

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
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 13, 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.* O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

This is a reading from Deuteronomy, chapter 30.

The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in



this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"**

- 1 Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;  
while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

*Refrain*

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;  
while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

- 2 Let me at thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief;  
kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. *Refrain*
- 3 Trusting only in thy merit, would I seek thy face;  
heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by thy grace. *Refrain*
- 4 Thou, the spring of all my comfort, more than life to me,  
whom have I on earth beside thee? Whom in heav'n but thee? *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

**MESSAGE:**        **Merciful**    *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. *A brief silence.*

Saving God, awaken your church to your truth as it follows your path of love. Encourage pastors, deacons, teachers, and seminarians, and lead them as they seek to learn your ways. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Prosper the harvests of fruit-bearing bushes, trees, and plants. Uphold farmers and farm workers as they labor through summer days, and bring relief to lands that are parched with heat. Help those devastated by flooding and storms in Texas, New Mexico, North Carolina, and fires in Canada and California. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Instill in leaders of the world a strong love for their neighbors. Compel them to govern with equity and to give aid and protection to people who are vulnerable, especially strangers, migrants, and asylum seekers. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Go with all who travel, and protect them from harm. Put in their paths people who offer aid. We pray especially for the safety of first responders. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to people in need of help, comfort, and healing. Provide protection and aid to children who are unsafe and undernourished while on summer break. 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.*

We give you thanks for all who have gone before us and have made your love known. Help us to follow their witness as we await our share in the inheritance of the saints. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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 the peace of Christ to love and serve all. **YES, we will!**

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 Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of Sarah and Phil Thacker's
21st wedding anniversary, July 17th,
Phil's birthday, July 8th,
and Sarah's birthday, July 16th.
Best wishes and love from Mom-Mom Diepold.

Red Rose
In Honor of Jacob Frederick's 9th birthday.
Given by his grandmother, Irma.
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*Today's Worship Folders Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of Jacob Frederick for his July birthday.  
Given by Mom-Mom, Janice Frederick.  
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Attendance for July 6, 2025: 36

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Games & Goodies: Join St. Peter's families on Sunday, July 13th at 11:15 am. in the open area of the lower level (elevator access). Bring a favorite game. Goodies and beverages will be provided (bring a snack to share if you'd like to).

SPES Open House: Are you, or someone you know, looking for a quality Christian education for your child? SPES is hosting an open house on Monday, July 14th from 5-6:30 pm.

Upcycling Event: SPES is hosting a free e-waste recycling event. All items are due to the school lobby no later than Wednesday, July 23rd. Contact the school at 410-665-4521 for a list of items.

Summer Sunday School is available for children who've just completed 6th grade and under! We gather for Bible stories, songs, games, and crafts at 10 am. in the Sunday school classrooms (lower level). If you're interested in helping 1 or more Sundays, please contact Mark McQuade or Ashley Kane.

St. Peter's Family Goods Center: Because there are many pantries and BCPS schools who offer food to the community, we are repurposing our former food pantry to distribute other needed items like toiletries, diapers, and paper products. If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. A list of needed items will be available in the bulletin and August newsletter, as well as on our website and Facebook page. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families.

Sponsorships Available: Bulletins on 8/31 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 8/3, 24, & 31 (contact Nancy Barnes).

Music Camps: (Campette) July 28-30 from 9a-12p for students who've just completed K-2nd grade, and (Camp) August 11-15 from 9a-2p for students who've just completed 3rd-8th 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.

Kids Summer Arts Camp: August 4th-15th from 9a-3p at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). The camp is for children who've just completed 1st-5th 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.

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 23rd! 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. See the flier on the "Welcome" table in the back of the church. 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!