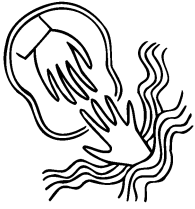


**St. Peter's Lutheran Church & Elementary School  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 9, 2020**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*You can say the **BOLD** words with Pastor.*

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*We make the sign of the cross, which was marked on us at baptism.*  
We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen**

Trusting in the mercy of God, we confess our sin. *Silence for reflection.*  
Reconciling God, **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

Gathered on the Lord's Day, we remember that we are baptized  
**in the name of the Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Jesus promised his followers at his ascension:  
I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.  
**And we will follow all he has taught us,  
making disciples wherever we are.**

Join me in prayer. *A brief silence.* Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food

fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

### **SCRIPTURES, SERMON, & SONG**

#### **READING: Romans 10:5-17**

*A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.*

*Paul writes:* Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

"The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?' So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

#### **GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33 (CEV)**

*Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.*

P: This is the Good News of the victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
as the Word was given to Matthew.

Right away, Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and start back across the lake. But he stayed until he had sent the crowds away. Then he went up

on a mountain where he could be alone and pray. Later that evening, he was still there.

By this time the boat was a long way from the shore. It was going against the wind and was being tossed around by the waves. A little while before morning, Jesus came walking on the water toward his disciples. When they saw him, they thought he was a ghost. They were terrified and started screaming.

At once, Jesus said to them, "Don't worry! I am Jesus. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come on!" Jesus said. Peter then got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward him.

But when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he was afraid and started sinking. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Right away, Jesus reached out his hand. He helped Peter up and said, "You surely don't have much faith. Why do you doubt?"

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down. The men in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "You really are the Son of God!"

**GOSPEL REFLECTION** [*for your own use, & for our Thursday Zoom Meeting*]

1 What storms do you struggle with? What does the church struggle with?

2 Is it okay to doubt? Doubts aren't always a test, but what helps you deal with your fears & doubts?

**MESSAGE: *Hearing & Believing***

My wife & I found a **good** reality series called Love on the Spectrum, which tells the story of young people with high-functioning autism who are looking for romantic relationships. Of course, it hit home, & we embraced its gentle humor & the sweet situations that the various people were working thru. But it reminded us of how our 1 daughter Abby is in the same boat: how do you meet someone? Finding someone who is right for you takes a lot of patience, & that is not always a person with autism's strong suit. Dating is awkward enuf when you add in a person who doesn't always process the details of social interactions or emotional experiences. 1 young man especially stood out in his determination to find the right woman to be his partner in life. At the same time, he thought the actress Dawn Wells of Gilligan's Island was the most perfect woman for him—gotta love someone with high standards. Most of the young people in this series have a similar characteristic to our daughters' single-mindedness. Sara can have a laser focus on those things she likes, & if her mind is made up about something, good luck getting her to change. The young people who were starting to get to know another

person had the problem of making snap decisions that things didn't go well, or that strange thing called 'a spark' didn't exist, dashing one's hopes—ouch!

Whole-heartedness is important to our faith life, & yet so difficult to achieve. There are hobbies or activities that you & I might be single-minded about, & I can be just as quirky as my children when it comes to my obsessions. As we saw earlier in Romans, Paul encouraged his readers, & us, to set our minds on the things of the Spirit. But it's so easy for our very human hearts to get caught up in the mundane, the tacky, & even the selfish & lascivious pursuits of this world. Jesus said to Martha, 'You are worried & distracted by so many things, when only one thing is necessary.' Is he talking to us? *Yeah.*

Does this mean that it is a challenge to believe with the heart? For it sounds like this is the crux of our life as followers: "if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." There's no getting around that – it's even simpler than what we profess in our faith with the Apostles Creed. As I said last week, I'm not steeped in the practices of other Protestant churches, but I've heard well-meaning Christians say that 1 **must** use that certain confession I've seen in some evangelical tracts that proves that one has been saved. & other groups want to see 'spiritual proofs' such as speaking in tongues in order to show that 1 has converted to a right faith. For myself & our faith practice in Lutheran Christianity, I'm going to take that single-mindedness with a grain of salt. If it depends on my proving I've had a change of heart, or I've said the right words & had the right feeling, then I know I'll fall short. What is true is that Jesus is Lord, & I'm not, nor is anything else in this life.

Now it's like Paul asks when he quotes Moses (& I'm being poetic here): can we bring this salvation down from the heavens or draw it up from the depths of the sea? No, for it is found as near to us as our breath, in the touch of a hand of the 1 who loves us. We make a confession from our heart because Jesus has come to dwell there. & yes, my friends who tried to convert me in my college days asked me to invite Jesus into my heart. I'd say they were only wrong in that they were asking this on their terms, when it's true that I've been inviting Jesus in whenever I receive Holy Communion, & when my parents took responsibility for me to be baptized into Christ & his Church.

See, there's something off base about the American approach to salvation in 2 crucial ways. The 1<sup>st</sup> is seen in the verses prior to what we've read, where Paul talks about what we refer to as 'works righteousness.' He'd just written

that his fellow Jews had not fulfilled the law (which he'd said before that none of us can do!). "Why not? Because they did not strive for it on the basis of faith, but as if it were based on works." Isn't it the American way to work for what we receive? How good can something be if you just give it to me? [Unless it's my birthday!] & don't we have a rebellious streak that doesn't always want to submit to authority? What Paul says for his fellow Jews is true for us, "For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." We cannot make things right by fulfilling the law, which is why Jesus has made an end of its hold over us. We'll obey, not to earn merit, but to keep right with God & our neighbor.

2<sup>nd</sup>, esp in the USA, we place more emphasis on the actions of the individual versus the community's work that creates & nurtures faith. Paul finishes this chapter telling us that knowing & trusting in our own salvation, it is time to witness to others the life-giving good news. He asks this which sounds odd: have not all *obeyed* the good news? I take that to mean that we will commit ourselves to living by its grace & mercy that allows all to call on God to live. We do often witness one to one, sharing how that good news has been good *for me*, but we rely on the truths that we've learned in this place. You may help get someone to become part of our worship life, but each of us shares something here that will also reach people in different ways: music, prayer, teaching, compassion, insight & wisdom. If faith were only individualistic & 'personal', why would we have built all these churches where we have come together to praise God, to learn & teach, to uphold one another in prayer, & receive strength from the sacraments to go serve our neighbors. Church is our listening place, as God calls us here. As Paul might say: 'So faith comes from what **we** hear, and what **we** hear comes through the word of Christ.'

**HYMN of the DAY: # 755 "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"**

- 1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;  
unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;  
chart and compass come from thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**
- 2 As a mother stills her child, thou canst hush the ocean wild;  
boist'rous waves obey thy will  
when thou say'st to them: "Be still."  
Wondrous sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**3 When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar  
twixt me and the peaceful rest, then, while leaning on thy breast,  
may I hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pilot thee."**

*Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888*

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE** [*please phone/email your requests by Wednesday*]

A: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

For your whole church throughout the world. Give courage in the midst of storms, so that we see and hear Jesus calling: "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid." May we follow Christ wherever he leads. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation. Protect waterways, forests, lands, and wildlife from exploitation and abuse. Help the human family endeavor to sustain and be sustained by the resources of your hand. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and their leaders. In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace kiss. May nations in conflict know the peace that is the fruit of justice, and the justice that is the path to peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Everyone who calls upon your name will be saved. Accompany all who are lonely, hear the voices of those who cry out in anguish, and support those who are frustrated in their search for an affordable place to live. We pray for those suffering this day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our congregation. You have gathered us here today as your people and we thank you for this gift. We pray for those who are new to this community, for students and teachers preparing for a new school year, and for those struggling with unexpected hardship. Supply us generously with your grace for our life together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray especially for Lisa, Tonya, Vince, Steve, Irene, Caroline, Allan, Jessie, Beth, Stephine, Tom & Doodie, Bill & Nancy, Nita, John & Ann, Nancy, Chris, Dave, Pr. Dryden, Joe, Duane, ... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Other intercessions may be offered here.*

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints of the whole church from all times and places, and for the saints in our lives and in our community whom you have gathered to yourself. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **APOSTLES CREED**

Together let us confess our baptismal faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give you thanks that you guide our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your resurrection feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**      *From Romans 8*

'When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,' and so we are bold to pray:

**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**

### **BLESSING**      *From Romans 8*

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless us and keep us in eternal love. **Amen**

### **SENDING into MISSION**

Live in peace. Christ is with you.

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

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

**We will Follow the Way of Jesus. Amen**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ is always with you. **And also with you.**  
*Please share words & gestures of peace with those near you,  
or in the comments of our FB page*

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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 homebound members.

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*Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of our mother, Evelyn Rogers Fry,  
who passed away August 12, 1979.  
Given by her daughters, Carol Beecher and Karen McCormick.

In Celebration of Daniel Barnes' birthday.  
Given by the Barnes family.

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*Today's Bulletins are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of Sarilee Seeger for her 46<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Given with love and best wishes, Mom and Dad.

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Attendance for August 2, 2020: 28



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

**CLAIM Virtual Walk-a-Thon:** It's not too late to join! See attached details.

**Gardening Help:** If you can spare an hour or two (during the cooler times of the day), our gardens are in desperate need of weeding. No need to call, just show up when you can.

**Summer 2020 Racial Justice Educational Series:** Join us on Mondays August 10 & 17 from 7-8:30 pm. on Zoom for this Racial Justice Educational Series. Sessions are **free** to anyone who is interested. In an effort to better understand racial justice, you are invited to engage in a series of educational discussions. The discussions will provide historical context, facilitate your personal journey, and, help you find your voice in this national conversation. We ask that you register for each session you plan to attend so we can more easily keep track of participants. These sessions will consist of presentations that will be recorded for viewing afterwards. There will be time for questions and discussion after the formal presentations. People are invited to participate as they feel comfortable. If you have questions, feel free to email Cathy Rice at [cprpenpal@gmail.com](mailto:cprpenpal@gmail.com) or Pastor Lura Groen at [Lura.Groen@gmail.com](mailto:Lura.Groen@gmail.com). Sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Delaware-Maryland Synod Racial Justice Team.

**Align Your Budget with Ministry of This Time:** On Tuesday, August 25th from 4-5:30pm, the DE-MD Synod will offer this workshop by Scott McKenzie, which reminds us that during this time of disruption and change, we have an opportunity for evaluation of ministry impact and effectiveness that is essential as we work to align budgets with ministry in the new normal. Cost will be \$10. Register online at <https://demdsynod.org/align-your-budget-with-ministry-of-this-time/>.

**Connecting Faith & Justice – Critical Conversations:** CLAIM is sponsoring three conversations to help us move forward in understanding and implementing change within ourselves. Each month, we will read a book and then gather to discuss what we have learned and share ideas on how to "make the change." You can get your book in either electronic or hard copy through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Kindle (or any vendor you prefer). The selections are: "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo on Tuesday, August 25th, "How to Be An Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, and "Dear Church" by Lenny Duncan on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. RSVP to [claimbaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:claimbaltimore@gmail.com) so we can provide discussion materials and Zoom links. Zoom meetings are from 7-8:15 pm.

**Baltimore Cancer Support Group's 7th Annual Car Show:** Sunday, October 4th from 10-2:30 pm. at the Joppatowne Shopping Center at the corner of Route 40/Pulaski Hwy. & Joppa Farm Rd. Raffles, prizes, and concessions!

**Flower Sponsorship Needed:** 8/30 for the 10:15 service, call Nancy Barnes (410-592-3922).

**Bulletin Sponsorship Needed:** 9/27, call Anne Seeger (410-821-6161).

**Chair Request:** The school is looking for 2 chairs to be donated to place in the school lobby. Please contact the school at 410-665-4521 if you (or someone you know) can help.

**Request from The Village at Rockville:** The Village is requesting in kind donations of used iPods and other items purchased from their Amazon Wish list that will be used in their memory care neighborhood. You can contact Alice Benson at 301-354-8422 with any questions.

**We are branching out on social media!** You can connect with us on Instagram and Twitter (search for stpeterselcafullerton) and on YouTube (search for St. Peter's Lutheran Church Fullerton).

**Amazon Smile:** When you shop on Amazon, please consider supporting St. Peter's Elementary School by using Amazon Smile. A portion of every purchase goes back to St. Peter's. To use Amazon Smile, please type in the following and sign in with your Amazon user name and password: [smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0796248](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0796248).

**Internet Search:** Help St. Peter's church and school reach the top of the search engine results by typing our web address ([www.st-peterslutheran.com](http://www.st-peterslutheran.com)) directly into the search line/box (not the browser bar) on all of your devices!

**Help St. Peter's Food Center** by opening a new regular deposit account at Eastern Savings Bank (Fullerton location only). When you do, the Food Center receives \$5! Visit the Fullerton branch at 4113 Wholesale Club Drive, Suite 130, or go online to [EasternSavingsBank.com](http://EasternSavingsBank.com). **By appointment only.**

**Need a floral arrangement** for an upcoming holiday event or special celebration? Consider using our Sunday bouquet florist, Drayer's Florist! Call them for pricing and design information at 410-335-6286.

# "Virtual" Walk-A-Thon



"Claim" your freedom to get out a little more in the first week of August for our CLAIM Virtual Walkathon. You pick your day, distance, and mode of movement and send out invites to folks who can sponsor you. We also invite you to wear a t-shirt that tells your neighbors who you are – a "God's Work Our Hands" shirt, your church's shirt, a youth gathering shirt, Thrivent shirt, etc.

Here's a template of what you can write or post:

Please sponsor me for the CLAIM "Virtual" Walkathon. CLAIM (Coalition of Lutherans Advancing in Mission) is our way to build relationships within our faith community. I will walk/bike \_\_\_ minutes/miles on August \_\_. I ask you to hold me in prayer that day and consider sponsoring me either with an online donation or by mailing me a check made out to CLAIM, c/o Epiphany Lutheran Church, 4301 Raspe Ave., Baltimore, MD 21206.

To give online, go [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/644796](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/644796). Enter your donation amount under "Give" and under "To" scroll down to "CLAIM." Then fill in information for your credit or bank card. Under "Note/Memo" please write Walkathon and the name of the person you are sponsoring.

Be sure to post your photos on the C.L.A.I.M. Facebook page!



# SUMMER SCOUTS

Rockets. Robots. Minecraft.  
**THIS AUGUST WILL BE EPIC.**



Why Be Bored While You're  
Stuck At Home This Summer?

**Do What Cub Scouts Do!**

**Build and Blast Rocket Ships**

---  
**Make Magnetic Dirt**

---  
**Create Catapults  
for a Table War**

---  
**Make a Real Fidget Spinner**

---  
**Create Actual Robots  
and Make them Run Mazes**

**All from your own home!**

Oh, and did we mention...

Play **Minecraft** with tons of other kids  
your age on SCOUTCRAFT, our own  
super-modded **Minecraft** Server!!!

You don't need to be a Cub Scout to attend!

**ALL SUPPLIES INCLUDED,  
PLUS A TEE-SHIRT AND PATCH!**

**WE MEET EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
IN AUGUST IN OUR ZOOM CAMPROOM**

**COST IS ONLY \$25.00.**

For more info and to register:

**<http://bit.ly/summerscouts>**