



Net+works

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 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).

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## *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.

**NEW! BRCA/Previvors Group:** Join other previvors and discuss navigating the ins and outs of receiving a cancer diagnosis. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

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News from St. Peter's Elementary School

We hope that you are enjoying the “lazy days of summer” with your family! We will be hosting two Parent Orientation days. The first will be on August 6th at 6 pm. and the second on August 18th at 6 pm.

There's still time to register for the 2026-27 school year. We have openings in PreK3 – 5th grade. Call the office at 410-665-4521 to schedule a tour or for more information.

St. Peter's Family Goods Center

Because of water damage caused by a broken pipe in the “brick house,” we have had to delay our opening. In the meantime, we are still collecting donations (see attached list). Donations can be placed in the shopping cart in the church Narthex.

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.

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## *Vacation Bible School Rainforest Falls!*

July 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> \* 6:00-8:00 pm.  
Register your child or as a volunteer  
by scanning the QR Code below.



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Blessings Abound!

*Blessing of Backpacks
Commissioning & Blessing of
Elementary School Teachers & Staff*
Sunday, August 30th at 10:15 am.

*Commissioning & Blessing of
Sunday School & Bible Study Teachers*
Sunday, September 13th at 8:45 am.
(this is also Rally Day Sunday)

CHARACTER

Let me start my column with this, adapted a little from my sermon on 7/12:

‘For this 250th anniversary of our nation’s independence, I thought I’d read a biography of Benjamin Franklin written by Walter Isaacson. If we thought Thomas Jefferson had many different interests and accomplishments, Dr Franklin may well have him beat! There is much to learn from this pioneer in science and society, since he made it a point to instill in our new land the characteristics that would make our new nation prosper. Taken from his autobiography, the author lists those goals Franklin set for himself, and hoped that others would also practice, as he thought self-improvement, like other forms of education, was vital to our national prosperity.

‘These traits included *Temperance*: Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation. *Silence*: Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation. *Order*: Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time. *Resolution*: Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve. *Frugality*: Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; (i.e. waste nothing). *Industry*: Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions. *Sincerity*: Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly. *Justice*: Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty. *Moderation*: Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve. *Cleanliness*: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation. *Tranquility*: Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable. *Chastity*: Rarely use *venery* (sexual indulgence) but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation. He was once told by a friend that he was lacking in one trait not in this list.

His *pride* ‘could be “overbearing and rather insolent”, so that Franklin worked at –but admitted his shortcoming regarding– *humility*, to which he added the definition “Imitate Jesus and Socrates.” He certainly worked *industriously*, as he had counseled in this well-known adage: ‘Early to bed and early to rise makes a man
Alongside these are the fruits of the Spirit in healthy, wealthy, & wise.’ That is a good note to those who wanted to get ahead in the new world. Yet though he didn’t strictly believe in Christian dogma, but was very much a free thinker, still Franklin strove to live by a more selfless credo, “The most acceptable service to God is doing good to man.”’

In my sermon, I contrasted this to some traits of a follower of Christ.

‘*Compassion* – what we feel in our guts, we’ll extend in caring for all. *Integrity* – what we believe is reflected in how we act. *Humility* – we give credit for any good that we do to God and God’s Son, who work in and through us by their Holy Spirit. *Hopefulness* – knowing that it is God’s work, we trust that we’ll see the results in our lives and in those to whom we minister, as well in the rewards of heaven. *Self-control* – knowing that we will sin in what we do or don’t do, we won’t give up or beat ourselves up over the faults that are common to all people. *Joy* – since God claimed us in baptism, and we’ve committed our being and doing to God’s will, we won’t worry if we’ve done enuf, but will be glad and grateful that God has called, chosen, and encouraged us to serve as disciples.’

Galatians 5: ‘Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.’ When talking about the work of ministry, Paul showed how one acted to achieve one’s goals (Romans 12): “If we can prophesy, we should do it according to the amount of faith we have. If we can serve others, we should serve. If we can teach, we should teach. If we can encourage others, we should encourage them. If we can give, we

should be generous. If we are leaders, we should do our best. If we are good to others, we should do it cheerfully.” To these we can add other many ways to behave as believers: honor, obedience, perseverance, tolerance, and selflessness. With ‘love God & love one’s neighbor’, Jesus had us pray this: “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.” We may strive to build up all

A Note from Your Organist

Our summer Sundays are filled with scripture about planting, growing and harvesting. We heard about seeds choking on rocky ground but giving manifold fruit when tended in good soil. We heard about wheat and weeds growing together and Jesus’ warning about pulling weeds too quickly as not to disturb the wheat growing and promised God’s judgement at the end of time.

Thinking about the many images these parables paint I wanted to find out what our hymnal is contributing to those parables and was surprised at the multitudes of hymns, starting from creation and describing the wonders of nature to songs of stewardship that urge us to take care of the gifts of God and our planet. There are at least around 30 hymns telling us of God’s marvelous creation, another 25 or so urging us to take care of what we have been given, and around 60 songs of praise and thanksgiving, giving God the glory for his gifts to humankind.

When in last Sunday’s sermon about the parable of the sower of good seed and the enemy of sowing weeds, the question was raised, whether we might not be too quick to judge who might be wheat or weed, and leave that decision to God alone. I found that our hymn of the Day that Sunday captured it best:

All the world is God’s own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield,
Wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy and sorrow grown.

these traits to become a strong example of faith, but it’s good when we are always ready to acknowledge that we do sin, and so can be forgiving of others. Ben Franklin was certainly right about one thing we can do, “Imitate Jesus.”

Pax, Pastor Lans

First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.
(ELW 693,2)

Then our son, Paul-Gerhard, bought up the question: could we not be both the weed and the wheat? The next two verses may provide an answer:

For the Lord, our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
Give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come with all thine angels come,
raise the glorious harvest home!
(ELW 693, 3-4)

Bärbel Otto

August Happy Birthday!

5 Nicholas Castellano	18 John Gasiowski
9 Sara Alexis	19 Mark Bayne
9 Abby Alexis	20 Pr. Lans Alexis
9 Miranda Buttion	20 John Murphy
13 Daniel Barnes	22 Alan Gaines
13 Kara Neat	23 Olivia Lauer
14 Sarilee Seeger	23 Harold Fargus
15 Eliza Greenwood	25 Nolan Weinreich
15 Peter Fargus	25 Kaden Chmielewski
16 Erik Alexis	26 Tyler Gahs
17 Patty Read	31 Karen Yelovich



August Happy Re-birthday!

5 Corwin Neat	8 Halley Sacker
5 Oliver Thompson	28 Jacob Frederick

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

August Worship Service

Assistants Schedule (8:45 am.)

August 2: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Assistant: Heather Frederick

Usher: *Rich Murphy

August 9: 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Assistant: Rich Murphy

Usher: Kathy Shull

August 16: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Assistant: Erik Alexis

Usher: *Jerry Dohmeier and Joe Mills

August 23: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Assistant: Holly Vogt

Usher: *Don Bayne

August 30: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Assistant: Don Bayne

Ushers: *Rich Murphy

*Opener

Friends in Our Hearts & Prayers

Mrs. Bea Walshinski

Ms. Ruth May



August Altar Flower Sponsorships

8/2 Altar Flower sponsor needed.

8/9 Altar Flower sponsor needed.

8/16 In Honor of Cody Van Dyke's August 28th birthday and Glenn Rook's birthday. Given by the Heinbaugh family.

8/23 In Honor of Lylah Medina's August 29th birthday. Given by the Heinbaugh family.

8/23 In Honor of our granddaughter, Olivia's birthday. Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

8/23 In Honor of our 29th wedding anniversary. Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

8/30 In Loving Memory of Patty Erck for her September 2nd birthday. Given by her sister, Irma Stockdale.

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***Need a floral arrangement*** for an upcoming holiday event or celebration? Consider using our altar flower florist, The Flower Bucket (Drayer's Florist)! Call them for pricing and design information at 410-335-6286.



## ***August Bulletin Sponsorships***

8/2 In Loving Memory of Marie Kreisel's August 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Given by the Volz family.

8/2 In Loving Memory of Uncle Herb Weinreich. Given by the Mills family.

8/9 In Honor of Jade Mills on her August 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. Given with love by Mom and Dad (Donna and Joe Mills).

8/16 In Loving Memory of Uncle John Bast. Given by the Mills family.

8/23 In Loving Memory of my Godmother, Ruth Miller, for her August 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Given by Ruth May.

8/23 In Loving Memory of my aunt, Ruth Miller, for her August 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Given by her niece, Carole Grimm.

8/23 In Honor of Uncle Bunk Weinreich on his birthday. Given with love by the Mills family.

**8/30 Sponsor needed.**

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Altar Flower & Bulletin Sponsorships

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers or bulletins for an upcoming special event (birthday, anniversary, etc.), contact the church office. Pricing is as follows:

Altar flowers (2 bouquets) - \$30

Small round centerpiece - \$45

Bulletin sponsorship - \$10

Rose Vase (1 rose in a bud vase) - \$10

Church & School Staff

Church:

Pastor: Lans Alexis
443-388-1828

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

Church Web Address:
www.st-peterslutheran.com

Sunday Morning Schedule:
8:45 & 10:15 am. Worship
9:45 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

School Web Address:
www.spesmd.org

School Inquiries Email:
info@spesmd.org

Parents Association for Christian Education (PACE):

stpeterspace@gmail.com

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

**Family Goods Center:** William Lauer

**Fellowship:** Lena Frankenfeld

**Investment:** Rich Murphy

**Nominating:** Mark McQuade

**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

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

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You can make donations, submit offering, and  
make 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.

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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.

August 2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 10a (H) EGWC	3	4	5	6 6p (H) SPES Parent Orientation 6:30p (H) Volunteer Training 7p (S/SL) BCSG	7	8
9 10a (H) EGWC	10	11	12 7p (S) Council mtg.	13 7p (S/SL/LL) BCSG & BRCA/Previvors Group	14	15
16 10a (H) EGWC	17	18 6p (H) SPES Parent Orientation 6:30p (H) Volunteer Training	19 7p (V) Sch. Brd. Mtg.	20 7p (S/SL) BCSG	21	22
23 10a (H) EGWC	24	25	26	27 7p (S/SL) BCSG	28	29
30 10a (H) EGWC 10:15a (CH) Blessing of Backpacks & SPES staff	31 SPES – 1st day for teachers	SPES regular office hours resume on August 31st: M-F, 8a-3:30p ~~~~~ 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; EGWC=Ebenezer Grace Worship Center				

A collection of various toiletries including bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, perfume, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, a razor, a comb, a hairbrush, a towel, and a roll of paper towels, all arranged around a central blue banner that reads "Toiletries".

Wipes