

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 2025

Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, & Praise time:*

**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen**

Trusting in God's mercy, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5**

*The write of this letter continues his instruction of timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.*

This is a reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy, chapter 3.  
*Paul writes:* As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his realm, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. This is God's Word, our hope.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8**

*Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, God will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Humanity comes, will he find faith on earth?"

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN for TODAY: # 769 "If You But Trust in God to Guide You"**

- 1 If you but trust in God to guide you  
with gentle hand through all your ways,  
you'll find that God is there beside you  
when crosses come, in trying days.  
Trust then in God's unchanging love;  
build on the rock that will not move.

- 2 What gain is there in anxious weeping,  
in helpless anger and distress?  
If you are in your Savior's keeping,  
in sorrow will he love you less?  
For Christ who took for you a cross  
will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.
- 3 The Lord our restless hearts is holding,  
in peace and quietness content.  
We rest in God's good will unfolding,  
what wisdom from on high has sent.  
God, who has chosen us by grace,  
knows very well the fears we face.
- 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,  
offer your service faithfully.  
Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,  
you'll find this promise true to be.  
This is our confidence indeed:  
God never fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite; Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**MESSAGE:**        **Persistent Faith**        *silence for reflection follows*

### **the CHURCH PRAYS**

#### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Renewed by God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world,  
and all creation. A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the  
globe, ring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition.  
Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the  
beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the  
entire cosmos. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all  
the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the  
sake of the entire world. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for St. Peter's. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, our at-home worshippers, ... God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **OFFERING PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy Spirit, come; **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

So that all the world may be fed, 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**

### **BLESSING and PEACE**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,  
bless ☩ you now and forever. **Amen**

*Paul wrote:* "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."  
The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

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Today's Sponsorships

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*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of Camden Wes Tanasescu's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday,  
and Brandi Tanasescu's 36<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by the Heinbaugh family.

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Attendance for October 12, 2025: 30

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

November Annual Meeting to discuss and vote on the 2026 budget, and elect council members and investment committee members will be held between services on Sunday, November 9th. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

Murder on the Nile: Artistic Synergy (Prince of Peace's own little Broadway) will be having their performances at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237) on Friday, October 17th and Saturday, October 18th at 8 pm., and Sunday, October 19th at 3 pm. Tickets are available at <https://www.artistic-synergy/net/tickets/>.

Trunk-or-Treat: Saturday, October 25th from 1-3 pm. SPES is hosting an afternoon of family fun! Costumes are encouraged (no weapons or scary costumes, please). Candy and treats from decorated trunks, and games and music for all.

Trunk-or-Treat: Saturday, October 25th from 6-7:15 pm. at St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Car decorating contest set-up begins at 5 pm. Sign up by October 20th at office@stjohnsparkville.org or 410-665-1234. Safe and fun trick-or-treating with sweet treats and tons of fun! Donations for our Food for Thought program are also welcome: tuna & chicken salad kits, applesauce pouches (no foil lids), and pudding cups (no peanut butter).

Reformation Sunday is October 26th. To celebrate the birthday of the Lutheran Church, please wear RED. Reformation Day is 10/31.

NYC Bus Trip Fundraiser: St. Peter's Elementary School is offering a chartered bus trip to New York City on Friday, December 5th for \$100 roundtrip. The bus will begin boarding at 7:30 am in St. Peter's parking lot, and will return at approximately 10:30 pm. All participants will be on their own to plan and pay for their food and activities while in New York City. Seats are limited so sign up as soon as possible; no later than Friday, October 31st. Contact Karen Yelovich at kyelovich@spesmd.org or 410-665-4521 to purchase tickets. Cash or check (payable to St. Peter's Elementary School) accepted. Flier with additional details is on the Welcome Table in the back of the church.

All Saints' Sunday is November 2nd. If you would like a loved one remembered, please contact the church office by Wednesday, October 29th. All Saints' Day is 11/1.

Prayer Group: We are gathering at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access) on Wednesday, November 5th to chat about "Whatever is NOBLE." Come find out what it means. Our prayers make a difference!

Multi-vendor Bingo: Saturday, October 25th at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Doors open at 5 pm., games begin promptly at 6 pm. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Wear your favorite Halloween costume and receive one free raffle ticket for a special Halloween raffle. Contact Linda DeJong bldejong@verizon.net for more information and tickets in advance, or contact the church office at 410-866-8766. Proceeds to benefit the 2026 Scholarship Fund.

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 8th from 9 am.-1 pm. at Christus Victor Lutheran (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). Unique handmade crafts, seasonal decorations, baked goods, and more!

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 8th from 9 am.-2 pm. at St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Food, crafters, jewelry & bake tables, homemade "goodies," quilt raffle, and more!

Merry & Bright Vendor and Craft Fair: Saturday, November 8th from 9 am.-2 pm. at St. John's of Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). Event features the Yuletide Tree Jubilee - take a chance to win your favorite decorated tree!

33rd Annual Bull Roast: Saturday, November 8th 7:30p-12a at Columbus Gardens (4301 Klosterman Ave., 21236). Dress in costume and support Baltimore Cancer Support Group! Menu includes shrimp, pit beef, pit ham, pit turkey, entrees, salads, and desserts. Tickets are \$65/person and must be purchased in advance. Contact Geri at 410-852-3688 or Karen at 410-960-1148.

2nd Annual Thanksgiving Food Give-a-way: Saturday, November 22nd from 9am – 2 pm. at All Saints Lutheran (4215 Loch Raven Blvd., 21218). Come join us for our "Food-Give-A-Way! Receive a box of groceries. Enjoy good hot dogs, hamburgers, music and fellowship. Everyone is Welcome!

Sponsorships Available: Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 11/23 & 30, and bulletins on 11/30 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 11/2, 16 & 30 (contact Nancy Barnes).

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.

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

Although the school year has begun, it's not too late to enroll! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!