

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Way
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 16, 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.* God of all peoples, your arms  
reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of  
your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name  
may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent  
intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to  
the Israelite community – not race, nationality, or any other category.*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 56.  
Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come  
and my deliverance be revealed.  
And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it  
and hold fast my covenant—  
these I will bring to my holy mountain  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar,  
for my house shall be called  
a house of prayer for all peoples.  
Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.  
This is God's Word, the seed and soil of faith.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28**

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"

He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."

But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."

Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 650 "In Christ There Is No East or West"**

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

**MESSAGE:        *INSIDE/OUTSIDE***

*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 believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. 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, Jeanie, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. 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 Honor of Cody Van Dyke's August 28<sup>th</sup> birthday  
and Glenn Rook's birthday.

Given by the Heinbaugh family.

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

In Loving Memory of Uncle John Bast.

Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for Sunday, August 9, 2026: 33

### ***Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities***

**Sponsorship Needed:** Altar flowers and bulletins for 9/27. Contact the church office to sponsor.

**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.

**Spa Day Creations:** Saturday, August 15 from 6-7pm at Zion (400 E. Lexington St., 21202). Take a break from the busy pace of life and treat yourself to an evening of creativity and relaxation! Join us for a hands-on Bath Salt Crafting Experience and Create your own custom bath salts using all-natural, skin-approved ingredients and design a unique blend that's perfect for you. No crafting experience is necessary—just bring your creativity! Learn a simple bath salt crafting technique, create your own unique blend, choose from a variety of colors. \$25 per person, space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

**Crab Feast:** Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-6 pm. at Annapolis Evan. Lutheran (38 W. Central Ave., Edgewater, 21037). Get ready to pick some crabs while supporting the ongoing work of Lutheran Mission Society Compassion Place! Tickets are \$70 pre-purchased (\$75 at the door), \$25 for kids 9-13, and kids 8 and under are free. Call 410-636-0123 to order tickets and for more information.

**Food Truck Nights:** Wednesdays at 5pm at Ascension Lutheran (7601 York Road, 21204). Continues through August.

**Brats & Beer:** Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 pm. in the Garden at Zion Lutheran (400 East Lexington Street, 21202).

**Grab Bag Bingo:** Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm. (doors open at 5 pm.) at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). \$20 for 20 games. Raffles, door prizes, and food available for purchase. Proceeds support the church's 2027 Scholarship Fund. For tickets call the church at 410-866-8766 or Linda DeJong at 410-979-7645.

**Community Yard Sale:** Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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***

**Parent Orientation** is for all returning and new families and will be held on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. in the hall.

**Volunteer Training** is open to anyone interested in helping with lunch, recess, reading a story to classes, and much more! Training will be offered on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. in the hall. Please RSVP with the school office (410-665-7300).

Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Open enrollment for 2026-27 continues. Referrals are always welcome!