

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**  
**Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 22, 2025**

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**



**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We begin our worship as we began our life in the body of Christ:

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Baptized into Christ, we call to him to confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.* Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen**

You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of † Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

God's kindness, Jesus' peace, and Spirit's joy are always with you.

**And also with you.**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Galatians 3:23-29; 5:16-25** *Common English Bible*

*For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ. The freedom that Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.*

This is a reading from Galatians, chapters 3 and 5.

*Paul writes:* Before faith came, we were guarded under the Law, locked up until faith that was coming would be revealed, so that the Law became our custodian until Christ so that we might be made righteous by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires. A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so that you cannot do what you want to do. But if you are being led by the Spirit, you aren't under the Law. The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry, jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won't inherit God's realm.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires. If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit. This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62**

*Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive Jesus because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Humanity has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury

my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the realm of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the realm of God."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 332 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"**

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till trav'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

**MESSAGE:**        **CHILDREN of HUMANITY**    *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Protect the is world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries. Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom in which you have called us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence. Give all your fullness of joy. We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, Joe, George, our at-home worshippers, .... God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray for daily bread, 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.* Mothering God, **send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen**

**BLESSING**

The love of God ☩ overflow in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the life of Spirit bless you and give you peace. **Amen**

**SENT OUT for MISSION**

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

Live by the Spirit of hope and joy!

**We will Learn God's Truth.**

**We will Share Spirit's Healing.**

**We will Follow Jesus' Way. Amen**

We go in peace to love and serve all. **YES, we will!**

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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*

In Honor of St. Peter's faithful and dedicated  
Sunday School staff and families.  
Given by Janice Frederick.

To the Glory of God and  
to Honor Bud Gahs' 101<sup>st</sup> birthday!  
Love, your adult Bible study class.

Happy 101<sup>st</sup> birthday to Bud Gahs!  
Given with love by your family.

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Attendance for June 15, 2025: 27

## ***Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities***

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 7/13 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**SPES Summer Office Hours:** As of Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, the school has abbreviated summer hours: Mon. 12p-4p, Tue.-Thur. 9a-12p, Fri. - closed.

**Road Trip VBS:** July 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> from 9 am.-12:30 pm. at St. John, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Registration is for children who've just completed PreK3-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children must have completed at least 1 year of preschool by June 2025 and be potty trained. Register early as it closes when we've reached full capacity (60 children). To register or for questions, call the office at 410-665-1234 or email office@stjohnsparkville.org.

**Music Camps:** (Campette) July 28-30 from 9a-12p for students who've just completed K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and (Camp) August 11-15 from 9a-2p for students who've just completed 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. John, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Campette is \$15 per student, non-refundable, and Camp is \$25 per student, non-refundable. Registration forms and additional information can be found at [www.stjohnsparkville.org](http://www.stjohnsparkville.org).

**Kids Summer Arts Camp:** August 4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> from 9a-3p at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). The camp is for children who've just completed 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Activities include music making, dance & movement, and making art. Registration is \$225 per student and includes lunch and snacks. To register, call 410-444-5171.

**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](http://EasternSavingsBank.com).

**On-line Giving:** As an alternate way of submitting your offering, you can 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.

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

SPES night at Camden Yards is Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>! Join the SPES families as the O's take on the Houston Astros. Ticket prices: Upper reserve (section 348) \$29 and Lower reserve (section 61) \$33. Contact the school at 410-665-4521 for a flier. For any additional questions, call Gary at 410-547-6115.

Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year has begun! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!