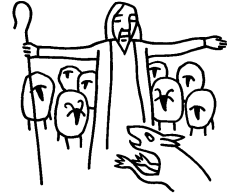


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Fourth Sunday of EASTER, Good Shepherd Sunday

April 21, 2024 – 8:45am

Feast of the Faithful



~~~~~  
(P) Pastor; (A) Worship Assistant; (\*) Please stand as you're able;  
Congregation responses in **BOLD**

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The CHURCH'S GATHERING

WELCOME *Theme of the day & prayer concerns*

PRELUDE: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" –H. Willan

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

We make the sign of the cross, which was marked on us at baptism.

P: We bless the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen**

In hope, we seek reconciliation and renewal in Jesus' resurrection life.
Silence for prayer and reflection. To you, O God, **all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN: # 502 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"**

***GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

P: The grace of our Savior Jesus, **who rose from the dead,**
the love of God, **who brings hope to a broken world,**
and the fellowship of Spirit, **who awakens our hearts to life,**
are always with you. **And also with you.**

We join in prayer. *A brief silence.* O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LITANY for EARTH DAY

A: Whatever we ask, in accordance with your will,
we receive and our cup overflows.

Confident in divine abundance
and humbly eager to turn from covetous greed,
we share what we have received

for the Shepherd's work,
that green pastures and safe folds
will welcome any who live in fear;
that peaceful waters will sustain hurting hearts;

that a voice of welcome will be heard at each gate;
that a feast will be prepared for all who hunger and thirst;
and all may safely graze.

In the name of the One who is our comfort.

Amen, May it be so!

HYMN of PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

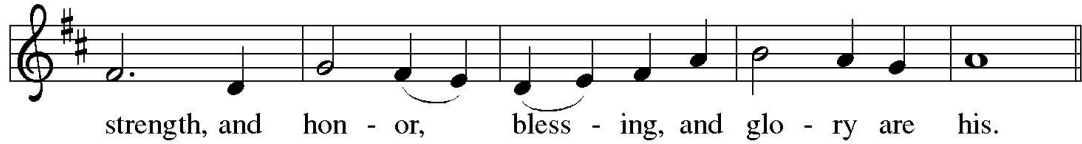
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

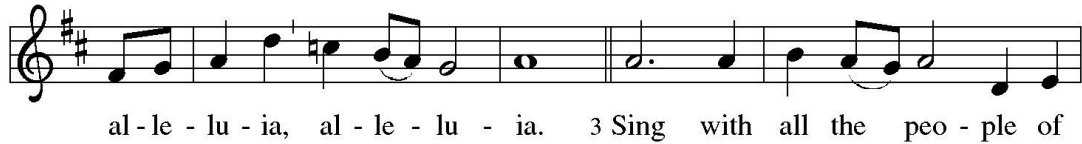


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

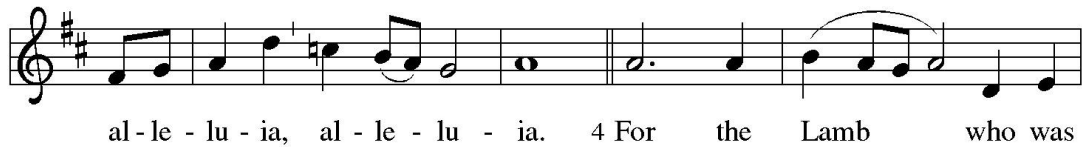


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

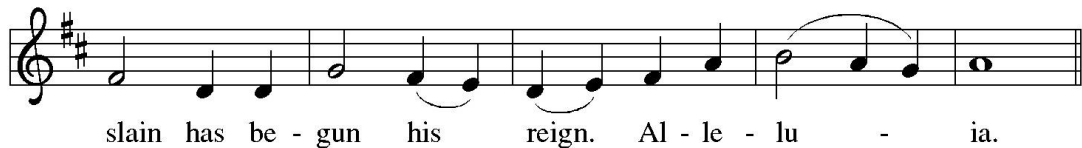
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

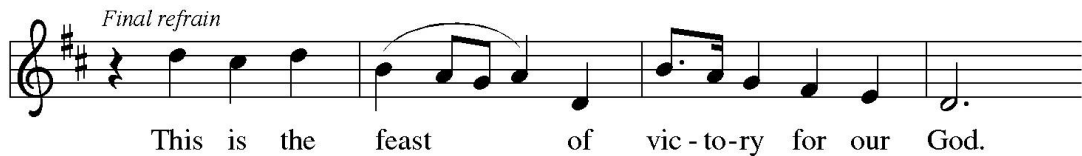


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

A: This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the 4th chapter.

The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

We give our thanks to God.

Psalm 23 *(read responsively)*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

Common English Bible

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

A: This is a reading from John's first letter to the believers, the 3rd chapter.

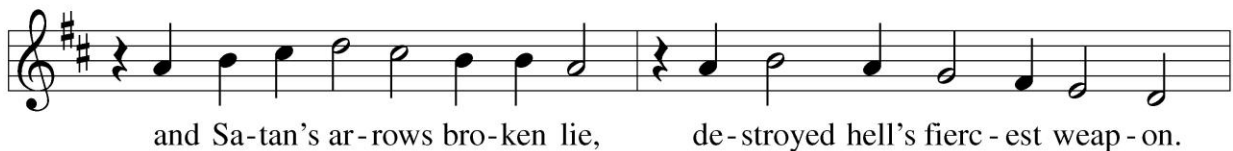
This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?

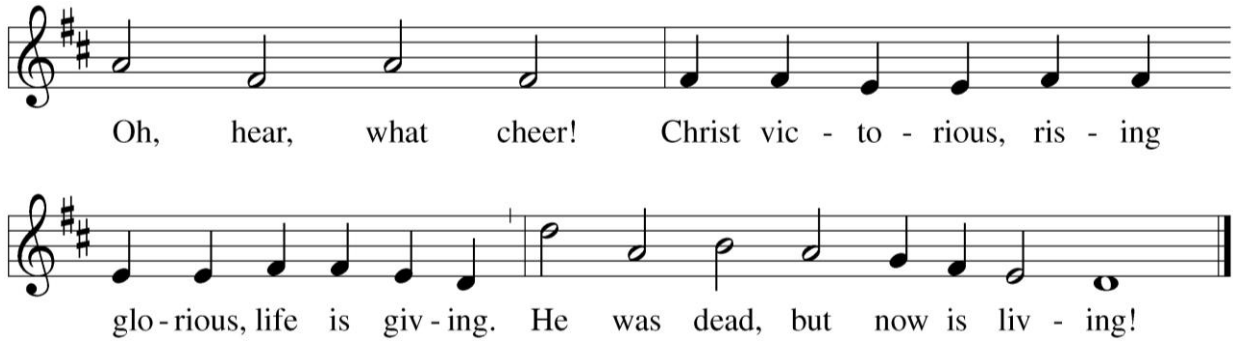
Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. We receive whatever we ask from him because we keep God's commandments and do what pleases him. This is God's commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love each other as God commanded us. Those who keep his commandments dwell in God and God dwells in them. This is how we know that he dwells in us, because of the Spirit God has given us.

This is Holy Wisdom, God's Holy Word.

We give our thanks to God.

***WELCOMING the GOSPEL: "He Is Arisen! Glorious Lord"**





***HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

P: This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 10th chapter.

We give glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

We give praise to you, O Christ.

***HYMN of the DAY: # 764 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"**

MESSAGE: *Pr. Joseph Lettrich* *silence follows for reflection*

CHORAL RESPONSE:

"O Lord, I Trust Your Shepherd Care" –H. Schütz

APOSTLES CREED

With the whole Church, we confess our baptismal faith.

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**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: We especially pray for John, Genevieve, Greg, Louisa, our at-home worshippers, ...

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith, including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

JESUS' SUPPER

PEACE

The peace of Christ is always with you. **And also with you.**

RECEIVING OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS

OFFERING HYMN: "Peace to Soothe Our Bitter Woes"



1 Peace, to soothe our bit - ter woes, God in Christ on us be - stows;
2 Peace with - in the church still dwells in our wel - comes and fare - wells;



Je - sus bought our peace with God with his ho - ly, pre - cious blood;
and through God's bap - tis - mal pow'r peace sur - rounds our dy - ing hour.



peace in him for sin - ners found is the gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
Peace be with you, full and free, now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. *A brief silence.* Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, and the lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

***PREFACE** *sung by the pastor*

***HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, and the lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

***THANKSGIVING at the TABLE**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise: **beyond the stars;**

beneath the sea; **within each cell**; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: **through the water**;
by night and day; **across the wilderness**;
out of exile; **to live in freedom**; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your beloved Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;

beside the sinner; among the poor;

raising the dead; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

On the night of his suffering, Jesus gave thanks for the bread that he held in his hands. This bread he shared among his followers, saying:

All of you, take this, eat this; it is my body,
handed over for you. Do this and remember me.

Then he shared drink with them, saying:

All of you, take this, drink this; it is my blood, the blood of the new covenant that begins now and lasts forever. This blood is poured out for you and for many so that sins may be taken away. Do this and remember me.

Remembering Christ's love for us on the way,

at the table, and to the end,

we witness to the mystery of faith:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Returning, you will bring us home.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: **in our gathering**;

within this meal; **among your people**; throughout the world.

Come, Lord Jesus.

We offer our blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray that we may do God's will, as Jesus has 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

***INVITATION to the FEAST**

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ.
When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread,
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

Sharing Communion *Please take time for meditation & prayer.
(Communion will be served at the altar)*

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

SONG during SUPPER: # 470 "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

SPIRIT'S SENDING

PRAYER for MISSION

A: Let us together pray. *A brief silence.* Shepherding God, **you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen**

MISSION UPDATE: *opportunities for learning & service*

***BLESSING**

P: Please stand as you are able to receive the blessing.
A brief silence. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Little children, sheep of the † Good Shepherd:

As we journey toward the fold,

**we travel through the valley of shadow,
growing in grace, becoming a blessing.**

Baptismal wells restore our souls,

**a rich feast is spread by divine abundance,
and divisions end as our cup overflows.**



***SENDING HYMN: # 544 "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing"**

***SENDING into MISSION**

A: Alleluia! Go in peace.

Journey gently on this planet's green pasture.

We will Learn God's Truth.

We will Share Spirit's Healing.

We will Follow Jesus' Way. Alleluia!

P: We share Christ's peace as we go
to love and serve all!

Amen. Yes, we will!

Please take care as you greet your neighbors with the Peace.

POSTLUDE: "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing" –S. Karg-Elert

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Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109

This eleventh- and twelfth-century Benedictine monk stands out as one of the greatest theologians between Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. He is counted among the medieval mystics who emphasized the maternal aspects of God. Of Jesus Anselm says, "In sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us." Anselm is perhaps best known for his "satisfaction" theory of atonement. He argued that human rebellion against God demands a payment, but because humanity is fallen it is incapable of making that satisfaction. But God takes on human nature in Jesus Christ, Anselm proposed, in order to make the perfect payment for sin.

At the time of this writing, please keep the following in your prayers: ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Synod Bishop Bill Gohl, those hospitalized or at home recuperating, and our at-home worshippers.

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

To the Glory of God and In Memory  
of what would have been our 78<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Given by Ruth Diepold.

In Celebration of Elaine Barnes' birthday.  
Given by Nancy Barnes.

~~~~~

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

In Honor of our daughter-in-law,
Jill Volz, for her April 27th birthday.
Given by Lois and Fred Volz.

~~~~~

Attendance for April 14, 2024: 38

~~~~~

Helping with today's worship

Worship Assistant
Holly Frederick

Usher
Kathy Shull

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Thank You to Pr. Joseph Lettrich for presiding over today's services while Pr. Lans is away.

Please Note: The church office will be closed on Monday, April 22nd and Thursday, April 25th.

Pentecost Geraniums: Order forms for geraniums are located on the "Welcome" table in the back of the church. Forms and payment are due to the church office by Sunday, May 5th.

Prayer Group: PRAYERS UPHOLD us in times of trouble. PRAYERS STRENGTHEN us when needed. PRAYERS COMFORT us, always. PRAYERS are better than prescriptions! JOIN US! Receive YOUR share of SPIRITUAL VITAMINS on Wednesday, May 1st at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator accessible). If you're unable to join us, you can submit a confidential prayer request through one of the prayer containers located in the school and church lobbies.

Ice Cream Social: Sunday, May 12th after the 10:15 am. worship, hosted by St. Peter's PACE. Celebrate Mother's Day with this yummy get-together in the hall.

Weekly Sponsorships Available: Bulletins for 5/5 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. on May 5, 19, and 26 (contact Nancy Barnes).

PayPal Donations: You can now make donations 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.

"Matilda, the Musical" is being presented by Concordia Prep School's Theater Department on Thursday, April 25th (dinner & show is \$45/person; dinner at 6:30 pm. and show at 7 pm.), Friday & Saturday April 26th & 27th at 7 pm., and Sunday, April 28th at 2 pm. Tickets for 4/25 (show only) and 4/26-28 are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens. To purchase tickets, go to concordiaprepschool.org and search *Matilda*, or contact the school at 410-825-2323.

Grab Bag Bingo: Saturday, April 27 at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). There will be an assortment of prizes. Cost is \$15 for 20 games. Doors open at 5 pm., games begin at 6 pm. Contact the church office at 410-866-8766 for more information.

Flea Market: Saturday, May 4th at St. Michael (9534 Belair Rd., 21236) from 8 am.-12 pm. (rain date 5/11). Spaces are available for \$20 (size is 10x18). Contact Linda at 410-852-7826.

Baskets, Bags & More Bingo: Saturday, May 4th. Doors open at 6 pm., games begin at 7 pm. St. John's (Parkville) is hosting, but event will be at St. Ursula Auditorium (8900 Harford Rd., 21234). Tickets are \$20/person in advance or \$25 at the door. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Contact Tony at 443-474-2727 or the church office at 410-665-1234.

Purse Bingo: Sunday, May 5th at St. Luke Lutheran (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Doors open at 12 noon, games begin at 1 pm. Cost is \$25/person in advance or \$30 at the door. Refreshments will be available for sale. BYO wine or beer. Contact Kim at 443-415-5824 or the church office at 410-444-5171 for information. Cashapp and Venmo accepted.

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, June 1st from 8 am.-1 pm. at St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Spaces are \$20 for 1 and \$30 for 2 (bring your own table and chair) and must be reserved by 5/28. Space is approximately size of 2 parking spaces. Contact Chris Hills at 410-952-4920 or cr_hills@yahoo.com. Vendors may not sell food as St. John's will have a concession stand.

For every NEW regular deposit account opened at Eastern Savings Bank (Fullerton branch only) St. Peter's Lutheran Church receives \$5! Visit the Fullerton branch at 4113 Wholesale Club Drive, Suite 130 or go to EasternSavingsBank.com.

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**News from St. Peter's Elementary School**

"Open Enrollment" for the 2024-25 school year continues. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

Our weekly chapel services are every Wednesday at 9:15 am. Parents and families are always welcome to join us!

All donated items for the SPES electronics upcycling/recycling event MUST BE IN THE SCHOOL LOBBY BY TUESDAY, APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup>. Items being collected can be working or non-working electronics, including: computers, monitors, tvs, small kitchen appliances (blenders, toasters, etc.), electronic game devices, and more! Lists of acceptable items are posted on the bulletin board at the red awning door and on the bulletin board in the church office hallway. For additional items not on the list, contact Lauren at lauren1@upcyclellc.com.