

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Way
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 30, 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.* O God, we thank you for your  
Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by  
his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to  
follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must  
faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God – who is  
about to attack Jerusalem – gives a warning with the hope that repentance  
will make the attack unnecessary.*

This is a reading from Ezekiel, the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever  
you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I

say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

This is God's Word, the seed and soil of faith.

### **SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-10**

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law, and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

This is God's Word, the seed and soil of faith.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals – and the church as a whole – should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Jesus said to the disciples: "If another follower sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 802 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us  
and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading,  
trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love,  
let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where you guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy  
shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe;  
help me there your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction,  
give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in  
shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die,  
there to live with you on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, you are now our head,  
we are your own living members;  
where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly,  
living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be;  
life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt.  
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**MESSAGE:**            **RECONCILIATION**            *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 the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities here and in Europe crying out after disasters of flooding, wildfires, and extreme heat. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds 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, Linda, Donna, the teachers, leaders, and families of St. Peter's Elementary School, the school board, PACE, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. 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 Loving Memory of Patty Erck
for her September 2nd birthday.
Given by her sister, Irma.

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

In Honor of Linda Heinbaugh.  
Given by Janice Frederick.

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Attendance for Sunday, August 23, 2026: 29

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

Blessing of Backpacks and Commissioning of SPES Staff: On Sunday, August 30th, we will be blessing backpacks at both services, and SPES staff will be commissioned at the 10:15 am. service. Please pray for all students, teachers, and administrators as we enter a new school year.

Free Firewood: If you, or someone you know, is in need of firewood for summer evenings around the fire pit or the upcoming winter season, please call the church office for contact information. Pick up only; may need a chainsaw to cut before transporting.

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.

Flea Market: Saturday, September 19th from 8am.-1pm. at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Household items, clothes, kid's corner & retail vendors. For information or reserve a spot contact the church at 410-866-8766. All spots are at least 10'x10' (\$20 each). Breakfast available 8am.-1pm. Join us for Live Music in the picnic area 11am.-1pm. Lunch available.

Annual Crab Feast: Saturday, September 26th from 2-5pm. at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). Cost \$50 (or \$35 with no crabs). Menu: Steamed crabs, crab soup, pit beef, pit turkey, potato salad, macaroni salad, tomato & cucumber salad, baked beans, cole slaw, deviled eggs, Caesar salad, soda, iced tea & lemonade. BYOB. Music, quilt raffle, door prizes. Tickets on sale: August 30-September 20. Call 410-668-8089 to reserve your tickets.

13th Annual Car Show: Sunday, October 4th from 10am-2:30pm (rain date 10/18) at Joppatowne Shopping Plaza (1006 Joppa Farm Rd. & Pulaski Hwy.). Baltimore Cancer Support Group invites you to a fun-filled afternoon for car buffs! Entry donation is \$20 with registration from 10am-12pm the day of the event. Food and concessions by Towne Grille & Pub, 50/50, raffles, and door prizes.

Fall Dance: Saturday, November 7th from 6-10pm at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). BYOB (beer or bottle) and food. Musical entertainment by Sound Storm, featuring Motown, R & B, rock, & funk hits! Tickets are \$25 and limited, purchase early! Attendees must be 21 and over. Scan the QR code on the flier on bulletin boards at the red-awning door and church office lobby (contact Amber Houston at 443-579-5197 for registration issues).

34th Annual Bull Roast Fundraiser: Saturday, November 7th from 7:30pm-midnight at Columbus Gardens (4301 Klosterman Ave., 21236). Menu includes oysters, pit beef/ham/turkey, entrees, salads, dessert, and beer and soda (or BYOB). Music by DJ Danny Jahn, cash bar, door prizes, auction, raffles, and photo booth! Tickets are \$65 per person and can be purchased through PayPal. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Geri Booker (410-852-3688) or Karen Haughey (410-960-1148).

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 21st from 9am-2pm at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Vendors and crafters wanted! \$20 for 6' table. Space is limited. Email LindaGruzs116@gmail.com or call 443-500-7549.

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

It's not too late to enroll your child for the 2026-27 school year! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Referrals are always welcome!