

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church & Elementary School**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share the Spirit's Healing,**  
**Follow the Way of Jesus.**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 6, 2020**

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Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*We make the sign of the cross, which was marked on us at baptism.*

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems,  
and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen**

We confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. You may remain seated, or kneel as you are able. *Silence is kept for reflection.*  
Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. Amen**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Led by the Holy Spirit, we will live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY** *From Philippians 1 & 4*

To all the saints in Christ Jesus, Grace and peace are yours  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with your spirit.**

Please join me in prayer. *A brief silence.* O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **HEARING GOD'S STORY**

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

This is a reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

*The LORD said to Ezekiel:* So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The reading ends here.

### **SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14**

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

*Paul writes:* Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This reading ends here.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

P: This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew in the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*Jesus said to the disciples:* “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

This is the Good News of Christ’s victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”**

Lord of all nations, grant me grace to love all people, ev’ry race;  
and in each person may I see my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.

Break down the wall that would divide thy children, Lord, on ev’ry side.  
My neighbor’s good let me pursue; let Christian love bind warm and true.

Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred by loveless act  
and thoughtless word.

Make me to see the wrong I do will crucify my Lord anew.

Give me thy courage, Lord, to speak whenever strong oppress the weak.  
Should I myself the victim be, help me forgive, rememb’ring thee.

With thine own love may I be filled and by they Holy Spirit willed,  
that all I touch, where’er I be, may be divinely touched by thee.

**MESSAGE: Listen**

How often have you heard this 1? Pay Attention! & how often have you had to say it? Has there been a significant increase in attention deficit disorder since smart phones & PCs came around, or did it start when TV pitched us ever shorter ads that had to grab us or else we’d never buy Frosted Flakes or Rice-aroni? We’ve learned to like, & **need**, the latest shiny object: pet

rocks or finger spinners, walkmans or fitbits. Will we have a serious debate on policy in this election season, or just file away the tweets, memes, & ads as more distractions & confusion so that we won't know what to think? If we think it's hard enuf for students to study online, how good is **our** ability to concentrate? Yes, there is way too much to take in, but I hope that we're discovering just what is important in the face of pandemic, disasters, civil & economic disorder. Doesn't the Church have something to say about justice & mercy, healing for our bodies, our planet, & our relationships as humans?

This 1 paragraph from the middle of Matthew's gospel is very important in how we may make it thru such a time as this. Most of the time, you & I are dealing with individual conflicts that nag at us **or** bring about a lot of pain in our daily life. This 3-fold way to try to find reconciliation is so very down to earth & practical, & not all that hard to practice either. Oh, it's hard to get it started, actually confronting someone with what has hurt you. I even ran across a life coach offering a similar way to work thru what we often want to avoid, making things right. So I'm not saying anything new or revolutionary. People, in small groups or as a caring body of Christ, can serve to heal us.

But there's something beyond *not* avoiding conflict or paying attention to a painful situation: when someone refuses to listen. This is about people living in our cones of comfort & conformity that will not let in opposing ideas or arguments. We refuse to listen while at the same time shooting arrows to try to burst our enemies' bubble. You've seen it: you are online, or having an **actual** conversation, when you offer an idea that you feel strongly about. If the other person doesn't attack you in that face to face setting, they *will* turn away at the first chance they get. & those of us on social media get tired of seeing the harsh comments on our own posting, or get angry because those things that concern us will be quickly & decisively dismissed & ridiculed.

The twin to refusing to listen is just not **wanting** to listen. It is 1 thing to be stubborn about not hearing someone out, because *'I want what I want, & you can't refuse me my opinion! I cancel you!'* But I may not **want** to listen because then I don't *have* to change. Your idea, your thought may challenge me & this shield that I've built around myself. We *don't* like to be wrong, & we *fear* change. 1 of my seminary teachers has left some marks on my way of thinking, & here's 1: when you listen to someone else, it will move you, from where you were to where you are after hearing them. If you haven't been moved, then you didn't really hear them. That doesn't mean that I

won't move away from you, because what you've said *may be* harmful. But anything good that you & I have learned has always moved us along on that path to being what God intends for us to be. We may think God **does not move**, but what centers God is love & mercy, which moves God toward us.

So when 'the offender' will not listen even to the church, the body of Christ, Jesus tells us to treat that one "as a Gentile and a tax collector." As I've probably said each time we read this passage, Jesus went out of his way to treat tax collectors with respect; they're worthy enuf to hear the good news, just as Gentiles were helped & healed by Jesus whenever they called on him. Paul **had** warned the Corinthians not to have anything to do with immoral people, that is, he said, those within the fellowship, for we can't possibly avoid all who are immoral or greedy. But Jesus had other counsel too, when we're confronted by evildoers: when they strike you on the cheek, turn the other. It has happened that 1 defiant act has shamed the *wicked* to stop.

But I believe we gather for this 1 reason, of many that there are. While 2 or 3 can gather for worship, we also meet to figure things out. Again, there is this need for believers to study scripture & the teachings of Church leaders, to pray about issues & questions, & discern what God wants of us. What can we put our minds to, asking the Spirit's guidance for these days? Taking care of our planet, wealth & poverty, how do we act toward other nations & peoples, obeying authority versus holding the powerful to account for their greed & corruption. Paul lists some nasty sins in his letter: the commands, of course, plus all the immorality of elite Roman feasting. It wouldn't be hard to argue that we're having a 'Fall of Rome' moment in Western society, with all the violence & hatred between red & blue partisans, the inequalities that are growing between factions of race, class, & gender. Yes, it's time to wake.

If it sounds like we always answer all these questions with love, I can't see that we're wrong. "The one who loves another has fulfilled the law." What did Jesus hold up as **the** command for us? **Love God & love our neighbor**. What should we ever say about God? **God is love**. Sadly, I think there are some who would refuse to listen when God tells them, I love you. There may be many reasons, few of which are good. If they don't know how to give love, they learned that from someone, for they have not known love from a neighbor or a parent. Or there is anger, hatred, & disdain that folks have learned from somewhere. Or people have been hurt & confused by the mistreatment of others. We may not see what is wrong, but we must keep

talking, keep showing that there is love that we can rely on to bring us out of the darkness. Whether or not people listen, we must constantly witness against sin & evil, & stand for God's perfect justice, love, & mercy. 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**

### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community: CLAIM, GEDCO, ACT, Loaves & Fishes, & Manna House. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, wildfires, or pollution: the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf Coast & throughout the American West. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. We lift up to you the Middle East, Sudan, Ethiopia & Belarus. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape all societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: We especially pray for those with coronavirus and their caregivers, our school personnel and families, Mitzi, Hollie, Suzette & family, Andy, Stephine, ... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **GIVING THANKS for GOD'S WORD**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. *A brief silence.* 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**

Jesus said, "Ask, and you will receive," 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**

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen**

#### **SENDING into MISSION**

Live in peace. Remember the poor.

**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*

**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 Patty Erck  
for her September 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.  
Given by her sister, Irma.

In Loving Memory of Louis Welsh and Helen Baumann  
on their September 7<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

Given by his daughter and her niece, Betty Harry.

And in Honor of Amelia Grace Thompson's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Given by her grandmother, Betty Harry.

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

In Honor of Fred Volz for his September 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Given by wife, Lois, and family.

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Attendance for August 30, 2020: 28



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

**Happy Labor Day Weekend! The church & school offices will be closed tomorrow, September 7th.**

**School Staff/Board/PACE Installation:** Please pray for our school and families as we begin a new year of learning! Our school staff, board, and PACE will be installed at this morning's 8:45 am. service.

**Couch for Sale:** We have a much-loved couch in the conference center that is no longer needed for our facility. If you, or someone you know, would like to purchase it for \$20 (or best offer), contact the church office to schedule a pick up.

**Mar-Lu-Ridge 5K Cookie Run:** Our VIRTUAL Cookie Run or 1mile Fun Run is the perfect way to support MLR from the comfort of your own neighborhood. You can walk, jog, or run the 5K anytime in the month of September. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/202193921881053> to receive your race packet then share your photo using #mlrcookierun!

**No Senior Eats Alone Day:** While it would be unsafe to gather in person for the Baltimore County Department of Aging second annual No Senior Eats Alone Day on Thursday, September 17th, BCDA still wants to draw public awareness as to how social isolation can be harmful to older adults physically and mentally. Many County restaurants have joined BCDA by offering specials to those mentioning No Senior Eats Alone Day. To see the latest specials, please visit the County web page at: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/aging/nosenioreatsalone.html>. We are encouraging individuals to outreach to the older adults in their lives that may be feeling isolated to share a meal safely. Whether it is taking them out for a meal that day or delivering a meal to their home, we want older adults to know that someone is thinking about them.

**Connecting Faith & Justice – Critical Conversations:** CLAIM is sponsoring 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 2 remaining selections are: "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.

**Mar-Lu-Ridge Mountain Service Days:** Sept. 22, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17. Join us as we assemble kits and create quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Each session capped at 10 participants so please register at <https://form.jotform.com/202255719670053> to reserve your space. This is a great way to serve our siblings around the globe!

**Mar-Lu-Ridge Walkathon:** September 27: 1-4 pm. This event will be in-person, with plenty of space to spread out and be safe. Walk the 5 mile camp road to raise gifts to support our year-round ministry. A box supper and community worship will wrap up our day.

**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! See the attached flier for more information.

**Mar-Lu-Ridge Giving Thanks Auction:** November 16-22. This online event will benefit the year-round ministry of MLR. Our items are handmade by local artisans and community members, plus we have some great MLR packages available too! Mark your calendars to join the fun. The event will end with a live online gathering November 22 to celebrate and give thanks for all of you!

**Mar-Lu-Ridge Advent Family Gathering:** December 6: 1-4 pm. Begin your holiday season with a day of fellowship and crafting! We'll share a meal and a campfire too.

**Part-time Positions Available:** Lutheran Mission Society's Compassion Place is in need of a part-time Community Ministry Director. Applicants should call 410-636-0123 or email [dmaack@compassionplace.org](mailto:dmaack@compassionplace.org). They are also in need of a part-time Staff Position. Applicants should call 410-269-5016 or email [asheet1@aol.com](mailto:asheet1@aol.com).

**Flower Sponsorship Needed:** September 13 & 27 for the 10:15 service, call Nancy Barnes (410-592-3922).

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

**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.



## Supply Wish List

St. Peter's will be opening its doors on September 8, 2020 and we need your help. Our budget is extremely tight this year due to the decreased enrollment mandates which insure social distancing.

If you are able to donate an item from our list, we would greatly appreciate it. Items may be dropped off at St. Peter's beginning August 24th and anytime after in the school or church office.

~ Batteries in AAA, AA, & C Sizes

~ Clorox Wipes

~ Hand Sanitizer Pumps

~ Reams of White Copy Paper

*Thank you so much for your generosity!*



# Baltimore Cancer Support Group

## 7th ANNUAL CAR SHOW



Held at Joppatowne Plaza, on the corner of Rt 40 Pulaski Highway and Joppa Farm Road

**Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2:30pm**

### CLASSES

- A. Antiques (1920-1949)
- B. Classics (1950-1970)
- C. Muscle Cars (1965-1975)
- D. Future Class (1976-1996)
- E. Late Model (1997 -2010)
- F. Recent Model (2011-Present)
- G. Motorcycles (All Years)
- H. Street Rods (All Years)
- I. Trucks (Pre 1978)
- J. Trucks (1979- Present)
- K. Jeeps (All Years)
- L. Imports (Pre 2000)
- M. Imports (2001- Present)
- N. Customs (All Years)
- BEST OF SHOW

\$15 Entry Donation  
**Cars and Bikes will be on Black-Top  
Registration will be from  
10am to 12pm** the day of the event.  
**First 175 receives a dash plaque!!!**  
Judging will be conducted and  
**Awards presented at 2pm**  
**DJ BY: DANNY**



Food and Concessions by

**TOWNE  
GRILL & PUB**

Dine-In • Carry Out • Delivery • Catering  
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

1006 Joppa Farm Road (Joppatowne Shopping Plaza) ☎ 410-538-4665



Call Geri Booker with any questions (410) 671-6828/Anita H (410) 960-6294

*Proceeds Benefit Baltimore Cancer Support Group*

<http://baltimorecancersupportgroup.org/>