

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Way
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 23, 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.* O God, with all your faithful  
followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong  
foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly  
minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Isaiah 51:1-6**

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many  
descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come  
soon and will never end.*

This is a reading from Isaiah, the 51<sup>st</sup> chapter.  
Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,  
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.  
Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah, who bore you,  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.  
For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
God will comfort all her waste places  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.  
Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation,  
for a teaching will go out from me  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.  
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
Lift up your eyes to the heavens  
and look at the earth beneath,  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats,  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.  
This is God's Word, the seed and soil of faith.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-26**

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Humanity is?"

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."  
And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of

Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 654 "The Church's One Foundation"**

- 1     The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
      she is his new creation by water and the word.  
      From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
      with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 2     Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
      her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
      one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
      and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3     Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
      by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
      yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
      And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 4     Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,  
      she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
      till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
      and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5     Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
      and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
      Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,  
      that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

**MESSAGE:**            **LEADERSHIP**            *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.*

God our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness – all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day. 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, Shirley and the Weinreich family on the passing of her daughter-in-law Sandy, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for Sandy and all the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. 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 Lylah Medina's August 29th birthday.
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Attendance for Sunday, August 16, 2026: 27

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

The church office will be opening late on Tuesday, August 25th.

Blessing of Backpacks and Commissioning of SPES Staff: On Sunday, August 30th we will be blessing backpacks at both services, and SPES staff will be commissioned at the 10:15 am. service. Please pray for all students, teachers, and administrators as we enter a new school year.

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.

Crab Feast: Saturday, August 22nd 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 Night: Wednesday, August 26th at 5pm at Ascension Lutheran (7601 York Road, 21204). Last one for the summer.

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

Grab Bag Bingo: Saturday, August 29th 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 12th 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.

13th Annual Car Show: Sunday, October 4th from 10am-2:30pm (rain date 10/18) at Joppatowne Shopping Plaza (1006 Joppa Farm Rd. & Pulaski Hwy.). Baltimore Cancer Support Group invites you to a fun-filled afternoon for car buffs! Entry donation is \$20 with registration from 10am-12pm the day of the event. Food and concessions by Towne Grille & Pub, 50/50, raffles, and door prizes.

Fall Dance: Saturday, November 7th from 6-10pm at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). BYOB (beer or bottle) and food. Musical entertainment by Sound Storm, featuring Motown, R & B, rock, & funk hits! Tickets are \$25 and limited, purchase early! Attendees must be 21 and over. Scan the QR code on the flier on bulletin boards at the red-awning door and church office lobby (contact Amber Houston at 443-579-5197 for registration issues).

34th Annual Bull Roast Fundraiser: Saturday, November 7th from 7:30pm-midnight at Columbus Gardens (4301 Klosterman Ave., 21236). Menu includes oysters, pit beef/ham/turkey, entrees, salads, dessert, and beer and soda (or BYOB). Music by DJ Danny Jahn, cash bar, door prizes, auction, raffles, and photo booth! Tickets are \$65 per person and can be purchased through PayPal. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Geri Booker (410-852-3688) or Karen Haughey (410-960-1148).

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 21st from 9am-2pm at Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206). Vendors and crafters wanted! \$20 for 6' table. Space is limited. Email LindaGruzs116@gmail.com or call 443-500-7549.

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

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!