Saturday, August 15 from 6-7pm at Zion (400 E. Lexington St., 21202). Take a break from the busy pace of life and treat yourself to an evening of creativity and relaxation! Join us for a hands-on Bath Salt Crafting Experience and Create your own custom bath salts using all-natural, skin-approved ingredients and design a unique blend that's perfect for you. No crafting experience is necessary—just bring your creativity! Learn a simple bath salt crafting technique, create your own unique blend, choose from a variety of colors. \$25 per person, space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

Crab Feast: Saturday, August 22nd from 2-6 pm. at Annapolis Evan. Lutheran (38 W. Central Ave., Edgewater, 21037). Get ready to pick some crabs while supporting the ongoing work of Lutheran Mission Society Compassion Place! Tickets are \$70 pre-purchased (\$75 at the door), \$25 for kids 9-13, and kids 8 and under are free. Call 410-636-0123 to order tickets and for more information.

Food Truck Nights: Wednesdays at 5pm at Ascension Lutheran (7601 York Road, 21204). Continues through August.

Brats & Beer: Friday, August 28th from 4-8 pm. in the Garden at Zion Lutheran (400 East Lexington Street, 21202).

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, September 12th from 8 am.-1 pm. at St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Spaces are \$20 for 1 or \$30 for 2. Vendors should bring their own table/chairs and submit registration and payment by 9/6. Questions, contact Amanda Hartman at 443-271-3291 or amandaportera1@verizon.net.

BRCA/Previvors Group: This is an off-shoot of Baltimore Cancer Support Group where previvors discuss navigating the ins and outs of receiving their cancer diagnosis. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. at St. Peter's. For more information, contact Geri (410-852-3688) or Molly (410-227-4692).

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!